

## El Paso Chapter of Military Officers Association of America ★★★★ A NATIONALLY RANKED FIVE-STAR CHAPTER ★★★★

A MOAA affiliate from January 23, 1956 - El Paso Chapter of Military Officers Association of America - Our 53rd Year

# CITIZEN SOLDIER - A NATIONAL TRADITION 32nd INFANTRY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM - WISCONSIN ARMY NATIONAL GUARD aka RED ARROW BRIGADE MOBILIZATION AND DEPLOYMENT BRIGADE, Fort Bliss 5th Armored Brigade, Division West, First Army

Our Operational Reserve and their Trainers and Support at Fort Bliss



Left to Right: COL James S. Green, NG, Commander, Mobilization and Deployment Brigade; COL Steven J. Bensend, Commander, 32d Infantry Brigade Combat Team; and, COL Francis V. Sherman, Jr., AR, Commander, 5th Armored Brigade, Division West, First Army

| A 2<br>P 0<br>R 9 | Inside<br>this<br>issue: | President's Message<br>Luncheon<br>Key Note Speaker<br>Membership | 2<br>3<br>3<br>8 | MaD BDE/5th AR BDE/32<br>Personal Affairs<br>Legislative<br>OpEd | nd I BCT<br>10/11/12<br>14<br>16<br>19 |
|-------------------|--------------------------|---|------------------|--|--|
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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



An indication that a major transformation to the future at Fort Bliss has taken place will occur on April 9. It is fitting that this first combat training range is named "COL Joseph C. Rodriguez, Medal of Honor, Infantry Platoon Battle Course" to honor his

memory and an act of courage he demonstrated on May 21, 1951, near the Korean village of Munye-ri. You will see the inscription "THIS INFANTRY PLATOON BATTLE COURSE IS DEDICATED IN COLONEL RODRIGUEZ'S HONOR TO INSPIRE THOSE WHO WILL LEARN AND PRACTICE THEIR CRAFT IN THE SPIRIT OF HIS COURAGE AND GALLANTRY" on a monument erected by the Combined Arms Support Battalion with the support of the El Paso Chapter, Military Officers Association of America, of which Colonel Rodriguez was a member, nationally and locally. The ceremony at Dona Ana Range 63 will be conducted by Congressman Sylvestre Reyes, Representative, D - 16th Congressional District of Texas. When the ceremonies are conducted, it signals that Fort Bliss has moved from an Air Defense Artillery Post to a ground combined combat arms high-tech installation becoming a major player in the future of our national defense. This is a watershed event in our history. The members of the El Paso Chapter are invited to attend. Please, watch the media for details.

Our thanks to CAPT Shelley Marshall, USN, Retired, Scholarship Fund Development Officer; Advisor, Educational Assistance Committee, for her wonderful talk at our Valentine's Day Luncheon on available MOAA's Educational Assistance. Her inspiring words remind us that educational assistance for the children of our military children, Officer and Enlisted, is important to our future. So, please do not forget that the MOAA Scholarship Fund is a non-profit, charitable organization, incorporated in Virginia and declared tax-exempt by the Internal Revenue Service under §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Help us completely fund our own educational assistance scholarship this year...draw checks payable to "MOAA Scholarship Fund"; and, mark them on the memo line with "Rodriguez/El Paso Chapter 501 (c) (3)"...mail your charitable donation to: The Scholarship Fund, MOAA, PO Box 34889, Alexandria, VA 22334-0889.

The El Paso Chapter participated in the Texas Council of Chapter's (TCC) "Advocating on the Hill" February 5 in Austin. Office calls were made on

our Senator and all five members of the House of Representatives asking for help on important statewide military personnel issues. Please, read the brief report to the membership found on page 11. And also, please go to our website, a Texas Chapter first, write you legislators, and send your Legislators a suggested message on TCC's important military personnel issues, personnel as in personal for military...there's something vital for Guard-Regular-Reserve, Veterans, and family members through out Texas...you are not required to disclose your rank or affiliation – just be a regular citizen without rank or title and let them know what you want. So, let yourself be heard...and, ask you friends to do the same.

Read General Bill Riley's Membership column...and, help us recruit!

As a part of our out reach to our active duty, we trying to feature all of our brigade level commands so you know who they are and what they are doing. This issue includes two of our vital assets at Fort Bliss, the Mobilization and Deployment Brigade and the 5th Armored Brigade, First Army, Division West, involved in helping those headed for combat deployment prepare. Currently, they are working 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Wisconsin Army National Guard, which has many with previous combat experience standing up for another round. We hope you find the articles their respective public affairs offices have prepared informative and interesting.

Major General Howard B. Bromberg, Commanding General, Fort Bliss is our Saturday, April 11 Luncheon Speaker. Please come.

#### WINS IN 2008 COMMUNICATIONS AWARDS

- Best Legislative Coverage-print Newsletter The Border Bulletin, El Paso, Texas Lt. Col. John McKinney, USA-Ret.
  - Print Newsletters Large Chapters
     1st Runner-up, The Border Bulletin

13 June Luncheon Guest Speaker Representative Joe C. Pickett, D, House District 79



## ALFUNC THE BORDER BULLETIN



Major General Howard B. Bromberg hails from the State of California. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army following graduation from the University of California at Davis in the summer of 1977.

