



# Jayhawk Chapter MOAA Newsletter



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## July Program:

Our guest speaker will be Major Daniel Setz of the Armed Forces of Switzerland. Major Setz is attending the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth. His topic will be *Switzerland Today and Its Role in European and World Affairs.*  
and

Our own COL John Halladay will give us an update on the Survivor Benefit Plan.



**2006  
CHAPTER  
Awarded 2007**

## The President's Corner . . .

Dear Jayhawk MOAA Friends and Colleagues:

May was another productive month for our Chapter. We had a fine dinner and program on May 20<sup>th</sup>, our KU ROTC units commissioned 45 new officers, 25 new members were added to our chapter rolls and our chapter participated in local Memorial Day services.

Dr. Burdett Loomis, KU Professor of Political Science, was the guest speaker at our May meeting. His discussion of the 2008 National Election provided us with insights into what may happen in November — both in the Presidential and Congressional races.

KU's ROTC Joint Commissioning Ceremony was hosted by Captain Tom Arnold and the Naval ROTC Detachment. Admiral Mike Sullivan had arranged for his good friend, U.S. Marine Corps Major General (Retired) Dave Richwine, to be the guest speaker. General Richwine, a KU graduate, gave an inspirational talk and along with Provost Richard Larivierre, participated in the commissioning of each Cadet and Midshipman. Several members of our chapter attended the event.

Thanks to the dogged persistence of John Halladay and the help and support of ROTC commanders, LTC John Basso (Army), LTC Sandra Leiker (Air Force) and Captain Arnold (Navy), 25 newly commissioned officers joined the ranks of MOAA. These young men and women — at no cost to them — are now members of MOAA National and the Jayhawk Chapter as part of the Give Me Ten MOAA Recruiting Program. John H — I thank you and I salute you plus John Basso, Sandra Leiker and Tom Arnold.

Finally, the Memorial Day activities are mentioned elsewhere in the Newsletter. Thank all of you who helped with this noble endeavor. Perhaps next year, we can increase our participation.

A heartfelt Thank You to each and every member of our Chapter for your continued help and support. We look forward to being with you on July 15<sup>th</sup> for another wonderful evening of comradeship.

Respectfully,

*Bernie*



**Volume XIII, Issue 4**

**1 July 2008**

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### Inside this issue:

July Program	1
President's Message	1
Jayhawk Chapter News	2
Army News	3
Navy News	3
Air Force News	4
Newly Commissioned Members	5
MOAA Legislative Updates	6
Dinner Reservation Form	9
MOAA calendar & websites	10

**\* Reservations should be sent  
to Jim Cooper by  
8 July.**



# JAYHAWK CHAPTER NEWS

## Condolences

Our apologies to **Don Forsyth** for an unintended oversight – his wife, **Rose Marie**, passed away on 15 April 2008. Services were held at Plymouth Congregational Church and private family burial followed at Memorial Park Cemetery.

Rose Marie was born in Charleston, W.Va., graduated from Sinton High School in Sinton, Texas, and attended North Texas State College. She and Don were married on June 1, 1951, in Corpus Christi, Texas, and lived at U.S. Navy stations in Patuxent River, Md., Monterey, Calif., Pensacola, Fla., Whidbey Island, Wash., Point Mugu, Calif., Midway Island Naval Station and Washington D.C., before moving to Lawrence in June 1969.

She worked for a real estate agent in Whidbey Island, Wash., and managed a women's dress shop in McLean, Va. She managed apartments for Christopher Enterprises, Columbia Properties and Meadowbrook Apartments. She then worked as a travel agent for Ports Unlimited Travel Services, Adventure Travel and Lawrence Travel Center. She later worked as a receptionist for the Shepley and Fender Insurance Agencies and retired from Capitol Federal as a deposit balancer. She was a member of Plymouth Congregational Church, Beta Sigma Phi Sorority and the Red Hat Society.

Survivors include three sons, Michael and Patrick, both of Lawrence, and Robert, Papillion, Neb.; six grandchildren, Emily, Kelly, Alex, Daniel, David and Elizabeth; and a sister, Diane Durham, Corpus Christi, Texas.

**Mutt Henry** has suffered several strokes and is in Room 303 at Brandon Woods. James Stokes reports that Mutt looks a great deal better, but appears quite lonely and would appreciate visitors.

