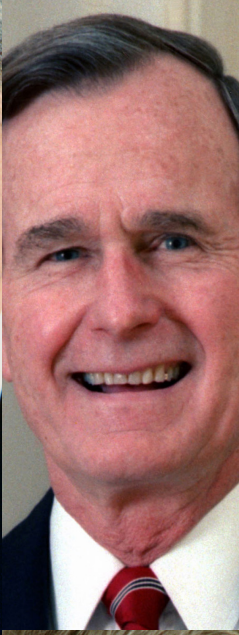


THE[®] BORDER BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 2016



★ 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 60th Year

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INPUT deadline for April 2016 Border Bulletin 3 March 2016

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The advertisements that appear in this publication/website do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA or the El Paso Chapter.

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EL PASO CHAPTER NATIONAL AWARDS

Category 1 Outstanding Chapter

Runner-up

2000 and 2001

Five-Star Chapter

2001 thru 2015

Communications Award Print Newsletter

Winner

2004, 2012, 2013 and 2014

Runner-up

2008 thru 2011

Communications Award Print Legislative Coverage

Winner

2008, 2009, 2011 and 2012

Communications Award Website

Winner

2010 thru 2013

Runner-up

2009 and 2014

Special Communications Award

2007



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

COL Forrest Smith, USA, Retired

Hopefully everyone has settled into the New Year with its accompanying resolutions, and with them, inspiration for change, growth, and progress. While change inspires some accompanying frustration, it usually brings with it opportunity. The new year has presented your MOAA Chapter with numerous new 'opportunities'. Let's start at the top.

MOAA President and CEO its new President and CEO in No-the leadership of MOAA over to Lt transition date being 4 January Lt Gen Atkins served as the com-NORAD Region, Joint Task Force Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alas-ership, MOAA National has also is-Stop Serving." As I mentioned in was named among the Top 50 Lob-Hill", Newspaper. MOAA was the tion (VSO) named, and this was received this recognition – a testi-efforts while leading MOAA.



GEN Charles "Tony" Robertson, Jr., MOAA Chairman of the Board, presents the 2015 Five-Star Streamer of Excellence to Forrest Smith at the 2015 Annual Meeting of the membership.

Change. MOAA National named vember. VADM Norb Ryan passed Gen Dana Atkins with the effective 2016. At the time of his retirement mander Alaskan Command, Alaska Alaska and 11th Air Force at Joint ka. Along with the change in lead-sued a new theme phrase, "Never a previous article, MOAA National byists in Washington D.C. by "The only Veteran Service Organiza-the ninth year in a row that MOAA mony to VADM Ryan's tremendous

MOAA scholarship application window open. On a side note, MOAA National opened the online applications for the MOAA Scholarship Fund educational assistance programs for 2016-2017 on 2 November 2015. The deadline for applications is noon EST, Monday 1 March, 2016. (<http://www.moaa.org/Content/Publications-and-Media/Press-Release/detail/MOAA-Scholarship-Fund>)

Board elections for El Paso MOAA Board. Your local chapter elected new Board members in December. I want to welcome leaders to their new positions. Key leader changes include:

- Vice President** – Ms Jan Rasmussen
- Secretary** – Col Steve Barrett
- Treasurer** – Mrs Elma Smith
- Chaplain** – Ms Connie Sullivan
- Legislative Liaison** – COL Lennie Enzel
- Programs** – Col Bob Pitt
- Public Relations** – LTC Martha Caldwell
- Publications/Newsletter/Editor** – LTC Bill Moore



GEN Charles "Tony" Robertson, Jr., MOAA Chairman of the Board, presents the 2015 Five-Star Streamer of Excellence to Forrest Smith at the 2015 Annual Meeting of the membership.

A special thanks goes to Brigadier General Kotter for swearing in the new Board.

2016 MOAA Board Objectives. The new Board will pursue four primary objectives in FY16:

1. Operationalize the 501(c) (3) MOAA Outreach Foundation.
2. Inform/support the re-establishment of a Veterans Services Organization Coalition.
3. Educate a broader range of military service members on MOAA services (Not just officers).
4. Improve efforts to inform the Military Retiree Transition process.

As part of the MOAA Luncheon and Board Elections process I was able to present the MOAA President's Gavel for Outstanding Service to very special retiring board members. The 4th Quarter FY15 Award was present to Mrs Julie Pitt for outstand-

Con'td on page 16

TRICARE Durable Medical Equipment | Coverage Limitations

TRICARE covers durable medical equipment (DME) when prescribed by a physician. DME is defined as an item that can withstand repeated use; primarily and customarily serves a medical purpose; and generally is not useful to an individual in the absence of an injury or illness. TRICARE covers DME that:

- Improves, restores, or maintains the function of a malformed, diseased, or injured body part, or can otherwise minimize or prevent the deterioration of the patient's function or condition
- Maximizes the patient's function consistent with the patient's physiological or medical needs
- Provides the medically appropriate level of performance and quality for the medical condition present
- Is not otherwise excluded by the regulation and policy

DME may be rented or purchased. However, your regional contractor will decide if a DME should be rented or purchased based on whether it is more economical and appropriate. TRICARE also covers:

- Medically necessary customization or attachments to the DME to accommodate your medical disability, when your physician has prescribed the equipment as medically necessary and appropriate.
- Medically necessary covered accessories and attachments to a DME necessary to make the DME "serviceable" for a particular disability. For example, a car lift that is an accessory to a wheelchair.
- Repairs to equipment that you own when needed to make the item serviceable.