### MEMBERSHIP MEETING PROGRAM

Saturday, April 11th OFFICER'S CLUB FOX ROOM

| 1100 - 1200 | SOCIAL HOUR  |
|-------------|--------------|
| 1200 – 1215 | OPENING      |
|             | CEREMONY     |
| 1215-1300   | MEAL SERVICE |
| 1300-1335   | PROGRAM      |
| 1335-1355   | DOOR PRIZE   |
|             | DRAWING      |
| 1355 - 1400 | CLOSING      |
| 1400        | ADJOURNMENT  |
|             |              |

#### **DINNER MENU**

Italian Chicken served
with Angel Hair Pasta,
Roma Tomato,
Pine Nuts, and Pesto,
Green Beans Almondine
Tossed Green Salad with
Dressing
Roll and Butter
Coffee & Iced Tea

# April 11 Luncheon Guest Speaker Major General Howard B. Bromberg, Commanding General, Fort Bliss: "Important Issues Concerning Fort Bliss"

General Bromberg's previous assignments include: Deputy Commander. United States Strategic Command, Offutt, AFB, Deputy Director of Nebraska; Force Protection, J8, the Joint Staff, Washington, D.C.; Director of Enlisted Personnel Management Directorate, United States Army Human Resources Command, Alexandria, VA.; Commanding General, 32d Army Air Missile Defense Command, Fort Bliss, Texas, with duty as Deputy Area Air Defense Commander, Coalition Forces Air Component Command and Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq; Deputy Area Air Defense Commander, Joint Forces Air Component Command and Operation Noble Eagle; Deputy Commanding General. Unites States Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss, Texas; 11th Air Defense Commander Artillery Brigade, 3rd United States Army; Commander 1st Battalion 43rd Air Defense Artillery, Eight United States Army Korea; Operations Officer, Defense Branch, J-3, The Joint Staff, Washington D.C.; Operations Officer (S-3)/Executive Officer (XO), 2nd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery, Germany

Please submit your Luncheon Reservations no later than Tuesday 7 April

> Secretary MOAA PO Box 6144 El Paso, TX 79906-0144

and Operation Desert Shield/ Storm, Saudi Arabia; Chief, HAWK Operational Readiness Evaluation Team, 32d Army Air Defense Command, Germany; Commander, A Battery, 6th Battalion, 52d Air Defense Artillery, Germany and Platoon Leader, D Battery, 6th Battalion, 52d Air Defense Artillery, Germany.

General Bromberg's decorations awards include the and Distinguished Service Medal. Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit (with three oak leaf clusters), Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Parachutist Badge, Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge and the Army Staff Identification Badge.



Major Sandy Sandford, Valentine's Birthday Boy, celebrating his 90+ at 2/14 Luncheon

All lunch reservations with payment to our postal mail box

\$ 15 Per Person

REMITTANCE ENVELOPE ENCLOSED

#### EL PASO CHAPTER MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA FORT BLISS, TEXAS 79906-0144

#### 2009 EL PASO CHAPTER, MOAA BOARD MEETINGS AND LUNCHEONS

1 April Board Meeting

6 April April Luncheon Reservations Due

11 April Luncheon, Guest Speaker MG Howard B. Bromberg

6 May Board Meeting 3 June Board Meeting

13 June Luncheon, Guest Speaker Representative Joe Pickett

1 July Board Meeting 5 August Board Meeting

8 August Luncheon, Guest Speaker Ed Stone, Texas Council of

Chapters State Legislative Efforts in the 81st Session

2 September Board Meeting
7 October Board Meeting
10 October Luncheon
4 November Board Meeting
2 December Board Meeting
12 December Luncheon

Point of Contact: Colonel Bob Pitt 533-5111



CAPT Shelley Marshall receives chapter thank-you from General Morgan Jellett for a most informative briefing on the MOAA Educational Assistance program.

Valentine's after the 2/14 Luncheon at Great American, left to right: Mrs. Julie Pitt; Mrs. Jan Rasmussen; Mrs. Yolanda McKinney; CAPT Shelley Marshall; LTC John McKinney; Mrs. Jackie Welsh; and, CWO Marty Martinez



#### **EL PASO CHAPTER AWARDS**

Category 1 Outstanding Chapter (Runner-up)
CY 2000 and 2001.

Five - Star Chapter CY 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, & 2007 Category 1 "Print Newsletter" WINNER in 2004 2006 Communications Award Category 1, "Electronic Newsletters", 2nd Runners-Up (tie) 2007 Special Communications Award

## The Border Bulletin NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

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#### CHAPTER DUES

Effective 01/01/2009
Printed Bulletin w/Directory \$20.00
email with printed Directory- \$15.00
Annual

#### **Chapter Staff Emeritus**

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|---------------------------------|----------|
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| Mrs. Penelope Cochran           | 778-5723 |
| Mrs. Hedy Forcier               | 751-2638 |
| LTC Rafael G. Garcia            | 593-1469 |
| CWO Emiliano Gorgas             | 594-0444 |
| LtCol James E. Gregan           | 587-9846 |
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| CW4 Manuel Martinez             | 751-3791 |
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| MWO Edward C. Ney               | 592-6518 |
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| LTC Daniel J. Schulte           | 755-3387 |
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| MAJ Edwin S. Stone, III         | 598-6058 |
| Captain Jeanne B. Thompson      | 598-0891 |
| COL Martin C. Wehmhoner         | 585-9106 |

Saturday, April 11
Meeting in the Fox Room
Reservations and Checks
to Secretary by APR 7

Input for June 2009 BULLETIN by 6 May 2009





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Mrs. Elizabeth Brinkley and Mrs. Irene Hendley, February 14 Luncheon



Texas Council of Chapters
Treasurer
and President
Mrs. Louraine
Robertson
and MAJ Jim
Cunningham,
February 5



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One of our 3rd Vice Presidents for Active Duty: New Years Eve in Afghanistan as members of the 11th ADA BDE prepare to conduct a Security Patrol...Brigade Commander COL Joe De Antona, 2d row 3d from right.