**Clayton L. Comfort Award** from Erv Hodges:

This spring the Jayhawk Chapter presented \$500 Comfort Awards to three very deserving members of the KU ROTC programs. We now have a total of \$17,488 in the Fund (\$482 spendable balance and \$17,006 investment balance). Our goal is to reach an investment balance of \$40,000 which will produce income in excess of \$2,000 each year to be used for awards.

Income tax, property tax and quarterly estimate payments are now behind us. I encourage each of you to include the Comfort Award in your giving plans for this year. \$100 a year from each member of the Jayhawk Chapter ensures that the goal will be reached and the Fund will be self sustaining by 2010.

In addition, please consider the Comfort Fund in your estate planning. The KU Endowment staff has volunteered their help in developing a method by which you can include the Fund as a part of your estate plan. Should you need this assistance please contact me and I will get you in touch with the staff member who can develop your gift plan.

The Comfort Fund is the only fund raising activity of the chapter and in a small way assists those students who have demonstrated the potential, character and leadership qualities to become outstanding officers in the Armed Forces of the United States and future national leaders. I encourage all to support this Fund.



### Jayhawk MOAA Supports Memorial Day Services

Six Jayhawk MOAA members were present to support the Memorial Day Services at Lawrence's Oak Hill Cemetery on Monday May the 26<sup>th</sup>. At 6 AM, Al and Barbara Ballard, Stan Sneegas and his son, Andrew, Charles Heller and Bernie Kish assisted the American Legion in placing American Flags along the roads at the



Cemetery. Each flag represents a US Serviceman or Servicewoman who served in one of our nation's wars. The flags, donated by Lawrence citizens, honor men and women as far back as the US Civil War.

Pictured above left is Al Ballard as he leads the Official Party into the Cemetery for the 10 AM Ceremonies. Commander Jerry Hanson of American Legion Dorsey-Liberty Post #14 gave the keynote address. About 150 people were in attendance.

**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 John Basso*

### **MOAA Friends,**

I am writing this update from Fort Lewis, Washington, where I am helping to run 5300 cadets through the 33-day Leader Development and Assessment Course, also called operation Warrior Forge. This course, which typically occurs after a cadet's junior year, trains and evaluates leadership ability, particularly by putting cadets in squad and platoon leadership roles in a demanding 10-day field exercise. It also introduces or reinforces a number of required soldier skills including First Aid, Basic Rifle Marksmanship and Reflexive Fire, Combatives, Land Navigation, and Cultural Awareness. As you know, we spend much of the school year preparing our cadets for the mental and physical challenges of this course. Having observed thousands of cadets at this point, I can tell you that your Jayhawk Cadets are doing fantastic. One quarter of the way through the summer their physical fitness scores and land navigation scores are a significant amount over the averages. I'm confident that their leadership performance will be equally as stellar.

We have other cadets spread throughout the world conducting additional military training. Some notable examples include Cadet Draffen conducting language and culture training in Russia, Cadets Covey and Weir conducting nurse training at Walter Reed and Brooke Army Medical Centers respectively, Cadet Daniels going through Airborne training at Fort Benning and Cadet Kinsey conducting Mountain Warfare training in Vermont, and Cadet Myers

going through Cadet Field Training with the West Point sophomore class.

It is a busy summer, particularly when you add the hard work of our Recruiting Staff – the bottom line is that we are growing leadership excellence in the Jayhawk Battalion. Much of that excellence can be attributed to a few of the cadre members we are losing this summer. Major Wade Abel is leaving us for Saudi Arabia; he will be missed. Sergeant First Class Joe Masarik is retiring. There is a silver lining in each case. SFC Masarik will return to us as SFC (R) Masarik and will continue to prepare cadets to be leaders as one of our contracted cadre. In MAJ Abel's case, the Army (recognizing his excellence) has replaced him with two officers, CPT Aaron Cornett and CPT Steven Beard. We also have an additional officer, CPT Will Chuber, joining us as well as a much needed Non-Commissioned Officer, SFC Jason Woodbury. Welcome to all – our team grows stronger as does our battalion.

Lastly, let me congratulate Mrs. Cindy Brinkley, who runs our Supply Operations. She was chosen as the best of the 273 ROTC University Supply Technicians in US Army Cadet Command.

