



# Jayhawk Chapter MOAA Newsletter



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## January Program:

Our guest speaker will be Gary Bjorge, a Professor at the Command and General Staff College, specializing in the Far East (especially China)

★★★★★ CHAPTER  
awarded for  
2002 / 2003 / 2005 /  
2008 / 2009 / 2010 / 2011

★★★ CHAPTER  
awarded for  
2004 / 2006 / 2007

## President's Message . . .

### GREETINGS,

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. THANK YOU for your support for the Jayhawk Chapter this past year. I have sincerely enjoyed working with the Chapter Members, Officers and Board Members. The 2013 nominating committee has nominated Dean Bevan-President, Admiral Ed Phillips-1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Mike Miller-2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, John Halladay-Secretary and Jim Cooper-Treasurer. Mike Devlin and Andrew Bauch have been nominated for positions on the Board of Directors. *THE ELECTION AND INSTALLATION WILL BE HELD AT THE DINNER MEETING ON THE 22<sup>ND</sup> OF JANUARY. PLEASE NOTE THE DATE!!!!*



Since the last Chapter Meeting, our members have been busy with community activities. Jim Cooper, Buck Newsom and I had an enjoyable time with the West Middle School students as part of the Vets in the Classroom Project for Veterans Day remembrances. The young people were very responsive to our presentations. The Bell Ringers (Halladays, Rutledges, Finchs, McMurrays, Buck Newsom and Dean Bevan) braved the weather at Checkers to help with the Salvation Army's winter project. *THANK YOU* for supporting our Chapters Community Activities

In January, our Chapter will be starting several fund raisers to increase the principal of the Comfort Scholarship Fund. The efforts will have several venues to increase the amount of monies that are given to the KU ROTC students. Our goal is to double the Fund over the next several years. This should provide us with annual Scholarships amounting to \$1,000 per ROTC Detachment. Part of the project will be the 30-100-5 fund raiser – 30 members pledging – 100 dollars a year – for 5 years which would raise \$15,000. Admiral Ed Phillips and Jim Cooper will be working with the KUEA to raise additional funds for the Comfort Scholarship Fund. Another possibility is to remember the Comfort Fund in your Estate Planning.

Gary Bjorge, a Professor at the Command and General Staff College, specializing in the Far East (especially China) will be our guest speaker on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The AFROTC is scheduled to present the Colors.

See you at the meeting,

*Bob*

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1 January 2013

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**\* Reservations should be sent  
to Jim Cooper by  
18 January**



## **JAYHAWK CHAPTER NEWS**

***CHAPTER DUES: Chapter Dues (\$20.00) are due 01 January 2013. Please send your dues to Jim Cooper as soon as possible so we don't have to delay the Chapter Directory until May.***

### **TAPS**

**LTJG Richard Moore** passed away on his 89<sup>th</sup> birthday, 13 November. Memorial services were held on Wednesday, November 21, 2012, at First Presbyterian Church, followed by a reception. Burial followed at Pioneer Cemetery.

Dr. Moore, one of the most noted scientists in his field, was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on 13 November 1923, to Louis D. and Nina M. Moore. He lived in the family home in Kirkwood, through university graduation. His avid interest in ham radio led him to study Electrical Engineering at Washington University where he received his B.S. in 1943.

He worked for RCA in Camden, NJ as a radar engineer, where he met and married Wilma Schallau, also an engineer, in 1944. He joined the Navy in 1944 and served as an electronics and radar officer on the USS Rehoboth in the Pacific. In 1946, on separation from the Navy, he attended graduate school at Washington University, St. Louis. His master's thesis, in which he invented the VLF antenna for submarines, was judged to be of doctoral quality, and he moved to Cornell to complete that work, while also researching tropospheric and ionospheric propagation.

Upon receiving his PhD from Cornell in 1951, he moved his young family to Albuquerque, New Mexico, and worked at Sandia Corp. while lecturing at UNM. In 1955, he became Chairman of the Electrical Engineering Department at UNM, remaining until 1962. Offered the Black and Veatch distinguished professorship at KU, he moved to Lawrence. With his research interests in microwave remote sensing, he started the interdisciplinary Remote Sensing Laboratory where he worked until his retirement in 1994, doing seminal work in both theory and experiment for radar returns. He continued to run sponsored projects until 2004, and contributed to the Center for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets until his death. His research interests included microwave remote sensing of atmosphere, ocean, land, ice and planetary surfaces; radar systems, and radio wave propagation.

