



JAYHAWK CHAPTER NEWS

CONDOLENCES

LtCol Ralph G. "RG" Henley passed away 27 April at Lawrence Memorial Hospital. Funeral services were held Monday, 30 April, at Warren McElwain Mortuary, with graveside services following at Oak Hill Cemetery. RG attended Kansas University following World War II and received his Bachelors of Science and Jurist Doctor Degrees. He was regular Army commissioned in 1950 and served from 1952 to 1970, with two tours in Korea. After that he taught at the Army General Staff and Command College at Ft. Leavenworth before retiring in 1970. He is survived by his wife Joy, four daughters, one son, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Don & Darlene Sheriff have moved to Meadowlark Estates. Their new address is **4430 Bauer Farm Drive, #315, Lawrence, KS 66049**. Phone number is **785-312-9076**. E-mail address remains the same.

NEW MEMBERS:

Armbrister, Jackson, CWO3 AUS RET
2133 East 25th Place, Lawrence, KS 66046
Telephone: 843-7043
E-mail: jackson513@aol.com
Spouse: YangSeop

Peterson, Kent, MAJ ARNG RET
Peterson, Patricia, 1stLt ANG (former)
1714 Bob White Drive, Lawrence, KS 66047
Telephone: 843-1299
E-mail: kpph4@aol.com

From Andy Bauch: On April 6, 2013, I was promoted to the rank of Major. My wife, Skyler, and cousin, a Major in the Marine Corps, were in attendance to pin on my new rank.

From Dean Bevan: I'm playing the part of Jury Foreman in "Twelve Angry Men" at Theatre Lawrence through April 28, and have been cast as the Grandfather in "Ragtime," to open in our new facility on June 21. On June 1, I'll become the Chair of the KU Department of Civil, Environmental & Architectural Engineering.

From Bob Ramsdell: I recently published a book titled *Estate Planning Overview*. Although it is available for purchase on Amazon, I primarily wrote it as a resource to distribute for free at the "Fundamentals of Estate Planning" presentation I teach at the Douglas County Senior Center and various community libraries (The next presentation is on May 16th at the Carnegie Building. See page 46 of the Winter/Spring 2013 Activities Guide from Lawrence Parks & Recreation for details.) If any Jayhawk Chapter members would like a free copy, just send your name and address to ramsdellrw@yahoo.com and I'll mail you one.

From Gerald Rutledge: Well....this "personal news" is for those who are interested in traveling/touring with a different slant. Ruthie and I just returned from a tour to the Gulf Coast. How many people like Blues Music? In Indianola, MS, is the BB King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center (off the beaten path) where you can learn more about BB King at a very informative and interesting display of rare artifacts and objects from his life. Suggest staying in Biloxi, MS, rather than New Orleans, where you can visit Beauvoir, the Jefferson Davis Home and Presidential Library. Also, a Civil War cemetery and the tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the Confederate States of America is located on the grounds. The "Friendship Oak" tree is found on the campus of Gulf Coast College, a tree that is over 500 years old. Very impressive to see. Like to eat? Mary Mahoney's, the 6th best restaurant in the world (as rated by Zagat), is located in Biloxi. A tour through the bayous by guides from the Pearl River Eco-Tours will let you see close-up the majestic cypress trees, native flora and creatures (many "friendly" alligators were encountered). That was just Biloxi. We did tour New Orleans and spent time in the French Quarter, always a fun place. Have a beignet or two?? Highlights there were the New Orleans School of Cooking (yes, we did cook), National WW II Museum and the French Quarter Festival. Biloxi is a great destination and off the usual tourist travel route. Enjoy!

**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 Alan VanLoenen: I am a member of the following organizations and if anyone is interested they could contact me.

- (1) Camp 4 - Lawrence, KS - "Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War" (SUVCW) -- meets every 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM at Watkins Museum on Mass street in downtown Lawrence.
- (2) Btry B, 3rd KS - Light Artillery, Inc. -- Union Civil War Artillery reenactment unit -- always looking for more reenactors. Do living histories, school programs and Civil War battle reenactments. Next event Blue and Grey Gettysburg 150th anniversary battle reenactment June 27-30, 2013 vicinity of Gettysburg. PA
- (3) WWII German Panzer reenactment unit. If you are interested in WWII reenactment let me know.-- Next reenactment Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, MO. April 27-28, 2013.



Army News

LTC Storm Reynolds, USA

No report received.



Navy News

CAPT David Schweizer, USN



Greetings from the Jayhawk Navy!

It's a great day in Kansas as the Naval ROTC continued strong in the spring semester! With the semester winding down and classes kicking into high gear, our Midshipmen are looking forward to summer cruise and the seniors have their eyes fixed on graduation.

