



Jayhawk Chapter MOAA Newsletter



This newsletter is published bimonthly by the Jayhawk Chapter of Kansas, Military Officers Association of America, as a service to all members. The Jayhawk emblem is used with the permission of the registered trademark owner, the University of Kansas.

March Program:

Our guest speaker will be CAPT Jim Cooper.
His topic will be “Russia from Moscow to Siberia and into the Far East.”

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

★★★ CHAPTER
awarded for
2004 / 2006 / 2007

President’s Corner . . .

Thanks to Bob Johnson for his leadership through the past year. It’s an honor to serve as your president, and I’ll try to uphold the standards of my predecessors.



This year, as every year, building our membership is an important goal. If every member of Jayhawk Chapter could bring in one new member this year — well, we’d double our size! I have invited three prospective members to join us at our March dinner. Who could you invite?

The Comfort Scholarship Fund — you’re familiar with this. Like our membership, this needs to grow, to better serve our KU cadets and honor General Comfort’s memory. At our January meeting, our members were challenged to increase it by contributing \$500 [\$100 per year] over the next five years. Come on, friends, you can do it, that’s less than \$2 a week!

I know that many of us proudly display our veterans’ license plates, but if you don’t have yours yet, why not plan to get one at your tag renewal time? Unlike “vanity plates,” they cost the same as regular plates, and they remind other drivers of those who have served. And folk wisdom has it that law-enforcement types look on them with favor!

You’re frequently reminded, in the Halladays’ updates and in Military Officer, your MOAA magazine, that it’s vital to contact your legislators on military issues that impact our national defense and your own benefits. My thanks to those who take the time to send those emails, or mail those letters. If you haven’t developed this habit yet, please consider it. Politicians respond to numbers!

Dean

Volume XVIII, Issue 2

1 March 2013

Staff:

- President:
COL E. Dean Bevan, AUS (Ret)
- 1st Vice-President:
RADM H. Edward Phillips, USN (Ret)
- 2nd Vice-President:
LCDR Michael R. Miller, USN (Ret)
- Secretary:
COL John W. Halladay, AUS (Ret)
- Treasurer:
CAPT James S. Cooper, USN (Ret)
- Past-President:
Maj Robert W. Johnson, USAF (Ret)
- Directors:
Maj Robert W. Johnson, USAF (Ret)
COL John Connolly, USA (Ret)
LTC Gerald Rutledge, USA (Ret)
Capt Andrew D. Bauch, USAF (Ret)
LTC Michael R. Devlin, USA (Ret)
LTC Storm E. Reynolds, ROTC
- Newsletter Editors:
COL John & Shirley Halladay
- Web Master:
Lt Col Stanley Sneegas, USAF (Ret)

Inside this issue:

March Program	1
President’s Message	1
Jayhawk Chapter News	2-3
Army News	3
Navy News	4
Air Force News	5
MOAA Legislative Updates	6
Dinner Reservation Form	11
MOAA calendar & websites	12

*** Reservations should be sent
to Jim Cooper by
14 March**



JAYHAWK CHAPTER NEWS

CHAPTER DUES: *Chapter Dues (\$20.00) were due 01 January 2013. If you haven't done so already, please send your dues to Jim Cooper as soon as possible so we don't have to delay the Chapter Directory until May.*

Brigadier General Vic Braden became Deputy Commanding General, Army National Guard, for the United States Army Combined Arms Center on 14 February 2013. His focus is on the development of adaptive leaders who can think critically and are well trained and educated in the art and science of war.

The Assumption of Responsibility Ceremony took place at the Frontier Conference Center, Ft. Leavenworth.



From Dean Bevan:

Judy and I spent a pleasant ten days with friends on the Gulf Coast, in Orange Beach, Alabama. Stayed for a night on the way down at Meridian (Miss.) Naval Air Station – nice quarters, attractive post. Wore my "Retired US Army" hat in Alabama, where it gets lots of positive reactions – "Thank you for your service," "Good evening, Sir!" (this from a fit-looking young man with a buzz cut).

I just learned that my play, "Choice," will be performed in July at the Elgin (IL) Art Showcase in the suburbs of Chicago. I will attend and will teach a playwriting workshop, as well as leading discussions of the play's issues after each performance.

