



Jayhawk Chapter MOAA Newsletter



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July Program:

Our guest speaker will be Mr. Kerry Altenbernd, the Director of the Douglas County Law Library and Tour Coordinator for the Black Jack Battlefield Trust in Baldwin City. He is a nationally known re-enactor and his presentation will focus on the role John Brown played in Kansas during the prelude to the Civil War.

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Greetings from the President . . .

Dear Jayhawk Chapter Members and Friends,

I hope you enjoyed our May Dinner Program and the informative presentation on the Kansas court system by Chief Justice Lawton Nuss of the Kansas Supreme Court. It was great to have the opportunity to hear from such a distinguished speaker about a topic of great importance at a time when our state faces fiscal challenges that will impact our court system. The court reform initiatives Chief Justice Nuss described in his remarks will benefit all of us by implementing new processes and efficiencies while maintaining undiminished levels of high quality legal services to the citizens of Kansas.



I hope you will be able to join us for our upcoming dinner program on Tuesday night July 19th. As I noted in the previous newsletter, the survey we distributed at the March dinner showed that there was a significant amount of interest among the membership in topics related to Kansas history. As we mark the 150th anniversary of the start of the American Civil War this year, it seems appropriate to present a program focused on the key role that "bloody Kansas" played in the genesis of that pivotal conflict. Our July speaker will be Mr. Kerry Altenbernd, the Director of the Douglas County Law Library and the Volunteer and Tour Coordinator for the Black Jack Battlefield Trust in Baldwin City. Mr. Altenbernd is a nationally known re-enactor who portrays John Brown. His presentation will focus on the role Brown played in Kansas during the prelude to the Civil War. Mr. Altenbernd has spoken widely on this topic and his portrayals of Brown have been highly praised for their historical accuracy and engaging character.

I hope you will be able to join us on July 19th for what I am sure will be a fascinating program!

Tom

Volume XVI, Issue 4

1 July 2011

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Inside this issue:

July Program	1
President's Message	1
Jayhawk Chapter News	2
Army News	3
Navy News	4
Air Force News	5
Council of Chapters	6
MOAA Legislative Updates	6
Dinner Reservation Form	11
MOAA calendar & websites	12

* Reservations should be sent
to Jim Cooper by
14 July



JAYHAWK CHAPTER NEWS

CONDOLENCES

We were not aware until we were preparing the Chapter Directory that **CDR Don R. Miller** passed away last July 15th. Don was born in Highland, KS and grew up in Kansas City, KS. As a pre-med student in the V12 program, he graduated from Westminster College, Fulton, MO, and received his medical degree from the University of Kansas School of Medicine. He began general practice in Kansas City, KS, and served in the U. S. Navy as a surgeon with a Marine MASH Unit during the Korean War. After the war he returned to the University of Kansas Medical Center where he began a lifelong academic career. Don is survived by his wife of 63 years, Geraldine; six children and eleven grandchildren.

Elizabeth 'Betty' Marzluff wife of **CAPT Joseph O. Marzluff**, a charter member of the Jayhawk Chapter, passed away on 4 June 2011 at Brandon Woods at Alvarado. She was born in Cleveland and graduated from Ohio State University. Early in her career, she taught home economics and retired as the coordinator of special education for Charleston County schools in Charleston, S.C. She and Joe moved to Lawrence from Charleston in 1969. Beside her husband, Betty is survived by three sons, eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. She will be buried in the U. S. Naval Academy cemetery in Annapolis, MD.

NEW PERMANENT ID CARDS

From Don Sheriff: Effective June 1st 2011, military members and spouses with an indefinite permanent ID card must obtain a new card. The DOD is doing away with Social Security numbers on cards and assigning a DOD number. Those people an expiration date card will receive the new card upon the renewal date.

To obtain the new card, call the DEERS/ID Section, Adjutant General, Fort Leavenworth for an appointment. Walk-ins will not be served. Telephone Number is: 913-684-2175.

All you need is your current ID Card and a drivers license/ other ID card.

It only took us about 10 minutes to be processed.

NEWLY COMMISSIONED OFFICERS



ARMY



NAVY/MARINE CORPS

**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.**

From Dean Bevan:

Judy and I enjoyed a three-week tour of central Europe with two friends in April and May. We flew commercial to Philadelphia, then took a shuttle to McGuire AFB, where we caught a C-5 to Ramstein AFB, a good flight although Judy didn't like climbing the 2-story ladder to the passenger seats. On arrival, spent a night in good quarters at Ramstein, then a shuttle to Frankfurt next day to meet our friends' commercial flight.

We rented a VW Touran, a 1200-cc minivan not sold in the US but getting up to 54 MPG, a good thing with European gas at \$8.50 per gallon. Travels took us on a counterclockwise circle, Germany-Austria-Czech Republic-Germany, about 2,000 miles with side trips. Printed out point-to-point Google Map directions for each trip segment before leaving home, and they never let us down, taking us down the highways and through a maze of streets right to our apartment or hotel.

We began by going from Ramstein to Frankfurt to Würzburg (overnight there), then south on the "Romantic Road" through Rothenburg, Dinkelsbühl (nice little hotel here), and other medieval walled towns, to Schwangau, staying there in a hotel 100 yards from King Ludwig's fantasy castle, Neuschwanstein. When we booked our hotels – see more below – we always made sure of two things: (1) breakfast included, and (2) parking available.