Earlier in the spring semester our Midshipmen participated in the 2013 Naval ROTC Nebraska drill meet from 1-3 March. This event brought Midshipmen from the Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma NROTC units together in the spirit of friendly competition. Pictured is our Champion Color Guard led by MIDN

2/C Shawn Smith (carrying the National Ensign). This unit won 1st Place overall at the Nebraska meet. In addition to winning drill meets, our Color Guard performed during ceremonies and before sporting events on the KU campus. I am very proud of our team and the hard work that goes into their impressive performances.

In other news, April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). This month we took time to inform and educate our future officers of the dangers and seriousness of sexual assault both in the military and in our society. This high priority training was taken onboard by our Midshipmen who independently wrote and created their own entry into the SAAM public service announcement video competition.

In addition to producing this video, the Jayhawk Battalion created posters displayed throughout the Military Science Building and discussed different aspects of this important issue during each lab period in the month of April. I was inspired by their



deep commitment to eradicate this terrible and damaging issue from our Fleet and country.

Lastly, I am happy to announce that our unit's YouTube channel is officially up and running. It can be found by searching "KUNROTC" on youtube.com and is a good resource for information about our unit and its various activities. We have begun posting videos of events such as guest lectures, Drill and Color Guard

performances and our SAAM public service announcement.

As we sprint for the finish line in another successful and event-filled semester we thank you for your continued encouragement and support 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,

It's been a whirlwind year. As this academic year comes to a close, we prepare to commission 10 new 2LTs into the Air Force. On Monday, 20 May, we will commission:

- Cadet Nicholas Brunkhorst (Pilot)
- Cadet Mason Bruza (Cyberspace Operations)
- Cadet Britni Charles (Acquisitions)
- Cadet Zachary Early (Airfield Operations)
- Cadet Cole-Christian Holinaty
(Missile/Nuclear Operations)
- Cadet Kevin Jackson (Pilot)
- Cadet Brandon Johnson
(Missile/Nuclear Operations)
- Cadet Brian Tabares (Behavioral Scientist)
- Cadet Seth Wilson
(AF Office of Special Investigations (OSI))
- Cadet Grant Worden
(Aeronautical Developmental Engineer)

As these seniors prepare for graduation and commissioning, we have 11 other cadets that are preparing for Field Training this summer and entry into our Professional Officer Course. In March, we submitted 12 cadets to compete for an Enrollment Allocation (EA) and continuation in our advance program. The EA process is very competitive and we were extremely fortunate to have 11 of 12 candidates selected. The detachment has done extremely well the last 2 years with 14 of 16 selected last year. This speaks volumes to the quality of the cadets we are submitting. Sequestration did drive a delay to the release of the EAs this year. AFROTC has a production number for FY15 which drives our Field Training 2013 (i.e., EA) selections. Headquarters

(HQ) AFROTC selected 2243 cadets to meet a production target of 1700 2LTs in FY15. Field Training this summer will determine which cadets continue into our advance program.

The Flying Jayhawk Wing has also been very busy this semester. Our cadets completed a field leadership exercise (FLX) at West Campus. The FLX gave our cadets an opportunity to experience first-hand what Air Force operations are like in an austere environment. Additionally, we took the cadets to Olathe for laser tag incorporated with group leadership exercises.



On Saturday, 27 April, we took four cadets to the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc, Heart of America Chapter's 23rd Annual Charter Day Dinner. The cadets had the opportunity to meet and chat with Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen who are members of the Heart of America Chapter.

On Monday, 6 May, the cadre will hold our second annual Air Force, Army and Navy ROTC Open House. The Open House is an opportunity for the units to share information about our programs and what we offer The University of Kansas and the community of Lawrence. Members in attendance will receive a tour of our facilities.

As you can see, never a dull moment and we have several events still planned. In addition to our Joint

Commissioning Ceremony, we will hold a Joint Field Day on Saturday, 4 May. The Joint Field Day will be an opportunity for the three ROTC units to engage in some friendly competition as well as earn bragging rights. Just prior to the Joint Field Day on 4 May, our cadets will participate in our annual Cadet Wing Parade at 0900 at Memorial Stadium.

Another annual tradition, our Spring Awards Ceremony, will take place on Tuesday, 7 May at 1600 at the Kansas Union. This year's ceremony will be highlighted by the presentation of our first-ever General Charles G. Boyd, Air Force ROTC Det 280 Top Graduate Award. The award is named in honor of General Boyd a KU graduate and the only Vietnam War prisoner of war (1966-1973) to reach the four-star rank (1992). The award honors General Boyd for his dedicated service to our country and the U.S. Air Force from 1959 to 1995. Additionally, we will recognize our nominee for the first-ever, University of Kansas, Chancellor John Fraser Distinguished Military Graduate Award. Following the Awards Ceremony, cadets will participate in a "Skit Nite". Skit Nite is an opportunity for the cadets to poke fun at each other as well as the cadre.

