



# 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.

## ***November Program:***

*Dr. Grant K. Goodman, Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Kansas, will be our guest speaker. The title of his presentation will be "Was I the Lynde England of World War II?"*

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

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WEBSITE AWARD - 2004  
NEWSLETTER AWARD - 2003**

## ***President's Corner***

***by Bob Longino***

We are still looking for a "Few Good MOAA Folks!"

Greetings! I trust your Fall season is going well. It appears to be newsletter time once again so that means our next meeting is right around the corner. I hope you all are able to make to our last meeting of 2005.

We have several activities on-going we'll discuss at our meeting. First, is the MOAA National "Give Me Ten" Campaign. MOAA kicked off a national "Give Me 10!" campaign on September 1<sup>st</sup> with an objective of recruiting 4,200 new members before the end of the year. Each chapter was asked to recruit 10 new members. We are probably about half-way to our goal so please chat with your friends and acquaintances that are former or retired officers and let's get them to sign up. Give me a call and I'll get the "special deal" paperwork to you.

Your Officers and Board members recently met to discuss several important items of Chapter business. The Board reviewed three items and voted to send them to the members for final action. We will be taking action on the Board's recommendations at our meeting. First, the Scholarship Task Force, led by Jim Cooper, worked on a plan to expand our Chapter's support of the three ROTC programs at KU. We'll be reviewing that recommendation and asking for Chapter approval. Second, the Board finalized their recommendation on several changes to our By-Laws. None of the changes are significant but they were needed to clean up several areas in the By-Laws. You should be able to review the proposed By-Laws on our web site and we'll have copies available at our meeting. The Board recommends your approval of the changes.

The final item will be the proposed slate of officers and directors for next year. Tom Carmody and his Nominating Committee have worked hard to put together a strong slate under Erv Hodge's leadership for 2006. We hope to have your support by approving the slate at our meeting.

See you on the 15<sup>th</sup>!

Semper Fi,

*Bob Longino*

**Volume X, Issue 6**

**1 November 2005**

### **Staff:**

President:

Lt Col Robert Longino, USMC (Ret)

1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President:

MAJ Ray Finch, USA (Ret)

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President:

CAPT Richard High, USN

Secretary:

COL John Halladay, AUS (Ret)

Treasurer:

CAPT James Cooper, USN (Ret)

Past-President:

LT Thomas Carmody, AUS (Ret)

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Lt Col Stanley Sneeegas, USAF (Ret)

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**\* Reservations should be sent to Jim Cooper by 12 November**



# JAYHAWK CHAPTER NEWS

## SLATE OF OFFICERS – 2005-2006:

The nominating committee of Jayhawk Chapter MOAA has met and nominated the following:

- President: Erv Hodges
- 1st VP: Mike Sullivan
- 2nd VP: Jim MacMurray
- Sec. John Halladay
- Treas: Jim Cooper
- Board: Tom Carmody
- Lee Gerhard
- Dave Darwin

All have agreed to serve if elected.

## CHAPTER BY-LAWS

The Chapter By-Laws have been revised and amended. If you wish to have a copy of the By-Laws, let us know and we will have them for you at the 15 November meeting. They will also be available on the Jayhawk Chapter website.

## JAYHAWK MOAA GOLFERS



Jayhawk MOAA Golfers Rich High, Jeff Daniels, John Halladay, Lee Gerhard, Dick Welch (new member) and Buck Newsom get ready to tee off at the annual outing on Wednesday, 19 October, at Alvamar Golf Course.

## FROM BARBARA BALLARD:

## TRIBUTE TO VETERANS

The Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas is hosting a program for veterans on Friday, November 11, 2005. This year is the 60th Anniversary of WWII and a special recognition is planned for WWII veterans.

Our program "Tribute to Veterans" will start at 1:30 p.m. with brief remarks and WWII veterans will be presented with the Distinctive Blue Badge and the Ruptured Duck (honorable service lapel pin).

A reception will follow at 2:15 p.m. Bill Lacy, Director and the staff at the Dole Institute are looking forward to paying tribute to our veterans and saying, "Thank you for your service."



