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# DOCA

Defense Orientation Conference Association



## 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Executive Summary October 2015

Nearly 100 DOCA members, prospective members and guests gathered in Arlington, Virginia recently for our 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. The cool, dry air and sunny skies made for a perfect opportunity for those who arrived early to enjoy the museums, monuments and other sights of Washington, DC. For the officers and directors of the association, however, Sunday afternoon was all business, with Executive Committee and Board meetings to attend. We also were delighted to welcome nine members and prospective members on their first DOCA trip: Mr. Dustin Guthrie from Cape Coral, FL; Mr. Michael Harbushka from San Diego, CA; Mr. Dave Hook from Corona del Mar, CA; Ms. Ann Jackson from Gates Mill, OH; Mr. Dennis Opal from Wolcottville, IN; Mr. Kirk Warner from Raleigh, NC; Mr. Bob van Schoonenberg from Newport Beach, CA; Ms. Jan Vitti-Rubel from Newport Coast, CA; and Mr. Orest Zuk from New York, NY.



Monday started early with a breakfast meeting to provide schedule updates and other important information. And then we were off, (opposite the worst of the rush hour traffic, thankfully), for Quantico, Virginia and the “Crossroads of the Marine Corps.” Quantico is home to the Marines’ Training and Education Command and The Basic School, which provides initial leadership and combat training for all new Marine 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenants. The role of the U.S. Marines is to be ready to fight “today’s fight today,” which means that they are forward deployed and trained to respond to crisis on very short notice. The force currently consists of about

183,000 active Marines with another 39,000 in the reserves, and about 34,000 new Marines are brought in each year. They continue to get quality recruits for both officers and enlisted. Interestingly, even more young men and women were applying to join at the height of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. As with all services, sequestration has had an impact on the Marines. Cuts had to be made somewhere, and the Marines decided to place their emphasis on training and readiness, even if it meant that modernization and facility upgrades had to get the short straw. Their operational tempo remains high – about 6-7 months deployed for every 12-14 months at home for training and R&R.



The Marines are unique among all of the services in that all of their new officers go through a standard leadership and combat training course at Quantico known as The Basic School. Now, as always, every Marine is considered a rifleman. Lawyers, clerks, truck drivers, public affairs officers – they all must learn how to shoot and execute basic infantry tactics. They have the longest entry level training of all the services for both officers and enlisted. The Marine’s represent 21% of the active infantry battalions in the armed forces, 19% of the artillery battalions and 15% of the combat aircraft, and yet they only account for about 7% of the Defense Department’s budget. They are a lean and highly effective quick reaction force, specifically trained to operate all elements, (ground, air, artillery, logistics), under one commander.



After a hearty lunch with 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenants who were in the midst of their Basic School training, we learned about the Marines’ plans for the future, a concept known as Expeditionary Force 21 or EF21. This concept puts a premium on small unit operations, strategic lift and expeditionary

logistics. Its emphasis is on crisis response, rather than the “heavy” land campaign such as we saw in Iraq. EF21 also envisions having more Marines forward deployed and ready for rapid response while using more commercial off the shelf technology to expedite procurement and save money. It really amounts to a shift back to the Marines’ traditional roles and missions, which focused on amphibious and expeditionary efforts. Currently, 80% of the world’s population lives within 100 miles of a coastline and 95% of world trade is by sea. Anti-ship missiles are proliferating, and the emphasis placed by potential adversaries on “anti-access, area-denial” tactics and weapons is pushing us farther away from littoral efforts.

Therefore, new technology and new tactics are required to sustain the capability to project power from the sea.

All too soon, we bid farewell to “America’s 911 Force” and were back on the buses for Fort McNair and the National Defense University. We arrived right on time at Marshall Hall for our traditional buffet with the senior foreign officers of the International Fellows program.



