

THE BORDER BULLETIN

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 56th Year



Make Your Voice Count on November 6, 2012

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OCTOBER
2012

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



National News. Historically, August and September have proven to be very busy months for MOAA and the El Paso/Ft Bliss military community. This was especially true during this re-election year. As the Republican and Democratic parties selected their presidential candidates,

the President himself paid a visit to Ft Bliss to speak to service members. On 31 August President Obama spoke to a crowd of more than 3,000 soldiers and civilians in an aviation hangar of the 1st Combat Aviation Brigade. The last time the President spoke at Ft Bliss it was to announce the end of combat operations in Iraq. On this, the second anniversary of his previous visit to Ft Bliss, the President spoke about the need to reaffirm his "solemn obligation" to soldiers and their families. Additionally, he stated that, "in a world of serious threats, I will never hesitate to use force to defend the United States of America or our interests...I will only send you in to harm's way when it is absolutely necessary -- and when we do, we will give you the equipment and the clear mission and the smart strategy and the support back home that you need to get the job done." The President added, "I will insist that America serves you and your families as well as you've served us...Because part of ending wars responsibly is caring for those who fought in it." During the speech he also announced an executive order to expand mental health services and suicide prevention resources for veterans and military families. The Ft Bliss and 1st Armored Division Commanding General, MG Dana Pittard, has made the expansion of mental health services and suicide prevention top priority initiatives on the Ft Bliss installation as suicides in the Army continue on a pace to exceed the total of 167 soldiers who killed themselves in 2011.

Local News. The El Paso Chapter is especially fortunate to have MG Pittard serve as our guest speaker at the 13 October El Paso Chapter Member Meeting and Luncheon at the George Underwood Golf Course. MG Pittard's speech is a timely follow on to the President's visit, the September 28, 2012 Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) Reception and Dinner, and the 29 September Retirement Appreciation Day events held at the Sergeants Major Academy on Biggs Army Air Field.

Your El Paso MOAA Chapter also supported the Texas

Veteran's Land Board, held 8 September at the El Paso Community College offices on Viscount Boulevard. The VLB hosts free benefit fairs to showcase resources available to Texas Veterans. Representatives from the Texas Veterans Commission, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Small Business Administration, and the Social Security Administration provide a one stop location for information on disability, pension claims, home and land improvement loans, state veterans homes and cemeteries. Members can find additional information on the Texas VLB at the following website: <http://www.glo.texas.gov/vlb/veterans-benefits/benefit-fairs/veterans-benefit-fairs-events.html>.

Legislation. It appears that Senate leaders are deferring action on the FY2013 Defense Authorization bill until after the 6 November election, adding one more significant action to the "lame duck" Congress between November and the January inauguration. Other actions requiring "lame duck" session attention include:

- Agreeing on an alternate debt reduction plan to avoid sequestration and the "fiscal cliff" scheduled to take effect on January 1.
- Avoiding a scheduled 27% cut in Medicare/TRICARE payments to doctors that would devastate access to care.
- Passing a defense authorization bill to sustain important pay needs and avoid massive TRICARE Pharmacy co-pay increases.

These issues each have significant implications for the military community and MOAA remains very concerned that despite having had all year to work these issues, Congress will not be able to properly deal with this workload during this chaotic and short period of time.

MOAA online. (<http://www.moaa.org>) I want to encourage all members to visit MOAA National site online and the El Paso MOAA Chapter online (<http://elpasomoaa.org/>) to stay abreast of key issues and MOAA's efforts to influence these key issues during this election year. It has never been more important to be a member of MOAA, and to actively support efforts to inform and influence our elected leaders entrusted to deal with these issues that affect the active and retiree military community.



Forrest E. Smith
Colonel, USA
President 2012

October Lunch Menu

Country Fried Steak /
Chile Con Queso

Green Bean Almandine,
Scalloped Potatoes

Tossed Green Salad w/Dressing
Roll, Butter, Coffee, and Iced Tea

MEMBERSHIP MEETING PROGRAM

Saturday, October 13th
Underwood Golf Complex

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

**Please submit your Luncheon
Reservations no later than
Wednesday, 10 October**

Treasurer: 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**

MG Dana J. H. Pittard

Major General Dana J.H. Pittard is the Commanding General of the 1st Armored Division and Fort Bliss, Texas.

His prior assignments include serving as the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7 United States Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) at Fort Monroe, Virginia. Commanding General, National Training Center and Fort Irwin; Commanding General of the Iraqi Assistance Group during OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM; Assistant Division Commander (Maneuver) of the 24th Infantry Division; Commander of 3d Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division and Deputy Commander for Maneuver, Multi-National Brigade (East) during OPERATION JOINT GUARDIAN, Kosovo and later during OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM; and Commander, 1st Battalion, 32d Armor and later 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, both as part of the 3d Brigade Combat Team, 2d Infantry Division at Fort Lewis, Washington. He also commanded three units at the company level, including a combat deployment during OPERATION DESERT STORM, Iraq. His previous staff assignments include Chief of Plans and Exercises for 2d Armored Division and S-3 (Operations) for the 1st Battalion, 67th Armor and the 2d Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, all at Fort Hood, Texas. He also served as the Military Aide to the President of the United States.

