



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. 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.

July Program:

Tom Sloan, 45th District Representative, will speak on "Global and Domestic Initiatives in the Kansas Legislature"

**5-STAR CHAPTER
2004**



President's Corner

by Bob Longino

Greetings Jayhawk Chapter Members!

I hope the arrival of summer has found everyone doing well. If you are around in July for our meeting make sure you plan on attending. Ray Finch, our 1st VP, has lined up State Representative Tom Sloan as our guest speaker. Tom is a great guy but I promised him a lot of hard questions.

I would also like to let you know your officers and board are working to strengthen our chapter and may be asking you for assistance or ideas. We recently put together an Awards/Scholarship Task Force to explore options for the chapter establishing a recognition program for our KU ROTC students and local high school students who have decided to pursue a commissioning. Jim Cooper has agreed to chair the task force and will prepare a recommendation for the board. Please pass along your thanks to Jim for taking on such an important project.

The board is also pursuing a recruiting effort to contact eligible folks in the Lawrence area with the intent of piquing their interest in the Jayhawk Chapter. Our efforts fall right in line with a new National MOAA Campaign to sign up approximately 5,000 new members starting August 1st. There has been a negative trend in national membership the last few years that is worrisome. MOAA has been in the trenches pushing programs and issues for the active and retired communities and we need to ensure eligible folks know how important a strong association is for us all. If you know of possible members – discuss the value of MOAA to them and perhaps encourage them to consider joining MOAA and the Jayhawk Chapter. There will be an exciting incentive program supporting this new campaign – details to follow at our July meeting!

See you July 19th,

Bob Longino

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Lt Col Robert Longino, USMC (Ret)
- 1st Vice-President:
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CAPT Richard High, USN
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- Newsletter Editor:
COL John Halladay, AUS (Ret)
- Web Master:
Lt Col Stanley Sneegas, USAF (Ret)

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• Reservations should be sent to Jim Cooper by 16 July.

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



JAYHAWK CHAPTER NEWS

TAPS

LtCol Don Scheid passed away 14 May 2005. He was born 14 November 1924 in Sandusky, Ohio.

Don served 35 years in the U. S. Air Force and Air Force Reserve, including five years of active duty and 10 years as Squadron Commander of the 442nd Tactical Airlift Wing.

A renowned clarinet player, Don earned both his Bachelor of Music Education and Master of Music degrees from Michigan State University. After studying with Joseph Siniscalchi of the Chicago Symphony and George Silfies of the St. Louis Symphony, he moved to Lawrence in 1955 to become a member of the School of Fine Arts faculty at KU. He taught clarinet, ensemble and music education and served as an assistant professor and assistant dean from 1961-1964; associate professor and assistant dean from 1964-1970; and as professor and associate dean from 1970 until his retirement in 1990.

Don performed extensively throughout the country, delivering over 100 solo performances. He was a member of the Faculty Woodwind Quintet, the Music Teachers National Association, and the Kansas Music Teachers Association. He also served as the state chairman of the National Association of College Wind and Percussion Instructors.

He is survived by his wife, Marian, whom he married in 1949. Other survivors include a son, Steve, San Francisco; two daughters, Marilee Groth, Santa Rosa, CA, and Lynda Paul, Tulsa, OK; and a sister, Virginia Medema, Columbus, OH; seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

The family suggested memorials to the L. Don Scheid Scholarship Fund at KU or to the American Lung Association, sent in care of Warren-McElwain Mortuary.

NEW ADDRESS: Ron Meyers' new address is:
5209 Carson Drive, Lawrence 66049

See Pages 7-8 for "Reflections on a Month in Portugal and Spain" from Herschel Stroud.

