



Jayhawk Chapter MOAA Newsletter



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November Program:

Major General Tod Bunting, Adjutant General for Kansas, will be our speaker. His topic will be Kansas Army/Air National Guard participation in current global military missions.

Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, our meeting has been moved up to Tuesday, 14 November.

5-STAR CHAPTER - 2006
4-STAR CHAPTER - 2005
5-STAR CHAPTER - 2003/2004

WEBSITE AWARD - 2004
NEWSLETTER AWARD - 2003

President's Corner

by Erv Hodges



Greetings, Jayhawk Chapter:

Our last meeting was a great success and many thanks go to Rear Admiral Mike Sullivan for arranging to have General Myers speak to our Chapter. Our incoming Council President, CWO Dave Kennedy, was also present as well as 30 Cadets and Midshipmen. It was a great evening topped off with front page coverage in the Journal World.

In this last letter of 2006 I would like to emphasize membership in MOAA as well as bringing to your attention how our members can help others in this holiday season.

The Jayhawk Chapter is in dire need of new younger members to maintain our strength and vitality. National MOAA has expanded the "Give Me Ten" program by giving a free one year membership to MOAA to any active duty, Guard or Reserve officer. In addition the Jayhawk Chapter will also give free membership for the first year of enrollment in the Chapter. These tools should make it easy to recruit your friends and neighbors now serving. All new members count towards the Chapter's goal and the Chapter receives \$10 for each new member. Your help is needed in bringing young officers into the nation's largest association dedicated to military officers - advocating for the personnel benefits all servicemembers deserve. Membership in MOAA would be a nice holiday present for the young officer in our Armed Forces.

The Jayhawk Chapter provides many ways to give to others during the holiday season.

At our November 14 meeting we will collect new toys for the "Toys For Tots" program. This most successful program was developed by the Marine Corps Reserve and delivers new toys to deserving children. Bring a little joy to some child by bringing a new, unwrapped toy to our November meeting. We will make sure it gets delivered.

As you plan your holiday giving do not forget the Chapter's Comfort Scholarship. These three \$250 scholarships are given to non-scholarship cadets and midshipmen who are underclassmen in our local ROTC units. Send your contributions to Jim Cooper, making your checks out to the KU Endowment Fund and designating them for the Comfort scholarship.

We will again be ringing the bells for the Salvation Army in December and you will be offered the opportunity to sign up for this most worthwhile effort.

Lastly, do not forget our servicemembers serving overseas. You all remember those cards and letters of support that you received when you were far from home. Take the time to say thanks during this holiday season.

This has been a great year for the Chapter and, on behalf of the Officers and Board Members, we thank you.

Erv Hodges

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1 November 2006

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*** Reservations should be sent to Jim Cooper by 10 November**



JAYHAWK CHAPTER NEWS

NOMINEES FOR 2006-2007:

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FROM ARDIS COMFORT:

Just a note to update everyone on the Comfort Neighborhood in north Lawrence. Two houses are well underway and the third has the slab in place.

Anyone wishing to contribute money or labor to this endeavor in Clay's memory contact Habitat for Humanity at 785-832-0777.

Thank you, Ardis

YOUR EDITORS have just returned from Puerto Rico. John was stationed there as an Advisor in 1967-69 and Shirley has wanted to make a trip for some time. We flew into San Juan in a terrific rain storm and drove through Old San Juan and up to El Morro in the

rain. The next day we headed east and toured El Yunque (the Rainforest) then continued around the east end of the island to Ponce on the south coast. After visiting the Don Q rum distillery the following morning, we continued around the south coast and up the west coast past Aquadilla to the site of the old Ramey Air Force Base, where John was stationed. The golf course is still there, so we had to take advantage of that. Our last day on the island, we continued around the north coast to San Juan and Fort Buchanan.

John reports even with improved roads, thirty seven years later it still takes two hours to get from Ramey AFB to Fort Buchanan – I swear it was longer than that – you would not believe the traffic!!

RETIRED GENERAL: U.S. SHOULD STAY THE COURSE

By George Diepenbrock

from the *Lawrence Journal World* – Thursday, September 28, 2006



The former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said Wednesday night that America and her allies needed to continue the long-term war on terror, including in Iraq and Afghanistan, to combat violent extremists.

U.S. Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers, a graduate of Shawnee Mission High School and Kansas State University, encouraged the public to read as much as possible of the National Intelligence Estimate, portions of which were recently declassified and which said the Iraq war has become a 'cause

celebre' for jihadists.

"It shouldn't be surprising that violent extremists, al-Qaida in this case, would rally to the sound of the cannon. They'll do that," he said. "It doesn't mean that if there weren't the sound of the cannon, there wouldn't be people rallying to the cause, nor would we be any safer."

Myers spoke to more than 100 people at Lawrence Country Club. He visited to address the Jayhawk Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America. Guests and ROTC cadets and midshipmen also attended.