Replacement of DME that you own when:

- There's a change in your physical condition,
- There's accidental damage to the DME, or
- The DME is inoperative and can't be repaired, or
- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration have declared the DME adulterated.

Duplicate items (those that serve the same purpose, but may not be an exact duplicate, such as a portable oxygen concentrator as a backup for a stationary oxygen generator) that are essential to provide a fail-safe, in-home, life-support system.

TRICARE may cover:

- Electric-powered, cart-type vehicles as an alternate to an electric wheelchair.
- Benefits will not be extended for the use of both an electric-powered, cart-type vehicle.

TRICARE doesn't cover:

- DME for a beneficiary who is a patient in a type of facility that ordinarily provides the same type of DME item to its patients at no additional charge in the usual course of providing its services is excluded.
- DME available to the beneficiary from a military hospital or clinic
- DME with deluxe, luxury, or immaterial features, which increase the cost of the item to the government relative to similar item without those features.
- Routine periodic servicing, such as testing, cleaning, regulating, and checking which the manufacturer doesn't require be performed by an authorized technician.
- Duplicate items of otherwise allowable DME to be used solely as a back-up to currently owned or rented equipment.
- Expendable items such as incontinent pads, diapers, ace bandages etc.
- Non-medical equipment (e.g., humidifier, electric air cleaners, exercycle, safety grab bars etc.).

[Source: <http://www.tricare.mil/DME> | December 20, 2015 ++]



February Guest Speaker John A. Smyrski

Colonel (Doctor) John A. Smyrski III earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Science from Saint John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota in 1985. A Distinguished Military Graduate, he received a Regular Army commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Aviation Branch.

Following Initial Entry Rotary Wing flight training at Fort Rucker, Alabama, COL Smyrski was assigned to 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he served as an Aeroscout Pilot and Asst Brigade S4, 82nd Aviation Brigade (ABN); Platoon Leader, 2/82nd Combat Avn Bn (ABN); and Company Executive Officer, 2/82nd Combat Avn Bn (ABN). He next served at Fort Rucker, Alabama

as an Aeroscout Instructor Pilot while assigned as a Flight Leader and then Platoon Commander in 1-14th Aviation Regiment. After completing the Military Intelligence Officer Advance Course at Ft Huachuca, Arizona and the Fixed Wing Multi-Engine Qualification Course, he served as an OV-1D/ RV-1D Mohawk Pilot and Asst Bn S3, then Force Modernization Officer, 224th Military Intelligence Bn (Aerial Exploitation) at Hunter AAF, Georgia where he deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and Port-au-Prince, Haiti in support of Operation Uphold Democracy.

COL Smyrski attended medical school at Uniformed Services University (USU) graduating in 1999. He completed residency training in Family Medicine at Tripler AMC, Hawaii and later in Aerospace Medicine at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida. His Medical Corps assignments include Brigade Surgeon, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, Wheeler AAF, Hawaii where he also served twelve months as the Joint Task Force Flight Surgeon, Operation Enduring Freedom Afghanistan; Chief, Aviation Medicine Clinic, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; Division Surgeon, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii where he also served twelve months as the Multi-National Division North Command Surgeon, Operation Iraqi Freedom; Assistant Chief and then Chief, Medical Corps Branch, US

Con'td on page 23



COL Forrest Smith greets Guest Speaker Mr. Michael Mena at the December 2015 Membership Meeting and Brunch.

Lunch Menu February

Schnitzel

Home Fried Potatoes

Sautéed Broccoli Almandine

Tossed Green Salad w/dressing

Dinner Rolls w/Butter,

Coffee

Tea and Water

MOAA Cake

February Membership Meeting Program

Saturday, 13 February

Underwood Golf Course

Sequence of Events

1100 — 1200	Social Hour
1200 — 1215	Opening Ceremony
1215 — 1230	Board Updates/ Special Presentation
1230 — 1315	Meal Service
1315 — 1345	Program
1345 — 1355	Door Prize Drawing
1355 — 1400	Closing
1400	Adjournment

**Please submit your Dinner
Reservations no later than
Monday, 7 February**

Treasurer: MOAA

PO Box 6144

El Paso, TX 79906-0144

All dinner reservations
with payment to our
postal mail box

\$20 Per Person

**REMITTANCE
ENVELOPE ENCLOSED**

Report a Retiree Death

Monday - Friday:

