

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 55th Year

MOAA DAY AT THE RACES SUNLAND PARK CASINO



Members of El Paso MOAA, the winning horse and jockey in Race #8, and the horse owner with his family.

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APRIL
2011

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



El Paso Chapter MOAA Updates:

Membership Initiatives.

The March winds ushered in significant change and initiatives that will positively affect the future of your El Paso Chapter, and our efforts to support our members of the Fort Bliss active duty, and retiree military community. At the February luncheon the Board of Directors approved the appointment of Ms Emily Garcia as the new Membership Chair, and she has had a tremendous impact in a relatively short period of time. Emily is developing recruiting initiatives which are already transforming the Chapter's membership rolls. Starting in March our Chapter began an effort to recognize Local Chapter members who recruit new Local Chapter members. Current members who recruit new members to the Chapter will be eligible, along with their new members, for a special Grand Prize drawing during each of our luncheons. During the MOAA Day at the Races the grand prize was a 42-inch flat screen TV donated by Casa Ford/Casa Nissan. Future drawings will be open only to those current members who have recruited new local MOAA Chapter memberships, and the new members themselves. Ms Garcia has also initiated the legal review, and transition of the Chapter to a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. This change will have a transformational effect on the Chapter and will enable the Chapter to dramatically expand its support to Ft Bliss soldiers and their families.

1st Armored Division Scholarship. Your local Chapter has also initiated the 1st Armored Division Scholarship in the amount of \$25,000. This scholarship will be available only to eligible children of soldiers assigned to the 1st Armored Division. MOAA National approved the aforementioned scholarship in February 2011 and has authorized issuing the scholarships as soon as June/July 2011. In less than three weeks, the Chapter has raised \$11,000 dollars towards the scholarship. Effective 1 March 2011, the Chapter has opened to all local Chapter members the opportunity to contribute donations directly to the Scholarship fund.

MOAA National Updates:

TRICARE Fee hikes. For the first two years of the Obama administration, Secretary Gates proposed no TRICARE fee hikes. As February approached the Defense Secretary's message suggested that the FY2012 budget would propose "modest" TRICARE fee increases for

"working-age retirees". But when Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) Dr. Clifford Stanley called a meeting with MOAA President VADM Norb Ryan, Jr. (USN-Ret) and other association leaders on February 14 to outline the TRICARE fee proposals included in the new FY2012 Defense budget, the new proposal entailed no changes for TRICARE Standard or TRICARE For Life, and no means-testing of fees. It proposed what Stanley described as "modest, gradual" changes in TRICARE Prime enrollment fees, and would exempt military disability (chapter 61) retirees and survivors from those changes.

Military Family Caucus for 112th Congress. Established in 2009, the goal of the caucus is to educate members of Congress and their staffs on the challenges unique to military families. One of the two issues MOAA President VADM Ryan asked the caucus to consider was the allowance of Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA) for military families. VADM Ryan, noted, "It's perplexing and unfair that the DoD has failed to extend our currently serving military personnel this important money-saving program that every other large employer in America offers. Senator Barbara Boxer, author of the Senate Bill commented, "Providing flexible spending accounts to our service members who have sacrificed so much is simply the right things to do."

Social events: The February luncheon was held at Jaxson's restaurant and was very well attended. The Command Sergeants Major for Ft Bliss and William Beaumont Army Medical Center (WBAMC), both presented inspiring speeches. The annual MOAA Day at the Races was held 5 March at Sunland Park Racetrack. A record seventy personnel attended the event. The Chapter's next luncheon will be held 9 April at Ardivino's Crossing in Sunland Park New Mexico. I want to increase attendance to eighty guests for this event, and I want to encourage each of you to bring a new member with you. Come enjoy a great time among good friends in a unique setting. Look forward to seeing you there.



Forrest E. Smith
Colonel, USA
President 2010

April Luncheon Menu

1. Chicken Relleno w/Spanish Rice, Tortias and Spumoni Ice Cream
2. Chilled Shrimp Pasta Salad w/Garden Green Salad, Garlic Bread and Hazelnut Banana Crostata
3. Baked Pasta Shells w/ Garden Green Salad, Garlic Bread and Spumoni Ice Cream

MEMBERSHIP MEETING PROGRAM

Saturday, April 9th, 2011
Ardovino's Desert Crossing

1100 - 1130	SOCIAL HOUR
1130 - 1200	BOD REPORTS
1200 - 1215	OPENING CEREMONY
1215 - 1300	MEAL SERVICE
1300 - 1335	PROGRAM
1335 - 1355	DOOR PRIZE DRAWING
1355 - 1400	CLOSING
1400	ADJOURNMENT

Please submit your Luncheon Reservations no later than Wednesday, 9 February

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

All lunch reservations with payment to our postal mail box

\$20 Per Person

REMITTANCE ENVELOPE ENCLOSED

Mayre Sue (Richards) Overstreet Biography

Born in Dallas, Texas, her parents moved to El Paso when she was a small child.

