



Jayhawk Chapter MOAA Newsletter



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September Program:

Our guest speaker will be our own COL Victor Braden, who will give us an overview of his activities in Afghanistan.

★★★★★ CHAPTER
awarded for
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2008 / 2009

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

Greetings from the President . . .

I hope the summer heat has not gotten you down or you have been lucky enough to visit a colder region. In any event we are approaching our next meeting.



Our speaker in July was Ms. Jane Blocker, Executive Director of the American Red Cross Chapter of Douglas County. She gave an extremely informative overview of the Chapter's role in the community and also covered the role of the Red Cross in disaster relief in Haiti. Thank you, Jane!

I recently received some good news. The Jayhawk Chapter has been selected for the MOAA "Five Star Level of Excellence." For exceptional performance in 2009 and will receive its banner this November at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. I want to thank our Past President and last year's Board Members, especially John and Shirley Halladay, for their efforts in making this happen.

Our scheduled guest speaker in September is Colonel Vic Braden, Kansas National Guard. He has recently returned from a tour of duty in Afghanistan and will give our membership his impression of the ongoing conflict. We hope that you will join us for this timely presentation.

Charles

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*** Reservations should be sent to Jim Cooper by 16 September**



JAYHAWK CHAPTER NEWS

V. A. Clinic in Lawrence:

Location: 2200 Harvard Road

For Appointments: Call 1-800-574-8387, ext. 54453

Phone: Within Lawrence: 841-2957; Outside Lawrence: 1-800-574-8387, ext. 54650

Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.;

Clinic Closed: First Friday and Third Monday & Tuesday of each month

From George Schaeffer:

Deb and I will attend the decommissioning of the USS McINERNEY (FFG-08) in Mayport, FL.

I was the commissioning Chief Engineer and served on her from 1979 until 1983. She was the first production model of the class and is now the oldest serving gas turbine propelled ship that the US Navy has ever had.

Following 1980 shakedown training and structural changes in the shipyard in Bath, ME., McINERNEY became the test platform for the Lamps Mk III (Seahawk) helicopter for much of 1981.

From Darlene Sheriff:

The Kansas District, Optimist International, proposed that a Past Governor be recognized with the Optimist International Foundation Christian Larson Award at the Fiftieth Anniversary Convention. To be eligible, the Past Governor must have served at least twenty years ago and continue to be involved in Club, District, and Optimist International activities. Past Governor **Don Sheriff**, 1974-75, was presented the first award at the banquet held in Topeka, August 15. The award will be presented to a Past Governor annually. Don is a 32 year member of the Lawrence Breakfast Optimists.

New Member:

Brooks, Mark A., MAJ USA FMR
10973 South Woodring, Overbrook, KS 66524
785-836-3148 mbrksks@aol.com
Spouse: Susan



Army News CPT Aaron Cornett

Greetings Jayhawk Chapter!

The University of Kansas Army ROTC is poised to start another great school year. LTC John Basso retired this summer, but has left a legacy of excellence for the remaining Cadre to carry on. LTC Victor Hamilton will take over the reins in mid-September. He comes to the Jayhawk Battalion with a wealth of knowledge from more than 20 years of military experience.

The Jayhawk Battalion sent 18 Cadets to the Leadership Development and Assessment Course at Fort Lewis, Washington, this summer. The capstone training event for ROTC tested their physical fitness, mental agility, and leadership potential. Each KU Cadet performed well and returned safely after successfully completing the course.

The Battalion also sent three Cadets to Airborne School at Fort Benning, Georgia; one to Air Assault School at Fort Campbell, Kentucky; one to Mountain Warfare School in Vermont; and several others to Cadet Professional Development Training across the country. Each KU Cadet made the program and the University proud with their hard work and professionalism.

This year the Battalion welcomed over 50 new Cadets to the program. The large number of new Cadets shows us that young Americans still desire to give back to the country that has provided so much to them. The large number of new Cadets is due in large part to the Battalion's new Recruiting & Admissions Officer, MAJ John Clark. MAJ Clark worked

tirelessly this summer to recruit solid scholars, athletes and leaders.