**Rock Chalk and best wishes,**

*LTC John Basso*



## *Navy News* *CAPT Thomas Arnold, USN*



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

I want to thank those of you who were able to join us for the Joint Commissioning on May 19<sup>th</sup>. A couple of highlights of the Commissioning Ceremony were the inspiring speech given by our guest speaker, KU NROTC alumnus MajGen (Ret) Dave Richwine, USMC, and the commissioning of Ensign Veronica Cooper, U.S. Navy Nurse Corps, the daughter of Jayhawk Chapter MOAA members Jim and Sandy Cooper. We are very proud of this year's class of KU NROTC graduates and will miss them as they head off for their initial assignments in the Navy and Marine Corps.

With the beginning of summer, we start the annual process of sending our NROTC students off to summer training. This year we have Navy midshipmen participating in training cruises spanning the globe from Norfolk to Hong Kong. Four of our Marine Corps students will be attending Officer Candidate School in Quantico, Virginia, this summer as well. Our staff is also involved in summer training this year: CAPT Jose Nicholas is in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and Debbie Loy is in Norfolk, Virginia, supporting CORTRAMID EAST, the four-week summer training

program for rising sophomore midshipmen; and LT Juri Groenland is off to spend six weeks in Naples, Italy, coordinating midshipmen summer cruises in the Mediterranean area. Those of us remaining here in Lawrence will be preparing for our incoming class of freshmen, estimated to number about 30 this year.

We will have one change on our staff this summer – LT Laura Jeffries will be leaving us the end of June. Laura has been with the KU NROTC Unit for four years, including a one year absence for a tour of temporary duty in Iraq. Despite that absence and her busy duties teaching Naval Science courses, Laura still managed to find the time to earn a Masters Degree in Exercise Physiology from KU. She is

off to a tour of duty with the Navy Information Warfare community in Suitland, Maryland, just outside Washington, D.C. Laura will be greatly missed. Her relief, LT Krista Mann, a Nuclear-trained Surface Warfare Officer, reported aboard this month. She joins us following a tour on board the USS Carl Vinson in Portsmouth, Virginia, and prior to that a tour aboard USS Lasalle in Gaeta, Italy. Please join me in welcoming Krista to the NROTC Unit staff!

I hope you all enjoy a safe summer with friends and family!

*CAPT Tom Arnold*



## Air Force News

### LtCol Sandra Leiker, USAF

#### **Hello MOAA!**

Hope the summer finds you all well. We are using the time to catch up on paperwork following saying goodbye to a fantastically large and motivated commissioning class - 15 graduates are off to exciting training programs and first bases. Thanks to the KU Navy ROTC, by the way, for hosting such a nice ceremony on May 19th. We believe that continuing to celebrate the KU Spring Commissioning jointly is very special, as well as important, to our new 2LTs and Ensigns. We were blessed this year with a super guest speaker, guest chaplain, and KU's Provost LaRiviere, who shared touching remarks with commissionees, friends, and family members.

This summer marks the end of my tenure here at KU, so I would like to take a quick opportunity to tell you about the turnover we are experiencing and who you can expect to find filling the offices here at Detachment 280.

First - welcome Tina Williams, our new University Administrative Specialist. She joined us following a move back "home" to Kansas from Fairchild AFB, where she worked as a civilian for the Services Squadron. She replaces Ms. Cyndee Ward, who retired in February. Tina is so enthusiastic and proactive – she's already made a huge difference in the front office and she's only been here a few weeks.

Next – my replacement, Lt Col Gena Stuchbery, currently assigned at Columbus AFB, MS, will be arriving here following a short Detachment Commander intro program at Maxwell AFB this June. That's where they teach us how to wear the magic Commander's cape, wave the magic Commander's wand, and also to fly. (Oh no wait, I may be thinking of something else...) Seriously, Gena has quite a bit of Command experience under her belt already

from the AF comptroller community. While we won't get to overlap here, I'll try to leave everything neat and tidy so she can jump right in ... and I know you all will do your parts to make her feel welcome!

