



Mideast Division Bulletin August 2015- National Convention Summary

This Mideast Division Bulletin is to provide communication on administrative policy and pending events within the division. These are areas that I want the Departments and Detachments to focus on to ensure the Mideast Division complies with directives from MCL National HQ. Disseminate this information to all detachments. Departments are requested to submit any information on scheduled events within their area to the Division Adjutant, Roger Ware at rrware@yahoo.com and Division Web Sgt, Robin Elder at mclmideast@gmail.com. The Division web site is: www.mclmideast.com. The Chain of Command is: Individual - Detachment - Department - Division - National.

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Mideast Division NVC McLain comments

The New National Commandant has made a lot of good changes since he took over. He is wanting everybody to look forward, not back. The New Website is being worked on everyday. There are a lot of great ideas and thoughts coming out also. He would like to get the Members on the UNPAID down to 7000 instead of 10,000. He is also hoping that each member go out and get one new member. This will also help with membership. He is also tasking everyone that signs up members, make sure you mentor them. Conduct your meeting in a Professional manner. I will be getting more news out as I get it. Don't forget Modern Day Expo is coming in a little over a month. Neil could use your help, and there are other things going on such as Commandant of the Marine Corps awards different members of the Marine Corps and Navy. They also have the Marine Band and silent drill team. If you can mark your calendars for Sept. 21- 22 2015, to come help in Quantico, Va.

Semper Fi,
Mike McLain

New Alternate Email Addresses for MCL HQ, and National & Office Staff

MCL National HQ web site is: <http://www.mclnational.org/>

trpgore@hotmail.com	Richard Gore, National Commandant
mwdmcl@w-cubeassociates.com	Wendell Webb, National Sr Vice Commandant
mrd727@gmail.com	Dennis Tobin, National Jr Vice Commandant
bakerUSMC@yahoo.com	Johnny Baker, National Judge Advocate
jkovalick@sc.rr.com	John Kovalcik, Jr Past National Commandant
mclexecutivedirector@gmail.com	Thomas W. Hazlett, Sr., Acting Executive Director
MegT.mcleague@gmail.com	National Adjutant/Paymaster
EdmondS.mcleague@gmail.com	Veterans Service Officer
JohannaH.mcleague@gmail.com	Membership Manager
Membership.mcleague@gmail.com	General Membership Questions
DebbieS.mcleague@gmail.com	Merchandise Manager

Merchandise.Mcleague@gmail.com	General Merchandise Questions
JeanetteE.mcleague@gmail.com	Managerial Assistant
EIN.mcleague@gmail.com	General Questions about EIN or 990s
BethS.mcleague@gmail.com	Inventory Control
BrianK.mcleague@gmail.com	Office Support
ChrisA.mcleague@gmail.com	Office Support
KathyF.mcleague@gmail.com	Merchandise Support
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jlaskey@verizon.net	PNC James R. Laskey
ronshort@sccoast.net	Ron Short, Marines Helping Marines

MCL Semper Fi Store

There is no longer an on site location for the MCL Semper Fi store. The previous space has been rented. Anyone needing any MCL items can still call the MCL National number and order via telephone and items will be shipped to your location. 1-800-625-1775. You can not drive to the Merrifield, Va National HQ location to visit the Semper Fi store. Please pass this info to all concerned. More info will be forth coming as it becomes available. If you need any items click on <http://www.mclnational.org/> and follow the prompts

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Detachment Web sites

Once the MCL National web site is up and fully operational. Detachments need to make updates to their web sites. When the National web site is operational, detachments need to keep track of all their administrative reports. One way is to include them in your monthly membership meetings and make changes as your reports are completed. Another way is to add all your reports and membership information onto your detachment web site. This will help the Department Membership Retention Team as they can look at your detachment locator page and see what reports are not filed. The following information should be included in your locator page:

Officer Installation date:	EIN:	Detachment Charter date:	Incorporation date:
Locator page last update:	PLM Audit:	990-N-efile date:	
Annual Corporate Report filed:	Financial Audit date:	Membership totals:	
PLM:	Total Paid:	Total Unpaid:	