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## Membership



Some interesting points to share came out of the Midwest Regional Council and Chapter Leaders' Workshop conducted in Austin for chapter leadership from Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana. Here's one of the lead slides laying

down the need for Chapters -

#### **Importance of Chapters**

- Grass Roots Support of MOAA Legislative Goals
  - -Mobilize Members
  - -Legislators Listen
- MOAA "Ambassadors" in the Community
  - -Servant Leaders
  - -Visible in the Community

The main purpose of our organization is to legislatively further military personnel issues of those who will serve. We all know about national's Legislative Action Center but how many are aware of the Texas Council of Chapter's (TCC) legislative activities on the the State Level? Running concurrently with national's leadership workshop, TCC conducted its third biennial "Advocating on the Hill" in Austin scheduled to begin with the every two year convening of the Texas Legislature. See the report from your representatives to this event later in this issue.

Military personnel issues needing to be rectified develop at State level sooner or later which affect all, the six uniformed services, Guard-Regular-Reserve, officers and enlisted, active, retired, veterans, and surviving spouses and children...these issues if no attempt is made to rectify them may in some way weigh on all citizens at large.

Here is a list of items being worked with by TCC in the current legislative session, the 81st:

#### **MG Bill Riley - Membership Director**

- 1. Continued refinement of the Hazelwood Act, an act providing an education benefit to honorably discharged or separated Texas veterans or to qualified dependent children.
- 2. Adoption of the Interstate Compact on Education Opportunity for Military Children designed to ease the transition between school systems resulting from military moves, over which military families have little or no control.
- 3. Legislation to implement Proposition 9 Property Tax Relief for 100% Disabled Veterans
- 4. A dedicated Scratch-off Game to generate a Senate staffer's estimate of \$4.3 million in revenues to fund the Texas Veterans Assistance fund to help Texas Veterans...a fund administered by the Texas Veterans Commission...and, backed by the Texas Military Coalition of which TCC is a member.
- 5. Personnel quality of life issues considered very important taken from the Exceptional Budgetary Items requested by the Adjutant General of Texas: Priority 7 (Health Issues affecting Texas Military Forces service personnel redeployed from combat areas and their families) Additional funds to assist Texas Military Forces returning from deployments; and, Priority 8 Additional resources for State Tuition Assistance Program.

Your chapter has the opportunity to provide input to TCC through your Legislative Chair on issues that you consider imperative.

There are some 34,000+ national members of MOAA in Texas and regrettably they are neither all in the 26 local chapters spread throughout the State...nor those in the El Paso zip code catchment area in the chapter.

Membership in professional associations and lobbying on our own behalf are time honored traditions...and, a responsibility to ourselves and our fellow service members.

If there were ever good reasons to be members of MOAA national and the El Paso Chapter, it is the opportunities available to make a difference for yourself and others. Please, join.

## THE BORDER BULLETIN

## A wealth of knowledge. A knowledge of wealth.



Robert Sweet

Bank of the West is pleased to welcome Robert H. Sweet, the new Financial Consultant for Bank of the West. Bob combines nearly 20 years of experience with outstanding achievement and a genuine commitment of service to his customers. He is a Certified Estate Planning Professional and a Long Term Care Professional.

He credits his success to a deep understanding of customer needs: "My clients... really don't care how much I know until they know how much I care. The more you listen to the client, the more you can help."

At Bank of the West, we think Robert Sweet is another example of how we provide a wealth of knowledge and a knowledge of wealth. Welcome, Bob.



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#### Fort Bliss Mobilization and Deployment Brigade (MaD BDE)

by SFC Charmakeitha M. Smith, Protocol/PAO NCOIC

The Fort Bliss Mobilization and Deployment Brigade (MaD BDE) executes Command and Control for the Joint mobilization and deployment site mission maintaining the capability to prepare, equip, train, and deploy forces from all joint Services and components: Active Component (AC) and Reserve Component (RC) units, individuals, Department of Defense civilians, contract civilians. The Fort Bliss MaD BDE ensures both individuals and units meet all readiness requirements for deployment to theaters of operation. Upon redeployment of those forces, mobilized RC service members are processed for reintegration back to RC status, AC service members back to home station, and civilians back to the original site of employment. In addition to personnel deployment and redeployment, the Fort Bliss MaD BDE also exercises the Command and Control necessary to execute equipment mobilization, demobilization and reconstitution.

Originally activated as the Mobilization and Deployment Operations Center (MDOC) after September 11, 2001, the original staff consisted of only 9 personnel. The first unit to mobilize through the center was the 314th MP CO, CA which replaced the 978th MP CO, Ft. Bliss, TX. The organization reported directly to the Ft. Bliss Commanding General, Major General Stanley Green and Command Sergeant Major Avery. In 2002-2003, the 5035th GSU (Garrison Support Unit) was activated and then passed the torch to the 647th ASG (Area Support Group). On September 6, 2006, the Mobilization and Deployment Brigade was born as a derivative UIC (Unit Identification Code) under Garrison Command, Ft. Bliss, TX. The first Brigade Commander, COL Scott A. Marquardt, under the leadership of the Ft. Bliss Garrison Commander, COL Robert T. Burns, developed the motto: Haud Colluctatio Me. The Latin translation is: "Don't mess with me." The symbol demonstrated that if you wrestle with the pig, 1) you will get muddy, 2) you will get tired, 3) the pig loves it, and 4) you accomplish nothing.