Myers, who became chairman of the Joint Chiefs just after 9-11 and retired one year ago, voiced his opinion for staying the course in a global terror war the same night that former Clinton

Administration Secretary of State Madeleine Albright told a Lied Center crowd that the NIE report confirmed that the Iraq war made the world less safe in the fight against terrorism.

Myers said Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida declared war on the United States in 1998 and that the terrorist group has expressed a 100-year view of taking over the world.

That's why, Myers says, continued progress needs to be made in Iraq and Afghanistan, not just through the military, but through other means, including economic, diplomatic, educational and informational "to keep men and women from joining jihad in the end."

But the death toll in Iraq continues to climb.

The sectarian violence there has complicated matters, Myers said. He also said it would be "disastrous to the Iraqi people and disastrous to the longer war" to pull out too soon.

"We would be perceived one more time by violent extremists as weak, weak morally and weak culturally," he said.

Leadership from the Iraqi government is the primary need. In both Iraq and Afghanistan, the mission is to create functioning states rather than training grounds for al-Qaida, Myers said.

He also said the current wars in Iraq should be viewed in historical perspective with the larger terrorism conflict in mind.

"This is not World War I or World War II. This is asymmetric warfare," Myers said. "Most insurgencies run their course" modern insurgencies in six to nine years. So they are usually controlled not through military force but through political means.'



Army News

LTC Jeff Maxcy

Greetings Jayhawk Chapter!

We are halfway through the fall semester at KU. The Jayhawk Battalion has accomplished much so far that I would like to share with you.

We hosted Family Day on 9 September 2006. The event included an overview of cadet activities, cadet tactical demonstrations involving a one-rope bridge and a cordon and search in urban environment, and a history presentation on KU military heritage. The fall field training exercise (FTX) was conducted from 29 Sep – 1 Oct for the cadets. We challenged the cadets with patrol base activities, situational training exercise (STX) lanes, rappelling, M16 rifle range, and land navigation.

On the heels of the FTX, we hosted our 2d Annual Alumni event on 7 Oct. New inductees into the Jayhawk Battalion Wall of Fame include Richard Burke, Ph.D., Class of '65; Judge John Lungstrum, Class of '70; BG(R) Stephen Ferrell, Class of '74; COL(R) Bill Jenks, Class of '75; and COL Allison Mirakian,

Class of '80. Congratulations to our Jayhawk Battalion Wall of Fame Inductees, Class of 2006!

In our near future, the Jayhawk Battalion is sending two teams to this year's Ranger Challenge Competition to be held 28 Oct at Camp Dodge, IA. Additionally, the Jayhawk Battalion will be participating in a Joint Service vigil for Veteran's Day at KU's Vietnam Memorial and Korean War Memorial. The annual vigil held in remembrance of the past sacrifices of Jayhawk alumni and faculty will begin at 1900 hours on 10 Nov and continue to 1900 on 11 Nov.

Check out our website at <http://www.armyrotc.ku.edu/> for more details on these events.

JAYHAWKS LEAD THE WAY!

LTC Jeff Maxcy



Navy News

CAPT Thomas Arnold, USN



Greetings from the Jayhawk Navy!

It is a great pleasure to address the MOAA Jayhawk Chapter with my first Navy News update since taking command of the KU Naval ROTC Unit. For those of you I did not meet during the dinner with General Myers, I want to take this opportunity to briefly introduce myself. I am a Surface Warfare Officer with 27 years of service and was most recently assigned for three years as Chief of Staff for Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Japan. This was the second time in Japan for my wife Francie and me, having done a previous tour there in the late 1990s when I commanded a destroyer. Although we thoroughly enjoyed both our overseas tours, I am very happy to be back in the U.S., and am particularly excited to be serving here at KU. I believe there is no more important or rewarding responsibility than preparing young men and women for service to our country, and I can't think of a more enjoyable place to be doing this than here in America's heartland. Although Francie and I are not Midwesterners, the warm welcome we have received since arriving has made us feel very much at home in Lawrence.

My arrival wasn't the only significant personnel change on the Unit staff. My predecessor, Chris Orwoll, retired on September 8th during a joint Change of Command and Retirement ceremony.

Chris did a superb job during his three years at KU, serving initially as the Unit's Executive Officer and then for a period of nearly a year as the Commanding Officer. I can't thank him enough for his hard work and for turning over such an outstanding battalion to me. Chris and his family are remaining in the area and I know they will stay actively involved with the MOAA Jayhawk Chapter. Please join me in wishing him the best of luck as he transitions to an exciting post-Navy career. Just two weeks after Chris retired, we conducted a retirement ceremony for YNC Mike Wheeler, after nearly 24 years of Naval service. Chief Wheeler leaves without a relief, as both our Navy enlisted billets have been eliminated. Mike Wheeler also did a great job here at KU and now moves on to a second career working for a law firm in Kansas City.