On Tuesday morning we again drove south to Quantico, but this time our host was the FBI Academy. The current Academy opened its doors in 1972, but its origins really go back to 1933 when “Pretty Boy” Floyd and other criminals murdered one Bureau agent and three police officers in the “Kansas City Massacre.” The FBI decided that its agents should have the authority to make arrests and to carry weapons, but they needed a place to learn to shoot. The Marines at Quantico willingly gave the Bureau access to their firing ranges, and over the years the FBI training grew to include much more than just marksmanship. Today the Academy occupies 547 acres. Their training includes Tactical and Emergency Vehicle operation, survival skills, Law Enforcement Executive Development, hostage rescue and much more. They also train personnel from other government agencies and from foreign countries. And they use the latest in technology, including virtual reality, in order to operate in today’s high-tech environment. In addition to several briefings, we also had the opportunity to tour some of their facilities, examine some infamous weapons that had been captured over the years and take a quick look at “Hogan’s Alley,” a mock town used for tactical training. Late in the afternoon we moved a short way up Interstate 95 to visit the National Museum of the Marine Corps. Relatively new, (it opened less than ten years ago), the museum has many interactive displays to complement its large collection of vintage weapons and aircraft.



Wednesday brought a shorter commute – back to Fort McNair and National Defense University. The morning started with a warm welcome from Major General Frederick Padilla, President of NDU, followed by a senior officer of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers who described their history and missions. Congress provided for an engineer to serve with the Continental Army in 1775, and



established the Corps of Engineers as a separate branch in 1802. Since then, the Corps has been involved in many important and iconic projects, including the Panama Canal, the Washington Monument, the Capitol Dome and the Pentagon. They have also worked on, and continue work on, myriad projects around the world – not just in combat operations but to improve the health, safety and quality of life for millions of people. The Corps operates 13,000 miles of inland waterways, generates 500,000 jobs annually, prevents \$6 in flood damages for every \$1 invested, is the nation’s largest renewable energy producer and produces 6.5 billion gallons of drinking water per day.



Next up was a senior official from the Department of Homeland Security who, after an overview of DHS’s organization and broad mission areas, focused in on one of the most complicated and critical challenges facing us today: cybersecurity. The discussion ranged from how to protect your own computer and privacy to recent large-scale attacks such as the one against Sony and the Office of Personnel Management. Today’s sophisticated hackers can only be countered by diligent security personnel and multi-layered systems and even then there is no fail-safe solution. Many senior officials in the Department of Defense and other government agencies have stated that cyberattacks represent our biggest outside threat. NDU faculty members then took the stand to discuss the surging influence of both China and Russia. Both nations are spending more on defense and flexing their military muscles far from their own shores. It will take wise decision making and concerted effort to ensure that the United States maintains its predominance as a world power.



Our 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting concluded with a formal banquet at the Ritz-Carlton Pentagon City, where we were inspired by the U.S. Marine Corps Band (“The President’s Own”), a Navy color guard and a keynote address by Brigadier General Thomas Gorry, Commandant of the Dwight D. Eisenhower School at NDU.



## DOCA Welcomes New Officers and Directors

We’d like to thank Dick Davis, VP, Region IV, and Bob Mosier, VP, and Bill Fletcher, VP-at Large, Region VI, Bernd Schulte, VP, Region III, for their service on the DOCA Executive Committee. In addition, thank you to Directors Ed Bursk, Leo Bustad, Frank Caccamo, Gordon Gray, Ken Himes, Thomas Kane, Jewel Lee Kenley, Dave Lawrence, Douglas Lempereur, David Nagler, Don Regan, Jeff Schneider for their service on the DOCA Board of Directors. Thank you all! We are grateful for your service and support!

The following officers and directors were elected at the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Elected Officers are: Vice Presidents: Region III - Douglas Lempereur; Region IV - Mark Mosley and Region VI - Donald J. Regan. Elected Directors are: Region I - Fred Rickey; Region II - Steve Lee; Region III - Larry Guido; Region IV - Dick Davis; Region V - Vic VanDrake, Richard McLellan, Steve Phillipp, Jack Walder; Region VI - Bill Fletcher, Patti Mickey, and Bob Mosier.