The organization has grown to a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year operation with

currently 73 cadre personnel, 19 Department of the Army civilians, and 129 contractors. The Brigade Commander, COL James Green's famous quote, "We are where it sucks the most" inspires the adopted,



overall attitude of rendering the best customer service one wouldn't expect. His philosophy is the epitome of phenomenal accomplishments with limited resources and adverse conditions. The Brigade Command Sergeant Major, Command Sergeant Major Joseph Considine reinforces that behavior. He manages this by proactively taking care of Soldiers by ensuring that the enlisted ranks remain trained while accomplishing such a unique mission. Mr. Doug Vogel, Deputy to the Brigade Commander, as one of the original 9 personnel, has consistently set the pace for the innovative reputation the organization has earned through the years.

The roles and responsibilities of the leadership and their subordinates during various missions such as the arrival of the 32nd BCT, WI continuously reflects the versatility and expertise of every member of the staff sections. The S-1 Adjutant, MAJ Daniel Toole, is a Federal Government employee located in El Paso with prior active duty, NMARNG, and Army Reserve experience. The S-2/S-6 Intelligent Officer, MAJ Terence Brookins, is a ROTC Commissioned Military Intelligence Officer from Fort Valley State College, Fort Valley GA. With over 18 years of military experience, he is employed by the city of Raleigh, NC as a police officer. The S-3 Operations Officer, LTC John Dorney, father of three, retired from the El Paso Fire Department. S-3 Operations Sergeant Major, SGM Mark Taylor, possesses 43 years military experience serving in Vietnam, Desert Storm, Bosnia, and Iraq. S-4 Logistics Officer, Major Charles Norris, played professional football. Headquarters and Headquarters Company Commander, MAJ Fausto Garza, joined the military in El Paso but originates from California. He is a translator for the Federal Government.

With so many personal and professional backgrounds, the MaD BDE staff has developed a combination of knowledge, experience, and military bearing which make it the model for others to emulate. With the ability to mobilize 10,000 Soldiers a year and demobilize 8,000 a year, the MaD BDE has earned the respect and confidence of such organizations as the 45th BCT; OK (November 2007) and the 50th BCT; NJ (October 2008). Through

dedication, many laboring hours, and hard lessons learned, the MaD BDE has established a precedence that surpasses the symbol of excellence.







#### **5th Armored Brigade**

by SFC Lori Kuczmanski, Public Affairs, 5th Armored Brigade, First Army

5th Armored Brigade, First Army, Division West Soldiers are recognized as expert trainers for deploying soldiers at all levels of the Army. After the brigade demonstrated an extraordinary ability to prepare Soldiers for the rigors of war, it was directed by the Department of the Army to restationing to the premier training area of the Army; Fort Bliss. Our Active, Reserve and National Guard Soldiers are committed to the highest training standards; since 2003 we have trained over 70,000 National Guard and Reserve Soldiers who have deploying around the world in support of Global War on Terrorism.

Using school trained Observer Controller Trainers and Operation Warrior Trainers with current operational combat experience, 5th Armored Brigade is committed to providing deploying Soldiers with tough, realistic, hands-on, theater immersion training.

Our goal is to replicate Iraq or Afghanistan at Fort Bliss. Soldiers live in Contingency Operating Bases (COBs) and Contingency Operating Locations (COL), where they interact with Iraqi or Afghan role players while they patrol and work in villages and towns designed to replicate conditions in theater. We call this "theater immersion" training. We want Soldiers to face theater-specific challenges for the first time in training, not in a combat zone.

Immersion training allows trainers to create more events over longer durations; leading to intuitive, life saving responses from Soldiers, regardless of the situation in which they might find themselves.

The training is tough, repetitive, hands-on, realistic and theater-specific. Training continually evolves to meet and defeat new challenges and changes made by hostile forces operate in a specific area or region. It produces leaders and Soldiers who are confident, competent and disciplined in their skills, knowledge and abilities.

Training is based on core competencies –

Combat skills, Force Protection, Team support processes, technical and tactical training, advisor skills, counter insurgency operations and understanding the culture which produces leaders and Soldiers who are confident, competent and disciplined in their skills, knowledge



and abilities.

The U.S. Government is unwaveringly committed to the long-term missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. Deploying units provide security, training and a stabile environment to build professionalism into the Iraqi and Afghan Army and Police forces, so they become enduring institutions contributing to national autonomy, cohesion and stability. As Coalition troops hand over security responsibility to the Iraq and Afghani governments, U.S. force levels will adjust accordingly.

5th Armored Brigade trained a unit from 1st Mar. Div., a reserve unit from El Paso, Texas in preparation for deployment to Iraq in 2009. This was the first time a Marine Unit was trained by the Army for deployment.

Brigades of military police have also been trained at McGregor Range, N.M. The 177th military police brigade from Michigan was trained by 5th Armored Brigade. They were replaced by the 300th MP's also from Michigan, followed by the 11th MP's out of Pennsylvania.

