



# Jayhawk Chapter MOAA Newsletter



This newsletter is published bimonthly by the Jayhawk Chapter of Kansas, Military Officers Association of America, as a service to all members. The Jayhawk emblem is used with the permission of the registered trademark owner, the University of Kansas.

## May Program:

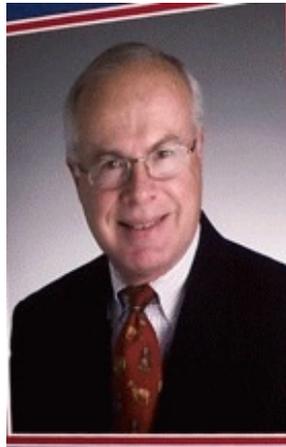
Our guest speaker will be Douglas County District Attorney,  
Charles Bronson

★★★★★ CHAPTER  
awarded for  
2002 / 2003 / 2005 / 2008  
2009 / 2010 / 2011 / 2012

★★★★★ CHAPTER  
awarded for  
2004 / 2006 / 2007

## President's Comments. . .

I hope that everyone is closely following the discussions in Washington concerning the future of the DoD Budget with a focus on the proposed changes to military compensation and benefits. As all of us who have served know, it is the quality of our people that determines the success of every mission. MOAA as the premier advocate for military personnel will be a major voice in shaping this national debate. We in Jayhawk can play a role in this debate by using the information provided to us by MOAA to help in developing our personal opinions and making them known to our elected representatives. Of particular help in this effort to keep informed is the information from MOAA shared by John Halladay via email. I strongly recommend that you read these.



On a local level I am happy to report that our Chapter grew by seven new regular members last year and that we introduced 41 newly commissioned officers from KU ROTC Programs into the benefits of MOAA membership. Also, Jayhawk was recognized at the recent Storming of the Hill event with an award as the Second Runner-up for Best Electronic Newsletter. Well done, John and Shirley!

I want to remind everyone about our May 20th dinner meeting at the Lawrence Country Club where our guest speaker will be Douglas County District Attorney Charles Bronson. I look forward to seeing you there.

*Ed*

Volume XIX, Issue 3

1 May 2014

### Staff:

President:  
RADM H. Edward Phillips, USN (Ret)  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President:  
LCDR Michael R. Miller, USN (Ret)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President:  
Capt Andrew D. Bauch, USAF  
Secretary:  
COL John W. Halladay, USA (Ret)  
Treasurer:  
CAPT James S. Cooper, USN (Ret)  
Past-President:  
COL E. Dean Bevan, USA (Ret)  
Directors:  
COL E. Dean Bevan, USA (Ret)  
Col John Mosher, USAFR (Ret)  
LTC Gerald Rutledge, USA (Ret)  
LTC Michael R. Devlin, USA (Ret)  
CAPT David Schweizer, USN, ROTC  
Newsletter Editors:  
COL John & Shirley Halladay  
Web Master:  
Lt Col Stanley Sneegas, USAF (Ret)

### Inside this issue:

May Program	1
President's Message	1
Jayhawk Chapter News	2
Army News	3
Navy News	3
Air Force News	4
MOAA Legislative Updates	5
Dinner Reservation Form	9
MOAA calendar & websites	10

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



## **JAYHAWK CHAPTER NEWS**

**CHAPTER DUES (\$20) WERE PAYABLE IN JANUARY**  
**IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO – PLEASE SEND YOUR CHECK IMMEDIATELY TO**  
**JIM COOPER, 1115 STONE MEADOWS DRIVE, LAWRENCE, KS 66049-3961**  
**OTHERWISE WE CANNOT INCLUDE YOU IN THE DIRECTORY.**

**ALSO, IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A PICTURE IN THE CURRENT CHAPTER DIRECTORY**  
**OR WOULD LIKE A MORE RECENT PICTURE,**  
**PLEASE CONTACT JOHN HALLADAY IMMEDIATELY,**  
**AS WE WILL BE PRINTING THE DIRECTORY PRIOR TO OUR MAY MEETING.**

