

THE[®] BORDER BULLETIN

El Paso Chapter of Military Officers Association of America

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

4th Brigade Combat Team/1st Armored Division aka HIGHLANDER Brigade Furls and Cases Colors in Deployment Ceremony on April 24, 2009 in Support of Operation Iraqi Freedom



Front: COL Peter A. Newell and CSM Phillip D. Pandey, Commander and Command Sergeant Major, prepare the HIGHLANDER Colors for casing

Furling their colors in the second row but not in order: LTC Robert L Menist and CSM Victor Pedraza, Commander and Command Sergeant Major, 4th BN, 6th Infantry Regiment; LTC James J. Gallivan and CSM Roger W. Yuraska, Commander and Command Sergeant Major, 1st BN 77th Armored Regiment; LTC William A Walski and CSM Jack P Iglesias, Commander and Command Sergeant Major, 2d SQDN, 13th Cavalry Regiment; LTC Mike Eastman and CSM Hector J Font, Commander and Command Sergeant Major, 2d BN, 29th Field Artillery Regiment; LTC David Wilson and CSM Saeed A Mustafa, Commander and Command Sergeant Major, 121st Brigade Support Battalion; and LTC Alen J Shumate and CSM Lauro G Obeada, Commander and Command Sergeant Major, 4th Special Troops Battalion.

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**Inside
this
issue:**

President's Message	2
Luncheon	3
Key Note Speaker	3
Wounded Warriors	8
Personal Affairs	10

Membership	11
Legislative	12
TAPS	12
Correction Page	13

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Lots going on...check the pictures.

Our best wishes go with COL Peter A. Newell, Commander, and CSM Phillip Pandey, Command Sergeant Major, and the officers and men of the 4th

1st Armored Division (4th BCT/1st AD) in their SW Asia deployment. The chapter was represented and contributed to the Flag Casing Ceremonies. 4/1 conducted a Pre-deployment Fair for all of their unit family, sponsors and dependents for the purpose of preparing everyone for the unit's move forward. As far as we know, the act of providing information about where to go for what for personal affairs on this scale is a first. The El Paso Chapter was invited to provide information about the Military Officers Association and given a booth at the Soldiers Readiness Preparedness (SRP) site located at the old Bowling Alley to do so. Participating in manning the Chapter Station were members of your Board: Morgan Jellett; Dan Schulte; Lennie Enzel; Emiliano Gorgas; and Judy and Ed Stone. We met some super soldiers and dependents... it all about helping our own. Over 70 officers from 4/1 joined MOAA for the first time. We welcome them.

Speaking of soldiers helping soldiers. MWO Ed Ney organized our Day at the Races this year with a different thrust. Your chapter hosted members of the Wounded Warriors Transition Battalion to the event... furthermore, the 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division (1st H BCT/1st AD), volunteered to join and assist their comrades. See 1/1's article in our centerfold.

The "COL Joseph C. Rodriguez, Medal of Honor, Infantry Platoon Battle Course" was dedicated by Congressman Sylvestre Reyes, Representative, D - 16th Congressional District of Texas, in the presence of LTG Charles G. Rodriguez, son of Colonel Rodriguez. The naming of Range 63 was an El Paso Chapter initiative... LTC Dan Schulte, Historia, floated the idea of honoring COL Rodriguez's name and your president took it to the Commanding General, Fort Bliss, who put the commemoration in motion. The ceremonies signaled a 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. LTC Ed House's, 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment of COL Emmett Schail's 1st HBCT/1st AD conducted a live fire demonstration exercise in support of the

dedication. Another great unit with super leadership and training.

COL John G. Rossi, Deputy Commanding General and Chief of Staff, brought us up to date on all of the changes taking place at Fort Bliss with an interesting presentation at our April Luncheon. Thanks for all, COL Rossi.

In an effort to continue to become a better member of the Active Duty Community, the El Paso Chapter has created a two more Committee positions, Deputy Commanding General and Chief of Staff and Garrison Command. COL Rossi, current DCG/CofS, and COL Edward P. Manning and CSM Tony H. Purdy have willingly offered to serve. We are grateful to have this experience to help us.

