



Jayhawk Chapter MOAA Newsletter



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March Program:

Our guest speaker will be Dr. Adrian Lewis (USA, Ret), Director of the Officer of Professional Military Graduate Education and Coordinator of the KU-CGSC cooperative programs, including the Army Wounded Warrior Education Initiative.

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Greetings from the President . . .

Dear Jayhawk Chapter Members and Friends,

I am very excited to take the helm of the Jayhawk Chapter for 2011. I want to begin by thanking Charles Heller for his great work as Chapter President over the past year. Thanks are due as well to Bernie Kish, Jim Stokes and Lt Col Gena Stuchbery for their service to the chapter as they finish their terms on the Board of Directors. We have added five new members to the Jayhawk Chapter Board for the coming year and are very excited to have them on the leadership team. I am pleased to welcome Dean Bevan, Tom Verhage, Mike Lee, Gerald Rutledge and Carl Carpenter to the board.



My goals as Chapter President for this year are to continue to provide engaging speakers for our dinner programs, to maintain the momentum of chapter expansion through the MOAA "Give Me Ten!" membership drive, and to continue our support to the KU ROTC units through the Clay Comfort Fund Scholarship and our ROTC night programs. I look forward to your continued generous support of these initiatives and welcome your input towards improving all aspects of our chapter programs. Do not hesitate to contact board members or myself if you have ideas or suggestions to make the chapter and its programs more responsive to the needs of our members and those we support. We are particularly eager to get your feedback on speakers and to receive ideas for future dinner programs.

I hope you will be able to join us for our upcoming dinner program on Thursday night March 17th. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Adrian Lewis, the Director of Professional Military Graduate Education at KU. A retired U.S. Army Major and infantry officer, Dr. Lewis received his PhD in History at the University of Chicago in 1995. He now teaches Military History at KU and directs the office which coordinates many of KU's educational programs with CGSC at Ft. Leavenworth. This includes the Army Wounded Warrior Education Initiative, a unique program at KU which allows injured soldiers and veterans to do graduate work at the university. . Dr. Lewis will be joined by two of the wounded warrior students at KU and I hope you will be able to attend, both to hear Dr. Lewis talk about KU-Ft. Leavenworth cooperative initiatives and to help us honor these brave soldiers who have suffered permanent disabling injuries while serving their country in Iraq.

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*** Reservations should be sent to John Halladay by **10 March****



JAYHAWK CHAPTER NEWS

MEETING DATE: Please note that our March meeting is Thursday, 17 March.
Reservations for this meeting go to John Halladay.

Treasurer's Notes:

National Guard Conference: The March Kansas Council of Chapters meeting will be hosted by the Jayhawk Chapter at the Lawrence Country Club, from 1030 – 1430 on Saturday, March 26th. The quarterly meeting is scheduled to be in conjunction with the annual Kansas National Guard Conference, which will be held at the Lawrence Holidome on March 25th and 26th. Council/Chapter members will take turns manning the MOAA information table at the NG conference 1300-1900 hours on Friday, 25 March, and 0700-1500 hours on Saturday, March 26. We need volunteers to agree to sit at the table and be prepared to discuss the merits of MOAA membership with NG folks attending the conference, and to provide assistance in filling out and collecting, membership applications. We need at least two folks present at the table at any one time, either in one or two hour shifts, as is convenient. If you are willing to and able to take a turn sitting at the table, please contact either John Halladay or Jim Cooper.

Dinner Price: To echo the President, we realize that for some even a \$2 increase in the price of our meal can be a burden, but we all need to realize that the Club is actually providing us meals at below their cost, and you could not get anywhere near the quality of meal for that price anywhere else in Lawrence . . . and LCC's service and support is superb!

Dues: Half of our members still owe their 2011 dues – if you have not yet done so, please send your \$20 for your annual dues to me: Jim Cooper, 1115 Stone meadows Drive, Lawrence 66049.