The countryside in May is unbelievably beautiful, a checkerboard of green and yellow fields (green wheat, yellow rapeseed – used for canola oil). The Germans & Austrians are so careful in the tidy appearance of their towns and fields, the Czechs a little less so, but perhaps that's because their economy isn't quite what the Germans' is.

From Schwangau, we drove east across Austria, with 3 nights in a chalet in the ski resort of Kitzbühel, 2 nights in an apartment in Salzburg, 3 nights in an apartment in Vienna. Nice to be able to stay put for a little while, & to have kitchen & washing machine, plus of course it cost much less than hotels. Many days we'd have breakfast and dinner "at home," & find a good lunch out in the city.

Our schedule was our own, so some days we'd go drive through the Alps or to one of the many beautiful lakes; other days we'd visit big local attractions – museums, cathedrals, palaces, castles. Much of the time we enjoyed just getting the feel of the place we were in – wandering through the streets,

window shopping, stopping in sidewalk cafes for coffee and strudel, taking advantage of public transportation. Buses, streetcars, subways: spend a little time studying the route maps, and getting around a city can be easy.

We booked all our accommodations online in advance – the house and the apartments through <http://www.homeaway.com/vacation-rentals/europe/> and the hotels through <http://www.hotelscombined.com/>, a comparison site that usually sent us to <http://www.booking.com/> after we'd provided our requirements. Some real bargains are available if you look.

I speak passable German, so communicating wasn't a problem. And many restaurants have English menus available, and lots of people speak English. Their English may have been better than my German, but I think they appreciate the effort, so I spoke their language as much as possible. I don't know a word of Czech, but German is generally understood (if not appreciated) there. Felt like I should put a sign on our German rental car: "WE'RE NOT REALLY GERMAN"

From Vienna, we headed north & west through the Czech Republic to Prague for two nights, then a final night in the old spa town of Marienbad (now "Marianske Lazne"). It was our first time in Prague, which we'd heard good things about, & it was all true – a beautiful and friendly city. In Marienbad we did the expected things: sampled the healthful waters, strolled through the gorgeous gardens.

Back to Frankfurt, then to Ramstein (free shuttle from USO!), where the flight back to McGuire was full, so we spent the night and flew next day to Baltimore instead, a Global Air military charter passenger plane. From Baltimore, we rented a car to get us back to Philadelphia and our return flight home. By the way, if travel on cargo planes isn't your thing, AMC flies Global Air passenger craft daily from Baltimore-Washington International to many destinations. But unlike flying from an Air Force Base, if you don't catch one the first day, you'll have to stay in a pricier airport hotel rather than inexpensive military quarters.

We did the whole trip for about what commercial airfare alone would have cost us. Thanks, Air Mobility Command! <http://www.amc.af.mil/amctravel/index.asp>



Army News

MAJ Aaron M Cornett, Acting Commander

Greetings Jayhawk Chapter!

The University of Kansas Army ROTC ended the school year on a bittersweet note. The Cadets were highly motivated and performed extremely well at their final mini-camp, a five-day preparatory camp designed to emulate the Leader

Development and Assessment Course. But at the same time, the end of the year brought about changes to the Cadre. LTC Hamilton, MAJ Cornett, CPT Osborne, MSG Woodbury, and SFC Masarik all moved on to new assignments.

This summer the program will send 16 Cadets to the Leader Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) at Fort Lewis, Washington. This is the capstone training event for them, and is responsible for almost half of their order of merit score (OMS). Once they return, they will be seniors, and will lead the battalion during the coming school year. They will be tested on their leadership abilities in garrison and in the field, as well as their physical fitness, land navigation, first aid, and various other Soldier skills.

The program is also sending three Cadets to the Leader's Training Course (LTC) at Fort Knox, Kentucky. This course is designed to "catch-up" Cadets who are entering the program right before their junior year. These Cadets will learn the basics of ROTC, so that they are prepared for the rigorous evaluation that takes place back on campus.

In addition to the Cadets going to LDAC and LTC, four Cadets will attend Airborne School at Fort Benning, Georgia,

and two Cadets will attend Air Assault School at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. These Cadets represent some of the best and brightest at KU Army ROTC, and we fully expect them to excel and represent the program well.

It may be quiet around the Military Science Building on the KU campus, but Cadets are spread throughout the country continuing their training to become Army officers. Each and every one of them has worked very hard all year for these opportunities. Their successes are due in large part to the support from their friends, family, and organizations like MOAA. Be on the lookout for updates when the summer concludes.

MAJ Aaron M Cornett

Army ROTC Executive Officer
University of Kansas



Navy News
CAPT Thomas Neal, USN



Greetings from the Jayhawk Navy & Marines!

As an introduction, I am Captain Tom Neal and I recently reported onboard and assumed command of the University of Kansas NROTC Unit from Captain Carl Carpenter. Carl retired from the Navy in late May after a long and distinguished thirty one year career of superior service to the nation. I would like to thank Carl and wish him and his wife, Maria, the best of luck in their new adventure together. As the new Commanding Officer, I am excited to lead the Jayhawk Battalion and follow in my predecessors' footsteps by transforming our young men and women into leaders of Sailors and Marines. I am honored to have the opportunity to develop future officers for the Navy and Marine Corps.

The Spring semester has come to a close and I am proud to report the Jayhawk Battalion produced ten top quality officers to the fleet Navy & Marine Corps on the 23rd of May at the Joint Commissioning Ceremony held on campus. The breakdown for our new Navy officers was: three Surface Warfare Officers, one Naval Aviator, one Nuclear Submariner, and one Nurse Corps officer. The four newly commissioned Marine officers will select their military occupational specialty (MOS) later this year at The Basic School in Quantico, VA. On 1 August, we will also commission another three officers, two for the Navy and one for the Marine Corps.