Major General Pittard was commissioned as a second lieutenant



MG Dana Pittard
Guest Speaker - 13 October, 2012

from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1981, with a Bachelor of Science degree in History. He later earned a Master's Degree from the School for Advanced Military Studies at the United States Army Command and General Staff College. Major General Pittard also attended the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University as a Senior Service College Fellow.

Major General Pittard's awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters), Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device, Bronze Star Medal (with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters), Meritorious Service Medal (with 5 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal (with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters), Combat Action Badge, Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, Ranger Tab, and Presidential Service Identification Badge.

Major General Pittard is originally from El Paso, Texas.



Guest speaker Rodney Thompson and 1st VP/President Elect COL (R) Lennie Enzel cut the cake at the August 2012 luncheon.



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2012 EL PASO CHAPTER, MOAA EVENTS SCHEDULE

September 20, 2012	The Officer Placement Service (TOPS) Visit
September 28, 2012	2012 Retiree Appreciation Day Reception
September 29, 2012	2012 Retiree Appreciation Day
October 5-6, 2012	REENTRY: A docudrama
October 12, 2012	"My El Paso" MG Dana Pittard & MG Heidi Brown
October 13, 2012	"Fort Bliss - Then and Now" Tour
October 13, 2012	October Member Meeting & Luncheon
October 20-21, 2012	2012 Amigo Airshow
December 8, 2012	December Membership Meeting & Brunch

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Alabama Gate, WBAMC, is open Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 1 p.m. and is closed weekends and federal holidays.

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Excess Furniture Family and MWR sells excess tables, chairs, bed frames, sofas and more from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. every Friday at the Property Book Office warehouse in Bldg. 643 on Taylor Road. All items are sold as-is and refunds or exchanges are not permitted. The PBO warehouse accepts cash, Visa or Mastercard only. To learn more, call 568-3779 or 568-4501.

Online ID Appointments

The installation Military Personnel Division will conduct a test on the feasibility of an online appointment system for ID card and DEERS/RAPIDS services. Appointments for ID card and other DEERS/RAPIDS services can be scheduled at <https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil>. To learn more, call 568-2000 or 568-6619.

USCIS Office at ACS

The El Paso Field Office of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services maintains an information office at Fort Bliss Army Community Service, Bldg. 2494, Ricker Road. This office is open every Wednesday and Friday. The USCIS officer will answer questions, and provide and review application packets. To learn more, call 568-1132.

Hearing Aids Update 01:

The DoD sponsored Retiree-At-Cost Hearing Aid Program is designed to help retirees purchase hearing aids through an Audiology Clinic at a special government negotiated cost. The hearing aids available through this program are the same state-of-the art technologies available to active duty service members. The program is open to all military retirees who have hearing loss or tinnitus (ringing in the ears). Dependents of military retirees are not eligible for this program. Retirees can buy hearing aids at a significant savings by using the program. For example, a set of hearing

aids (one of the best available) that retails for about \$5,000 costs a retiree as little as \$755 or about 15% of the retail costs. Services for the hearing evaluation, hearing aid fitting and follow up hearing aid checks are part of retiree benefits and are available at no cost. Not every DoD medical facility is able to provide the RACHAP program. If traveling from out of town, compare travel costs of purchasing hearing aids privately in the local community. Generally, at least two visits are required to get hearing aids, one for the hearing evaluation and one for the hearing aid fitting. Also, retirees may be eligible for hearing aids from

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for military people and their families. Learn about the latest, breaking developments regarding military pay and benefits. Read expert analyses of changes that could affect your life. Find out how best to navigate the DoD and VA health care systems. Check out financial planning tips and tax advice tailored to the military. Enjoy entertaining articles about military history, current defense operations, military-related travel, and more! Military Officer is published by Military Officers Association of America, a nonprofit veterans' association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and to serving members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors.

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Telephone:

Secretary -- 915-757-9963 or 915-842-9650

the Department of Veterans Affairs and receiving hearing aids from the VA free of charge, in most cases there is no costs to the patient. The Audiology Department can provide with more information about VA services or contact the VA directly a 1-877-222-8387 or 1-800-827-1000. Dependents of retirees are not eligible for hearing aid services from military treatment facilities (including RACHAP) or from TRICARE. The family member is eligible for TRICARE hearing evaluations and the audiologist can provide them with more information about hearing aids or local providers. [Source: Semper Fidelis Apr-Jun 2012 article Aug 2012 ++]

Chaplain's Corner

Peter A. Baktis
Chaplain



"Life is not about how fast you run or how high you climb, but how well you bounce." - Vivian Komori

The Executive Order that President Obama

signed while making a visit to Ft Bliss "directs the Secretaries of Defense, Health and Human Services, Education, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security to expand suicide prevention strategies and take steps to meet the current and future demand for mental health and substance abuse treatment services for veterans, service members, and their families." It seems that we have been speaking about how our military members, families and veterans need to focus on how well they can bounce in order to live full, whole and productive lives for some time now. The question is, "where is the financial backbone to make this all happen?" We understand and have read about the current cuts that are planned for in the Defense budget and it does not look like there is a focus in that budget for expanding services for the

care and welfare of the Service Members or their families. Do we not have The Army Family Covenant that embraces the nature of this new Executive Order? Signing orders, covenants and other such statements make good photo ops, but as a wise old lady once said "Where's the Beef?"

