



# Jayhawk Chapter MOAA Newsletter



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## January Program:

Our guest speaker will be CPT Joshua Mantz, US Army, Aide-de-Camp to Deputy Commanding General, 1st Inf Div at Ft Riley - wounded in Iraq. He will be giving a talk on PTSD impacts to troops from Iraq and Afghanistan.

(You can link to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=46bPmJc-sdU> to hear him tell his own story on Fox News.)

☆☆☆☆☆ CHAPTER  
awarded for  
2002 / 2003 / 2005 /  
2008 / 2009

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awarded for  
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## Greetings from the President . . .

Michelle and I wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year. May the coming year be filled with joy and good times. I also wish to apologize for my absence and thank Tom Arnold for taking my place. While a schoolhouse, Command & General Staff College keeps me busy, not only teaching but traveling and participating in conferences such as the recent Military Ethic Symposium. Needless to say it has been a quite a year for us.



I understand from members the presentation at the last meeting was both informative and extremely interesting. We have been to the World War I Memorial and Museum. It is a great attraction to have in Kansas City and deserving of our support and the support of all active duty members and veterans.

We are looking for a "few good men or woman" to paraphrase Tom's Service recruiting slogan. Actually we are looking for a candidate for the position of First Vice President. Please make any Board member aware of your interest. Your support for our chapter would be greatly appreciated.

To accommodate our guest speaker, our next meeting is Wednesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. The speaker that evening is Captain Joshua Mantz, U.S. Army, Aide-de-Camp to the Deputy Commanding General, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, Fort Riley. CPT Mantz was wounded in Iraq and will discuss an extremely harmful medical disorder, PTSD, affecting many returning veterans from the war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Lastly, we urge you to attend to witness the induction of our new Chapter officers and Board Members.

We look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

# Charles

## Volume XVI, Issue 1

### 1 January 2011

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**\* Reservations should be sent to Jim Cooper by **14 January****



# JAYHAWK CHAPTER NEWS

**DUES REMINDER:** Chapter Dues (\$20.00) are due in January. Please send your check to Jim Cooper or include with your dinner reservation.



5-Star Level of Achievement Banners were presented to four of the Kansas MOAA Chapters at the MOAA National Meeting in Arlington, Virginia, on 15 November 2010. Shown are MAJ Leroy & Joy Meyer, Wichita; CW5 Delbert & Joyce Hill, Topeka; and COL John & Shirley Halladay, Jayhawk Chapter.

Thanks to all the Jayhawk members for their hard work in making this award possible.

**From Dave Darwin:** On December 8, Diane and I attended the awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., for the winners of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). There is one winner in math and one for science from each state, the US Virgin Islands, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Department of Defense Educational Activity (DoDEA). Our daughter, Lorraine Darwin, was the awardee for mathematics from Arkansas. Lorraine teaches at Cabot High School.

From the left are Tonia Crow (a fellow teacher from Arkansas), Diane, Roy Barnes (PAEMST Coordinator for Arkansas), Lorraine, David, and Henry Hawkins (Principal at Cabot High School).



**Doris Longabach** is recovering from mid-December knee replacement surgery. Please keep her in your prayers.

## Our Jayhawk MOAA Salvation Army Bell Ringers:



Buck Newsom & Jim Cooper



Ruth & Gerry Rutledge



Darlene & Don Sheriff



John Mosher & Jim Stokes



Shirley & John Halladay

**The newsletter is only as good as the material available, so each member is requested to forward news and other items of interest to the editors.**



## *Army News*

### *LTC Victor Hamilton*

#### **Greetings Jayhawk Chapter!**

The KU Army ROTC Jayhawk Battalion has just finished another strong semester. We are very proud of the Cadets' academic, physical and military success. Each of our Cadets is on the right path to graduating with a degree and earning a commission in the U.S. Army.

