



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.

September Program:

Our guest speaker will be Steve Nowak (pronounced Novak), the Director of the Watkins Museum here in Lawrence. The topic will be Quantrill's Raid.

☆☆☆☆☆ CHAPTER
awarded for
2002 / 2003 / 2005 / 2008
2009 / 2010 / 2011 / 2012 / 2013
☆☆☆☆ CHAPTER
awarded for
2004 / 2006 / 2007

President's Comments. . .

I have found that a quick screening of the Table of Contents pages at the front of the monthly Military Officer Magazine lets me quickly identify the articles of importance and/or interest to our MOAA National, State, and Local Jayhawk Chapter organizations and to me as an individual MOAA Member. I hope along with your busy summer activities you have been keeping current with MOAA National, State and Local information and issues, and also hope that you have been keeping active by responding to the MOAA National Call for Action issues sent by MOAA, and/or forwarded by COL John and/or Shirley Halladay. These have a suggested message for sending to your elected officials and have an option if you want to expand with your own personal comments. If your schedules permitted, I hope you were able to convey your comments in person during the Congressional Recess in August, and thank you for doing that.



If you haven't had a chance yet to read any of the recent Military Officer Magazines I would suggest reading the August 2015 Issue on pages 29-38, or at least look at the table on page 28 that provides information on issues where the House and Senate agree and disagree on seven proposals.

On the local level I am happy and proud to report that our Jayhawk Chapter MOAA has received recognition with a Five Star Level of Excellence Award for 2014. Congratulations to RADM Ed Phillips, the 2014 Officers and Elected Board and all of the Jayhawk Chapter Membership. At the state level the Council of Chapters has received recognition as a Five Star Council with five of the six Kansas Chapters recognized as Five Star Chapters and one recognized as a Four Star Chapter. Congratulations to LTC Dave Darwin as Council President, the Council Executive Board and Appointive Officers and the Chapters of the Council.

Activities coming up in the next couple of months include myself and COL Halladay attending a Chapter Leaders Symposium in Kansas City on September 10-12, appointing a Chapter Nominating Committee to start the process for electing the 2016 Jayhawk Chapter Officers and Elected Board, and a request to the Jayhawk Chapter Membership to stay engaged with the issues and respond to the Calls for Action.

Thank you and I look forward to seeing you at our Dinner Meeting on Tuesday, September 15 at Lawrence Country Club where our Guest Speaker will be Steve Nowak, Director of the Watkins Museum, who will give a presentation on Quantrill's Raid.

Mike

Volume XX, Issue 5

1 September 2015

Staff:

President:
LCDR Michael R. Miller, USN (Ret)
1st Vice-President: :
LTC Andrew D. Bauch, USAF
2nd Vice-President:
COL George W. Pogge, USA (Ret)
Secretary:
COL John W. Halladay, USA (Ret)
Treasurer:
CAPT James S. Cooper, USN (Ret)
Past-President:
RADM H. Edward Phillips, USN (Ret)
Directors:
RADM H. Edward Phillips, USN (Ret)
Col John Mosher, USAFR (Ret)
LTC Michael R. Devlin, USA (Ret)
LCDR Jeff Mitchell, USN (Ret)
LtCol Bill Pastewait, USAF, ROTC
Newsletter Editors:
COL John & Shirley Halladay
Web Master:
LtCol Stanley Sneegas, USAF (Ret)

Inside this issue:

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

* Reservations should be sent
to Jim Cooper by
09 September



JAYHAWK CHAPTER NEWS



CONDOLENCES

Joyce Williams Radtke, wife of LTC Bill Radtke, passed away on 08 July of congestive heart failure. She and Bill raised five children over their years of travel with the Army. A memorial service was held 08 August at Brandon Woods. Bill's current address is 4701 Bob Billings Parkway, Lawrence, KS 66047.

PERSONAL NEWS

Dean and Judy Bevan enjoyed two weeks in Green Mountain Falls, Colorado, where they admired the mountains' snowpack and watched the small herd of whitetail deer in their back yard. Later they drove to Bozeman, Montana, for friends' 50th wedding anniversary. During the festivities they discovered that of the 85 guests, they were the longest-married at 55+ years.

Dean's play "Grim Reaper" will be broadcast nationwide by Public Radio this summer as a radio drama, originating in Station KUSF in San Francisco.

In mid-August, **Ray Finch** traveled to Garmisch, Germany, to spend a week with his eldest son John, his daughter-in-law, Raelean, and grandson, Solomon. John was taking his mid-tour R&R from his assignment at NATO Headquarters in Kabul, Afghanistan. They did all the fun things associated with southern Bavaria (bike riding, hiking, climbing, beer-drinking, etc...). Ray then helped bring grandson and daughter-in-law back home.

Herschel and Jacque Stroud recently traveled to Merida, Mexico. They followed the Puuc Trail of the Maya, which they have done many times in the past, but new ruins have been uncovered.



Ray and his son, John

Cooper Travels Summer 2015:

We feel like we've been on the road the entire summer . . . we've traveled in all four directions from Lawrence and hit a lot of far-off corners of the country. In early June we headed out on the Rhubarb Festival Trail, something that Jim, a rhubarb fanatic, has wanted to do for a long time. The festivals tend to occur the first weekend in June, so hitting all of them would be tough, but we were able to get to two: the first on Friday, June 5th, in Aledo, Illinois (just south of Davenport, Iowa) – there were LOTS of rhubarb baked goods, rhubarb smoothies, ice cream, fresh rhubarb, you name it, we had it – Aledo is a great little farming community and we had an enjoyable time. On Saturday we went to the festival at Lanesboro, Minnesota, southwest of Rochester. The festival in Lanesboro is a fundraiser for the community, and boasts fewer baked goods and offers more entertainment and games, and it makes for an enjoyable day.

In mid-June we flew up to Portland Oregon and drove what we call our "Northwest passage" – nearly two weeks visiting family and friends in Portland, and Naselle, Tacoma and Spokane, Washington. Other than the Seattle-Tacoma area, the traffic and driving were fairly easy, and certainly full of good scenery.

