

THE PRESIDENTS REPORT



8/16/2014

The first thing I would like to do is thank the staff at Burkes BBQ, they provided us with a great BBQ lunch today; I also want to thank all of you that came to the meeting. It was a good turnout. It was a very sad meeting for me too, because I didn't have my very dear friend, Charles Craven there beside me to help me remember everything.

The entire time I have been President Charles has been at the meetings beside me. Charles was a great person and he will be truly missed by everyone who knew him.

The meeting went well and we covered many issues, the biggest one being the Rally.

At the Market of Marion, a lot of people are very unhappy because the owner keeps pushing us further and further in the woods! The vendor's need to be where the people can see them and easily get access to them. Our Rally depends on the vendors, without them we would not have a rally. We asked to move back up front, to no avail. The folks at Rennigers Antique Market have wanted us to do an Event at their market. We had two promoters from Rennigers come to the meeting today and explain what they had to Offer. We brought changing the Rally to a vote, and it was unanimous to move the rally to Rennigers. We have a lot of work ahead of us in order to make this happen. We will need the support of all the members!

Charles, Connie, and their family and friends did 90% of the work for the Rally every year! Ballots will be going out in the next week or so. Please cast your vote and send it in to Charlie Hildebrant- **Jpmnofww@aol.com**; or bring it to the Next meeting. The votes will be tallied up and the officers elected will take their positions on January 1, 2015. (Dues are also due at that time.)

The 4th Quarter. Meeting will be November 1st, 2014. At Rennigers Antique Flea Market- 20651, US Hwy441, Mount Dora FL 32757, Time **12:30**.

There are many events coming up so please go out and and Support one or more of these. Don't forget to pray for our troops that god will keep them safe and send them home soon Please keep the Craven family in your prayers.

See ya at Rennigers!

Dave Thomas, President, FFC- MVPA. New cell #, 352-817-1087



REST IN PEACE

CHARLIE

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**For More Information or For Dealer Tables Please Contact
Greg Spalding qed4@aol.com (407) 462-2163**

FOR SALE/WANTED:

For Sale GPW summer top made buy Dave the Pizza Man \$ 275.00 was put on jeep one time to see how it would fit, then folded and put back in bag One M-38 air cleaner asking \$225.00 these items will be at the meet on Sat. in Green Cove Springs ask for Buzz 757-403-9964 JULY

Wanted - I am looking to buy an M105 trailer. Any leads for south florida would be appreciated. I am in Boca Raton, zip 33432. My number is 516.426.5864. Thank You, Peter Mark JULY

FOR SALE 1 GPW rear end complete 1 GPW front end mostly complete very little play in ring and pinon asking \$250.00 for each Buzz 757-403-9964 located in St Augustine JULY

For Sale M-38 hard top needs windshield glass and rubber this is a nice hard top needs paint on the out side The window rubber and door seals are like new asking 600.00 these items and axles can be brought to Ocala for pickup. Wanted M-38 windshield must be in restorable cond. items can be traded. located in St. Augustine Fl. Buzz buzkan@att.net 757-403-9964 JULY

**48 Star flag for sale, make an offer. (Not a replica) Frank Baltra
usma1941@gmail.com**

FIRST FLORIDA CHAPTER MVPA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



NAME (As it is to appear on your name badge) _____

STREET ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____ PHONE # _____
CELL PHONE # _____

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL MVPA? _____ IF SO, LIST YOUR MEMBER # _____

PLEASE CHECK THE MEMBERSHIP YOU WOULD LIKE. PRORATED SCHEDULE: First year's dues are prorated quarterly. If you join the 1st quarter the rate is \$25, 2nd quarter - \$19, 3rd quarter - \$13, 4th quarter - \$7

- REGULAR MEMBERSHIP: ONE PERSON \$25 YEARLY. SEE PRORATED SCHEDULE ABOVE IF JOINING MID-YEAR.
- FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: IMMEDIATE FAMILY ONLY (SPOUSE AND CHILDREN). INCLUDES A 2ND I.D. BADGE. \$25 YEARLY. NAME TO APPEAR ON 2ND BADGE

- ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP: FOR BUSINESSES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. INCLUDES UP TO 5 BADGES AND A BUSINESS CARD AD IN THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER - \$40 YEARLY. PLEASE LIST NAMES TO APPEAR ON EXTRA BADGES 1) _____
2) _____ 3) _____
4) _____

LIST MILITARY VEHICLES YOU OWN, INCLUDING THOSE AWAITING OR UNDER RESTORATION _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:

FIRST FLORIDA CHAPTER - MVPA

PLEASE MAIL APPLICATION WITH PAYMENT TO:

Stan Kinmonth
194 Malley Cove Lane
Fleming Island, FL. 32003

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT ONE OF THE REGIONAL COORDINATORS:

SOUTHEASTERN REGION:	FRED PERKINS	954-434-8747	PERKS1@ATT.NET
SOUTHWESTERN REGION:	CURT LEONARD	941-371-7587	JLEONARD@COMCAST.NET
EASTERN REGION:	MIKE ROBERTS	772-215-3470	COLONEL@SPECIALFORCESUS.COM
WESTERN REGION:	GEORGE HECHT	727-443-2942	georgesh@depcofund.com
CENTRAL REGION:	CHARLES HILDEBRANT	352-748-3447	JPNOPWWW.AOL.COM
FL PANHANDLE:	RUSSELL DEESE	229-377-1538	RDEESE@ROSE.NET
NORTHERN REGION:	JOE LORENTSON	904-823-0341	lorentson@bellsouth.net
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Is this the new JEEP? Spotted at Camp LaJeune N.C.