March Dinner Reservations: Remember, Sandy and I will be exploring wineries in Chile during the middle of March, so we will be absent for the March meeting - please send your reservations to John Halladay.

Thanks - Jim Cooper

From Ray Finch: After a combat tour in Afghanistan, Captain John Finch (son of Ray and Jean Finch, Lawrence) gave up command of Bravo Company, 508th Special Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82d Airborne



Division on 19 January 2011 at a ceremony at Fort Bragg, NC. John and his wife Raelean will be moving to Kansas, where John will be assigned to the Battle Command Training Program at Fort Leavenworth.

In the photo, proud dad, Ray, is seated next to his daughter-in-law and son before the ceremony.

From Andrew Bauch: Skyler and I are pleased to announce we will have an addition to our family in late July. The doctor says there is an 80% chance at this point that we will have a baby boy. Our 2½ year old son, Jack, is excited to have a baby brother.

NOTE: Mike Sullivan's e-mail address has been changed to KUMariner@sunflower.com.

Your editors are back from a 4,000 mile swing through Arkansas and New Orleans to Sarasota and back through San Antonio and the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Because of the snow, we didn't get out of Lawrence until the 6th of February – then had to high-tail it from John's daughter's south of Hot Springs mid-week to escape the on-coming snows there. Florida wasn't exactly warm – 34° our first night there – and we didn't get to play golf until we reached Pensacola NAS on the way back. Louisiana and Texas were marginally warmer and John played three more rounds. Highlights were visits to the National WWII Museum in New Orleans, the Ringling Bros. Circus Museum in Sarasota and the National Pacific War Museum in Fredericksburg, TX, plus really enjoyable visits with friends and family along the way.

**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.**

President's Message (continued)

The March dinner will also be Air Force night and I encourage you to join us to salute the cadre and students of the KU Air Force ROTC program.

I have two final requests for your support. First, the Lawrence Country Club, which has done such a wonderful job of supporting the Jayhawk Chapter dinners over the past several years, is facing increased costs. They have worked hard to keep our dinner prices as low as possible and have been able to maintain the cost at \$20 for the past ten years. Beginning this month we will need to increase the price of the dinner programs to \$22 per person to accommodate the country club's higher food costs. I hope you understand this necessity and will continue coming out to enjoy the programs and participate in the camaraderie of the dinner meetings with your fellow members.

Second, on 25-26 March the Kansas National Guard Convention will be held here in Lawrence at the Holiday Inn Holidome. In conjunction with this event we will be taking advantage of the opportunity to get the MOAA message out to attendees and to provide them with information about the organization and its national and local chapter membership options. To do this we will be manning an information table both days. I hope you will consider volunteering your time to help us in this worthwhile effort. Additionally, we will be hosting the Kansas MOAA Council of Chapters Luncheon at the Lawrence Country Club on Saturday the 26th of March. This is a great opportunity to interact with the leadership of

the other MOAA Chapters around the state. I hope you will consider joining us. More information about these events is provided in a separate note from Jim Cooper in the newsletter. We will be offering the opportunity to sign up for either or both events during the dinner program on the 17th. If you can't attend the program, please contact either John Halladay or myself about participating. Thanks.

On a final note, I apologize for our inability to get ahead of the weather in January when we had to cancel our dinner meeting, twice. For those of you who paid for that dinner, Jim Cooper can either credit your payment toward a future dinner or refund you. Just let him know your preference, either by asking for him to apply the credit when you send in a future dinner reservation or by contacting him separately for a refund. Thanks again for your understanding. Please note that this month's dinner reservations should be sent to John Halladay, as Jim Cooper will be out of town this month.

In closing I want to thank all of you for your generous support to the Jayhawk Chapter. We have developed a well earned reputation for excellence through strong leadership and the firm commitment of our membership. I hope to build on this great tradition and ask for your continued support in the coming year.

I hope to see you at our March 17th meeting!

Tom



Army News *LTC Victor Hamilton*

Greetings Jayhawk Chapter!