### **CONDOLENCES**

Susan Kramer Jones, wife of **CDR John H. Jones**, passed away January 11, 2014, at her home, following a prolonged and courageous battle with breast cancer. Susan was born in Fullerton, Nebraska on August 1, 1951, the third of five children. She attended Doane College in Crete, Nebraska. She married John in 1971 and moved from Nebraska to Florida, to Georgia, and then to a three year experience in Spain as a Navy wife. For many years, Susan cared for patients as a Registered Nurse. She moved with John to duty stations in Virginia, Texas, Japan, and California prior to his retirement in Lawrence after his assignment to the Naval ROTC Unit at the University of Kansas. Their family grew to include Stephen, his wife Jennie, and their children Rosemarie, Owen, and William, as well as their daughter Jeannie and her husband Steven Paulson.

Throughout her life, Susan maintained her warm spirit of nurturing help for all, recognizing personal needs and finding helpful solutions. Susan was known to many through her work as an English teacher and tutor, and she touched many lives from many nations through the friendships she made and maintained while teaching international students of all ages.

Susan's interest in helping others led her to begin voluntarily teaching at Small World, where she taught English to international women and their children, and where she served as Assistant Director for more than twenty years. Susan also served the Lawrence First Baptist Church as a volunteer teacher and program leader. Her final days drew her community of friends and family even closer together, and her loss is felt deeply by many.

~~~~~

**Tom and Francie Arnold's** son Andrew, a Navy Lieutenant currently stationed at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Washington, has received orders to transfer to USS JOHN S. MCCAIN, a guided missile destroyer homeported in Yokosuka, Japan. Andrew will report to his new assignment in September where he will serve for two and a half years as the ship's Supply Officer, a department head position. This will be his second assignment to a forward deployed ship in Japan having previously served for two years as a supply division officer on board USS BLUE RIDGE from 2009 to 2011. Andrew is looking forward to his new overseas assignment, and Tom and Francie are already looking forward to traveling back to Japan to visit him!

**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 Storm Reynolds, USA*

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

In recent news, The prestigious U.S. Army Best Ranger Competition was won by our alumni, 2LT John Bergman, along with a fellow officer, 2LT Michael Rose. A competition starting with 50, Ranger qualified teams throughout the active duty force, only 26 of which completed, pitted 2LT Bergman and 2LT Rose against a myriad of military tasks, moving over 75 miles with little or no sleep. 2LT Bergman, a two time winner of the Ranger Buddy Competition, hosted by the KU Jayhawk Battalion, continues to bring pride to KU Army ROTC.



Most recently, the Jayhawk Battalion executed the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Best Ranger Buddy Competition near Clinton Lake. This year's event was the biggest yet with competitors from 44 universities across 15 states. Cadets came from as far away as Louisville, KY, and Colorado

Springs, CO. We will continue to improve and expand going into the 21<sup>st</sup> year, continuing to strive toward making this a truly National event.



As always, thank you for your support to the Jayhawk Battalion.

Check out our website at [www.armyrotc.ku.edu](http://www.armyrotc.ku.edu) for more details on these events, and take a look here <http://armyrotc.ku.edu/2014-ranger-buddy-competition>. Additionally, find us on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/KUArmyROTC> and follow us on Twitter: [http://twitter.com/KU\\_ArmyROTC](http://twitter.com/KU_ArmyROTC)

***JAYHAWKS LEAD THE WAY!***

***LTC Storm Reynolds***



## *Navy News*

### *CAPT David Schweizer, USN*



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

The Midshipmen of the Jayhawk Battalion have continued their excellence this spring semester, and have a full schedule through the end of the semester. The Navy ROTC won a hard-fought athletic competition against the Air Force ROTC that took place the weekend of April 12<sup>th</sup> – great fun. This following weekend the NROTC Midshipmen will be traveling to the University of Nebraska to compete against four other universities in a drill meet, and continue to seek out future competition opportunities to demonstrate our prowess. Additionally, we are happy that four of our most