As the Jayhawk Battalion reaches the mid-point of the fall semester, it has already been a busy few weeks. Just to mention a few of the highlights:

- we learned that SGT Buck Bradley, one of our Marine Enlisted Commissioning Program (MECEP) students, won the prestigious Commandant's Award as the top graduate of Officer Candidate School, a very demanding summer training

program that all MECEPs and Marine Option midshipmen must successfully complete prior to commissioning.

- our three upcoming December graduates received their notification of community selection: Officer Candidate (OC) Turner was selected for Naval Flight Officer training, OC Vessels was selected for Naval Aviator training, and Midshipman Mourning will become a Surface Warfare Officer.
- the Jayhawk Battalion Flag Football team brought the Governor's Cup back to KU with a 54-20 victory over the Missouri NROTC battalion on Oct 7th.

In closing, I want to thank the MOAA Jayhawk Chapter for inviting ten battalion members and me to attend the dinner with General Myers on the 27th of Sept. It was a memorable occasion for all of us, and the midshipmen, OCs and MECEPs were honored by the warm welcome and special recognition you gave them.

Happy Holidays!

CAPT Tom Arnold



Air Force News

LtCol Sandra Leiker, USAF

Aloha, MOAA friends -

Yes, I learned "Aloha" in Hawaii last May as I was "recuperating" from my first FAST-PACED year at KU AFROTC, and I'm very proud. As you may know, the Air Force and AFROTC have been implementing all these new programs and initiatives recently to encourage cultural immersion and the study of foreign language ... I just want to do my part! Of course, I've decided to leave the toughies (e.g., Russian, Chinese, Hebrew, Arabic) to the cadets, as my older brain is more, well, um, tired.

This new school year is well underway and it seems to be equally fast-paced! But, I must happily admit, I feel more "on-top" of things this year! Could it be that I just got all the surprises out of the way? Or (hopefully!) we really ARE more on top of our game, having a year under our belts. Our NCO staff, TSgt Eliza Morales and SSgt Crystal Cronley, have now been working together since last January and are a tremendous duo. We're blessed to have these two incredibly energetic and professional airmen here at KU. They are a true force in managing ALL of our cadet programs from a personnel and administrative perspective – we absolutely could not function without them! Also, Capt Corey Edmonds, our new Commandant of Cadets, has jumped in to fill Capt Bland's huge shoes in a way I did not think possible. Talk about unflagging! (Okay, he did flag just a little bit when the Chiefs beat the Chargers ... but that shouldn't really count.) He's keeping the hundred spinning plates (they come with the job!) in the air – somehow! With his quiet and polished demeanor he has also become quite a role model and mentor for the newer cadets (although I hear they are not fond of his red pen!) Capt Dan Hatchel, now serving his third year here at AFROTC, has become, in his own words, the "evil enforcer of cadet standards" following his own 4-week turn as a Flight Training Officer at Field Training Encampment this past summer. That's okay, lack of sleep for 28 days can "grumpify" anyone ... and he plays "bad cop" to Capt Edmonds' "good cop" – which is actually a handy technique for molding young minds! Oh, we have fun here!

I know, I joke, but we really do have fun! There are so many things going on and so many opportunities for the cadets to be involved in stimulating leadership/training activities – they are

always taking part in something! Over the 21-22 Oct weekend, for instance, 20 cadets traveled to Ft Collins, CO for a regional leadership conference associated with the Arnold Air Society (AAS), our AFROTC-affiliated honor/service fraternity. Many of them hold regional AAS leadership roles and spent the weekend mentoring other cadets from schools across the country. General Myers visit in late September was another excellent example – I watched (feared?) as the AF cadets almost mobbed him in excitement, both before and after the dinner (thanks AGAIN to MOAA for your generous support and a lovely evening!) Earlier in the month, our cadet Career Shadow Day was a hit, thanks undoubtedly to the enthusiastic support from the officers of the FT Leavenworth AF element (but in my heart I also attribute its success to representation from a superior cross-section of AF careers – yes, by that I, of course, mean my own "acquisition/engineering" career field was FINALLY represented!) Either way, the cadets always seem pretty "jazzed" after talking to "real" (not us) Air Force officers.

Next up ... many exciting Joint Service Activities ... tri-service football competition (oooh ...) on Nov 4th, Joint Military Ball (the Navy is hosting it this year) on the evening of Nov 4th, and then Veterans Day is fast-approaching and we have cadets/mids from all three service programs involved in a number of ceremonial events on campus. These include our annual Joint Retreat Ceremony (Friday, Nov 10th) and all-night vigil at the KU memorials, as well as a "Tribute to Veterans" program sponsored by the Dole Institute of Politics that same afternoon.