The University of Kansas Army ROTC program has been busy this semester preparing Cadets for the rigors of future life in the Army. The Juniors and Seniors attend physical training four times a week from 6 AM to 7AM. Freshmen and Sophomores attend physical training three days a week. Once a week the Cadets conduct tactical exercises in a field environment that focus on Small Unit Leadership scenarios that test the decision making skills of each Cadet in a dynamic full spectrum environment. Tasks range from issuing orders to controlling actions to achieving superior results. Once a week the Cadets attend one to two hours of classroom instruction focused solely on complex problem solving skills and the effective application of a variety of resources. This semester the Jayhawk Battalion will conduct four field training exercises over select weekends at Fort Riley, Camp Clark, and Fort Leavenworth. Through cooperation with Kansas

National Guard Units and other Kansas Army ROTC units, the Battalion will conduct air movement operations, hone land navigation skills, negotiate a myriad of field leadership reaction and obstacle courses, conduct a variety of first aid tasks, conduct squad and platoon level tactical exercises, and conduct several foot marches.

On 11 March 2011 the Jayhawk Battalion will conduct a Spring Battalion dining in designed to familiarize Cadets with long standing Army traditions and provide an opportunity for the Cadets to have some fun with their peers and University Cadre. On 12 April 2011 the Jayhawk Battalion will sponsor student visits from numerous High School Junior ROTC Programs from across the State. The Spring 2011 joint commissioning is scheduled for 23 May 2011 and there the Battalion will enter 22 Cadets into the Profession of Arms.

The Cadets continue to establish reach new heights while raising the bar on many new goals during their journey. 16 Cadets will attend the Leadership Development Assessment Course in Fort Lewis, Washington this summer. Three Cadets will attend Army Cultural Understanding and Language Program Internships abroad and one Cadet is participating in an Army sponsored Study-Abroad Program in France. Four Cadets will attend the United States Army Airborne School and three Cadets will attend the United States Army Air Assault School.

The Jayhawk Battalion welcomed 20 new Cadets to the program this spring and expects to add another 35 to 50 Cadets next fall. These Cadets will find themselves operating in a self empowered environment. The challenge is great. They will be expected to master leadership fundamentals, financial and budget management, self-administered performance review boards, tough physical and academic standards, as well as small unit

tactics. Whether emplacing and negotiating a one rope bridge over a water obstacle or cramming for engineering or pharmacy exams these Cadets represent the future leaders of our country. The country is in good hands. PLEASE VISIT THE KU ARMY ROTC WEBSITE AT www.army.rotc.ku.edu TO SEE THE LATEST.

For our alumni and influencers, we would invite you to show your support for the Jayhawk Battalion at our website. We are conducting a fund drive to augment our limited resources to develop and mold the future leaders of the Army. I think you will agree that it would be a noble endeavor by itself to contribute to the cause; however, you will find that it is also tax deductible.

<http://www.armyrotc.ku.edu/donate/donate.shtml> .

LTC Victor S. Hamilton

Professor of Military Science
University of Kansas



Navy News

CAPT Carl Carpenter, USN



Greetings from the Jayhawk Navy!

As we prepare for what may be a second winter snow, it promises to be another busy semester for the KU Naval ROTC Battalion. Key events include: an ROTC Drill/Fitness Challenge Meet at the University of Colorado; an Aviation Club field trip to NAS Pensacola, FL; the annual Notre Dame NROTC Leadership Conference; and the Spring Awards Ceremony. Many of our midshipmen will participate in one or more of these events. MOAA members are welcome to attend the Naval ROTC Spring Awards Ceremony which is scheduled for April 27th at 3:30PM in the Gridiron Room at the Burge Union.

The KU NROTC plans to close out the semester by commissioning 14 new officers into the Navy and Marine Corps! I hope many of you will be able to join us for

the Joint Service Commissioning Ceremony on May 23rd at 10:00AM in the Ballroom at the Kansas Union.