RETIREE DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Army Retirement Services Homepage:

<http://www.armyg1.army.mil/retire>

Army Homepage: <http://www.army.mil>

Air Force Afterburner:

<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afretire>

Coast Guard Evening Colors:

<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/psc/ras.htm>

Marine Corps Semper Fi:

<https://lnweb1.manpower.usmc.mil/manpower/mi/mra/ofct.nsf/mmsr/Retired+Activities+Home>

Navy Shift Colors:

<http://www.bupers.navy.mil/pers62/RetAct/firstpage.htm>

Report a Retiree's Death: Call local Installation Casualty Assistance Office or HQDA Casualty Operations Center, 1-800-626-3317. <https://www.perscomonline.army.mil/tagd/cmaoc/cmaoc.htm>

Arlington National Cemetery: (703) 607-8585;

<http://www.arlingtoncemetery.org>

DEERS Beneficiary Telephone Center/address update:

1-800-538-9552; (831) 583-2500

ID card records update in case of death or divorce: Contact nearest ID card facility.

Dental Plan: 1-888-838-8737; <http://www.DDPdelta.org>

Defense Commissary Agency: <http://www.commissaries.com>

Army/Air Force Exchange Service: <http://www.aafes.com>

Gulf War Homepage: <http://www.gulflink.osd.mil>

Replace DD Form 214 or lost awards: National Personnel Records Center; ATTN: Army Reference Branch; 214s (NCPMA); awards (NRPMA-M) 9700 Page Ave.; St. Louis, MO 63132-5100; 1-866-272-6272 (press 4 for St. Louis); FAX (314) 801-9195; <http://vetrecs.archives.gov>

Retirement Services Officer, Ft. Leavenworth:

Lawanda.cooper@leavenworth.army.mil (913) 684-2425

Reserve: <https://www.2xcitizen.usar.army.mil>

VA: <http://www.va.gov> 1-800-827-1000

TRICARE West: 1-888-TRIWEST;

<https://www.triwest.com/triwest/default.html>

TRICARE for Life: 1-866-773-0404;

<http://www.tricare.osd.mil/tfl/default.cfm>

TRICARE Senior Pharmacy: 1-877-363-6337;

<http://www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy/seniorpharmacy.cfm>

TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy: 1-866-363-8667;

<http://www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy/tmop.cfm>

TRICARE Retail Pharmacy: 1-866-363-8779;

<http://www.express-scripts.com>



Army News

LTC Jeff Maxcy

Greetings, Jayhawk Chapter!

The Jayhawk Battalion survived finals and the end of the school year, and then celebrated the hard work of ten cadets by commissioning them into the United States Army. The pride the families felt for the cadets was evident when each cadet recited the oath of office in the Campanile. We are proud of their accomplishments and wish them well as they continue their service to the nation.

Although summer is here, the cadets and cadre are not resting. Several cadets are enrolled in summer school and many more are attending Army training this summer. Twenty cadets are attending the Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) at Ft. Lewis. LDAC is a 33 day long course which is the most important training event for an ROTC cadet. The challenges are rigorous and mentally and physically demanding but the cadets are well prepared. When these cadets return to KU in August, they will be the cadet leaders for the school year and responsible for training the younger cadets.

Eight other cadets are attending the Leadership Training Course (LTC) at Ft. Knox. LTC is a leadership oriented, challenging and motivating five week program for cadets who did not participate in ROTC during their first two years of college. Upon completion of LTC, these cadets will begin their MS III year.

Other cadets are going to various locations for specialized training. Several are participating in Army sponsored internships including one cadet who is traveling to the United Kingdom. One of our nursing cadets is attending specialized nursing training through the Nurse Summer Training Program. Three cadets are attending Airborne School, one is attending Air Assault School, one is attending Mountain Warfare School and one is attending the Northern Warfare Training Course. Five cadets are participating in Robin Sage which is the final training exercise for Special Forces soldiers.

Although summer is busy for the cadets and the cadre, we already are planning many outstanding training events for the cadets in the fall. We look forward to welcoming the new cadets at new cadet orientation on 16-17 August 2005 and seeing our returning cadets on the first day of class on 18 August 2005. For more information on our program, check out our website at www.ku.edu/~kurotc

JAYHAWKS LEAD THE WAY!

LTC Jeff Maxcy



Navy News

CAPT Rich High, USN



Summer greetings to the membership!