Speaking of Veterans Day, we hope to see some of you on campus and around town for the various events. Call or stop by any time for information, 864-4676. As always, thank you for all you do!

Respectfully,

Lt Col Sandra S. Leiker

MOAA LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

MOAA's Legislative Update for September 8, 2006:

House Votes to Lower Military Drug Costs

Ironically, the Administration's Office of Management and Budget has opposed the retail drug discounts, which could save the Defense Department \$400 million a year or more in drug costs. MOAA and the Coalition argue strongly that the government is being less than even-handed in trying to impose big cost increases on beneficiaries when it has neglected to take obvious steps like this to reduce its own costs.

"It makes no sense that that the Department of Defense (DOD) is prevented from using its buying power to negotiate lower drug prices for America's military retirees just like the VA does for America's veterans," said Rep. Edwards. "Reducing the cost of prescription drugs for military retirees should not be a partisan issue. If Congress can save \$251 million for [the Defense Department] and taxpayers every year by lowering drug prices at retail pharmacies for military retirees, increased co-pays are completely unnecessary."

The final House vote to endorse the retail drug discount plan was 373 to 30.

Visit http://moaaonline.org/ct/D1z_irK1JmlZ/ to see whether your U.S. Representative voted for or against this important initiative.

Payday Lenders Endanger Military Careers

A provision in the Senate version of the FY2007 Defense Authorization Bill would prevent so-called "payday lenders" from preying on young military members by loaning them money against their pending paychecks at exorbitant annual rates that sometimes exceed 1,000%.

Dr. David Chu, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, told a Senate hearing that he stands by a Pentagon report stressing the need for legislative protections from payday lenders - including the 36% rate cap. Sen. Elizabeth Dole (R-NC), who pushed for the cap last year (only to see it stripped over a technicality), praised the Pentagon report.

MOAA strongly agrees with the Pentagon report, and doesn't want to see any more back-room deals on "technicalities." There's a clear-cut bottom line here: Congress must decide between supporting the troops or supporting the payday lenders who are leeching off them and hurting military families and military readiness. There's no halfway as far as we're concerned.

The Senate-passed defense bill, now in conference negotiations with the House, includes a bipartisan initiative by Talent and Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL) that would establish a 36% annual interest rate cap to servicemembers, among other protections. It's based on Graves' Servicemember's Anti-Predatory Lending Protection Act (H.R. 97). Visit http://moaaonline.org/ct/Jpz_irK1JmlK/ to see if your Legislator supports H.R. 97.

MOAA's Legislative Update for September 15, 2006:

MOAA's National Guard and Reserve issues lobbyist, COL Bob Norton, USA (Ret) would like to update you on two key issues that are nearing decisions in the House-Senate conference on the FY 2007 Defense Authorization Bill: reserve retirement and government health insurance for reserve families.

The Senate version of the bill would make a proportional reduction in the age-60 reserve retirement age for mobilized

members based on the length of time on active duty since 9/11. The House bill would establish a single annual fee for access to TRICARE for all members of the Selected Reserve.

MOAA's Legislative Update for September 22, 2006:

Medicare/TRICARE Payment Haggles Drag On

We'd been hoping that Congress would make it a priority to reverse the impending 5.1% cut in Medicare and TRICARE payments to doctors now scheduled for January.

MOAA has joined with the American Medical Association at press conferences around the country to make the case that failing to reverse the cut will hurt military beneficiaries' access to care by making more doctors refuse to see Medicare and TRICARE patients.

VADM Ryan Talks Veterans' Issues

The House Veterans Affairs Committee conducted two days of hearings this week, at which MOAA and other organizations presented priorities for next year.

MOAA President VADM Norb Ryan, Jr., USN (Ret) expressed appreciation for the Committee's effort to increase resources for the VA health care system, but said the VA continues to underestimate the demand for care by returning veterans. He urged the Committee to direct the VA to fix its model for estimating demand, budget to meet the VA's stated 30-day access standard for appointments, and heed the recommendations of the "Veterans Independent Budget," which historically has provided the most realistic cost estimates for VA system requirements.

Ryan also cited as priorities:

- * Increasing funds allocated for Traumatic Brain Injury, PTSD, spinal cord injury, VA polytrauma center renovation and construction, and medical research
- * Creating an interoperable VA-DoD medical record to "seamlessly transfer" medical data between the two departments
- * Adding disability claims workers and standardizing their training to reduce the hundreds of thousands of backlogged claims
- * Creating a "Total Force Montgomery GI Bill" that better synchronizes active duty, National Guard and Reserve educational benefits
- * Enacting the Committee's bi-partisan bill to tighten VA data security and better protect veterans in the event of theft of their personal data

Support Programs Robbed to Fund War Needs

For months, MOAA has been hearing from members about cuts in funding and services at base libraries, dining halls, gymnasiums, child care, and other support services as the military leaders are forced more and more to "rob Peter to pay Paul" to meet growing operations costs.