Once again, the El Paso Chapter served to represent MOAA national, a sponsor of the Bataan Memorial Death March conducted at White Sands Missile Range, on March 29. The chapter also met and recruited 28 new members for national at the event. Additionally, we sponsored a Heavy Team from 1st H BCT/1st AD in the competition.

An example of continuing out reach, the chapter contributed to 5th BCT/1st AD's Golf Tournament. The proceeds from the tournament will go to set off the cost of tickets for Enlisted to their Formal Ball. We are always looking for ways to help.

We always look for new members. Many of our Active Duty will be reassigned so by your next issue, you will know there are new committee chairs helping us. At the moment, there's a need to fill spots on our Board for 2010...please, contact CWO Emiliano Gorgas, Secretary, about where one can best serve.

Our June 13 Luncheon Speaker is State Representative Joe Pickett. Joe will have plenty of information about the legislation of the 81st Session. Looking forward to seeing you!




COL John G. Rossi, Deputy Commanding General and Chief of Staff, April 14 Luncheon Speaker, and BG J Morgan Jellett, Chapter President



Joe C. Pickett is a member of the Texas House of Representatives, where he is presently serving his eighth term. Rep. Pickett is currently serving as Chairman of the House Committee on Transportation. In addition, he is a member of the House

June 13 Luncheon Guest Speaker Representative Joe Pickett, D - District 79

Committee on Defense and Veterans Affairs and the House Committee on Redistricting.

Representative Pickett has been honored once again with a membership on the House Research Organization Committee. This committee reports on all legislation which is scheduled for floor debate. The reports are a balanced analysis and include the pros and cons of each bill. He is also a member of the Mexican American Legislative Caucus

and has been recognized by the following organizations:

- Texas Transit Association Legislator of the Year
- Texas Public Employee's Association Legislator of the Year
- Texas DPS Officers' Association Legislator of the Year
- Texas Council of Child Welfare Boards Representative of the Year
- West Texas Poison Control Center Network's Legislator of the Year

MEMBERSHIP MEETING PROGRAM

**Saturday, June 13th
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

Orange Pepper Steak
served with
Orange and Ginger Spices
Sauteed Broccoli Almondine
White Rice
Tossed Green Salad
with Dressing
Roll and Butter
Coffee and Iced Tea



Congressman Reyes and General Rodriguez cut Range 63 Dedication as COL John Rossi, left, DCG and Chief of Staff, Fort Bliss, and COL Edward Manning, right, Garrison Commander, look on.

**Please submit your Luncheon
Reservations no later than
Tuesday 9 June**

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

2009 EL PASO CHAPTER, MOAA

BOARD MEETINGS AND LUNCHEONS

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 TBA
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



LTC Ed House,
Commander, 1-36th
Infantry, 1 BCT/1st AD;
congressman Sylvestre
Reyes, 16th D- Texas,
and LTC Charles G
Rodriguez, son of COL
Joseph C Rodriguez,
MOH, reporting to
observation tower at
Range 63 for 1-36th
1 platoon combat
demonstration.

1-36th Infantry 120 mm Mortar Crew

CPL Casey M
McDaniel;
1LT Tony D Salinero;
PFC Lance E
Richardson;
PFC Kevin W Barker;
and PFC Biery D D
Roland



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; Runner-up 2008;
2008 Best Legislative Coverage (printed newsletter)
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

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Annual

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COL Martin C. Wehmhoner	585-9106

Saturday, June 13th
Meeting in the Fox Room
Reservations and Checks
to Secretary by JUN 9

Input for
August 2009
BULLETIN
by 6 July 2009

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Wounded Warrior Day of Fun

by SSG Christina J. Turnipseed, PAO, 1st H BCT/1st AD

Late Saturday morning about 18 Soldiers and family members from the Wounded Warrior Program arrived in sunny New Mexico where they spent time eating, chatting, playing games and having fun accompanied by 1st Armored Division Soldiers from East Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas.

1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division supplied about 20 Soldiers to assist the wounded warriors while the wounded warriors enjoyed themselves. Volunteers from 1/1 consisted of Soldiers ranking from PVT to 1st SGT and units 1-36IN, 1-37AR, 501st BSB, 2-3FA, 1st STB.