Short synopsis of the play:

A studious 18-year-old girl shocks her Unitarian parents by embracing Catholicism and counseling her 14-year-old sister to carry her unplanned pregnancy to full term. The parents arrange a quick abortion, and the whole family must confront the reasons for their choices.

The play is one of 20 I've written in the past ten years, most of which have been performed around the country, from New York to Seattle.



Elgin Art Showcase

From Herschel Stroud:



“Standing Guard”

Picture taken at the National Cemetery in Minneapolis, MN on a June morning - as it appeared in the Minneapolis Star/Tribune. Talk about a picture being worth a thousand words! You couldn't "stage" this shot in a thousand years, and yet Providence has allowed it to be captured for our respect and enjoyment!

Andrew Bauch recently accepted a position with the Douglas County District Attorney's Office prosecuting Driving Under the Influence (DUI) cases and other traffic related crimes.

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.

PLEASE EXCUSE MY GOOF ON THE JANUARY NEWSLETTER . . . the schedule of meetings on the last page was “off” by one week. Our meetings continue to be the third Tuesday of the odd months. The correct schedule is shown on the last page of this newsletter.



Army News

LTC Storm Reynolds, USA

Greetings Jayhawk Chapter!

The 2013 Spring Semester is off to a strong start. Returning from Christmas Break, the Jayhawk Battalion welcomed 27 new Cadets into the Battalion. Our new Cadets were quickly integrated into their squads in order to participate in a multitude of training events. Outside of Classroom instruction, Cadets received hands-on training covering everything from first aid, weapon training, map reading and squad movement techniques.



Throughout the semester much of a Cadet’s hands-on training will be conducted in the field. When the Jayhawk Battalion conducts operations in our local training area Cadets are able to put their newly acquired skills to practical use.



KU Cadets have also excelled in their academic goals. This semester six Cadets were inducted into Scabbard and Blade, a National Honor Society, during a special ceremony on January 18th in the Spencer Research library. The Scabbard and Blade society members represent the elite scholars, athletes and leaders of the ROTC program. The society is steeped in tradition and promotes the importance of being a scholar and leader. Scabbard and Blade members embrace military traditions and KU history while striving to take a more active role in the community.



Most recently one of the Jayhawk Battalion's own, Matthew Visser, was recognized by the University of Kansas on the fifth annual Men of Merit poster. The poster recognizes KU men who positively define masculinity by challenging norms, taking action and leading by example. Cadet Visser was recognized for his accomplishments in ROTCs and contributions to KU and the surrounding community.



As always, thank you for your support to the Jayhawk Battalion.



Check out our website at www.armyrotc.ku.edu for more details on these events, and take a look here <http://www.armyrotc.ku.edu/#rbc-video> . Additionally, find us on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/KUArmyROTC> and follow us on Twitter: http://twitter.com/KU_ArmyROTC

JAYHAWKS LEAD THE WAY!

LTC Storm Reynolds



Navy News
CAPT David Schweizer, USN



Greetings from the Jayhawk Navy!

It's a great day in Kansas as the Naval ROTC started strong in another semester! Rested and recharged after the Holiday break and with various unit activities on the horizon, our future officers have a lot to look forward to and prepare for.

After the conclusion of exam week last December I had the honor to participate in the commissioning ceremonies of two of our very own Jayhawks. The commissioning ceremony illustrates the core purpose of the NROTC program and one of the foundations of our service, developing future

leaders. Marine 2nd Lt. Stephen Messer and Navy Ensign Ruben Maldonado each took the oath of office in front of their shipmates and families. 2nd Lt. Messer is originally from Ft. Leavenworth and had his family attending his commissioning. He is currently undergoing training at The Basic School (TBS) in Quantico, VA. Ensign Maldonado is originally from Junction City, MO, and has since moved to Pearl Harbor, HI, with his family where he has begun serving aboard the USS Russell (DDG 59). We at KU NROTC take great pride in welcoming both young men to the Fleet.