The Cadets worked extremely hard in the classroom to achieve high academic marks. The Battalion average grade point average was just under 3.3 for the semester. That GPA may not seem that impressive, but if you take into account the academic rigors of KU and the extra time commitment ROTC requires, it is quite an accomplishment.

The Cadets' commitment and dedication was also evident in their constantly improving physical fitness scores. The Battalion averaged 255 out of 300 on the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT). That average score is only possible when each Cadet pushes themselves to the limit four days a week. In today's military, a physically fit leader is just as important as an intelligent one.

In addition to their academic and physical fitness success, the Cadets have made great strides in mastering the small squad tactical skills taught in ROTC. The Cadets get better and better each time they lead a squad through a simulated tactical mission. This takes good communications, planning and resourcing skills, just to name a few.

We fully expect our MS III (academic Juniors) to be well prepared for this summer's Leader Development and Accessions Course (LDAC). The course will test their mental and physical stamina and abilities, as well as their tactical skills and leadership presence. If this semester is any indication, all of them should do extremely well.

Our last event of the semester served as a reminder to what all Cadets are working for. We commissioned three new second lieutenants on 20 December in a ceremony at the Military Science Building. BG Sean MacFarland spoke at the ceremony. The newest second lieutenants from the KU Army ROTC Jayhawk Battalion were:

2LT Matthew Hale, Signal Corps;  
2LT Thomas Townsden, Field Artillery; and  
2LT Jennifer Wiest, Nursing Corps.

We wish each of these new lieutenants good luck, and we're certain they will do very well.

#### **ROCK CHALK!**

*CPT Aaron M. Cornett*

Army ROTC Executive Officer



## *Navy News*

### *CAPT Carl Carpenter, USN*



#### **Holiday Greetings from the Jayhawk Navy!**

As the first semester of the 2010-11 academic year comes to a close, the Naval ROTC Staff and Battalion will take the opportunity to relax during the holiday prior to the start of the spring semester. It has been a great semester for the KU Naval ROTC Unit. The fall semester was filled with many noteworthy events:

- Staff Sergeant Matthews was promoted to Gunnery Sergeant.
- Battalion Commander, Midn Christian Jensen was presented the Legion of Valor Bronze Cross of Achievement. Vietnam Medal of Honor recipient,

retired Army Colonel Roger Donlon presented Midn Jensen with the award.

- Rear Admiral Lawrence Rice made a visit to the KU NROTC Unit and met with the staff and battalion. He provided Flag Officer insight into the Navy's Aviation current and future programs. Rear Admiral Rice is the naval aviation Flag Officer sponsor for the KU NROTC. He is assigned as the Director of Strategy and Policy at U.S. Joint Forces Command.
- The three ROTC's teamed up with the KU Student Veterans Chapter to host the Veterans' Day events

(joint Veterans' Day speech, the annual 24-hour vigil at the three KU war memorials, and the 5K run). The weekend veterans' events finished with the midshipmen and cadets participation in the Dole Institute of Politics' salute to the veterans. Quite an event!

- The Battalion Staff change of command brought in the new staff for the Spring Semester. The new Battalion Commander is Midn Nathan Widmer and his Battalion Executive Officer is Midn Elizabeth Whitford. The outgoing Commander, Midn Christian Jensen and his staff did a superb job during the summer break and the fall semester.
- Midn Wesley Renard graduated from the USMC Officer Candidate School on 10 December, and he will be commissioned in the US Marine Corps on 15 January. He will depart for the USMC Basic School at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

## *Air Force News*

### *LtCol Gena Stuchbery, USAF*

#### **Season's Greetings MOAA!**

It's been another banner semester here at the University of Kansas Air Force ROTC detachment. Our cadets continue to exemplify our Air Force corps values in every event they accomplish. I'll highlight some of those events that have been keeping the Flying Jayhawks quite busy.

Our Arnold Air Society has been engaged in several philanthropic projects. Of note is their support of the Lawrence Humane Society and Habitat for Humanity. They assisted the Humane Society by working an animal fair and contributed to the completion of two homes with Habitat for Humanity. Our color guard continued to put the armed forces' best foot forward in presentation of colors for multiple events, including area Veteran's Day ceremonies, KU football and KU basketball games.