On Sunday, 19 May, we will honor our graduating Seniors with our first-ever Senior/Commissioning Dinner. If you are interested in any of these events, please contact our Operations Officer, Lt Col Brian Schroeder at 785-864-1216 or via e-mail at bschroeder@ku.edu for more information.

The AFROTC High School Scholarship Program has concluded and Headquarters AFROTC has selected its scholarship winners. The cadre is now scheduling High School Scholarship award presentations for next year's incoming freshman class.

As for our cadre, we have been without a Personnel NCO since TSgt Kip Gomez departed last summer. We are happy to announce his replacement TSgt Nichole Pearsall will arrive shortly. In addition, our Administrative Assistant, Mr. James Young was promoted to TSgt in the AF Reserves. Please join us in congratulating him.

Finally, while sequestration has had an impact on our detachment, AFROTC has implemented internal actions to reduce costs and mitigate funding cuts. The Air Force has implemented prudent measures that will mitigate our budget risks, and to the extent feasible, minimize any harmful effects on readiness. The bottom-line remains, The Air Force will continue to meet emerging challenges and ensure the security of the Nation.

I want to personally thank the Jayhawk Chapter of MOAA for your support this academic year and I look forward to continuing to work with you in the future.

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 Legislative Update, 08 March 2013:

Dole Foundation Helps MOAA Help Caregivers

MOAA received a Dole Foundation Innovation Grant this week to help a new MOAA project -- developing "Tips for Lifelong Caregiving," an on-line guide aimed at assisting caregivers of wounded, ill and injured servicemembers with financial, legal and other issues affecting their lives and well-being.

"We are honored to receive this grant to help us deliver much-needed support to the selfless caregivers who are sacrificing so much of their own lives to care for our wounded, ill and injured heroes," MOAA President Vice Adm. Norb Ryan, Jr. said. "In addition to information collected from six years conducting symposia and roundtable discussions, we are working with the caregivers themselves to craft a guide that

builds on the lessons they've learned to ease the path for others."

MOAA is working on the project with two initial partners: USAA is providing expertise in the area of financial information, products and services, and the American Bar Association is adding its expertise in legal issues.

The Dole Foundation also announced this week that Google, Inc. has agreed to provide digital support services to MOAA and other Dole Foundation grant recipients.

MOAA will provide the labor, project management and hosting support to develop and implement the on-line guide. The tool will be available to the public and will augment existing programs sponsored by the Dole Foundation, DoD, VA and other agencies and individuals supporting caregivers.

Topics covered in the Guide will include:

- * Medical-disability insurance and benefits programs, including DOD, VA, Medicare-Medicaid, Social

Security, caregiver support, aid and attendance, in-home and nursing care, and retirement and survivor programs

- * Guardianship and fiduciary matters
- * Powers of attorney
- * Advance directives
- * Legal pro-bono services and resources
- * Wills
- * Financial-estate planning
- * Delivery of the initial digital guide is planned for the end of June 2013.

MOAA Legislative Update, 15 March 2013:

MOAA, DoD Discuss TRICARE Rx Issues

MOAA President Vice Adm. Norbert R. Ryan Jr., USN (Ret), Government Relations Deputy Director Capt. Kathy Beasley, USN (Ret), and other association leaders met March 12 with several leaders of the TRICARE Management Authority (TMA), including TMA Deputy Director Brig. Gen. W. Bryan Gamble, USA, and DoD Pharmacy Chief Rear Adm. Thomas McGinnis, USPHS.

A chief topic was ongoing implementation of the one-year trial requirement for TRICARE For Life beneficiaries to obtain maintenance medication refills through the mail-order or military pharmacy systems.

TMA leaders said the first-year savings of the program was estimated by the Congressional Budget Office at \$150 million, with greater savings in the out-years.

Pharmacy expenditures comprise about 20 percent of DoD health care costs, and the mail-order system saves about 20 percent over retail costs.

TRICARE officials said the one-year trial requirement is unlikely to be implemented before late summer but will happen sometime before Oct. 1.

One issue raised by Ryan was the challenge some beneficiaries have encountered in securing prescription renewals through the mail-order system. Express Scripts Inc. representatives say they will contact a doctor to obtain a renewed prescription on the beneficiary's behalf, but experience is that if they have trouble getting the doctor on the phone, the renewal might not go through.

Ryan recommended that Express Scripts fax the renewal request to the doctor to reduce reliance on making telephone connections with busy doctors and their staffs.