This Summer, the Jayhawk Battalion is keeping busy and learning new skills on various Navy and Marine Corp

training opportunities across the United States and abroad. We have Midshipmen conducting cruises on ships on both East and West coasts, the Middle East and in the Western Pacific, while several of our Marines are completing their challenging "Bulldog" training at the Officer Candidates School in Quantico, VA. These summer cruises provide the Battalion with invaluable fleet experience and hands-on training complementing what they have learned here at KU.

Additionally, we are preparing for the arrival of the class of 2015. This year we have seven Navy and two Marine scholarship students and we are expecting another ten students to join via the college program. Our Orientation & Indoctrination Program for our new Midshipmen will be held on campus from 17-20 August. The focus will be on introducing basic military knowledge, physical training, and swim qualifications. We are looking forward to the return of all our Midshipmen, Officer Candidates and Marines for the Fall semester and the annual events where you will have the opportunity to meet our Midshipmen and Marines. Thank you for your continued support and all that you do for the Jayhawk Battalion. Your contributions to our program have provided such a positive impact.

Thanks,

Captain Tom Neal



Air Force News

LtCol Gena Stuchbery, USAF

Aloha, MOAA!

This is a bittersweet update from me, as I'll be departing for Tampa, FL and CENTCOM/J8 next month. Let's review the spring and look forward to the fall activities for Det 280.

On 23 May, we commissioned four (4) new AF officers (did 3 in Dec for a total of seven (7) this FY):

Geoffrey Barnes (Scientist--Aerospace Engineer)

Kyle Joseph Buehler (Pilot)

Lawrence Ditton

(Combat Systems Officer/Navigator)

Nicholas W.A. Krogmann

(Office of Special Investigations/OSI)

We're very proud of these young men and wish them well as they embark on their AF careers.

While our seniors have been anxiously preparing for graduation and their transition to active duty, the rest of the Flying Jayhawk Wing has also been very busy this semester. Our Field Training prep cadets led their teams through the Adams campus Ropes Course to practice their leadership skills on 12 March. We also conducted SERE training at Clinton Lake Park and the cadets tested their tactical skills during a Field Exercise at Drop Zone in April. We'll be sending 12 cadets to Field Training this summer, and I expect all to be successful.

Meanwhile, several of our juniors have summer training. Two language majors are currently in Russia and China, furthering their fluency and cultural knowledge. And two cadets were chosen to attend Field Training 2011 as Cadet Training Assistants (CTAs). With budget cuts in play, AFROTC summer professional training programs have been eliminated, so we are grateful for these few opportunities to enrich our cadets' leadership experience. Hopefully, the summer programs will return in the future.

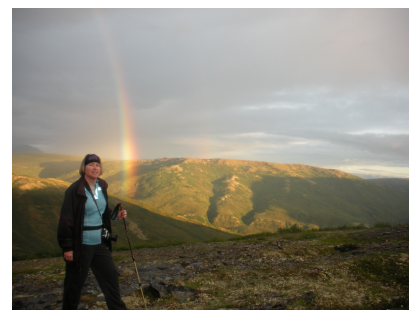
Of note, we hosted our third annual AFROTC Det 280 Alumni Weekend, 29-30 Apr. Events included a leadership panel, Combat Dining In, Cadet Wing Parade, 9 holes of golf and a BBQ/Social to close out the gathering. Brig Gen Dave Howe (class of 1981), Director of Installations and Mission Support for HQ ACC was our guest speaker for the Dining In and the presiding officer for our parade. We also enjoyed the company of several other alumni: Col (ret) Dan Patz, Lt Col (ret) Mark Coghlin, Lt Col (ret) Charles Mosley and Maj (ret) Kim Nelson. All enjoyed themselves and we hope to build on this event for next year.

Turning to cadre, on 13 May, we hosted a retirement ceremony and lunch for Major Gary Marsteller, our Commandant of Cadets, who leaves the AF on 1 July after 20 years of dedicated service. We also sent AFIT graduate Lt Col (Dr.) Chris Rein back to the AF Academy with his PhD in history. I sat in on his defense in April (air campaign in N Africa, WWII) – pretty amazing!

As for me, I'm just back from Alaska, where I completed the Mayor's Half Marathon (13.1 miles) for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

With your help, I've raised \$4500 over the last 18 months. There were 565 LLS runners at the event who together raised \$2.3 million. Isn't it great what dedicated people can achieve?!

While in AK, I took a few extra days to visit Denali and Seward to enjoy the wildlife and scenery – a great trip. On 18 July, I'll be driving out en route to Tampa for my next assignment.



Gena - Denali Rainbow

So, you all will be welcoming in two new cadre this summer: Capt Benjamin Smith, acquisitions officer and new Unit Admissions Officer for the det; and Lt Col Montague Samuel, space and missiles, as my replacement. Both are coming from STRATCOM at Offutt AFB, NE and should be here around 15 July. I know you'll give them a warm welcome as they acclimate to Lawrence.

Finally, a big "thank you" for your support to me and AFROTC Det 280 these last three years. It's been a wonderful tour and the MOAA has enriched the lives of our detachment and cadets. Your presence is important to our success and you are greatly appreciated.

Regards & Have a Great Summer!

Lt Col Gena Stuchbery

COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS

Joyce and I attended MOAA's Storming the Hill on 13 April. On my visits to the various Senators and Representatives, I was accompanied by CW5 Paul Robinson, who is still on Active Duty with the US Marine Corps. Paul is Past President of the Sunflower Chapter and is currently on the Board of Directors for MOAA.