The organization that provided this 'day of fun' was the Military Office Association of America or MOAA.

Each year, MOAA partners with a local New Mexico company to provide what Edward C. Ney, retired Army warrant officer and spokesperson for the MOAA calls "a worthy group" with a day of fun. This year they chose to honor the Soldiers of the Army's Wounded Warrior Program.

SGT Frank R. Desmond

one of the Wounded Warriors said, "I think it's great that these people took the time out, and that they remembered us."

Many of the 1st AD Soldiers volunteered to give up their Saturday morning because they honestly felt it was worth it to show appreciation to their fellow Soldiers in the Wounded Warrior Program.

PFC Jesse Harper, 1-36 HHC said, "They gave up their time for us, we should give up our time for them."

SPC James R. Phillips, 1-36 HHC said, "The Wounded Warrior Program is just a good reason to volunteer for anything."

1st SGT Ronald Harris, 501st HHC said, "These are our comrades, people who have done their share on the battle field, [and] gone above and beyond. We want to show our appreciation."

PFC Joseph Espurvoa, 2-3 Alpha Battery said, "Soldiers helping Soldiers; it's what we do." SSG Troy S. Langley, 1-37 Charlie Company stated, "We've all given something, but these guys have had more taken from them and now it's our chance to give back to

them. Even though they have been wounded, we still care about them."

PFC Jose E.

Duhaylungsod, 2-3 Bravo Battery said, "It's another way of extending my gratitude to all those wounded Soldiers. It's a token of appreciation for their service."

MOAA supplied the Wounded Warriors and their families with a private dining room, a buffet meal accessible to them all day, an envelope with money, free meal cards to several surrounding Village Inns, door prizes, transportation and 1/1 Soldier escorts.

The wounded warriors and their families were hospitable and appreciative of all the efforts by MOAA and 1st AD.

SSG Rick L. Walden, a wounded warrior from the National Guard said of the 1/1 Soldiers, "It shows that though I'm a National Guard Soldier, there's a family of brotherhood."

1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division Soldiers and MOAA joined together to let our wounded warriors know how much they are appreciated and respected.

WOUNDED WARRIORS

SSG Rick L. Walden, a wounded warrior from the National Guard, Mrs. Jesse Langley and her husband SSG Troy S. Langley, 1-37AR Charlie Company carry on pleasant conversation with the other people at their table Saturday during a 'day of fun' for the Wounded Warriors provided by the Military Office Association of America.

Wounded Warrior and 1st H BCT/1st AD



Day at the Races!



Members of 1st H BCT/1st AD Providing Support



Ed and Judy Stone and Mrs. Virginia Fischer, Judy's mother, enjoying the Martinez's company on March 14.



Colonel Dave Hampton, 1st VP, with MWO Ed Ney, organizer



Colonel Dave Hampton, left, and MWO Ed Ney, extreme right, thank Jim Welsh, Manager of Village Inn and Applebee's, and Lieutenant Alexander Moon, Warrior Transition Battalion, center left and right for their participation in Day at the Races.



Ms. Jackie Welsh, Door Prize Chair, with son Jim Welsh, Manager of Village Inn and Applebee's. A big thanks to Jim for supporting the El Paso Chapter's fund raising through his mother by donating pie and meal certificates for our drawings.



CWO Marty and Kay Martinez passing the time with table mates at the Day at the Races.

Personal Affairs

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

It's Like the Olden Days With Credit Scores

Published March 20, 2009, 6:08 pm under General Financial Planning

Remember when it was a big deal to have a credit card? You had to apply and prove you were a good credit risk. You waited like a kid before Christmas day until you heard whether you were approved. Then that day came when in the mail your Sears or Montgomery Wards or Phillips 66 card arrived. Holy cow Batman! With a credit card came awesome responsibility. Well credit is reverting back to the norm. The days of easy credit are gone. Protecting and building your credit score has become a big deal again.