physically fit Midshipmen will compete in the Army Ranger Buddy Challenge – they're excited about the challenge and ready to go! On that note, the MIDN have dramatically ramped up their PT training regimen. The challenging and diverse workouts target the entire body, which is reaping huge dividends in readiness. With the implementation of these challenges, we are looking forward to even better results during the next PT test.

Midshipmen were joined by the 41<sup>st</sup> Governor of Kansas, and former Army Officer, John Michael Hayden. Governor Hayden, discussed leadership, the leadership skills he developed through experiences from his military career, Vietnam service, and public service. He spoke to the midshipmen about his combat leadership and



how he was able to translate that leadership he learned in war to leadership in politics.

The Midshipmen also had the opportunity to receive a visit from Head Football Coach Charlie Weis. He spoke to the Midshipmen about how he was able to learn from past experiences and people who influenced him throughout his life to earn the position of head coach. He also spoke of leadership by explaining how he trains and interacts with his players, closely relating to that of an officer-enlisted relationship.

And finally, I would like to personally congratulate MIDN Joshua Gathright and MIDN Kieran Bateman for being selected for Four Year National Scholarships. Well Done! As we approach the end of the Spring semester, I would like to thank our local MOAA chapter for their continued support. Rock Chalk and Go Navy!

***CAPT David Schweizer***



## ***Air Force News***

### ***LtCol Brian Salmans, USAF***

#### **Greetings from Det 280, the Flying Jayhawk Wing,**

It's been a whirlwind year. As this academic year comes to a close, we prepare to commission 11 new 2Lts into the Air Force. On Monday, 19 May, we will commission:

Cadet Julian McCafferty  
 Cadet James Sellers  
 Cadet Emily Thompson  
 Cadet Katherine Benson  
 Cadet Nathaniel Berndt  
 SSgt Megan Honeywell  
 Cadet McKenna Hall  
 Cadet Margaret Schuetz  
 Cadet Tyler Underwood  
 Cadet Yinglong Xu  
 Cadet Hannah Young

As these seniors prepare for graduation and commissioning, we have 9 other cadets that are preparing for Field Training this summer and entry into our Professional Officer Course. In March, we submitted 16 cadets to compete for an Enrollment Allocation (EA) and continuation in our advance program. The EA process is very competitive and overall, across the US, about 60 percent of those nominated received an EA. This reflects the reduction in manning currently going on within the Air Force. Field Training this summer will determine which cadets continue into our advance program.

The Flying Jayhawk Wing has also been very busy this semester. Our cadets completed a field leadership exercise (FLX) with the AFROTC detachment from Kansas State

. The FLX gave our cadets an opportunity to experience first-hand what Air Force operations are like in an austere environment. The cadets went through several scenarios to better understand combat operations and to develop their leadership capabilities.

The AF cadets competed in the Captain's Cup with the Navy/USMC midshipmen/cadets in April. This sports competition was chance for these future military officers to develop a sense of camaraderie with the other ROTC detachments. Unfortunately (for us) the Navy/USMC won this year's competition...we'll get 'em next year!

The AFROTC High School Scholarship Program has concluded and Headquarters AFROTC has selected its scholarship winners. The cadre is now scheduling High School Scholarship award presentations for next year's incoming freshman class.

Finally, while budgetary and manpower reductions affect the USAF, the bottom-line remains, The Air Force will continue to meet emerging challenges and ensure the security of the Nation.

I want to personally thank the Jayhawk Chapter of MOAA for your support this academic year and I look forward to continuing to work with you in the future.

Very Respectfully,

***Lt Col Brian Salmans***  
 Commander, Air Force ROTC Det 280

## 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 Legislative Update, 28 February 2014:**

#### Survey Says: Troops Undercompensated

More than 4,500 current servicemembers and their spouses participated in a MOAA survey promoted by Military.com on compensation, training, and equipment.

Overall, more than 60 percent of recipients indicated their military compensation package failed to properly compensate them.

Two-thirds of respondents said their basic pay is the aspect of compensation with which they are least satisfied. Servicemembers are most satisfied with their health care and education benefits.