The 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (I-BCT) "Thunderbirds" from Oklahoma arrived with more than 3,200 Soldiers in the fall of 2007 and trained on detainee operations, security operations and force protection.

In the summer of 2008, more than 3,200 soldiers from the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (I-BCT) "Blue Steel" from New Jersey were trained by 5th Armored Brigade in preparation for their deployment to Iraq. The 50th I-BCT replaced the 45th in their mission.

Currently, more than 3,200 Soldiers from Wisconsin's 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (I-BCT) "Red Arrow" arrived at McGregor Range, N.M. in late February for their upcoming deployment later this spring. They will be replacing the 50th I-BCT later this spring.

The 5th Armored Brigade recognized as the premier training site for detainee operations, training Reserve, National Guard, and Active Duty Army Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Airmen. The mobilization training simulates combat and living conditions in the Theatre of operations.



been

has

#### 32nd Brigade Combat Team Arrives at Fort Bliss

The last of more than 3,200 Wisconsin National Guard troops assigned to the 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team arrived at Fort Bliss, Texas, March 1 on the last major stop in their journey to Iraq. The brigade's Soldiers flew from Wisconsin to Texas over the course of nine days, beginning with the first flights from Volk Field on Feb. 21.

When the 32nd deploys at the end of April it will be the largest single operational deployment of Wisconsin National Guard forces since World War II.

The 32nd Brigade is descended from the 32nd Division, an infantry organization formed of Wisconsin and Michigan Guardsmen in 1917.

Called to active federal service for World War I, the division earned its distinctive insignia - a vertical red arrow through a horizontal red bar - by piercing every enemy line it faced in four World War I campaigns.

The Red Arrow Division was mobilized again in October 1940, more than a year before the U.S. entered World War II. Most of the division's soldiers fought in the Southwest Pacific, where they played a key role in capturing the enemy stronghold at Buna, Papua New Guinea--the first U.S. ground forces victory in the Pacific Theater. The division went on to fight in the Philippines and ended the war as part of the occupation force on the home islands of Japan and logged a total of 654 days of continuous World War II combat - more than any other U.S. Army division in any war.

In October 1961, President Kennedy called the 32nd Division to federal service during the Berlin Crisis, and the Division served until August 1962 at Fort Lewis, Wash., before returning to Wisconsin.

In 1967, the 32nd Division - by then made up entirely of Wisconsin units - was deactivated and reorganized as the 32nd Separate Infantry Brigade.

The 32nd Brigade Combat Team today is the largest command in the Wisconsin Army National Guard, with units stationed in 37 Wisconsin communities. The brigade's normal configuration is two infantry battalions, a field artillery battalion, a brigade support battalion, a brigade special troops battalion and a cavalry squadron. For this mobilization, the brigade's troops are reorganized into the brigade headquarters and four battalion-size elements.

The 32nd Brigade is augmented for the mobilization by six other units from eight additional communities: the 257th Brigade Support Battalion, 32nd Military Police Company, 1158th Transportation,

by LTC Tim Donovan, PAO

829th Engineer Company, 108th Forward Support

Company, and Battery A of 1st Battalion, 121st Field Artillery.

The brigade's ranks are bulging with combat veterans from previous deployments, as most of the 32nd Brigade's units have been called to active duty over the past seven years since 9-11. The 2009 mobilization is the first time the entire 32nd has been ordered to duty since President Kennedy

called the 32nd Division into active federal service in 1961.

The 32nd Brigade has been training for this mobilization for more than a year, so the Red Arrow troops at Fort Bliss will be continuing what they have already started - but with training now more sharply focused on their specific missions in Iraq.

"This is the highest percentage of combat vets we've ever seen here," COL Frank Sherman told an auditorium full of Red Arrow Soldiers at a welcome briefing Feb. 26. "We're going to treat you a little different," Sherman promised.

Once deployed to Iraq, the 32nd will be dispersed around the country. The brigade headquarters will become a Joint Area Support Group (JASG) in Baghdad, while the four battalions will be assigned missions generally related to security.

The 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team is commanded by COL Steven Bensend. The brigade command sergeant major is Command Sgt. Maj. Edgar Hansen.



Ed Stone discusses the merits of MOAA membership for the "Guard" with Colonel Bensend, February 23



## Affaso THE BORDER BULLETIN



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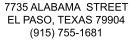
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**KANE KERBY** 



CAPT Shelley Marshall, USN, Retired and Allen and Esther Alcock with daughter Victoria Alcock, and BG Morgan Jellett, USA, Retired, President. Allen is a retired NCO who got his degree and was recently hired by Raytheon...Allen along with spouse Esther have encouraged daughter Victoria, a graduating high-school senior, to apply for MOAA's Educational Assistance. We wish them all well!





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## Personal Affairs

Published by Shane Ostrom, CFP® under General, General Financial Planning, Investments, Retirement Planning

#### Before you pull the trigger...

For all you working people it has hit epidemic proportions. People ready to sell their stock mutual funds in their retirement accounts. Before you do, stop and consider these guick points.

Don't let emotions dictate your investment strategy. If you are ready to sell, you are making a decision based on fear, depression, or despair. Emotions will kill your returns and your retirement account over time. It's not the market that hurts you; it's you and your lack of a rational investment plan. The market does exactly what we know it will do; go up and down. You have to live by a plan that exploits that very fact of life.