0730 - 1700

915-568-5207

After Hours (Installation)

915-569-6950/6951

2016 EL PASO CHAPTER MOAA EVENTS SCHEDULE

January 23, 2016 60th Anniversary-El Paso Chapter, MOAA
February 13, 2016 February Membership Meeting and Luncheon
March 5, 2016 MOAA Day at the Races
April 2, 2016 Massing of the Colors
April 9, 2016 April Membership Meeting and Luncheon
May 30, 2016 Memorial Day
June 11, 2016 June Membership Meeting and Luncheon
July 4, 2016 Independence Day
August 13, 2016 August Membership Meeting and Luncheon



FORT BLISS VISITOR POLICY

As part of Fort Bliss' continued efforts to improve installation access, five Visitor Control Centers (VCCs) will begin operating on the 9th of August.

All visitors to Fort Bliss will need to obtain a Visitors Pass at one of the following VCCs before entering the installation: Buffalo Soldier, Chaffee, Old Ironsides (Global Reach), Sheridan, or Biggs Airfield Main (Sergeant Major Blvd). Visitor passes are good for a maximum of 30 days.

Hours for the Fort Bliss Visitor Control Centers are as follows:

Buffalo Soldier • 24 Hours/7 Days a Week

Chaffee • 24 Hours/7 Days a Week

Old Ironsides (Global Reach) • 24 Hours/7 Days a Week

Sheridan • 5:00 am – 9:00 pm, Monday - Friday

Biggs Airfield Main • 5:00 am – 9:00 pm, Monday - Friday

Visitors to William Beaumont Army Medical Center are required to use the Fred Wilson Access Control Point and visitors to the McGregor Range Complex are required to use the McGregor Front Access Control Point. Hours of operation: 24 hours, 7 days a week, for both of these ACPs.

As a reminder, all drivers requiring entry to the installation must possess a valid state issued driver's license, vehicle registration document, and proof of insurance for a pass to be issued. All vehicles are subject to random security inspections.

All DOD ID card holders (military, dependent, retiree, and DOD/DA civilians) are authorized to escort those that do not possess a DOD ID card. Individuals being escorted must possess a valid form of government issued ID card (state driver's license or ID card) and present it when entering at the Access Control Point. If an individual does not possess a valid form of government issued ID, they cannot be escorted and must obtain a pass at a VCC.

DOD ID card holders escorting visitors assume responsibility for the escorted visitors. The authorized escort must remain with their guests at all times while they are on the installation.

Retiree and Annuitant Pay Dates for 2016

Entitlement Month	Retiree Payment Dates	Annuitant Payment Dates
January 2016	Monday, February 1, 2016	Monday, February 1, 2016
February 2016	Tuesday, March 1, 2016	Tuesday, March 1, 2016
March 2016	Friday, April 1, 2016	Friday, April 1, 2016
April 2016	Friday, April 29, 2016	Monday, May 2, 2016
May 2016	Wednesday, June 1, 2016	Wednesday, June 1, 2016
June 2016	Friday, July 1, 2016	Friday, July 1, 2016
July 2016	Monday, August 1, 2016	Monday, August 1, 2016
August 2016	Thursday, September 1, 2016	Thursday, September 1, 2016
September 2016	Friday, September 30, 2016	Monday, October 3, 2016
October 2016	Tuesday, November 1, 2016	Tuesday, November 1, 2016
November 2016	Thursday, December 1, 2016	Thursday, December 1, 2016
December 2016	Friday, December 30, 2016	Tuesday, January 3, 2017

WBAMC Pharmacy Services

Main Hospital Pharmacy

Monday through Wednesday and Friday: 7:30 AM – 6:30 PM 915-742-2793
Thursday 8:30 AM – 6:30 PM
Saturday, Training Holidays: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Closed Sundays and Federal Holidays

Freedom Crossing PX Pharmacy

Monday – Friday 8:30 AM – 6:00 PM 915-742-9017
Saturday & Training Holidays 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Closed Sundays and Federal Holidays

Soldier and Family Medical Clinic (SFMC) Pharmacy

Monday – Friday 7:30 AM – 6:30 PM 915-742-1802
Closed Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal Holidays

Soldier Family Care Clinic (SFCC) Pharmacy

Monday – Friday 7:30 AM – 6:30 PM 915-742-1400
Closed Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal Holidays
Pharmacy Refill Services 915-742-1400

El Paso VA Health Care System Pharmacy

There are four convenient options for refilling prescriptions which can then be mailed directly to your home. Choose any process that is easy for you to use:

- Call the automated phone system at (915) 564-6100 ext. 6110 or 1-800-672-3782 ext. 6110.
- Follow the directions to process your refill.
- Mail in your refill slips.
- Drop the refill slip in the mail-out box located in the pharmacy.
- Use the MyHealthVet Website: www.myhealth.va.gov

Please note, window service at the Pharmacy will be limited to new prescriptions only. So, for all refills, please use one of the 4 options listed above.