Hearing Addresses VA Claims Problems

At a March 13 hearing, Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chair Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), pointedly asked VA witnesses what evidence they can offer that the VA will meet its oft-stated goal of eliminating the disability claims backlog by 2015 and processing future claims within 125 days with a 98-percent assurance of accuracy.

How is TFL Funded?

Part of our mission here at MOAA is to provide our members with accurate and useful information. I'd like to take that on and provide (a high level description) of how the funding mechanism for TFL gets executed. TFL is a wonderful earned benefit designed for those over age 65 retired military members.

To recap some historical perspective, The Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001, directed the establishment of the Medicare-Eligible

Retiree Health Care Fund (acronym is MERHCF), to pay for Medicare-eligible retiree health care beginning in 2002 via a new program called TRICARE for Life. Prior to this, as many will remember, care for this group of beneficiaries was on a space-available basis at most Military Treatment Facilities. The MERHCF covers Medicare-eligible beneficiaries, regardless of age – both those who are already over age 65 as well as future retirees and their families.

"The original 2001 legislation also established an independent three-member DoD MERHCF Board of Actuaries appointed by the Secretary of Defense. Here is where the funding mechanism comes into play – Accrual deposits into the Fund are made by the Services, Coast Guard, Public Health Service and NOAA to cover future TFL expenses for the currently serving members and families once they attain age 65, which can be two to four decades from now. The funds are transferred out and into the Defense Health Program based on estimates of the cost of care actually provided each year. There is a separate deposit to the trust fund that is made by the Treasury Department to cover the "unfunded liability" for those who are already retired.

As of Sept 30, 2011, the Fund had assets of over \$163.6 billion to cover future expenses. The accrual funds requested for 2013 were \$6.7 billion.

The oversight of the Fund resides within DoD and is reported on annually. The office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, through the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs has as one of its missions the operational oversight of the defense health program which includes the MERHCF. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) provides accounting and investment services for the fund.

MOAA Legislative Update, 22 March 2013:

MOAA Meets with New SecDef

On Thursday, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel hosted the start of a two-day series of meetings between top Defense and Service officials and leaders of selected military and veterans organizations, including MOAA President Vice Adm. Norbert R. Ryan Jr., USN (Ret).

Hagel said he made it an early priority to meet with association leaders because, "Your organizations are the last bridge between the all-volunteer force and the rest of society."

"I want to meet regularly with you and look forward to engaging more with you than maybe has been done in the past," Hagel said. "I'll be direct and honest with you, and hope you will be with me."

Hagel particularly highlighted and expressed appreciation for Ryan's open letter to him on personnel and healthcare costs (cited in last week's legislative update).

Later in the day, senior DoD officials provided updates on a variety of programs and initiatives, with emphasis on sequestration, suicides, and veteran unemployment.

The newly passed continuing resolution still poses a \$43 billion sequester, but provides DoD new flexibility to avoid some of the worst-case scenarios. Assessing how to best use this new flexibility is getting priority focus. Senior defense officials reiterated sequestration will not affect ongoing operations in Afghanistan.

In his turn, Admiral Ryan urged Secretary Hagel to seek new opportunities to generate savings through joint delivery of healthcare (rather than higher beneficiary fees) and continue

working with VA Secretary Shinseki to ease transition and claims problems.

MOAA is pleased at Secretary Hagel's initiative in convening this meeting and his engaging, open dialogue with association leaders. At this first meeting, the new Secretary gave every indication he "gets it."

Shutdown Averted Tuition Assistance Restored

The House and Senate passed a continuing resolution on Thursday that will keep the government funded through the end of the September and give DoD at least some wiggle room in deciding how to take \$43 billion in sequester cuts to the defense budget over the next six months.

MOAA Legislative Update, 29 March 2013:

Senate on TRICARE, SBP, Concurrent Receipt

For the first time in four years, the Senate passed a budget resolution (S. Con. Res 8) outlining spending limits and priorities for the next fiscal year.

Among other things, it envisions repealing the Medicare payment formula that now requires a 27-percent cut in Medicare and TRICARE payments as of Jan. 1, 2014.

On issues directly affecting the military and veterans community, the resolution included provisions concerning:

- expanding eligibility for concurrent receipt of military retired pay and VA disability compensation;
- ending the deduction of VA survivor benefits from Survivor Benefit Plan annuities;
- protecting VA benefits from COLA cuts, including the "chained CPI" suggested by many COLA critics;
- extending VA health care coverage to qualifying dependent children until age 26; and
- improving veterans' access to health care in rural areas.

MOAA applauds the efforts of multiple senators who worked to include the latter provisions in the budget resolution.

But it's important to understand it will be an uphill battle to get these changes into law.

First, most were included in "contingent reserve fund" provisions. That means the sponsoring senator would like to see it happen, but it would have to be done on a budget-neutral basis — meaning something else must be cut to pay for it.