Markets always have and always will go up and down. The economy overheats and then it will deflate to cool things down. Once the economy cools down, it will heat up again. Glitches work themselves out whether it's a credit crisis or a "dot-com" bubble or runaway inflation; whatever. We are human. We make mistakes. We fix them. We live to fight and succeed another day.

Buy low. Buying low sucks—get over it for your own good. To buy low means you have the guts to trudge on when things are their darkest. Wealthy people get wealthy because they buy at the right times—they pick up other peoples' assets a bargain basement prices. They buy

when others see pain and they see opportunities.

You are buying low when you invest regular amounts at regular intervals through payroll deduction. Your regular contribution is raking in shares at bargain basement prices right now. Concentrate on the shares, not the value. The game is about owning the most at this point, not your value. Your value only starts to matter when you are closer to needing the money—5 to 10 years out.

If you are raking in more assets at sale prices, don't you want to be raking in the types of shares that will increase in value the most over time? Every down stock market provides opportunities for us to buy more long-term appreciable assets than average income people normally get a chance to buy due to our limited investment abilities. Five years from now you'll kick yourself for not having found a way to buy more shares of stock mutual funds back in 2008.

Over the long haul, stocks have averaged the greatest returns of any other assets. People of average means must have their investments work harder (earn more) in order to build enough wealth to retire. "Safe, conservative, and secure" doesn't return enough to build wealth. Conservative assets don't have the returns necessary to stay ahead of taxes and inflation.

You have to be "in the

market" to get the better returns. If you move your retirement assets in and out of the stock market based on emotion, you miss the times in the market that provide the greatest returns. The greatest returns are typically as the market rebounds off the bottom. If you aren't there, you miss it. You can't afford to miss the rebounds.

Buying loads of shares at the market bottoms means you are averaging down your "per-share" costs. You average down your per-share costs as you buy more and more shares at cheaper prices. When the market returns, it takes less increase to break even and go on to even higher levels.

As a working person still accumulating shares, I wouldn't mind for the market to stay down a few more years. Let me rake in the maximum number of stock mutual fund shares at depressed prices. When the market rebounds, yeeee-haw!

Editor's Note: This particular article of Ostrum's was mentioned in the February issue but was not run then because your editor went with the one that was more conservative in his opinion. This one seems more aggressive in its stance. It's difficult to know what to do in times like we're in economically. Remember, investing is always hazardous to your wealth. Attribution is given to MOAA National's Financial Frontlines ™, Devoted to financial planning and education; and, the author. http://moaablogs.org/ financial/ http://moaablogs.org/ financial/2008/11/before-you-pull-thetrigger%E2%80%A6/



## Affaso THE BORDER BULLETIN

#### A Report to the Membership

#### El Paso Chapter's Participation Texas Council of Chapter's (TCC) Advocating on the Hill, 81st Texas Legislative Session, 2009

by Ed Stone, Editor, and your TCC representative to 2009 Advocating on the Hill This one comes under the heading of taking care of you Personal Affairs because only you can personally attend to these affairs!

The Texas Legislature meets every two years on the odd year convening the second Tuesday in January for 140 calendar days to address issues of State. The convening of our biennial legislative session provides an opportunity for us as MOAA and Chapter members to develop and refine State military personnel legislation important to all of us. TCC has lobbied for the third time on your behalf. For the last three years, TCC has conducted its Q1 meeting at a time to coincide with with the opening Session and has sent a representative the last two times, the 80th in 2007 and the 81st this year. Your chapter sends a representative to these meetings and events. Having participated in 2007 and 2009, Dan Schulte, our Chapter Historian, asked that a report of the lobbying activities before the 81st Session be provided to you, an abbreviated report for The Border Bulletin...a detailed report was provided to your Board.

An agenda is developed from the Grass Roots... your Chapter Legislative Director has an opportunity to be engaged with TCC's 2d VP for Legislation and provide input. Issues extend from year to year as either gains are made or not or need re-addressing in another manner. Like military personnel issues at the national level, we may never get it all or get it complete the first time around because of budgetary and economic conditions...attempting to fully develop legislation or correct those issues left wanting after a prior attempt is a continuing work in progress...it's much like peeling an orange, or sometimes an onion... an organization such a MOAA just keeps shaving away at the important issues until they are fully developed in



precedent and law...and, then we, as an organization, go on to the next priority.

Some work had to be accomplished prior to the event. Legislators were contacted to set up appointments. Pre-plan your visit to offices... El Paso is a large area and has a Senator and five Representatives. Get an on-line map of the Capitol and lay out your appointments and route to flow efficiently.. As a part of preparation all members representing TCC met early a Wednesday afternoon, the day before the event, prior to working Legislators and their Staffs to further hone the strategy. One page position papers for each issue were provided to leave for reference...advocators were cautioned to keep the visits to no more than 15 minutes. We visited all before Noon...don't make any afternoon appointments unless it is a primary and then finish up by 2 PM so that you can make it to a TCC debriefing of all the Chapter representatives at 3 PM. See the 81st Military Personnel issues General Riley's Membership column.

The following offices were visited on Thursday, February 5: Senate District 29-Senator Eliot Shapleigh; House District 79-Representative Joe Pickett; House District 76-Representative Norma Chavez; House District 77- Representative Marisa Marquez; House District 78- Joseph E. Moody; and, House District 75-Representative Chente Quintanilla. Leave your file with your position papers briefly telling those who you visit what the organization and positions are all about. We were received well by all. Each office was aware of the military personnel issues we are concerned with and appeared favorably disposed to support all of them.