Thank you in advance for using these new steps which should improve the speed and efficiency of getting your prescriptions from the El Paso VAHCS Pharmacy.

Extended Hours

Monday and Friday: 8:00 am to 4:45 pm. Pharmacy intake window will be closed at 4:30 pm.

Tuesdays: 9:00 am to 5:45 pm. Pharmacy intake will be closed at 5:30 pm.

Wednesdays and Thursdays: 7:00 am to 5:45 pm. Pharmacy intake will be closed at 5:30 pm.

Saturday: 8:30 am to 10:30 am for patients with primary care appointment only.

Location
El Paso VAHCS
2nd Floor, West Hallway

Contact Numbers
915-564-7942
800-672-3782



DOC'S CORNER

DR William Davitt

Change seems to be part of life, and timely adjustments on our part can make life more enjoyable. That change includes our relationship with our care team, especially our doctors.

It's no surprise that doctors accepting conventional health insurance have to see more patients to keep the lights on. That means less time with you. To get the same level of care, you must make the best use of that limited time. And you still might leave with less than satisfying answers to your questions. Some doctors hope that handouts and the Internet will fill the gap. But you can take steps to minimize your information void. Here's how.

Have a friend or family member attend the discussion part of your visit. If each of you captures a different 50% of what your doctor says, you've

got everything when you compare notes at home.

If you have questions, write them on a 3X5 card in YES or NO answer format. Leave room for your doctor or nurse to write the answers. Present this card early in your visit.

Be ready for your examination! DON'T wear restricting clothes with lots of buttons. If you're in for a new problem, have your answers ready. If you're concerned about pain for example, be ready with what the pain feels like [pressure, burning, stabbing, dull ache] and what makes it better or worse. Try to localize the pain with one finger.

If you're seeing a new doctor, hand carry any referrals and special test results [MRI, CT, lab]. Also supply your medical history on hopefully one page to include past surgeries, tests, allergies, as well as current medications.

Despite your best efforts, you may still have some questions. Solid Internet sites may help like WebMD.com and DiscoveryHealth.com. It's best to ignore sites trying to sell you something.

If you still come up short, let your doctor's staff help. Always log your calls: when, what and who. If you don't get a return phone call in a couple of days, try once more, and maybe involve the office manager or

head nurse. If you still don't get a response, you might look for another doctor.

In summary, you'll have less time with your care team, but with planning and proper execution, you can still manage your healthcare well. Now the who is this guy and why should I listen to him? Let's start with Happy 2016 fellow officers! Colonel Moore kindly invited me to write a regular column, and this is my first effort. It's always wise to check out your sources so to start at the beginning, I flew jets for our Air Force after graduating from the Academy in Colorado Springs in 1968. The Viet Nam War draw down allowed me to attend medical school as a civilian. I then signed with the Army, and learned eye surgery at Brooke Army, in San Antonio. A tour at Fort Hood finished my obligation. Florida and western Oklahoma were my private practice tours. I rejoined the Army in 1992 to run the eye surgery clinic at Beaumont. I retired in 1996 and entered private practice once again. The Cliff Notes version is I'm a board certified Eye MD and surgeon with 35 years of military and civilian experience. And I'm still learning!

William F Davitt III MD, El Paso Eye MD

JUNIOR ENLISTED FAMILY CENTER, YMCA FOOD PANTRY

The YMCA Food Pantry provides services to E-5s and below and is located in building #1717 (the old commissary) on Marshall Road. The entrance for the Food Pantry is behind the building by the loading docks near Pleasonton Road. The hours of operation are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from Noon to 1700 hours.

In an emergency, occasionally a Jr. Grade Officer or a Retiree is helped. To receive food, a form must be signed by a chaplain or someone in authority in the soldier's unit. Families must show a military I.D. The center focuses

on helping truly needy families.



The pantry accepts any sealed non-perishable food. Items that routinely run out of are peanut butter, canned tuna, cereal, pasta, and pasta sauce.

Disposable diapers in all sizes, baby formula and baby food are, also, in need.

If you are redecorating your home and you have furniture, or other household items in good condition that you would like to donate, please

phone Rebekah Reyes and Nicole Range, Coordinator, Junior Enlisted Family Center, YMCA at 915-494-5423 during the hours of the center's operation. Please don't leave things on the loading dock without contacting managers first as the items left are often "lost."

Should you elect to give a monetary donation for the Food Pantry, please draw your check payable to: Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA) and put "Junior Enlisted Family Center (JEFC)" on the memo line. Additionally, a collection box for your checks or cash will be on the donation table.