In addition to MAJ Clark, the Battalion welcomes two additional new Cadre members. CPT Eric Young is an active duty officer serving as an Assistant Professor of Military Science. CPT Trent Miller is an active guard/reserve officer serving as the Cadre In-Charge of Mid-America Nazarene University. Both young men bring a great deal to the program and will help solidify the already seasoned Cadre staff.

The Battalion is well on its way to another successful school year full of great training and accomplishment. We look forward to our continued partnership with the Jayhawk Chapter of MOAA.

ROCK CHALK!

CPT Aaron M. Cornett

Army ROTC Executive Officer



Navy News

CAPT Carl Carpenter, USN



Greetings from the Jayhawk Navy!

The new academic year has gotten off to a busy start for the KU Naval ROTC Unit. We have added 27 new students to the battalion – 21 freshmen midshipmen (8 Navy option and 13 Marine option), five (5) new Navy Seaman-to-Admiral program Officer Candidates and one (1) new Marine Corps Enlisted Commissioning Program student. That brings the battalion enrollment up to 80, a slight increase in the size of the KU NROTC unit over the 78 students who began the academic year last August. We are very impressed with the quality and enthusiasm of our new students and look forward to the contributions they will make to the unit over the next four years. Please join us in welcoming them to the Jayhawk Battalion!

It was a busy summer for the students. Thirty-three of them attended summer training: 25 went on Navy summer cruises, three (3) attended USMC Mountain Warfare training in California, and five (5) successfully completed the very demanding USMC Officer Candidate School in Quantico, VA. Many other students took summer courses here at KU. Our new freshmen went through a physically and mentally challenging five day Orientation and Indoctrination (O&I) course at Camp Clark, Missouri, in early August and performed superbly under the instruction of a capable group of upper classmen instructors. The active duty staff Marine Officer Instructor billet has had a change over the summer. Capt Jose Nicholas was

replaced by Maj William “Billy Bob” Seelmann, Jr. Capt Jose Nicholas and his family departed and reported to Marine Corps Special Operations Command in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Maj Seelmann and his family reported from NAS Pensacola, Florida, where he was a flight instructor at the advanced Naval Flight Officer training squadron.

We are looking forward to a great Fall semester, with the Battalion under the capable leadership of Midshipman 1/c C. Jensen, the Battalion Commanding Officer, and Midshipman 1/c C. Smith, the Battalion Executive Officer. It promises to be a busy year, but we are all eager to tackle the challenges and opportunities that lay ahead.

On a final note, MOAA’s continued support of the KU NROTC program is even more important and vital to the new freshman students. The KU NROTC program experienced almost a 50% reduction in the number of Navy scholarships offered to freshman class this year, but that did not stop the young men and women from joining the KU NROTC program without the benefit of a scholarship. We fully expect those dedicated students that joined the KU NROTC battalion without a Navy scholarship will be competitive for a scholarship in the future.

CAPT Carl Carpenter



Air Force News

LtCol Gena Stuchbery, USAF

Aloha MOAA Colleagues!

It was another busy summer for Det 280. Where to begin?

Let’s talk about AFROTC Field Training! We sent 10 cadets to Field Training in Alabama/Mississippi and took home some “hardware”: one (1) Top Gun and Physical Fitness winner, one (1) DG, one (1) Warrior Spirit cadet, tw (2) Honor Flight cadets. Our Jayhawks worked hard and their preparation definitely paid off. They’ve returned to us highly motivated and super-charged to enter the Professional Officer Course as upper class. We also sent one of our veterans, Cadet Barnes, back to serve as a Cadet Training Assistant for one of our AEF encampments, and he was ranked #2 of all the CTAs there—great job!

Det 280 also sent a group of cadets to various PDT—Professional Development Training—opportunities, both home and abroad. Seven freshmen cadets attended Ops Air Force at different locations: Offutt AFB, Kirtland AFB, RAF Lakenheath, Scott AFB, Andrews AFB. All learned a lot as they shadowed NCOs and Lts; many set foot on an AF base for the very first time.

Several cadets were selected for highly coveted slots at special PDTs: Freshman Cadet Wilson was among 40 elite cadets sent to the first ever CRO/STO Orientation (Combat Rescue Officer/Special Tactics Officer). He had to pass a rigorous physical fitness test that included swimming just to apply. Freshman Cadet McCafferty spent two weeks at Vandenberg AFB for Space Operations Orientation. From our upper class, Cadet Sadowski attended a PDT hosted by the NRO. He had to get a Top Secret clearance to work on research there and was grateful for the experience—it was right up his alley! Finally, Cadet Krogmann spent his summer abroad, living with a Russian family for six (6) weeks. As a Russian major, this was a fantastic way to hone his language skills and experience the culture first hand. He was a great ambassador for the USAF as well.