Some 57 percent of respondents are worried that budget cuts will force them into early retirement or separation from service, and 72 percent worry that budget cuts will slash their pay and retirement.

When asked which aspect of compensation they would most like to see protected from budget cuts, an overwhelming majority indicated basic pay and housing allowance. Unfortunately, both of these are under attack in the FY 2015 budget proposal.

More than 70 percent of servicemembers believe they are adequately trained and equipped to carry out mission requirements, but almost half are concerned that future levels of training and equipment will be unsatisfactory due to budget constraints.

MOAA thanks all those who participated in this survey.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff GEN Martin Dempsey has asked servicemembers to share their thoughts on the FY 2015 budget submission. We encourage you to share your thoughts with him via his Facebook page.

### **MOAA Legislative Update, 07 March 2014:**

#### MOAA Testifies on Veterans Issues

Each year MOAA and other service groups are invited to present their legislative agenda for veterans to the Senate and House Veterans' Affairs committees. But this year's hearing followed last week's disappointing Senate vote that failed to favorably vote out a comprehensive veterans health care and benefits bill. The legislation contains almost every MOAA recommendation for veterans and survivors health care and benefits for this session of Congress. Other vets bills have separately cleared either or both of the two Committees but have not gotten final votes in Congress.

Deputy Director of Government Relations Bob Norton, USA (Ret) urged the leadership of both Committees to come together and develop a package that can be passed in both chambers as soon as possible.

The Chairman of the host Committee, Rep. Jeff Miller (R-Fla.) gavelled the hearing to start but did not provide opening comments due to pending House votes. Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), Senate Committee Chairman, also did not make opening remarks.

Norton urged the Committees to authorize two-year advance funding to all VA accounts to avoid the future disruption of services and compensation to veterans. During the government shutdown last fall, veterans were unable to file claims while VA offices were closed. VA checks to disabled veterans and survivors would have been suspended if the shutdown had continued. Two-year funding authority for all VA programs would overcome that risk.

Norton also recommended the Committees – working with their counterparts in the Armed Services Committees – keep up pressure on the VA and DoD to develop an integrated Electronic Health Record for service members and veterans.

MOAA recommended particular attention be given to the unique health care, transition and counseling needs of women veterans, the fastest growing group of veterans entering the VA. Norton pointed out that the FY 2015 VA budget requests an increase in funds specifically for women veterans. Additionally, MOAA backed a provision that extends a VA health system enrollment opportunity for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans from 5 to 10 years.

In the veterans benefits area, MOAA recommends final Congressional action to:

- \* Establish the in-state tuition rate under the Post-9/11 GI Bill for all student-veterans who attend public colleges and universities.
- \* Extend job training benefits for older, unemployed vets. The 'veterans retraining assistance program' provides GI Bill training for high-demand jobs for up to a year, but is set to expire at the end of March.
- \* Strengthen VA claims reporting. The VA is making steady progress in this area but the Committees need to provide continuing strong oversight towards the goal of eliminating the backlog.
- \* Authorize the new GI Bill for the surviving spouses of the current conflicts. (The children of surviving spouses of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts are entitled to the Post-9/11 GI Bill, but the parent gets a much reduced educational stipend and no housing allowance or stipend for books).
- \* Permit widows to retain VA dependency and indemnity payments if they remarry at age 55.
- \* Extend special services and support under the VA Caregivers Act to the caregivers of severely disabled veterans of all conflict periods.
- \* Honor career Reservists who have not been called up under Federal active duty orders as "veterans of the Armed Forces."

MOAA hosted a virtual town hall to discuss the administration's budget, its impact on you, and how you can make a difference.