Thank you for your consideration of helping our needy families at Fort Bliss.



elpasomoaa.org

El Paso Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
PO Box 6144
Fort Bliss, TX 79906-0144

February 2016 Membership Meeting & Lunch
The General George V. Underwood, Jr. Golf Course
3200 Coe Ave., El Paso, TX 79904

Date: Saturday, 13 February 2016

Time: 1100 - 1400

Guest Speaker: COL John A. Smyrski
Commander, WBAMC

Menu

Schnitzel

Sautéed Broccoli Almandine

Home Fries

Tossed Green Salad w/Dressing, Roll & Butter

Water, Coffee & Iced Tea

Dress: Casual

Cost: \$20.00 per person

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 Monday, 8 February 2016 with a check for \$20 per person, the cost of the luncheon. **Late Reservations**, call Bob Pitt, 915-533-5111 or Bill Moore, 915-842-9650, by Noon, Wednesday, February 10, and pay at the door.

Lunch will be on Saturday 13 February 2016 at 11:00 a.m.

Please print guest names clearly to ensure the correct spelling on the registration listing.

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: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Name(s) of Guests:



AUXILIARY LIAISON

Mrs. Connie Sullivan

Patience for Our Sweethearts

Not long ago in a church meeting, I was listening to the young wives discussing the trials of balancing the daily chores, child caring, and coping with the idiosyncrasies of their husbands.

After a while, I commented that perhaps instead of dwelling on the negative part of the situations, to think that sometimes it is more productive to not let the problems be the focus.

There are things in life that are not as important as they seem.

Having love and peace in a home can be more beneficial for a relationship. If we were to think, what if my spouse was no longer in this life, it would open the door for patience and tolerance. Cherish each other while you still can, for life is too short.

Fort Bliss Spouse employment orientation

Are you a military spouse looking for employment? You don't have to job search on your own. Attend the Employment Orientation at Army Community Service. The orientation will take approximately 1.5 hours and a lot of good information will be provided about free services available to you. Learn how the Employment Readiness Program and Workforce Solutions Upper Rio Grande can assist you. We provide resume (civilian and federal) assistance and help you get ready for that dreaded interview. We have certified federal job search trainers to assist you. Orientations are held from 10 to 11:30 a.m. every Monday and Wednesday at ACS, 2494 Ricker Road at West Fort Bliss. Advance registration is required. To learn more or register, call 569-5838

Below information is a repeat of the January 2016 MOAA Surviving Spouse column.

Once again, 2015 was a very busy year. Last April, during the annual Council Presidents' Seminar, members of the Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee (AMAC) voted to change our name to the Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee (SSAC). We believe the name change will bring a better understanding of who we are within MOAA. During the seminar, SSAC members also participated in Storming the Hill and advocated on issues that impact active duty and retired service-members and their survivors and families.

Our advocacy efforts focused on:

- o Active duty military compensation;
- o TRICARE increases;
- o Concurrent receipt of military retired pay and VA disability compensation; and
- o The Survivor Benefit Plan/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (SBP/DIC) offset.

In October 2015, during MOAA's annual meeting in Orlando, Fla., the committee's name change became official. The AMAC is now the SSAC. Council and chapter leaders should note that their auxiliary members now should be classified and identified as surviving spouses.

The Levels of Excellence Award dinner also was held during the 2015 annual meeting. The awards dinner started with the presentation of the 2015 Auxiliary Liaison/Surviving Spouse Excellence Award to Joan Perry, surviving spouse liaison (SSL) for the Grand Strand (S.C.) Chapter, who was recognized for her outstanding efforts to support surviving spouses and her volunteer work. She beat out seven other outstanding nominees.

Last year, SSAC members worked to increase the number of SSLs in MOAA's councils and chapters. Forty-one new SSLs were added, with the goal to have surviving spouse representation in every council and chapter.

On the legislative front, SSAC members again focused on eliminating the SBP/DIC offset. At press time, bills to eliminate the SBP/DIC offset, H.R.1594 with 176 cosponsors and S.979 with 15 cosponsors, were stalled in the House and Senate Armed Services committees. On Dec. 11, 2015, MOAA's Director of Government Relations Col. Steve Strobbridge, USAF (Ret), testified before the House Armed Services military personnel subcommittee on the SBP/DIC offset. (Read, "MOAA to Congress: Repeal 'Widows' Tax.")

To drum up additional support, SSAC Chair Kathy Prout started a petition on Change.org to increase public awareness and support for eliminating the SBP/DIC

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ARMY NURSE CORPS HISTORY

By COL Constance J. Moore, USA, Retired, Army Nurse Corps Association Historian
After the Attack Pentagon: One Nurse's Response

At 9:38 a.m., on the morning of 11 September 2001, an American Airlines jet slammed into the Pentagon and sliced into its outer rings. Fire and smoke spread from the crash site. The structure and its lethal cargo of jet fuel ignited, burning offices, hallways and anything in its path. The intense heat, fire, and smoke killed many instantly and drove thousands into the corridors of the five-sided headquarters.