In early July we drove up to visit friends at their lake house in mid-Minnesota – the weather and the lakes were, as always, great.

In late July, we drove down to Dallas for the annual Mary Kay Seminar, and when we returned to Lawrence, we spent barely twelve hours changing cars and grabbing some fresh clothes before heading off for MINI Cooper rally on Mackinac Bridge, at Michigan's northern tip. En route we spent the night at Grissom Air Force Reserve Base in Indiana – their transient quarters are very good. After the rally we stayed on Mackinaw Island – a very scenic and romantic place, which allows no motorized vehicles of any kind – bicycles and horse-drawn carts or wagons are the island's only transport. On the way home we stopped in Port Clinton, Ohio (in the northeast corner of Ohio, on Lake Erie) to do some genealogical research on my side of the family – I was able to locate the original probate files for my great-great-great and great-great grandfathers, which was exciting and amazing for me. We also visited the very impressive Perry Monument on Put-In-Bay Island in Lake Erie – again, a very impressive sight-seeing stop.

In mid-August we drove out to Salina with Lynn and Debbie O'Neal and spent a night at the Endiron Inn, which belongs to Lynn's brother Jon, an Air Guard flight surgeon. The Endiron Inn is a new, and great, B&B, and Salina's downtown is regenerating itself. On the way back, we, of course, had a meal at Abilene's Brookville Hotel, which offers the best fried chicken in the West!

We packed a lot into this summer, and enjoyed the travel, but we're actually glad to be back home in Lawrence with no trips on the immediate horizon!

**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.**



Army News *LTC Davis McElwain, USA*

Greetings Jayhawk Chapter!

During the summer, Jayhawk Battalion Cadets had numerous and varied opportunities to experience Military training with either Military Units or through Cadet Command sponsored activities. Our newsletter submission will highlight some of these unique experiences. In news of upcoming events, we will once again hold our Jayhawk Battalion Alumni Association Wall of Fame Induction Ceremony at the Military Science Building on 31 October 2015, time pending the announcement of the Homecoming Football Game. Please contact the KU Army ROTC office at 785-864-3311 for more information.

*Cadet Summer Training Experiences
outside the Jayhawk Battalion*

Specialty Schools:

Cadet Kale Joyce, 21, Lawrence, Kansas, received the opportunity to attend Air Assault School this summer at Fort Benning, Georgia. Joyce was able to learn air assault operations, pathfinder operations, sling-load operations and how to rappel from a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter. Cadet Joyce, a junior studying strategic communications and an MSIII at the University of Kansas, really enjoyed his experience at Fort Benning. "I was not only able to learn extremely important information about our Army's air assault operations, but I was also given the opportunity to build my confidence as a cadet and a person," Joyce said. Cadet Joyce hopes to branch Military Intelligence when he commissions in two years.

Cadet John Killeen, 20, Los Angeles, California, attended Air Assault School this summer at Fort Benning, Georgia. Killeen is an MSIII studying strategic communications at the University of Kansas. Cadet Killeen said he was excited to have attended Air Assault School because it was the first Army experience outside of ROTC. "I was extremely nervous when I arrived at Camp Butler, within Fort Benning. I had no idea what to expect," Cadet Killeen said. "But with a lot of hard work I was able to pass the course and rappel out of a UH-60 Blackhawk, and that is something I am never going to forget." Cadet Killeen would like to branch Military Intelligence or Infantry when he commissions in two years.

Cadet Cody McCurry, 19, Colorado Springs, Colorado, attended Airborne School this summer at Fort Benning, Georgia. McCurry is a business student and an MSII at the University of Kansas. Like his counterpart, Cadet Killeen, McCurry was very nervous to attend jump school because it was his first Army experience outside of ROTC. In addition, Cadet McCurry had only been in ROTC for one year before he arrived to Fort Benning. "It was a great experience that I will remember for the rest of my life because I was able to talk to and meet a wide variety of people on all paths in their military careers such as enlisted soldiers, NCOs, officers, other cadets and even some other branches of the military," Cadet McCurry said. "During the last week I made five (5)

jumps from a C-130 [Hercules Airplane] which was an adrenaline-filled, nerve-wracking experience that was truly awesome. I was able to conquer some personal fears as well as gain a lot of self-confidence." Cadet McCurry hopes to branch Infantry when he commissions in three years.

Cadet Parker Pezzati, 21, Chicago, Illinois, attended Airborne School this summer at Fort Benning, Georgia. Pezzati is a business student and an MSIV at the University of Kansas. Cadet Pezzati, is also the Cadet Battalion Commander of the Jayhawk Battalion at KU. "Overall, this experience is unlike anything I have ever had and I highly encourage all soldiers to attend this great course," Cadet Pezzati said. "There is nothing comparable to the rush you get when the doors of a C-130 open. Although it's nerve-wracking before the first jump, it is definitely an amazing experience I will never forget." Cadet Pezzati would like to branch Infantry after his final year at the University of Kansas.

Project Global Officer:

Cadet Dianna Vaughn, 20, Lawrence, Kansas, attended the Project Global Officer (GO) program this summer in Batumi, Georgia, to study Russian. Cadet Vaughn was in Georgia for 11 weeks for the Black Sea Project. Cadet Vaughn is an MSIV studying Linguistics at the University of Kansas. Vaughn completed 150 hours' worth of classes during her time in Georgia, as well as an average of four hours of peer coaching and two hours a day of lectures that were on history and current events involving Georgia, Ukraine and Russia. Vaughn explained that her class had project days once a week and went on excursions every weekend throughout the country visiting various places and historical sites. "I feel very lucky to have been afforded the opportunity to learn as much Russian as I did, as well as the opportunity to visit a country that I otherwise probably never would have seen," Cadet Vaughn said. "Georgia is a beautiful country with some of the nicest people I've ever met." Cadet Vaughn said she more than doubled her Russian vocabulary during her trip. Vaughn hopes to branch Military Intelligence when she commissions at the end of this year.