Marines' New Ride Rolls Out Years Late

The Growler, the Marines' answer to a transportation question first posed in 1999, costs more than twice what the contract envisioned.

The Growler, the Marines' answer to a transportation question first posed in 1999, costs more than twice what the contract envisioned. (U.s. Marine Corps)

The Marine Corps is starting to deploy a jeeplike vehicle called the Growler, 10 years after conception and at twice the contract price, after delays that were caused by changing concepts and problems in contracting, development and testing, according to two reports.

Sen. Carl M. Levin (D-Mich.), chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, sought investigations by the Government Accountability Office and the Defense Department inspector general in light of complaints by the unsuccessful bidder on the project.

But a spokesman for Levin said the inspector general's report, released last month, showed that cost increases and delays are so normal in defense contracting, particularly in contracts involving hundreds of millions of dollars, that they don't raise great concerns.

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates, however, stressed the importance of reforming procurement in remarks before the Senate Armed Services Committee last week, saying that all services are feeling the effects of weapons programs that have "had repeated -- and unacceptable -- problems with requirements, schedule, cost and performance."

The idea for such a vehicle was developed in 1999 by the Marine Corps, which wanted a vehicle that could be carried in the V-22 Osprey aircraft to support assault operations and that would tow a 120mm mortar and an ammunition trailer.

Today, instead of one vehicle that could serve both functions, there are two -- one for reconnaissance and a shorter version that tows the mortar and ammunition trailer -- built by the same company.

The first Growlers in the mortar program -- officially called internally transportable vehicles, or ITVs -- have been deployed to Marine units, but with limited combat capabilities. Because of their light armor and ammunition safety problems, "you can't run it up the highway in an urban area such as Iraq," said John Garner, the Marines' program manager for the vehicle. "But it could accompany foot-mobile Marine infantry in a not-built-up area such as Afghanistan," he added.

The inspector general report said that the average cost of a single Growler has risen 120 percent, from about \$94,000 when the contract was awarded in 2004 to \$209,000 in 2008. The unit cost for the vehicle with mortar and ammunition trailer has grown 86 percent, from \$579,000 to \$1,078,000.

The first six mortar and ammunition systems have been sent to Marine units, as have about 20 ITVs. "It is up to unit commanders who receive them as to whether they will take them when deployed abroad," Garner said.

The Army has 81 ITVs under contract and is awaiting bids on 70 more; there are 12 mortar and ammunition trailer systems under contract and 20 more out for bids, according to Garner.

Troubles with the two systems started in 2004 during the final competition between two bidders for the vehicle contract. One bidder was a team of the giant defense contractor General Dynamics Corp. and a small company called American Growler Inc. of Ocala, Fla., known primarily for building a successful dune buggy using surplus, customized Army M151A2s, a popular version of the military jeep. The other was a contractor in Michigan called Rae-Beck Automotive LLC, which built a popular neighborhood electric car.

By choosing General Dynamics and American Growler, the Marines were able to procure an existing vehicle that was equipped with components that could be purchased "off the shelf," avoiding costs of research and developing an entirely new vehicle. While the Rae-Beck entry was found to be superior in some tests, the Growler, according to Garner, was better "in the most important ones."

But after the contract was awarded, Garner said, "there were significant additions made for capability." For example, an air suspension had to be

added to allow the Growler to get on and off the Osprey because it could raise and lower its height. The makers added a new cooling system, power steering and power brakes, along with a beefed-up General Motors engine similar to the one used in the GMC Yukon. Altogether, Garner said, about \$50,000 of the cost growth was in additional off-the-shelf items that now permit the Growler to travel up to 45 mph on a highway.

Testing from 2005 to 2007 continued to find problems, and it was not until 2008 that the Growler met all requirements. Because the Osprey itself had developmental problems, delays did not harm Marine operational plans, according to the GAO report.

The Pentagon inspector general's report said that awarding the contract in November 2004 to Growler was not "in accordance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation." At issue, however, were technical details about what the important criteria were.

The history of the Growler problems are public because Rae-Beck complained to Levin, prompting the investigations. Another investigation, by the Marine Corps inspector general in 2005, looked into an anonymous complaint of a conflict of interest in the contract award because one of the principals in the Growler company, Curtis "Terry" Crews, was a retired Marine Corps colonel. The investigation concluded there was no evidence that anything improper occurred.

Note: MEMBERS, send photo's of you vehicles with your name and I will put them in the newsletter. Send as a attachment to mvpaffc@gmail.com