Norton recommended the Committees sustain the Post-9/11 GI Bill as the education platform for our 21st century armed forces to support growing challenges in recruiting and provide a strong readjustment bridge for our all-volunteer force men and women as they complete their service.

**MOAA Legislative Update, 14 March 2014:**The Bottom Line - Will We Ever Learn?

March 11, 2014

By Col. Mike Hayden, USAF (Ret)

As the FY 2015 defense budget rolled out and I reviewed all of the Pentagon's proposals to curb personnel costs, I had a feeling of déjà vu. Many of these same cost-cutting measures were used before in other drawdowns.

Will we ever learn?

As was done in the 1970s and again in the '80s and '90s, Pentagon planners of the day proposed significant end-strength reductions, capping or freezing military pay, or even modifying the retirement system to curb costs.

Years of budget cuts — ones that depressed pay, reduced retirement value by 25 percent for post-1986 entrants, and moved beneficiaries over age 65 out of the military health system — resulted in significant retention and readiness problems in the late 1990s.

Between 2000 and 2010, Congress worked diligently to restore pay comparability, repeal the retirement change, zero out housing costs, and restore promised health care coverage for older retirees (TRICARE For Life).

Now the administration and Pentagon leaders are reverting to some of the previous bad habits: significantly cutting end strength, capping pay for what could be six years, killing 66 percent of commissary savings current patrons see, forcing military families to absorb 5 percent of their housing costs, and shifting more health care costs onto beneficiaries (not just retirees but also currently serving family members).

The quick money, easy fix is to revert to these bad habits. As an old service planner, I know you can get nearly instant savings from end-strength cuts and the earlier you get the troops off the rolls, the more you can save.

But even though these bad habits can bring instant savings, repeating these for several years can cause huge retention problems.

A one-year pay cap is a data point, two is a line, but three is a trend. And this proposal caps pay for up to six straight years, unraveling the compensation improvements Congress provided since the turn of the century.

The most important element of national security is sustainment of dedicated, top-quality mid-level NCOs and officers.

The bottom line:

Will we ever learn?

Sustaining the all-volunteer force cannot be done "on the cheap," and in fact, the only times it has been jeopardized were when budget concerns imposed significant cutbacks in the military compensation package.

**MOAA Legislative Update, 21 March 2014:**COLA Climbs Above Zero

The Consumer Price Index continued to climb in February. For the first time in FY 2014, the COLA now stands above the FY 2013 baseline. Follow the trends for yourself on MOAA's COLA Watch webpage.

New Benefit for Disabled Veterans

Veterans with a 100 percent permanent and total (P&T) VA disability rating can now receive expedited processing of Social

Security disability benefit applications. A 100 percent P&T VA rating does not guarantee eligibility for Social Security disability benefits. Learn how to receive expedited processing.

Oregon Supports Military Kids

Oregon will soon become the 47<sup>th</sup> state to sign the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity. The compact helps military children transition to new schools after a Permanent Change of Station move. Is your state on the list?

**MOAA Legislative Update, 28 March 2014:**Seeking Volunteers

Have you been or are you a caregiver? The Elizabeth Dole Foundation is partnering with MOAA and a small number of VSO/MSOs in the development of a Military and Veteran Caregiver Peer Support Network.

We are seeking volunteers that are interested in providing peer support to the spouses, parents, siblings and friends who are full time caregivers of wounded, ill, or injured military or veterans.

Trained volunteers would be matched with a caregiver who has requested the program, providing emotional support and resource information

If you're interested in becoming a peer support volunteer, please email your contact information (name and email address) to MOAA at: [legis@moaa.org](mailto:legis@moaa.org). Space is limited, so act today. MOAA will provide details to those interested as the program develops.

**MOAA Legislative Update, 11 April 2014:**Hearings Highlight Stark Contrasts

April 11, 2014 The Senior Enlisted Advisors of Services and MOAA's Director of Government Relations and The Military Coalition Co-chair, Col. Mike Hayden, USAF (Ret) both testified on the proposed personnel cuts contained in the FY 2015 budget submission before the Senate and House respectively on April 9. The two hearings exposed two very different messages.