NTSP:

Cadet Allison Long, 21, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, went to Nurse Summer Training Program (NSTP) this summer at Joint Base Lewis McChord in Washington. Cadet Long attended NSTP for four weeks in July 2015. Cadet Long is an MSIV and is attending the University of Kansas School of Nursing Program. Cadet Long did rotations in the ER, ICU and birthing center at the Madigan Army Medical Hospital. Long said she appreciated her mentors because they challenged her to step out of her comfort zone to increase her knowledge and skill base. "My experience in the ER was amazing, and it has led me to believe that ER nursing is the career choice for me upon graduation," Cadet Long said. "I was given a lot of independence in my nursing skills, which

helped me learn a lot. The fellow Army nurses and doctors were very supportive of my learning process and tried to give me as many opportunities as they could for exposure to procedures and skills.” Long further stated that she was able to see a natural birth, C-section, double femoral/tibia open fracture, a gunshot wound and had many other valuable opportunities. In addition, Cadet Long was able to visit Seattle and hike trails on Mount Rainier during her free time. Cadet Long will branch into the Army Nurse Corps upon her graduation and commissioning.

Cadet Mohrbacher is an MSV and is attending the University Of Kansas School Of Nursing. Cadet Mohrbacher shadowed an Army nurse in the medical intensive care unit at Walter Reed during her stay at the Walter Reed Medical Center. With the supervision of her nurse mentor, she was able to partake in much of the care that any nurse would give patients. Cadet Mohrbacher said she helped with medication administration, patient personal hygiene, IV and PICC line insertion and removal, and many other nursing tasks. Cadet Mohrbacher said she not only learned a lot about nursing, but nursing in the Army as well. “Military nurses usually are not available in everyday ROTC curriculum, so to be able to talk to nurses about the military and ask questions about what my career will look like was really a great opportunity,” Cadet Mohrbacher said. “Since Walter Reed is so close to Washington D.C., I was able to interact with some crucial people to the Nurse Corps. I met Colonel Ray Antoine, who is the Director of Nursing Services at Walter Reed, and I also met Colonel Gordon, who is the Deputy Chief of the Army Nurse Corps.” In addition, Cadet Mohrbacher said she had the opportunity to travel around Washington D.C. during her free time since it was so close to the medical center. Cadet Mohrbacher said she really enjoyed her experience at NTSP and she encourages all ROTC nursing students to take the opportunity if given the chance. Cadet Mohrbacher will

branch into the Army Nurse Corps upon her commissioning. Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT):

Cadet Nathanael Law, 22, Wichita, Kansas had the opportunity to train with Operational Detachment Alpha (ODA) 1315 out of Joint Base Lewis –McChord (JBLM) in Washington State this summer. Cadet Law said ODA 1315 specializes in water operations as a combat dive team. For the first week and a half, Cadet Law and one other cadet assisted them in water diving operations in Puget Sound. During that time, he was also able to receive training on the MC-6 parachute and take part in an airborne water jump from a UH-60 Blackhawk. For the latter half of Cadet Law’s time in Washington, the team took him to the range where he grouped and zeroed an M4 Carbine and a SCAR-H rifle. “I cannot begin to explain how much I learned and how grateful I am for the experience I had at CTLT,” Cadet Law said. “I will take the lessons I learned and implement them throughout my career as an Army officer.” Cadet Law would like to branch Military Intelligence with a branch detail of Armor upon his commissioning this year.

Check out our website at www.armyrotc.ku.edu for more details on these events, and take a look here

<http://armyrotc.ku.edu/2015-ranger-buddy-competition>.

Additionally, find us on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/KUArmyROTC> and follow us on Twitter: http://twitter.com/KU_ArmyROTC

ALL IN!

JAYHAWKS LEAD THE WAY!



LTC Davis McElwain



Navy News
CAPT Dave Meron, USN



Greetings from the Jayhawk Navy!

At the start of my first semester as the Professor of Naval Science at KU, I am looking forward to a busy but successful year! Over the summer, the Jayhawk Battalion was able to experience life in the Fleet and Marine Force around the world through MIDN cruises and training events. We also welcomed 18 new students during a very successful week of New Student Orientation (NSO).

As an example of the adventures our MIDN experienced this summer, our Battalion Commanding Officer Marley Fisher completed a cruise aboard the deployed USS Preble (DDG 88). While onboard, she participated in Joint Operations with Australian Navy. She shadowed various crew



members to learn how naval ships operate and qualified to stand the Conning Officer watch twice a day. Her favorite part of cruise was going ashore and experiencing the local culture at ports in Australia.

Midshipman 1/C Bryan Neely had a cruise that many midshipmen can only dream about. He participated in a Foreign Exchange (FOREX) with the Hellenic Navy. While onboard, he was able to see how other navies accomplish similar tasks, but in different ways. Spending time on the bridge he was able to learn paper chart navigation, and spent time training with Hellenic SEALS (OYKs). MIDN Neely visited seven different ports



within a month while on his cruise, with his favorite being Haifa, Israel.

New Student Orientation concluded on Friday Aug 21st. This week-long evolution provided an introduction to basic military life for our incoming freshman class. During a fun and busy week the midshipman were introduced to drill, formation runs, and uniforms and customs, but also had time for a team building game of paintball. Additionally, the midshipman got a taste for teamwork and leadership while conducting evolutions on the Obstacle Course. All eighteen

midshipmen completed NSO which culminated with a formal swearing in, and family picnic to celebrate their first step towards the goal of commissioning!

Thank you for your continued support of the Jayhawk Battalion!

Rock Chalk and Go Navy!

CAPT Dave Meron



Air Force News

LtCol Bill Pastewait, USAF

Hello from Detachment 280, the Flying Jayhawks!