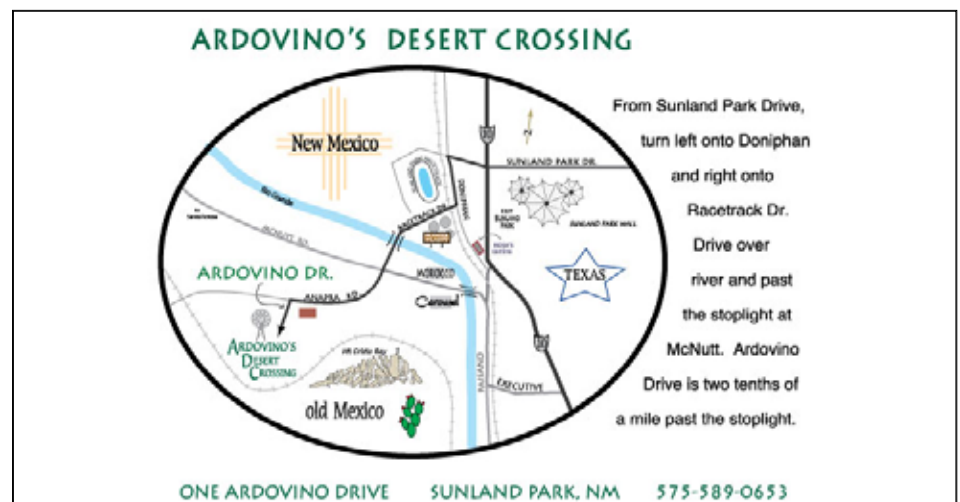
Graduated from Ysleta High School and attended Texas Western College (UTEP) for two years before transferring to the University of Texas at Austin. She has a B.S. Degree in Elementary Education and she is a retired teacher, having taught 1st, 2d, and 3rd grades.

Shortly after graduating from college she met Charles Overstreet, 2d Lieutenant, USAF. They were married the following year. They have been blessed with two sons, three grandchildren and two loving daughter-in-laws. In July she and her husband will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary!



Mayre Sue (Richards) Overstreet
 Guest Speaker - 9 April 2011

Her ancestors fought in the American Revolution and later moved to this unknown territory, we now call Texas, in 1828. She is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. She is a proud 6th generation Texan, having three generations of Texas Rangers in her family.

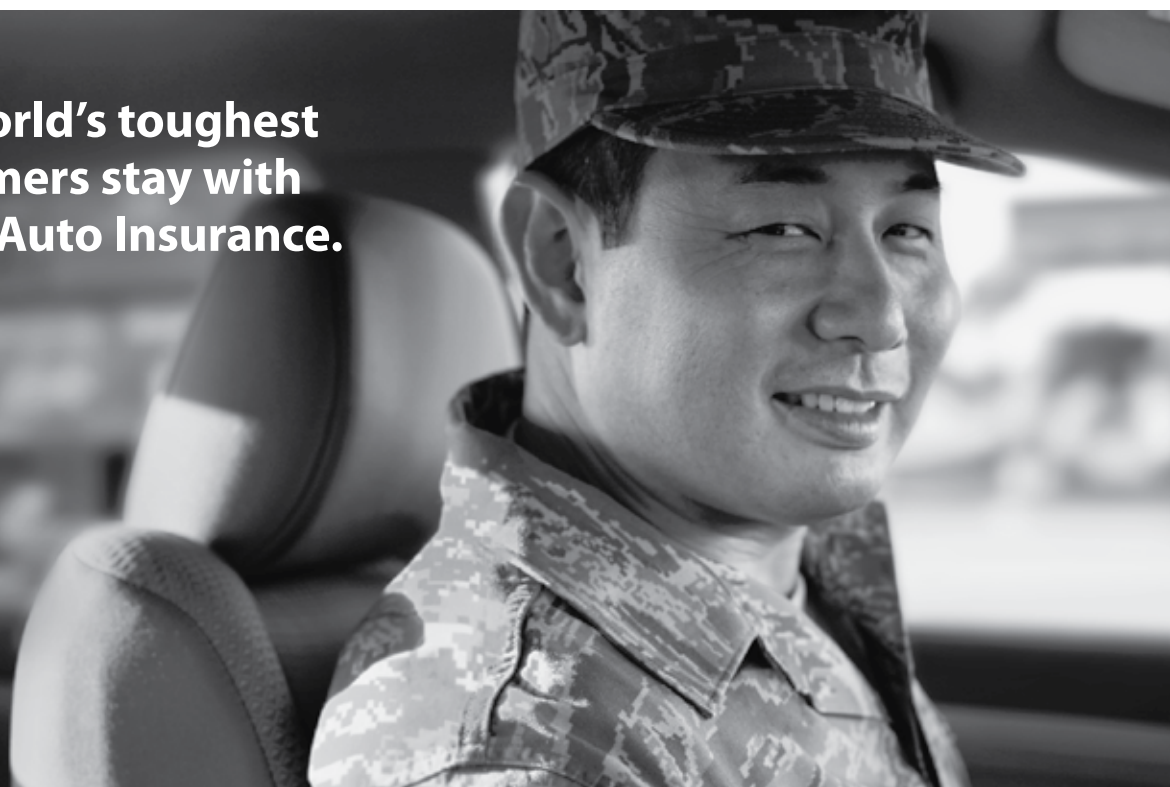


(L-R) Command Sergeant Major David S. Davenport, Sr. and Command Sergeant Major Matthew T. Brady receive a certificate of Appreciation from Colonel Forrest Smith, President, El Paso Chapter.