The Senior Enlisted Advisors — particularly Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Michael Barrett — expressed a willingness to accept cuts to pay raises, commissaries, housing allowances, and TRICARE in order to sustain funding for training and equipment in a hearing before the Senate Armed Services Personnel Subcommittee.

Hayden painted the dichotomy of providing proper training and equipment for the troops and maintaining personnel programs as a false choice in his testimony before the House Armed Services Military Personnel Subcommittee.

Subcommittee Chairman Joe Wilson (R-SC) opened the hearing highlighting the Pentagon's various personnel pay and benefit cuts in the President's budget stating, "Maintaining an all-volunteer force...is paramount to our national security."

Hayden stated that the Pentagon's budget proposal would be a major step backward towards repeating the insidious measures which led to retention and readiness problems in the past and would undo the needed compensation improvements Congress put in place since 2000.

In his statement, Hayden outlined that the Pentagon and several think tanks persistently assert military pay and benefits costs since 2000 are unsustainable and should be slashed to

resemble civilian benefit packages; however, he argued that the “growth since 2000 argument” must be placed in the proper context to understand why military pay and benefits have risen faster than that of the average Americans from 2000 to 2010.

Hayden drove home the point that using the year 2000 as a baseline without reflecting on the historical context is grossly misleading.

At that time, years of budget cuts had depressed military pay to point where a 13.5 percent pay gap existed with the private sector. Retirement values were reduced by 25 percent for post-1986 entrants. Military families were paying 20 percent out-of-pocket for their housing costs, and scores of beneficiaries over 65 had been kicked out of the military health care system.

Congress worked diligently over the next decade to restore military pay comparability, to repeal retirement cuts, to zero-out housing costs, and to restore promised health coverage for older retirees by creating TRICARE For Life.

Hayden detailed that the cost growth was essential to keep the previous cutbacks from breaking the career force.

Hayden emphasized the overall financial impact on currently serving members.

Between the existing FY 2014 cap and the proposed FY 2015 pay cap, proposed BAH reductions, planned reductions in commissary savings, and new health care fees, an E-5’s family of four would experience a loss of nearly \$5,000 in purchasing power annually; and an O-3’s family of four would experience a loss of nearly \$6,000.

Hayden closed by stating these piecemeal reductions are inappropriate in advance of the congressionally-directed Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission that could be offering even broader reform proposals next year.

## **MOAA Legislative Update, 18 April 2014:**

### Veterans Benefits Bill Push

Over the last six months, the House Veterans Affairs Committee and the full House have passed a number of bills that address the needs of veterans. In February, for example, the House unanimously (390-0) passed a measure that would require states to charge the in-state tuition rate for all student veterans who enroll at a public college within three years of separating from active duty. The bill would enable non-resident veterans to get a nearly cost-free education at any public college under the Post 9/11 GI Bill.

The in-state tuition provision is embedded in multiple veterans’ benefits bills that have not cleared the Senate.

The omnibus Veterans Health and Benefits Improvement Act (S. 944) was voted out of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs last fall on a bi-partisan basis but failed to clear an accelerated “unanimous consent” vote on the Senate Floor.

In addition to the in-state tuition measure, S. 944 would:

- \* Permit surviving spouses who receive dependency and indemnity payments (DIC) from the VA to retain the pay if they remarry at age 55
- \* Increase DIC for survivors with children for each month over a three-year period from the date of entitlement — currently, the increase is limited to a two-year period

- \* Require the VA to provide medical exams, counseling and treatment for veterans who file for disability based on military sexual trauma
- \* Authorize Gunnery Sergeant John D. Fry Scholarships to the surviving spouses of the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts (their children are eligible for the Scholarship)