My name is Bill Pastewait and I recently took command of the Air Force ROTC detachment from Lt Col Brian Salmans. Brian has stayed on at the University of Kansas as a professor in the business school. I made the transition back to the United States from Ramstein Airbase, Germany, in July. I was previously the Commander for the 693d Intelligence Support Squadron. I've been in the Air Force for 18 years as a Cyberspace Operations officer and previously spent time in Air Force ROTC as the Commandant of Cadets at the University of Washington in 2004. I'm joined by my wife Stephanie and our two children, Stacia and Rowan. We're very excited to be back in the ROTC and college environment and looking forward to our time in Lawrence.

We also welcomed back Capt David Rogers who was on temporary duty this summer at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. Capt Rogers was a Flight Training Officer responsible for the training of over 1400 cadets during six weeks of training.

Detachment update:

We held our new Student Orientation on 20 – 21 August. This was our first two-day orientation and allowed us to offer some new experiences for incoming cadets. We had a great turnout, especially from our cross-town schools.

On 12 August, we added a new school to our Jayhawk Family. We signed a cross-town agreement with Ottawa University in Ottawa, Kansas. I was extremely impressed

with their excitement and support for the program. They have a new Engineering Program that we plan to include in our recruiting and we look forward to a strong relationship with their faculty and students.

Finally, we had two cadets selected for the Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program (AFHPSP) for medical school. Cadet Jon Elliott Brubaker, from Benedictine College, and Cadet Bradley Watkins, from the University of Kansas, were two of 14 individuals nationwide selected. They will receive scholarships that cover tuition, books and most fees for the medical school of their choice. After commissioning as 2Lts, they will head off to medical school as part of the Medical Service Corps. This is a great accomplishment and we are extremely proud to have two selections from Detachment 280!

We have many events on the horizon and a great year ahead of us. I look forward to interacting with the MOAA Jayhawk Chapter and can't say enough about all the great things I was told of the support you provide. Thanks for helping us develop the best officers to the United States Air Force.

Very Respectfully,

LtCol Bill Pastewait

Commander, Air Force ROTC Det 280

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, 10 July 2015: **Army Shakeup Cuts 40,000 Troops**

In a move that is sending ripples throughout the military community, the Army announced that it is cutting 40,000 troops. The drawdown, expected to take about two years, will have a dramatic impact on military communities both domestically and abroad.

The cuts will reduce Army end strength to 450,000, a level not seen since before World War II.

"For the most part, the military has been able to reduce end strength by cutting the number of troops stationed abroad," said MOAA's Deputy Director of Government Relations, Col. Mike Barron, USA (Ret). "With this announcement, you're going to start seeing a lot of changes stateside."

According to Army planning documents, the reduction is a result of sequestration. If sequestration is allowed to

continue, total Army end strength will decrease to 420,000 soldiers in 2018.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno told lawmakers that at those levels, the Army would not be able to meet national security requirements.

Lawmakers were quick to comment on the cuts. Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee, called the planned reduction "a dangerous consequence of a budget driven-strategy."

Odierno emphasized that the more problematic issue caused by the budget fights between Congress and the White House is the uncertainty for military planners, troops, and their families.

"This isn't just about troops," said Barron. "When you start talking about cuts like these, you're disrupting local communities; you're making dramatic changes to school systems."

MOAA continues to push congressional leadership to end sequestration, but we need your help.

The Bottom Line - New Chiefs on the Block July 10, 2015

By Col. Mike Hayden, USAF (Ret)

Throughout my Air Force career, I had the luxury of being assigned to a new crew and having an experienced mentor to turn to. It's always been nice to seek out someone with tenure, someone who has been around the block once or twice and can show you the ropes. But what happens when everyone on your team is as new as you?

The service chiefs are about to experience that predicament. Within a 12-month period, every member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is going to complete his term, an occurrence not seen in over 30 years - and the turbulence they may face over the next year will be startling.

One job of the Joint Chiefs is to ensure personnel readiness and one of the first things the Joint Chiefs must address is increased pessimism within the ranks. A recent *Military Times* survey found that barely one in four surveyed said they believed their leadership had their best interests at heart. The same survey found 56 percent of those surveyed stated their quality of life is good or excellent - down from 91 percent in 2009.

It's easy to see why morale is sinking. Sequestration has forced the military to take a disproportionate share of solving the nation's budget problems. We've asked the services to kick out exceptional personnel and eroded troops' pay and benefits, creating such an unstable environment where military families never know when the next shoe will drop.

Instead of planning for tomorrow's battles today, sequestration forces the military to fight tomorrow's battles with yesterday's budget.

The new chiefs will be the first to experience how troops will respond to major retirement reform. The current military pension program is one of the key incentives to serve a full career in uniform. Will a 20 percent cut cause troops to vote with their feet?

And, ultimately, the service chiefs will need to figure out how to structure the remaining force to face the next war. Will the next conflict be long, large, and protracted, or consist of small, tactical, and precise skirmishes?

How will the leaner military respond to asymmetrical warfare in disparate locations? How will it fare against cyber-attacks like the recent OPM data breach? Can a lean military project force to countries like China, North Korea, or any future enemy the United States may face? Will a military that's already being cut to the bone be able to face a traditional enemy in combat?

Regardless of the threat, the remaining force will continue to go into harm's way as long as the troops know that leadership has their back and their family's interests at heart.

The Bottom Line: With the unstable environment we're in, it's critical that the service chiefs work on winning back the trust of troops and their families.

MOAA Legislative Update, 17 July 2015: New Maternity Rules Help Mothers

In a bold move, Navy Secretary Ray Mabus recently tripled the amount of maternity leave available for women in the Navy and the Marine Corps. The new policy extends maternity leave from six weeks to 18 weeks.

Under the new policy, any Navy or Marine servicemember that took convalescent leave following the birth of a child since the first of the year is eligible for the full benefit. The 18 weeks of leave are available to use any time within the first year of the child's birth. The policy is effective immediately.

The Services have been trying to become more family friendly by taking a hard look at making military service easier on families.