**Mustard Seed Christian Fellowship** has asked us to announce that they are hosting a special Sunday service on November 6<sup>th</sup> to honor all Veterans and their families in this area. The service will begin at 1000 hours and end around 1130 hours. Reserved seating will be available for all Veterans and their

family members. Special speaker will be Maj. Gen. Greg Gardner (Ret) and there will also be special music honoring our Veterans. Following the service, a complimentary dinner will be served for all Veterans and their families.



## *Army News*

### *LTC Jeff Maxcy*

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

The Jayhawk Battalion has been busy with the outstanding training provided by the MS IVs and cadre, and with the excellent academics provided by the University of Kansas. The cadets, especially the MS IVs, have risen to meet the challenges posed by the demanding schedule.

At KU's family weekend in September, family and friends gathered to learn more about Army ROTC. Cadet Commander Philip Hickson provided insight into the training, challenges and opportunities for cadets. After Cadet Tim Wheeler performed an expert rifle drill demonstration, the group moved outside to watch the Ranger Challenge Team demonstrate tactical skills. Those who observed the team, led by Cadet Brandon Lundgren, were impressed with the cadet's professionalism, discipline and ability.

The first weekend in October, the Jayhawk Battalion participated in the fall field training exercise (FTX). The cadets tested their skills in both day and night land navigation, as well as squad situational training (SQD STX) exercises. The cadets especially enjoyed using paintball equipment during one of the SQD STX lanes. A highlight of the FTX was the hot chow provided by the Kansas Army National Guard's HHB 1-127<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Unit in Ottawa, Kansas.

Finally, the Jayhawk Battalion was very honored to be joined by almost 80 alumni during the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Kansas Army ROTC Alumni Homecoming Celebration on 29 October 2005. The cadets enjoyed the opportunity to mingle with alumni who shared their experiences with the cadets. During this event, the alumni association held its first meeting. In addition, the following alumni were inducted into the KU Army ROTC Wall of Fame: Judge Gerald Rushfelt, class of 1953; Forrest Hogle, class of 1956; Congressman Dennis Moore, Class of 1967; Colonel Dean Vakas, Class of 1975; Colonel Barry Fowler, class of 1978; Colonel Butch Tate, class of 1979.

If you are interested in joining the alumni association, please check out our website at [www.ku.edu/~kurotc/](http://www.ku.edu/~kurotc/) for more information. We look forward to seeing you at next year's homecoming celebration!

***JAYHAWKS LEAD THE WAY!***

*LTC Jeff Maxcy*



## *Navy News*

### *CAPT Rich High, USN*



#### ***Greetings to my fellow members of MOAA.***

As I write this I'm just a few weeks away from starting a new job and career as a civilian. I leave the KU NROTC Unit in the very capable hands of Commander Chris Orwoll. He has been my right hand for the past two years and will undoubtedly take the Unit to new levels of performance and achievements. I was very fortunate to have had the opportunity to complete my Navy career here in Kansas. It was of great assistance in my transition from the Navy to the civilian

world. Thanks to you all for your kind comments and well wishes.

Mary and I will depart for Wichita on the 9th of November where we have purchased a home and I will start employment with Flight Safety International at their Raytheon Pilot Training Center as an assistant center manager. As I have said to many of you, it is great to begin my next career as a pilot. I owe all that I have achieved in the Navy to my wonderful wife Mary and

our three fantastic daughters. Their support carried me through the tough times and inspired me to be more than I would have been by myself. For that reason, MOAA will be an important part of our lives. The membership of this organization will keep us abreast of our status with regard to our retirement, ensuring that I have the latest news as well as the capacity for continuous support of my family.

I thank the Jayhawk members in general and the leadership specifically for their support of Navy ROTC

and for me personally. It has been a wonderful relationship. I look forward to becoming a member of the Wichita chapter and will follow closely the goings on of the Jayhawk chapter.

Good luck and God speed to you all.