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¹Based on countrywide survey of new customers from 10/1/09 to 9/30/10, who reported their prior insurers' premiums when they switched to USAA. Savings do not apply in MA. ²Storage discount is not available in CA, HI, MA, NC, NY, PA and VA. To qualify for the discount, the vehicle must not be driven and must be stored in a secure location. Other restrictions apply. ³Multiple Products savings not available in CT, DE, HI, NC, CA, MA and NY. ⁴Immediate Accident Forgiveness, which requires an additional premium, is not available in CT, DE, NC, CA, MA, and NY. Purchase of the Accident Forgiveness endorsement is not a promise to continue coverage; the policy is subject to our underwriting guidelines. (Not applicable to past accidents). © 2011 USAA. 124035-0111

2011 EL PASO CHAPTER, MOAA EVENTS SCHEDULE

March 26, 2011	March Board Meeting
March 26, 2011	West Point Founders Day
March 27, 2011	The 22nd Annual Bataan Memorial Death March
April 9, 2011	April Member Meeting and Luncheon
April 30, 2011	April Board Meeting
May 28, 2011	May Board Meeting
June 11, 2011	June Member Meeting and Luncheon
June 25, 2011	June Board Meeting

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April 2011

Vol 55 No 2

The Border Bulletin is the Official publication of the El Paso Chapter of The Military Officers Association of America P.O. Box 6144, Fort Bliss, TX 79906-0144.

This bulletin is published Bi-monthly.

Subscription is included in the annual dues of \$20.00.

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****New Members****

A Getaway to Inn of the Mountain Gods in Ruidoso!

Bring a new chapter member to the April Membership Meeting and Luncheon at Ardovino's Desert Crossing on April 9th and earn a chance to win a one night stay in a suite with dinner for two at Inn of the Mountain Gods.

Remember, membership in the national organization is a prerequisite for membership in the local chapter. If your new member is not a member of national, we can sign them up at the luncheon.

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What Would You Do? Incident at Shkin

By CAPT Bob Schoultz, USN, Retired Courtesy of CAPT Rick Rubel, USN, Retired

A combat leader has to decide how much force to use in a military operation and must weigh the possibility of injury or death of innocent noncombatants against the risk to which he might expose his troops. In this case, the commander accepts some risk to his troops to protect the innocent.

Did he accept too much risk by completing the mission in the manner he did?

The mission: The Special Forces team mission was to confirm or deny the presence of Taliban and al-Qaida leadership and prepare for a potential raid on a compound near the village of Shkin, Afghanistan. They had been sent to observe the compound after a Predator unmanned aerial vehicle had observed suspicious activity. The compound had the potential of offering up some key leaders, because earlier reports indicated it had been used as a meeting place for high-level leadership; only 7.5 kilometers from the Pakistan border, it was a very convenient staging area for equipment and men. Captain Smith, the Special Forces team leader, had been able to confirm the presence of what appeared to be al-Qaida or Taliban soldiers but had not seen signs of leadership. The team had observed armed patrols leaving, moving around the perimeter, and reentering the compound. They also had observed other activity indicative of a military presence — an armed sentry inside the compound and at least one gathering of armed men in what appeared to be some type of formation. So the Special Forces team watched and waited.

Unusual activity Early on the night of Jan. 13, after several days on site, Smith and his team observed something unusual and reported it immediately. Previous Special Forces teams observing the compound had seen regular vehicular traffic coming into the village of Shkin from the border with Pakistan. However, this night the team observed a vehicle leave the compound, move to the Pakistan border, and flash

its headlights. The team was able to distinguish the headlights of 12 vehicles traveling down the steep mountain roads from the border to the vicinity of the compound. Several of the vehicles remained at the compound, while others dispersed to other compounds in and around Shkin. Smith watched carefully for other unusual activity, but at night and from more than 2 kilometers away, he couldn't see much, even with night-vision devices.

Unbeknownst to Smith, his report received attention at Central Command (CENTCOM) in Florida, and staff officers decided to take the initiative.

The plan: Smith's boss was Navy SEAL Captain Hansen, who was in charge of the Joint Special Operations Task Force (JSOTF) in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, and responsible for special-operations support to operations in southern Afghanistan. Hansen was aware of the potential importance of Smith's recent report but was surprised when, approximately one and half hours after getting the report from Smith, he was contacted by CENTCOM. His staff was notified that a B-1 bomber with precision-guided munitions was en route to the compound with the mission to strike the compound and the concentration of Taliban and al-Qaida vehicles located there. The bombs were scheduled to be on target in two hours.

Hansen quickly got his key staff and commanders together and determined they potentially could put a team on the target a few hours after the strike. It would be difficult and risky given the short notice and the distance between his forces' current location and the Shkin compound — but it could be done. However, he and his staff were concerned about the mission. Hansen knew from reports there were numerous noncombatants living in the compound, and while he also suspected the vehicles Smith had reported could be significant, they still didn't know who was in

those vehicles or what they were doing. Also, he knew there was not a large concentration of vehicles at the Shkin compound as the CENTCOM staff had indicated. They must have misunderstood the report from the field.