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IRS Form 990-N e-file

All Detachments and departments are nonprofit organizations and are required to file an annual IRS Form 990-N return regardless of their income. The fiscal year ends for the Marine Corps League on June 30 yearly so you can file your 990 N efile after July 1. Some detachments may have various other dates when their year expires as IRS may

have used the dates they first logged in to file their EIN. Log on <http://epostcard.form990.org/> and then just follow the instructions to complete the form 990-N. There's only a few questions. Have your EIN to help log in. You will receive an email acceptance receipt from IRS. National Administrative Procedures Section 800 requires that each detachment and department forward a copy of this acceptance receipt to their Department Paymaster. The Department Paymaster will forward the Acceptance Receipts to National Headquarters, National Adjutant/Paymaster Meg Thoburn at MegT.mcleague@gmail.com or may consolidate these receipts into a single document showing the name of the organization, the EIN, the submission ID Number, and the date the submission was accepted by the IRS. National utilizes these 990 reports to update the annual report required by the Group Exemption filing requirements to IRS. Failure to file the 990-N to IRS, can subject your detachment to lose its exempt non-profit status. Plus if you want to look up an organization to acquire vital information like 990-N go to guidestar.com.

**Paid Life Members - PLM - Audit -
Certification of Life Members**

The Detachment Paymaster, along with the Detachment Commandant, will annually audit the Detachment's Life Members. The Detachment Paymaster will make a copy of the 30 June Quarterly Member Listing (roster). MCL National will send your Paymaster an alpha listing of all paid life members to assist with your audit. This will be an additional roster just for your PLM audit. Take the original copy of the audit roster and verify the PLM members. Using this copy the Detachment Paymaster will annotate any additions, deletions or other adjustments to the Life Members listed. Each adjustment will include the reason and, whenever possible, will cite supporting documentation to assist in correcting the records at National Headquarters. Upon receipt is the best time to do this so it's not forgotten. These are due at National before Dec. 31. If a detachment does not certify its PLM roster is true and accurate before the deadline, it will not receive its annual residual interest for its life members.

The Commandant and Paymaster must sign a statement on the original that they certify and annotate that the life member list is audited and is true and accurate and that there are no changes. This must also be dated. Make a copy after signing and then forward the original to your Department Paymaster so it can be mailed to MCL National Headquarters to arrive before Dec. 31. Your Department Paymaster will send your copy to the National Adjutant/Paymaster. Ref: National Bylaws Sections 645 and 646.
Note: The 2015 PLM interest amount is \$4.52 per life member on your detachment roster as of 31 August 2013. The PLM interest is always paid for those life member 2 years ago.

Modern Day Marine Expo, Sep 22-24, 2015, Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Virginia
MCL members are always needed to help staff the two MCL booths where welcome bags are distributed. MCL National Sgt-at-Arms Neil Corley is the point of contact and he will be in one of the booths commencing Monday Sep 21. The uniform for members working in the booths is polo shirt, MCL cover, black trousers and black tennis shoes. It is highly

recommended that anyone who wants to attend log onto the modern day marine expo site and click on the Attendee Badge Registration and fill it out. Once you arrive at the Expo, go to Registration and pick up your name tag. Here is the schedule for events.

ATTENDEE INFORMATION

Schedule-of-Events

Tuesday, September 22

8:00 AM – 3:30 PM

9:45 AM – 10:00 AM

10:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Wednesday, September 23

8:00 AM – 3:30 PM

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

10:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Thursday, September 24

8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

To Attend

Uniformed Marines do not need to register for a badge. Retailers, Retired Marine’s and Contracting Officials may register at no charge. Manufacturers not exhibiting in Modern Day Marine must register and will be charged a non-exhibiting manufacturer fee

Anyone who wants to help at the Expo, can show up on Monday Sep 21 with MCL cover, black pants, polo shirt and comfortable tennis shoes or sports shoe and check in at one of the 2 MCL tent booths that will be set up. POC is Nat SAA Neil Corley at ncorley@mchsi.com, tele: 302-934-1829 as he will be in one of the tents. They need help in both booths stuffing MCL promotional items into bags and with the distribution. All help is greatly appreciated.