Late summer will also bring a new instructor to fill Capt Dan Hatchel's shoes – Maj Gary Marsteller. Gary is already well-situated in the Lansing, KS, area and has been providing meteorological support to the Army Combined Arms Center at Ft Leavenworth. By the way, Dan checks in periodically from Afghanistan and says he's doing well despite 114 degree temperatures – he'll be PCS'ing out as soon as he returns from his deployment in March '09. Finally, SSgt Kip Gomez will join us from sunny AZ – I hear his wife is a KU grad – so they are looking to move closer to "home" as well. I know it's really probably the fantastic seasons the Jayhawks had in both football and basketball that is bringing everyone out of the woodwork ...

Well, I hate long goodbye's, and I won't really be out of reach (teaching Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell AFB; [sandra.leiker@us.af.mil](mailto:sandra.leiker@us.af.mil)) if anyone needs me, so I'll sign off before I get sentimental. Greg and I will truly miss Lawrence's warmth and excitement and all of our friends here, but I'm sure we'll be back for a basketball game before some folks even realize we've gone. We also hope to say goodbye to many of you in person. So please carry on your wonderful mission here – the detachment appreciates what you do for us so much! Thanks for all your support during my term here and best wishes to all of you for the future.

Respectfully,

*Lt Col Sandra S. Leiker*

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## 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.*

### House Passes Historic GI Bill

On June 19, the House of Representatives approved a major GI Bill upgrade for men and women who have defended the nation since September 11, 2001. MOAA, The Military Coalition, and many other veterans' and higher education associations are pleased to have played a role in winning this historic victory. But it didn't come easy.

Senators Jim Webb (D-VA), Chuck Hagel (R-NE), John Warner (R-VA), Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) and Representatives Bobby Scott (D-VA) and Harry Mitchell (D-AZ) took the lead in sponsoring the largest and most widely supported fix. Almost everyone in Congress agreed a fix was needed, but some felt the Webb plan was too generous. Others in Congress didn't support adopting it outside the normal funding rules and wanted to raise taxes on millionaires to pay for it.

The White House initially opposed the Webb plan as too generous but also wanted to include a provision in the plan to let people who serve 10 years transfer their education benefits to family members.

In the end, House leaders and the White House agreed on a bill that included the best of both plans.

The new GI Bill will reimburse veterans' tuition for schooling up to the highest state college cost, pay a housing allowance based on the location of the school, and provide up to \$1,000 annually for books. Under certain conditions, it would provide extra money toward attending a private university. Veterans will have up to 15 years after separation to use the benefits.

Servicemembers who have completed six years of service and agree to serve an additional four years will be able to transfer part or all of the benefits to their spouses immediately. Once they complete 10 years' service they can transfer them to children.

The upgraded benefits apply to people who have served in uniform since 9/11/01. Some who served at least 90 days since then but subsequently separated or retired could qualify for the upgraded benefit. But no one already retired will qualify for the transferability option.

Senate passage of the bill is expected next week, after which it will be forwarded to the president for signature.

MOAA is especially pleased that the new GI Bill includes a MOAA-suggested provision extending the new benefits to service academy and ROTC scholarship graduates if they agree to serve an additional three years beyond their initial service commitment.

Activated National Guard and Reserve troops will be able to earn GI Bill benefits for each tour of 90 days or more they serve up to full benefits for 36 months of aggregate active service.

### "Mandatory" Rules Apply....Until They Don't

Any parent or grandparent knows all about the "do as I say, not as I do" rule - and its pitfalls. Don't expect any credibility from kids if you establish rules for them that you don't live by yourself.

So it is with Congress's "mandatory spending" rules, which apply only when congressional leaders want them to.

Want to fix an inequity with military retired pay, survivor benefits, or health care for Medicare-eligibles? Sorry, but those (along with Social Security, Medicare, and many others) are "mandatory" or "entitlement" spending programs, and upgrades to those programs face built-in legislative impediments.

More than a decade ago, congressional leaders decided these programs were growing too fast, and they had to act to keep themselves from spending the Treasury dry on programs that are automatically adjusted by inflation or other methods that aren't subject to the annual appropriations process.

So they made a rule: Any committee that proposes an increase in "mandatory" programs under its control must pay for it by cutting an equal amount from other mandatory programs under its jurisdiction or coming up with other offsetting revenue (tax increases, sales of government property, etc.).