We completed the Spring 05 semester in May which culminated in our joint commissioning ceremony. Over 700 family members and guests were in attendance as we commissioned 40 graduating seniors as the newest Army, Marine, Navy and Air Force officers. The ceremony highlights included opening remarks by Chancellor Hemenway and the principal speaker, Lieutenant Colonel Ernie Garcia USMCR. Colonel Garcia was more than an appropriate speaker as he was born and raised in Kansas and holds both undergraduate and graduate degrees from KU. He had recently returned from his latest active duty assignment in Iraq and is currently employed as the Chief of Staff of the Selective Service Board National Headquarters. Of course, the most important part of the ceremony was the taking of the oath by the new commissionees and as always it was a moving experience for all who attended.

Congratulations to our country's newest Second Lieutenants and Ensigns.

The summer months are our slowest part of the NROTC year. We have a number of students that are enrolled in summer school but the majority of the Midshipmen are doing their summer cruises during this time frame. The fall semester starts in August and once again we are looking forward to a number of new midshipmen and their parents showing up for orientation and indoctrination, the first step in the NROTC process.

Hope you all have a wonderful summer and Mary and I look forward to seeing everyone again in July.

R. D. High
CAPTAIN, USN



Air Force News

Col Mike Lee, USAF

AF ROTC Det 280

We're in the midst of the summer season and cadets are spread out across the country. A few sophomores-to-be are checking out the Air Force at different bases across the country trying to figure out the difference between the BX and commissary, or a runway and a freeway. We will send our up-and-coming future upperclass cadets off to Field Training operating in eight different sessions throughout the summer.

Det 280 will see extensive changes in it's cadre this summer and welcome in three new airmen. TSgt Vanessa Hammond, our personnelist, will depart in August for Tinker AFB in Oklahoma. Sgt Hammond served the detachment for four years and was promoted twice over the time period. She will leave as a newly selected Master Sergeant (E-7). Her replacement, SSgt Corey Bryant, also a personnelist will arrive from Luke AFB Arizona late in July.

2Lt Kyle Grieves, a former Cadet Wing Commander at KU and Distinguished Graduate from AFROTC received a late waiver to attend pilot training came into the organization

in April and will stay with us until leaving for training at Pensacola in September.

I will retire from the Air Force the very end of July (1 October officially) after 30 years. My replacement and new Detachment Commander will be Lt Col Sandra Leiker (pronounced l-i-k-e-r) a space acquisitions and intelligence officer from Offutt AFB in Nebraska. Lt Col Leiker will arrive in mid-July and start transitioning into command by the end of the month. She inherits a great Cadet Wing ready to benefit from her high tech expertise. I want to send a personal thanks to all of the great men and women of the Jayhawk Chapter of MOAA for your great support over my 3-year tour here and I know it will continue to bolster future AF officers for years to come.

Mike Lee
Colonel, USAF



FROM THE KANSAS COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Your Kansas Council held its second quarter meeting on June 18, 2005, at Fort Riley, Kansas. We had a very good meeting and had a special guest with us for the day, Colonel Jim Pauls, Deputy Director of Council/Chapter Affairs, MOAA National in Alexandria, Virginia. The meeting was hosted by the Flint Hills Chapter with the meeting being held in the Conference Center on Fort Riley. We had an excellent presentation to open the meeting about Fort Riley's current status and what is anticipated in the future what with all the realignment that will be taking place over the next couple of years. Kansas has a lot of good things happening as it pertains to military build-up at both Fort Riley and Fort Leavenworth. We will be visiting this subject more in the near future.

Colonel Pauls gave a presentation on a new membership drive that MOAA National will be conducting in the fall of this year. The membership at National has been on the decrease over the past couple of years for various reasons. If our organization is to maintain its position as the strongest military lobbying group in Washington, D.C., we must keep our membership on the increase. It is primarily due to the efforts of MOAA that the increased benefits we have received were enacted. Those of us who benefit from TriCare for Life can thank the efforts primarily of MOAA. National MOAA is asking each chapter to recruit at least 10 new members for National. If you are reading this article and

are not a member of National MOAA please consider joining the National organization. It will be the best \$24 you ever spent. You will be hearing more about the program from your Chapter as more details become available. Of course, getting new members for the National organization will also, for the most part, result in new members for each of our Chapters. Let's see if we can put Kansas over the top and start our recruiting efforts now.