Ways to protect and build your credit scores include:

- Paying your bills before they are due.
- Paying off balances each month.
- Managing the amount of credit you have open at any one time and knowing your balances.
- A high percentage of credit used to credit available—not so good.
- A low percentage of credit used to credit available—good.
- Get a copy of your credit report to see what's on it. You may be surprised to find open accounts you have long forgot about.
- Don't use credit just because you have additional credit available.
- Know your current credit score so you know where you are.
- Don't share credit with poor credit risk people—'love' doesn't trump a person's bad credit record and chances are they won't change.
- Get help if you have credit problems. Check out <http://nfcc.org/> or call your Better Business Bureau.

Now if only that 25¢ gas would come back.

<http://moaablogs.org/financial/2009/03/its-like-the-olden-days-with-credit-scores/>

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Membership

MG Bill Riley - Membership Director



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

Most recently the Texas Council of Chapters published an electronic call to action following MOAA national's "Storming the Hill." It highlighted

legislation to increase Active Duty pay and resolve onerous and wrong headed off-sets, Survivors Benefit Plan (SBP) is set off by Veterans Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) and military retirement pay is set off by Veterans Disability Compensation. What's an "off set?" SBP is an insurance program you pay for...DIC is a benefit provided as a result of service...two entirely different programs, one you pay to be insured, the other a benefit provided by legislation as a result of service. SBP will be set off by the

amount of DIC one receives...it means spouse don't get all that's been purchased. Same with retirement and disability compensation...not everyone receives what's been earned by reason of service because of the law.

These inequities can and are being made right but it takes everyone making their wishes known to elected representatives.

"Anyone" can address these issues through the Military Officers Association of America's Legislative Action Center. Go to the Legislative Action Center and register as a Friend of MOAA and use your Home of Record zip code and express your concerns to you elected representatives.

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. Use national's Legislative Action Center to make yourself heard about important issues of the day... and, there are a number of issues being aired. Don't have a computer? Don't have an email address? Talk with a friend about internet access. Ask them to help you set up a free web based email account, Gmail, Hotmail, or Yahoo. If you do so, you can communicate with your Congressmen and State Legislators. Email is the most effective way to carry on a dialog with those that make our laws. Please, join.

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Legislative

John B. McKinney - Legislative Chairman



The 111th Congress has been very active during it's first few months in session. It first passed the Stimulus Bill (none of the Members of Congress read it before voting on it), then the Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Bill, which funded all of the federal agencies not included

in the National Defense bill passed the end of September 2008, then the administration's Fiscal Year 2010 federal budget proposal. The latter lacked any specific details on how funds were to be used, only the amount requested for the fiscal year, plus 5-year planning figures. The bottom line is that the federal government is now over 4 trillion dollars in debt, the largest debt in history. It has to borrow money to cover the debt with nothing yet offered on how the interest on the debt, much less the principle, will be paid. Entitlements and the rich are always fair game when it comes to deleting or reducing federal expenditures and taxing respectively.

MOAA is asking members to write their congressmen seeking co-sponsorship on a number of bills. These have recently been highlighted in the MOAA weekly legislative report sent via e-mail. Bill numbers are: HR 303, HR 333, HR 775, HR 816, HR 1592, HR 1701, HR 1864, HR 2017, S 535, S 546, and S 832. At the time this was being written Congressman Reyes was a co-sponsor on HR 333, HR 775, and HR 816. Congressman Rodriguez was a co-sponsor on HR 775, HR 816 and HR 1864. If you write letters you need not ask for co-sponsorship if it was already been noted but you should thank the respective congressman for his support. Neither of our Texas senators are co-sponsors on Senate bills. My experience with our senators is that while they individually may support a specific bill, neither co-sponsors many, in fact very few. The best ways to communicate with Members of Congress are telephone and e-mail. Members are encouraged to use the MOAA web site for the latter.

No one knows what is going to happen with the Fiscal Year 2010 budget, once specific details are provided by the administration, but there are things not seen before, such as support for doing away with the DIC offset to SBP, dropping the veterans disability tax for veterans (not necessarily all) receiving both military retirement and VA disability, and providing the VA with advanced funding. Any Tricare or pharmacy

increases appear to be dead issues for FY 2010 but the defense secretary has indicated he will seek both in 2011. It also appears there will be no cost of living allowance (COLA) increase in 2010 in social security, military retirement, VA disability and other government retiree payments. Some are forecasting no COLA for the next 2-3 years. Based on current law, Medicare Part B cannot be increased without some kind of COLA adjustment to basic social security to preclude beneficiaries from receiving less.