The question for me is rooted in Psalm 145:3-4: "Do not trust in rulers and in the sons of men, in whom is no salvation. His breath shall go out of him, and he shall return to his earth. On that day all his thought shall perish." Helping our Service Members, families and veterans to learn to bounce is not rooted in some program, but in the day to day interaction and care that we can give them. What we need to do is again commit to being part of the Defense Family, where we take care of our own. Resiliency begins at home, where there is compassion and understanding. How much better can we as a family care for those who we meet each day, either in the commissary, PX, or in one of the medical clinics? The institutions care about how fast you run, or how high you climb, people and families care about how well you bounce.



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Input for December 2012 BULLETIN by 3 November 2012

Military History

Military History: A section of an ingenious tunnel built by U.S. and British spies to intercept Russian phone conversations in Cold War Berlin has been found after 56 years in a forest 150 kilometers (93 miles) from the German capital. The 450-meter-long tunnel, built in 1955, led from Rudow in West Berlin to Alt-Glienicke in Soviet-occupied East Berlin. By tapping into the enemy's underground cables, Allied intelligence agents recorded 440,000 phone calls, gaining a clearer picture of Red Army maneuvers in eastern Germany at a time when nuclear war seemed an imminent threat. The western part of the tunnel was excavated in 1997 and part of it is preserved at the Allied Museum in the former American sector of Berlin. The Soviet authorities dug up the eastern part in 1956 and until now, its fate was unknown. "It seemed to have vanished without a trace," said Bernd von Kostka, a historian at the Allied Museum. "I looked through the East German Stasi files, and there was nothing to be found about its whereabouts. We assumed it had been melted down because it was made of valuable metal."

The find is one missing piece of a puzzle that will take decades to solve completely, as access to intelligence files about the construction and discovery of the tunnel — a tale worthy of a John le Carre novel — is still restricted. The man who discovered the buried segment is Werner Sobolewski, 62, formerly employed in a civilian capacity by the East German army. He was chopping wood in his local forest in Pasewalk, near the Polish border north of Berlin, when he stumbled across the wide metal pipe. He remembered it being used for military exercises at the local barracks, where he had worked before the fall of the Berlin Wall. He recalled too that it was then rumored to have been a part of the Allied spy tunnel, infamous throughout eastern Germany after the Soviets exposed it in a major propaganda campaign in 1956. He contacted the Allied Museum and Kostka traveled to Pasewalk to identify it last week. "We would like to have it in the museum so that we have a part of the eastern tunnel," Kostka said in an interview at the Allied Museum. "The sections we have are from the western side. It shouldn't

stay buried underground." The western tunnel segment is a prize exhibit at the Allied Museum, which is also home to the original Checkpoint Charlie guard-hut and a Royal Air Force Hastings plane used in the Berlin airlift of 1948 and 1949.

Displays describe the complexity of building the tunnel and tapping the wires. The British had already constructed similar underground listening-posts in Vienna and brought the idea, manpower and know-how to the project, Kostka said. The operation was codenamed "Stopwatch" by the British, "Gold" by the Americans, and "Regal" jointly. It was funded by the U.S. at a cost of \$6.7 million (then a vast sum) and operated jointly by the CIA and the British SIS. Yet the KGB learned about the tunnel when it was still in the planning stages — thanks to intelligence from George Blake, the notorious British double agent who was later imprisoned, then escaped to the Soviet Union. Strangely, the KGB concealed its existence from the Soviet military because they wanted to protect their valuable mole. The tunnel operated for 11 months and 11 days, intercepting some of the Red Army's most secret communications, including those between Moscow and the military headquarters in East Berlin. Historians do not know why the Soviet authorities chose to expose it when they did, on April 22, 1956. The reason is still buried in the Kremlin's files.

"It was clear that the tunnel had a finite lifespan and would be discovered one day," Kostka said. "But the Allies expected the Soviet authorities to sweep it under the carpet." Instead, they held their first international press conference in 11 years of occupation and bussed in as many as 50,000 East German citizens so that they could see first-hand the treachery of the west. Yet it was also a propaganda coup for the U.S. intelligence services as the tunnel's ingenuity impressed American observers. "It's a great Cold War story," said Kostka. "Each side could say they won." For a more detailed explanation on the project refer to the attachment to this Bulletin titles, "Berlin Spy Tunnel". [Source: Bloomberg News Catherine Hickley article 21 Aug 2012 ++]

VA Burial Benefit Update 15

VA Burial Benefit Update 15: Many veterans are under the impression that their status as a veteran means that the government will pay for their burial. This is not true and it can cause great financial hardship for families who don't understand it at a time when they are least prepared to deal with it. It is very important that veterans have their discharge papers located in a secure place known to their next of kin. Eligibility for potential burial benefits depends on these documents, and they cannot always be obtained quickly from government sources. To be eligible for burial benefits, a veteran must have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. Certain other factors including time period and length of service may apply, so the family should contact the VA at 1-800-827-1000 for final determination of eligibility. Burial benefits available include a gravesite in any of VA's 131 national cemeteries, as well as in state- owned- and- operated veterans' cemeteries.