While it's hard to pin down exactly how much all the cuts amount to, we know the Army has a \$500 million shortfall in base operations and family support accounts.

A number of examples of the impact of these shortfalls on servicemembers and families came to light at Wednesday's Capitol Hill press conference called by House Armed Services Committee Democrats.

Ranking member Ike Skelton (D-MO) and Reps. Vic Snyder (D-AR) and Silvestre Reyes (D-TX) talked about their frustrations and the need for better financial oversight in these important areas. Joyce Raezer of the National Military Family Association provided examples of how servicemembers and their families are bearing the brunt of the impact.

"The war in Iraq has placed tremendous stress on the Army for resources - sapping the non-deployed forces in order to support units in combat," Skelton said. "You can't fight an extended war without paying for it. Cutting services that support the [troops] and their families is short-sighted and just plain wrong."

MOAA's CDR. Rene Campos, USN (Ret) pointed out that, if the trend is not corrected, it will only worsen when the services start executing extensive plans for unit moves, base realignments and closures. "We have real concerns that servicemembers and families will continue to foot a disproportional share of the [wartime] bill," Campos stated.

We encourage MOAA members and others to keep us informed about reductions in base services and quality of life programs in the military community.

Meet MOAA's Newest Lobbyist

We're most pleased to welcome Colonel Ana Smythe, USMC (Ret), this week as the newest member of MOAA's lobbying team. She'll be working the health care portfolio in partnership with CDR John Class, USN (Ret), including currently serving force readiness, veterans' health care and "seamless transition" of care between military and VA health programs as well as TRICARE issues.

Ana was raised in a Navy family and has just completed a distinguished Marine Corps career encompassing more than 30 years of active service.

An Army War College graduate, she has commanded a Marine Security Guard unit responsible for the security of American embassies and consulates in Europe, Canada, and North Africa and a Marine Corps Recruit Depot battalion in San Diego. She served three years in the office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs and most recently served with the Department of the Navy's physical evaluation board at the Washington Navy Yard. She's also no stranger to MOAA, having served as a member of the Active Duty, Guard and Reserve Advisory Committee to MOAA's Board of Directors.

We're thrilled to be able to take advantage of her leadership, experience and enthusiasm.

MOAA's Legislative Update for October 6, 2006:

More New Defense Bill Provisions

Last week's update summarized some highlights of the FY2007 Defense Authorization Act that Congress passed on Sept. 30. But this 1600-page piece of legislation included hundreds of provisions, large and small, that affect nearly all members of the military community one way or another. Here's a sampling of some that we didn't have space to mention last week.

Retiree Eligibility for Army Referral Bonus: Makes Army retirees (including "Gray Area" Reserve retirees) and DA civilians, as well as any active member of the Army, Army National Guard or Army Reserve, eligible for a \$2,000 bonus for each recruiting referral that results in the referred recruit completing basic training and individual advanced training. Excludes JROTC administrators and instructors.

Mortuary Affairs in Combat Theater: Requires expanded transportation and escort/honors considerations for members who die in a combat theater, and requires comprehensive Pentagon review and report to Congress on improving mortuary affairs procedures at forward locations and improving assistance to survivors.

Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) Reform: Requires Secretary of Defense to establish regulations to improve timeliness and consistency of physical evaluation board results for all services, and improved communications/explanations for members on PEB decisions and rationale.

Housing Allowance for Mobilized Members: Authorizes additional housing allowance for mobilized Guard and Reserve members and recalled retirees who are assigned to a location remote from their permanent residence and without government housing.

Voluntary Separation Incentive: Authorizes payment of voluntary separation pay, up to four times the amount of involuntary separation pay, to members in categories identified by service secretaries as requiring force reductions. This provision is intended mainly for the use of the Air Force and Navy, which must reduce their manpower levels by 23,000 and 12,000, respectively, in the coming year.

Survivor Benefits for Active Duty Deaths: Allows surviving spouses of members who died on active duty since Oct. 7, 2001 the option of transferring Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) coverage to a child or children, if any. This effectively allows the survivor to receive both Dependency and Indemnity Compensation from the VA and SBP from the military, without having the former deducted from the latter. However, transfer to the child is irrevocable, and eligibility is not restored to the spouse when the youngest child loses dependent status.

Health Care Options for Families of Mobilized Reservists: Requires Pentagon study (due in April 2007) of allowing family members of Guard/Reserve members the option of retaining their civilian employer coverage, with premiums subsidized at some level by the Defense Department, during periods when the member is mobilized.