In other news, our Midshipmen and Officer Candidates recently participated in the NJROTC Drill Meet at Shawnee



Mission North High School held Saturday, 16 February. Our future officers served as judges and mentors to high school students (pictured above) from throughout the Midwest. The

battalion will also participate in two drill meets this semester. One will be against the NROTC battalion at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and the other will be a regional drill meet in Memphis, Tennessee. The Battalion (pictured below) is working hard and having fun both in their academic and professional development.



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

Greeting from Det 280, the Flying Jayhawk Wing,

The 280th Flying Jayhawk Wing is off to another very successful start this semester.

“What’s Planned”

The cadets have been busy planning a semester full of hands-on training events to include our spring semester field leadership exercise (FLX). The FLX is designed to give our cadets an opportunity to experience first-hand what Air Force operations are like in an austere environment. They will learn how to move and communicate on the battlefield, and how to deal with local nationals that they may encounter in a deployed environment. Other training events include a land navigation course, Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape (SERE) training, and a laser tag FLX-type event. Plans are in place for our other normal events, which include our annual and semester awards ceremony and joint commissioning. Additionally, plans are in the works for some new events this semester, which include a Det 280

Commissioning Ball, a Skit Nite, and a possible joint field day and a possible joint parade. On 14 March, we will have one of our mandatory requirements for this semester, the cadets’ physical fitness assessment (PFA). The PFA is comprised of pushups, sit-ups, and a mile and a half run. As you can see, there is never a dull moment here at the 280th.

“Info about EAs”

This year, we submitted 12 cadets for continuation in our advance program. The Enrollment Allocation (EA) process is what determines which cadets in the Air Force ROTC program will get a commission. The EA process is very competitive; last year only around 60% of cadets received an EA. A board at AFROTC headquarters will meet in March to determine which of our 12 will get an EA. The board looks at detachment commander’s ranking, GPA, physical fitness test results, and academic aptitude scores to make their

determination. We wish our cadets the best of luck through this demanding process.

“Good News Stories”

I am happy to announce that we nominated three outstanding cadets for pilot duty and all three received a slot. The well-deserved individuals were cadets Nathaniel Berndt, McKenna Hall, and Emily Thompson. Additionally, we will have five of our freshmen (AS100) cadets competing at the Headquarters (HQ) Air Force ROTC In-College Scholarship Program board.

“Not So Good News”

The impending federal budget "sequestration" has already had an effect on our detachment. We had to cancel a planned base visit and attendance at a national convention

for the cadets may be in jeopardy. Additionally, our annual AFROTC Commander's Conference and travel for upcoming scholarship boards were cancelled. The scholarship boards will still take place but will be done virtually, a first for AFROTC. There will be additional cuts as we approach 1 March. There may be more tough times ahead.

Jayhawk Chapter of MOAA, as always, Det 280 thanks you for your support.

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, 04 JANUARY 2013:

What the New Law Changes Mean to You:

Congress worked long hours before Christmas on the FY 2013 National Defense Authorization Act and returned after a quick holiday break leading to a dramatic New Year's Day showdown on legislation to avert the fiscal cliff.

The defense bill the president signed into law this week includes many changes to military pay and benefits. The most notable ones you'll see in the next few months:

- * 1.7-percent military pay raise, effective Jan. 1, 2013;
- * TRICARE retail pharmacy copayments: Brand-name and non-formulary medications will rise from \$12 and \$25, respectively, to \$17 and \$44 effective Feb. 1. Generic drug copayments will stay at \$5;
- * TRICARE mail-order copayments: Brand-name and non-formulary medications will rise from \$9 and \$25, respectively, to \$13 and \$43. Generic drugs will continue to be provided by mail at no cost;
- * Maintenance medication refills: Sometime later in the spring, probably no sooner than April 1, TRICARE For Life beneficiaries will be required to begin a one-year trial of using either the mail-order system or military pharmacies for refills of maintenance medications. Provisions in the law ensure no one will be turned away from a retail pharmacy without enough medication to last until the alternate refill is available. Many generic medications likely will be exempt from the mail/military pharmacy refill requirement; and
- * Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC): Some combat-disabled military retirees will see a correction (increase) in their CRSC payments. DFAS will do the new calculations and make corrected payments retroactive to Jan. 1, 2013. There's no

provision to provide corrected payments for prior years.