For veterans interred at a national or state veterans' cemetery, the opening and closing of the grave and perpetual care are provided at no cost. If buried at a private cemetery, the family must pay these costs, as well as the cost of the plot and any related expenses. The VA will provide a burial flag, a government marker, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, regardless of where the veteran is buried. If burial is to take

place in a national or state veterans' cemetery, the cemetery will make the arrangements for the interment only. Neither the cemetery nor the VA makes funeral arrangements or performs cremations. It is the responsibility of the veteran's family to make arrangements for funeral services with a funeral home, including memorial services, viewings, preparing and transporting the remains, the casket, etc. Any items or services obtained from a funeral home will be at the families' expense, including the plot and grave provisions if the veteran is not buried in a national or state cemetery. The VA does not pay for any expenses related to a veteran's burial or funeral.

Certain survivors may apply for a monetary burial allowance paid after-the-fact by the VA, but generally only if the veteran was in receipt of VA disability compensation or pension at the time of death, or if the veteran died while hospitalized by VA or while receiving care under VA contract at a non-VA facility. The amount payable depends on whether the veteran's death was related to a military service-connected disability, with the payments ranging from \$300 to \$2,000. There are other factors that can affect potential eligibility for this benefit, so veterans or their families should contact the VA at the 800 number above or your county veterans service officer for more information prior to actually needing the information. [Source: TREA News for the Enlisted article 17 Aug 2012 ++]



Membership Meeting & Luncheon
Golden Tee Underwood Golf Complex
BLDG 3191, 3200 Coe Ave, El Paso, TX 79904

Date: Saturday, 13 October 2012

Time: 1100 - 1400

Guest Speaker: Major General Dana J. H. Pittard
Commanding General, 1st Armored Division
& Fort Bliss, Texas

Menu:

Country Fried Steak/Chile Conqueso
Green Bean Almandine, Scalloped Potatoes
Tossed Green Salad w/Dressing
Roll, Butter, Coffee, and Iced Tea



Dress: Casual

Lunch Treasurer: treasurer@elpasomoaa.org

Membership or email queries: membership@elpasomoaa.org

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

Please fill in this acceptance slip and return to the Treasurer by Wednesday, 10 October 2012 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, October 11, and pay at the door.

Lunch will be on Saturday 13 October 2012 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:

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____ **YES! I want local membership (2 yr)**

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Spouse _____

Branch of Service _____ Rank _____

____ AD ____ Retired ____ Former Officer
____ Other, LAPSED

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date of Birth _____

Phone Number _____

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Sequestration Update 02

Veterans' health care funding may be exempt from automatic, across-the-board budget cuts that are due to begin in January, but military health care is not — and a new think-tank report says Congress would have to reprogram \$3 billion from other Defense Department budget accounts to fully pay for military health care should the cuts occur. DoD personnel programs are exempt from the 10 percent cuts under sequestration, including basic pay, allowances for housing and subsistence, retirement pay, and bonuses. And the Budget Control Act of 2011, which set up the mechanism for cutting federal programs if a deficit spending agreement isn't reached, also exempted veterans' benefits. In April, the White House announced veterans medical care expenses also are exempt. But health care for military personnel and families, including Tricare, fall under DoD's operations and maintenance programs and consequently could suffer as a result of the cuts, known as sequestration.

Total personnel costs in the Pentagon's proposed fiscal 2013 budget are \$168 billion, including funding for the defense health program. In that budget, Defense Department planners included several initiatives aimed at reducing personnel costs, including increased fees for military retirees receiving health care. But Congress has not supported the Tricare fee proposals or the Pentagon's other personnel-related budget reduction measures in the fiscal 2013 legislative budget process. And that could affect readiness, said

the new report from the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments. DoD "will have little choice but to reduce the number of personnel by more than is already planned or take deeper cuts in modernization or readiness," wrote CSBA analyst Todd Harrison. "Over time this will limit the range of military options available and if left unchecked would eventually result in military too small or unprepared for even the most basic missions." DoD Comptroller Robert Hale said Aug. 2 the department has "looked at impact assessments on Tricare ... and they would be seriously hurt." But he insisted the Pentagon is not making plans for sequestration.

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta held a closed-door meeting July 23 to detail four possible scenarios facing the department regarding sequestration. The meeting was one of a series of high-level gatherings on sequestration by DoD officials and industry leaders. According to a source who attended, the scenarios the Pentagon is considering include:

- Congress does not act and sequestration happens.
- During the lame-duck session of Congress, a plan is constructed to thwart sequestration.
- Congress comes up with a \$1.2 trillion plan to avert sequestration between now and the November election.
- Congress inserts language into a continuing resolution to stave off sequestration for a year or two, but the government still implements cuts, sometimes referred to as a "mini-sequester."

Military and Veterans Rally Point – El Paso

Military and Veterans Rally Point is a Military and Veteran Downrange Discussion group that will be held in on the third Friday of each month; start time is 7:00 PM.

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Download the attached brochure (https://www.texvet.org/sites/default/files/event-attachments/sandefur/downrange_31612_flyer.jpg), get the date on your calendar, and plan to be a part of this group. Please bring a friend.