**Sincerely,**

*Captain Rich High*



## *Air Force News*

### *LtCol Sandra Leiker, USAF*

#### ***Hello, Jayhawk MOAA Chapter!***

Wow – is the fall semester going by fast, or what? It feels like only 10 minutes ago that I was looking around the room at 20 wide-eyed new Freshman cadets and their parents at Orientation. Now, whipped into shape by 0600 campus runs, clean-shaven with short haircuts, and in neatly starched blue uniforms, I can barely pick out the new faces in the cadet corps from the old. If this keeps up, my fun-filled 3-year ROTC tour will be over before I know it!

Okay, I'll write with some seriousness. Really, we are off to a terrific year's start at KU's DET280! I give total credit to the cadets themselves. As my staff and I try to hang on and keep all the i's dotted and the t's crossed, the cadets forge ahead with enthusiasm and professionalism in all they do...and they do a lot! Here's a peek ...

Parent's Weekend (Sep 17<sup>th</sup>) – The cadets hosted the parents, siblings, aunts/uncles and cousins of about a third of the corp's cadets. The highlights were several very well-done and amusing briefings, from the cadet's perspectives, about the summer programs they participated in (complete with pictures of jet orientation (Whoaa!) and "survival training" at field camp), as well as a sharply done demonstration by the drill team. Oh – don't let me forget the BBQ/picnic complete with "Parents versus Cadets" volleyball match, don't worry – I won't say who won.

Career Day (Oct 4<sup>th</sup>) – The cadets invited 10 Air Force officers (including a KU grad or two!) stationed locally (Whiteman AFB, FT Leavenworth AF element) to KU to talk about their AF career specialties. What a

hit! The cadets were completely "jazzed" to hear about the "real" Air Force from "real" officers – that's okay – us CADRE are just chopped liver – they hear from us ALL the time!

Civil Air Patrol Sorties (every weekend) – One of the really neat opportunities available to our cadets is CAP flight familiarization. Each year, about 15 CAP flights are made available, through the Lawrence Municipal Airport. Interested cadets fly up to 4 sorties in conjunction with the flight operations curriculum ... keep your fingers crossed for good weekend weather for us!

Let me mention volunteerism real quickly before I run out of room (how much room do I get, anyway?) ... I must brag on the cadets just a bit here for their civic involvement. Aside from the Color Guard members, who support absolutely every request they can, we have cadets supporting Habitat for Humanity Re-store, event clean-up at the Drury Place Senior Center, volunteer tutoring for local school students, and the recent KU campus blood drive (and Yes! – AF won this year's tri-service blood drive participation challenge!)

Up next - Veteran's Day Retreat Ceremony/24-hour vigil (at KU Vietnam War Memorial) and Joint Military Ball (18 Nov) with our sister service ROTC units. Come out and join us Veteran's Day evening for the retreat ceremony and follow-on guest speaker (USMC) ... we truly value your support and involvement!

*Lt Col Sandra S. Leiker*

*Commander, Air Force ROTC Det 280*



## Can you make an SBP open season election?

Congress made a major improvement to the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity and authorized an open season starting on 1 Oct 2005 to 30 Sep 2006.

**Q: I didn't elect SBP. Won't my retired pay still go to my surviving spouse when I die?**

A: No, without SBP, your retired pay stops when you die.

**Q: How does SBP work?**

A: You select a beneficiary such as a spouse, former spouse and/or child. You elect to cover a base amount of retired pay, which can range from \$300 to your full retired pay. When you die, your beneficiary receives 55% of that base amount, which has been increased by the same cost of living adjustments made to your retired pay.

Under the old law, the annuity was 55% until the beneficiary was age 62. After age 62, the annuity was either 35% of the base amount or 55% of the base amount minus the Social Security benefit attributed to military service. The law increases the post-age 62 benefit to 40% of the base amount on 1 Oct 2005; 45% on 1 Apr 2006, to 50% on 1 Apr 2007 and to 55% on 1 Apr 2008. If a reservist, the first increase will come on 1 Apr 2006 to 45%.

**Q: Who can make an open season election and what are their options?**

A: \* Retired soldiers who are not participating in SBP will be able to elect it.