As a reminder, we are still seeking members of the KU NROTC Alumni Association. If you haven't joined already and are interested in becoming a member, please contact LT Janet Broome at 785-864-1184.

In closing, I want to again thank the MOAA Jayhawk Chapter membership for your support to the KU NROTC Unit. Your continued efforts to recognize all the ROTC programs at KU and to honor our nation's future officers are greatly appreciated.

CAPT Carl Carpenter



Air Force News

LtCol Gena Stuchbery, USAF

Greetings MOAA!

As I write this, we're just coming off a mid-February warm-up and now plunging back into the freezing temp zone. As a native Texan, I say, "enough already!" We're ready for spring at Det 280.

I'll try to keep it brief and focus on what we're working on for spring semester.

Upcoming Key Events:

Saturday, 26 Feb, the cadet wing will be learning Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) skills as we host two NCO experts at Clinton Lake Park. The cadets are pretty stoked and always enjoy getting their hands dirty. On 3-4 March, seven will drive to Vance AFB, Enid, OK for altitude chamber orientation training, with the help of some Endowment funds. We reserve this experience for our sophomores and juniors, focusing on those with an interest in flying, and are glad we have some funds to help out. We'll then put our Field Training prep students through the Adams Ropes Course, to practice their leadership during group problem-solving exercises. It's always enjoyable watching students struggle and work through the various scenarios, overcoming obstacles as a team and learning about their own leadership styles.

For spring break, we're coordinating with McConnell AFB for a brief base visit. This experience is targeted to our freshmen and sophomores and will be the first time many of them have ever set foot on an AF installation. We're thankful to have several KU alumni who are helping make this happen.

Following spring break we begin our "smooth descent" as we partner up with Det 270 K-State for a Field Exercise at Ft Riley. Paintball, group problem solving and a little in state rivalry result in a fun learning experience for all. Then we close out the semester with our 3rd annual Alumni Weekend, 29-30 April. BGen Dave Howe, Director of Installations and Mission Support, Headquarters Air Combat Command, Langley Air Force Base, VA will be our featured guest speaker for the combat dining in on Friday, and review the cadet wing parade on Saturday before departing. We'll continue with golf at Eagle Bend and a BBQ wrap-up later in the afternoon. **All AFROTC alumni are welcome to attend.** Check out our webpage <http://www.afrotc.ku.edu/alumni.shtml> for more details on how to RSVP.

In May, it's a "soft landing" with our Awards ceremony on Tues the 10th, and commissioning the 23rd. This will be a bittersweet semester as Maj Gary Marsteller prepares to retire and I transition to a new assignment in the summer. We're both savoring these last moments with the Flying Jayhawk Wing.

Thanks for all you do for the AFROTC program. See you at the March dinner – AF night!

Aloha!

Lt Col Gena Stuchbery

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 January 14, 2010:

TRICARE-26 Update

The good news is that DoD officials hope to be able to implement the TRICARE Young Adult (TYA) program, formerly termed "TRICARE-26", sometime in late Spring. TYA will extend TRICARE coverage to children of TRICARE-eligible families until age 26.

We don't yet know what the premium cost will be for this new coverage. Unofficial reported estimates have ranged from \$1,400 to \$2,400 a year per child. Premiums will be set to cover

the full cost of the coverage, based on historical claims for TRICARE-eligibles in the same age group.

This expanded coverage will be available to eligible dependents who are unmarried, who have aged out of TRICARE at age 21 (age 23 if in college full-time), and who don't have access to their own employer-sponsored coverage. The initial benefit will be in the form of TRICARE Standard/Extra health coverage on a month-to-month basis. It is anticipated that TRICARE Prime will be offered as a benefit with a separate premium later in 2011.

DoD officials said that enrollees will have the option of purchasing retroactive coverage back to January 1, 2011.

What can you do now in preparation if you plan to enroll your child(ren)? Save those health care receipts!

MOAA also has urged TRICARE officials to consider beneficiaries already enrolled in the existing (and significantly more expensive) Continuing Health Care Benefits Program as pre-enrolled in TYA, and provide retroactive premium rebates for those enrollees once TYA is implemented.