He is survived by his sons: John Moore and wife Anne (Scottsdale, AZ), and Daniel Moore and wife Mieko (Las Vegas, NV), and his long time companion Barbara McCorkle. He leaves two grandchildren, Elizabeth Reye (Hillsboro, OR) and Alexander Moore (Iwata, Japan), and great grandchildren Colin and Brigit Reye (Hillsboro, OR).

Military Graveside services for **LtCol Harold Mathew Wray**, 93, Lawrence, KS, were held Wednesday, 21 November 2012, at Memorial Park Cemetery in Lawrence. He died on Wednesday, 14 November 2012, at his home.

Harold was born on 17 September 1919 in Oskaloosa, KS, the son of Floyd H. and Leah (Black) Wray. He attended grades 1-4 in Fairview Rural a one room school; Oskaloosa schools from grades 5-11 and graduated from Lawrence High School in 1936. He attended the University of Kansas from 1936 to 1941, graduating in 1941 with a degree in Business.

He served his country in the U.S. Army Air Corp during WW II. He served in Jefferson Barracks, MO, Atlantic City, NJ, Washington, DC, Greensboro, NC, Italy, and Trinidad BWI. He was released from active duty in October 1945 as a 2nd Lieutenant. He stayed in the Reserves for 27 years, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1973.

Survivors include one daughter, Barbara Jo Dickerson; two sons, Michael Wray, Mark Wray; four grandchildren, Leslie Dickerson, Shannon, Brian, and Chris Wray; and one sister, Frieda Culbertson. He was also preceded in death by one sister, Emily; and two brothers, Paul and John Leland.

**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.**

**Admiral Steve Abbott** presenting the Jayhawk Chapter's latest 5-Star Banner to **COL John Halladay** at the MOAA National Meeting in Arlington, VA.

The picture I took of John presenting the banner to CAPT Tom Arnold at the November meeting unfortunately came out "fuzzy".



**From Herschel Stroud:**

Sunday night (12/16) I play the last dance of the year with the Kings of Swing - my Big Band - at the Jesters party in Topeka.

We returned last weekend (12/08) from the Civil War Battle of Prairie Grove, Arkansas, the 150th anniversary of the Battle. The Union won again.

Over Thanksgiving, we took two exchange students skiing. One from Spain and one from Mexico. They are 16 and 17 years old. One of the boys had never seen snow. The other had seen snow on a mountain top. Neither had skied before. The young man who had not seen snow when arriving at our Condominium first stepped on snow. He then reached down and picked up a handful - promptly threw it away with the exclamation - "It's cold". We have had fun with the boys as substitute grandparents. We have taken them to a football game and to a basketball game. In a separate email I will send a picture of the boys with a couple of KU Pom-pom girls at the Alumni Center lunch before a football game.

The State of Illinois invited Jacque and me back Springfield next June to deliver another lecture and symposium on Civil War Medicine. This will be the third year they have asked us to return. We are flattered.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All!

Herschel and Jacque

**Salvation Army Bell Ringers - 08 December:**



Buck Newsom & Dean Bevan



Jean & Ray Finch



Vicki & Jim McMurray



Gerry Rutledge



John & Shirley Halladay



*Army News*

*LTC Storm Reynolds, USA*

[No Report]



## *Navy News*

### *CAPT David Schweizer, USN*

#### **Greetings and Happy Holidays from the Jayhawk Navy!**

It's a great day in Kansas as the Naval ROTC finished strong while capping off another successful semester! With final examinations as well as the various unit activities taking place, our future officers had a busy month.



Navajo Code Talker and Marine Corps veteran Chester Nez (pictured with MIDN Nathan Slaughter, Shawn Smith, and Evan Key) was honored during KU's Veteran's Day Celebration. Mr. Nez, the only surviving member of the USMC's original 29 Code Talkers received an honorary degree from KU. Interestingly, Mr. Nez left KU in 1952 when his GI Bill funding expired. No one would know of his tremendous contribution to the victory in the Pacific during WWII until 1968, when the Code Talkers work was declassified. MIDN Key, present for the event, remarked, "It is truly inspiring to meet a man like Mr. Nez, who made such a significant mark in winning the War in the Pacific."