When questioned on the Navy's new policy at a town hall meeting, Secretary of Defense Ash Carter backed the changes, saying, "We've got to keep thinking, sensing and adjusting and not just living with old regulations that harken back to a different era."

Following Mabus' announcement, the Air Force announced it will provide a one year exemption from physical training assessments for any female airmen that have had pregnancies lasting at least 20 weeks.

The Air Force is also allowing one-year deferments for new mothers given orders or assignments to where airmen would not be allowed to bring a dependent.

Secretary of the Air Force Deborah James said, "The goal is to alleviate the strain on some of our talented airmen who choose to leave the Air Force as they struggle to balance deployments and family issues, and this is especially true soon after childbirth."

The announcements create new disparities between the Services. Previously, all of the Services had a uniform leave policy. At this time, it's unclear how the other Services will respond to the changes.

The announcements also leave little time for commanders to adapt to the new rules.

MOAA supports the family friendly policy changes, but we think these benefits should extend across all Services.

"Family friendly policies are critical to recruit and retain the best and the brightest in today's environment," said Karen Golden, MOAA's Deputy Director of Government Relations, "but, women in uniform need a uniform policy."

As the Pentagon works on its [Force of the Future](#) initiative, MOAA believes the Services should take a comprehensive review of family friendly policies, including maternity leave and duty assignments.

OPM Admits Military Affected by Breach

The scope of the data breach at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) went well beyond numbers initially reported.

OPM originally thought the cyberattack was limited to 4.2 million records. Upon further scrutiny, investigators concluded that the number of records compromised is closer to 21.5 million. Individuals affected include past and present federal and military employees, as well as any applicants that applied for a clearance since 2000.

Information compromised in the breach includes Social Security numbers, fingerprints, and residency, educational, family, financial, health, employment history.

OPM's [website](#) details the next steps it will take in notifying those affected by the data breach. OPM sent notifications by mail informing people of the services

available. These services will be available for at least three years:

- * Full service identity restoration support and victim recovery assistance
- * Identity theft insurance
- * Identity monitoring for minor children
- * Continuous credit monitoring
- * Fraud monitoring services beyond credit files

Several lawmakers on Capitol Hill called for terminating OPM Director Katherine Archuleta. After the intense backlash, she tendered her resignation on July 10.

Rep. Mac Thornberry (R-Texas), Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said, "The breadth of the data breach at the Office of Personnel Management is staggering and unacceptable. We also have an obligation to ensure that those who serve the Department, in or out of uniform, are able to do so securely."

The Senate now needs to appoint someone capable of handling a crisis of this magnitude and restore faith with the American people that their personal information is secure.

MOAA calls on Congress and the administration to complete a thorough investigation into the data breach, and to implement necessary action to prevent further incidents like these from occurring.

Budget Breakdown in Senate

As budget negotiations break down in the Senate, a high stakes game of political posturing means the government could be heading towards another shutdown in October.

"The longer we wait, the more likely we face this shutdown and shutdown," said Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.).

Washington, D.C. will be a relative ghost town in August as lawmakers return to their home districts to meet with constituents. The House and Senate expect to have only 10 days to work together on the defense appropriations bill in September. With such a limited timeframe, many on Capitol Hill are beginning to see the need for a continuing resolution (CR).

MOAA Legislative Update, 24 July 2015:

Visit Your Legislators in August

During the month of August, most elected officials return to their home districts to meet with constituents. This is a great opportunity for you as a MOAA member to visit your elected officials' offices and advise them of your and MOAA's concerns on important matters.

We need your help to influence the defense bill. Now is also a perfect opportunity to help make progress on remaining inequities for disabled retirees and surviving spouses. Congress needs to:

- * Prevent further erosion of pay and benefits.
- * Authorize full concurrent receipt of military retired pay and disability compensation.
- * Eliminate the dollar for dollar offset of military survivor pay and VA indemnity compensation.

It's imperative that we let our legislators know how we feel about these topics.

These aren't just "defending our rice bowl" issues; they're critical matters for sustaining retention and readiness - the core of our national defense - over the long term.

To assist you in preparing for these meetings, we've developed fact sheets and talking points on the three key issues listed above.

You don't have to be an expert on every issue. That's why we designed the packages as we have - to include a "key points" summary to talk from, along with one-page fact sheets on each issue that you can print and leave with the legislators and/or their staffs.

One of the reasons MOAA has been successful on Capitol Hill is that we have members who are willing to

contact their legislators and express their views on issues that are important to them. Leaders who can say "We represent _____ MOAA members in our state" help convey that they're speaking for a substantial group of constituents.

And the grassroots support of our members has never been as important as it is now.

Protecting Your Wallet

President Obama announced new rules to protect servicemembers and their families from predatory lending practices.

The new protections will cover all forms of payday loans as well as other loans that target military members and their families: car title loans, refund anticipation loans, deposit advance loans, installment loans, unsecured open-end lines of credit and credit cards.

A DoD statement on the change said, "With this action, the department takes an important stand against companies that can prey on our men and women in uniform. This new rule addresses a range of credit products that previously escaped the scope of the regulation, compromising the financial success of our troops."

MOAA worked with its partners in The Military Coalition to help pass the original Military Lending Act. The original law capped interest rates at 36 percent for a limited number of covered loans to active duty servicemembers and their families.

But payday lenders often found loopholes and other ways to skirt the law.

"Today's rule change is a major victory for military families," said Col. Mike Barron, USA (Ret.), MOAA's Deputy Director of Government Relations. "There are more payday lenders in America than there are Starbucks and McDonalds. These institutions prey on vulnerable military families and put them in a cycle of debt."

The new rule allows for industry compliance by October 1, followed by a staggered implementation period.

MOAA Legislative Update, 31 July 2015:

House Leaves Town Without Passing Defense Bill

Despite early optimism from lawmakers, Congress was unable to pass a final defense bill before leaving town for a month long summer recess.

Stuck in a stalemate over several key compensation and benefits issues, House and Senate lawmakers will have to return to the negotiation process in September.