- \* Retired soldiers who elected SBP, but are covering less than full retired pay as their base amount, will be able to increase the base amount.
- \* Retired soldiers who elected child only coverage will be able to add spouse or former spouse coverage.

**Q: What will the enrollment cost be during the open season?**

A: The cost has not been determined yet, but it is expected that it will cover all the costs that would have been paid if the election had been made at the first opportunity to do so.

**Q: When will the open season election become effective?**

A: The retired Soldier must live for two years after the election is effective for an annuity to be payable. If the retired Soldier dies before the end of the two years, the open season election becomes void and all costs resulting from the new election will be refunded to the beneficiary of the voided election.

**Note: The open season election form has not been created yet by DoD. As soon as the form is available, it will be announced on <http://www.armyg1.army.mil/retire>; included in the next Echoes; and sent out to RSOs.**

## MOAA LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

**MOAA's Legislative Update for September 16, 2005:**

Issue 1: MOAA Lists Priorities for House Leadership

MOAA President VADM Norb Ryan (USN-Ret) and Government Relations Director Col. Steve Strobridge (USAF-Ret) were among a small group of association leaders invited to the Capitol this week to discuss legislative priorities with Majority Whip Roy Blunt (R-MO) - the third-ranking Republican in the House of Representatives.

Common themes to virtually all of the association inputs included the importance of fully funding VA health care, "seamless transition" of care for returning wounded in switching from military to VA health systems, and the need to provide fairer compensation and protections for disabled veterans and retirees.

VADM Ryan highlighted several additional issues:

- \* The need for a larger defense budget and a larger Army, rather than continuing to scrimp on money and manpower when the requirements are so obviously overstressing the current force.

" For the Office of Management and Budget to ask Congress to impose a moratorium on any further military benefit improvements when our troops are suffering the full brunt of war is outrageous," Ryan said. "Congress needs to take the lead on these issues and do the right thing, as it has done in the past."

- \* The importance of providing permanent health coverage for all drilling Guard and Reserve members.

- \* The urgent need to fix remaining problems with the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), including the unfair deduction of VA survivor benefits from SBP and the inordinate delay in implementing paid-up SBP coverage, which inflicts a 30% premium penalty on "Greatest Generation" retirees.

- \* The need to end the disability offset to retired pay for retirees who have been rated "unemployable" by the VA.

Rep Blunt said that the House leaders are committed to making sure the VA has the funds it needs. He also agreed that, "We need to treat the

Guard and Reserve better in every way. That means getting the current force right-sized and refocused. We've shifted too much responsibility to the Guard and Reserve."

"Last year, you told us that fixing the SBP age-62 benefit was an important priority," Blunt told the group. "We took that to heart, fought hard for it, and won. I'm listening just as hard this year."

### Issue 2: TMC Addresses Disability Commission's Issues

The Military Coalition's Veterans Committee co-chairmen, MOAA's COL Bob Norton (USA-Ret) and MSgt Morgan Brown (USAF-Ret) of the Air Force Sergeants Association, provided Coalition recommendations to the Veterans Disability Benefits Commission on September 15th. The Commission had solicited association inputs on where it should be focusing its energies.

Brown and Norton addressed a variety of topics, including:

- \* Disability and survivor compensation rates - TMC believes the rates are insufficient in many cases, especially for severely disabled retirees and survivors of members whose premature death was caused by military service.
- \* Military vs. civilian program comparisons - Military and civilian working conditions are so different that comparing military compensation programs with civilian counterparts is useful only in establishing a benefit floor for veterans. The government has a higher obligation to those disabled in the course of protecting the nation than most civilian employers feel for their disabled employees.
- \* Service-connection rules - TMC believes any condition incurred in the course of service should be considered service-connected, unless it was incurred through misconduct or other inappropriate behavior, recognizing that military members are on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Limitation to combat-related conditions would be inappropriate. Disabled veterans must live with those conditions for life, regardless of whether they were incurred in combat; compensation should be for the disability's effects on the member, rather than for the instrument of its cause.