This has proven a real problem for those of us seeking fixes for such things as concurrent receipt, survivor annuities, and the GI Bill. That's because the Armed Services committees that oversee those programs understandably are reluctant to pay for them by cutting other retirement, survivor, or health benefits. So winning even small improvements is like pulling teeth.

But every single year, Hill leaders ignore those same rules when they find it politically expedient. Usually, the waivers come on tax bills or "emergency" supplemental spending bills. (The offset rules can be waived in case of an "emergency".)

Need \$160 billion for an economic stimulus package? No problem. Waive the rule.

Need hundreds of billions for war funding, but don't want to raise taxes? It's waived.

This year, Hill leaders waived the rule to fund a major upgrade to the GI Bill, another mandatory spending program.

Don't get me wrong. We like economic stimulus rebates, too, and we certainly think that if we're going to put troops in harm's way, we simply must provide the funding needed to let them do their job. And we certainly want the GI Bill upgraded. So we're not criticizing those waivers.

We've been fighting for years to plus up military education benefits and have run into the mandatory spending rule every year, so we're elated that Congress now thinks it's so important it deserves a rule waiver.

So what's the issue here?

It's simply that the offset rule has lost all credibility when Congress hides behind it to bar even modest progress on fixes for military widows or disabled retirees, but in the next breath waives the rule to pass trillions of dollars for other mandatory spending programs.

It seems the rules apply unless the issue is really politically popular.

In some cases, the military community can be a beneficiary of that game, as with the GI Bill. In others, the rules are used to frustrate far more modest (and equally needed) initiatives. The lesson: If you can generate enough political interest in an issue, the normal rules simply don't apply.

If you don't think constituent input to legislators count for much, think again. Winning on Capitol Hill is all about exerting political pressure.

### **Judge Orders Payment to SBP-DIC Widows**

When Congress changed the law several years ago to restore VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) payments to previously eligible widows who remarried after age 57, several of them who also were eligible for Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuities sued to claim that the law required continuation of their SBP in addition to the DIC, without the normal dollar-for-dollar offset.

The judge in the case seemed sympathetic and ordered the Defense Department to show why he shouldn't rule in their favor. But the Pentagon lawyers didn't reply.

On June 12, the judge made a summary judgment directing DoD to restore the widows' SBP annuities.

But DoD isn't done, and is expected to appeal the decision, hoping for a more sympathetic appeals court judge.

DoD won't have to restore the SBP annuities until the appeal is heard by a higher court first.

MOAA commends the tenacity of these widows in bringing the suit, and we're encouraged by the court's reasoning. But anything can happen in the appeals process, so the widows aren't out of the woods yet.

### **MOAA Spouse Symposium a Hit**

Legislative action was one of the key issues discussed at MOAA's second annual Spouse Symposium in Virginia Beach yesterday, attended by more than a hundred active duty, Guard, Reserve, and retired military spouses. Both the main session and breakout sessions addressed the how and why of getting involved in advocating legislative issues that affect military families.

MOAA deputy director for government relations CDR Rene Campos (USN-Ret) joined staff experts from the U.S. Senate, Defense Department and other distinguished spouse advocates to provide the inside story about how Congress, state legislatures and associations work to improve quality of life issues. MOAA deputy director for government relations Joy Dunlap, herself the spouse of an active duty member, moderated the panel.

Attendees learned methods that are most (and least) effective in legislative advocacy. They also received up-to-the-minute status information on the GI bill, education and employment initiatives, a proposed spouse and family

monument, in-state tuition eligibility, the military children's educational compact, and a variety of other personnel and benefits initiatives.

Other topics covered at the well-received symposium included building a better military marriage, financial management options, and family support and employment.

### **Playing Chicken With Your Health Care**

They blew it. All of them. The President. Congress. House and Senate. Republicans and Democrats.

They had months to work out a relatively simple deal to prevent a 10.6% cut in Medicare payments from taking effect on July 1 and to prevent cutting off Medicare coverage for hundreds of thousands of Medicare-eligible speech and physical therapy patients on that date.

But they chose to play political chicken with seniors' care, and their collective hard-headedness prevented anything from getting done. Having failed in timely action, Congress took a week's vacation over Independence Day and promised to fix things when they return.

So what happened here?

Last week, the House overwhelmingly passed a fix (H.R. 6331) that would have stopped the payment cuts, substituted a small increase for doctors seeing Medicare and TRICARE patients, and prevented the therapy cutoff. The vote was a veto-proof 355-59.