A big unknown as of this writing is what is going to happen to universal health care. It seems that congressional tactics may drive decisions on a fast track with little debate yet impacting on every citizen. This bears watching as military treatment facilities keep cutting back on services provided to military retirees and their family members in order to meet their own requirements for caring for the active military and their family members under Tricare. Remember, medical professionals do not have to accept new Medicare patients and there is still a lot of community dissatisfaction on the speed of Medicare and Tricare reimbursements.

The Texas legislature has been extremely active. Based on the filing deadline for legislative bills there were just over 7,400 filed in both the House and Senate. The several priority bills of the Texas MOAA Council of Chapters have yet to be voted on by both the House and Senate. The deadline for action on all bills is June 1 and the governor has until June 21 to sign or veto bills. August 31 is the date that bills become effective unless other specific dates are noted. The bills addressing the 100 percent as velorem tax exemption for those veterans rated at 100 percent disabled list the effective date of January 1, 2010; no such exemption for calendar year 2009.

TAPS

Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers are with the family of the following member:

Rosa K. Ney, 80, passed away on April 4, 2009. She is survived by husband, Edward C. Ney and daughter, Anita Lauderdale.

We extend our condolences to their family and friends.

Chaplain (Colonel) Ron Huggler



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BG J Morgan Jellet,
Massing of the Colors,
St. Rephael's
Catholic Church,
Saturday, March 28,
2009

**2009 Directory
Correction**

Please, note in the
2009 Directory that the
President's Page should
read "1982 COL Paul J.
Maline" instead of 1981.

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4th BCT/1st AD Pre-deployment Fair at the SRP

Chapter Shots



Front: Mrs. Judy Stone, Chapter Public Relations Director; COL Peter a Newell, Commander, 4th Brigade Combat Team/1st Armored Division and Chapter Brigade Committee Chair; MAJ Luke Hammond, 4th BCT/1st AD, Rear Detachment Commander; and COL Lennie Enzel Chapter's Post Liaison Director. Rear: First MOAA national member recruited on April 22, MAJ Leviticus M. Huff, 4th BCT/1st AD; and SFC Alexander Perry, 4th BCT/1st AD Administrative Assistant.



El Paso Chapter representing MOAA National, a sponsor of the Bataan Memorial Death March at White Sands Missile Range on March 23, 2009. Twenty-seven new MOAA national members were recruited with over 2/3 being signed up by General Jellett.
L to R: BG J. Morgan Jellett, Judy and Ed Stone



Oryx thrive on White Sands Missile Range, March 29, 2009



LTC William A. Walski, Commander, 2d SQDN, 13th Cavalry Regiment, briefs men and families, on the personal affairs points and information available at the 4th Brigade Combat Team/1st Armored Division Pre-deployment Fair readying the whole for departure, service members and families



LTC Rafael Garcia, Treasurer; BG J Morgan Jellett, President; and COL Bob Pitt, Programs Director, April 11 Luncheon

General Rodriguez and Congressman Reyes Unveil Range 63 Dedication Plaque.



LTG Charles G. Rodriguez and Congressman Sylvestre Reyes unveil dedication plaque as COL John Rossi, left, Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff, Fort Bliss, and COL Edward Manning, right, Garrison commander, look on.

LT Salinero, 1-36th Infantry, Congressman Reyes, LTG Rodriguez



LT Salierno and Congressman Reyes and
LTG Rodriguez

COL Joseph C. Rodriguez, Platoon Battle Course Dedication on April 9, 2009



L to R: Mrs. Judy Stone; BG J Morgan Jellett - President, El Paso Chapter MOAA; COL Edward P. Manning - Commander Garrison Command, El Paso Chapter Committee Chair; Congressman Sylvestre Reyes, 16th D - Texas; LTG Charles G. Rodriguez, Son of COL Joseph C. Rodriguez, MOH; CWO Emiliano Gorgas, El Paso Chapter Secretary; and CWO Marty Martinez, El Paso Chapter Past President

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Statement of Publication

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