We were given our directions by MOAA and one of the papers that we were given was a statistics sheet on MOAA Officers in Kansas.

MOAA National membership is 377,000 – 66,000 Chapter Members, 35 State Councils and 412 MOAA Chapters.

KANSAS statistics are:

- We have over 21,000 Retirees.
- 9,000 retirees over the age of 65.
- 10,000 Active Duty officers in Kansas.
- 11,000 Selected Reserve officers.
- 4,000 MOAA members.
- 2,900 SBP annuitants (FY09).
- Approximately 130,000 are TRICARE eligible.

We met with Congressman Mike Pompeo who is a member of the Wichita Chapter and Congresswoman, Lynn Jenkins. The Military Legislative Liaisons were also present when we met with Pompeo and Jenkins. We met with the Military Legislative Liaisons for Senators Roberts and Moran; Military Legislative Liaisons for Congressmen Huelskamp and Yoder.

The three main issues discussed were:

FIRST ISSUE:

- Cap TRICARE fee increase at COLA percentage for FY 2013 and beyond. Retirees have sacrificed their time serving 20 years, 30 or more years of service.

SECOND ISSUE:

- Protect Troops against Manpower/Pay raise cutbacks.

THIRD ISSUE:

- Addressed remaining inequities for Disabled Retirees, survivors and recalled Guard/Reserve Soldiers.

Delbert Hill

President, Kansas Council of Chapters

MOAA LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

This is a summary of the many items MOAA produces each week on legislative activities.

Those who have e-mail receive the full Legislative Updates each week.

MOAA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for May 6, 2011:

DHS Hiring Vets

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is well on track to reach its goal of hiring 50,000 veterans into its workforce. Secretary Janet Napolitano outlined her department's efforts in a meeting with military and veteran service organizations this week. MOAA Deputy Director for Government Relations Colonel Bob Norton represented the Association.

In August 2009, DHS had 46,000 veteran 'full-time equivalent' (FTE) employees. Today, there are 48,174 veterans in its workforce. The department plans a summit on hiring veterans this summer, but the time and place have not been set.

DHS leads the Federal government in allocating funds to service-disabled veteran-owned and veteran-owned businesses for contracting services. Some \$1.1 billion (3.2%) of DHS contracting resources have been directed to veteran-owned firms, exceeding the government's goal of 3%.

MOAA applauds the efforts of DHS and will continue to work with our partners to improve veteran employment opportunities.

Wounded Warrior Caregiver Benefits

The VA released new rules this week that will allow more caregivers of wounded warriors to apply for new benefits enacted last year. The caregiver benefits include special training, mental health services, access to "CHAMPVA" health insurance, respite care, a stipend and other services.

Earlier, the VA proposed to restrict the benefits to approximately 850 caregivers. The new rules will allow approximately 3,500 caregivers to apply for the benefits.

Disabled veterans must meet certain criteria for their caregivers to receive benefits. The disability must be a serious injury, including traumatic brain injury, psychological trauma or other mental disorder, incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in the armed forces on or after Sept. 11, 2001.

Starting May 9th, veterans and their caregivers may download a copy of the Family Caregiver program application.

MOAA strongly supported the VA Caregivers Act legislation and we are pleased that the VA responded to the concerns of severely wounded warriors and their caregivers, and is addressing their special needs as Congress intended.

Conference Focuses on Family Resilience

Last week MOAA representatives attended the DoD and the Department of Agriculture (USDA) sponsored 2011 Family Resilience Conference - aptly named "Forging the Partnership" - in Chicago.

The conference provided MOAA and other participants with an opportunity to share tools and techniques to improve family resiliency with others who face the challenge of providing support to the military family.

Senior Enlisted Advisors from the Military Services held a town hall meeting discussing what they saw as the keys to maintaining family resilience. They addressed the concerns that many military families and service providers share surrounding funding for military family programs.

Mr. Chuck Milam, Principal Director, Military Community & Family Policy commented that DoD has seen tremendous support from folks and organizations (including MOAA) to make sure that family support doesn't go away.

With almost 2,000 attendees present this year, DoD and the USDA signed an official proclamation of support for military families as a symbol of their long-standing partnership and common mission of support as both entities venture forward.

<http://echo4.bluehornet.com/ct/11456360:13910520720:m:3:230981068:CA52448371F34D44EDD9EDC3026A527D>
<http://echo4.bluehornet.com/ct/11456361:13910520720:m:3:230981068:CA52448371F34D44EDD9EDC3026A527D>

MOAA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for May 13, 2011:

MOAA President Defends Military Beneficiaries

At a health care discussion panel sponsored by the Center for American Progress, a Washington think-tank, MOAA President VADM Norb Ryan Jr., USN-Ret., challenged the perspectives of other panelists that military beneficiaries should be socked with large TRICARE fees and have their benefits means-tested.

The other panelists included former Deputy Secretary of Defense Rudy deLeon as moderator, former Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Dr. David Chu, and former Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower, Reserve Affairs, Installations and Logistics) Dr. Lawrence Korb.

Chu asserted that health care "isn't why young people join the military," and asserted military health benefits should be means-tested, with more senior retirees paying more. He also said there should be penalties (in terms of higher fees) for beneficiaries who don't use programs that are the lowest cost for the Defense Department.