But Senate Republicans and President Bush didn't approve of the funding source for that fix (cutbacks in some Medicare Advantage programs that pay doctors up to 17% more than regular Medicare does), and pushed an alternative.

After the overwhelming House vote, Senate leaders tried to bring the bill up for a vote anyway. But when Republicans objected, they needed 60 votes to overcome the objection. They got 59. Not enough to even get a vote, let alone override a threatened presidential veto.

Republicans then proposed extending the current rates for 30 days to allow more time for a fix. But that was a non-starter, since the House had already left town for recess, and the Senate can't approve a new fix by itself.

What's next?

Medicare payments to doctors will be cut 10.6% starting July 1. Also as of July 1, speech, physical or occupational therapy patients for whom Medicare has already paid at least \$1,810 for therapy in 2008 will have further Medicare payments for that care stopped. (NOTE: TRICARE doesn't have a therapy payment cap like Medicare does, so TRICARE therapy patients should be okay. For TRICARE For Life patients, TRICARE will pick up payments when Medicare stops, BUT only after the \$150 annual TRICARE deductible has been satisfied, along with applicable copays.)

TRICARE patients have a little more breathing room. Although TRICARE doctor payments are tied to Medicare's, there's usually about a month's delay in updating TRICARE payment files when Medicare makes a change.

This isn't the first time Congress has failed to stop a Medicare payment cut. In 2006, Congress missed the deadline, but approved a fix within a few weeks and made it retroactive.

That caused doctors and Medicare administrators lots of headaches in the interim, but in the end, the lost payments

were made up. And TRICARE patients were never affected, because Congress fixed the rates before TRICARE got around to implementing the cuts.

That's the best-case scenario now - if Congress can act quickly after July 4 to approve a fix the president will sign. But the risk remains that some number of fed-up doctors will decide not to accept any more Medicare or TRICARE patients.

Whatever Congress does after July 4, they could have done before July 1 and prevented this mess.

If the President, the House, the Senate, Republicans, and Democrats had been willing to compromise -- just a little -- health care access for our seniors and military beneficiaries need not have been put at risk in this irresponsible way.

### **CRSC Processing Begins - Have You Applied?**

Earlier this month, DoD provided new Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) guidance to the Services, implementing the law change that extended CRSC eligibility to members with less than 20 years of service who were retired for medical reasons or under the Temporary Early Retirement Authority (TERA) during the 1990s force reduction.

The services began processing claims for the new eligibles on June 8. The process is not automatic. Eligible members with combat/combat-related disabilities must apply through their Service CRSC office before they can receive any compensation.

Compensation amounts vary widely based on several key factors, including rank, years of service, DoD and VA disability ratings, and the portion of the disability that's due to combat. Based on individual circumstances, retirees may receive CRSC awards that restore part or all their longevity-based retired pay. In certain other cases, they may see no change in their pay.

Our best advice to those with combat/combat-related disabilities: apply!

### **Looking Out for Military Kids' Education**

On June 26, officials of the Department of Defense and Department of Education signed a memorandum of understanding (PDF) at the Pentagon to further their collaboration in meeting education needs for military children.

92 percent of the more than 1.2 million military students don't attend DoD-operated schools. This signing marks an expanded effort to ease education problems for those facing deployed parents, PCS moves, and varying curriculum requirements. The agreement is particularly timely, since upcoming base closures and unit realignments soon will cause thousands of military kids to change schools.

Meanwhile, we're making significant progress on the Interstate Compact for Educational Opportunity for Military Children, which represents an agreement among states to provide reciprocal curriculum and administrative credit to ensure transferring military students aren't disadvantaged for graduation and other purposes.

Ten states must sign the compact before it becomes operational for the signing states. We're on the verge of achieving that, with nine states signed up so far (AZ, CO, CT, FL, KS, KY, MI, MO, OK). Delaware and North Carolina still

have active legislation under consideration this summer, but must act quickly before sessions close.

### **Muppets Go TDY to Military Bases**

Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit organization of Sesame Street, and the USO are uniting to send the beloved characters on tour to 43 military installations around the country to entertain military children, many of whom have one or both parents deployed.