That's why Congress hasn't done these things in the past — unwillingness to make the offsetting cuts.

Second, the House-passed budget resolution reflects dramatically different budget priorities than the Senate's.

Given those dramatic differences, the likelihood of House and Senate leaders reaching a compromise seems slim.

What's different this year is a recent law change to suspend congressional salaries if each chamber failed to pass a budget resolution.

They've each now done that now, so their pay is safe. There was no penalty if they failed to agree.

New TRICARE Contract Begins

2.9 million beneficiaries will be transferred to a new healthcare support contractor in the TRICARE West Region on the 1st of April.

United Healthcare Military and Veteran's will take over the TRICARE contract from TRI-West Healthcare Alliance in a seamlessly anticipated transfer of services. The two contractors have been working side by side to ensure that all beneficiaries will maintain uninterrupted healthcare in all

aspects from enrollment, to claims processing, to maintaining the same primary care provider.

A few important points to note are:

- United Healthcare will honor all outstanding prior authorizations by Tri-West through May 30th, 2013. In addition, United will honor all Global Maternity Authorizations from pregnancy through delivery as authorized by Tri-West.
- During the transition to UnitedHealthcare, Welcome Packets were sent to all TRICARE beneficiaries in the West Region. This included TRICARE For Life (TFL) beneficiaries as an announcement of a change in TRICARE in the West Region and required no action on the part of those beneficiaries. TFL beneficiaries will continue to be serviced by WPS and if there are any questions WPS can be contacted at 1-866-773-0404.

You can view a directory of United's Primary Care Managers in your state by visiting their website at <http://www.uhcmilitarywest.com>

Staying Engaged on Wounded Warriors

Two troubling stories recently made the news—these are real people with heart-breaking situations—stories that make you want to get up and do something to help these transitioning heroes and their families.

This requires a Call to Action on all our parts.

MOAA believes there must be a sense of urgency in addressing these military, veteran and family needs.

To do otherwise? ... "Will only heightened the health, economic, and social issues [posed by the number of people affected, the rapid draw down of troops from Iraq/Afghanistan], and the long-term effects for troops, veterans, their families, and the nation," according to the IOM.

MOAA will be addressing these issues and many other related issues at this year's Annual Warrior-Family Symposium, co-hosted by MOAA and the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA).

Please SAVE THE DATE and stay tuned for more information on:

- Mental Health,
- Linking Warriors and Their Families,
- Government & Society
- Thursday, September 12, 2013,
- Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center

MOAA Legislative Update, 05 April 2013:

What's Next for Tuition Assistance?

The plug was pulled on military tuition assistance recently, but thanks to two Senators it's been re-booted at least until September 30.

Even so, it may take time for the Services to re-start the program. And, TA monies will still be pared back by about 7.8% to match "sequestration" rules. That's a Latin word for "stupid," but at least some lawmakers are trying to craft ways to restore some of the more draconian cuts to military programs.

After this year, all bets may be off the table on TA. TA could be restricted by skill, dollar amount or the ubiquitous "needs of the Service." What if you're forced to use your Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits on active duty or are considering doing that now?

The new GI Bill pays up to the full-cost of attendance at any public college or university for full-time study, or up to \$18,077.50 for study at a private school. The good news is that if you choose to go to college off-duty and pick the right school, you may not have to pay a dime for your courses.

You can also get up to \$1,000 per year for books. Less if you take just one or two courses.

There's a housing allowance, too, but sorry, you can't draw your current housing benefit plus the GI Bill housing allowance at the same time.

There are some things to think about in planning to use your new GI Bill while still serving on active duty.

Part-time study

Given the pace of operations today, most servicemembers only have time to take 3-6 credits – one or two courses – at a time. Here's how the "burn rate" works using your new GI Bill on a part-time basis. First, everyone gets 36 months of benefits under the new GI Bill. Public college tuition is fully paid based on 3 years' active duty; lower rates for less active service.

The Dept. of Veterans Affairs (VA) charges entitlement based on the ratio of the student's course load to the number of credits required for full-time training. For example, if a soldier pursues 12 credit hours (where 12 hours is full time) for a four-month long semester, VA will charge the individual one day for each day in the enrollment period (4 months of entitlement). However, if the same troop was only enrolled in seven hours, VA would charge the individual seven-twelfths of a day for each day in the enrollment (2 months and 10 days of entitlement).

In plain language, if a servicemember averages two 3-credit courses per semester, the burn rate would be two months per semester or four months for the year. At the end of the year, the military member would have 32 months of benefits remaining: $36 - 4 = 32$ months of new GI Bill left.