More to come on this new coverage program in the next few weeks.

Wounded Warrior Task Force Convenes

The Department of Defense Task Force for Care, Management, and Transition of Recovering Wounded, Ill, and Injured Members of the Armed Forces began its deliberations last week in Washington D.C.

The task force was mandated by the 2010 National Defense Authorization Act to examine the effectiveness of the Department's wounded warrior policies and programs. It will review, assess, and report on case management, staffing of warrior transition units, performance and accountability systems, services for traumatic brain injury (TBI) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and the effectiveness of the DoD centers of excellence in these areas.

The 14-member task force is co-chaired by Air Force Surgeon General Lt Gen Charles Green and Dr. Karen Guice, Executive Director of the VA Federal Recovery Coordination Program.

New TRICARE Dental Contract

DoD has awarded the new TRICARE Dental Program (TDP) contract to Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, Inc.

The contract provides worldwide coverage for enrolled family members of active duty personnel and to members of the Selected Reserve and Individual Ready Reserve and their eligible family members. Approximately 1.9 million beneficiaries are currently enrolled in the premium-based TDP worldwide.

Dental care under the new contract will begin Feb. 1, 2012, following a 12-month transition period.

New features of the TDP contract include:

- * An increase in the annual maximum from \$1,200 to \$1,300
- * An increase in the lifetime orthodontic maximum from \$1,500 to \$1,750
- * Coverage of posterior resin (white) fillings
- * Additional \$1,200 maximum per year for services related to accidents/injuries
- * No cost shares for some periodontal services for diabetics
- * Coverage of an additional cleaning for women during pregnancy
- * First-year premiums below current rates

MOAA's LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for January 21, 2011:

New Budget Rules Could Mean Gridlock.

Republicans in control of the House and Democrats in control of the Senate have approved dramatically different budget rules for the 112th Congress that would appear to make it difficult for them to reach agreements on almost any major budget changes without major compromises by one or the other or both.

Important Dates for the 112th Congress.

Some key dates are coming up as the new Congress prepares to get down to business.

More Bills of Interest.

Two more concurrent receipt bills were introduced in the House this week, and Rep. Sanford Bishop's proposal was accompanied by more than 70 cosponsors.

<http://echo4.bluehornet.com/ct/10039398:12610660830:m:3:230981068:27E39DFE8DA0EED6ED3038E356EFFD0E>

MOAA's LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for January 28, 2011:

Pentagon Defends Proposed Cuts

Pentagon leaders provided only a glimmer of clarity on the proposed \$178 billion in cuts and efficiencies over the next five years at a Wednesday hearing before the House Armed Services Committee.

The DoD proposal came under immediate fire that the cuts may be too deep.

Chairman Howard "Buck" McKeon (R-CA) opened the hearing stating, "I will not support any measures that stress our forces and jeopardize the lives of our men and women in uniform."

Deputy Secretary of Defense William Lynn and the Service vice chiefs of staff asserted the cuts would not undermine war-fighting capabilities.

Lynn said the proposed efficiencies and cuts will allow the Services to reinvest \$100 billion into other military programs while the remaining \$78 billion is an actual reduction in the overall defense budget. The latter cut caught McKeon and other committee members off-guard.

Your PCS Survey Feedback

Last week's legislative update included an online survey requesting your inputs on how permanent change-of-station (PCS) moves affected you and your family over your military career.

Nearly 13,000 participants provided feedback that highlighted some of the challenges associated with multiple relocations.

60 percent of respondents had 10 or more PCS moves over the course of their careers, and almost 40 percent reported 12 or more moves.

About half of respondents with children (48 percent) reported 7 or more school changes for at least one child.

Additionally, more than half of respondents with a spouse working outside the home reported three or more career disruptions to the spouse's career due to PCS moves.