Turning to the cadre, in May we lost Maj-Sel Edmonds to Al Dhafra, UAE for a one-year tour back in his comm

career field. Based on some emails, he’s doing just fine over there. But I’m pleased to announce the arrival of his replacement on 1 August, Major Brian Schroeder, a Reserve IMA that AFROTC was able to pull onto active duty for a 3-year tour. He has plenty of active duty time as a meteorologist who separated from the AF during the 2007 draw-down. He’s done a tour with the Hurricane Hunters and has lots of instructor experience, so we’re glad he’s on board.

We also welcomed SSgt George White, a comm NCO from Nellis AFB, in June. He has a lovely wife and infant son and is now taking a crash course on AFROTC! TSgt Gomez is very happy he’s here, as Sgt Gomez has been by himself since January. So, now we’re back to full strength and ready to go!

As for the rest of us, myself, Maj Marsteller and TSgt Gomez all attended different Field Training encampments as cadre (camps 3-5). It was a hectic 5 weeks, with 0345 wake-ups to be ready to start the cadets’ days at 0430. We put them in bed at 2100 and did it all again the next day! But we are unanimous in our opinion that it was an awesome experience for us and brings new focus to our job here at KU prepping the next group to attend FT, and pulling more out of the FT graduates this fall. We have an effective training model and it was good to experience firsthand.

Finally, I’m pleased to pass along that we had another fruitful New Student Orientation last week, with over 35 attendees. Thanks for your help in spreading the word about our program and encouraging the next generation to step up to military service. With about 77 cadets in our program, we’re excited about the 2010-2011 academic year! See you soon!

Regards,

Lt Col Gena Stuchbery

* * * * *

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

“My doctor tells me I can’t play golf.”

“Aha! So he’s played with you, too.”

MOAA LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

This is a summary of the many items MOAA produces each week on legislative activities. Those who have e-mail receive the full Legislative Updates each week.

MOAA's LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for July 1, 2010:

Concurrent Receipt on Hold, Home Tax Credit Extended

This week, the House and Senate both agreed to quickly pass legislation to extend the deadline for the first time homebuyer's tax credit. The bill, to be signed by the president shortly, extends until Oct. 30 the deadline for final closing on eligible homes purchased before May 1.

This is one of three key MOAA-supported provisions originally included in H.R. 4213, the American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act of 2010. Because Senators haven't been able to agree on that broader legislation, Hill leaders have begun stripping out less-controversial provisions (including the doctor payment fix and now the homeowner tax credit fix) and passing them as stand-alone bills.

Please use MOAA's suggested message to urge your senators to strip out and pass the concurrent receipt provision as a stand-alone bill.

<http://echo4.bluehornet.com/ct/8113056:9852722822:m:3:230981068:70CE1AC23D3193BBB1F9C658BF01012C>

MOAA's LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for July 9, 2010:

Veteran Status for Career Reservists

At a July 1 House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee hearing, Chairman John Hall (D-NY) and Ranking Member Doug Lamborn (R-CO) endorsed Rep. Tim Walz' bill (H.R. 3787) to accord veteran status to Guard and Reserve retirees who were never called to active federal service during their military careers.

As more and more members of the Guard and Reserve prepare for call-ups and continue to perform homeland defense missions in non-federal status - securing ground zero in Manhattan and at the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001, conducting counter-drug and border security missions, responding to Katrina and the BP oil spill, and preparing forces for deployment - MOAA maintains that all who served a full Guard or Reserve career should be declared veterans of our nation's Armed Forces.

The Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs panel also took testimony on other legislation that would: Protect veteran pension payments from being offset by private insurance settlements related to accidents, theft, other losses and medical expenses from such causes (HR 4541)

Increase aid and attendance rates for severely injured veterans, qualify severely burned veterans for adaptive housing and auto grants, expand aid and attendance for veterans with traumatic brain injury, and increase the Medal of Honor service pension (H.R. 3407)

Permit a waiver of the 120-day timeline to file with the Board of Veterans' Appeals in exceptional circumstances (H.R. 5064)

Allow veterans with fully developed claims to waive the lengthy VA "development period" and receive an earlier decision (H.R. 5549)

Do You Have a Combat-Related Disability?