In other news, the Jayhawk Battalion held its end of the semester Change-of-Command and Personnel Inspection. CDR Chris Higginbotham, the KU NROTC Executive Officer (pictured on right), inspected the members of the Battalion. It was an opportunity for the Midshipmen to display their professional knowledge and military bearing. After the inspection a formal changeover of Midshipman leadership occurred with MIDN Ethan Ness relieving MIDN Nathan Slaughter as Battalion CO. These Midshipman leadership positions provide a valuable training opportunity for all members of the Battalion. The fall semester's Midshipman leadership has certainly set a high bar and I am confident that the new Battalion leaders will continue their success.



As another academic year continues, you can be sure that the support offered by MOAA to our young men and women will be integral to their continued success.

Thank you for your continued encouragement to our future Navy and Marine Corps Leaders.

*CAPT David Schweizer*



## *Air Force News*

### *LtCol Montague D. Samuel, USAF*

#### **MOAA, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanza, and Happy Holidays!**

Well, the Fall semester is officially over. The cadets (and cadre) are done with finals--Hooray! All have earned a well-deserved holiday break.

We wrapped up the semester with our Fall Awards Ceremony where we recognized cadets for outstanding performance in academics, leadership, recruiting, and physical fitness. Additionally, we provided monetary awards through endowment funds to the top physical fitness

performers (i.e., Iron Hawk competition winners) and top academic performers.

A highlight of the semester for our seniors was notification of their initial duty station assignments. Cadets Nicholas Brunkhorst, Kevin Jackson and Grant Worden will be assigned to Vance AFB OK for undergraduate pilot training; Cadets Cole-Christian Holinaty and Brandon Johnson will be assigned to Vandenberg AFB CA for missile initial qualification training; Cadet Britni Charles



(Acquisitions) will be assigned to Eglin AFB FL; Cadet Zachary Early (Airfield Operations) will be assigned to Columbus AFB MS for initial training; and Cadet Brian Tabares (Behavioral Scientist) will be assigned to Wright-Patterson AFB OH. We had one cadet that was re-categorized. Cadet Seth Wilson competed at the AF Office of Special Investigations (OSI) assignment board and was selected for AFOSI duty. The competition was tremendously tough and the selection rate for new accessions into AFOSI is extremely low. His selection speaks volumes. Cadet Wilson's initial assignment will be at Little Rock AFB AK.

Six of our sophomore cadets competed at the Headquarters (HQ) Air Force ROTC In-College Scholarship Program board. Once more, very tough competition but we are proud to announce that one the cadets, Cadet Blake Denniston was the winner of an AFROTC 3-year scholarship.

The cadre wrapped up the semester with a HQ AFROTC Inspector General (IG) Unit Compliance Inspection. The purpose of the Compliance Inspection was to provide an independent assessment of the health, effectiveness and

performance of the detachment; inspect compliance with Public Law, DoD, AF, and Air Education and Training Command standards and governing directives, and help improve unit effectiveness (of course the IG always says they're here to help ☺). It was a very tough and challenging inspection but... We Passed!

We're looking forward to the holiday break as well as the beginning of the Spring semester. We've already identified and received commitments from 13 new students into our program.

MOAA Jayhawk Chapter, again, thank you for your support of AFROTC Det 280.

And again, we wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanza, Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

**AIM HIGH – FLY, FIGHT, WIN!**

Very Respectfully,

*Lt Col Montague D. Samuel*

## 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 October 26, 2012:

#### Your Pharmacy Questions Answered

97% of you support the House-passed defense bill provision that would protect against big copay hikes by establishing a limited requirement for mail-order refills. But how would that requirement be implemented for real people? Get the answers here.

#### Coalition Lobbies Senate on Copays and Retirement

More than a dozen teams of Military Coalition representatives visited offices of Senate Armed Services Committee members this week, seeking senators' support to change the Senate's FY2013 Defense Authorization Bill in two key ways:

- Avoid tripling TRICARE beneficiaries' pharmacy copays by adopting the House alternative plan to achieve equivalent savings through requiring a

temporary test of refilling TFL maintenance medications through either the mail-order or military pharmacy system.

- Amend a provision to establish a military retirement reform commission by dropping rules that would require Congress to vote "yes or no" on any commission recommendations, without any changes and with only limited debate.

These issues were identified as the top defense bill priorities for the 34-association Coalition, which MOAA co-chairs.

