

# Kalamazoo Detachment Marine Corps League

## The Scuttlebutt February 2024



There are simply no words to express our sincere sorrow and grief for these new Gold Star families. Rest easy Marines...we'll take it from here.

Capt. Jack Casey, 26, of Dover, N.H., a CH-53E helicopter pilot

Capt. Miguel Nava, 28, of Traverse City, Mich., a CH-53E helicopter pilot

Lance Cpl. Donovan Davis, 21, of Olathe, Kan., a CH-53E helicopter crew chief

Sgt. Alec Langen, 23, of Chandler, Ariz., a CH-53E helicopter crew chief

Capt. Benjamin Moulton, 27, of Emmett, Idaho, a CH-53E helicopter pilot



## MCL Commandant's Notes.....

Greetings! This month kicked off with an updated website. It is still located at <https://kalamazoomcl.org>. It had a major facelift with new capabilities. Thanks to the team of Rich Walsh, Walt Baggott, Mick Hornev, Michael Beahon, Don Jarzambek, Larry Sweerin, Grace Kalafut, and Pete Green for helping bring this to fruition. I encourage all members to check out the website, look around at the changes and offer any feedback to Rich Walsh, our web sergeant. The website should be a useful tool to everyone. If there is anything that should be added or adjusted, please let him know.

At our monthly meeting, we started by acknowledging the CH-53 helicopter crash the day prior but details of the crash were not yet known. We have since learned that one of those killed was Captain Miguel Nava, a West Michigan native who graduated from Comstock Park HS. Our thoughts and prayers are with all five Marines that were lost and their families.

We also discussed the need for substantial volunteer support for the MCL Central Division Conference for April 6 – 7. This is being held at the Delta Hotel in Oshtemo. Please contact Larry Sweerin if you are able to support.

There was also excitement among many of the members in attendance about participation in the MCL Pistol and Rifle match. We will have more information and signups in the coming months.

Lastly, we finalized a few 2024 goals which now include an attendance goal. We are hoping to have at least 30 members attend each meeting to join in the camaraderie and help us do the business of the League. As part of that, if anyone is ever in need of a ride to attend meetings, please contact John Hadder to make arrangements for a ride. We look forward to seeing a full house at our next meeting.

March 14 at 1900. Semper Fi!



# Marine Task Force Expands Recon Role in European Operations



## 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable)

Photo courtesy of the Marine Corps Times

As the Marine Corps rebalances its East Coast units to support and focus on operations in Europe, a task force that recently returned from its second deployment shows how the service is finding its niche on the continent.

While the Task Force 61/2 connects and coordinates with all Marines in the theater, the key mission is to develop Marine multidomain sensing formations, sharing data across U.S., allies and partners to help fill intelligence gaps in the region.

Under the 2022 Force Design 2030 update, one of the biggest changes made by then Commandant Gen. David Berger was an increased focus on the role of Marines in the reconnaissance and counter-reconnaissance contributions to the Navy and joint force.

The task force runs command and control of those Marine and naval amphib operations across U.S. European Command and U.S. Africa Command for 6th Fleet. It's a construct that exists in other theaters but has been absent from the Europe and Africa areas of responsibility in recent years.