In its initial draft, House lawmakers rejected proposals to nickel and dime servicemembers and their families, but the Senate is pushing to keep them in the final version of the defense bill.

In a reported memo to negotiators, House Armed Services Committee Chairman Mac Thornberry (R-Texas) said, "The House believes it must keep faith with our military retirees and their families and that we should seek to make other improvements in TRICARE before digging more deeply into the pockets of our servicemembers and retirees."

Senate lawmakers argue that personnel costs are "eating the defense budget alive," a tired piece of rhetoric MOAA has repeatedly debunked.

The silver lining to Congress failing to pass the defense bill before the August recess is that now you have the chance to influence your lawmakers.

Most elected officials return to their home districts to meet with constituents during the August recess. Use this opportunity to visit your elected officials and discuss:

- * Preventing the further erosion of pay and benefits;
- * Authorizing full concurrent receipt of military retired pay and disability compensation; and
- * Eliminating the dollar for dollar offset of military survivor pay and VA indemnity compensation.

TriCare Funding At Risk

Move over VA.

Weeks after [the VA asked Congress for a bailout](#), DoD has come forward with its own \$2 billion budget crisis. Without help, DoD could run out of health care funding for outside treatment.

However, unlike the VA, DoD is not only looking at Congress to bail them out, but for beneficiaries to take on even more costs.

DoD was forced to request additional funding to cover a budget shortfall due to the rising costs of compound medications. DoD revised its compound medication policy in May to curb costs, but the budget shortfall remains.

In its request, DoD says that it is trying to control costs, pointing to its payment reform initiatives. Missing from the narrative, however, are the beneficiary initiatives that have resulted in significant cost savings.

Over the last several years, TRICARE beneficiaries have been forced to accept several health care fee increases and policy changes. Specifically, annual pharmacy copay increases and mandated use of the mail-order pharmacy system for maintenance medications are two initiatives beneficiaries shoulder.

By using the home delivery program and paying more for prescriptions, TRICARE for Life beneficiaries have significantly contributed to 80 percent of the cost savings that the Defense Health Agency has claimed this past year.

Coincidentally, DoD's request comes as [Congress once again wrestles with raising TRICARE copays](#).

The request only serves to embolden those in Congress who want to shift costs onto servicemembers, retirees, and their families.

Earlier this year, the Pentagon proposed tripling pharmacy copays in its FY16 budget request. House lawmakers rejected the proposal, but the Senate continues to push for the fee increases.

"DoD is long overdue for a serious look at its internal structure and needs to get its budget in control before asking beneficiaries to bail them out," said MOAA's Deputy Director of Government Relations, Capt. Kathy Beasley, USN (Ret).

Two Big Names Are Coming to MOAA

The 2015 Warrior-Family Symposium (WFS), cosponsored by the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and Wounded Warrior Project (WWP), will delve into a more focused look at government and nongovernment organizations aligning to take action to improve the overall mental wellness of the nation's servicemembers and veterans and their families - specifically looking at our individual and collective responsibilities and commitments to taking care of our own, as citizens and as the nation at-large.

This year's program panel discussions will proactively engage and ignite an interactive, in-depth dialogue on the actual progress made to date and offer real solutions and opportunities for engagement that will carry beyond the day's event so attendees can make meaningful contributions for positively impacting the mental well-being of our warriors and their family members and those caring for them.

The symposium will focus throughout the day on two basic questions surrounding the issue of warrior-family mental wellness:

- * How has the government moved the needle forward in improving the well-being and care of the nation's servicemembers and veterans and their families and caregivers?
- * How and what do we collectively, as a nation, need to do to further deliver on quality mental health care for warrior-family needs within the next five years?

MOAA Legislative Update, 07 August 2015:

MOAA vs. The New York Times

To the Editor:

Re "Military Cutbacks Make Sense" (editorial, July 25):

Arguing that the United States has routinely drawn down personnel after major conflicts doesn't recognize that this peace-dividend-cutting approach has consistently left the military ill prepared for the next major conflict.

This reduction of 40,000 troops is a direct result of the 2011 Budget Control Act and the resulting sequestration, which disproportionately affected the Pentagon's budget and fails to align with our national military strategy.

I agree that additional defense savings could come from sensible base closings, revamping acquisition, controlling civilian growth and reforming medical care. But sequestration is forcing the Pentagon leadership to leverage people to meet the budget caps. Going below 450,000 soldiers will put national security at unacceptable risk.

The all-volunteer force is paying the price, watching its hard-earned benefits erode with fewer troops left to do the mission. As a result, the all-volunteer force is on a worrisome slope: too few troops, higher personnel requirements and deployments, and degraded compensation. A result is lower morale and poor retention of our top commissioned and noncommissioned officers. It also puts our readiness at risk.

NORB RYAN

Alexandria, Va.

Winding Road To Fix The VA

Shortly before heading into a month long recess, Congress provided the VA with the \$3.3 billion needed to keep hospitals open through the rest of the year.

The measure, attached to a highway funding bill, helps address a budget crisis that has been brewing this year due to increased demand from veterans for health care.

[Last week](#), VA Secretary Bob McDonald told lawmakers that despite the increased funding in VA health care, he lacked the authority to spend the money where it is needed most.

"This legislation addresses the VA's budget shortfall by reorganizing money [the VA] already [has] to better meet the needs of veterans," said Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chair Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.).

Relief comes just days before the VA would be forced to close medical facilities, disrupting health care for millions of veterans.

The bill also contains important changes to the Choice Program, such as allowing the agency to waive the current 30-day wait time for veterans, increasing the number of providers in the program, and changing the distance requirements for receiving care.

The VA must provide a plan to Congress by Nov. 1 on how it will consolidate all non-VA care programs into one program.

MOAA Legislative Update, 14 August 2015:

How You Get Your Medicine Is About To Change

TRICARE beneficiaries will be required to refill select maintenance medications through TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery or at a military pharmacy - or pay the full price at retail - beginning Oct. 1.