I am very excited about a new initiative the Council approved at our meeting. Our webmaster, CWO-3 David Kennedy, USMC, Ret., made a presentation about the design of an independent Kansas Council website. Our Council will have its own website, separate and apart from using the MOAA National site. This web page will provide anyone who visits the site the information they need to become a member of any one of our Chapters. We will provide links to all our Chapter websites and provide them with information about who to contact for additional information. It will also provide us a tool for passing out information to our membership throughout the state and become a place for legislative alerts. Dave is working on getting the website on line and we will notify all the Chapters when it is activated. Once this site is up and running we hope all of you will visit the site and please let us know what you think of it.

All our Chapters are doing exciting things and becoming more vibrant all the time. There are still many more things to accomplish especially for those serving on active duty and in the Guard and Reserve. We do need to try and enlist more of those folks into our Chapters. It is just great to hear at our meetings all the different things that our Chapters are involved in and it provides the opportunity for all our Chapters to exchange ideas.

Our next Council meeting will be hosted by the Santa Fe Trail Chapter, Leavenworth, Kansas, and we all look forward to another exciting gathering.

Harry Malnicof

Major USMC (Ret)
President, Kansas Council

MOAA LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

MOAA's Legislative Update for Friday, June 3, 2005:

Issue 1: What's Congress Doing for You This Year?

The annual National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) is the biggest single vehicle for enacting personnel, compensation, and benefits changes and improvements. The House passed its version last month, and the Senate hopes to finish up its version in the coming weeks.

As each bill has progressed in recent weeks, we've already covered a number of the biggest highlights in the two bills ranging from the 3.1% pay raise and Army manpower increases to failed initiatives in the House to improve Reserve TRICARE coverage and slow down the base closure process.

Your MOAA lobbyists have burned the midnight oil to produce a matrix that summarizes virtually all of the personnel and benefit sections, including non-legislative report language to highlight where the House and Senate bills are the same and where they differ.

Here are few selected highlights not mentioned in previous updates:

- House and Senate provisions restrict further civilianization of medical billets unless DoD can certify doing so won't reduce care access or quality or raise costs.
- House and Senate provisions effectively continue combat pays for wounded service members during hospitalization.
- House and Senate provisions make permanent the temporary death benefits upgrades passed earlier this year in the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act.
- House and Senate provisions require enhanced casualty assistance for wounded service members, their families, and survivors of members killed on active duty.
- Senate Committee language directs DoD to take steps to implement premium conversion and Flexible Spending Accounts to exempt active duty and Selected Reserve members from paying income taxes on health and dental premiums and out-of-pocket health and dependent care costs.
- The Senate would protect nursing home resident TRICARE beneficiaries from certain pharmacy charges.
- The Senate would require a TRICARE standard

coordinator in each region charged with recruiting providers and helping beneficiaries find providers.

- The House proposes a moratorium on Commissary privatization studies.
- The House bill would re-designate the Department of the Navy as the Department of Navy and Marine Corps.
- The House would require the services to notify Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) members of the end date of their military service obligation, and prohibit involuntary activation of IRR members after that obligation expires.
- The House calls for a GAO review of allegations of unfair treatment of reservists in the disability evaluation process.
- The House directs a review of TRICARE reimbursement policies for beneficiaries with other health insurance.

The full matrix is available on MOAA's Web site at:

http://www.moaa.org/legislative/FY06_NDAA_Matrix.pdf

As soon as the Senate completes action (which will change some of the issues in the matrix), MOAA and The Military Coalition will send the House and Senate Armed Services Committees a list of selected issues, along with MOAA/TMC positions and recommendations for resolution.