Korb went further, urging raising TRICARE fees to at least \$1,000 a year, means-testing of retired beneficiaries who have access to civilian health coverage, and implementing fees and coverage caps for TRICARE For Life to discourage overuse of health benefits. He asserted there's no evidence to show that retiree healthcare fees have any impact on recruiting and retention.

Ryan took strong issue with such statements. While MOAA hasn't taken the position that retiree fees should never rise, he insisted that proposals for significantly higher fees fail to adequately recognize that career military people pre-pay huge premiums for their health care in retirement through decades of service and sacrifice.

Congress shares this perspective even when DoD leaders haven't, Ryan said, and that's why Congress has repeatedly rejected proposals to dramatically increase fees. They believe, as MOAA does, that retirement and health benefits are a key career incentive for enduring the adverse conditions of a service career. He rejected means-testing as inappropriate for the military, since it's not done for federal civilian health care and is very rare in the private sector.

Rather than focusing on jacking up beneficiary fees, Ryan said Pentagon leaders should focus on delivering care more efficiently, including greater efforts to positively incentivize use of the lower-cost mail-order pharmacy and developing a joint-service medical system.

View a video summary of the panel discussion on MOAA's Web site.

<http://echo4.bluehornet.com/ct/11531641:14004535793:m:3:230981068:CE5317F286E55AC025845E10978A767F>

Murray Leads Fight for Vet Jobs

MOAA attended a press conference this week announcing the "Hiring Heroes Act of 2011," a veterans' employment bill introduced by Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA), Chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, and co-sponsored by 14 bipartisan Senators.

The bill would authorize all returning veterans to receive broad job skills training and require that servicemembers attend a transition assistance program before they leave the military.

The bill also would create new direct federal hiring authority to permit faster vet hiring, as well as improving veteran mentorship programs in the work sector.

MOAA and other veterans' organizations have endorsed the bill to ease the shocking 27% unemployment rate among returning OIF/OEF veterans under age 25.

MOAA's LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for May 20, 2011:

Worry About the Flood, Not the "Camel's Nose"

Some rail against the proposed \$5 per month TRICARE Prime enrollment fee increase as the "camel's nose under the tent." They seem to think that by opposing any increase we can actually "control the camels." In that context, there's a whole herd of camels coming, whether we like it or not. But MOAA thinks that's the wrong metaphor.

The more relevant comparison is to the Mississippi flood. It's not a matter of negotiating to stop the flood...or to stop the first inch of the flood to prevent the rest from coming.

It's a matter of building a defense to try to limit the damage when the truly big water comes.

MOAA is about taking constructive action to build a levee against the coming flood, not just hollering against the rising river.

Doing nothing for another year only puts the military community at ever-greater risk.

Nebraska Supports Military Kids

Nebraska is the latest state to enact legislation to formally join the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, bringing the total to 37 participating states.

On average, military children attend 6 to 9 different school systems from kindergarten through high school. Moving between states can cause significant problems with transferring credits for course work and other activities, and can even put high school graduation at risk in some cases.

States participating in the Compact agree to a comprehensive approach to student-friendly resolution of issues with class placement, records transfer, course credits, graduation requirements, exit testing, extra-curricular opportunities, and more. The Interstate Compact article serves as the best resource tool for parents, students, and school officials addressing challenges with school transitions.

MOAA is proud that our state councils and chapters have taken leading roles in winning the necessary legislation in many states. In Nebraska, the Heartland of America Chapter lobbied state legislators to join the Compact for the approximately 8,000 military children there.

Earlier this week, MOAA board and chapter leader Brig Gen Paul Cohen (USAF-Ret) attended the Nebraska signing event, where the governor presented him an original signed copy of the Compact. MOAA applauds the efforts of Brig Gen Cohen, Col Dan Donovan, LtCol Rene Dreiling, and the members of the Heartland of America Chapter for their work on behalf of military families serving in Nebraska.

We still have 13 states that haven't joined the Compact, including New York and Georgia, both with high populations of military school-aged children.

Unfortunately for the 40,000 military children in Georgia, both the Assembly and Senate bills (HB 219 and SB 219) failed to pass this year. That leaves military children transferring to or from Georgia without the Compact's protections.

In New York's state legislature, there are two active bills (A 2141 and S 2538) that could make New York the next state to formally join the Compact.

We particularly encourage MOAA members who vote in New York and Georgia to contact their state legislators and ask for their support of the bills listed above. For state-specific legislator and bill information, visit <http://assembly.state.ny.us/> or <http://www.legis.ga.gov/en-US/default.aspx> .
<http://echo4.bluehornet.com/ct/11611464:14090211812:m:3:230981068:D2E1A197575D9E6A452FE21C1FF9BEB0>
<http://echo4.bluehornet.com/ct/11611465:14090211812:m:3:230981068:D2E1A197575D9E6A452FE21C1FF9BEB0>

MOAA's LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for May 27, 2011:

Report Charts Reserves' Future

Outgoing Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs Dennis McCarthy briefed MOAA and other Military Coalition partners last week on the "Comprehensive Review of the Future Role of the Reserve Component." McCarthy co-chaired this study with Joint Chiefs Vice Chairman Gen James Cartwright, USMC.