The fiscal cliff legislation the president also signed into law earlier this week means:

- * Medicare/TRICARE payments to your doctors didn't suffer a 27-percent cut Jan. 1;
- * \$50 billion in threatened additional defense cuts have been fended off for 60 days; and working Americans will see an extra 2-percent payroll tax bite from their 2013 paychecks (the special 2-percent windfall relief during the past several years has expired).

2013 Legislative Goals:

Active/Reserve Force/Family Issues:

- Sustain active duty, Guard and Reserve force sizes to meet mission requirements
- Sustain military pay comparability with private sector
- Protect currently serving and retiree benefits against significant degradation based on sequestration's arbitrary cuts
- Credit all post-9/11 active duty service toward Guard/Reserve early retirement
- Restore tax deduction for reservists' out-of-pocket expenses for military travel of 50 miles or more
- Create new incentives for employers to hire and retain drilling Guard/Reserve members
- Provide incentives for employers/government/contractors to hire military spouses
- Protect funding for commissary/exchange, dependent schools and family support programs
- Improve access to affordable child care
- Require better education on serious financial disadvantages of the REDUX retirement option

- Improve professional licensure transferability for servicemembers and military spouses

Health Care Issues

- Avert 27% Medicare/TRICARE payment cut and fix statutory formula to improve access to care
- Protect against disproportional increases in TRICARE fees
- Oppose enrollment fee for TRICARE For Life or curtailment of TFL coverage
- Allow three years of active-duty-level TRICARE coverage for disability retirees/families
- Improve seamless transition and protect Defense and VA health/benefits/support systems budgets
- Authorize option to subsidize retention of operational reservists' civilian family health insurance
- Expand TRICARE coverage for Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) for active and retired members of the uniformed services

Retirement/Survivor Issues

- Oppose military benefit changes that are inconsistent with service career sacrifices
- Preserve full-inflation cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs)
- End deduction of VA disability compensation from military retired pay
- End deduction of VA survivor benefits (DIC) from military Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuities
- Implement a more equitable military disability retirement system
- Restore VA DIC compensation for qualifying survivors who remarry after age 55
- Reform same SBP calculation for a reservist who dies performing IDT as for active duty deaths
- Authorize survivors to retain a deceased retiree's full final-month retired pay
- Authorize SBP annuities to be paid to Special Needs Trusts for permanently disabled children
- Reform the Uniformed Services Former Spouse Protection Act (USFSPA)
- Authorize Space-A travel for 'gray area' Guard-Reserve retirees and qualifying survivors

Veterans and Other Issues

- Improve quality, efficiency, transparency, and timeliness of VA claims-processing system
- Establish Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits for surviving spouses of Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts
- Improve VA health services and access for women veterans
- Authorize pre-tax payment of health, dental and long-term care premiums
- Prevent disproportional Social Security/Medicare penalties for any population segment

Your Voice Sets Advocacy Record

Many members express frustration with the responses (or lack thereof) they receive from their legislators' offices. But experience shows that grassroots communication volume does, in fact, have a major effect on legislative outcomes, and 2012 was no different.

MOAA is thankful for all of our members and others who took the time to contact their legislators this year on issues important to the military community. Your efforts set a record — generating more than 932,000 emails to Congress through MOAA's website and well over 1.2 million total messages when you include postcards, tear-out letters, and phone calls.

In the end, you played a key role in protecting the military community against disproportionate benefit cuts.

Here's a quick snapshot of the MOAA message topics with the highest input to Congress in 2012.

- Don't Triple Military Rx Copays — 261,265
- Oppose Disproportional TRICARE Fees — 240,311
- Don't Punish Military People in a "Grand Bargain" — 238,857
- Repeal the SBP/DIC Offset — 60,138
- Enhance Concurrent Receipt — 59,036
- Prevent Medicare/TRICARE cut — 58,445

If you didn't participate in 2012, we hope you'll make it one of your New Year's resolutions for 2013. Our user-friendly Congressional messaging system will make it one of your easiest resolutions to accomplish.