Over the past seven years, Congress has expanded concurrent receipt eligibility criteria for disabled military retirees so that a greater population can receive both earned retired pay and disability compensation from the VA.

Probably the most significant expansion happened just over two years ago when Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) eligibility was extended to all combat/combat-related disabled retirees, regardless of their years of service or VA disability rating percentage. **But** many eligible retirees still need to get the word about this program, which can provide hundreds or thousands a month, depending on the disability.

Just last month, during a member's call to MOAA, a member's off-hand remark prompted the MOAA staff to ask if he was receiving CRSC. "What's that?" he asked.

MOAA assisted this 17-year Army lieutenant colonel, combat-wounded in Vietnam and awarded a 100% disability rating by both the Army and the VA in filing his claim. This week, he called to say he received a retroactive award of nearly \$60,000.

CRSC is an extremely valuable benefit, but it's not an automatic one. Qualifying retirees must apply to their parent service.

Click here to learn more about eligibility, the application process, and links to service CRSC websites. And please help make sure any combat-disabled retiree friends know about it.

MOAA's LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for July 16, 2010:

Concurrent Receipt, War Spending On Table

Congress returned this week from Independence Day recess to face a daunting stack of unfinished legislation - including several bills of major importance to the military community.

<http://echo4.bluehornet.com/ct/8253913:10054784032:m:3:230981068:E19308BF278CAE7A982BA17804C01484>

<http://echo4.bluehornet.com/ct/8253914:10054784032:m:3:230981068:E19308BF278CAE7A982BA17804C01484>

PTSD Rating Rules Eased

Until now, service members seeking a disability rating for PTSD had to prove it resulted from a documented "stressor" such as witnessing an IED attack, coming under enemy fire, or a mortar attack that killed fellow troops or wounded the individual.

<http://echo4.bluehornet.com/ct/8253914:10054784032:m:3:230981068:E19308BF278CAE7A982BA17804C01484>

MOAA's LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for July 23, 2010:

Concurrent Receipt Stripped

MOAA was encouraged about prospects for near-term concurrent receipt progress when this week's arrival of newly-appointed Sen. Carte Goodwin (D-WV) provided the 60 votes needed for Senate passage of H.R. 4213, the American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act of 2010.

H.R. 4213 provided a golden opportunity for further concurrent receipt progress, and its removal on the eve of passage is yet another bitter disappointment on the road to winning fair treatment for all disabled retirees. But it still doesn't rule out progress this year.

MOAA is working with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), the long-standing concurrent receipt champion, to introduce the same provision as an amendment to the 2011 defense authorization bill, which the Senate is expected to take up in September.

New Tack on TRICARE 26

National health care reform legislation authorized children to be covered under their parent's healthcare plan up until age 26.

In order to bring TRICARE into compliance with this new policy both the House and Senate included provisions in their versions of the FY2011 National Defense Authorization Act to allow dependent children to remain in TRICARE until age 26 (nicknamed "TRICARE 26"). These provisions would require parents to pay additional premiums for their children's coverage to be set by the Pentagon.

At the time the logic was, "if gray area reserve retirees will need to pay a full premium, aged-out dependents probably should too. Why give a small group of dependents who happen to be aging out this particular year a special premium break that won't be allowed for them next year or for other similar dependents aging out in future years?"

For this reason we're working closely with legislators on an amendment to the defense authorization act for a permanent law change to allow the dependent children of currently serving and retired servicemembers to continue on TRICARE coverage until age 26 without an additional premium.

MOAA Voices Concerns to Senate Leaders

On July 21, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) and 21 other Democratic senators, including the Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee Chairmen, invited MOAA President VADM Norb Ryan and other association leaders to discuss military and veterans' legislative issues.

Key topics of discussion were the need for aggressive measures to help wounded warriors get disability claims resolved promptly and fairly and help returning vets find employment.