- \* Establish that career reservists with no service under active duty orders may be honored as veterans
- \* Expand complementary and alternative therapies, prosthetics and chiropractic care at VA medical facilities
- \* Extend the date of eligibility from 1 Jan. 1957 to 1 Aug. 1953 for health care for veterans and their dependents that were exposed to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune
- \* Require states to consider military training for the purpose of issuing state licenses and credentials to veterans
- \* Require federal agencies (other than the VA and DoD) to plan to hire 15,000 veterans under existing law during a 5 year period after passage of the legislation
- \* Require quarterly reports on the backlog of veterans’ claims

A subsequent, even bigger version of the omnibus, S. 1982, was assembled from S. 944 components earlier this year, but failed to progress on a procedural vote.

- \* S. 1982 includes a provision that would have repealed the 1 percentage point COLA cut on working age military retirees’ pensions. Thanks to MOAA members, The Military Coalition, and other stakeholders Congress repealed the COLA cut except for future entrants into military service.
- \* S. 1982 also would extend special services and support under the Caregivers Act to severely disabled veterans of all wartime periods. Currently caregiver services and support are available only to severely disabled veterans of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. The bill would also expand enrollment in VA health care to certain uninsured veterans, as well as authorize additional VA leases for health clinics in 18 states. The bill would be paid for in large part by a future cap on Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding.

Confused yet? So is MOAA. As with the COLA cut repeal issue, MOAA feels strongly that the way ahead on the veterans omnibus bill is a negotiated, bipartisan solution. MOAA urges Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Sen. Sanders (I-Vt.), Ranking Member Sen. Richard Burr (R-N.C.) and the Senate leadership to pass a veterans omnibus bill by Memorial Day.

### Bill Targets DoD Civilians

Rep. Ken Calvert (R-Ca.), a member of the Defense Appropriations Committee and the House Budget Committee, introduced legislation (H.R. 4257) to require the Pentagon to reduce its 770,000 civilian workforce by 15 percent in the next five years.

The bill comes in the wake of a recently released Government Accountability Office (GAO) report on the federal government’s civilian workforce.

The GAO report shows the federal government has grown in size — particularly in the areas of defense and homeland security. From 2004-2012, the number of executive branch employees grew 14 percent, from 1.88 million to 2.13 million, with most of the increase coming between 2007 and 2010.

“Our uniformed personnel continue to absorb cuts while the Secretary of Defense ignores a significant portion of his budget that has continued to grow without restraint — the Defense Department’s civilian workforce,” Calvert wrote in a recent op-ed.

Calvert’s bill, the Rebalance for and Effective Uniform and Civilian Employees (REDUCE) Act, would save \$82.5 billion over the first five years.

According to Calvert using GAO analysis, between 2001 and 2012, the active duty military grew by 3.4 percent, while the number of defense employees grew by 17 percent. There are currently 1.3 million servicemembers and 770,000 civilian personnel in DOD — a 1.79 ratio, he said.

The civilian staff of the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) has grown by nearly 18 percent and 230 percent for the Joint Staff.

The growth of the civilian workforce within DoD continues to create a significant budgetary burden according to Calvert and others. He states that if we fail to act, it will threaten our men and women in uniform.

Numerous presidential administrations have tried, and failed, to rein in the DoD civilian workforce. In December, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel announced he would trim 200 positions from OSD over the next five years.

Understanding the difficulty associated with trying to reduce federal civilian employees, Calvert recommends more cuts using voluntary separation incentive payments and voluntary early retirement payments to achieve the required reductions.

“At a time when our military presence, and projection of power, is sorely needed in the world, we cannot risk further cuts to our uniformed personnel while the Defense civilian workforce remains unchanged,” Calvert wrote.

A drawdown of both uniformed servicemembers and civilian employees may be necessary as the department grapples with looming sequestration cuts. However, MOAA is wary that a meataxe approach that prioritizes budget savings above all else could jeopardize the quality of the department.