The detachment also had the honor of showcasing our organization to Air Force ROTC senior leadership. We were visited by HQ AFROTC Commander, Colonel John McCain, AFROTC Northwest Region Commander, Colonel Curtis Winstead, and Holm Center Command Chief, Nick Slater. The DVs mentored our cadets, answered questions about active duty, and met with university officials. They all were quite impressed by Det 280 and the Flying Jayhawk Wing!

In November, cadets from AFROTC joined the Army and Navy ROTC programs to participate in Veteran's Day weekend activities. This year's activities included a formal Retreat, guest speaker, AFROTC-hosted 24-hr vigil at the three campus war memorials (Korea, Vietnam, and World War II), and an evening formal at The Dole Institute for Politics.

The spring semester will be the last one for fourteen of our midshipmen and Officer Candidates, who will be graduating and receiving their commissions in May 2011. I hope many of you will be able to join us for the Joint Service Commissioning Ceremony on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

In closing, I would like to thank you again for your continued support and interest in those motivated, impressive young Americans who have answered the call of service above self! I would also like to thank the MOAA Jayhawk Chapter for inviting seven battalion members and the NROTC Staff/wives to attend your dinner on the 16 November. It was a memorable occasion for all of us, and the midshipmen and Officer Candidates were honored by the warm welcome and special recognition you gave them.

I wish you all Happy Holidays and a safe and healthy New Year!

*CAPT Carl Carpenter*



We also enjoyed the privilege of hosting the annual Joint Military Ball. All four services (350 attendees) did themselves proud putting on their best formal attire for an evening of fellowship and celebration. We recognized the graduating seniors from all ROTC programs with gifts of new 2nd Lieutenant/Ensign (O-1) rank. Everyone had a great time!

We wrapped up the semester with a stellar awards ceremony where cadets were recognized with academic, participation, recruiting, and physical fitness awards. We implemented a new Commander's Fitness Awards program to highlight excellence in physical fitness, awarding a total of \$600 in endowment funds to our top four cadets.

Finally, we presented an early Christmas present to three of our "former" cadets, who received their gold bars on 18 December. Congratulations to the following:

- 2Lt Britton Hufford – Pilot
- 2Lt Tanner Popp – Missile Operations
- 2Lt Bradley Schmidt – Logistics

We wish these Airmen successful and rewarding careers as Air Force officers!

I'd like to thank you for another opportunity to share what has been happening at Detachment 280. Thank you so much for your continued support of our organization!

*Maj Brian Schroeder*

Unit Admissions Officer

## MOAA LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

This is a summary of the many items MOAA produces each week on legislative activities. Those who have e-mail receive the full Legislative Updates each week.

### MOAA's LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for October 29, 2010:

#### Disability Pilot Program Going Global

The Department of Veterans Affairs' Advisory Committee on Disability Compensation met this week in Washington and heard from the VA's Executive Director of the VA-DoD Collaboration Service, Mr. John Medve, who announced that the Disability Evaluation System (DES) pilot program will be expanded worldwide to replace the existing DoD legacy program over the next twelve months.

The pilot program came about as a result of the Walter Reed scandal in 2007 that uncovered wounded and disabled service members were receiving "low-balled" ratings as a result of the DES process.

Several commissions that investigated Walter Reed and the DES process recommended eliminating dual VA and DoD disability evaluations, but using one medical exam and having DoD use the VA disability ratings in evaluations by the Services' Physical Evaluation Boards.

The pilot, which has proven to improve the speed, effectiveness, and transparency of the DES review process, will expand from the current 27 sites to an additional 28 sites during this year's first phase. The system will be expanded to cover all remaining sites in additional three phases, with a target completion of October 2011.