The Chief Nurse of the DiLorenzo TRICARE Health Clinic, Major Lorie A. Brown, provided a chilling account of the first few minutes after the attack. She remembered, "Within three minutes of the crash, we knew what had happened . . . hundreds and hundreds of people [were] running down the hallways or running out[doors] . . . into the parking [lot]. And very quickly the smoke started piling in. I [tried] to muster our MASCAL [Mass Casualty] [personnel]—[to get them] organized [into casualty teams]." ¹

Brown sent one emergency team into the center courtyard; another into north parking to establish a patient collection point on a grassy lawn near Boundary Channel Drive; and a third triage area was set up in the clinic. With their emergency bags already packed, and only the length of the hallway to run, Major Brown said, [the teams] "had all of the triage areas

operational by 0943 a.m., 5 minutes after the plane hit the Pentagon. She continued, "By that time we had patients, . . . I [was] getting reports—'I need O2 [oxygen],' 'I need splints,' 'We've got burns,' 'We need this,' 'We need that'—all via radio. And then I'm, 'Okay . . . you get this,' 'You can do that,' 'You do this,' 'You go here,' 'Send this there'—making up more teams."

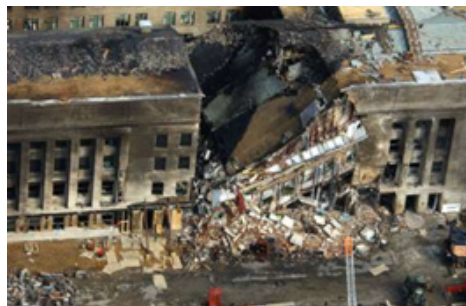
First responders and health care professionals, rallied to the building from nearby medical, police, and fire facilities to help survivors, and to triage and treat the wounded. Brown elaborated further:

"Volunteers [were] coming in [saying] 'I'm a doc,' 'I'm a nurse,' 'I'm here to help. What can I do?' 'Okay, here's a vest, here's a bag.' There were ambulances lined up [on the other side of the building [with] few patients.

[The clinic side of the building had many more critically injured. There were] no ambulances [on our side] in North Parking. So . . . I evac[uate]d by civilian means. I stood up on top of a car and yelled, 'Anybody!' I said, 'Stop that car. Stop it now. Anybody with . . . keys, anybody with an SUV.' We had the cars lined up, threw seats out of them, and put the patients with a doc[tor] or a nurse . . . and sent them all to Arlington, which is the closest hospital." ²

When all the patients in the north parking area had been evacuated, Major Brown focused on creating more medical teams, collecting medical supplies, and moving back to the center courtyard in order to reestablish a triage area. It was only 1038 a.m., barely one hour after the attack.³

This brief account of Brown's response during the first hour of the disaster is but one situation report about that difficult day. Many heroic firemen, paramedics, police, and rescue personnel from the surrounding communities had equally as harrowing experiences. The crash took the lives not only of the terrorists, passengers, and crew on the airliner but also of 125 Pentagon workers: 72 from the Department of the Army, 43 from the Department of the Navy, and 10 from the DoD.⁴ Healthcare professionals, like Major Brown, did not expect to see such carnage at the Pentagon, but they answered the call and cared for the casualties.



1. Condon Rall, Mary Ellen. Attack on the Pentagon The Medical Response to 9/11, (Washington, DC: the Borden Institute, 2011): 14.

2. Condon Rall, Mary Ellen. Attack on the Pentagon The Medical Response to 9/11, (Washington, DC: the Borden Institute, 2011): 15.

3. Ibid, 28.

4. Ibid, 5.

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**BELOW
INFORMATION IS
A REPEAT OF THE
JANUARY 2016 MOAA
SURVIVING SPOUSE
COLUMN.**

offset. The petition is titled, " Stop denying earned survivor benefits to military surviving spouses." Many MOAA council and chapter presidents and our SSLs already have signed and shared the petition, which contains nearly 75,000 signatures and will be sent to every member of Congress. If you haven't done so already, please sign and share the petition with your family, friends, and fellow council and chapter members.

SSAC members also developed a resource list of organizations that support military surviving spouses, surviving children, and caregivers. If you know of an organization that's not included on the resource list, please email that information to auxcomm@moaa.org.



PERSONAL AFFAIRS

Jose Luis Hernandez

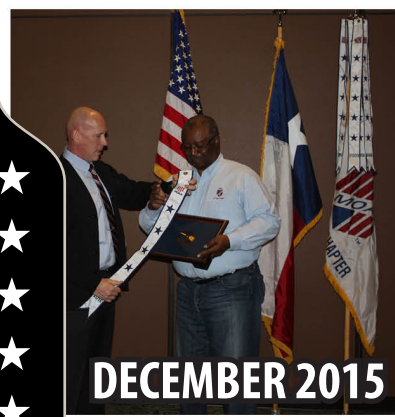
Current vs. New Military Retirement Plans

Specifics about the new military retirement plan are scarce, so will do our best to compare the current military retirement plan with the new military retirement plan based on information obtained through news sources and briefings. If you know of something that we can add to the comparison chart below, let us know about it. We hope that this continues to be a growing resource comparing the two plans so we can all learn more.