MOAA'S LEGISLATIVE UPDATE, 11 JANUARY 2013:

Military Pay, Survivor Benefit Plan Bills Introduced:

[H.R. 32 — Repeal the SBP/DIC Offset](#). Rep. Joe Wilson's (R-S.C.) bill would repeal current law that requires a dollar-for-dollar offset of Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuities from VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) for the survivors of servicemembers who die of service-connected causes.

[H.R. 55 — Don't Let a Funding Gap Stop Military Pay](#). Rep. Michael Fitzpatrick's (R-Pa.) bill would protect against any interruption of pay for servicemembers and federal law enforcement officials in the event of a government shutdown. We expect many more bills to be added over the next few weeks as the 113th Congress settles in. Be sure to bookmark [MOAA's Key Bills](#) page to help you stay involved in our advocacy efforts.

MOAA'S LEGISLATIVE UPDATE, 18 JANUARY 2013:

MOAA vs Washington Post:

January 15, 2013

Editor

Washington Post

Dear Editor,

Walter Pincus' latest screed on the military retirement system ("*The unaffordability of the all-volunteer military*" in the Jan. 15 *Post*) is not only wrong on the facts, but self-contradictory.

To start with, the Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) testified before the House Armed Services Committee on Oct 25, 2011 that the military retirement system is "neither unaffordable, nor spiraling out of control."

Second, Pincus' parroting of the myth that "military people retiring with 20 or more years of service receive at least 50 percent of their salaries for the rest of their lives" doesn't make it true. In fact, an E-7 retiring today with 20 years' service

earns retired pay that replaces about 31% of his active-duty Regular Military Compensation “salary”.

Finally, while Pincus describes the military retirement system as “arguably the best retirement deal around,” he also cites criticism that only 17 percent of service entrants serve until retirement.

In trying to talk out of both sides of his mouth, Pincus defeats his own argument. If military retirement is such a great deal, why aren’t more people taking advantage of it?

Because few are willing to endure the demands and sacrifices of uniformed service for a single term, let alone 20 or 30 years.

Like most armchair critics, Pincus cavalierly ignores – and thus insultingly devalues -- the extraordinary up-front contributions required to earn this reciprocal recognition from a supposedly grateful nation.

Sincerely,
Norb Ryan, Jr., VADM, USN (Ret)

New Bills: Concurrent Receipt and More:

Members of the House of Representatives reintroduced several bills of interest this week.

Click on the bills below to send your legislator a MOAA-suggested message:

[H.R. 303 – Retired Pay Restoration Act](#): Rep. Gus Bilirakis’ (R-Fla.) bill would authorize the full concurrent receipt of retired pay and veterans’ disability compensation for retirees regardless of disability rating.

[H.R. 288 – CHAMPVA Children’s Protection Act](#): Rep. Michael Michaud’s (D-Maine) bill would increase the maximum age to 26 for children eligible for medical care under the CHAMPVA program.

[H.R. 258 – Stolen Valor Act](#): Rep. Joe Heck’s (R-Nev.) bill would make it a crime for a person to profit by misrepresenting his or her military service or eligibility for military awards or decorations.

Many more bills will be added over the next few weeks as the 113th Congress settles in. Be sure to bookmark [MOAA’s key bills page](#) to help you stay involved in our advocacy efforts.

SBP Hero Retires:



Today is retired Marine Corps Col. Lee Lange’s last day of work at MOAA. As director of Council and Chapter Affairs for the past seven years, Lee has been a familiar face to and stalwart supporter of the state and local leaders who form the core of MOAA’s grassroots legislative clout and who do so much to serve the military and veterans’ community, their local communities and states, and our country.

But before that, Lee had five years of extraordinary achievements as deputy director for Government Relations.

Working with Hill champions Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-La.) and Rep. Jeff Miller (R-Fla.), Lee crafted legislation and a grassroots campaign strategy that finally won our decades-long battle to repeal the law that used to cut military widows’ Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) payments to 35 percent of covered retired pay at age 62 (versus 55 percent before 62).

In that victory alone, Lee won a 57-percent compensation increase for more than a quarter-million military survivors. For the survivor of a typical retired O-5, that’s about \$8,000 more every year for life. You can calculate for yourself what it meant for you and your spouse. And his victory has kept on giving, as it persuaded a much larger share of subsequently retiring members to elect SBP protection for their spouses.