LTG James Terry Scott (USA-Ret.), Chairman of the VA Advisory Committee, also announced that the committee plans to delve deeper into VA philosophy in assessing individual unemployability and the methodology behind presumptions.

Scott made the announcement at the two-day meeting where the committee received progress reports on the VA Schedule of Rating Disability re-write project and VA's roll-out of on-line Disability Benefits Questionnaires.

The DoD efforts are being led by Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness John R. Campbell, a Vietnam-era veteran and Purple Heart recipient recently appointed to this position after leading organizational change at several fortune 500 companies.

"I have one expectation - results," Campbell told MOAA.

### MOAA's LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for November 5, 2010:

MOAA joins the President in expressing our gratitude to all military people and families, who continue to be the saviors of our national well-being. We're pleased at the President's strong statement of the nation's reciprocal obligation to them, and pledge to do all in our power to ensure our government lives up to it.

#### Will Lame Ducks Limp Through or Fly?

Congress has gone all year fighting over the Medicare/TRICARE payment cuts, and has had real trouble coming up with ways to pay for even minor delays in the effective date. In a post-election session that's likely to be more contentious than ever, what are the odds the two sides can come to an agreement during the last couple of weeks of

November? Congress already let the cuts take effect once this year, and then took a month to fix them retroactively. Will they do that again? We'd hope they wouldn't go that highly disruptive route, but it's certainly possible.

### MOAA's LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for November 12, 2010:

#### Lame Ducks Return to Washington

The lame duck session will begin on Monday, November 15. Congress will have plenty of pressing issues to keep them busy in this brief post-election session. Two actions are particularly critical for the military community and it's not certain whether the lame ducks will even take them up.

#### Military Families Face "Catch-26"

Millions of Americans already are taking advantage of the new authority to continue adult children who don't have access to employer health coverage on their parents' health insurance.

MOAA Government Relations Director Steve Strobidge's As I See It column asks for your help to convince Congress to make that happen for military kids - and drop plans to charge a military-unique \$2,400 annual premium that civilians won't have to pay.

#### Deficit Commission Wants YOU - To Pay Up!

The co-chairs of the President's Commission on Deficit Reduction and Reform startled legislators and the other 16 commission members by pre-emptively announcing a massive package of proposed spending cuts and tax reforms they said would be necessary to get the country back on the right fiscal track.

Former Sen. Alan Simpson (R-WY) and former Clinton White House Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles jumped the gun on the Commission's scheduled Dec. 1 report delivery date by announcing their own co-chairs' recommendation package, to the apparent consternation of some other commissioners.

Under Commission rules, 14 of the 18 commissioners have to agree on whatever recommendations are included in the commission report. Apparently, the co-chairs thought achieving that level of consensus on the bipartisan but politically divided commission would be unlikely, and wanted to make public a sample package to illustrate the drastic sorts of actions that would be needed to fully address the nation's deficit problems.

Their package envisions deep cuts in virtually every category of federal spending, as well as a dramatic simplification of the tax system that would eliminate many popular deductions for homeowner interest, capital gains, and more.

Proposed initiatives affecting the military and veterans' community would, among many other things:

- a.. Change the CPI to depress COLAs for all federal annuity programs
- b.. Require Medicare beneficiaries to absorb a greater share of health costs

- c.. Impose TRICARE fee hikes and implement enrollment fees for all TRICARE programs \
- d.. Reduce COLAs for "early military retirees" (in previous proposals, such wording has meant "before age 60")
- e.. Freeze military and federal civilian pay raises for three years (including housing/subsistence allowances)
- f.. Consolidate commissaries and exchanges
- g.. Eliminate CONUS dependent schools
- h.. Raise the Social Security retirement age to 69 and the early retirement age to 64
- I.. Curtail future Medicare and TRICARE payments to doctors (but stop the immediate 25% cut)
- j.. Require nondisabled vets to pay more to use VA facilities
- k.. Establish legislative requirements for mandatory across-the-board cuts if Congress doesn't act to keep federal spending growth below a specified level

The co-chairs as much as admitted that their package, as a whole, would stand little chance of enactment.