The gist of the report is that the Guard and Reserve should remain a "force of choice" for military missions instead of a "force of necessity." McCarthy noted that current law only allows calling Reserves to active duty in response to emergency situations like the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

Among other recommendations, the report proposes:

- * New authority to call up and deploy Guard and Reserve forces on a recurring non-emergency basis - e.g., for regular deployments to Korea to help reduce the number of active troops there
- * A common DoD total-force costing methodology to better compare regular vs. reserve component personnel, operating, individual and unit costs
- * Options for "rebalancing" active duty, Guard and Reserve elements to allocate diminishing resources between the active and reserve components without accepting undue risk to the nation's security
- * Consolidating the 28 types of military orders a Reservist can serve under to about six to simplify the purpose and funding for active vs. inactive (drill) duty (MOAA agrees)
- * A "continuum of service" concept to let service members move easily between active duty (regular) status and reserve status. McCarthy noted that there has not been a lot of progress on the idea. MOAA believes this idea sounds good philosophically, but history indicates short-term service needs would trump commitments to servicemembers who might expect to pursue it
- * Sustaining the Reserve Affairs office as the overseer of Reserve forces policy in DoD -- in contrast to the recommendation of the 2008 Commission on the National Guard and Reserves to eliminate the office.

How Would TRICARE Fee COLA Adjustments Work?

Many of our members have asked how the COLA index proposed by the House Armed Services Committee would work for adjusting future TRICARE fees.

Some have the impression it could completely offset future COLA adjustments to retired pay. Not so.

The key issue is that the index would be a percentage change, not a dollar amount change. Since TRICARE fees represent a small fraction of retired pay, an equal percentage adjustment in each means any TRICARE fee COLA amount would still be a small fraction of the retired pay COLA amount.

For 2012, the proposed TRICARE Prime enrollment fee for a family is \$520 per year. By comparison, the average military retired pay for all ranks is about \$30,000 a year.

If the 2013 COLA is 3%, the TRICARE Prime enrollment fee increase would be 3% of \$520 = \$15.60 for the year.

In contrast, a 3% COLA would increase average retired pay by \$900 a year.

So if you speculated that indexing TRICARE fees by the COLA percentage might somehow eat up retired pay COLAs, you can rest easy on that score.

MOAA's LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for June 3, 2011:

What's Up with the Defense Bill?

At this point in the year, it can be very confusing to keep track of the progress of the various defense bills circulating in the House and Senate.

To add to the confusion, there are two separate types of defense bills - authorization and appropriation bills.

The defense authorization bill (which is the responsibility of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees) provides statutory authority for everything from pay raises, health care fees, and weapons procurement. It's the legislative vehicle for nearly all military personnel and compensation changes in any given year.

The defense appropriations bill (prepared by the House and Senate Appropriations Committees) provides the funding to pay for the programs specified in the authorization bill. Congressional rules normally bar putting authorizing provisions in an appropriations bill, to make sure the legislators with the purse strings don't usurp all the other committees' authority.

The House has already approved its version of the FY2012 defense authorization bill (H.R. 1540), and the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee approved its draft of the FY2012 defense appropriations bill (as yet unnumbered). The latter bill is now awaiting action by the full House Appropriations Committee. The Senate Armed Services Committee and Appropriations Committee are expected to draft their respective versions of the authorization and appropriations bills later this month.

Technically, the authorization bill is supposed to be finished first, and then the appropriations bills are supposed to be finished and signed into law by the President by October 1 (the start of the new fiscal year). But that has rarely happened in recent years.

And with less than four months left in the current fiscal year, it's almost certain that action on both bills will drag beyond October 1.

DoD Updates Retiree Data

The FY2010 Statistical Report on the Military Retirement System just released by Pentagon's actuaries provides a wealth of information for both stat geeks and everyday observers.

Here are a few highlights of how some selected statistics have changed since FY2001.

Regular, non-disability retirees:

FY2010: 1.47 million received retired pay of \$40.2 billion

FY2001: 1.37 million received retired pay of \$28.3 billion

Guard/Reserve, non-disability retirees:

FY2010: 357,000 received retired pay of \$4.89 billion

FY2001: 243,000 received retired pay of \$2.61 billion

Military disability retirees:

FY2010: 93,000 received retired pay of \$1.38 billion

FY2001: 98,000 received retired pay of \$1.3 billion

Survivors:

FY2010: 294,000 received annuity payments of \$3.65 billion

FY2001: 259,000 received annuity payments of \$1.96 billion

SBP participation rate among newly retiring servicemembers:

FY2010: 81%

FY2001: 68%

SBP premium receipts vs. SBP benefit payments:

FY2010: Retirees paid \$1.14 billion in premiums

Survivors received \$3.63 billion in annuities

FY2001: Retirees paid \$995 million in premiums

Survivors received \$1.92 billion in annuities

For more information, visit the DoD Actuary's website.

<http://echo4.bluehornet.com/ct/11754988:14248309897:m:3:230981068:68991E6A6B00D3E3591013C9CB0FEAFB>

MOAA's LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for June 10, 2011:

Vet Bills on the Table

Senator Veterans Affairs Committee Chair Patty Murray (D-WA) and Ranking Member Richard Burr (R-NC) held a wide-ranging hearing Wednesday on nearly three dozen bills covering veterans' health care, compensation, employment, education, survivor, and other issues.