You can become involved and help yourself by contacting our elected representation in Austin. The El Paso Chapter has developed an on-line capability to reach our legislators about our concerns...http://elpasomoaa.org. ...looks like a first for Texas. It's all out there on the web...the "how to" and the issues. Please contact those who represent you...it's timely... use it now!

Joe Pickett, Representative, El Paso TX House District 79, with Judy and Ed Stone at February 5th's TCC "Advocating on the Hill" in his congressional reception area of his outer office. A gracious host and reception in a 1950's Soda Shop. A must see!





#### John B. McKinney - Legislative Chairman



The 111th Congress is in session and quite a few bills have been introduced affecting the active military plus retirees and non-retiree veterans. As is usually the case,

far more have been filed in the House than the Senate and many of both do not have companion bills in the opposite side of the hill. The economy has consumed almost all of Congress' time with mega-billion dollar legislation passed before Members of Congress took their first vacations (fact-finding trips). Most of the federal government is still operating under a Continuing Resolution from last year, meaning it is working based on Fiscal Year 2008 dollars and no increases for FY 2009 have been provided. This is in effect until March 1. During past similar situations Congress just passed a massive omnibus budget bill covering all agencies and departments rather than do the job required of it. Now we wait for the FY 2010 budget to be requested by the current administration with a promise already made to cut the federal deficit in 2 years. This bears very close attention as entitlements always surface as a way to reduce spending; DoD has already been mentioned as getting less money, possibly for weapon systems.

The February issue of the MOAA magazine had 4 letters for members of the House and Senate which members were asked to sign and mail. None were to our local or Texas Members of Congress yet these are the ones who depend on their constituents, us, for votes. One letter addressed the DoD budget and the other Tricare increases. Our senators and congressmen need to hear from those who vote for them. You can use the MOAA website to send e-mails. and should.

> The Texas 81st Biennial

Legislature is also in session. All bills to be considered must be filed by mid-March. A number of bills filed in both the House and Senate affect military veterans and active duty military with an emphasis on the Texas reserve components, as these are Texas residents. Adiscussion I had with a local state representative revealed what I suspected, there is little interaction between our state politicians and the veterans community. There is no communication involved when the key agendas are developed to be supported by those who represent us. Yes, the active military is considered plus the anticipated growth of Fort Bliss, but nothing concerning the approximately 55,000 veterans in the El Paso area.

Some bills which should be of interest to veterans are: 1) SB 469 and HB 1008, bills addressing 100% exemption from ad vaelorum property taxes on homesteads for veterans rated 100% disabled or totally disabled. This was passed as a constitutional change in 2007 by an overwhelming 87% of Texans but not voted into law by the state legislature. Maybe this year; and, 2) SB 421 and HB 1299, bills creating a lottery game to help fund the state Fund for Veterans Assistance. The FVA was established in 2007 by the legislature but unfunded. It will be managed by the Texas Veterans Commission, which has an advisory committee currently working on developing the criteria for fund donations, fund dispersal and overall fund management. The Senate bill has been referred to the committee chaired by a senator adamantly opposed to any form of gambling in Texas. SB 90 and HB 503 address the adoption by Texas on the Interstate Compact on Education Opportunity for Military Children. This would aide the children of active duty military personnel transferring into Texas from other states concerning policies on graduation requirements,

advanced placement and enrollment age. Ten states have adopted this compact which was developed between DoD and the Council of State Governments.

To follow bills in the Texas legislature log onto the Texas legislature web site. Bills can be entered by name or topic. The best way to contact state legislators is by e-mail. Those from El Paso County meet weekly to discuss their legislative agenda and topics being addressed by their constituents. If they do not hear from you, they do not know what you are interested in. Don't threaten; educate and advise.

The primary thrust of the state legislature this year was going to be education. As the amount of funds for the years 2010 and 2011 become known (there is not as much as initially thought) programs will be closely scrutinized for necessity versus cost. Texas funds for 2 consecutive years and the past two have shown how easy it is to miscalculate estimated income. There are members of the legislature who advocate imposing a state income tax. This, too, needs to be watched.

#### STAY CURRENT ON ISSUES **AND** LET YOUR OPINION BE **KNOWN**

Anyone can use the MOAA Legislative Action Center found at www.moaa.org.

Simply enter your Home of Record Zip Code and sign in as a Friend of MOAA.

Anyone means Officer, Enlisted, and Civilian.

Help manage your own future.

#### **Fisher House Foundation Visitation**

by Kathleen Schulte





On February 27th, 2009, representatives of the Fisher House Foundation visited the Ft Bliss Fisher House to help celebrate the 15th Anniversary of its opening at Wm Beaumont Army Medical Center and to meet the residents. Included in the group were Audrey Fisher, Nancy Edelman, Jim Weiskopf, and joining them from the Medical Command in Ft Sam was John Ost.

Harry Hicks, the Fisher House Director, arranged a welcome lunch for the visitors and the residents. Invitees included two wounded warriors and their wives and those organizations which support the Fisher House. Additionally, LTC Edwards and his command team from the Warrior Transition Bn. attended. Supportees included the NCO Wives Association, MOAA, and the Corvette Car Club represented by Carrie Kerby. The El Paso Chapter of MOAA was represented by BG Morgan Jellett, our president, and Dan and Kathleen Schulte. Other invitees included Col Baunchalk, the Wm Beaumont Commander.