The current plan is listed on the left and is compared with the new plan listed on the right. To the best of our knowledge the information below is accurate. If you know something needs to be edited, let us know.

Current Military Retirement Plans	New Military Retirement Plans
- According to recent news reports, over time you earn more with the current military retirement plan versus the new military retirement Plan. If the reverse were true, they would not be looking at changing it.	- Will likely earn less money during retirement than the plan currently in place.
- Once you hit 20 years of service, you are eligible to retire and receive lifetime benefits equaling the average of the last 36 months of pay.	- Whether you serve 5 or 25, you will not be eligible to draw retirement until you are 60-65 years of age, but you can take your money with you to keep investing. You will be able to withdraw money in the form of a loan for healthcare, home buying and specified emergencies.
- The current military retirement plan was designed when many personnel left Military Service and did not seek, or in some cases, did not have the skills to get post-military retirement employment (second career)	- Getting into a second career is more common now and the new military retirement plan would allow personnel to leave service even before the 20 year mark for another career and continue to build the retirement savings they started to accrue while serving.
- The current military retirement plan was designed at a time when military pay was not necessarily competitive with the private sector.	- The new military retirement plan is being designed in a time when military pay is in the top 25% of pay for high school Graduates (Enlisted) and College Graduates (Officers)
- If you leave service prior to hitting the 20 year mark, you receive none of the retirement money that you have "earned" over the course of your time in service	- If you leave service prior to the 20 year mark, you will get to take the retirement money that you earned with you.
- You have less of a chance of your retirement money earning more money through investing	- You will be able to choose the how you would like to invest your money through TSP on a yearly basis
- Participation in the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) is an optional way to invest some additional money towards your future through the U.S. Military's version of the 401k style account	- Participation in the Thrift Savings Plan will be mandatory and the Government will contribute a defined contribution into your account. Current estimates are that the contribution may be 16.5% of base pay.
- Retirement benefits are not greater for personnel serving in high-risk jobs, on combat deployments or hardship tours. Whether you sit behind a desk for 20 years or you clear routes of IEDs for 20 years, both would get the same retirement.	- Contributions into TSP by the Government may be increased for personnel deployed to combat zones, on hardship tours or possibly with higher risk jobs.
- Knowing that you will receive 50% of your pay when you retire with at least 20 years of Service may be a benefit to serving in the military longer.	- There is no benefit to staying in 20 years other than additional contributions by the Government into your TSP account.
- Lifetime benefit of 50% of your last three years of base pay is something that can be counted on.	- With your retirement money being invested in bonds, mutual funds, etc., there would be no extra protection against market fluctuations meaning that you could make money or just as easily, lose money.

DECEMBER BRUNCH 2015





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

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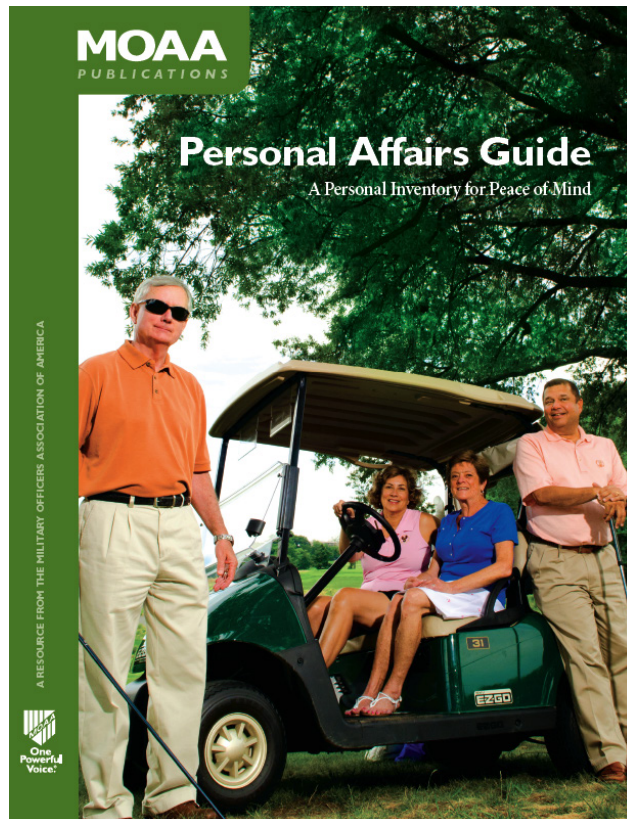
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Elimination of Social Security Retirement Benefit Claiming Strategies

As soon as the public started to understand the mysterious Social Security strategies for enhancing their retirement benefits, the rules are changed. Just goes to show that Congress can work together and quickly when they want to.

The legal changes eliminate strategies that allow couples to maximize their Social Security retirement benefits over their lifetime. These strategies are known as the “restricted benefit” and “file and suspend.”