Non-degree training

Let's say you want to take non-degree courses towards a civilian license as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) or Microsoft Certified Engineer. In those situations, benefits are capped at an annual dollar amount by law. VA charges entitlement based on the amount of benefits paid divided by one-twelfth of the cap amount. For example, if the annual cap was \$12,000, an individual would be charged one month of entitlement for every \$1,000 received.

Transferred Benefits

If TA is suspended again and you've already transferred some or all of your GI Bill months of entitlement, are you stuck? Once a Transfer Account is set up, you can move around your entitlement or cancel it. If you transferred 18 months to a spouse and another 18 to a child, you can re-arrange the accounts; e.g., you want to be more competitive for promotion by finishing a degree, in this example you could take back 6 months each from your dependents. If you don't have a Transfer Account, keep in mind that your Service owns 'transferability' as a carrot to induce you to serve longer, and you must have completed 6 years' service and agree to serve 4 more years to have the right to transfer new GI Bill benefits.

Getting Ready to Get Out

If you are wrapping up your service obligation, retiring, or in the crosshairs for being RIF'd, your options for transferring your GI Bill benefits can be tricky. The key thing to remember

is, once you separate — voluntarily or otherwise — you're once and done and can no longer transfer your benefits, if eligible to do so. For those who expect to be caught up in the draw down, you should consider transferring your benefits if you have no plans to use them. If you get RIF'd, you won't have to serve the extra four years' service after completing the required six years' service.

Once you separate or retire, you'll have 15 years to use your remaining GI Bill benefits. And once you're enrolled in a program, the housing allowance will kick in if you served three years' active duty. The housing rate is pegged to the E-5 With Dependents rate at the zip code where the college or university is located.

For more information, go to the VA GI Bill homepage or check out the Frequently Asked Questions page there.

Did Your CRSC Increase?

Some Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) retirees saw their monthly CRSC payments increase on April 1 as a result of a change in the FY2013 National Defense Authorization Act.

Dubbed the "CRSC-Glitch" fix, Senate concurrent receipt champion and Majority Leader, Harry Reid (D-NV), added the legislative provision to the defense bill that eliminated a CRSC calculation glitch that affected many combat-disabled retirees effective 1 January 2013.

According to Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) officials, the April increase is the new, prospective amount retirees will now receive. DFAS is still determining the retroactive amounts (currently under review) and will send letters to affected retirees over the next few months.

Military Coalition Elects New Leader

At the April 4 meeting of The Military Coalition (TMC), the 34 member organizations unanimously elected incoming MOAA Government Relations Director Col Mike Hayden, USAF (Ret) as Coalition Co-Chair – replacing outgoing MOAA Government Relations Director Col Steve Strobridge, USAF (Ret), who has served in that capacity since April 2001.

"This unanimous election reflects the Coalition members' confidence and respect for Mike Hayden, who has been a mainstay of the Coalition for many years as Co-Chair of TMC's Retired Affairs Committee," said Joe Barnes, National Executive Director of the Fleet Reserve Association, who holds the other TMC Co-Chair position. "With Steve retiring at the end of April, we all recognize that Mike is especially well-qualified to fill his shoes as TMC co-chair. I look forward to working closely with him."

New Lobbyist at MOAA

MOAA welcomes new Deputy Director of Government Relations COL Mike Barron, USA (Ret) to our team on April 8.

Since his retirement from active duty in 2010, Barron has worked in Boeing's Washington, D.C. Government Operations Office, first as Director of Government Relations and then as Director of International Operations and Policy. He came to MOAA to follow his passion of serving the military community.

A veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, his last active duty assignment was as Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Army. Before that, he served two tours on the Joint Staff, including four years as Assistant and Staff Director for Legislative Affairs to the Chairman.

He also has served as an infantry battalion commander, as Army liaison to the U.S. Senate, and as a congressional fellow for then-Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich in the mid-1990s.

Mike's wife Patty previously was on the staff of the National Military Family Association and currently is in charge of family programs for the Association of the U.S. Army.

We're extremely pleased and fortunate to welcome Mike Barron to the Government Relations team.

MOAA Legislative Update, 12 April 2013:

Defense Budget: TRICARE Fees, Pay Caps

President Obama released the administration's FY2014 defense budget proposal on Wednesday – including \$43 billion in cuts aimed at reducing our nation's debt.

His proposal reduces outyear spending more moderately than the sequestration budget cuts required by current law. Overall, the proposed budget is an attempt at a "grand bargain" on debt reduction.

To reach that elusive grand bargain, the 2014 budget includes the adoption of a "Chained CPI" (C-CPI) formula for reducing cost of living adjustments (COLA) on military retirement, VA disability, Social Security benefits, and other federal annuities, as well as increasing taxes on corporations and wealthy persons.

The DoD budget request totals \$526.6 billion and lowers spending for weapons systems, caps the 2014 military pay raise at 1%, proposes a new round of base closures in 2015, and seeks dramatically higher TRICARE fees.