National Convention Summary

Approximately 1,000 members of the MCL, Ladies Auxiliary and MODD attended the event. These are the new National Officers: National Commandant: Richard Gore; Sr Vice Commandant: Wendell Webb, Jr Vice Commandant: Dennis Tobin and Judge Advocate; Johnny Baker. Mike McLain Department of WV was reinstated as NVC, Mideast Division. Bruce Rakfeldt, Department of NC was reinstated as Assistant NVC for the Division. Roger Ware was retained as Division Adjutant. Mike McLain was retained as MODD Kennel Deputy Police Dog and Roger Ware was retained as MODD Kennel Deputy Veterinarian. The 2016 National Convention is at the Hyatt Regency, Tulsa, Oklahoma and the 2017 National Convention will be in Kansas City, Missouri.

The National Marine of the Year was Leanna Dietrich. The Kennel Dog of the Year was PDD Michael McLain. The Kennel Pack Dog Robber of the Year was PDD Roger Ware. The Kennel donated \$31,000 to the children's hospital in Scottsdale, AZ. The new Chief Devil Dog is C.O. Smith. Jack Severn was recognized as an Honorary Chief Devil Dog for his long term contributions to the MODD Kennel. Jeff Jones was elected as MODD Kennel Smart Dog.

2015 Proposed National Bylaws Summary

1. Change to allow ANVC to attend NBOT meeting to represent the division, perform additional duties as directed by NVC, have approved expenses authorized by NVC to be charged to NVC account. Approved and amended to add Executive Session
 2. Change dates for Midwinter National Staff conference to January, February or March as dates for the conference. Approved and amended to add each year
 3. Change wording for Midwinter National Staff Conference to be March yearly.
Withdrawn
 - 4.. Removes a sentence in the Bonding of Insurance as it is confusing. Approved
 - 5.. Life Member fee - National currently retains \$50.00 for gold card and admin costs, and this allow National to retain 50% of the life member fee in FY 16, FY 17 and FY 18 to shore up the General Fund due to loss of advertising and expo income. This will be temporary or projected to return 600K to General Fund. Approved
 6. Wants to change how new membership numbers are assigned to ensure no previous member numbers are reused. Approved
 7. Insurance Bonding Territorial Coverage for existing off shore detachment and new off shore detachments that they purchase their own coverage and add National included as Additional Insured and Held Harmless. These detachments must provide a copy of their coverage to National. Approved
- AP 1. Convention registration packet will be given to all advance registrations and all tickets must be purchased from host unit. Approved
- AP 2. Allows the delegates to fix the price of the delegate fees for the next convention.
Rejected
- AP 3. Petitioner must post \$500 bond for any grievance or DC at Dept level and if charge dismissed or respondent not guilty fee is forfeited and \$1000 will be posted if referred to National level and forfeited if charge denied, dismissed or found not guilty. This will help prevent unnecessary nuisance filings. Rejected
- AP 4. That petitioner can file grievance with Detachment JA so it can resolve a

Grievance and if not resolved then it goes to the Dept JA. Rationale: To induce Grievance resolution at Detachment level whenever possible; to ensure impartial review and determination; to expedite grievance, determination and resolution; and to reduce department grievance workload. Rejected

AP 5. Add Stolen Valor as a potential complaint to help reduce growing concern on stolen valor incidents. Rejected

AP 6. Rewriting of Chapter 9 to have better organization and details worded to reduce words for more understanding and clarification. Approved

AP enclosure 3 Plain white cotton belt 2 1/2' with brass MC waist plate 3 1/2' x 2 1/2' Associate members may wear when serving as Sgt at Arms or during Honor Guard detail or ceremony. Approved

AP Enclosure 3 Defines and gives better clarification for Enclosure 3 - uniform code and wearing of uniform for females more clearly. Approved

AP Enclosure 3 Change to add 2 miniature replica ribbons to blazer. Rejected

AP enclosure 4 - Change 1 - Recommendation for rewrite of enclosure 4 for MCL awards and ribbons Rejected