Noting that the unemployment rate for new veterans is over 12%, Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) asserted, "Our vets were first in line to sign up when we needed them in wartime,

and they shouldn't be waiting in line when they return and are looking for a job."

Attendees expressed support for Sen. Max Baucus's (D-MT) and Sen. Patty Murray's (D-WA) veterans jobs bill and Sen. Daniel Akaka's (D-HI) initiatives to improve Post-9/11 GI Bill coverage, caregiver protections, and claims improvements.

There was a consensus that the disability claims system needs a fundamental overhaul, in close consultation with stakeholder veterans' associations.

Admiral Ryan expressed MOAA's disappointment that President Obama's concurrent receipt proposal was removed from the unemployment compensation extender bill at the last moment before Senate passage.

MOAA's LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for July 30, 2010:

Board Says Military Retirement "Unaffordable"

On July 22, the Defense Business Board task force recommended that the Secretary of Defense reduce the DoD civilian workforce by more than 111,000, and laid the groundwork for potential future recommendations to cut spending on military retirement, health care, family support, and other programs.

Additionally, the task force recommended drastic reductions in combatant command staffing, hiring freezes, and elimination of organizational duplication. These preliminary recommendations will be followed in October by additional cost-cutting proposals.

For the last year, the Defense Business Board has predicted major problems for the Defense budget as the nation deals with deficit reduction efforts, the economic slowdown, escalating health care and personnel costs, and the potential exit from two wars.

Board members believe that avoiding a looming fiscal crisis will require cutting the Defense budget beyond Secretary Gates' recently announced target of a \$100-billion reduction in "overhead" spending.

The Board's "Initial Observations" briefing devoted an entire section to costs for military compensation, retirement, health care, veterans affairs, concurrent receipt, commissaries, dependent education, and military family housing. It particularly highlighted costs associated with TRICARE For Life.

A page titled "The 'Military Retirement' sacred cow is increasingly unaffordable" cites increases in the number of military retirees since 1980 (as if this weren't the direct result of decisions by every administration and Congress since the 1950s to induce a large standing career force to protect America and the world) and criticizes the 20-year retirement system (as if the military could have sustained the force over the last 10 years of repeated wartime deployments without it).

Another cites personnel cost growth since 1998 - conveniently overlooking that 1998 was the nadir of two decades of erosion of military pay, retirement, health care, and other benefits and that the resulting retention problems of that era were what sparked Congress to embark on an extended program to fix them.

Unfortunately, the Defense Business Board report is only one of the early shots in what likely will be years of budget battles to reconcile military and other needs with truly daunting deficit projections.

MOAA Addresses VA Issues at White House

On July 29, MOAA President VADM Norb Ryan, Jr. (USN-Ret) was invited to the White House, along with a small group of military and veterans association leaders, for a discussion with President Obama, National Security Advisor Gen James Jones (USMC-Ret) and VA Secretary Eric Shinseki.

VADM Ryan related his recent discussions with VA officials in Gainesville, FL, where the VA has had significant success in reducing homelessness, but said the key is jobs - ensuring vets are meaningfully employed.

Ryan also urged the Administration's support for Sen. Akaka's bill to correct several important oversights on the Post-9/11 GI Bill law - most particularly the importance of authorizing payments for non-degree granting vocational and job training programs. Many returning veterans are shocked to learn that - unlike all previous GI Bill legislation - the Post-9/11 law only covers college courses, and not the vocational training programs that are essential to help vets find meaningful employment in the short term.

War Funding Clears Hill

The House approved the Senate's \$58.8 billion version of the FY2010 war supplemental (H.R. 4899) on Tuesday. The bill now heads to the White House for the president's signature.

The vote marked the end of a five month dispute amongst members of both parties concerning inclusion of additional economic stimulus money and disaster aid. The Senate pared down a previous House version of the bill which included funding for teachers and other domestic programs.

Key Panel Approves VA Funding

The House Appropriations Committee has approved \$77.3 billion for FY2011 VA programs as well as \$50.6 billion in advance funding for veterans' medical care for the succeeding fiscal year, 2012. Advance funding is needed to sustain health care activities seamlessly from one fiscal year to the next, because Congress rarely finishes VA appropriations legislation by the first of the fiscal year.

The funding measure provides \$48.8 billion for veterans' medical care, an increase of \$3.7 billion above 2010. \$5.2 billion of the total is to be used for mental health services.