For a more detailed summary of personnel and benefit provisions of the FY2007 Defense Authorization Bill, check out MOAA's Website at http://moaaonline.org/ct/kdz_irK1aXjW/

MOAA News Exchange - October 11, 2006

Fiscal Year 2007 Defense Bill Passed

Congress cleared the conference report on the fiscal year 2007 defense authorization bill just before members adjourned to campaign for midterm elections.

-- Go to: http://moaaonline.org/ct/hpz_irK1zzjx/

Check Out MOAA's New Military Spouse Blog

Follow one of MOAA's own military spouses as she weathers her husband's year-long deployment. She'll share her stories and provide helpful spousal resources. Add your own comments and suggestions, or share your own story with us.

-- Go to: http://moaaonline.org/ct/ypz_irK1zzjN/

How to Avoid the Top 10 Money Mistakes

Shockingly, only 50 percent of Americans have a valid will. Leaving those you care for behind without proper estate planning makes their lives much more difficult. Use these tips to help you help your family and friends.

-- Go to: http://moaaonline.org/ct/n1z_irK1zzj3/

Chapter Leaders Share Ideas at Symposium

Chapter leaders from the Southeast shared ideas and learned more about the services available through national MOAA during the 2006 Chapter Presidents' Symposium, which was held Sept. 28-30 in Savannah, Ga. Find out what common problems chapter leaders face, and review participants' recommendations and suggested solutions.

-- Go to: http://moaaonline.org/ct/hdz_irK1zzjw/

A Career Tip from TOPS

Accentuate the positive. This advice has never been more important than when applied to the job search process.

-- Go to: http://moaaonline.org/ct/n7z_irK1zzjd/

As I See It - It's the Principle

MOAA's Director of Government Relations, Col. Steve Strobbridge, USAF-Ret., discusses the need for guiding principles to establish what constitutes an appropriate health benefit level for military people.

-- Go to: http://moaaonline.org/ct/npz_irK1zzjc/

Interactive

Tell Us Your Legislative Priorities for 2007 Receive one entry into the Dell laptop drawing for each of the six free MOAA e-newsletters you choose to receive. Subscribe to all six and get six chances to win!

-- Go to: http://moaaonline.org/ct/81z_irK1zzjB/

A Capital Event

Looking for a New Career? Job Success Starts Here

Begin your job search at MOAA's next career fair on Nov. 15 in Washington, D.C.

The career fair is open to active duty and separating servicemembers, National Guard and Reserve members, former and retired servicemembers, and their spouses.

-- Go to: http://moaaonline.org/ct/ndz_irK1zzje/

Member Offer

Garrett Planning Network

Help now is available when you need answers to financial planning questions. Log in and learn more about fee-only financial advice with no sales pressure and no long-term contracts.

-- Go to: http://moaaonline.org/ct/h7z_irK1zzjs/

MOAA's Legislative Update for October 13, 2006:

Army Defies Odds in Meeting Recruiting Goal

The recruiting goal the Army set for FY2006 looked daunting as the year began.

After falling 6,000 short of its 74,000 goal for FY2005, the Army raised the bar to 80,000 for FY2006. They began the fiscal year last Oct. 1 with only 12% of that goal "banked" in the delayed enlistment program, compared to 25% a year earlier. Further, Congress didn't enact needed new bonus incentives until January, more than three months into the fiscal year. So many - including MOAA - had doubts whether the new goal was attainable.

Even earlier, we were concerned enough that MOAA signed a memorandum of understanding with the Army to encourage MOAA chapters to connect local recruiters with willing potential prospects. While there may not be unanimity on how our forces are used, supporting a strong national defense is a core MOAA

value - and you can't sustain that without strong recruiting and retention programs to maintain the force.

But the Army met the challenge by adding over 1,300 recruiters since 2005 and expanding various criteria to widen the prospect pool. So we congratulate the Army and the other services, all of whom met or exceeded their active duty recruiting goals.

Nevertheless, other numbers offer reasons for legitimate concerns for FY2007 and beyond.

Only two of the six Reserve components met their goals. The Navy Reserve missed the mark by the largest margin, enlisting 87% of its goal. The Army Reserve enlisted 95% of goal (still, an improvement over last year's 92%). The Army National Guard narrowly missed with 99% -- still a big upgrade from 80% last year.

MOAA Members Inundate Congress

With almost three months left in the year, we've already generated 18% more messages to Congress through MOAA's Web site than in all of 2005 - 367,000 vs. last year's 310,000.

That's still well short of the record 493,000 messages in 2002 - the year of the first major concurrent receipt breakthrough. And it certainly doesn't represent the totality of MOAA-generated correspondence to the Hill. First, those are just the messages we can count on our Web site. Second, we know from counts obtained from Hill offices that MOAA members also sent legislators an estimated 120,000 tear-out TRICARE letters (from the Feb. Military Officer magazine) and another 250,000 tear-off postcards (from the April (TRICARE) and September (SBP) magazines). Another 6,000 phone calls were placed through MOAA's Capitol Hill Hot Line.