There's still time for you to help influence that process. If you haven't already done so, please remember to visit MOAA's Web site at <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/alert/?alertid=7622276&type=CO> to urge your senators to support SBP, concurrent receipt, and Reserve TRICARE amendments expected when the full Senate takes up the bill this month.

Issue 2: Help Stop Medicare/TRICARE Rate Cuts.

Once again, Medicare is planning a 4.3% cut in provider reimbursement starting in January of 2006. Under the current statutory payment formula, Medicare is projected to cut payment levels by 26% over the next six years.

MOAA is concerned not only for our seniors in the TRICARE For Life (TFL) program, but for all TRICARE beneficiaries – because TRICARE provider reimbursement rates are tied by law to Medicare's. We must protect against reductions in Medicare/TRICARE rates, so that providers are willing to accept both Medicare and TRICARE patients

The problem is the statutory reimbursement formula is flawed. It doesn't accurately reflect the true cost of running a physician practice. It just cuts physician payment rates when the economy goes down, which has no bearing on provider costs.

Representatives Clay Shaw (R-AZ) and Ben Cardin (D-MD) have introduced **H.R. 2356** in the House and Senators Jon Kyl (R-AZ) and Jon Corzine (D-NJ) have introduced **S. 1081** in the Senate to try to address this problem.

- **H.R. 2356** increases Medicare physician payments by 2.7% in 2006 instead of the projected 4.3% cut. It also would establish a more relevant physician payment formula based on the actual cost of providing care.
- **S. 1081** would take a shorter-term approach, increasing Medicare physician payments by 2.7% in 2006 and 2.6% in 2007. Unlike the Shaw-Cardin bill, it would not address the flawed reimbursement formula.
- **H.R. 2356** and **S.1081** are posted on MOAA's Web site "Bills of Interest". To send messages urging your legislators to cosponsor them, visit <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/bills/>. Scroll down to "Health Care Issues" to click on the applicable bill, and enter your ZIP code in the box to send a message.

MOAA's Legislative Update for Friday, June 10, 2005:

Issue 1: Defense Bill Faces Delay in Senate

The House passed its version of the defense bill (H.R. 1815) on May 25. Once the Senate passes its own bill, House and Senate leaders will convene a conference committee to work out the differences between the two, and then the House and Senate will each need to pass that final version. History indicates the final deal probably won't be worked out before October at the earliest. But that timetable could be delayed even further if the Senate takes another month or more to approve this first version.

Issue 2: Fox News Taps MOAA

MOAA's Sue Schwartz was quoted in a June 3 Fort Worth, Texas Times Leader article about difficulties some Guard and Reserve families experienced in finding doctors who will accept TRICARE patients.

This week, Fox News Channel followed up on that story, inviting MOAA President Norb Ryan, Jr. for a live interview Wednesday morning. Dr. David Tornberg, Chief Medical Officer of the Defense Department's TRICARE Management Activity, also appeared on the interview.

VADM Ryan and Dr. Tornberg agreed that Defense and contractor personnel are working hard to implement new expanded health coverage authority for Guard and Reserve families who have been mobilized since 9/11. But Ryan asserted that more needs to be done.

"We have more than 800,000 Guard and Reserve members and families without good health care continuity," he said. "We haven't stepped up to the plate and realized that the Guard and Reserve are 40% of our men and women in Iraq, and we can't afford to have people going on and off military health insurance" as they are called up.

When the anchor asked what specific improvement he would like to see, Ryan cited the need for legislation being sponsored by Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-NY) and other bipartisan cosponsors to offer permanent military health coverage for all Selected Reserve members and families, so they don't have to switch coverage when mobilized or worry about their military coverage expiring.

Issue 3: Pentagon Advisory Committee To Consider Retirement, Health Changes

At a June 7 meeting, members of the Defense Advisory Committee on Military Compensation discussed their plan to develop a report to the Pentagon this September with recommendations for changing the military compensation package.