MOAA's LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for February 4, 2010:

2011 Defense Spending Bill - Finally?

Earlier this week, Defense Secretary Robert Gates warned Congress that failure to move on this year's defense spending package threatens the military's readiness to fight. "I have a crisis on my doorstep," he said bluntly.

The current temporary spending bill -- the fourth in a series of short-term funding bills since FY2011 began last October 1st -- expires in early March.

Meanwhile, defense appropriators have been working behind closed doors to firm up a separate FY2011 Defense

Appropriations Bill that will fund defense programs for the remainder of the fiscal year.

According to several sources, the proposed bill is a near copy of last year's bipartisan omnibus legislation the lame duck Congress couldn't agree to pass in December.

The new bill would prorate the remaining 7-8 months of the fiscal year and may reflect some of the Pentagon's proposed changes in the 2012 budget.

In addition, the bill will be without earmarks (also known as "pork"), reflecting Senate Appropriations Chairman Daniel Inouye's (D-HI) announcement that the Senate Appropriations Committee will implement a two-year moratorium on earmarks for the FY2011 and 2012 spending bills.

MOAA's LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for February 11, 2011:

Homeowner Assistance Program Survey

<http://echo4.bluehornet.com/ct/10242858:12883752781:m:3:230981068:4154853ADCAA76EAB1657CE16D8A2E91>

Why Did My Tax Withholding Go Up?

Many MOAA members have called to ask why federal income tax withholding on their military retired pay increased this year.

It's not that there was some nefarious new tax hike, or that you fell through some crack in the recent tax cut extension.

It's because the two-year Making Work Pay (MWP) tax relief program enacted in 2009 expired at the end of 2010. MWP cut tax withholding rates from checks in 2009 and 2010. The program wasn't extended to 2011 so the tax tables reverted back to the old higher levels.

The MWP program was designed to act as a special stimulus payment to help kick-start the country out of recession by putting some extra money in citizens' hands right away. Technically, the MWP provision was intended only to apply to qualifying taxpayers still earning wages. However since DFAS uses the same tax tables and pay systems for retired pay as it does for active duty pay, the system didn't discriminate between retired pay and wages.

This doesn't mean that you owe more or are paying higher taxes - it's just that DFAS has returned to withholding the pre-stimulus amount from each deposit. If this results in too much money being withheld, you will receive any overpaid amount via a tax refund.

If the change causes you some problem, you can submit an IRS form W-4 to DFAS or your pay agency to change your withholding amount. Changes can also be made to DFAS using the on-line 'My Pay' system.

Just remember that changing your withholding won't change your actual 2011 tax liability. If you have too little withheld, you'll have to pony up the rest (and any applicable penalty, if you under-withheld too much) when you file your 2011 federal income taxes.

Army Families Set Priorities

Last week, MOAA representatives attended the 2011 Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) conference.

The AFAP brings together about 150 Army family representatives from around the globe. Participants include active duty, retired, reserve and injured servicemembers as well as DoD civilian employees.

Attendees worked in groups to identify the key issues affecting Army families, and rank them in priority order.

The top five issues cited were:

1. ID cards for surviving children with an active duty sponsor - ID cards of survivor children note both dependent survivor status and active duty status to avoid having to provide multiple forms of identification for entitled services
 2. Formal standardized training for designated caregivers of wounded warriors - caregivers of active duty troops need training and education programs similar to those used by VA and being developed as part of the recent caregiver legislation
 3. Concurrent receipt for all medically retired members - all medically retired servicemembers should be exempt from the disability offset to military retired pay
 4. Military child development program fee - cap fees at no higher than 25% of a military family's total income
 5. Medical Retention Processing 2 (MRP2) time restrictions for reserve component soldiers - extend the MRP2 time restriction from 6 months to 5 years to address issues that manifest down the road (MRP2 is a Warrior Transition Unit program that allows soldiers to return to active duty for evaluation, treatment and disability evaluation processing within 6 months from their release from active duty)
- All of these issues are a part of MOAA's legislative agenda.