With the legislators out of town, even the most sympathetic staffers couldn't commit specifically how their bosses would vote on these issues.

One expressed doubt that the Senate would approve such tight restrictions on considering military retirement recommendations. We reminded him the Armed Services Committee his boss sits on already voted to uphold them.

And not all were sympathetic. One senator's staff member said unequivocally that his boss was on the side of the "big box pharmacies" and would oppose any mail-order plan (which means sticking military beneficiaries with far higher copays).

Many others said they had been visited by drug store lobbyists arguing against the House proposal. Just one such group already has made more than \$170,000 in campaign donations (Source: <http://www.opensecrets.org/pacs/pacgot.php?cmte=C00022368&cycle=2012>).

This is an important fight. See the box above to tell your legislators to protect the military families who have sacrificed so much to protect America.

## **MOAA's LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for November 2, 2012:**

### MOAA Named "Top Lobbyist"

The Hill, the largest-circulation newspaper on Capitol Hill, has published its annual list of "Top Lobbyists." Once again, MOAA is the only military service organization on the association list.

### MOAA Boos CAP Halloween Report

On Halloween, the Center for American Progress (CAP) released another batty proposal for huge cuts to military pay, retirement, and health care benefits. Trick or treat? You don't have to wonder witch.

## **MOAA's LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for November 9, 2012:**

### Will Lame Ducks Waddle or Fly?

Glum or gleeful, legislators returning for the Nov. 13th lame duck session face a long agenda of really important unfinished business. Will they have the willpower to tackle it...or leave the military and seniors in the lurch?

## How Will the Election Results Affect the Military Community?

Every passing presidential election seems to be more and more polarizing, and adherents of whichever party loses tend to bemoan an alleged national decline.

But the fact is that the military community is much more affected by the issues than by whoever wins the White House.

In the current situation, the country, the Pentagon, and military members and families of all ages face some of the most daunting economic conditions in generations.

No matter who is president, the next few years are likely to see increasing calls for force reductions, pay raise caps, retirement changes, TRICARE fee hikes, and more.

Even presidents who initially pledged to support/rebuild the military after periods of budget shortfalls ended up proposing new cutbacks by the end of their terms.

And virtually every Administration of either party has proposed whacking pay raises, health care and more at one point or another.

Almost all of the big legislative gains of the past dozen years,

from restoring full pay comparability to winning TRICARE For Life, concurrent receipt, SBP improvements, and the GI Bill, have been won despite strident objections of the Administration in charge at the time - whether Republican or Democrat.

And no matter what rosy campaign promises were made by anybody, the solutions to the country's current fiscal problems are going to involve significant sacrifices for every segment of Americans, including the military.

With a still-sharply-divided Congress, where the Republicans control one chamber and the Democrats control the other, no president can ram programs through without significant support from the other party.

It's that system of checks and balances that (hopefully) helps avoid the worst possible outcomes - and lets the politicians blame "the system" for the failure of any proposals that aren't good enough to win at least a modicum of consensus.

### Vets Aren't Taking the Hill

At the start of the 112th Congress of 2011-2012, only 25% of U.S. senators and 20.5% of U.S. representatives had served at least some period in military uniform (active duty, Guard, or Reserve).

That percentage has been declining steadily since it peaked at 74% for the House (1969-70) and 78% for the Senate (1977-78).

The decline will continue when the newly minted 113th Congress takes office next year.

In the new Senate, there will only be 19 veterans (19%) following the departures of Senators Akaka, Lugar, Brown, Bingaman, Webb, and Kohl. None of the incoming freshmen senators have military experience.

In the House, the percentage of veterans also slipped to roughly 19.5%. A total of 86\* veterans (84 voting representatives and 2 non-voting delegates) will return to Washington in January.

\* This estimate assumes that current projections will hold up in some still-contested districts, and Martha McSally holds on to win Arizona's 2nd district and Allen West loses Florida's 18th district. Both races were very close and could head to a recount. A run-off in Louisiana's 3rd district (where one candidate is a vet) is scheduled for December, and was not included among the 86.

## MOAA's LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for November 16, 2012:

### Fiscal Cliff-Diving

We kicked the can.

We slipped the piper an IOU.

We waited until after the election.

Now what happens when we're six weeks away from the so-called "fiscal cliff?"