This provision was originally tested through a pilot program from the FY13 defense bill, which mandated TRICARE for Life beneficiaries into the above requirements.

The FY15 defense bill expanded the pilot to encompass all TRICARE beneficiaries, with the exception of those on active duty, those with other health insurance that provide drug coverage, or those who live overseas. While active duty servicemembers are exempt from the mandate, active duty family members will be required to participate in the program.

In September, beneficiaries will receive a notification letter from TRICARE providing details on enrollment instructions and the waiver process.

Beneficiaries can still get short-term or “acute” drugs from retail pharmacies like antibiotics and pain medications. The new mandate only applies to select maintenance medications, many of which are brand name.

Unlike the original pilot, there will be no ability to “opt out” of the program after one year.

Starting Oct. 1, beneficiaries will have approximately 90 days to move their prescriptions before being responsible for 100 percent of the cost share.

For years, MOAA has said that home delivery is a low cost, safe, and convenient option for beneficiaries to fill their maintenance drugs and save money.

“Switching to TRICARE’s home delivery saves the government on average 32% on brand name drugs filled through the mail order,” said Capt Kathy Beasley, USN (Ret), MOAA’s Deputy Director of Government Relations. “This is another example of beneficiaries doing their part to help drive the cost of health care down.”

MOAA Legislative Update, 21 August 2015:

Nickel And Diming Really Adds Up

August 21, 2015

By Col. Mike Hayden, USAF (Ret)

TRICARE beneficiaries are doing more than their fair share to decrease military personnel costs.

Last year alone, beneficiaries were responsible for 80 percent of the savings achieved by the Defense Health Agency (DHA). Singling out beneficiaries instead of cutting costs within the DoD continues to be the fiscal answer for the Pentagon and for some members of Congress, who are poised to increase TRICARE fees in this year’s defense bill.

Over the past five years, military beneficiaries have shouldered the majority of DoD’s cost cutting initiatives:

- * TRICARE fee increases: Since 2011, TRICARE Prime annual fees and copays have increased 20 percent. Although automatic annual fee increases are now indexed to cost of living adjustments, Congress initially implemented a “one-time catch-up”.
- * Pharmacy copay increases: Pharmacy copays vary by class, but beneficiaries now pay 60 percent more for their medicine than they did in 2011.
- * Home Delivery Program: In 2013, Congress forced TRICARE for Life beneficiaries to refill most maintenance medications by mail order. Imposition of this mandate restricted choice for beneficiaries and reaped huge savings for DoD. Home delivery saved DoD \$215 million in 2014 alone. In October, the Home Delivery Program expands to active duty family members and retirees under age 65.
- * Reduction in TRICARE Prime Service Areas: In 2013, changes to regional TRICARE contracts reduced Prime Service Areas to a 40-mile radius from Military Treatment Facilities. Over 180,000 Prime enrollees were transferred into TRICARE Standard. Although Congress passed a one-time exception a year after implementation, tens of thousands of beneficiaries were affected.

The majority of DoD’s savings have been on the backs of beneficiaries. When the department actually finds ways to cut costs, savings are not passed on to the beneficiary.

For example, DoD negotiated federal pricing for pharmaceuticals, and recouped more than \$1.3 billion in refunds from overpayments.

Isn’t it strange that, despite DoD paying less for medications, beneficiaries continue to pay more?

In this year’s defense budget, if DoD has its way, pharmacy copays could triple over the next decade.

The Bottom Line: Military beneficiaries continue to pay more and get less. Congress needs to look at other ways to save money before raiding beneficiaries’ wallets.

COLA Future Fizzles

The July Consumer Price Index (CPI) is 233.806, remaining .2 percent below the FY 2014 COLA baseline. The 2015 COLA will be based on the CPI average from July through September.

With two months to go, the chances of a positive FY 2016 COLA look slim. If there is no growth in CPI, annuitants will not receive an annual COLA. Retirees did not receive COLAs in 2009 and 2010.

In the event of a negative CPI, annuitants will not see a reduction in pay. Congress passed legislation that keeps retired pay flat in the event of a negative COLA.

The CPI for August 2015 is scheduled to be released on September 16, 2015.

Note: Military retiree COLA is calculated based on the CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), not the overall CPI. Monthly changes in the index may differ from national figures reported elsewhere.

Six Weeks To Shutdown

With no federal budget in place, and tough rhetoric from the White House, Congress could be facing another shutdown this fall.

The administration is threatening to veto any legislation that exceeds federal budget caps. On Capitol Hill, lawmakers are at odds over the appropriate levels of domestic and defense spending.

When Congress returns from the August recess on Sep. 8, lawmakers will have only 10 legislative working days to avoid a shutdown. What options do lawmakers have?

Pass a budget within constraints imposed by the Budget Control Act

The Budget Control Act, (BCA), a compromise deal reached by lawmakers, imposes strict, arbitrary budget caps on federal spending. Any budget that exceeds the caps triggers sequestration, a meat axe series of budget cuts.

Sequestration is particularly damaging to the defense department. If triggered, DoD will have to find \$20 billion to cut from its annual budget next year. Defense leaders have said that sequestration is one of the biggest threats to national security.

Pass a Continuing Resolution

A Continuing Resolution (CR) can keep the government operating at last year’s funding levels while lawmakers continue to work on a compromise. CRs are commonly used to ensure uninterrupted operation of government functions, and can last anywhere from a few hours to an entire fiscal year.

While helpful, a CR limits federal agencies from developing long-term budget plans and strategy. Ironically, CRs often result in cost overruns and government delays, the very things lawmakers try to avoid by passing them.

Prioritize Military Mental Wellness

The 2015 Warrior-Family Symposium (WFS), cosponsored by the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and Wounded Warrior Project (WWP), will delve into a more focused look at government and nongovernment organizations aligning to take action to improve the overall mental wellness of the nation’s servicemembers and veterans and their families - specifically looking at our individual and collective responsibilities and commitments to taking care of our own, as citizens and as the nation at-large.