Among those of particular MOAA interest:

- * S.951 (Murray, D-WA) would mandate transition counseling for all separating and retiring service men and women. Among other initiatives, it also would extend the period for vocational rehabilitation and employment services for wounded warriors an additional 24 months
- * S.874 (Akaka, D-HI) would pay a surviving spouse any applicable VA disability amount for the month of a veteran's death upon favorable completion of a disability claim pending at the time of the veteran's death
- * S.957 (Boozman, R-AR) would improve rehabilitative services for veterans with traumatic brain injury
- * S.490 (Akaka, D-HI) would extend eligibility for health insurance under the CHAMPVA program to qualifying veterans' children until age 26
- * S.815 (Snowe, R-ME) would increase the distance from military funeral-goers within which protests are prohibited at private or national cemeteries and impose penalties on violators
- * S.491 (Pryor, D-AR) would acknowledge Guard and Reserve retirees as veterans whether or not they had been called to active duty by the Defense Department (many are disqualified now despite state-directed callups to guard borders, airports after 9/11, or remediate effects of natural disasters such as hurricane Katrina and the Gulf oil spill)
- * S.745 (Schumer, D-NY) would permit student-veterans currently enrolled in private colleges in certain states to be 'grandfathered' under 2010 rates for the Post-9/11 GI Bill
- * S.698 (Warner, D-VA) would prohibit advance gravesite reservations at Arlington National Cemetery
- * S.894 (Murray, D-WA) would authorize a 2012 COLA adjustment for VA compensation and pension programs

Marines Deploy MOAA Lobbyist

It's a sad week at MOAA, as Kelly Cotton, Deputy Director of Government Relations for Military Family issues, leaves to accompany her husband, Marine Captain Chris Cotton, on a new assignment to 29 Palms, California.

While we're devastated at losing such a tireless, passionate, and super-effective lobbyist for military families, we grudgingly acknowledge that the needs of the Marine Corps come first. Our efforts to convince Kelly of the merits of long-distance commuting have left her husband and children unpersuaded.

Kelly's expertise and people skills have made her a tremendous ambassador and advocate for MOAA and military families alike. She's been sought out for consultation by defense, White House,

congressional and media leaders on programs as diverse as spousal career improvements, PCS needs, children's education initiatives, and special needs and caregiver programs.

Now she'll be MOAA's west coast ambassador...until we can persuade the Corps to redeploy the Cottons to Washington.

MOAA's LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for June 17, 2011:

New Pay, TRICARE Proposals

The Senate Armed Services Committee approved its version of the FY2012 Defense Authorization Bill Thursday night. The proposed legislation includes a range of personnel and compensation initiatives, including a MOAA-endorsed statutory limitation on future TRICARE fee increases. Here's a list of selected provisions:

- 1.6% military pay raise for 2012
- Statutory limitation that the percentage increase in TRICARE Prime fees for FY2013 and future years will not exceed the percentage increase in military retired pay
- Permission for modest increases in some TRICARE fees for FY2012: TRICARE Prime enrollment fee would rise from \$230/\$460 per year (single/family) to \$260/\$520; retail pharmacy copays would rise \$2 or \$3, depending on the medication; copays would be eliminated for generic drugs purchased via the TRICARE mail-order system; no change in brand-name medications via mail-order
- Authority for service secretaries to call reservists to active duty for up to one year for preplanned and budgeted missions
- Prohibition of barring reenlistment based on medical conditions that a physical evaluation board has considered and found the servicemember fit for duty
- \$30 million in Impact Aid support for schools with significant populations of military children
- Authority for services to develop job training programs to prepare servicemembers for civilian employment
- Additional voluntary separation and retirement incentive authorities to assist services experiencing force reductions, including authority for a one-time "retirement bonus" for officers in selected specialties who volunteer to retire
- Enhanced requirements for Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Programs to adopt best practices and improve collaboration
- Requirement to pro-rate hostile fire and imminent danger pay on a daily rather than monthly basis
- Extension of requirement for DoD surveys of provider participation in TRICARE Standard
- Exclusion of TRICARE providers from consideration as government subcontractors (a recent Department of Labor ruling on this has caused some providers to drop TRICARE)
- Requires Uniformed Services Family Health Plan enrollees who turn 65 in FY2012 and future years to transition to Medicare and TRICARE For Life, but encourages DoD and USFHP to develop options for TFL-eligibles to continue in USFHP. Note: this provision only applies to new enrollees in FY2012 and future; all current enrollees (of any age) are grandfathered

The next step in the process is consideration of the defense bill by the full Senate, which could take place next month.

Medicare/TRICARE Fix - Last Budget Priority?

It's taken a back seat to more prominent negotiations on raising the debt limit, but Medicare and military TRICARE beneficiaries haven't forgotten that, unless the law is changed, those programs' payments to doctors will be cut 30% as of this coming January 1.

The big problem, just as it has been for the last 10 years, is the price tag for making the fix.

This week, the Congressional Budget Office released cost estimates for various options to address the problem.

CBO says a one-year fix will cost \$22 billion.

A permanent fix would cost almost \$280 billion over ten years.

One problem is that Congress isn't paying much attention to the so-called "doc fix" at the moment, because of the overriding focus finding a way to raise the debt ceiling and avoid a national default.

Part of that process is developing a package of major budget cuts large enough to convince a majority of legislators to vote for the debt ceiling hike.

And this likely won't be the last round of budget cuts for the year. Congress will face another crisis around Oct. 1 as deficit hawks exact an additional budget-cutting price for approving appropriations bills for the new fiscal year.

Any "easy" savings options will be long gone by the time Congress finally gets around to addressing the Medicare/TRICARE payment problem (which, if history is any guide, won't be until November or December).

And that means military and Medicare beneficiaries - once again - will be holding their breath at the end of the year, hoping Congress won't allow a cut that would cause lots of doctors to drop them as patients.

MOAA's LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for June 24, 2011:

Military Retirement on the Chopping Block?

Once again, the military retirement system is coming under the scrutiny of budgeters and deficit reduction task forces. This time the assault comes from various fronts - from outgoing Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and incoming Secretary Leon Panetta to Vice President Joe Biden.