Point of contact for the Rally Point is Kellie Burns @ 915-319-3811 or kjburns@ehnel Paso.org

Vet-to-Vet Downrange Discussion Group – El Paso

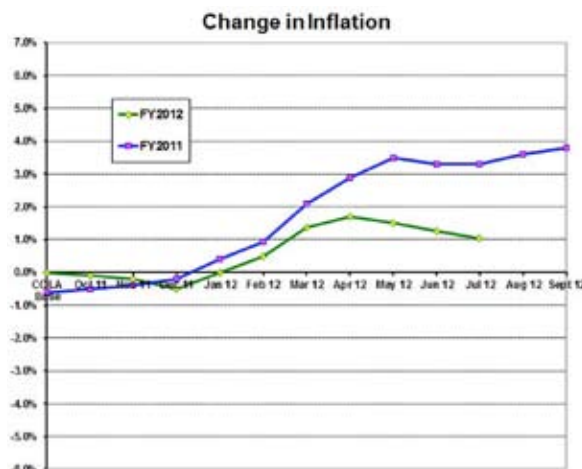
Downrange discussion works because only a fellow veteran knows.

This group provides an opportunity for veterans to interact with other veterans who are coping with PTSD and other health issues from past deployments. Come and speak with fellow soldiers about resources for you and your family. Learn about treatments to overcome symptoms. You are not alone.

For more info, call us. We meet the first and third Tuesday of every month. Though the group is primarily based on PTSD and Combat experience, we won't turn anyone away! Vets from any conflict are welcomed!

POC: Michael Anslinger @ 915-203-3981 or 915-222-1534
manslinger@epmhmr.org
dweber1204@yahoo.com
 Location: VFW Post 812, 2400 McKelligon Canyon,

COLA Watch



For the month of July, the CPI is 225.568 – down 0.2 percent from June, and 1.0 percent above the COLA baseline figure of 223.233.



August Luncheon



El Paso



2013 Slate: Board of Directors and Officers

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Anyone interested in filling a vacant position on the Board of Directors,
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Cordially invites you to the Pre-Retiree Appreciation Day Reception/Dinner to
Be held at the Golden Tee Underwood Golf Complex, Friday, 28 September 2012
TIME: 5:30PM Champagne/Mimosa Social Hour, Dinner 6:30 PM
Program starts at: 7:45 PM

Keynote Speakers: LtGen Jack Klimp, USMC, Retired, President, NAUS &
BG W. Bryan Gamble, USA, Director, TRICARE Management

Members and guests of the following organizations are invited to attend:
El Paso Chapter Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS)
Desert Sun Chapter 30, Society of Military Widows (SMW)
Military Order of World Wars (MOWW)
Gold Star Wives of America (GSW)

Menu

Chicken Cordon Bleu, drizzled with Alfredo sauce, Tossed Green Salad, Almond Rice Pilaf, dressing, Premier Vegetables, Dinner Rolls w/Butter, Coffee, Tea and Water, and Delicious Vanilla-Pineapple Cake.

Reservations are required. Please make your reservations as soon as possible by completing the following reservation form. Please make checks payable to: NAUS El Paso Chapter, mail to the address indicated below, to arrive NLT: **Friday, September 21, 2012. Cost: \$17.50 per person.**

=====

Reception/Dinner Friday, 28 September 2012
Honoring LtGen Jack Klimp, USMC, Retired, &
BG W. Bryan Gamble, USA, Director, TRICARE Management

TO: NAUS El Paso Chapter
ATTN: Secretary
P. O. Box 971155
El Paso, TX 79997

Date and Time:5:30 PM until.... Friday September 28th, 2012
Location:Golden Tee Underwood Golf Complex, Fort Bliss
Schedule of Events:Program to be published at a later date
Cost:\$17.50 per person
Dress:Men - Coat and Tie; Ladies – Cocktail Dress/Semiformal)

Please make reservation(s) for the following persons attending the Reception/Dinner hosted by the NAUS El Paso, to be held at the Golden Tee Underwood Golf Complex, Fort Bliss on Friday, September 28, 2012.

NAMES of persons attending:

(Please Print)

Enclosed is my check for the above reservation(s) _____ X \$ 17.50 = \$ _____
TOTAL AMOUNT: \$ _____



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JROTC

By LTC (R) Rafael Garcia

The year started well for all of the JROTC units in El Paso. Particularly noteworthy is Estrada Middle School in the Clint ISD. Estrada is a feeder school to Horizon High School. They have a 9th grade in the school. Their JROTC unit started with over 200 cadets. This is by far the largest 9th grade (LET I) class in the county.



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See Page 10

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

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Mr. Jose Limon

MAJ Magina Morales

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West Nile Disease

This summer's West Nile virus (WNV) outbreak is on track to be the biggest since the disease first reached the United States in 1999. So far this year, 1,118 people have been infected – and 41 of them have died, according to the latest numbers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The agency has never before seen that many infections in people as of this time of year. WNV is a relatively new infectious disease. It's not considered to be contagious: the virus isn't transmitted from person to person like the common cold – only by the bite of an infected mosquito. Most of this year's cases are in Texas, with Mississippi, Louisiana, South Dakota, and Oklahoma coming in second place. To find out if any of this year's cases or deaths occurred in your state or check its progress as time passes check out the CDC's infection map and table at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/Mapsactivity/surv&control12MapsAnybyState.htm>

The microbe, or micro-organism, that causes this particular infection belongs to a group of disease-causing viruses called flaviviruses, which usually spread by ticks or mosquitoes, say the National Institutes of Health. West Nile virus in particular is usually spread by mosquitoes that feed on the blood of infected people or birds. Other diseases caused by flaviviruses include yellow fever and dengue fever. The good news is that most people who get West Nile virus have no symptoms, although the disease can be serious if it reaches your brain. Certain populations, like people over 50 and those with weakened immune systems, are at a greater risk. According to the Mayo Clinic, most people with West Nile virus have no symptoms, and about 20 percent experience only mild symptoms (like a fever, headache, body ache, and fatigue) that go away on their own. But for about 1 percent of people, the virus crosses the blood-brain barrier, causing a serious neurological infection that

affects the brain and spinal cord. Serious symptoms (like severe headaches, a stiff neck, and an altered mental state) merit urgent medical attention. There is no vaccine to prevent WNV, but it's easy to protect yourself...