#### COLA Watch

The Consumer Price Index continued to climb in March, rising to 232.560. It now stands 1.0 percent above the FY 2014 COLA baseline of 230.327.

#### **MOAA Legislative Update, 25 April 2014:**

##### The Facts on Military Personnel Costs

Uniformed and civilian have created a perfect storm, providing political top cover to slash pay and benefits with repeated, alarming — and noticeably misleading — statements on personnel cost growth. MOAA’s latest publication “Slow the Growth” — That Train Has Left the Station attempts to set the record straight.

##### TRICARE Pharmacy Contract Extended

DoD announced on April 18 that Express Scripts won an extension to its TRICARE Pharmacy contract. The contract can

be renewed annually for an additional seven years, and could be worth up to \$5.4 billion.

Express Scripts — who has managed the TRICARE pharmacy contract since 2003 — provides pharmacy services for active duty servicemembers, retirees, and their families.

A key component of the Express Scripts contract is the mail-order pharmacy benefit, which has grown in size over the years, and will continue to grow through a pilot program that began in March.

Express Scripts processed more than 4.3 million mail-order prescriptions for TRICARE beneficiaries in FY 2012, and a DoD Inspector General report found it to be more accurate than retail pharmacies.

Promoting use of the mail-order pharmacy is one example of MOAA supporting efforts to boost budget savings without penalizing beneficiaries.

MOAA will continue to work closely with our contacts at Express Scripts to ensure that the pharmaceutical needs of TRICARE beneficiaries are being satisfied.

##### Dare to be an Advocate

At home, I do not spend more than I have on things that I do not need. I would ask DoD to do the same. Cost overruns in procurement programs alone would have solved 8 years of this budgetary mess.

##### Your Voice Can Make a Difference

It was thoughtful and committed spouses that ensured Military Widows would receive financial assistance resulting in the creation of the Survivor Benefits Plan (SBP).

Military Families pound the halls of Congress to fight for all our children. From TRICARE for Kids to coverage of ABA Therapy military families continually advocate for the best policies, practices, and programs for all our kids.

Last summer our Military widows walked the halls of Congress to fight for their earned benefits.

This past December a group of military spouses were outraged by a provision in the Bi-Partisan Budget Act that effectively reduced the value of military retirements by tens of thousands of dollars. The #KeepYourPromise alliance was born and within 60 days a massive social media campaign helped ensure the ill-conceived provision was overturned.

##### Be An Advocate

Our country was built on public discourse.  
YOU are the best advocate for yourself, service member and children.

Be informed. Arm yourself with the facts. That is why Associations like MOAA are important. Change comes from many who act together with one powerful voice.

Be respectful.  
Use the chain of command when it is a service-related issue.

Add your voice, when necessary, to advocate for yourself, spouse, children, and our military community.

**[NOTE: Take action on the weekly MOAA Legislative Updates!!](#)**



# JAYHAWK CHAPTER MOAA

A membership meeting will be held **Tuesday, 20 May 2014**, at the Lawrence Country Club.

Dinner cost is **\$24.00/meal**.

**The Program:** Our guest speaker will be Douglas County District Attorney, Charles Bronson

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

**The Menu:** Chicken, vegetable, rolls, salad,  
tea or coffee and dessert

Send your reservation and check payable to Jayhawk Chapter MOAA  
to arrive no later than **Wednesday, 14 May 2014**, 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 Cooper 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 **\$24.00 per meal**. I am enclosing a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for meal(s).

Chapter 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.kansasmooa.org](http://www.kansasmooa.org)

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

**Thank you for receiving  
the newsletter via e-mail !!  
It saves the Chapter for both  
printing and postage.**

**2014 Meeting Schedule:**

Tuesday 20 May 2014  
Tuesday 15 July 2014

Tuesday 16 September 2014  
Tuesday 18 November 2014



*One Association, One Voice. Yours.*

*Newsletter Editor*

*Jayhawk Chapter, MOAA*

*2403 Manchester Road*

*Lawrence, KS 66049-1646*

***FIRST CLASS MAIL***

***IN GOD WE TRUST***