The Committee will focus on three major areas: the balance between cash and in-kind compensation, the balance between current and deferred compensation, and flexibility of the system to meet force management goals in both peace and war for active and reserve components. Given the repeated complaints of senior Defense Department officials that military health care and retirement benefits cost too much, it's not a surprise that the committee members indicated Tuesday that they intend to look at possibilities for civilian-style retirement options that would shift emphasis toward longer service and 401(k)-style retirement benefits, and increased beneficiary payments for health care.

They said their recommendations likely would have little impact on the current force, but would be mostly prospective in nature. That's what happened in 1986, when Congress enacted the so-called REDUX retirement system that cut lifetime retirement benefits for post-1986 entrants by about 20% due to lower initial payments for 20-year retirees and reduced annual cost-of-living adjustments. By the late 1990s, lower retention among REDUX-eligible servicemembers prompted Congress to repeal that plan.

The Commission also will be looking at ways to adjust the Guard and Reserve compensation package to recognize the much bigger role those members now have in operational missions, something MOAA agrees is long overdue.

Fortunately, Congress has been considerably more attuned to such issues in sorting out which changes make sense and which ones don't.

MOAA's Legislative Update for Friday, June 17, 2005:Issue 1: Poll Shows High Confidence in Military

Results of a nationwide Gallup poll in late May put the military at the top of all public institutions:

74% Military

63% Police

53% Church/organized religion

MOAA's Legislative Update for Friday, June 24, 2005:Issue 1: Senate Defense Bill Stalled.

Senate leadership concerns over the potential for a long list of contentious amendments has led them to delay action on the FY2006 Defense Authorization Act (S. 1042) until at least mid-July.

Issue 2: DoD Finalizing SBP Open Season Guidance.

MOAA has learned that the Pentagon's Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) open season implementation plan is nearly ready and hopefully will be available to the public in late July. The open season (which will begin Oct 1, 2005 and last through Sept 30, 2006) will give non-enrolled retirees a chance to enroll and provide their spouses a significantly improved SBP benefit. Legislation approved last year (which also authorized the open season) will phase out the current SBP age-62 benefit reduction by April 2008 (effectively providing lifetime SBP annuities of 55% of covered retired pay.)

Issue 3: VA Admits \$1B Vets Budget Shortfall

Earlier this year, House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee chairmen resisted calls by Democrats and veterans' groups for significantly bigger plus-ups in veterans' health care funding, after receiving repeated assurances by VA leaders that such extra increases weren't needed.



REFLECTIONS ON A MONTH IN PORTUGAL AND SPAIN - Herschel Stroud

Jacque and I returned to Topeka Sunday, 8 May 2005 after ten days in Portugal, and twenty days in Spain. All told, it was a wonderful holiday. Holiday - when we came through Customs on our return, the Immigration Officer asked us what reason we had to visit Portugal, as not many Americans choose that country. We replied that we were on holiday. It was then that he asked if we were citizens. We said yes, and he replied that Americans usually explain that they were on "vacation".

This little difference explains in part the difference between Portugal/Spain and America. In my experience, and in talking to friends in both Portugal and Spain, the term holiday is substituted for vacation. The time of such is of interest as well. In America it seems that a traditional time for an annual vacation is two weeks. In P/S (Portugal/Spain) the customary vacation is four weeks, and six weeks is quite common. Plus, during the month of August, most of P/S closes down for "holiday"; ah, tradition, and semantics. Again, an example, in my opinion, why Americans are known to be an extremely hard working, long hours, nation.

The people in both Portugal and Spain treated us with great kindness. They were helpful, courteous, respectful, and understanding when we would "boo boo" any local "no no's". We cannot say enough about the respect they show each other, and the respect they showed to us as travelers from the United States.

We are fluent in Spanish, Jacque much the better than me. We speak Portuguese from a phrase book. We found that our efforts to learn some Portuguese was not needed. Most people in Portugal that we came into contact with had a working knowledge of English. We asked about this

bilingualism. England and Portugal have had a long and uninterrupted peace - they have never been at war with one another. On the contrary, it was my observation that Portugal has historically poor relations with Spain, even though they share a common border. Both nations are in the European Union, and are on the Euro for currency. They fuss at each other often. One Portugal man told me that I would do better not trying to speak Portuguese, because, I was doing so with a Spanish accent. So much for the phrase book.