"We've harpooned every whale in the ocean," said Simpson, noting wryly that he and Bowles "might have to go in the witness protection program."

Bowles called it "a starting point" for what's expected to be a protracted and (both fiscally and politically) painful budget battle. "America cannot be great if we go broke," the co-chairs said in their briefing.

Any conscientious citizen must be concerned about America's increasingly severe deficit problems, and addressing those problems will require sober sacrifices on the part of every American.

In that process, MOAA is determined to ensure that government leaders properly acknowledge the government's unique obligation to those who rendered decades of service and sacrifice for the rest of the country, and that any allocation of "shared sacrifice" must recognize that this tiny segment of Americans already has been required to shoulder a vastly disproportional share of national sacrifice.

#### **MOAA's LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for November 19, 2010:**

##### Big Retirement Cuts for Current Troops?

On Wednesday, the Bipartisan Policy Center released the recommendations of a privately funded Budget Reduction Task Force with the goal of bringing the federal debt below 60 percent of GDP by 2020.

This group, co-chaired by former Senator Pete Domenici (R-NM) and former Congressional Budget Office Director Alice Rivlin, is independent of the President's Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, whose co-chairs issued a separate deficit-cutting proposal last week (see box above).

Among a broad range of other proposals, the Rivlin-Domenici plan would dramatically alter the military retirement system by:

- \* Shifting it to a 401(k)-style system involving member contributions and variable government matching (depending on skill, retention needs, etc., each year),
- \* Basing retired pay on the highest five years' average basic pay (vs. the current three years),
- \* Delaying eligibility for immediate retired pay until age 57 for those with 20 or more years' service, and

- \* Vesting retirement benefits for members with 10 or more years of service

They estimate this would reduce long-term military retirement costs by 50%.

To help achieve those savings, the Rivlin-Domenici plan would shift all currently serving troops with less than 15 years of service to the new system!

MOAA believes the basic proposal is as ill-advised as were similar proposals in years past, in that its fundamental premise is to dramatically cut compensation for people who complete a military career in order to pay people who elect to separate.

It's a formula guaranteed to end in a long-term retention and readiness disaster. If it were in place today and soldiers with 10 years of service facing a third or fourth...or fifth...combat deployment had a choice between leaving with a vested retirement benefit or being forced to serve until age 57 to get an immediate annuity, we wouldn't like the resulting retention rates.

Abrogating retirement promises to all currently serving personnel with less than 15 years of service would add gross insult to grievous injury.

MOAA doesn't believe Congress would stand for it. But having a commission of this stature even propose such a thing is troubling, indeed.

#### VA Secretary Addresses MOAA

Secretary Eric Shinseki spoke to MOAA Council and Chapter leaders from around the country at MOAA's annual meeting Tuesday in Arlington, VA. A former Army Chief of Staff who was wounded in Vietnam, he brought candor and perspective to the daunting challenges of caring for our nation's veterans during the longest conflicts in our nation's history.

Shinseki laid out three broad priorities for the VA: "...increasing access to VA benefits and service, eliminating the disability claims backlog that frustrates all of us, and ending veteran homelessness..." He said that "access" is not only getting the word out to veterans on its programs, but using modern telehealth technologies to provide health services for remotely located veterans.

He acknowledged that the claims intake of almost 100,000 claims per month outpaces the VA's current capacity to process them. Shinseki noted that in 2009 the VA decided almost one million disability claims. He pledged to drive the VA towards an automated system, upgraded training and quality control and to field promising innovations in a variety of pilot programs around the country.

He said the VA's goals - which he acknowledged pose a major challenge - include eliminating the claims backlog and ending veteran homelessness by 2015.

Noting that "dollars are firepower" for VA programs, he applauded Congress for the record increases in VA funding in recent years - and noted the FY2011 VA budget seeks to add \$10 billion to last year's total.