Hansen then spoke to Brigadier General Jones and explained what was happening and his concerns about the mission. Jones was unaware of the directed attack. He agreed with Hansen that this strike was inappropriate given the lack of specific information concerning the target and said he would take action to cancel it. But Jones also said the vehicles might be significant. He asked Hansen if he could get forces into the compound and exploit the potential opportunity. It certainly was possible someone of importance had arrived that night. Jones then broke off the conversation to cancel the airstrike. The strike was canceled 30 minutes prior to its scheduled time-on-target. Soon after, CENTCOM sent Hansen an execute order to conduct a raid against the compound as soon as feasible. Hansen hesitated about putting a team on the compound to exploit the planned airstrike. Smith's Special Forces team on site did not have enough men or firepower, so Hansen would have had to divert another team to go into the compound unrehearsed and poorly prepared. It was doable, but very risky.

Hansen decided he would delay until the following night, while Smith stayed on target and watched. If Smith observed anything critical, he could speed up the timeline if necessary, but his forces needed the extra 24 hours to reposition troops, put the team together, study the terrain and the intelligence, and make sure they went in ready. By waiting 24 hours, he was risking the possibility of missing any leadership that might have arrived that night, but he significantly reduced the risk to his own forces of executing an inadequately prepared and rehearsed plan.

Cont'd on page 13

Chaplain Corner

Chaplain Tom Phelan



The Month of April begins a little deceptively with "April Fool's Day" on the first of the month, when folks play innocent pranks on one another for fun, while blandly saying "I am

laughing with you, not at you." However, April is a highly significant period of time from a biblical perspective. The Christian Season of Lent already began last month on Ash Wednesday (March 9th). The religious significance of this season increases in intensity on Palm Sunday, April 17th. Palm Sunday honors the memory of Jesus of Nazareth entering Jerusalem on the back of a select donkey, in accordance with predictions of the Prophet Zechariah. In the Christian tradition it also begins Holy Week. As Jesus rode into Jerusalem, the crowd laid out palm branches and clothing along the road he travelled, and shouted "Hosanna (Please save us) O Son of David" as written in the Psalms. He entered Jerusalem,

Temple area in particular, and publicly taught the people there. It was the time of the Jewish Passover, the city was overflowing with people, for the Jewish men were commanded to travel to Jerusalem for the observance, and their families usually accompanied them.

In this year of 2011, the Jewish Passover begins at sundown on April 18th, and continues a full week. By the time of Jesus the Jewish people had already celebrated this ancient event for well over a thousand years, and in this present day they have celebrated it for well over three thousand years. The Passover is both a holy day and week-long festival commemorating the story of the Exodus, when the ancient Hebrews were freed from their slavery in Egypt. God inflicted ten plagues upon Egypt before Pharaoh would release his Hebrew slaves; the final and worst being the death of the first-born. In obedience to God, the Israelites marked the doorposts of their homes with the blood of a spring lamb and the Lord passed over these homes, and their first-born did not die, hence the term "Passover". The freed Israelites left in such a hurry that they did not wait for their bread to rise, so it is also called

"The Festival of Unleavened Bread".

The "Last Supper" of Jesus and His disciples ate together was the Seder, or Passover meal. When He spoke of His body and blood, He indicated that He was to be the ultimate "Passover lamb" for His people. That very night he would be arrested and tried as a criminal, and soon the people who had cried "Hosanna" would turn into a mob crying "Crucify Him!" He would be executed, saying "Father forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing." His dead body would be laid in a borrowed tomb as His followers grieved. Sunday, April 24 is Easter, the most important day of the Christian year. The Bible shares how Jesus rose again from death on Easter Sunday, to the amazement and joy of His followers. This small and frightened few became a bold force that spread the Gospel message throughout the world, not through violence, but through peace and love for others. Perhaps today is the day that you yourself will place faith in Jesus the Son of God, and trust in Him for eternal life. The Spirit of God that raised Jesus from the tomb has the power to change lives today. Happy Easter, and may God bless!



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Input for June 2011 BULLETIN by 5 May 2011

A Soldiers Story

By Clayton Hinchman

It was midnight, and the darkness spread throughout the back of the CH-47 Chinook helicopter that was taking us to our newest destination of fun. As I sat on the rear ramp with my headphones on listening to the pilots' conversation, I started thinking about when I was assigned to this task force. Six months before, I had been sitting in front of my battalion commander as he asked me what career move I wanted to make next. He thought he had prevented me from working with a real rifle platoon as a platoon leader. I told him I loved the soldiers I had and would never want to leave them, but I was ready for a new challenge. He asked me if I wanted to become an XO or have an opportunity to work on an elite task force as a platoon leader again. I simply told him, No officer really wants to be an XO, but we do it anyway.

Thus, I became a platoon leader working with Task Force 17, assigned the mission of killing or capturing al-Qaida in Iraq. I loved my new mission. It gave me a sense of worth and accomplishment I had never felt before. On every mission, I commanded up to 50 combat-ready soldiers who probably were the most professional group of individuals I will ever work with. My new platoon trained constantly. They never took a day off, and my NCOs were always eager to show exactly how proficient they were at their combat skills but also how well they had trained their junior soldiers.

As I listened to the pilots talk to each other, I realized the pilot actually flying the Chinook was a rookie pilot. I was a little unnerved as the senior pilot started to talk about how to land this big flying brick, as he so eloquently described his aircraft. My platoon experienced extremely rough landings on its past three missions; during one, a squad leader became trapped under the pallet of water we carried on the rear ramp of the Chinook.