In Spain, we were in many areas and situations where no one spoke English. This was just as we wanted it to be, as a learning experience for us, and a challenge on our own language proficiency.

We spent four days in Lisbon and the remainder on the Algarve coast. Lisbon is a city in a nation that was neutral during WWII, and one can imagine what the city must have been like with spies, intrigue, agents, refugees, transients abounding from every street corner. They have retained some ancient electric street cars, we rode them and enjoyed all the ambiance. One of the highlights for me was a visit to the Portuguese Naval Museum. Prince Henry the Navigator, Magellan, Vasco da Gama and other early naval figures were featured. We were later at the most western spit of land called Tierra del Fin, or, End of the Earth. It was here that Columbus was in Henry the Navigator's school of navigation. An interesting and entrepreneurial German has a small kiosk set up in this area, and advertises that his "stand" sells the Last Hotdog Before America. The enterprising man even has a web-site proclaiming his fame, and hot dogs.

The Algarve is overrun with English tourists, who have planted deep roots in the area. There are "Fish and Chip" stands and English Pubs with dart boards etc. One would think that you were in some part of England.

Many churches, castles, forts, wine factories, olive trees, cork trees, museums, pastry shops, and the ever popular "café con leche". The tap or draw beer and common table wine were excellent.

To continue the thoughts about P/S - Public transportation between the two countries is minimal. There is one train from Lisbon to Madrid. It is an overnight train, which leaves at 10 o'clock at night. Buses can run to the border of the country and then stop, many times, not continuing into Spain. In order for us to travel into Spain from Portugal, we had to take an International Bus from the Algarve to Seville, then change to a train to Caceres, and then the last fifty miles by taxi to Trujillo.

Trujillo has not changed a great deal from the time that many of the young men of Spain ventured forth in Columbus footsteps to conquer the new world. Pizzaro, the conqueror of the Inca civilization grew up in this town. Much is made of this favorite son, and statues and memorials abound. Narrow cobblestone streets, white stucco buildings, many churches and museums. More wine, more beer, and wonderful pork dishes were the fare of our gustatory experiences.

We traveled to Salamanca, and the most beautiful Plaza Mayor in the world, anyway that is how Salamancans feel about their Plaza. The citizens are in their plaza from morning to night. The central market is adjacent to the Plaza. It is large, airy, full of the produce of Spain, both vegetables, fruits, fresh fish from the coast, dressed lambs, chickens, rabbits, all parts of pigs or pork, suckling pigs, the offal of cattle such as tripe, thymus, and all the parts you thought might have gone into hot dogs. Women come to shop daily for truly fresh food. Each day is a fresh food day, not a fast food day.

We attended one evening a two piano concert put on by the students of the Salamanca University Music School. It was free, and thrilling. Salamanca University is the oldest University in Europe. Salamanca is a town to go back to, a keeper.

All of these towns in Portugal and Spain were first Roman, then Visigoth, Catholics of the Holy Roman Empire, the Moors from Africa, and finally the Portuguese and Spanish conquerors who threw out the Moors. The final Moorish city in Spain to fall was Granada. The Moors crossed into Spain from Ceuta in 711 AD. Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand kicked out the Moors in 1492. 781 years the Moors were in Spain. Let's see, how many years has the United States been in existence? We traveled next to Cordoba the most Moorish city in all of Spain.

Cordoba is home to a huge Catholic church built within a mammoth Islamic Mosque, or a Mezquita. It is a structure supported by 1,000 2 ½ ft. marble columns. Its size is about that of four (4) football fields. Next to it is the Moorish Alcazaba, or castle where the Caliph or Moorish King lived. It is even larger than the Mosque.

At Cordoba, we were joined by a friend from the Southern coast of Spain that we had not seen for 30 years.