### **MOAA's Legislative Update for September 23, 2005:**

#### Issue 1: New Katrina Victims: Medicare and Federal Civilian/Military Benefits?

A group of conservative House Republicans has proposed paying costs associated with Hurricane Katrina by cutting scores of government programs.

Their proposal, called "Operation Offset," would, among other things:

- \* Impose a 20% beneficiary copay for all Medicare costs (including hospitalization)
- \* Increase Medicare Part B premiums by 20%
- \* Close military dependent schools in the United States
- \* Offer servicemembers cash to purchase "less comprehensive" health care plans
- \* Consolidate the three military exchange systems
- \* Charge federal employees for parking
- \* Curtail health benefits for certain federal civilian retirees
- \* Cut the congressional pay raise

The group proposing these and other changes, the Republican Study Committee, is chaired by Rep. Mike Pence (R-IN) and lists Rep. Jeb Hensarling (R-TX) as Budget & Spending Task Force Chairman. Hensarling is the sponsor of H.R. 2290, a bill that would impose mandatory cuts in military retired pay cost-of-living adjustments, Medicare, and other federal entitlement programs if entitlement spending rises above certain limits.

However, the chances of Congress going along with such proposals appear slim. "Operation Offset" has not been endorsed by the White House. Many of the proposals are warmed over from previously rejected efforts. Last year, Congress soundly rejected a budget amendment virtually identical to H.R. 2290.

#### Issue 3: MOAA Capitol Hill Hot Line Hijacked

At first, we were pleased to see a jump in use of MOAA's toll-free Capitol Hill Hot Line, thinking our members were calling their legislators to support MOAA's issues.

Then we realized that a number of outside groups were publicizing our toll-free number to spur calls to Congress for or against Supreme Court nominee John Roberts and for a variety of other liberal or conservative causes.

Some groups think such toll-free lines are government-funded. They don't realize (and usually don't care) that MOAA pays for every call over our Capitol Hill Hot Line. But we don't fund other groups' causes, so we've terminated the previous hot line number and instituted a new one.

As of Monday, September 26, MOAA members can call their legislators toll-free at 1-866-272-MOAA (866-272-6622).

### **MOAA Legislative Update for October 7, 2005:**

#### Issue 1: Retiree Pay Statement to Show Concurrent Receipt.

Disabled retirees eligible for concurrent receipt will finally see those added payments reflected on their Finance Center pay statements this month. The change is causing some confusion. It's not your pay that's changing - just the way it's shown on your statement. Retirees who have been receiving two separate checks from the Defense Accounting and Finance Center (DFAS) for retired pay and concurrent retired disability pay (CRDP) will see those payments combined in a single check starting this month. In the past, DFAS had to make the payments separately and didn't have the computerized capability to show the CRDP payment on retiree pay statements.

Now that's changing. But the updated statements are causing some confusion.

Retirees eligible for concurrent receipt will notice a change in the "VA waiver" line of the pay statement. Normally that means your VA payment changed. In this case, it just means that the accounting system is catching up with the actual amount of retired pay that is offset by the retiree's VA compensation.

Now that CRDP is being incorporated in disabled retirees' pay statements, the statements will show a dollar-for-dollar decrease in the waiver amount and a dollar-for-dollar increase to their taxable retired pay.

Unfortunately, DFAS can't yet show Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) payments on the pay statement. That's in DFAS' plans for the near future, but a date has yet to be determined.

The bottom line: disabled retirees are still receiving the same pay amounts from both the VA and DFAS that they have in the past. They're just getting both retired pay and CRDP in a single check now, and that combined amount is now being shown on the pay statement.

#### Issue 2: More Drugs Considered for \$22 Copay.

On September 28th, the DoD Beneficiary Advisory Panel met to review recommendations to move certain high blood pressure and prostate medications to the third tier (\$22 copay vs. \$9).