As I continued listening to the pilots, I began thinking about my beautiful wife, Leslie. We had gotten

married three weeks before I left for Ranger school. I thought I was headed to Afghanistan with some of my classmates from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., so we married at the Columbus County Courthouse just outside the gates of Fort Benning, Ga. My wife and I did not want a big wedding (in fact, I didn't tell my parents I got married until two weeks later). As I rode on the aircraft, I thought of the huge bouquet of flowers I had just sent Leslie for her birthday (I will not tell you which birthday). I sat there staring into the darkness knowing in my heart she would always be by my side, and I would do it all over again if I had to. I also sat praying I would see her beautiful face again soon.

I was snapped out of my daydreaming by the pilot telling me we had five minutes until we landed. I quickly gave the hand signal to my platoon sergeant then to my lead squad leader. As soon as I could get the hand signal up, the pilot announced it actually was only 30 seconds until we would land.

It was yet another rough landing. We hurtled toward the ground and crashed into the Iraqi desert. The pallet came tumbling down on top of my lead squad leader, and he was trapped. Several of us were thrown about three soldiers back, and I somehow was trapped between my radioman and my forward observer. I feverishly worked my way over to the pallet and out the back of the Chinook and then began to scan the surrounding area to give proper instruction to my squad leaders once they worked their way off the chaos that was our landing. My platoon normally took 56 seconds to unload a Chinook helicopter, but after this wreck, it took almost 12 minutes.

We had a somewhat small objective on the southern portion of our company's area of operations. On my objective were three small compounds on the northern side and a suspected terrorist training camp to the South. There was also a small, unimproved road that cut my objective in half.

My soldiers moved quickly to their assigned positions and began to set up two roadblocks along the unimproved road on the eastern and western sides of our objective. My second squad began to clear two of the compounds while my third squad was going to clear a third compound to take it as our patrol base. We usually took over a large compound with high walls to defend against any attack from members of al-Qaida in Iraq. My NCOs were extremely proficient at setting up patrol bases and selecting suitable positions that we easily could defend for several days because our missions often ran longer than their 48-hour limit. As my soldiers began to clear the compounds, they ran across many different heat signatures in the abandoned compounds, including some that potentially were IEDs. It was my platoons SOP to wait until daylight to clear unoccupied houses. We had seen the harsh consequences of clearing unoccupied houses with our task force counterparts the 82nd Airborne Division. On our last mission with them, the 82nd lost three soldiers, and we lost one as a result of house-borne IEDs.

I gave the order for my main-effort squad to accompany me toward the suspected training camp. We quickly realized how difficult the movement was going to be because an irrigation system that had looked dried out in my graphics actually was filled with water. My lead squad leader came to an area he could not cross and asked whether we could turn around to get around the ditch. I told him to go straight through the heavy machine gun position we had just passed through to go around the area and get to the training camp.

I suddenly felt a wave crash over me, like what I used to feel at the beach as a child a wave of water crashing over my head and shoulders in one fluid motion. But this was not a wave of water but rather energy from the detonation of a pressure-wire IED a thin copper wire connected to a battery and a 122 mm mortar shell.

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El Paso

elpasomoaa.org

Membership Meeting & Luncheon
Ardovino's Desert Crossing
1 Ardovinos Drive, Sunland Park, NM 88063

Date: Saturday, 9 April 2011
Time: 1100 to 1400

Luncheon Speaker: Mayre Sue Overstreet



Menu - Choice of one

1. Chicken Relleno w/Spanish Rice, Tortillas and Spumoni Ice Cream
2. Chilled Shrimp Pasta Salad w/Garden Green Salad, Garlic Bread and Hazelnut Banana Crostata
3. Baked Pasta Shells w/ Garden Green Salad, Garlic Bread and Spumoni Ice Cream

Dress: Casual

Lunch Secretary: secretary@elpasomoaa.org

Membership or email queries: membership@elpasomoaa.org

Mail To: El Paso Chapter MOAA, Attn.: Secretary, PO Box 6144, Fort Bliss, TX 79906-0144

Please fill in this acceptance slip and return to the Secretary by Wednesday, 6 April 2011 with a check for \$20 per person, the cost of the lunch. **Late Reservations**, call Bob Pitt, 915-533-5111 or Bill Moore, 915-842-9650, by Noon, Thursday, April 7, and pay at the door.

Lunch will be on Saturday 9 April 2011 at 11:00 a.m.

Please print guest names clearly to ensure the correct spelling on the seating plan

I will ☐/ ☐ will not attend the lunch and there will be _____ attendees in my party.

My check for \$ _____ (\$20.00 per person) made payable to the "El Paso Chapter" is enclosed.