At lunch, the wounded warriors, Cpl Williams and his wife Britteny sat with Nancy Edelman, Pvt Valent and his wife Monica sat at the table with Audrey Fisher and BG M. Jellett. At the table with Jim Weiskopf were the Schultes and C. Kerby. The wounded warriors, Williams and Valent are recuperating from wounds received in Iraq. Gen

Jellett had the opportunity to chat with the visitors and to offer his thanks to these fine soldiers for their service and speedy recovery from their wounds.

The atmosphere was festive and awards were presented. The Fisher House Housekeeper was acknowledged for the fine work she does in keeping the House in excellent order. Also recognized for keeping the Fisher House supplied with fresh baked goods was Mrs. Eleanore Jernigan. Harry Hicks, was recognized with a Plaque for his dedicated service and outstanding leadership. Many photos were taken and a few are represented here.

Texas Council of Chapters (TCC), MOAA, Austin, February 4 & 5



TCC calls on Texas Adjutant General's Office, left to right, LTC (R) Ginny Alloway, USAF, Ret, MOAA National Board Member; COL Lee Lange, USMC, Ret, MOAA National Director, Council and Chapter Affairs; CPT Smiley Garcia, Legislative Liaison Officer, Adjutant General of Texas; BG William L. Smith, Chief, Joint Staff, Adjutant General of Texas; MAJ Jim Cunningham, USAR, Ret, President, Texas Council of Chapters; CAPT Bob Rymal, USN, Ret, TCC Immediate Pat President; and COL David Briggs, USA, RET, TCC 2nd VP - Legislative



Mrs. Ruby and LTC (R) Ed Marvin, Alamo Chapter President, MOAA dinner February 5







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#### April 2009 TAPS

Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers are with the families of the following members;

**KAY SHERFY**, passed away Tuesday, December 2, 2008, at the age of 92. He retired from the military after 30 years and proudly served his country in WWII with the 90th Division in the European Theater and was a Purple Heart recipient. He is survived by his wife, Rosemarie and son, Dennis (Doris) Sherfy of Greenwood.

**LEE C. THOMAS**, passed away on January 14, 2009, at the age of 82. She is survived by her husband of 65 years, James, and two daughters, Kit Thomas and Sandra Bashur; two grandsons, James H. Bashur and Edward S. Bashur III; and three great granddaughters, Davine, Vivian and Alora Bashur.

**ROBERTO ANAYA**, passed away on January 14, 2009, at the age of 92. He is survived by his wife, Ester and Sons, Robert D. Anaya, Raoul A. Anaya and Daniel V. Anaya and daughter, Rebecca E. Herrera.

**RENO MAZZUCCHI,** former Deputy Commander, Fort Bliss, Texas. Colonel Reno A. Mazzucchi, US Army, Retired, 88, passed away January 29, in El Paso. He was a veteran of WWII, Korea, and Viet Nam. During WWII he served as a Combat Engineer in the Asiatic Pacific campaign in the battles of Eniwetok and Okinawa. He is survived by his wife of over 65 years, Minetta; his sister, Lorraine Schexnayder; two daughters, Carol Makvand and Connie Asquith and many grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

LT. COL. EDWARD E. "RED" WEIR, (Ret.), 87 of Denton, TX passed away on Monday, February 9, 2009, after a recent battle with cancer. Colonel Weir entered the U.S. Army Air Corps in November 1940. After receiving training first as an aviation mechanic, he was later accepted for training as a heavy bomber navigator and finished his training at Turner Field in Albany, GA. He joined the 93rd Bombardment Group, the first group of Consolidated B-24 Liberator heavy bombers to fly across the Atlantic in the early days of WWII. He is survived by daughters Shirley Jeanne Weir Cassidy and Linda Darlene Weir Baker and many grandsons and granddaughters.

LOIS CARSON passed away on the l0th of February in El Paso. She was born in South Dakota on October 23, 1919. Her family moved to California, where at the age of 13, she met a boy named Tommy Carson. They were married in 1937 and celebrated 56 years of marriage. Colonel Carson made a career of the Army and Lois became an enthusiastic Army wife. She is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Patricia Siems (Rodger) of Hemet, CA and Mrs. Pamela Mania (John) of El Paso, TX and a son, Thomas Carson (Mary) of Carrollton, TX and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren and a sister, Mrs. Joyce Pearson of Rancho Bernardo, CA.

We extend our condolences to their families and friends.

Chaplain (Colonel) Ron Huggler

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## **OpEd**

Any and everyone can help with military personnel issues. Ask your friends to contact those who represent them. Senators and Representatives listen to constituents. Read Membership and Personal Affairs this issue. Military personnel Issues are personal!

Please support military personnel issues currently before the 81st Legislative Session in Austin which we consider vital. The issues, each issue may have more than one bill and we support most to get a toe-hold in the area of concern so we have a position to refine in the future. You may find issues in General Bill Riley's Membership column and on-line at our homepage. We need your assistance and your vote in order to pass legislation addressing these very important military personnel issues.

Linked to our website, http:// elpasomoaa.org, is a page with instructions on how to email your legislators...for details go to: http://elpasomoaa.org/tcc81issues.html ES

#### **MOAA President's Training Symposium** February 6



CAPT Bob Rymal, USN, TCC Immediate Past President, and COL Lee Lange, USMC, MOAA Director Councils and Chapters, exchange pleasantries during a break between sessions.

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