MOAA Government Relations Director Col Steve Strobridge's November "As I See It" column addresses what's likely to happen when government leaders finally run out of ways to put off doing their job.

Read more:

[http://www.moaa.org/Main\\_Menu/Take\\_Action/As\\_I\\_See\\_It/As\\_I\\_See\\_It\\_2012/As\\_I\\_See\\_It\\_-\\_Fiscal\\_Cliff-Diving.html](http://www.moaa.org/Main_Menu/Take_Action/As_I_See_It/As_I_See_It_2012/As_I_See_It_-_Fiscal_Cliff-Diving.html)

### Budget Cut Options Surface

As lawmakers and the White House start negotiations to stave off sequestration and several other end-of-year crises, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released a new report, "Choices for Deficit Reduction," that includes an array of spending cut options for FY2013 and the outyears.

Some of the options outlined in CBO's report would:

- Raise the age of Medicare eligibility to 67
- Raise the full retirement age and the earliest eligible age for Social Security
- Change the COLA formula for adjusting Social Security benefits

Others are aimed more specifically at military retirement and healthcare programs. While the descriptions in the new report are vague in some cases, we've identified more specific descriptions of many of them that CBO has published in previous budget-option packages.

Most of these proposals have been around for years, and have been rejected by Congress before.

But in this political and budget environment, back-room deal-makers being pressed to come up with a package quickly will be disposed to simply grab some off-the-shelf options and worry about any potential consequences later.

## MOAA's LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for December 7, 2012:

### Important Tax Documents Coming

DFAS says military retirees and annuitants will receive their 2012 tax statements starting mid-Dec. 2012 through Jan. 2013.

### Senate Cops Out on Rx Copay Cap

After six months of delay, the Senate finally approved its version of the FY2013 Defense Authorization Bill (S. 3254) on December 4. While it includes many positive initiatives, interparty differences on budget issues ended up scuttling two major MOAA-supported amendments.

TRICARE pharmacy copays: As passed, the Senate bill is silent on this issue, and silence would allow the Pentagon to implement its announced plan to triple copays. An amendment offered by Senators Jack Reed (D-RI), Marco Rubio (R-FL), and Claire McCaskill (D-MO) would have capped copays at significantly lower levels for FY2013 and limited increases in future years to the same percentage as the military retired pay COLA in return for a one-year requirement for Medicare-eligibles to use the mail-order system for maintenance medication refills.

While the latter requirement actually saved \$300 million in so-called "mandatory spending," it would have increased the requirement for deposits in the TRICARE For Life trust fund. The House solved that problem by requiring the Pentagon to absorb the difference - noting that TRICARE had underspent its budget by significantly larger amounts over the last several years.

But Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Tom Coburn (R-OK) stymied passage by "unanimous consent" when they raised objections. With no time remaining for a vote on the amendment before final passage of the bill, the objections caused the amendment to fail.

This amendment was MOAA's top priority for the Senate bill, and its failure over what amounts to an accounting technicality (trust fund deposits are not actual outlays, but amount to ledger entries) is disappointing in the extreme.

House and Senate leaders indicated they would be able to resolve remaining differences between the two bill versions and pass the final defense bill before Christmas. We're grateful to Senators Reed, Rubio and McCaskill for taking the lead on the Rx copay issue, and will work to see that their efforts were not in vain.

Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP): Also extremely disappointing was the failure of Sen. Bill Nelson's (D-FL) amendment to eliminate deduction of VA survivor compensation from SBP annuities. This amendment did come to a vote, but was defeated when only 58 senators voted to waive the requirement to offset its cost with other cuts. 60 votes are required to approve a waiver. 33 Republicans and one Democrat voted against it, and five Republicans and three Democrats did not vote. States that had no senators voting for it included AL, AZ, GA, ID,

IN, KY, NH, OK, SC, TN, TX, UT, and WY. You can view the details of the full vote on the Senate's website.

MOAA will continue the fight to correct this inequity for military widows, but there's no provision in the House bill, so the next battle will be next year.

Concurrent receipt: One major bright spot was the adoption of Sen. Harry Reid's (D-NV) amendment to fix a glitch in the law that now cuts many combat-disabled retirees' compensation when their disability rating is increased. MOAA has pushed this long-overdue fix for the last five years. Because of budget issues, the fix would take effect Oct. 1, 2013.