Other elements of the package provide:

- * \$4.2 billion in assistance for homeless veterans.
- * \$250 million to improve access to care for veterans in rural areas.
- * \$5.7 billion to maintain and upgrade VA medical facilities.
- * \$590 million for medical and prosthetic research.
- * \$2.6 billion to hire and train more than 4000 additional claims processors to reduce the rising claims backlog and process projected new claims

- * \$1.5 million for Arlington National Cemetery to hire additional personnel and address deficiencies identified by the Army Inspector General.

MOAA is grateful to the Appropriations Committee and Milcon/VA Subcommittee leaders of both parties for their bipartisan support in ensuring needed funding for the needs of America's veterans.

MOAA's LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for August 6, 2010:

Panel Calls for Personnel Commission

On Tuesday the Senate Armed Services Committee heard testimony from former Secretary of Defense William Perry and former National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley, chairmen of the Quadrennial Defense Review Independent Panel.

Congress created the panel last year to provide a bipartisan assessment of the Pentagon's 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR).

Overall, the panel's findings call for an increase in defense spending. It concludes that the military currently does not possess enough capabilities to meet national strategic goals.

Congress must remain prudent when considering compensation and benefit reform. The all-volunteer force has remained resilient in the midst of almost 10 years of war, and defense reforms must preserve the most precious resource in our nation's arsenal, its people in uniform.

Conference Recognizes Women's Service

Over 200 women veteran advocates, currently serving servicewomen, and veterans attended the Women Veterans Forum on July 28, hosted by the VA to learn more about issues confronting women and what the VA is doing to meet the needs of this rapidly growing population.

Secretary Eric Shinseki spoke of the importance of having a national dialog on women and their war-fighting roles alongside the current discussions as to how we will care and support them when they return from battle.

"That means our doctrine will have to change-we must anticipate these changes and prepare our systems for change," said Shinseki.

Because of the significant interest in these issues and the Secretary's intent to make the agency more veteran-centric, the VA announced it would hold its Women Veterans Summit next summer in 2011, a year earlier than scheduled.

MOAA is pleased to see the VA actively address the growing needs of women veterans.

MOAA's LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for August 13, 2010:

Progress on TRICARE for Gray Area Retirees

On August 6 the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released an interim final rule for the new TRICARE Retired Reserve (TRR) program. The new program permits "gray area" National Guard and Reserve retirees - those eligible for a retirement check and TRICARE when they reach age 60 - to purchase TRICARE health insurance. Gray area

members who are enrolled in or eligible for the Federal Employee Health Benefit Program are not eligible for TRR.

TRR enrollment is expected to commence this fall.

TRR coverage will be exactly the same as TRICARE Standard (which covers 75% of allowable charges after a deductible of \$150 single/\$300 family).

Unlike the current TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) program - in which premiums are 72% subsidized by the government - gray area retirees will be responsible for paying premiums equal to the full cost of coverage.

For 2010 the monthly TRR rates will be \$388 for member-only coverage, and \$976 for family coverage. In January 2011 the rates will rise 2% to \$408 a month for member only, and \$1,020 for family coverage.

Although comparable to Blue Cross Blue Shield rates under the FEHB program and military COBRA rates, the new TRR rates are substantially higher than TRS. Unsubsidized TRS premiums would be about \$177 monthly for a single servicemember and \$705 for family coverage.

Reservists enrolled in TRS likely will experience "sticker shock" when their TRICARE rates more than double - from \$177 for unsubsidized TRS coverage to \$388 under TRR - the day they take off the uniform.

Full-cost TRR premiums certainly will be substantially higher than TRS rates due to demographic differences and comparable claims experience. We have asked DoD to provide the analysis that led to the rate-setting for TRR so Guard and Reserve families will have a complete understanding of the basis for the new rates.

With enactment of TRR, Congress has provided a long-sought MOAA and Military Coalition strategic objective: the opportunity for lifetime TRICARE coverage options for actively serving and retired members of the National Guard and Reserve.

We look forward to working with government officials and Congress to ensure that the TRR program rates are fairly set and implemented in a timely fashion.