AP Enclosure 4 Change 2 - Change so that Chapel of Four Chaplains, National, Division, Department or Detachment MOY medal or ribbon can be worn with casual, formal or undress in lieu of the MODD dog collar at the option of the awardees. Rejected

AP Enclosure 4 Change 3 - Ceremonial Guard Ribbon recommendation. Approved

AP Enclosure 4 Change 4 - Ceremonial Guard Medal and Ribbon Proposal . Rejected

AP Enclosure 4 Change 5 - Make change so Certificates can be used for some awards to accompany medal. Withdrawn

AP Enclosure 4 Attachment 2 - Make award recommendation form easier to use for write ups. Approved

U.S. War Casualty Statistics

The Congressional Research Service released a report (American War and Military Operations Casualties: Lists and Statistics) on 2 JAN that provides U.S. war casualty statistics. It includes data tables containing the number of casualties among American military personnel who served in principal wars and combat actions from 1775 to the present. It also includes data on those wounded in action and information such as race and ethnicity, gender, branch of service, and cause of death. The tables are compiled from various Department of Defense (DOD) sources.

Wars covered include the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam Conflict, and the Persian Gulf War. Military operations covered include the Iranian Hostage Rescue Mission; Lebanon Peacekeeping; Urgent Fury in Grenada; Just Cause in Panama; Desert Shield and Desert Storm; Restore Hope in Somalia Uphold Democracy in Haiti; and the ongoing Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), Operation New Dawn (OND), and Operation Inherent Resolve.

For the more recent conflicts, starting with the Korean War, the report includes additional detailed information on types of casualties and, when available, demographics. It also cites a number of resources for further information, including sources of historical statistics on active duty military deaths, published lists of military personnel killed in combat actions, data on demographic indicators among U.S. military personnel, related websites, and relevant Congressional Research Service (CRS) reports. Refer to <https://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/natsec/RL32492.pdf> to access the report.

VA Expands Review of Chemical Exposure in Drinking Water at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune

As part of VA's ongoing commitment to provide care to Veterans and their families, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced on August 3, 2015 that it will start the process of amending its regulations to establish presumptions of service connection for certain conditions resulting from exposure to contaminated drinking water at the U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in North Carolina.

This process is in addition to the healthcare VA already provides for 15 conditions to eligible Veterans who were stationed at Camp Lejeune for at least 30 days between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987 as a result of the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012. VA also provides reimbursement of healthcare expenses for those 15 conditions to eligible family members who resided at Camp Lejeune during that time period.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs recently met with Senators Isakson, Burr and Tillis and the Director of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to discuss the creation of presumptions of service connection for diseases associated with the contaminated water at Camp Lejeune. The diseases that are currently being reviewed for potential presumptive service connection include kidney cancer, angiosarcoma of the liver, and acute myelogenous leukemia, which are known to be related to long-term exposure to the chemicals that were in the water at Lejeune from the 1950s through 1987. The chemicals are Benzene, Vinyl Chloride, Trichloroethylene and Perchloroethylene, which are known as volatile organic compounds, used in industrial solvents and components of fuels. ATSDR and VA representatives will meet at ATSDR offices on August 19 to begin discussions on establishing these presumptions.

VA will also work with ATSDR and potentially the National Academy of Sciences to evaluate the body of scientific knowledge and research related to exposure to these chemicals and the subsequent development of other diseases. VA will carefully consider

all public comments received when determining the final scope of any presumptions. Veterans with health problems they believe are related to exposure to the water at Camp Lejeune may file a claim for disability compensation online at www.ebenefits.va.gov, or call 1-800-827-1000 for assistance.

For more information, Veterans and family members should contact the nearest VA healthcare facility by calling 1-877-222-VETS (8387) or visit www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune. For further information on Camp Lejeune: VHA Office of Public Health has a Website on Camp Lejeune historical water contamination at: www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune/index.asp. The U.S. Marine Corps encourages all those who lived or worked at Camp Lejeune before 1987 to register for notifications regarding Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking Water at <https://clnr.hqi.usmc.mil/clwater>.

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For the record

Army of Northern Virginia, SCV wrote a new note: Why Honor Confederate Veterans (Legal Aspects) .