#### **MOAA's LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for November 24, 2010:**

##### Vets Aren't Taking the Hill

At the start of the 111th Congress of 2009-2010, only 25% of U.S. senators and 21.6% of U.S. representatives had

served at least some period in military uniform (active duty, Guard, or Reserve).

That percentage has been declining steadily since it peaked at 74% for the House (1969-70) and 78% for the Senate (1977-78).

The decline will continue when the newly minted 112th Congress takes office next year.

In the new Senate, there will be 25 vets, including four military retirees - the same figures as the 111th Congress. Senators Mark Kirk (R-IL), Scott Brown (R-MA), and Lindsey Graham (R-SC) are currently serving National Guard or Reserve members.

In the House, a whopping 98 seats turned over. Among incoming freshmen, 22 are veterans, including four military retirees.

Rep Steve Stivers (R-OH) and Repelect Tim Griffin (R-AR), Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), Steven Palazzo (R-MS), and Joe Heck (R-NV) are currently serving in the National Guard or Reserve.

The new House will have a total of 87 veterans (20% of voting members), including 10 military retirees -- down from 94 vets at the start of the 111th Congress.

#### **MOAA's LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for December 17, 2010:**

##### Arlington Cemetery Audit Bill.

The House has cleared a measure sponsored by Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-MO) requiring a full audit of all gravesites Arlington National Cemetery.

##### Defense Bill Deal

After weeks of negotiations, House and Senate Armed Services Committees have struck a bipartisan deal to move the FY2011 defense authorization bill forward.

On Wednesday, House Armed Services Chairman Ike Skelton (D-MO) introduced H.R. 6523, a new version of the bill stripped of several controversial elements, including those involving "don't ask, don't tell" and privately funded abortions in military hospitals.

Senators Levin and McCain stated jointly, "Because of the unique circumstances in which the bill is being considered and the importance of the legislation to our men and women serving in uniform at a time of war, we have agreed to drop many controversial provisions that were included in the House and Senate versions of the bill."

Among many other provisions, the stripped down bill would:

- \* Provide a 1.4% military pay raise
- \* Extend TRICARE coverage for dependent children to age 26, but would require payment of a premium to cover the full cost of the coverage (estimated at \$2,400 per year per child)
- \* Bar any TRICARE Standard inpatient copay increase in FY2011 (that was the only increase at risk this year)
- \* Prohibit administrative discharge of servicemembers for an injury or illness after being considered by a physical evaluation board and deemed fit to return to duty
- \* Renew a wide range of expiring recruiting and retention bonus authorities

- \* Provide \$50 million in impact aid (assistance for civilian schools serving high proportions of military children)
- \* Require a DoD review of the adequacy of education programs for military spouses
- \* Require improvements to the Yellow Ribbon Guard/Reserve reintegration program (to include authorizing attendance by family members or other designees of a servicemember)

On Friday the house passed the measure, clearing the way for (hopefully) quick action in the Senate.

##### MOAA Recognized for "Doc Fix"

Recognized as the key military partner in winning legislation to reverse a scheduled 25% cut in Medicare and TRICARE payments, MOAA President VADM Norb Ryan (USN-Ret) was invited to attend the White House signing ceremony of the Medicare and Medicaid Extenders Act of 2010 on Wednesday.

President Obama, the leaders of AMA and AARP, and Chairman Baucus of the Senate Finance Committee applauded MOAA's role in highlighting the impact for military beneficiaries and generating more than 300,000 messages to Congress on this topic.

Admiral Ryan, speaking after the event said, "The new law provides a 12-month reprieve, not a fix to the underlying formula problem. But it gives Congress more time to find a long-term solution to a very complex physician payment structure. It makes sure that 2011 won't follow the pattern of 2010, when Congress had to act multiple times to delay the cuts - in some cases for as little as 30 days. It's extremely unsettling to our members to live with these constant threats of imminent loss of health care access."