The drugs involved are:

- \* ACE Inhibitors Univasc, Aceon, Accupril, and Altace (for high blood pressure).
- \* Calcium Channel Blockers Verelan, Verelan PM, Covera HS, Cardizem LA, Norvasc, DynaCirc, DynaCirc CR, Cardene, and Cardene SR (a different kind of blood pressure drug).
- \* Alpha-blocker Flomax (for benign prostate enlargement).

Drugs are considered for the third tier when there are other drugs that are equally effective for the same purpose and significantly less costly to TRICARE.

### **MOAA's Legislative Update for October 14, 2005:**

#### Issue 1: COLA Iced

It's final. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported on Friday that recent jump in energy prices boosted the Consumer Price Index another 1.5% in September.

That resulted in a 4.1% COLA based on the increase in average costs from the third quarter of 2004 to the third quarter of 2005 -- this 4.1% percentage increase is the increase that will be applied (in most cases) to military retired pay, Social Security, Survivor Benefit Plan annuities and veterans' disability compensation as of December 1, 2005. The increases will first appear in January 2006 paychecks. This is the largest COLA since the 1991 increase of 5.4%.

Check out the month-by-month inflation track and historical CPI/COLA information on MOAA's Web site at [http://moaaonline.org/ct/g7z\\_irK17mbE/](http://moaaonline.org/ct/g7z_irK17mbE/).

### **MOAA's Legislative Update for October 21, 2005:**

#### Issue 1: Update on Defense Bill, Budget, Medicare Cuts

It was hard to tell what and who to believe this week as House and Senate leaders put out conflicting signals on how proposed budget cuts may affect the Defense budget and Medicare payments to doctors (which also affect patient access).

Meanwhile, Senate leaders may be creeping toward a long-overdue agreement to finish the FY2006 Defense Authorization Act. In MOAA's view, delaying action this long has been a serious breach of the Senate's wartime responsibilities.

Last week, we reported that every Republican and every Democrat on the Armed Services Committee signed a joint letter to top Senate leaders on the urgency of supporting our troops by scheduling time to debate and finish the defense bill. Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-TN) responded with a letter blaming Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) for his proposed amendments to the bill. MOAA thinks that's a bogus argument, since the Senate has found ways to deal efficiently with hundreds of amendments to defense bills in prior years.

Now, Senator Frist is acknowledging that Reid has made a "significant concession" in offering to limit amendments to 12 for each party that are within the purview of the Armed Services Committee.

On the budget side, House leaders couldn't get a consensus on plans to impose an across-the-board budget cut to pay for Hurricane Katrina cleanup. But a spokesman for House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-IL) indicated that an across-the-board cut (including the defense budget) is still part of the House leadership plan.

We'll say again what we said last week: A Congress that would cut the Defense budget in wartime has lost its bearings on budget priorities.

Senate leaders are shooting for a more modest budget cut package, and also are having a hard time building a plan that will satisfy the various factions.

However, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Charles Grassley (R-IA) sent a welcome signal to the military and medical communities when he indicated his proposed package would reverse the 4.3% cut in Medicare payments to doctors that current law will otherwise require in 2006. Instead, Grassley's budget plan would provide a 1% increase. It remains to be seen what the House will propose.

Reversing that payment cut is a major MOAA goal. TRICARE payments are tied to Medicare's, and cuts of that magnitude could prompt more doctors to stop accepting TRICARE patients. We need more doctors to participate in TRICARE, not fewer.

Here's how to contact your legislators on these important issues:

- a. House across-the-board (defense) budget cut: Click on the "Don't Cut Defense for Katrina" link at [http://moaaonline.org/ct/5dz\\_irK1mXbd/](http://moaaonline.org/ct/5dz_irK1mXbd/)
- b. Senate Defense bill: Click on the "Pass Defense Authorization Bill Now" link at [http://moaaonline.org/ct/5dz\\_irK1mXbd/](http://moaaonline.org/ct/5dz_irK1mXbd/)
- c. Reversing Medicare/TRICARE payment cuts: Visit [http://moaaonline.org/ct/57z\\_irK1mXbc/](http://moaaonline.org/ct/57z_irK1mXbc/), scroll down to "Health Care Issues" and click on S. 1081 and H.R. 2356 to send messages to your senators and representative, respectively.