Health care: In another long-sought victory, the Senate approved Sen. Frank Lautenberg's (D-NJ) amendment acknowledging military health care is an earned benefit by virtue of retired members' and families' contributions of service and sacrifice.

TRICARE Prime: Sen. Dean Heller's (R-NV) approved amendment would require a Pentagon report on how upcoming TRICARE contract changes will affect availability of TRICARE Prime, how that will affect beneficiaries, and how the Pentagon plans to help them find alternative care.

TRICARE coverage for autism: Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) won an amendment to provide TRICARE-covered therapy for children of currently serving personnel. Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) led behind the scenes efforts to ensure children with other developmental disabilities were included. MOAA and The Military Coalition fought successfully to include children of all currently serving uniformed services members (USCG, USPHS and NOAA initially were excluded) and children with other developmental disabilities. However, the amendment still excludes retired USCG, USPHS, and NOAA families from the coverage. MOAA and The Military Coalition are urging House and Senate negotiators to fix this problem. The amendment provides authority only for FY2013, so it will have to be renewed next year.

Guard-Reserve reintegration: Sen. Ron Wyden's (D-OR) adopted amendment would require the Pentagon to study the adequacy of reintegration mechanisms for Guard and Reserve members returning from deployment.

VA claims backlog: Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX) won an amendment requiring the VA to provide Congress a plan to partner with state and local entities to reduce the VA disability claims backlog.

Mental Health Services: Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) won an amendment to enhance DoD and VA mental health services to help address rising suicide rates and PTSD issues.

#### Coburn, McCain Stymie Rx Copay Fix

While the senators who blocked the amendment to cap military TRICARE pharmacy copay hikes no doubt did so based on strongly held beliefs, MOAA believes equally strongly that their stated concerns are misplaced.

Sen. Coburn: The means being used to pay for the amendment are "smoke and mirrors."

MOAA response: Hardly. Imposing a requirement to use mail-order medications generates major, real savings for the government.

Sen. Coburn: [Passing this amendment would consume money otherwise needed] for naval exercises, for flight training, for tank training, for range training. In other words, out of this account is where it comes to all the preparedness.

MOAA response: Absolutely not. The Defense Department has underspent its health care budget by \$3 billion over the last three years and by \$700 million in FY2012 alone. The Republican House passed the copay cap in recognition that it would consume only a small fraction of that gross overage. DoD's health care budget should be used for health care, not as a cash cow to fund other purposes. Interestingly, the same day Sen. Coburn was claiming on the Senate floor that this modest amendment would damage military readiness, he was telling another reporter, "We could take another \$50 billion, in my estimation, or \$40 billion a year out of the Defense Department."

Sen. McCain: I have not yet met a single 18-year-old, including my own son, who joined the Marine Corps who said: Gee, I want to join the Marine Corps because of TRICARE.

MOAA response: This isn't about 18-year-olds. It's about members and families who serve decades in the military. They don't join the military for health care, but it's definitely a big factor in decisions to stay for a career. There's a reason why generations of military career counselors and reenlistment materials have emphasized the health care benefits that accrue from career service.

Sen. McCain: Our obligation to [the military] is not to hand them a bankrupt Defense Department, that all the costs are in things such as TRICARE and retirement benefits and other personnel costs so we can't provide them with what they need to fight.

MOAA response: It's not personnel and health costs that are busting the DoD budget. Those comprise the same percentage of the DoD budget (about one-third) that they have for the past 30 years. It's the lack of effective leadership oversight of grossly inefficient health care, procurement and other systems that needlessly waste billions of taxpayer dollars every year. Rather than trying to get beneficiaries to pay the bill for that, Congress should be making DoD leaders clean up a system that's so fouled up that it can't even be audited and can't account for how billions are being spent.

#### MOAA vs. Washington Post

On Monday, the Washington Post published an editorial calling for increases in TRICARE fees for military retirees and their families.

"The modest cuts in TRICARE benefits that Mr. Obama seeks are abundantly justified by the national



interest," the Post bombasted. "His Office of Management and Budget announced Thursday that the president's advisers will urge a veto of a defense bill without TRICARE reform; they would be right to do so."

"We agree getting it right with defense cuts is critical," said Ryan's letter. "Out of control deficits and a dangerous rise in the national debt are national security issues."

"But we can't agree that Congress should simply raise military retirees' healthcare costs by \$1,000 to \$2,000 a year while letting Defense leaders off the hook for health system mismanagement and inefficiencies no civilian company would tolerate."