Winning a permanent fix for the flawed statutory formula continues to be a top MOAA focus for 2011.

<http://echo4.bluehornet.com/ct/9731692:12221441357:m:3:230981068:8FC3EE2FF8222951CD332BBBF0C5E689>

##### GI Bill Victory

Last week we reported that the Senate was set to consider S. 3447, the "Veterans Benefits Improvements Act of 2010."

We're pleased this bill to improve the Post 9-11 GI Bill was passed by unanimous consent in the Senate, and the House later approved it by a vote of 409-3. The bill now heads to the president for his signature.

MOAA members factored into this victory by sending more than 5,500 messages to Congress in just two days to help spur the on this important fix.

The bill contains many MOAA priorities for upgrading the new GI Bill, including:

- \* Benefits for National Guard members ordered to state active duty (Title 32)
- \* Vocational, OJT and apprenticeship training, flight training, and other types of non-degree training
- \* A housing stipend for full-time online (distance) learners
- \* A book allowance for servicemembers and their spouses enrolled while on active duty

- \* An upgraded subsistence allowance for disabled veterans using Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VRE) program benefits
- \* Coverage for multiple licensure and certification tests
- \* Authority to let USPHS and NOAA Corps officers transfer benefits to family members

<http://echo4.bluehornet.com/ct/9731693:12221441357:m:3:230981068:8FC3EE2FF8222951CD332BBBF0C5E689>

**MOAA's LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for December 22, 2010:**

Tough to Turn Out the Lights

Nothing about the 111th Congress has been easy, and that's true even on what may be its very last day.

On Tuesday night the Senate finalized debate on the defense authorization bill and passed an amended version.

The Senate removed a controversial provision related to Guam that was holding up the defense bill. Leaders on both sides of the aisle agreed to delete the provision and send it back to the House.

In effect, House members were staying in Washington only to give final approval to this last Senate-passed measure, and they did so on Wednesday morning.

As this update was written the defense bill was heading to the President for his signature.

While MOAA appreciates that Democrats and Republicans finally got together to make some necessary compromises, it's exasperating that they couldn't have found a way to do that earlier, without holding legislation that's so vital to the national welfare hostage to political concerns right up until the fifty-ninth minute of the eleventh hour.

Government Funding Extended, VA Funding Increased

On Tuesday Congress approved a continuing resolution in order to keep the federal government funded through March 4, 2011. The resolution came just in time to prevent a government lockout as funding for federal government operations would have expired on December 22.

The bill extends most agencies funding at 2010 levels, but it also includes an additional \$460 million for the VA in order to maintain claims processors and help reduce the backlog of claims.

Reducing the claims backlog has been a long-standing goal. More funding was required to keep pace with the swell

of claims brought on by the three new presumptive conditions for exposure to Agent Orange approved by the VA this fall.

The resolution also includes a two years pay freeze for federal civilian employees starting on January 1. Military personnel will not be affected by the freeze, and instead will see a 1.4% pay increase in 2011.

Three Tiers for Medicare

Most Medicare beneficiaries won't see any increase in Medicare Part B premiums in 2011. This is because there was no cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for Social Security annuitants this year.

Beneficiaries with incomes under \$85,000 (or \$170,000 for couples) and who have their Part B premiums withheld from their Social Security will have their premiums frozen at either \$96.40 or \$110.50 per month (depending on when they signed up).

For others, Medicare Part B monthly premiums will be \$115.40 in 2011 - a 4.4 percent increase over the 2010 premium.

This increased premium will affect:

- \* New Part B beneficiaries (because they didn't have the premium withheld from their Social Security benefit in the previous year) and,
- \* Beneficiaries who do not have their Part B premium withheld from their Social Security benefit

As experienced in January 2010, beneficiaries with incomes above the levels cited in the second paragraph of this article also will see higher premiums in 2011, based on the income they reported to the IRS for 2009.