Leslye Arsht, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy, praised Sesame Workshop's DVDs for military children and lauded the organization's new "live, in person, and close to home" road show. "It's the first ever live outreach program in the nearly 40-year history of Sesame Street," said Gary Knell, Sesame Workshop President and CEO.

Children from three military childcare facilities attended the preview in the greater DC area on June 26, at which shaggy-haired Elmo, Rosita and Grover sang and danced about what to do when your parent is away. "I miss my daddy," called out one child in the group.

### **MOAA Advocates for Women Veterans**

Three MOAA deputy directors, Captain Linda Speed (USN-Ret), CDR Kati Tracy, USNR, and CDR Rene Campos (USN-Ret), attended the VA's June 20-22 National Summit on Women Veterans' Issues in Washington, DC. Campos is a member of VA Secretary James Peake's Advisory Committee on Women Veterans.

Today, over 200,000 women are serving in the armed forces, with 11 percent of them deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq. Fourteen percent of women veterans are expected to use VA facilities in the next two years, requiring additional resources to focus on their unique needs.

VA officials acknowledged they must earn the trust and confidence of women vets in the areas of access and quality of health care. VA has expanded the number of women's clinics and women veteran coordinators in the field as ways to address these and other key concerns. Employee training and outreach efforts are underway to improve customer service, information, and access.

Discussion topics included:

- rising homelessness rates among women veterans
- lack of access, privacy and safety for military sexual trauma victims at VA facilities
- statutory limits on family members' access to VA support services, counseling, and health care
- the changing role of women in combat and the need for updated policies to reflect the reality that combat risk is no longer a "front line vs. rear echelon" issue
- differences in communication, language, and culture within and between the Active and Reserve Components
- gender-unique issues on PTSD and risk of mental health problems.

MOAA, VA and other groups supporting the Summit encouraged women veterans to seek membership in advocacy organizations to strengthen their voice in Congress and show their support for issues of concern to them and their families.





# JAYHAWK CHAPTER MOAA



A membership meeting will be held **Tuesday, 15 July 2008**, at the Lawrence Country Club. Dinner cost is **\$20.00/meal**.

**The Program:** Our guest speaker will be Major Daniel Setz of the Armed Forces of Switzerland. Major Setz is attending the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth. His topic will be *Switzerland Today and Its Role in European and World Affairs* and  
Our own COL John W. Halladay will give us an update on the Survivor Benefit Plan

**Social Hour:** 1800 hours                      **Dinner:** 1900 hours

**The Menu:** *Filet Mignon, 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 **8 July 2008**, to:  
CAPT (Ret) Jim Cooper - 1115 Stone Meadows Drive, Lawrence, KS 66049-3961

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

If you have any questions, you may contact Jim at 842-7037 or John Halladay at 843-6184.

*cut here*

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

The cost is \$20.00 per meal. I am enclosing a check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ for meal(s).

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)

*We are still looking for members who can/will receive the Newsletter via e-mail.*

*Some of you may have changed carriers and are now able where you were not before.*

*If you can handle it via e-mail, please let us know at*

[jwhalladay@sunflower.com](mailto:jwhalladay@sunflower.com)

## 2008 - 09 Jayhawk MOAA Calendar:

<u>2008</u>			<u>2009</u>		
Tuesday	15 July	MOAA meeting	Tuesday	20 January	MOAA meeting
Tuesday	16 September	MOAA meeting	Tuesday	17 March	MOAA meeting
Tuesday	18 November	MOAA meeting	Tuesday	19 May	MOAA meeting

## Guest Speaker for July

### Swiss Officer to Highlight July Program

Major Daniel Setz of the Armed Forces of Switzerland will be the guest speaker for our July 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting and Dinner at the Lawrence Country Club. Major Setz is attending the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth.

An Armored Officer with a diverse military and civilian background that includes several years of teaching in Swiss public schools, he will discuss the following topic: *Switzerland Today and Its Role in European and World Affairs.*

Major Setz will be joined by his wife Silvia. Also attending will be another International Officer—Major Martin Rickman of Jamaica and his wife Suzette. Both officers and their wives will be at our Cocktail Hour before dinner. Please say Hello and make them feel welcome.



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***One Powerful Voice.®***

*For every officer at every stage of life and career.*

***Have a safe summer  
and  
an especially safe  
Independence Day***