MOAA Continues to Push MyCAA Fix

As we previously reported DoD's July 20 decision to severely limit military spouses eligibility for the popular My Career Advancement Account (MyCAA) program has left thousands of military spouses out in the cold.

<http://echo4.bluehornet.com/ct/8517827:10441049772:m:3:230981068:41AFADF980BA9A6BA32CDBC6A47C3FC2>
<http://echo4.bluehornet.com/ct/8517828:10441049772:m:3:230981068:41AFADF980BA9A6BA32CDBC6A47C3FC2>

MOAA's LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for August 20, 2010:

Gates Announces Budget Initiative, Intent to Retire.

Secretary Gates announced his intent to retire sometime in 2011 shortly after revealing plans to trim the defense budget by \$100 billion over the next five years.

In an interview this week Secretary of Defense Robert Gates announced his plans to retire sometime next year - he has been in charge of the Pentagon since late 2006, serving under both President Bush and President Obama.

The announcement comes on the heels of his plan to reallocate \$100 billion of the Defense budget over the next five years by streamlining the Pentagon's massive bureaucracy and tightening efficiencies.

Gates intends to implement this plan well before his departure. In a recent memo to military department secretaries, Gates directed "a series of initiatives designed to reduce duplication, overhead, and excess, and instill a culture of savings and restraint across the DoD."

Some of the key initiatives are:

- * Reducing funding by 10 percent for service support contractors
- * Freezing the number of defense agency, Joint Staff, and combatant command billets over the next three years
- * Reducing at least 50 general and flag positions and 150 senior civilian executive positions over the next two years
- * Recommending closure of Joint Forces Command in Hampton Roads, VA.

During last week's news conference, Gates described his initiative as just the beginning, insisting every aspect of the defense budget will be reviewed -- to include increases in retiree health fees -- stating, "There are no sacred cows."

It's too soon to be sure what the Secretary may propose for health fees in the FY2011 budget, but the 10th Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation may offer one possible scenario.

We will follow any new initiatives closely to ensure they continue our strong support for our already overburdened military people and their families and don't negatively impact our nation's military readiness.

MOAA's LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for August 27, 2010:

Military Consumer Protection Office Takes Shape

MOAA was invited by the Treasury Department this week to join a small group of military service organizations, service legal and relief societies' representatives, Pentagon officials, and consumer advocate groups to discuss the creation of the new Office of Service Member Affairs within the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB).

Meet MOAA's Newest Lobbyist

We'd like to introduce you to Kelly Cotton, MOAA's new Deputy Director of Government Relations (spouse and family issues).

Kelly is the spouse of an active duty Marine captain and a mother of two. Before joining our team she served as the Family Readiness Officer for the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit at Camp Lejeune, NC. She recently moved to the area when her husband was assigned to Quantico.

We're really excited to gain Kelly's installation-level experience in supporting families who are bearing the brunt of national wartime sacrifice, and she fully shares MOAA's passion for making sure our country does the right thing by them. Her experiences will prove invaluable in pushing our spouse and family initiatives on the Hill.

We're thrilled to welcome Kelly to MOAA's lobbying team.



JAYHAWK CHAPTER MOAA



A membership meeting will be held **Tuesday, 21 September 2010**, at the Lawrence Country Club.
Dinner cost is \$20.00/meal.

The Program: Our guest speaker will be our own COL Victor Braden,
who will give us an overview of his activities in Afghanistan.

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

The Menu: *Filet mignon, potato, vegetable, rolls, salad, tea or coffee and ice cream*

Send your reservation and check payable to Jayhawk Chapter MOAA
to arrive no later than **Thursday, 16 September 2010**, 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

KANSAS COUNCIL WEBSITE: www.kansasmoa.org

JAYHAWK CHAPTER WEBSITE: www.jayhawkmoaa.org

*We are making progress,
but we are still asking for members
who can/will receive the Newsletter via e-mail.*

*Please let us know at
jwhalladay@sunflower.com*

2010 Jayhawk MOAA Calendar:

Tuesday	21 September	MOAA meeting
Tuesday	16 November	MOAA meeting

2011 Jayhawk MOAA Calendar:

Tuesday	18 January	MOAA meeting
Tuesday	15 March	MOAA meeting
Tuesday	17 May	MOAA meeting
Tuesday	19 July	MOAA meeting



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

IN GOD WE TRUST