This year’s program panel discussions will proactively engage and ignite an interactive, in-depth dialogue on the actual progress made to date and offer real solutions and

opportunities for engagement that will carry beyond the day's event so attendees can make meaningful contributions for positively impacting the mental well-being of our warriors and their family members and those caring for them.

The symposium will focus throughout the day on two basic questions surrounding the issue of warrior-family mental wellness:

- * How has the government moved the needle forward in improving the well-being and care of the nation's servicemembers and veterans and their families and caregivers?
- * How and what do we collectively, as a nation, need to do to further deliver on quality mental health care for warrior-family needs within the next five years?

Who Should Attend: administration, congressional, Department of Defense, Military Service Departments, Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Labor, and other federal, state, or local agency leaders and staffs, military operational leaders, nongovernmental leaders and staff members, clinicians (including but not limited to psychologists, physicians, nurses, social workers, counselors), researchers, industry, academia, community leaders, caregivers, servicemembers and veterans and their families, and other interested organizations and individuals.

ATTENDANCE BY DOD PERSONNEL

Please be advised that the Department of Defense (DoD) no longer provides "blanket" Widely Attended Gathering (WAG) determinations for external events. It is our belief that the Warrior-Family Symposium qualifies as a widely attended gathering pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g). However, this means that DoD personnel may accept our invitation if their agency determines that their presence at the Warrior-Family Symposium is in the interests of their agency. To ensure compliance with federal executive branch ethics rules, we suggest that DoD personnel consult with their supervisor or ethics advisor prior to attending.

MOAA Legislative Update, 28 August 2015:

TriCare Fees Go Up In October

TRICARE beneficiaries will see an increase in health care fees starting in October.

Beginning Oct 1, TRICARE Prime enrollment fees will be \$565 for a family and \$282 for a single person.

The increases will affect military families and retirees under age 65.

Increases to TRICARE enrollment fees are based on the annual cost of living adjustment for retired military pay.

Claims Backlog Drop

A historic milestone was reached this week with the VA's announcement that initial claims for veterans' disabilities and survivor benefits dropped to 98,535. This is an 84% reduction from the high water mark of 611,000 claims in the pipeline in March 2013.

Almost five years ago, former VA Secretary Eric Shinseki announced that the VA would eliminate the backlog of initial claims that were waiting for more than 125 days for a decision, by the end of 2015. Now, the VA appears to be in reach of that goal.

According to the VA, the quality of the decisions remains high as the numbers have dropped. The accuracy of disability decisions has climbed steadily from 83% in 2011 to 91% today. The accuracy of "individual medical issues" within a

claim is now at 96%. Rated against eight distinct "error categories" - such as correct effective date, correct decision related to military service, etc. - VA arrives at the right decision 98% of the time.

MOAA commends VA Under Secretary for Benefits, Allison Hickey, for building the transformation strategy that led to these encouraging results. In many appearances before Congress, Hickey referred to upgrades in "people, process and technology" as at the heart of her strategy.

DFAS Email Scam Alert

Email scams are targeting military servicemembers, retirees, and their families by posing as the Defense and Finance Accounting Service (DFAS).

The most recent scam looks like a "SmartDoc" email with the subject line "myPay IMPORTANT SECURITY UPDATE," and appears to come from a DFAS-SmartDocs email address. The links provided in the emails direct the user to a malicious website that requests personal information.

Several attentive MOAA members provided an example of an email they recently received:

Dear Account Holder,

It has come to our attention that your myPay account information needs to be updated as part of our continued commitment to protect your account and to reduce the instance of fraud on our website. If you could please take 3 minutes out of your online experience and update your personal records you will not run into any future problems with the online service.

However, failure to update your records will result in account suspension.

Once you have updated your account records, your Online sessions will not be interrupted and will continue as normal. To update your myPay records click on the Update button.

*Thank you,
myPay Customer Center*

DFAS provided the following statement regarding this scam:

"Valid SmartDocs messages from DFAS are always sent in plain text, do not include attachments and do not ask you to send any information in response. Your email program may automatically convert a valid SmartDocs message into HTML and convert some text into clickable links. We recommend that you do NOT click on any links within any email message. To access a site referenced in an email, open your browser and type the link (URL) directly into the browser.

Don't get fooled. If you receive a SmartDocs message that contains a link, don't click on it. If a URL is listed in the message type it in manually within your browser. Delete unexpected or unsolicited messages that contain attachments or that request you to send information back."

Online scams and cyber-attacks are increasing daily. MOAA members should be on alert for emails like this. Links that ask users to go to a website and submit personal information should always be taken as suspect.

When asked to follow a link, follow the advice provided by DFAS, and enter the URL manually into the browser for verification. While it may seem cumbersome to constantly be on guard about these issues, taking a few basic steps can protect yourself and your family from scam artists.

You can read the DFAS online protection guidelines at the following link:

<http://www.dfas.mil/pressroom/onlineprotection.html>



JAYHAWK CHAPTER MOAA



A membership meeting will be held **Tuesday, 15 September 2015**, at the Lawrence Country Club.

Dinner cost is **\$24.00/meal**.

The Program: *Our guest speaker will be Steve Nowak, the Director of the Watkins Museum. His topic will be Quantrill's Raid.*

Social Hour: 1800 hours

Dinner: 1845 hours

The Menu: *Chicken Piccata, seasonal vegetables, rice pilaf with fresh thyme, tossed salad with two dressings, dinner rolls & butter, brownies, coffee or tea*

*Send your reservation and check payable to Jayhawk Chapter MOAA to arrive no later than **Wednesday, 09 September 2015**, to: **CAPT Jim Cooper, 1115 Stone Meadows Drive, Lawrence, KS 66049***

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 **\$24.00 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 Jim Cooper, 1115 Stone Meadows Drive, Lawrence, KS 66049**

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 2015 Meeting Schedule:

Tuesday 15 September 2015

Tuesday 17 November 2015

HAPPY LABOR DAY



One Association, One Voice. Yours.

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

IN GOD WE TRUST