Name of Member: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Name(s) of Guests:

Item1 ☐ Item2 ☐ Item3 ☐ Item1 ☐ Item2 ☐ Item3 ☐

Item1 ☐ Item2 ☐ Item3 ☐ Item1 ☐ Item2 ☐ Item3 ☐

FEBRUARY LUNCHEON & MOAA DAY AT THE RACES



FEBRUARY LUNCHEON & MOAA DAY AT THE RACES





El Paso



THE 1ST ARMORED DIVISION - EL PASO CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP

The “The 1st Armored Division - El Paso Chapter, MOAA #2” was established on 7 February 2011. The 1st Armored Division - El Paso Chapter, MOAA #2 Scholarship is a part of “the MOAA Scholarship Fund; and thus, it is a nonprofit, charitable organization, incorporated in Virginia and declared tax-exempt by the Internal Revenue Service under §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Its tax identification number is 54-1659039.” Please draw your check payable to “MOAA Scholarship Fund,” and mark the memo line with “1st Armored Division/TX05 - 501(c)(3).” Mail your contribution to: MOAA Scholarship Fund, PO Box 34889, Alexandria, VA 22334-0889.

Charter Donors:

Colonel Forrest Smith, USA
Colonel Constance J Moore, USA, Retired
Lieutenant Colonel William L. Moore, USA, Retired
Major and Mrs. Edwin S Stone, III, USA Retired
CWO and Mrs. Emiliano Gorgas-Cabrera, USA, Retired
Miss Elma Rodriguez

Members and friends of the El Paso Chapter, MOAA are encouraged to donate to this worthy cause for eligible children of soldiers assigned to the 1st Armored Division.

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Cont'd from page 6

Compound assault: Six helicopters departed Qandahar and flew together most of the distance to the compound. They separated about 10 miles out to allow each to fly at a low level on its own separate route, landing simultaneously at each helicopter's designated landing zone. The 12-member team exited its helicopter and approached the compound to breach an entry. Team members burst into the compound and encountered numerous hostile personnel who had been awakened by the helicopters. They detained two combative males, who were found with two females and a number of children in a room with posters on the wall of Osama bin Laden, and confiscated a large quantity of weapons. They found a wide variety of weapons, including mortars, rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs), and a variety of ammunition and a 4x4 vehicle. As they continued searching, they discovered a bunker with ammunition and antitank mines. Meanwhile one of the other teams had landed so far away that, after exiting the helicopter, team members entered what they thought was an outbuilding of the compound complex and found themselves in a mosque with one person praying inside. The Special Forces soldiers flex-cuffed this individual and left him there, while they reoriented themselves and moved on to the compound. On their way to the compound they saw two people hiding in a ditch sprint away into the darkness. They did not fire and continued moving to the compound.

Having finally reached the compound, almost 10 minutes after the first team had arrived, they breached the closed northern gate and entered, moving immediately to the buildings nearest their gate. The door to the first building was locked, and they had to breach their way through it. Inside they found a large box covered with a blanket. They moved immediately into the next room where they encountered seven women and six young children sitting against the far wall of the room. The soldiers secured the women and children with flex cuffs and returned to the first room and opened the large box. The box contained a wealth of documents, passports, and photos, as well as numerous AK-47s, and RPGs, mortar tubes with sights and a collection of old rifles.

Leaving several men to guard the box and women and children, the soldiers continued clearing buildings. They found the door to the next building locked, and as they prepared to breach the door with a shotgun, one of the soldiers noticed through a crack in the door what appeared to be a woman on her knees on the other side of the door, listening. The soldier stopped the breacher from shooting the lock, which likely would have killed or seriously wounded the woman. Two men then were able to mechanically breach the door and found the woman with a number of children and three men sitting next to a large safe.

One of the men was hostile, and the safe contained 198,000 Pakistani rupees, two AK-47s, four RPGs, and

binoculars.

Another Special Forces team landed, entered the compound, and began clearing buildings that had not yet been cleared. In the first building, they found numerous documents along with weapons and several people. Once the compound was secured, FBI agents who had accompanied the soldiers identified the men they wanted to further interrogate. The Special Forces team collected all of the munitions and weapons for the explosive ordnance disposal team to destroy prior to extraction. The helicopters were called back in, and at 2315 they took off, taking with them seven males whom the FBI judged warranted further interrogation.

The post-operation analysis indicated the operation against the compound at Shkin was an intelligence coup. Though the operation did not capture key Taliban or al-Qaida leadership, the prisoners and documents they captured proved of great value for later operations. About the Author: Capt. Rick Rubel, USN-Ret., currently is the distinguished military professor of Ethics at the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md. After a 30-year career in the Navy, he has taught the Core Ethics Course for 10 years and has served as course director for the past six years. He is coauthor and coeditor of *Case Studies in Military Ethics* (Pearson Publishing, 2006).

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Cont'd from page 8

As the force crashed over me, I tried to muscle my way through the wave of energy. But, I couldn't. I fell on my back, facing up at the stars. All I felt was pain unimaginable, indescribable pain. I always considered myself an extremely tough person: I had shoulder surgery in 11th grade so I could continue playing high school football; I have broken every finger, my ribs, an ankle, and a wrist; I've torn a medial collateral ligament and busted my nose more times than I can remember. But none of those

experiences could have prepared me for the immense pain I found myself enduring.

I screamed for a medic. I didn't know what was wrong with me, I only knew something terrible had just happened. Again, I screamed for a medic. Nothing. No one. I never looked down. There were so many rocks in my eyes I could barely see. The Oakley glasses my wife bought me for our first wedding anniversary lay somewhere on the ground, destroyed by the blast. How many others had been injured? How many of my soldiers

were dead? How many of my friends were dead? I began to think of my past and what a beautiful time I already had experienced. I thought about my wife and friends. And then there was just darkness.