The Pentagon is again seeking to reduce TRICARE health care costs by increasing enrollment fees, co-pays and deductibles for military retirees, shifting \$25 billion in costs to military beneficiaries over 10 years. Specifically the proposal would:

- Increase annual TRICARE fees by \$1,000 or more for retired families of all ages, including new enrollment fees for TRICARE Standard and TRICARE For Life (TFL)
- Means-test TRICARE Prime and TFL fees, based on retired pay
- Double most pharmacy copays
- Require all beneficiaries except active duty members to get maintenance medication refills through the mail-order system or in military pharmacies

The proposed 1% military pay raise is little more than half the 1.8% raise experienced by the average American (the standard for annual military raises under current law).

The chained-CPI COLA would depress annual retired pay, Social Security, and other COLAs by about 0.3 percent per year – which can compound to impose significant cuts over time.

President Proposes Increased VA Funding

At a budget roll out briefed on Wednesday, VA Secretary Eric Shinseki and officials reviewed details of the \$152.7 billion VA budget proposal for FY2014.

Shinseki emphasized the President's continued investment in caring for and supporting our veterans and their families as evidenced by this year's increase of over \$14 billion in the budget as compared to FY2013 spending levels.

Some targeted priorities for the department include:

- \$54.6 billion for protecting critical medical care in the current fiscal year, and an additional \$55.6 billion in

advanced appropriations for VA medical care in FY2015 to maintain continuity of care

- \$7 billion to strengthen mental health care services
- \$1.4 billion to combat veteran homelessness
- \$799 million for facility renovations and new construction projects
- \$586 million to support medical and prosthetic research
- \$136 million to implement a paperless claims processing system
- \$104 million to support veteran employment and transition assistance to civilian life

The VA has requested a 13.6 percent increase in the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) program to support the completion of 1.3 million disability compensation and pension claims.

A significant portion of VBA's funding increase will go toward technical enhancements to the electronic disability processing system which is a cornerstone of VA transformation efforts and a key to eliminating the claims backlog.

MOAA Legislative Update, 19 April 2013:

MOAA Storms the Hill for You

MOAA Council and Chapter Presidents from all 50 states, accompanied by members of the national Board of Directors and headquarters staff, plus members of MOAA's active duty, Guard, Reserve, spouse and auxiliary advisory committees swarmed Capitol Hill on April 17 to visit nearly all 535 representatives and senators in support of key legislative priorities.

This year, the "Hill-stormers" met with their legislators, discussed the issues, provided fact sheets and brochures, and asked them to:

- Sustain the 1.8% active duty pay raise
- Reject disproportional TRICARE fee hikes
- Address remaining inequities for disabled retirees, surviving spouses, and Guard/Reserve retirees

MOAA Hill-stormers received very positive feedback from most legislators. Our hope is that this will translate to support for these goals as the House and Senate Armed Services Committees begin drafting the FY2014 Defense Authorization Bill in the coming weeks.

We're also gratified at members' response to the alert we sent last Friday asking you to support this effort by emailing your legislators. You sent nearly 25,000 messages to Capitol Hill, and many legislators and staffers referenced the messages during their meetings with the MOAA stormers.

MOAA Stands Up for Beneficiaries at Senate Hearing

At an April 17 hearing before the Senate Armed Services Personnel Subcommittee, MOAA Government Relations Director Col. Steve Strobridge (USAF-Ret) made his final Hill appearance count, mounting a strong defense against capping military pay raises and imposing dramatic TRICARE fee hikes.

The hearing was the first for new subcommittee Chair Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), as well as for new subcommittee members Sens. Tim Kaine (D-VA) and Angus King (I-ME).

Gillibrand noted the challenges the committee faces, and noted her particular interest in ensuring implementation of new therapy requirements for beneficiaries with autism, and with addressing the problem of sexual assault in the military. On the latter issue, she challenged a DoD witness who recommended relying on the chain of command to "maintain good order and

discipline.” “The current chain of command has 19,000 sexual assaults per year,” Gillibrand bristled. “That’s not good order and discipline.”

At the outset of the hearing, Ranking Minority Member Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) noted, “I’m very interested in TRICARE,” noting costs have increased from \$19 billion in 2001 to \$49.4 billion for FY14. “To the beneficiary community, I certainly want to listen to your concerns,” he said. “...But I’m looking for sustainability.”

When his turn came, Strobridge sought to address that concern, noting that DoD health cost growth peaked in 2002-2003 and has been declining ever since – with less than 1 percent cost growth in FY12, and further decline in FY13. He also noted DoD has diverted \$2.5 billion in surplus funds from the healthcare account to other needs over the last three years.