Lee also won another huge battle that ended massive capital gains taxes for thousands of military people who kept a home while reassigned overseas or elsewhere and later had to sell the home. The law change allowed military homeowners the same \$500,000 capital gains exemption enjoyed by other American homeowners as long as they occupied the home for at least two of the five years before the sale.

As Lee and his wife, Janet, prepare for the next phase of their life with children and parents in Arizona, their Government Relations partners and MOAA community offer a fond and grateful salute

MOAA’S LEGISLATIVE UPDATE, 25 JANUARY 2013:

More New Bills of Interest

Members of the House of Representatives reintroduced several bills of interest this week.

Click on the bills below to send your legislator a MOAA-suggested message:

- * [H.R. 333](#) — Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act. Rep. Sanford Bishop’s (D-Ga.) bill would authorize the full concurrent receipt of retired pay and veterans’ disability compensation for military retirees regardless of disability rating, including those with Chapter 61 medical retirements.
- * H.R. 241 — Veterans Timely Access to Health Care Act. Rep. Dennis Ross’s (R-Fla.) bill would ensure veterans seeking treatment at a VA facility get appointments within 30 days.
- * H.R. 357 — GI Bill Tuition Fairness Act. Rep. Jeff Miller’s (R-Fla.) bill would let all student veterans enroll in any public college and pay in-state tuition, even if they had not established residency in the state.
- * S. 6 — Putting our Veterans Back to Work Act. Sen. Harry Reid’s (D-Nev.) bill would provide grants for hiring veterans as first responders, a single unified employment portal, job training benefits for older veterans, and upgraded transition services for servicemembers leaving active duty.

Many more bills will be added over the next few weeks as the 113th Congress settles in. Bookmark MOAA’s Key Bills page to help you stay involved in our advocacy efforts.

MOAA’S LEGISLATIVE UPDATE, 01 FEBRUARY 2013:

New TRICARE Pharmacy Co-Payment Adjustments Set to Start & Update on TFL Mandatory Mail

The new copayments for prescription drugs covered by TRICARE will go into effect Friday February 1, 2013. The Fiscal Year 2013 National Defense Authorization Act requires TRICARE to increase copays on brand name and non-formulary medications that are not filled at military clinics or

hospitals. There is no increase to copays for generic medications.

By way of history, while not a fan of raising rates, we did recognize that these adjustments were the “lesser of the evils” which otherwise would have been foisted upon us. We supported the fact that for fiscal 2014 and beyond, the new law which directs that copays increase annually by only the same percentage as [retiree cost of living adjustments](#). In years when a COLA increase would total less than a dollar, it will be delayed a year and combined with the next adjustment so increases will always be \$1 or more.

TRICARE Pharmacy copays vary based on the class of drug and where beneficiaries choose to fill their prescriptions. The copay for generic medications stays at \$5 when a prescription is filled at a network pharmacy. There is no co-pay when generic prescriptions are filled through TRICARE Home Delivery. The new copay for a 30-day supply of a brand name medication purchased at a retail network pharmacy will be \$17, up from the current \$12. Beneficiaries using TRICARE Home Delivery will pay \$13 for brand name drugs, up from \$9. However, the Home Delivery price is for a 90-day supply.

The greatest change in copays applies to non-formulary medications. The \$25 copay for these drugs increases to \$44 at retail pharmacies and \$43 through Home Delivery. The [TRICARE Uniform Formulary](#) is a list of all the medications TRICARE covers.

Pharmacies at military hospitals and clinics will continue to provide medications with no copays.

Additionally, we have received numerous inquiries regarding the start-up of one of the other key 2013 legislative provisions – the mandatory home delivery of maintenance medications for TFL beneficiaries.

Recall that this provision requires a 5 year pilot program that requires beneficiaries to receive certain maintenance medications for a trial period of 1 year (with the option to opt out after that period if so desired).

In our discussions with TRICARE pharmacy leadership, we understand that the development of the implementation and execution plans will take some time. Our best forecast at this juncture, is that the program will start in the summer or early fall 2013 time frame. MOAA is planning to participate in this process by offering the perspectives of the beneficiary.