About the Author: Clayton Hinchman is a retired Army captain and a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. He currently serves as deputy director of currently serving outreach at MOAA.

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When a person requires someone else to help him with his physical or emotional needs over an extended period of time, this is long-term care. This help may be required for many of the activities or needs that healthy, active people take for granted and may include such things as but not limited to:

- Bathing
- Dressing
- Using the bathroom
- Helping with incontinence
- Paying bills
- Doing the laundry
- Attending to personal hygiene
- Helping with personal grooming
- Writing letters or notes
- Making repairs to the home

The need for long-term care help might be due to a terminal condition, disability, illness, injury or the infirmity of old age. Estimates by experts are that at least 60% of all individuals will need extended assistance in one or more of the aforementioned areas during their lifetime. The need for long-term care may only last for a few weeks or months or it may go on for years. It all depends on the underlying reasons for needing assistance.

Temporary long-term care (need for care for only weeks or months)

- Rehabilitation from a

Long-Term Care: Is it an immediate or future need?

hospital stay

- Recovery from illness
- Recovery from injury
- Recovery from surgery
- Terminal medical condition

Ongoing long-term care (need for care for many months or years)

- Chronic medical conditions
- Chronic severe pain
- Permanent disabilities
- Dementia
- Ongoing need for help with activities of daily living
- Need for supervision

Long-term care services may be provided in any of the following settings:

- In the home of the recipient
- In the home of a family member or friend of the recipient
- At an adult day services location
- In an assisted living facility or board-and-care home
- In a hospice facility
- In a nursing home

One is never too young for long-term care. To obtain additional information on long-term care, contact Senior Financial Planners, Elder Law Attorneys and Veteran Benefits Consultants. All can assist you in evaluating your

needs and future planning.

Senior Financial Planners are expert in working with seniors and their families to set up long term care plans. They usually work with an Elder law Attorney and Care Manager (Professional) to give you all options and resources for care.

Elder Law Attorneys help with Medicaid Planning and Asset protection as well as legal documents needed for final requests.

If staying in your home is a desired option, a Reverse Mortgage can supply the funds to pay for home care.

Another option for veterans who served during a time of war is the Aid & Attendance Benefit. This benefit provides extra income up to \$1,949 to help pay for home care, assisted living and medical costs. It will also pay for widows or widowers of the Veteran. To learn more about qualifications for these benefits contact a Veteran Benefit Consultant in your area.

Knowing your needs and financial resources is paramount before making any long term care decisions. Working together, both parents and family members can ease the stress and burden of elder care needs.



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MOAA Membership Initiatives



I am very excited and honored to be the new Membership Chair. We have big plans to grow our chapter in to a diverse group of members that will continue the amazing work already taking place within our community. We have already begun to lay out new plans and goals that will enable us to bring in new members while promoting

MOAA's mission and purpose.

Our first initiative is based on increasing our local membership while recognizing existing members who bring new recruits in to MOAA. The April luncheon will highlight this effort. Any existing members who bring a potential new member to the luncheon will have both their names entered to win a grand prize, to be given away at the end of the luncheon. Be sure to attend the April Luncheon and bring a prospective member! We will continue these types of giveaways and recruitment efforts throughout the year, as they will serve to grow our numbers and reward the efforts made by those who recruit.

This year we will focus on events and forums that allow us interaction with potential members. We have increased our support of the Bataan Death March event taking place this month. We will sponsor two teams this year and be on site promoting our organization, while supporting the participants with a corner where they can rest, eat and socialize before and after the event. Events are being planned that will focus on target groups. You will see mixers and membership evenings that will cater to junior officers, specific age groups, as well as retired individuals and national members. We intend to engage a broad range of individuals so that our local chapter is strong and dynamic in its efforts.

Throughout the year we will be conducting membership drives and I encourage everyone to let me know if they know of an event or occasion where we can come out and promote MOAA and all it has to offer. We are set up to receive payments for membership on site and we are ready to inform service members about the efforts and benefits of this great organization. Look for future announcements on all our new initiatives and join us as we increase members and build on this already fine organization.

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Edwin (Ed) S. Stone, III
Legislative Chairman



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Advocacy in Trying Economic Times: Choosing and Pressing the Issues How Would You Do It?

No doubts about it, there are severe economic and budgetary challenges, State and National, facing us at this very moment. At the beginning of the year, Texas lawmakers were looking at a \$25 Billion deficit and even proposed a \$31 Billion deficit reduction package according to sources goggled at the time of this writing, 2/27/11. Similarly at the national level, federalbudget.com is carrying a deficit number as of February 20, 2011, of \$14.1 Trillion. Simply put, when you've got to borrow to live, you are dead broke.

In Dead Broke Times, how do you, as a professional organization, work to produce for your constituency? Simple answer, pick and choose very carefully pressing the issues gingerly with a smile.

We are broke, busted financially. Let's visit about "the art of what's possible" in hard times on state and national levels for service members, present and past.