- **_Flush out mosquitoes.** They usually lay their eggs on standing water, so walk around the outside of your entire home looking for any places where water has collected or could collect: planters, saucers, buckets, garbage cans, gutters, tire swings, kiddie pools. Empty them out and, if possible, drill a hole in the bottom of them so they automatically drain before water can accumulate. (For kiddie pools, store them standing up on their side when they're not in use.) Then repeat this process weekly.

- **_Screen your home.** Make sure all your windows have a screen and that the screen doesn't have any gaps or holes that a mosquito could fit through.

- **_Suit up.** Wear pants and long-sleeve shirts outside when possible.

- **_Protect your skin.** Spray exposed skin – and clothing (to stop mosquitoes from biting through clothing) – with a bug repellent that contains an active ingredient that's registered with the EPA, which basically means it's safe and effective when applied according to the directions. Check out the EPA's bug repellent search tool for more help.

- **_Avoid twilight.** Mosquitoes are most active at dusk and dawn, so consider staying indoors during those times or be extra careful if you go outside.

- **_Report dead birds to authorities.** Informing your local health department helps the experts who monitor the spread of West Nile virus, which has been seen in more than 130 bird species. Just don't handle the dead birds.

[Source: MoneyTalksNews Karla Bowsher article 28 Aug 2012 ++]

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MOAA

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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)."

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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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El Paso Area MOAA Scholarship Winners for SY 2012-2013

Ariel V. White
Crystal A. Burton

Scholarship applications for SY 2013-2014 will become available on 1 November 2012. Go to <http://elpasomoaa.org/scholarship> for more details.



Personal Affairs

Jose Luis Hernandez
Personal Affairs Chairman



Preventing Challenges to your Financial Power of Attorney

If you think someone is likely to go to court to challenge your durable power of attorney for finances (sometimes called a financial power of attorney) or may claim that you were coerced into signing it, you can take several steps to head off problems.

See a lawyer. You may want a lawyer to review your power of attorney for finances if you've created it yourself. An experienced estate planning lawyer can answer questions about your durable power of attorney and about your other estate planning documents as well. For example, you may also be expecting challenges to your will, a trust, or health care wishes. You can ask a lawyer about all of these issues.

The point is to have the lawyer put your fears to rest by confirming that your estate plan will hold up under the challenges of your stubborn relatives. Your attorney can also testify about your mental competency, should the need arise.

Sign your document in front of witnesses. You can sign your document in front of witnesses, even if your state does not require it. After watching you sign, the witnesses themselves sign a statement that you appeared to know what you were signing and that you did so voluntarily. If someone later challenges your competence, these statements will be strong evidence that you were of sound mind at the time you signed your document.

Get a doctor's statement. You may want to get a doctor's statement around the time you sign your durable power of attorney. The doctor should write, date, and sign a short statement saying that he or she has seen you recently and believes you to be of sound mind.

Attach this statement to your power of attorney document. Then, if necessary, your agent can produce the statement as proof that you were of sound mind when you signed your power of attorney.

Make a videotape. You can also videotape a

statement of your intent to make and sign the durable power of attorney. Such a step should not be necessary, but going to this length may further minimize the chances of a successful challenge to your competency. If you do make a videotape, keep this tape with your power of attorney document.

Be warned that using a videotape may work against you in some circumstances. The person challenging your power of attorney document will want to use any visible quirks of behavior or language as evidence that you were not in fact competent when you made your document.

For more information on durable powers of attorney for finances, see How Financial Powers of Attorney Work (<http://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/article-29936.html>). To learn more about creating a estate plan to protect your loved ones from legal hassles and financial uncertainty after your death, see Plan Your Estate (<http://www.nolo.com/products/plan-your-estate-NEST.html>), by Denis Clifford (Nolo).



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Membership is open to Active Duty, Retired, Former Officers, Reserves, National Guard, and Warrant Officers of the seven uniformed services: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Public Health Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Spouses, Widows and Widowers may also join.



Local MOAA chapter membership offers added value to members. Chapter members are important to the grass roots support for MOAA's national legislative issues. Our chapter is active in supporting the local community through support to JROTC/ROTC, 1AD Scholarship fund, and other programs. We are starting a chapter Outreach foundation that will allow further support for needs and initiatives within our Fort Bliss community. We provide access to help members with benefit questions and provide access to MOAA's world class information resources. We share common experiences from our military service.

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MOAA was voted the most influential military advocate organization by 'The Hill'.

We need your help to recruit new members. Our strength is found in our numbers and our one voice. Encourage someone you know to join our team and support our local and national initiatives and agenda. Make a difference.