"If DoD would simply follow the advice outlined in studies as far back as 1991 that recommends providing health care delivery jointly - the same way the military services fight - this one suggestion could save the Pentagon billions."

"Additionally, DoD has asked Congress to reprogram under-executed dollars from the Defense Health budget into other non-health care programs to the tune of over \$3 billion over the past two years."

"Defense leaders should fulfill their responsibility for efficient healthcare program oversight rather than foisting large fee hikes on military people's earned benefits."

"Congress is right in refusing to impose steep financial penalties on active and retired troops and families who already have borne 100% of our national wartime sacrifice."

Military personnel have paid huge up-front premiums through decades of service and sacrifice to earn their health coverage in retirement."

"Military members are willing to be part of the solution but not until the Pentagon gets its own management act together."

## **MOAA's LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for December 14, 2012:**

### Panetta Issues Veto Threat

The Secretary of Defense warned he would recommend a presidential veto of the defense bill unless Congress changes certain provisions. Among a long list of things, his letter mentioned Congress' failure to support big TRICARE fee hikes. Would the President veto the defense bill over that?

### Your Biggest Healthcare Risk

Everybody in Washington is talking about finishing the defense bill and avoiding sequestration and the fiscal cliff.

But let's not forget another huge issue the lame ducks still have to fix in the next 17 days - the 27% cut in Medicare and TRICARE payments current law will require as of January 1.

This cut is the biggest threat to your family's healthcare access, and it's not getting a lot of play in the media.

But this is a huge deal. More and more doctors are already refusing to take new Medicare and TRICARE

patients, because they pay less than just about any other insurance programs.

Everyone in Congress agrees the impending 27% cut must be stopped, but they're still bickering over how to pay for it, and whether a legislative fix should be permanent or temporary.

Some expect a short term fix to be part of a "grand bargain" to avoid the fiscal cliff, but there's no guarantee that Congress and the Administration will reach a compromise before the end of the year.

This is getting serious. Please send your legislators a MOAA-suggested message asking them to work across party lines and reach a quick agreement to avoid a 27% cut that would devastate military and Medicare beneficiaries' healthcare access: <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/alert/?alertid=61763501>.

### Defense Budget Whackers

On December 9, a bipartisan group of 22 U.S. Representatives - 11 Republicans and 11 Democrats - signed a letter to House and Senate leaders and the president urging inclusion of "substantial" additional defense budget cuts as part of any broad agreement to address the nation's deficit problems.

They argue that additional cuts in Defense spending are warranted and that strategic reductions are possible with the end of operations in Iraq and the drawdown in Afghanistan.

"As we transition from wartime to peacetime, and as we confront our nation's fiscal challenges, future defense budgets should reflect the conclusion of these wars and acknowledge that our modern military is able to approach conflicts utilizing fewer but more advanced resources..."

They also cited former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs ADM Michael Mullen's argument that the nation's debt is the greatest threat to national security.

The letter offers another signal that legislators looking to cut spending will "go where the money is" - which includes defense as well as government health care programs, Social Security, tax revenue, and more.

While that's simply a fact of life, MOAA is concerned the defense budget already is being cut nearly \$500 billion over the next decade as part of the budget deal enacted in August 2011. Sequestration would cut another \$500 billion, and even those who want to avoid sequestration say an alternative would still end up cutting \$100 billion or \$200 billion from defense.

And when you have to cut big bucks from the defense budget, it invariably means going after people programs - force cuts, pay caps, healthcare, retirement, commissaries and family support programs. We simply can't lie down and roll over for that, from a standpoint of national security and as a matter of fairness.

Please send your legislators a MOAA-suggest message urging against imposing disproportional penalties

on the military community that already has sacrificed more for America than any other group of citizens.

#### **MOAA's LEGISLATIVE UPDATE for December 21, 2012:**

##### Fiscal Cliff Looms over Holidays

Lawmakers will return to Washington between Christmas and New Years to try and finalize a deal to avoid the fiscal cliff. What might be in that deal?

##### MOAA Recognized as "Most Influential"

MOAA Government Relations Director Steve Strobridge was named one of the 100 most influential people in U.S. Defense by Defense News and Military Times' inaugural list of influential players from the worlds of politics, the military, business, government and academia.