What were the hottest topics this year? Here's the breakdown of the most popular email messages:

- #1: 127,000 opposing TRICARE fee increases
- #2: 64,000 pushing SBP fixes
- #3: 56,000 opposing Medicare/TRICARE payment cuts
- #4: 53,000 supporting concurrent receipt fixes
- #5: 38,000 supporting active duty program improvements
- #6: 33,000 supporting Guard/Reserve program fixes

The only issue remaining on the table this year is #3, Medicare/TRICARE payment cuts, which we're pushing Congress to address when it returns for a "lame duck" session in November. We still have an active alert on that issue on MOAA's Web site at http://moaaonline.org/ct/Ddz_irK1zRm5/

MOAA's Legislative Update for October 20, 2006:

2007 COLA: 3.3%

For the second straight year, the retired pay cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will be larger than the military pay raise (2.2% for 2007). The 3.3% COLA is effective on December 1, 2006 and will first appear in the January 2 checks.

Servicemembers who retired during calendar year 2006 will receive a somewhat smaller, partial COLA for the year of their retirement, because they already received a January military pay raise (which also raised their 2007 retired pay). If you retired in 2006, your COLA is calculated as follows:

- * Members who entered service before Sept. 8, 1980, and who retired on or after Jan. 1, 2006, will receive a 2.8% COLA. * Members who entered service on or after Sept. 8, 1980 (whose retired pay is calculated on their highest 36 months' basic pay rather than final basic pay), and retired between Jan. 1, 2006, and Sept. 30, 2006, will

receive a partial COLA based on the calendar quarter in which they retired. Jan-Mar retirees will receive 2.8%; Apr-Jun retirees, 2.4%; and Jul-Sep retirees 0.6%. Those who retire after Oct. 1, 2006, (fourth quarter) will see no COLA this year.

- * Members retired during 2006 will receive full-year COLAs in future years.

The bottom line is that retiree COLAs and the military pay raises have different purposes and are tied to different adjustment standards.

Military pay raises are based on private sector pay growth, as measured by the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Employment Cost Index (ECI). Their intent is to ensure military pay is kept reasonably comparable to private sector pay, to allow the services to compete successfully for manpower over time.

Retired pay COLAs, on the other hand, are cost-of-living adjustments that track to inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Their purpose is to ensure that whatever purchasing power a member's retired pay represented on the date he/ she left service isn't eroded by inflation over time.

For more information please visit http://moaaonline.org/ct/upz_irK1_zu8/.

Commission Hears Inputs on Buy-Outs, "Chapter 61" Equity

At the Oct. 19 Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission hearing, MOAA and other military and veterans' organizations joined in opposing the concept of offering disabled veterans a single lump-sum payment rather than monthly disability compensation.

The Commission had asked for association inputs on a draft report on this subject by the Center for Naval Analyses (CNA) (see http://moaaonline.org/ct/jdz_irK1_zuk/). CNA's draft report explored the advantages and disadvantages of a lump-sum program to both the veteran and VA and raised its own questions about the idea.

Joseph Violante, Legislative Director for the Disabled American Veterans, testifying for the group of associations, said any savings to the government would necessarily come at the expense of the disabled veterans. He highlighted potential inequities for veterans whose disabilities worsened in the future and the difficulty and expense of building administrative systems to consider such appeals. After hearing the testimony, the commissioners unanimously agreed to table consideration of a lump-sum, buy-out plan.

The commission then turned to consider line-of-duty rules, concurrent receipt, and characters of discharge. Concurrent receipt generated the most animated crosstalk. The four preliminary options the commission plans to address are:

- * Endorse the current "tiered" approach;
- * Endorse an offset of military retired pay by VA disability compensation;
- * Endorse "full" concurrent receipt of both military retirement and VA disability compensation; and
- * Endorse expansion of Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay to include 10-40%.

During the public comment period, MOAA's Col. Mike Hayden (USAF-Ret) noted that there may be some uncertainty about what is considered "full" concurrent receipt, and urged the commissioners to ensure they consider an option that vests earned retired pay for "Chapter 61" retirees who are forced into medical retirement before attaining 20 years of service.

Sen. Warner Steps Down as Armed Services Leader

At a White House ceremony on Oct. 17, President Bush signed into law the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for FY2007 (Public Law 109-364). Among other provisions, the new law provides a 2.2% military pay raise, authorizes lower-cost health coverage for drilling Guard and Reserve members and families, and bars any increases in retiree TRICARE fees for FY2007.

It will be the last defense bill shepherded through Congress by Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John Warner (R-VA), who steps down as chairman at the end of the year, in compliance with Senate tenure rules. When the 110th Congress convenes next year, the new chairman is expected to be Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) -- provided the Republicans retain control of the Senate. Should the Democrats regain leadership, the chairman would be Sen. Carl Levin (D-MI).