MOAA's LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for February 18, 2011:

Pentagon Backtracks on TRICARE Fee Hikes

In 2007 and 2008, Defense Secretary Robert Gates shocked the military community by proposing major TRICARE fee increases that would have:

- * Raised annual TRICARE Prime enrollment fees from the current \$460 to as much as \$1,000 a year or more
- * Raised the TRICARE Standard deductible from \$300 to as much as \$1,100 or more and added a new Standard enrollment fee
- * Introduced means-testing by basing fee levels on retiree income
- * Raised TRICARE retail pharmacy copayments from \$3/\$9/\$22 for generics/brand/nonformulary medications to \$15/\$25/\$45.

MOAA and The Military Coalition strongly objected to those increases as grossly out of line with the "up front" premiums of service and sacrifice already contributed by retired military families. Congress agreed with us, and rejected the proposed hikes.

For the first two years of the Obama administration, Secretary Gates proposed no TRICARE fee hikes, but in recent months he had been telling every audience he spoke to that the FY2012 budget would propose "modest" TRICARE fee increases for "working-age retirees".

MOAA was among those who anticipated that meant a renewed effort to implement hikes comparable to those he proposed previously.

But when Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) Dr. Clifford Stanley called a meeting with MOAA President VADM Norb Ryan, Jr. (USN-Ret) and other association leaders on Feb. 14 to outline the TRICARE fee proposals included in the new FY2012 Defense budget, the bottom line of his briefing was, "We listened."

The new plan entails no changes for TRICARE Standard or TRICARE For Life, and no means-testing of fees. It proposes

what Stanley described as "modest, gradual" changes in TRICARE Prime enrollment fees, and would exempt military disability (chapter 61) retirees and survivors from those changes.

Specifically, the plan calls for:

- * Raising the 2012 Prime enrollment fees by 13% -- from \$230 single/\$460 family per year to \$260/\$520 (survivor and chapter 61 retiree fees would remain at current rates)
- * Indexing those fees in 2013 and beyond to a medical inflation index (based on a measure of Medicare cost growth projected to rise at 6.2% per year)
- * Changing TRICARE pharmacy copays as follows (changes indicated in parentheses):

	Retail	Home Delivery (Mail Order)
Generic	\$5 (+\$2)	Zero (-\$2)
Brand Name	\$12 (+\$3)	\$9 (no change)
Nonformulary	\$25 (+\$3)	\$25 (+\$3)

MOAA is encouraged that the new proposal avoids the draconian TRICARE fee increases proposed in the past. While some areas warrant additional adjustment, it makes a better effort to recognize that career military people pre-pay a very large price for their lifetime health coverage up front - through decades of service and sacrifice.

MOAA strongly supports the proposed elimination of co-pays for use of generic drugs via TRICARE's Home Delivery (mail-order) program and appreciates that survivors and medically retired personnel would be exempt from the proposed Prime increases.

However, MOAA objects strongly to the proposed annual adjustment methodology that would inappropriately tie fee increases for nondisabled military beneficiaries aged 38 to 64 to healthcare cost growth for a more elderly and disabled Medicare population. MOAA believes, in recognition of military beneficiaries' lengthy service and sacrifice, any such adjustments should be capped closely to the percentage increase in their military compensation.

MOAA also continues to believe there are many opportunities for streamlined operations and pursuit of additional cost-saving measures within the Department of Defense to improve service to beneficiaries at lower cost.

More FY2012 Budget Highlights

The FY2012 defense budget released this week proposes a base budget of \$553 billion for DoD - an increase of \$22 billion above the 2010 appropriation level - and an additional \$117.8 billion to fund overseas operations.