“So the ‘exploding cost’ claim,” Strobridge said, “is built on a 10-year-old data point.”

He took issue with assertions that military retirees pay far less for health care than civilians do, calling such statements “aggravating” to the military community.

“When someone says that to me, I answer, ‘If the military deal is so great, are you willing to pay what they did to earn it? Would you sign up to spend the next 20 years being deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan, or wherever the next fight is?’”

Strobridge called the proposal to means-test TRICARE Prime and TRICARE For Life fees “patent discrimination against the military,” noting no other federal retiree has his or her health benefits means-tested. “Under that perverse system, the longer and more successfully you serve, the worse your benefit.”

Later in the hearing, Strobridge engaged in dialogues with Sen. Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) on ways DoD can cut costs with raising fees or affecting quality care delivery, with Sen. Kaine on means-testing and past experience with budget-driven benefit cuts, and with Sen. King on the nature of the military “contract” and what currently serving people are told about what benefits they can expect as retirees.

Honoring Veterans

At an April 16 House Veterans Affairs Committee hearing, MOAA Deputy Director of Government Relations, COL Bob Norton (USA-Ret), expressed MOAA strong support for the bipartisan Honor America’s Guard and Reserve Retirees Act (H.R. 679) introduced by Reps. Tim Walz (D-MN) and Jon Runyan (R-NJ).

This bill would allow all career reservists to stand and be recognized as fellow veterans on Veterans Day, Memorial Day and other patriotic celebrations.

Strange as it may sound, some career National Guard and Reserve service members who performed military duties at home and overseas during decades of service are not “veterans” under the law.

Reservists may be called to duty under 29 different types of orders. But unless the orders are issued under Title 10 active duty authority – a career reservist entitled to Reserve retired pay, TRICARE and other retiree benefits – is not a veteran of the Armed Forces.

In the last two sessions of Congress, the House passed legislation to recognize such career reserve retirees as

veterans (without award of any veteran’s benefits). But the bills died in the Senate.

Norton quoted a letter from a retired New York Army National Guard Master Sergeant: “I served 35 years as a Guardsman and am told I am not a veteran. I did two weeks at Ground Zero [the World Trade Center, Sept. 11, 2001] and many tours in Germany doing logistics for the war in Iraq. Yet I am still not a veteran.”

Other bills considered at the hearing included:

- H.R. 570 (Rep. Runyan) would authorize automatic annual COLAs for veterans’ compensation, pension and survivor indemnity compensation (DIC) based on any annual adjustment to Social Security payments.
- H.R. 569 (Rep. Runyan) would authorize the COLA for next year, effective with payments on 1 January 2014.
- H.R. 671, the Ruth Moore Act (Rep. Chellie Pingree, D-ME) would revise the procedures for determining service-connection for a mental health condition caused or aggravated by a sexual assault on active duty. The bill would adopt the same procedures used to determine Post-Traumatic Stress disabilities with military sexual assault cases.
- H.R. 894 (Rep. Bill Johnson, R-OH) would revise and improve the laws governing the appointment and supervision of fiduciaries by the VA to administer benefits for severely disabled veterans.

March COLA Announced

The March CPI of 229.323 is 1.1% above the FY2013 COLA baseline of 226.936.

MOAA Legislative Update, 26 April 2013:

Lobbying Team Changes Guards

Today we wish MOAA Government Relations Director Col Steve Strobridge, USAF (Ret) a fond farewell. Strobridge is retiring after 19.5 years of stalwart service at MOAA.

Combined with his military career, Strobridge has spent the last 44 years serving our nation and its troops.

He’s left an indelible mark in his time at MOAA; he oversaw the passage of landmark legislation to improve military and veterans’ health care, compensation, education, and quality of life.

His work is widely recognized and consistently praised. He was recently named one of the 100 most influential defense policy makers.

Strobridge also served as co-chair of The Military Coalition for the past 12 years.

Col. Mike Hayden, USAF (Ret), will step in to fill the void left by Strobridge.

After leaving active duty and joining MOAA in July 2005, Hayden has led the charge on active duty and retired compensation issues, successfully championing restoration of military pay comparability and fending off inappropriate military retirement changes. For the last seven years he’s served as co-chair of The Military Coalition’s Retired Affairs Committee.

We’re sincerely grateful for the enormous contributions of Steve, and wish him all the best in his retirement.



JAYHAWK CHAPTER MOAA



A membership meeting will be held **Tuesday, 21 May 2013**, at the
Lawrence Country Club.
Dinner cost is \$22.00/meal.

The Program: Our guest speaker will be Mike Denning from the KU Veterans Office

Social Hour: 1800 hours Dinner: 1845 hours

The Menu: Strip steak, 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, 16 May 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.

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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).

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.**

2013 Meeting Dates:

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