At incomes above those levels, the government subsidy for Medicare is progressively reduced. For most eligibles, the subsidy is 75 percent. As income rises, the subsidy is progressively reduced - to 20 percent for those in the highest income category.

DFAS and Your Tax Documents

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) announced last week the schedule for release of the end-of-year tax documents.

For retirees and annuitants who have a myPay account, their end-of-year annual statements and 1099Rs are available on the myPay website (<https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>).

The complete release schedule for both myPay postings and dates mailed via the U.S. Post Service is as follows:

Form/Document	Date available on myPay	Dates mailed via the U.S. P. O.
Retiree Annual Statement (RAS)	Dec. 4, 2010	Dec. 16-31, 2010
Retiree 1099R	Dec. 14, 2010	Dec. 16-31, 2010
Annuitant Account Statement (AAS)	Dec. 15, 2010	Dec. 19-31, 2010
Annuitant 1099R	Dec. 15, 2010	Dec. 19-31, 2010
VSI/SSB W-2 *	Not available via myPay	Jan. 4-5, 2011
Active Duty Air Force, Army, Navy W-2	Jan. 24, 2011	Jan. 24-29, 2011
Reserve Air Force, Army, Navy W-2	Jan. 4, 2011	Jan. 4-7, 2011
Marine Corps Active & Reserve W-2	Jan. 18, 2011	Jan. 19-20, 2011
Civilian employee W-2	Jan. 6, 2011	Jan. 7-15, 2011
Savings Deposit Program 1099INT	Jan. 21, 2011	Jan. 21-22, 2011
Vendor Pay 1099	Not available via myPay	Jan. 20-25, 2011
Vendor Pay MISC W-2	Jan. 31, 2011	Jan. 20-25, 2011
Travel PCS W-2	Jan. 31, 2011	Jan. 20-25, 2011
Army Non-Approp Fund Civ Pay W-2	Jan. 11, 2011	Not available



# JAYHAWK CHAPTER MOAA



A membership meeting will be held **Wednesday, 19 January 2011**, at the Lawrence Country Club.  
Dinner cost is \$20.00/meal.

**The Program:** Our guest speaker will be CPT Joshua Mantz, US Army, Aide-de-Camp to Deputy Commanding General, 1st Infantry Division at Ft Riley - wounded in Iraq.  
He will be giving a talk on PTSD impacts to troops from Iraq and Afghanistan.

**Social Hour:** 1800 hours      **Dinner:** 1845 hours

**The Menu:** *Filet Mignon, 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 **Friday, 14 January 2011**, to:  
CAPT (Ret) Jim Cooper - 1115 Stone Meadows Drive, Lawrence, KS 66049-3961

**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.**

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).

**Chapter Annual Dues (\$20.00)** \$\_\_\_\_\_

Clayton L. Comfort Award program contribution \$\_\_\_\_\_  
**(Separate check made out to "KU Endowment")**

TOTAL: \$\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone

**IF YOU NEED A RIDE TO MEETINGS, PLEASE LET US KNOW HERE \_\_\_\_\_  
AND GIVE US YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_**

**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](http://www.moaa.org)

KANSAS COUNCIL WEBSITE: [www.kansasmoaa.org](http://www.kansasmoaa.org)

JAYHAWK CHAPTER WEBSITE: [www.jayhawkmoaa.org](http://www.jayhawkmoaa.org)

*Can you receive the newsletter via e-mail ??*

*If so, it saves the Chapter for both  
printing and postage.*

*Please let us know at  
[jwhalladay@sunflower.com](mailto:jwhalladay@sunflower.com)*

**2011 Jayhawk MOAA Calendar:**

<i>Wednesday</i>	19 January	MOAA meeting	Tuesday	19 July	MOAA meeting
Tuesday	15 March	MOAA meeting	Tuesday	20 September	MOAA meeting
Tuesday	17 May	MOAA meeting	Tuesday	15 November	MOAA meeting

*HAPPY NEW YEAR  
TO YOU ALL !!!*



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

**IN GOD WE TRUST**