Warner assumed the Committee chairmanship in 1999 - a time of turmoil and retention problems in the armed forces due largely to pay and benefits cutbacks over the previous two decades. During his eight-year tenure, he oversaw the most significant period of military compensation and benefit improvements in more than 50 years, including:

- * Major progress in restoring military-civilian pay comparability;
- * Enactment of TRICARE For Life and pharmacy coverage for older beneficiaries;
- * Repeal of the "REDUX" retirement system that cut lifetime retired pay value by 25% for post-1986 entrants;
- * Concurrent receipt for thousands of severely or combat-disabled military retirees;
- * Phase-out of the age-62 benefit cut for Survivor Benefit Plan annuitants; and
- * Major death benefit increases for survivors of members who die during active or Guard/Reserve service.

A World War II veteran of the Navy and a Korean War veteran of the Marine Corps, Warner rose to become Secretary of the Navy in the early 1970s and has served in the Senate since 1979. In the early 1980s, he co-authored the Nunn-Warner compensation improvements that helped the services recover from the erosion-of-benefits era of the late 1970s - including double-digit pay raises in 1981 and 1982 and establishment of the first Variable Housing Allowance.

Senator Warner is a two-time recipient of MOAA's Arthur T. Marix Award for Congressional Leadership. Every member of the military community is deeply in his debt, and we are fortunate that we'll continue to have the benefit of his leadership experience in the Senate.

Senior Leaders See Big Pay, Retirement Gains

2007 will be a good time to be on active duty for certain senior servicemembers with more than 30 years of service, thanks to several provisions in the new FY2007 Defense Authorization Act that will increase their pay and retirement credit. The improvements don't apply to members who retired before the effective dates indicated below.

MOAA has no problem with senior members being awarded proper pay and retirement credit for their lengthy and valuable service. But we find it highly ironic that the same Congress that felt the need to provide such significant, positive changes for the most senior personnel capped the raise at only 2.2% for junior members bearing the brunt of combat.



JAYHAWK CHAPTER MOAA



A membership meeting will be held **Tuesday, 14 November 2006**, at the Lawrence Country Club. Dinner cost is **\$20.00** per meal.

The Program: Major General Tod Bunting, Kansas Adjutant General, will speak on Kansas Army/Air National Guard participation in current global military missions.

Social Hour: 1800 hours

Dinner: 1900 hours

The Menu: *Chicken, baked potato, vegetable, rolls, salad, tea or coffee and ice cream*

Send your reservation and check payable to **Jayhawk Chapter MOAA** to arrive no later than **10 November 2006**, to:
CAPT (Ret) Jim Cooper - 1115 Stone Meadows Drive, Lawrence, KS 66049-3961

PLEASE CONSIDER BRINGING A TOY FOR "TOYS FOR TOTS"
(New toys please – we will have a container to put them in)

If you have any questions, you may contact Jim at 842-7037 or John Halladay at 843-6184.

cut here

Yes, please make _____ reservations for me and my guests. (Spouse and other guests are welcome.)

The cost is \$20.00 per meal. I am enclosing a check for \$_____ for meal(s).

MG Clay Comfort Scholarship program contribution \$_____

(Checks made out to "KU Endowment")

TOTAL: \$_____

Name

Telephone

Dinner reservations are confirmed on Monday before the dinner. Cancellations, if necessary, should be made prior to Monday noon; otherwise, the Lawrence Country Club will charge us for those meals.

**TEAR OFF AND RETURN THIS FORM WITH A CHECK PAYABLE TO:
JAYHAWK CHAPTER MOAA
CAPT (Ret) Jim Cooper, 1115 Stone Meadows Drive, Lawrence, KS 66049-3961**

MOAA WEBSITE: www.moaa.org

JAYHAWK CHAPTER WEBSITE: www.jayhawkmoaa.org

Thanks very much to those of you who continue to respond to our requests for members to receive the newsletter by e-mail – we're up to nearly one-third of those who have e-mail. If you want to be added to the e-mail list, please let us know at jwhalladay@sunflower.com.

2006-2007 Jayhawk MOAA Calendar:

Tuesday	14 November	MOAA meeting MG Tod Bunting will be our speaker	Tuesday	16 January	MOAA meeting
			Tuesday	20 March	MOAA meeting
Friday	10 November	Marine Corps B'day	Tuesday	15 May	MOAA meeting

***IF YOU NEED A RIDE TO MEETINGS,
PLEASE LET US KNOW
ON YOUR RESERVATION FORM***



*Newsletter Editor
Jayhawk Chapter, MOAA
2403 Manchester Road
Lawrence, KS 66049-1646*

**Marine Corps Birthday
Friday, 10 November
1030 Hours
Dole Institute of Politics**

***Holiday Blessings
from your
Editorial Staff***