This was a happy reunion. One of his good friends hosted us to an evening of bar hopping and tapas or appetizers. We experienced small raw cockles (a shell fish), blood sausage, tripe, stomach, and a supposed rare delicacy, cow cheeks or lips. I must admit that we were a little concerned, but we ate it all, turned out to be pretty good eating, and we are apparently suffering very little consequences. While in Cordoba, we attended a performance of Don Quijote and Sancho Panza by the National Spanish Ballet Company. Cervantes is enjoying a lot of press and accolades, as it is the 400th year of his birth. The newspaper in Cordoba said that Cervantes and Shakespeare died on the same day, an interesting oddity, if true.

Back to Madrid for our final six days. More churches, museums, a large metropolitan city which still remembers the bombing of Atocha Train station from a year ago. The treat for Jacque was the large department store called, "El Cortes Ingles". We toured the entire store, every nook and cranny. A highlight in Madrid was our visit with an exchange student we befriended some thirty years ago. After the young lady went back to Spain, she became an avowed serious student. Now, these many years later, she is a psycho-analyst who heads a psychiatric department in a large state hospital. We are so proud of her. Quite a change from youth to adulthood. How brave she was to leave her family at the age of 16 and be thrown into the land of Toto, Dorothy, the Red Shoes, and live in a small Kansas town when she had been accustomed to the international, cosmopolitan city of Madrid.

The large Spanish Naval Museum features the conquest of the seas by Balboa, Columbus, and other major figures that have helped conquer the New World. The Spanish claim Columbus as their own, even though records show he was born in Genoa, Italy.

The equally large Spanish Army Museum has great exhibits on the Spanish Civil War, and the exploits of Franco.

These two museums are not well known on the tourist agenda, but we have visited them before, and will probably visit them again if we have the opportunity.

From the newspapers we read, and from the people we talked to in the political city of Madrid, we found very little sympathy for the current head of state - Zapatero. It seems last year when running against Azner he made many promises, fully expecting to lose the election and never expecting to have to fulfill the promises, but lo and behold, he won because of the bombing. Now the promises are much harder to keep than the rhetoric that was used to promote them.

In my opinion Spain is much the more advanced nation of the two. The infrastructure is more advanced. The public transportation system in Spain is much more effective and universal. If your train is over 30 minutes late, your ticket fare is reimbursed. The top of the line buses have wide isles, and hostesses. As an after thought, the beer and wine were equally good in both countries. You can tell we had a very pleasant month, but are very glad to be back in good old Kansas.



JAYHAWK CHAPTER MOAA



A membership meeting will be held Tuesday, 19 July 2005, at the Lawrence Country Club.
Dinner cost is **\$20.00** per meal.

The Program: Tom Sloan, 45th District Representative, will speak on
“Global and Domestic Initiatives in the Kansas Legislature”

Social Hour: 1800 hours

Dinner: 1900 hours

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

Send your reservation and check payable to **Jayhawk Chapter MOAA** to arrive no later than 16 July 2005, to:
CAPT (Ret) Jim Cooper
1115 Stone Meadows Drive
Lawrence, KS 66049-3961

If you have any questions, you may contact Jim at 842-7037 or 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 \$20.00 per meal. I am enclosing a check for \$_____ for meal(s).

TOTAL: \$_____

Name

Telephone

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

**TEAR OFF AND RETURN THIS FORM WITH A CHECK PAYABLE TO:
JAYHAWK CHAPTER MOAA**

MOAA WEBSITE: www.moaa.org

JAYHAWK CHAPTER WEBSITE: www.jayhawkmoaa.org

If you received this issue by mail and would prefer e-mail, please let us know at jwhalladay@sunflower.com.

2005 MOAA Calendar:

Tuesday	19 July	MOAA meeting	Tuesday	17 January 2006	MOAA meeting
Tuesday	20 September	MOAA meeting	Tuesday	21 March 2006	MOAA meeting
Tuesday	15 November	MOAA meeting	Tuesday	16 May 2006	MOAA meeting



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

*May you each
have a safe and happy
Independence Day*