The defense proposal includes:

- * A 1.6 percent military pay raise (matching private sector pay growth)
- * \$8.3 billion in support of military family quality of life programs to include greater child care availability and dependent education improvements
- * \$52.5 billion for the Military Health System
- * \$677 million to provide care for Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and psychological health
- * \$415 million for medical research on wounded, ill, and injured issues

Proposed increases in TRICARE Prime enrollment fees and adjustments in pharmacy copays intended to incentivize use of the lower-cost mail-order system (see article above)

- * A plan to eliminate 780 positions among TRICARE support contractors

- * A plan to transition future enrollees in the Uniformed Services Family Health Plan to Medicare and TFL when they attain age 65

For the VA, the Administration proposes a budget of \$132 billion, including \$62 billion to cover medical care, research, cemetery and general administration, technology and construction, and \$70 billion for disability, survivors and educational claims. That represents a 10.6 percent increase over the FY2010 budget.

Hill Champions Push Military FSAs

Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Rep. Loretta Sanchez (D-CA) held a press conference on Thursday to announce their introduction of companion bills in the Senate and House that would direct the Pentagon to implement Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA) for servicemembers and their families.

Flexible Spending Accounts let participants set aside pre-tax dollars to cover out-of-pocket expenses for dependent care and medical needs (orthodontia copays, glasses and contact lenses, etc.). They can significantly lower the cost of such care by saving their users hundreds of dollars a year or more.

Military Family Caucus Kickoff

The House Congressional Military Family Caucus held its kickoff event for the 112th Congress on Thursday. Established in 2009, its goal is to educate members of Congress and their staffs on the challenges unique to military families.

The co-chairs of the caucus both have personal ties to the military family lifestyle. Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) is the spouse of a retired naval aviator, and Rep. Sanford Bishop's (D-GA) wife was raised as a military dependent.

"Congress and the American people must - and we will - meet our commitment to servicemembers and their families," said Bishop.

Dr. Karen Guice, Executive Director of the Federal Recovery Coordination Program for the VA, addressed several areas where the VA is providing support to both veterans and their family members - such as the Post 9-11 GI Bill, the Housing Assistance Program (HAP), and Transition Assistance.

The VA is also focusing its resources on an Integrated Mental Health plan. Spouses of senior service leaders in attendance applauded the VA's work to support caregivers of the most severely wounded servicemembers, but also asked Congress for more support in ensuring caregiver needs are being met.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Military Community & Family Policy) Robert Gordon emphasized the military community is being redefined, with 70% of military families now living off base. After ten years of war, families are struggling to adapt to too-short "dwell times" between deployments.

MOAA President VADM Norb Ryan asked the caucus to consider two issues raised to him by members of MOAA's spouse advisory council - allowing Flexible Spending Accounts for military families (see article above) and including marital counseling for couples under TRICARE coverage.

Other issues identified by participants at the event included:

- * Educating civilians on life experiences of military children in public schools
- * Nationalized Individual Education Plans (IEPs) to assist dependent children with special needs in frequently changing schools
- * Restructuring the MyCAA program to include the entire military spouse community



JAYHAWK CHAPTER MOAA



A membership meeting will be held **Thursday, 17 March 2011**, at the Lawrence Country Club.
Dinner cost is \$22.00/meal.

The Program: Our guest speaker will be Dr. Adrian Lewis (USA, Ret),
Director of the Officer of Professional Military Graduate Education and
Coordinator of the KU-CGSC cooperative programs,
including the Army Wounded Warrior Education Initiative.

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

The Menu: *K.C. Strip Steak, 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 **Thursday, 10 March 2011**, to:
COL (Ret) John Halladay - 2403 Manchester Road, Lawrence, KS 66049-1646

**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 John Halladay at 843-6184.

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

The cost is \$22.00 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
COL (Ret) John Halladay, 2403 Manchester Road, Lawrence, KS 66049-1646**

MOAA WEBSITE: www.moaa.org

KANSAS COUNCIL WEBSITE: www.kansasmooa.org

JAYHAWK CHAPTER WEBSITE: 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*

2011 Jayhawk MOAA Calendar:

Thursday 17 March MOAA meeting
Tuesday 17 May MOAA meeting

Tuesday 19 July MOAA meeting
Tuesday 20 September MOAA meeting
Tuesday 15 November MOAA meeting



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

IN GOD WE TRUST