So stay tuned, more to come!

MOAA'S LEGISLATIVE UPDATE, 08 FEBRUARY 2013:

MOAA vs. Wall Street Journal

February 8, 2013

Letter to the Editor

Wall Street Journal

Dear Editor,

Michèle Flournoy's February 5 op-ed (“The Right Way To Cut Pentagon Spending”) comments on military health care costs are wrong on perspective and wrong on the facts.

Ms. Flournoy complains that medical costs are 10% of the defense budget. But health care consumes 23% of the federal budget, 22% of the average state budget and 16% of household discretionary spending. Put in proper context, DoD's 10% is a bargain, especially since DoD has underspent the Tricare budget by \$3 billion over the past three years.

She also implies working-age military retirees shouldn't be allowed to use military TRICARE coverage – as if they hadn't earned that benefit through decades of arduous service and sacrifice.

What kind of policymaker would induce generations to serve 20-30 years in uniform with promises of future benefits – and then abrogate the promises once they've kept their end of the bargain? What's next...denying military retired pay for those who seek employment after leaving service in their 40s and 50s?

Finally, anyone who asserts military beneficiaries' health fees haven't changed since 1996 hasn't been paying attention. In fact, Congress has instituted annual fee hikes and dramatically increased TRICARE pharmacy copays, among other health benefit cutbacks.

Sincerely,

Vice Adm. Norbert R. Ryan, Jr., President
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
201 N Washington St.
Alexandria, VA 22314-2539

Military Volunteers Needed

*Are you, or do you know of a servicemember, active duty, reservist, or National Guard, who is 18-years or older that might like to participate in a study that looks at how technology is used to seek information about post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or depression? Then the Defense Department and RAND Corporation would like to **talk to YOU or THEM!***

*Eligible respondents will receive a \$25 Amazon gift card for completing the survey.

*The survey is completely *ANONYMOUS* and will not be linked to any identifying information.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact study personnel at 1-(886)-887-3176 or simcoach@rand.org.

New Bills of Interest

The House and Senate introduced several important new bills this week.

Click on the bills below to send your legislator a MOAA-suggested message:

- * [H.R. 543 – Blue Water Vietnam Veterans Act](#). Rep. Chris Gibson's (R-NY) bill would authorize presumptive service connection for “Blue Water” Navy Vietnam veterans on disability claims for health conditions associated with exposure to Agent Orange.
- * [S. 210 – Stolen Valor Act](#). Sen. Dean Heller's (R-Nev.) bill would make it a crime for a person to profit by misrepresenting his or her military service or eligibility for military awards or decorations.
- * [S. 234 – The Retired Pay Restoration Act of 2013](#). Sen. Harry Reid's (D-Nev.) bill would authorize the full concurrent receipt of retired pay and veterans' disability compensation for military retirees regardless of disability rating, including those with Chapter 61 medical retirements.
- * [S. 240 - Reserve Retirement Deployment Credit Correction Act](#). Senators Jon Tester's (D-MT) and Saxby Chambliss' (R-AL) bill would ease the current

requirement that any 90-day period of active service creditable toward early reserve retirement eligibility must be completed within the same fiscal year.

More bills will be available on [MOAA's Key Bills](#) page soon.

More Mail-Order Rx Qs & As

Q. I live in Arizona, where temperatures routinely are over 100 degrees. Won't drugs lose their potency if they ride around in a hot mail truck all day or sit on a porch or in a mailbox?

A. Express Scripts (whose TRICARE distribution center is in Tempe AZ) officials say the temperature issue is mainly a longer-term storage concern. Sitting in a delivery vehicle or mailbox at higher temperatures won't cause a loss of potency for most drugs. The ones for which that could be an issue are mailed in special temperature-controlled packaging and closely tracked to delivery.

Q. My wife and I get our prescriptions from a military pharmacy. Will we have to sign up for mail-order refills and stop going to the base?

A. No. You can still get refills through military pharmacies if you choose. The restriction on maintenance medication refills for Medicare-eligibles only applies to retail pharmacies, not military pharmacies.

Q. My mother is a 91-year old surviving spouse who is a TFL beneficiary. She lives on her own – without a computer. How will TRICARE and Express Scripts handle this new requirement with her?