##### More Defense Bill Details

We reported in our December 19 special legislative update that House and Senate conferees included key provisions in the FY2013 defense authorization bill that will; increase military pay, protect against massive TRICARE pharmacy copays increases, thwart a BRAC-style military retirement commission, and address a long-standing concurrent receipt glitch.

Here are some additional highlights from the final defense bill (which was approved by the House of Representatives Thursday and should pass the Senate today):

**Force reduction limits:** The legislation caps force cuts at 15,000 a year for Army and 5,000 a year for the Marine Corps to ensure that the drawdown doesn't negatively impact dwell time between deployments for remaining troops.

**Space-available travel:** The new law authorizes (but does not require) the Secretary of Defense to expand eligibility to "gray area" Guard/Reserve retirees under age 60 and to other categories of individuals the Secretary deems appropriate. The Secretary has authority to establish relative travel priorities among eligible groups.

**Autism treatment:** The new law establishes a one-year pilot program making active duty and retired family members diagnosed with autism eligible for applied behavioral analysis (ABA) therapy under TRICARE. MOAA is pleased the provision includes all uniformed services (the original House and Senate bills excluded some or all Coast Guard, NOAA, and USPHS beneficiaries). But we're disappointed it excludes family members with other diagnoses for which ABA therapy is helpful. The one-year limit means another battle to continue eligibility beyond FY2013.

**Survivor Benefit Plan:** Repeals requirement for payment of SBP premiums when a retired service member employed as a federal civilian waives military retired pay to provide a survivor annuity under the Federal Retirement System. No military SBP annuity will be paid in that case.

**Mental Health Counselors:** Directs the VA and DoD to recruit more mental health professionals to provide service to veterans and servicemembers.

We have developed a side by side matrix to compare how selected proposals in the House and Senate versions of the defense bill were resolved in the final law.

##### MOAA's Holiday Wish to You

On behalf of MOAA's entire staff, we wish you and yours the Merriest of Christmases, a Happy Hanukkah, and all the best in the New Year.

In the spirit of season we've compiled our own holiday wish list:

- Safety for our men and women in uniform serving away from home, and their families
- A bipartisan Congress willing work out a reasonable deal to avoid the fiscal cliff and sequestration
- A responsible debt reduction plan that doesn't disproportionately penalize the military community
- Wounded Warrior and veteran care and employment improvements
- A long-term fix to the statutory formula that now threatens big annual cuts to Medicare and TRICARE payments
- An end to the unfair financial penalties still imposed on thousands of disabled retirees and military widows

We truly appreciate your interest of our legislative update and your powerful grassroots support to help persuade our legislators to do the right thing. There will be no update for the next holiday week, so this will be our last update in 2012.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter for the latest news on fiscal cliff negotiations:  
<http://www.facebook.com/OnePowerfulVoice>  
<https://twitter.com/MilitaryOfficer>.

If you're traveling over the holidays, please have a safe trip, as we'll need all of our dedicated grassroots supporters back for what promises to be a challenging year in 2013.

*HAPPY NEW YEAR!!*

*To each of you  
Shirley & John*



## JAYHAWK CHAPTER MOAA



A membership meeting will be held **Tuesday, 22 January 2013**, at the  
Lawrence Country Club.  
Dinner cost is \$22.00/meal.

**The Program:** Our guest speaker will be Gary Bjorge, a Professor at the Command and General Staff College,  
who specializes in the Far East (especially China)

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

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

Send your reservation and check payable to Jayhawk Chapter MOAA  
to arrive no later than **Thursday, 18 January 2013**, 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*

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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).

Chapter Dues (\$20.00) are due 01 January 2013 \$\_\_\_\_\_

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)

**Thank you for receiving  
the newsletter via e-mail !!  
It saves the Chapter for both  
printing and postage.**

**2012 Jayhawk MOAA Calendar:**

Tuesday            22 January 2013

**Tentative 2013 Meeting Dates:**

Tuesday            12 March 2013

Tuesday            14 May 2013

Tuesday            09 July 2013

Tuesday            10 September 2013

Tuesday            12 November 2013

Tuesday            14 January 2014



*One Association, One Voice. Yours.*

*Newsletter Editor*

*Jayhawk Chapter, MOAA*

*2403 Manchester Road*

*Lawrence, KS 66049-1646*

***FIRST CLASS MAIL***

**IN GOD WE TRUST**