MOAA will work to ensure the nation keeps its' commitments to the entire military family. MOAA is dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and to preserving the earned entitlements of all beneficiaries.

Thank you for your service, support and love of country!

Contact El Paso MOAA Membership at: membership@elpasomoaa.org



*El Paso*

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Legislative

Edwin (Ed) S. Stone, III
Legislative Chairman

Who's Cookin' the Books with Tricare Fee Increases and Who's Got My Back?

July 27, 2012, the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) revealed that DOD knew or should have known by virtue of a memo that their claims of skyrocketing healthcare costs were false, specious, fraudulent by some \$708 million in the FY2012 budget. The FY2011 budget over estimated Tricare costs by some \$500 million. The estimates for FY2012 set a rate of an anticipated 12.9% increase for active Snuffies and 8.5% for all others...during the first six months of the reporting period, the active duty experienced a 0.6% increase and a -2.7% for all others. Fractional overestimates in huge projected numbers yields huge in supposed savings that can be diverted to other programs.

Tricare costs are contracting rather than expanding as touted by DOD. DOD knew of these overestimates in Tricare costs, or had every reason to know of these number bump-ups per a subsequent DOD reprogramming memo.

Look at what Congressional members lead by Rep Joe Wilson, a member of the House Armed Services Committee, on 7/24/2012 says: Congressional Letter to Secretary Panetta. A number of members under Wilson's letterhead are saying the same thing and asking tough questions.

"So in other words, all the time those leaders were claiming retiree health costs were exploding, the costs actually were...going down." Reference: See MOAA's July 27 Legislative Update...http://www.moaa.org/Main_Menu/Take_Action/Legislative_Update/2012_Legislative_Updates/July_27,_2012.html

For further reference, read the July 30, 2012, reply of the DOD Comptroller to the Congressmen's letter of July 24: DOD Reply to the HASC Reprogramming Challenge. An admission that the money is being diverted from Tricare to fund other operations. Reads like bafflegab. If it smells like "chicken-stuff," it is chicken-stuff.

Norb Ryan, President of MOAA, weighed in on July 30 with an eloquent piece, MOAA Appalled at Defense Leaders' Health Care Misrepresentation.

Nothing said about the \$500 million over-charge from 2011 and moved by slight of hand and pocketed elsewhere. Seems to me that DOD is playing a Carny Shell Game with our healthcare Dollars. This business sounds like a screen play for another reality series, "DOD Grifters."

So, are the books being cooked and who's the Tricare fee increase Sauce Chef adding the grease to be used elsewhere? Snuffy Smith wants to know.

Does this cause a crisis in the preceived ability of leadership to manage effectively? Make up your own mind. Political courage is tougher to bring up from within and out

into the open than physical courage – Physically, one can die only once; on the other hand politically while doing the right thing, one might die the living death of a thousand cuts by innuendo, spin, and falsification.

Snuffy wants to know, "Who's watching my back?" Appears to me that Congress and MOAA are looking out for us Snuffys, active and retired. See a previous column titled Snuffy Smith's Last Great Hope: Congress.

Want to read other legislative columns and the links do not work? Go to texas-moaa.org, Tab: Legislature, Tab: Texas Legislative Updates, Tab: Archives.

Either Enlisted or Civilian and you care about military personnel issues, join Voices for America's Troops, <http://www.voicesfortroops.org/> and know that you get the same top-drawer advocacy that MOAA provides to all who serve. Check: MOAA Named "Top Lobbyist" - Voices for America's Troops. You will receive the same Legislative Update and Alerts with proposed messages in response to current military personnel affairs.

Officers, Commissioned and Warrant, MOAA needs you, too:

<http://www.moaa.org/Join/>

While you are at it, join the El Paso Chapter, www.elpasomoaa.org in both cases, make a commitment and take the paid membership route!



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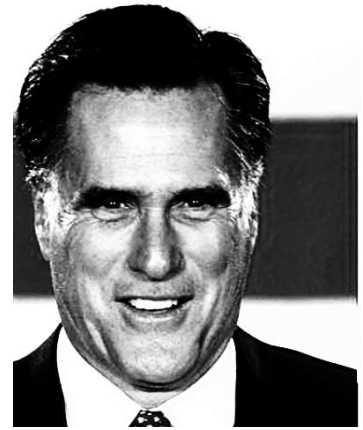
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2012 Election – Military Issues

MOAA reached out to President Barack Obama and Gov. Mitt Romney for their insight on issues important to MOAA members. Each candidate received the opportunity to provide up to 1,250 words in response to the same five questions. Following are their responses to two of the five questions, in their entirety and unedited. Differences in length reflect the choices of the respective campaign offices. They do not necessarily reflect the position or opinions of MOAA or Military Officer.



In the past, large post-war force reductions have left insufficient forces to meet the next unexpected contingency. Considering the extraordinary stresses on our military over the past decade of war and continuing threats from Iran, North Korea, and others, what force levels (relative to current forces) do you believe are needed to be prepared for potential future contingencies?

Obama

As commander in chief, I have a profound responsibility to every servicemember who puts their life on the line for America. We owe them a strategy with well-defined goals; to only send them into harm's way when it's absolutely necessary; to give them the equipment and the support they need to get the job done; and to care for them and their families when they come home.