A. A mail-order refill account can be set up pretty quickly and easily by phone. Still, some seniors may have physical disabilities and cognitive impairments which may be problematic. We are working with DoD to help establish reasonable criteria for exemption from the mandatory program.

Q. My spouse has had difficulty obtaining a prescribed narcotic from the mail-order pharmacy. The prescription is only for a 30 day period then requires a new one. How will this be handled?

A. Only refillable medications will be affected by the mail-order/military pharmacy requirement. We understand that narcotic drugs will be excluded from the requirement. Although some narcotics may be used for chronic conditions, all narcotics will be exempt.

Q. How do I contact Express Scripts to set up a mail-order account and get my prescriptions transferred?

A. You can do that on the web at <http://express-scripts.com/TRICARE/>. Many prefer to do it by phone at 1-877-363-1433 (for the hearing impaired, TTY 1-877-540-6261).

MOAA'S LEGISLATIVE UPDATE, 15 FEBRUARY 2013:

Congress Isn't Stopping Huge Readiness Cuts — Will You?

Deputy Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter and the Joint Chiefs told the House and Senate Armed Services committees this week that military readiness will take a huge hit if sequestration-driven budget cuts take effect.

With just two weeks left before massive sequestration-driven budget cuts kick in on March 1, Carter said, "The wolves are at the door."

His warning comes on the heels of testimony last week by Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta that DoD faces the "greatest national security readiness crisis in more than a decade."

The service chiefs said the cuts will force canceling deployments, reducing flying and steaming hours, curtailing maintenance, training, and travel, and furloughing civilian personnel for 22 days without pay.

"We need to find \$46 billion for sequestration between now and the end of the year," Carter stated. "Furloughs only get \$5 billion ... we still have \$41 [billion] to go."

The president has exempted military pay from sequestration for 2013, but Carter said the troops will be hit in other ways, including longer hours to do the work of furloughed civilians, cutting back on TRICARE access late in the year, and reducing family support programs. Next year, 100,000 extra troops will have to be cut.

Permanent Medicare/TRICARE Fix?

What will it take to put a "fix" into the "Doc Fix" for real Medicare payment reform?"

For doctors, seniors and TRICARE beneficiaries, the nail-biter has become a familiar. Lawmakers invariably defer the cuts in Medicare payments to providers, commonly referred to as the "doc fix" which was originally a payment reimbursement formula developed back in 1997. Everyone agrees this formula is broken and beyond repair. But these "kick the can" deferrals are always temporary due to the difficulty of finding offsetting funds, or cuts, to pay for a permanent fix. (This payment issue is important to TRICARE beneficiaries because TRICARE's reimbursement rate to its providers is tied to the Medicare payment rate).

In 2010 alone, Congress delayed the cuts with temporary patches five times -with the longest patch lasting one year.

Now to this year. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) on Tuesday (Feb. 5) lowered its estimated 10-year cost of freezing Medicare physician pay by a whopping \$100 billion-plus. This is a move viewed by many as a potential "game changer." In that this may help to create an opening for Congress to pass a permanent Medicare "doc fix" perhaps this year.

*An Adventure is only an inconvenience rightly understood.
An inconvenience is only an adventure wrongly understood.*

C. K. Chesterton



JAYHAWK CHAPTER MOAA

A membership meeting will be held **Tuesday, 19 March 2013**, at the Lawrence Country Club.

Dinner cost is \$22.00/meal.

The Program: Our guest speaker will be CAPT Jim Cooper. His topic will be "Russia from Moscow to Siberia and into the Far East."

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

The Menu: Pork loin, 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, 14 March 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

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) were 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

KANSAS COUNCIL WEBSITE: www.kansasmooa.org

JAYHAWK CHAPTER WEBSITE: www.jayhawkmoaa.org

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

Tentative 2013 Meeting Dates:

Tuesday 19 March 2013

Tuesday 21 May 2013

Tuesday 16 July 2013

Tuesday 17 September 2013

Tuesday 19 November 2013

Tuesday 21 January 2014



One Association, One Voice. Yours.

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

IN GOD WE TRUST