First and most significant is the fact that by Public Law 85-425, May 23, 1958 (H.R. 358) 72 Statute 133 states “(3) (e) for the purpose of this section, and section 433, the term ‘veteran’ includes a person who served in the military or naval forces of the Confederate States of America during the Civil War, and the term ‘active, military or naval service’ includes active service in such forces.”

As a result of this law the last surviving Confederate Veteran received a U.S. Military pension until his death in 1959, and from that day until present, descendants of Confederate veterans have been able to receive military monuments to place on graves from the Veteran’s Administration for their ancestors. A Confederate Veteran should therefore be treated with the same honor and dignity of any other American veteran.

At least four U.S. Navy Ships within the submarine force have been named in honor of Confederate heroes or individuals associated with the CSS Hunley (first successful submarine to sink another vessel in combat). They are:

USS Dixon (AS-37) (<http://www.navysite.de/ships/as37.htm>) named after the submarine’s commanding officer, Lieutenant George Dixon, who died that February night in 1864.

USS Hunley (AS-31) (<http://www.navysite.de/ships/as31.htm>) named after the submarine’s designer, Horace L. Hunley, who died on the second Hunley training accident.

USS Robert E. Lee (SSBN 601) (<http://www.navysite.de/ssbn/ssbn601.htm>) Commanding General of the Confederate States Army, graduate of West Point, and arguably one of the most gifted military strategists in American history.

USS Stonewall Jackson (SSBN 634) (<http://www.navysite.de/ssbn/ssbn634.htm>)

named after General Thomas Jackson, considered General Lee's "right hand man", who died at Chancellorsville, which many say led to the Confederate defeat at Gettysburg and ultimately the loss of the War.

There is not a single Army Veteran who can say he has not served aboard one of the U.S. Military installations named for a Confederate hero.

Fort Benning, Georgia Major General Henry L. Benning, CSA
Fort Bragg, North Carolina General Braxton Bragg, CSA
Fort Campbell, Kentucky Brig. General William Bowen Campbell, CSA
Fort Gordon, Georgia General John Brown Gordon, CSA
Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia Lt. General Ambrose Powell Hill, CSA
Fort Hood, Texas General John Bell Hood, CSA
Camp Lee, Virginia General Robert E. Lee, CSA
Fort Polk, Louisiana Lt. General Leonidas K. Polk, CSA
Fort Rucker, Alabama Colonel Edmond W. Rucker, CSA

NPRC 1973 Records Fire What you Can Do To Help Recover Data

Shortly after midnight, on July 12, 1973, a fire was reported at the NPRC's military personnel records building at 9700 Page Boulevard in St. Louis, MO. Firefighters arrived on the scene only 4 minutes and 20 seconds after the first alarm sounded and entered the building. WWI, WWII, and Korean War Veterans' files were stored in cardboard boxes stacked on steel shelves lining the sixth and top floor of a large, rectangular federal building. They were packed so tightly within the thousands of boxes that, when the fire erupted, it burned so intense, so quickly, so out of control, it took the responding 43 fire departments more than two days to smother. During the long ordeal, firefighters faced severe problems due to insufficient water pressure. Exacerbating the situation, one of the department's pumper trucks broke down after 40 hours of continuous operation. Numerous times, the fire threatened to spread down to the other floors; but firefighters were successful in halting its advance.

When the smoke settled and the interior temperature cooled, the building's staff found that up to 18 million Veterans' personnel records had been reduced to smoldering piles and puddles of ash. While millions of records were destroyed, some survived but remain badly damaged. There was no motive, no suspect, and few clues. The person(s) responsible for destroying 80 percent of Army personnel records for soldiers discharged between 1 Nov 1912 to 1 Jan 1960 and 75 percent of the Air Force records of Airmen discharged between 25 Sep 1947 to 1 Jan 1964 (with surnames beginning with Hubbard and running through the end of the alphabet) has never been found.