As we turn the page on a decade of war, our nation is at a moment of transition. Three years ago, we had almost 180,000 troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. We have cut that number in half. And as the transition in Afghanistan continues, our troops will continue to come home.

We cannot afford to repeat the mistakes that were made in the past — after World War II, after Vietnam — when our military was left ill-prepared for the future. As commander in chief, I will not let that happen again. That's why I called on our military leaders to develop a comprehensive defense review, released this year, to guide our priorities and spending over the coming decade. The force levels in that strategy were set with the full support of our senior military leadership.

As we end today's wars, we will focus on a broader range of challenges and opportunities, including the security and prosperity of the Asia Pacific. We will invest in capabilities to combat the full-range of threats. Our military will be leaner, but the U.S. will maintain our military superiority with armed forces that are agile, flexible, and ready for the full range of contingencies and threats.

Romney

This election is a choice of two paths for the nation. President Obama wants to shrink the military and increase the size of federal government. I want a smaller government and a strong military. Along with determining our economic future, this election will also determine the military's future. Stopping President Obama's defense cuts, which could force over 200,000 troops out of service, is one of my top national security priorities. The military should be strong enough to deter our adversaries. And it must be ready so that we do not repeat the mistakes of the past, like the early stages of the Korean War, where we lost too many good people because we had cut our armed forces so deeply.

Some studies propose making the military benefit package (retirement, health care, etcetera) more like that of civilian workers. In view of the dramatically different demands and sacrifices entailed in military versus civilian careers, to what extent do you believe the military must maintain a unique benefit package to attract a high-quality career force?

Obama

Our men and women in uniform have made incredible sacrifices, and as commander in chief, it is my duty to ensure that we provide those who have served with the benefits they have earned — unique benefits that our military men and women deserve.

For years, veterans have been asking for advance funding for VA health care programs, to ensure that those who have served their country can count on dependable and quality care. My administration fought for it, and we made it happen. I pushed for this because our veterans deserve to know their health care won't be held hostage by the political gridlock of Washington. And because more than 40 percent of veterans in the VA health care system live in rural areas, we are expanding transportation and telemedicine services so that rural veterans get their health care and benefits faster.

But I am not only committed to tackling the wounds of war that we can see. That's why I have made mental health care for servicemembers and veterans a top priority. My administration has increased the number of programs aimed at combating PTSD and traumatic brain injury to meet the unique health care needs of military and veteran communities. In 2010, I announced new rules making it much easier for combat veterans to file PTSD-related claims and get the help they need by simplifying the process and reducing paperwork requirements. Additionally, the VA has hired more than 3,500 mental health professionals since 2009, with plans to hire 1,600 more.

Romney

When you have an all-volunteer military, you have to compete with the private sector to recruit talented people. I plan to get our economy thriving again, so we will have to ensure that service remains an attractive option. We do have some challenges. It is getting just as expensive to sustain our veterans and military retirees as it is the active force. So the balance we have to strike is figuring out innovative ways to control costs, without breaking the promises we made to those who have served.



Tricare Preventive Health Program Update 04

Preventive care can help you maintain good health through early detection and treatment of disease. TRICARE covers many preventive medical services including preventive health screenings. As a TRICARE Standard beneficiary, you can receive the following preventive medical services for no out-of-pocket costs:

- **Prostate cancer screening:** TRICARE covers annual prostate exams and prostate-specific antigen (PSA) tests for men age 50 and older. TRICARE also covers these screenings for certain men as young as age 40 who have family histories of prostate cancer.
- **Breast cancer screening:** Annual mammograms for women are covered beginning at age 40. Women younger than age 40 who are at high risk for breast cancer should talk to their health care providers about when and how often they should have mammograms and physical exams, which may also be covered by TRICARE.
- **Cervical cancer screening:** TRICARE covers a Pap smear annually for women starting at age 18 (younger if sexually active) or less often at patient and provider discretion (though not less than every three years). Human papillomavirus (HPV) DNA testing is covered as a cervical cancer screening only when performed in conjunction with a Pap smear, and only for women age 30 and older.
- **Colorectal cancer screening:** TRICARE covers colorectal cancer screening beginning at age 50 for beneficiaries at average risk. Frequency varies according to screening type (i.e., fecal occult blood testing, proctosigmoidoscopy or flexible sigmoidoscopy, colonoscopy). If you have an increased risk for colon cancer due to family medical history or other risk factors, talk to your doctor about starting screenings at an earlier age.
- **Well-child care:** The TRICARE well-child benefit covers children from birth until reaching age 6. The benefit includes comprehensive health promotion and disease-prevention exams, immunizations and developmental and behavioral assessments. Your child can receive preventive-care well-child visits as frequently as the American Academy of Pediatrics® recommends, but no more than nine visits in two years.
- **Immunizations:** TRICARE covers age-appropriate vaccinations, including annual flu shots, as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Note: If you are at risk for specific diseases, talk to your doctor about your individual and family medical history to determine when you should begin preventive screenings. For additional information Visit <http://www.tricare.mil/preventivecare>. [Source: TRICARE Standard Health Matters 2012 E-Publication Aug 2012 ++]

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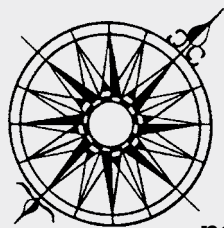
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