So, how would you pick and choose? Let's talk about what the Texas Council of Chapters (TCC) has done under the guidance of Major (R) Jim Cunningham, Executive Vice President – State Legislative, also Alamo Chapter President and Co-chairman of the Texas Veterans Coalition (TVC), in gearing up for the 82d Texas Legislative Session on February 3. Jim's recipe, pick budget neutral items, those that will not add to current financial woes. Keep a want list before legislators' eyes that you may bring forward when times are better. Here are the TCC and TVC issues: 1. Transferring the 100% property tax reduction for 100% disabled veterans to their widows and/or eligible dependent children (Bills filed, best guess – Constitutional Amendment and Enabling Legislation will pass); 2. Adjusting the dollar amount that will be used to reduce the appraised value of the principal residence/homestead of a veteran disabled less than 100%. (Not Budget Neutral...The maximum amount, as you are well aware, is \$12,000, which has not been changed since the early 1990's. Bill filed, not expected to pass); 3. Re-introduction of legislation to recognize Service Disabled Veteran Owned Business (SDVOB) as a category of small business with equal standing to State HUB (minority, women, etc) business enterprises...(Bills filed, best guess – expected to pass); and, 4. Expand, streamline, and simplify the military voting bill process for men and women in uniform serving overseas, under seas, and on temporary duty in the Continental USA ...(Bills filed, best guess – expected to pass).

See Jim Cunningham's well written, informative "Preparing for "Advocating in Austin" Feb 2 & 3, 2011" at <http://www.texas-moaa.org/index.cfm> for issues and advocating tips. Be

prepared to contact your Texas Legislators as the session progresses and you receive email legislative alerts.

How about the national level issues? Don't know at the moment but would bet they will reflect concerns about personnel readiness after we get past the major choices, health – Tricare and Medicare.

Here's how I would choose: Go after those that you must preserve or minimize damage to such as an existing or long standing practice that has become policy through custom such as Tricare and Medicare. An indication of what MOAA national considers important, watch the most recent Legislative Update on moaa.org, as of 2/25: Legislative Update: High Stakes For You on Deficit Options; TRICARE Fee Impact All About the Index; and Bills of Interest.

How do you press the issues? One does so with facts and dignity in a firm, genteel fashion...not like an old Tom Cat hissing and "marking the corners" of a Senator's or Congressional Representative's desk. Save the issues that are wants for better times to press vigorously...always go for maintaining those that will hurt the most if cut...in other words, take a defensive position in rough financial times and go over on the offense when conditions are right...always have a plan tailored for circumstances at hand.

All is in a state of flux so watch for the national legislative alerts and follow the suggested online email messages to your Congressional Representatives if you agree...today, it's computers and the 'net.



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Contact the El Paso MOAA Membership Director (membership@elpasomoaa.org) for additional information.

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~ TAPS ~

Eileen May DeParis, 90, passed away February 8, 2011 in El Paso, TX. A Committal Service will be held at 10:00 a.m., Friday, February 18, 2011 at Fort Bliss National Cemetery with Military Honors. She was preceded in death by her husband, Albert G. DeParis and parents, Edwin Frank and Agnes May DeParis. She is survived by her brother, Edwin Dana Hennessy; nieces, Tracey Kruse and Kelly Hennessy; and nephew, Martin Hennessy. She will be missed by all that knew her.

Colonel Milton Leland Haskin July 30, 1923 - March 1, 2011 Colonel Milton Leland (Lee) Haskin passed away peacefully on Tuesday, March 1, 2011 at the age of 87. Survived by his loving wife of more than 63 years, Patricia (Pat), daughter, Kathryn and son-in-law Kenneth Erickson; son, Thomas; and grandchildren, Andrew Erickson; Heather (Erickson) Ortiz; Karolyn (Haskin) Dicken; and Rebecca Haskin; sister, Marylin Windes; niece, Colby Windes; and nephew, Craig Windes; great grandchildren; Bryce Erickson and Xavier Ortiz. Colonel Haskin was a graduate of the United States Military Academy in 1947 and has resided in El Paso since 1976. Lee will be missed by all of the people that he has inspired with his great zest for life, his honesty, his integrity and the great achievements that he has left as his legacy. An awesome husband, a great father, and a wonderful friend for everyone that has been touched by his spirit and love.

Colonel John (Jack) Fanning died on March 9, 2011 at William Beaumont Army Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Edith, and a daughter, Jacqui. Colonel Fanning was a 1960 graduate of the United States Military Academy. He has resided in El Paso since 1985.

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The Border Bulletin is the newsletter of the El Paso Chapter, Military Officers Association of America. It is published bi-monthly, even months, to inform the membership of issues and activities of interest to all. elpasomoaa.org is a non-profit entity within the State of Texas organized to represent the membership and to support the activities of the Texas Council of Chapters and MOAA National. Advertising contained on the website and in the newsletter and directory are not endorsed by the Chapter and does not represent any recommendation to the membership.

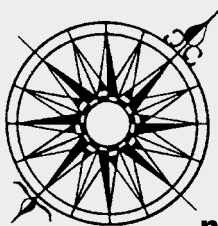
Opinions expressed in articles contained herein are not necessarily those of the membership as a whole or the Chapter. Questions should be directed to the Editor, at the Chapter office.

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Northeast Printing



9728-A Dyer St
El Paso, TX 79924
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THE BORDER BULLETIN

is the print newsletter of the
El Paso Chapter, Military Officers Association of America
(MOAA)
P.O. Box 6144, Fort Bliss, TX 79906-0144
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