The NPRC records fire is 42-year old news, yet even today it continues to impact the lives of our most sacred Veterans and their dependents and survivors. How does an Army Air Forces bombardier from our Greatest Generation apply for VA healthcare and benefits without records of his service? What can be done for the fiduciary of an Army Nurse Corps Veteran looking for records to piece together his grandmother's legacy? How does NPRC staff deal with the thousands of records requests from this time period it fields each year? In the days following the fire, NPRC used experimental treatments to

recover about 6.5 million burned and water-damaged records. Today, it has a preservation program, split between two teams (1 & 2), reconstructing what was recovered. This has proved helpful and hopeful for the many “treasure hunt” stories that occasionally surface in media profiles. But, what about those whose records were not recovered?

You can help VA help NPRC reconstruct the damaged record. There is a specific request form at www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/na-13055-info-2-reconstruct-medical-data.pdf which you must fill out that gives VA the authority to ask NPRC to reconstruct that file. This request provides information that allows the NPRC to search for other types of documents, such as individual state records, Multiple Name Pay Vouchers from the Adjutant General’s Office, Selective Service System registration records, pay records from the Government Accounting Office, as well as medical records from military hospitals (current Army list; current Air Force list), unit records and morning reports, and entrance and separation x-rays and organizational records, that would assist you with your VA healthcare access or compensation claim, or for valuable research on your family member’s service history.

When it comes to VA compensation, however, maybe you don’t have time to play detective. It is critical, in the request you send to VA, that you provide as much information as you can, including the units you were assigned to, as well as the name of the company, battalion, regiment, squadron, group, and/or wing. VA will accept, as alternate sources for records, statements from service medical personnel, certified “buddy” statements or affidavits, accident and police reports, Employment-related examination reports, letters written during service, photographs taken during service, pharmacy prescription records, insurance-related examination reports, medical evidence from civilian/private hospitals, clinics, and physicians that treated you during service or shortly after separation, and photocopies of any service treatment records that you may have in your possession.

It is important to note that, although these details can significantly help, VA does not rely only on service treatment records when deciding claims for cases that are related to the 1973 fire.

While this can appear daunting, there is help available; VA encourages you to work with an accredited representative or agent if you need assistance. Go to <http://www.va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/index.asp> to verify accreditation. You can also request an attorney, claims agent, or Veteran Service Organization representative online. Go to <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/about/feature?feature=request-vsorepresentative> for assistance in locating one.

The ramifications of this tragedy have been longstanding and well documented, and it couldn’t have happened to a more heroic group of Veterans at a worse time when those files were needed most. Archaeologists two centuries from now are not going to magically dig up microfiche duplicates that were never created. Those records are lost to time. With NPRC’s assistance, VA is committed to ensuring that no eligible but affected Veteran goes without the benefits and services (or information) to which he and she have earned. In 2012, NPRC relocated to a new building housing 60 million records (from the Spanish-American War to about the year 2000) in 1.8 million boxes “in a climate-controlled warehouse with a constant temperature of about 35 degrees and with a relative humidity that never dips below 40 percent.”

Pending Calendar

2015 Modern Day Marine Expo will be September 22-24, 2015 at Quantico, VA.

2016 Mideast Division Conference will be June 24-26, 2016 at the Wilmington-Christinia Hilton, 100 Continental Drive, Newark DE 19713. Telephone; 302 781 7049. It is conveniently located off I-95 exit 4B. Room rate is \$124.99 a night and includes full breakfast buffet. Banquet is \$34.00.

2016 MCL National Convention will be August 7-13, 2016 at the Hyatt Regency, 100 East 2nd St, Tulsa, Oklahoma. Tele: 918-234-1234, contact reservations: 1-888-591-1234. after August 17, 2015. room rate: \$91.00 plus tax for total \$103.30. Free WiFi, Pets allowed, Free breakfast and free self parking , There is no RV parking and Good Sam's RV park is about 7 miles.

2017 MCL National Convention will be August 2017 at the Sheraton Overland Park at the Convention Center, 6100 College Boulevard, Overland Park, KS, 66211. Book By Phone: 1-800-628-8491 Room rate: \$115.00 with 18% tax, free parking, free breakfast and free wifi.

Semper Fidelis,

Mike McLain
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Mideast Division