Earlier this year Gates stated, "Everything is on the table" for budget cuts. Panetta used the same line during his recent nomination hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee, urging more significant, program-specific changes rather than an across-the-board, salami-slice budget cutting approach.

Tasked by President Obama with finding over \$400 billion dollars in savings over the next 10-12 years, Gates has become a bit more specific on where some of the savings may be achieved - specifically the military retirement system.

Gates has criticized the "one-size-fits-all" 20-year retirement structure and has directed the Defense Science Board to establish a working group to develop alternative options.

In his final hearing before the Senate Appropriations Committee last week, he noted, "70-80% of the force does not stay until retirement but leave with nothing," endorsing an early vesting system.

Even more ominous, multiple media reports have indicated military retirement cutbacks could be in play in ongoing deficit-reduction talks between administration and congressional leaders, headed by Vice President Joe Biden.

Most current proposals are based on recommendations of the 2009 10th Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation (QRMC), which included:

- Converting to a civilianized 401(k)-style system under which full retired pay wouldn't be paid until age 57-60
- Authorizing the services to make variable annual retirement contributions depending on changing retention and skill requirements
- Vesting retirement benefits after 10 years of service

The last major revision to the military retirement system was in 1986 when Congress passed the so-called REDUX system as part of an earlier budget-cutting drill.

REDUX entailed far smaller cuts than the QRMC envisions. Under that plan, post-1986 entrants were to receive 40% of high-three-year average basic pay (vs. 50%) at 20 years of service.

In contrast to the advocacy of current Defense leaders, then-Secretary Caspar Weinberger warned Congress that REDUX

cuts would cause serious future readiness problems by undermining retention.

He was proven right. A little over a decade later, Congress had to repeal REDUX when the Joint Chiefs of Staff complained it was hurting career retention. And that was in peacetime.

Think what you will about the 20-year retirement system, MOAA believes it's the primary reason retention hasn't imploded over the last 10 years of unprecedented strains on career servicemembers and their families.

The problem with proposals to cut overall military retirement costs while also implementing an expensive new 10-year vesting plan is that there's only one place for that money to come from - the pockets of those who stay for a full career.

If you tried to build a plan to slash career retention, it's hard to conceive a better way than taking lots of money from people who serve a career in order to pay more to people who separate early.

Imagine the impact if the QRMC proposals were in effect in today's wartime environment.

A 10-year soldier facing a fourth or fifth combat deployment would have a choice between (a) taking the vested military retirement and leaving to pursue a civilian career or (b) having to serve decades longer (with who knows how many more deployments) before being eligible for military retired pay at age 57-60. What do you think would happen to retention then?

Especially knowing the services let very few people serve that long - but force nearly all out of uniform between their early 40s and early 50s.

Advocates for these initiatives seek to sugar-coat them by saying they wouldn't affect anyone now serving, but would only apply to new entrants. That also was true of the REDUX system, and we know how that turned out.

The only thing grandfathering the current force does is let retirement-cutting leaders evade responsibility for their ill-advised actions - by deferring the inevitable retention disaster for a decade and dumping it on their successors.

MOAA believes it's essential to avoid repeating past mistakes that traded temporary budget relief for major national security risks.

Please use MOAA's suggested message to urge Administration, Defense, and congressional leaders against jeopardizing future retention and readiness through ill-advised military retirement cutbacks.

<http://echo4.bluehornet.com/ct/11989618:14501060421:m:3:230981068:D35EE56B658C374328DFD07B785A873E>

Walgreens vs. TRICARE

On June 21, Walgreens pharmacy announced that it had broken off negotiations to renew a contract with TRICARE Retail Pharmacy's contractor, Express Scripts, Inc.

Walgreens is the nation's largest retail drugstore chain, and the largest TRICARE network pharmacy.

What does that mean to TRICARE beneficiaries who use Walgreens?

For the near term, Walgreens will continue to fill prescriptions for TRICARE patients at least until January 1, 2012. At that point, if both sides are unable to come to an agreement TRICARE Pharmacy benefits will no longer be available at Walgreens.

Should it come to that, one TRICARE official said, "99% of beneficiaries have another network provider within 5 miles of the Walgreens they now use, and on average, another pharmacy within our national network is within ½ mile of a Walgreens."

It's too early to tell if Walgreens' break-off of negotiations is just a negotiating technique or if Walgreens has truly given up on renewing their contract with Express Scripts.

MOAA will be keeping a close eye on the situation.



JAYHAWK CHAPTER MOAA

A membership meeting will be held **Tuesday, 19 July 2011**, at the Lawrence Country Club.
Dinner cost is \$22.00/meal.

The Program: Our guest speaker will be Mr. Kerry Altenbernd, the Director of the Douglas County Law Library and Tour Coordinator for the Black Jack Battlefield Trust in Baldwin City. He is a nationally known re-enactor and his presentation will focus on the role John Brown played in Kansas during the prelude to the Civil War.

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

The Menu: *Strip steak, 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, 14 July 2011**, to:
CAPT (Ret) Jim Cooper - 1115 Stone Meadows Drive, Lawrence, KS 66049-3961

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

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

cut here

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

The cost is \$22.00 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***

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Can you receive the newsletter via e-mail ??

***If so, it saves the Chapter for both
printing and postage.***

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

2011 Jayhawk MOAA Calendar:

Tuesday 19 July MOAA meeting

Tuesday 20 September MOAA meeting

Tuesday 15 November MOAA meeting



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

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