#### Issue 2: Subcommittee Investigates TRICARE Problems

This week, the House Armed Services Personnel Subcommittee held a hearing on military healthcare, with inputs from Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) Dr. William Winkenwerder, the regional contractor CEOs, and the service Surgeons General.

The subcommittee wanted updates on beneficiary access to providers, rising government health costs, and TRICARE reimbursement rates to providers.

Dr. Winkenwerder expressed his concern for the sustainability of rising health costs, especially for retirees, claiming that retiree care would take 75% of the defense health budget by 2009. He also noted that TRICARE annual fees have never increased, in contrast with private sector trends. He asked Congress not to rule out private sector fixes to military healthcare issues, but said DoD has no specific proposals at present.

Winkenwerder said TRICARE rates are tied to Medicare's and so TRICARE pays "about the same" as Medicare. When one committee member insisted that

TRICARE pays less than Medicare in some cases, Winkenwerder said he would recheck if that happens.

This is a hot topic for MOAA. We've been, and will continue, working with the Armed Services Committees to expand provider participation and improve beneficiary access.

#### **MOAA's Legislative Update for October 28, 2005:**

##### Issue 1: Defense Bill, Concurrent Receipt, SBP Fixes Alive

Senate leaders finally started to get their wartime priorities straight this week, reaching a tentative agreement to bring the FY2006 Defense Authorization Act (S. 1042) up for consideration as early as next week.

About time. MOAA President VADM Norb Ryan, Jr. (USN-Ret) sent a letter to every senator earlier this week, asking them to make the Defense bill an urgent priority. He pointed out that many initiatives in this bill are essential to meet recruiting, retention and readiness needs, including a 20,000 increase in Army end strength; a doubling of the maximum enlistment bonus; major new accession, affiliation, and reenlistment bonus authorities; and health coverage for Selected Reserve members and families.

"Every day that this vital legislation is delayed," said Ryan, "is another day the Army, the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve are denied the tools they need to achieve their manpower goals."

"Leaders of both parties already have agreed to limit themselves to 12 amendments each - a virtually unprecedented compromise, considering the hundreds of amendments the Senate has managed to dispose of in previous years," Ryan's letter continued. "It's time for action, not further political haggling, on a bill that's this important to national defense."

The Defense bill is also our last chance this year to make progress on our concurrent receipt and Survivor Benefit Plan goals. We're hopeful that the amendments to be considered will include Sen. Harry Reid's (D-NV) plan to pay full, immediate concurrent receipt to disabled retirees rated "unemployable" by the VA, as well as Sen. Bill Nelson's (D-FL) proposal to end SBP penalties for "Greatest Generation" military retirees and for survivors of members who die of service-connected causes.

Please visit [http://moaaonline.org/ct/xpz\\_irK1Uzgl/](http://moaaonline.org/ct/xpz_irK1Uzgl/) and click on the "Support Key Senate Amendments" link to urge your senators to vote FOR these two amendments next week.

You can also use MOAA's toll-free Capitol Hill Hot Line (1-866-272-6622) to call your legislators. Just ask the Capitol operator to connect you to your legislator's office.





# JAYHAWK CHAPTER MOAA



A membership meeting will be held Tuesday, 15 November 2005, at the Lawrence Country Club.  
Dinner cost is **\$20.00** per meal.

**The Program:** Dr. Grant K. Goodman, Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Kansas, will be our guest speaker. The title of his presentation is "Was I the Lynde England of World War II?"

**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 12 November 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.

*cut here*

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

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Name

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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.**

## **BRING A GUEST !!!**

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

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

**2005-2006 MOAA Calendar:**

Tuesday	15 November	MOAA meeting	Tuesday	16 May 2006	MOAA meeting
Tuesday	17 January 2006	MOAA meeting	Tuesday	18 July 2006	MOAA meeting
Tuesday	21 March 2006	MOAA meeting	Tuesday	19 September 2006	MOAA meeting

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



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*Seasons Greetings  
from your  
Editorial Staff*

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