The “restricted benefit” is typically used by the spouse with the lesser earnings record. To set the stage, if you apply for the Social Security spouse benefit (50% of your spouse’s benefit amount if you wait until your Full Retirement Age (FRA)), by law your personal benefit amount (based on your own earnings record) is paid before the spouse benefit amount to bring you up to the 50% level. In other words, the spouse benefit formula is actually a combination of your personal

benefit and the spouse benefit thereby bringing you up to 50% of your spouse’s benefit amount.

Just so you know, if you apply for the spouse benefit prior to your FRA, you don’t get the full 50% of your spouse’s amount. You get a reduced early benefit amount. And you can’t use the restricted benefit method.

The “restricted benefit” strategy allows spouses to collect the spouse benefit only and not use their personal benefit as a part of the 50% formula if you wait until FRA. By restricting yourself to the spouse benefit only, it allows your delayed personal benefit to continue to grow until age 70. The strategy is useful when your personal benefit will grow to be larger than the 50% spouse benefit over time.

The restricted benefit strategy is eliminated for everyone turning age 62 after 2015.

The “file and suspend” strategy opens the door to use the “restricted benefit.” You can’t file

for the spouse benefit unless the spouse whose earnings record is used for the 50% spouse benefit amount has first filed for their own benefit. The “file and suspend” strategy permits a spouse to file for his/her benefit which opens the door for the other spouse to file for the restricted spouse benefit and then turn around and suspend his/her personal benefit so it can continue to grow until age 70. The “file and suspend” spouse has to be at FRA or beyond to use file and suspend method.

Elimination of the file and suspend strategy is effective on 1 May 2016. You may still use the strategy if you turn FRA prior to 1 May. FRA for people born between 1943 and 1954 is 66. If you are over your FRA or turn 66 prior to 1 May, go talk to Social Security as soon as possible to determine your potential file and suspend options.

People already receiving benefits under the strategies are not affected.

* Published by Shane Ostrom, CFP®, MOAA

TRICARE Cataract Coverage

One of the Most Common Operations

Cataract removal is one of the most common operations performed in the United States. According to the National Eye Institute, it also is one of the safest and most effective types of surgery. In about 90 percent of cases, people who have cataract surgery have better vision afterward.

TRICARE covers cataract

surgery and related supplies and services. More specifically, TRICARE covers the standard intraocular lens (IOL), a fixed lens designed to target vision at a single focal point. During cataract surgery, the natural clouded lens is removed and then replaced by an IOL to become a permanent part of your eye. This provides good distance vision but patients typically need glasses for near and intermediate tasks such as reading and computer use.

TRICARE also covers one pair of eyeglasses or contact lenses as a prosthetic device after each

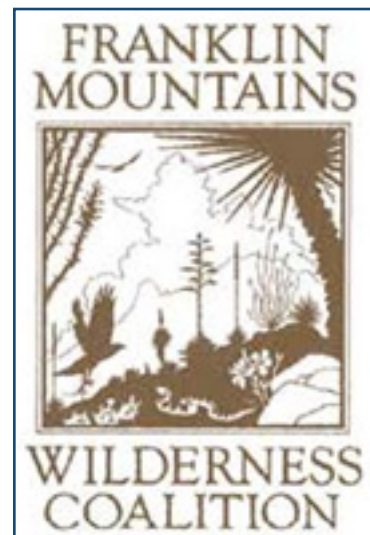
medically necessary cataract surgery where an IOL is inserted. If you would like a non-standard IOL instead of a standard monofocal IOL, you will be responsible for the difference in the charges. For more information about your covered vision services, contact your regional contractor at <http://www.tricare.mil/ContactUs/Cal-IUs.aspx> or visit the Eye Surgery and Treatment page on the TRICARE website <http://www.tricare.mil/CoveredServices/IsItCovered/EyeSurgeryTreatment.aspx>.

* [Source: Tricare Communications | December 29, 2015 ++]

What is Castner Range?

As you drive into the mountains on Transmountain Road from Northeast El Paso, you may not realize you are driving through territory that still belongs to Fort Bliss. The land is known as "Castner Range". It is a former US Army firing range located within the city of El Paso, Texas. The site's western boundary borders Franklin Mountains State Park (FMSP), the largest urban wilderness park area in the Lower 48 United States. Castner Range is a 7,081 acre (11 square miles) property that is not open to the public because there may be unexploded ordnance (UXO) on the land. In spring, the range's lower slopes explode with color when wild Mexican Gold Poppies carpet the rugged desert terrain. The land remains in its near pristine natural state today thanks to the stewardship of the Army and Fort Bliss.

El Pasoans are passionate about conserving Castner Range. Castner's poppies are a source of local pride and delight, and have become symbolic of El Paso and the breathtaking beauty that can spring up unexpectedly in the stark desert. Additionally, Castner Range provides the greatest concentration of natural springs in the Franklin Mountains.



Preserve Castner Range

On December 16, Congressman Beto O'Rourke, in an effort to protect the area by making it a national monument, introduced the Castner Range National Monument Act [HR 4268]. If the bill passes, Castner Range would become the first national monument in West Texas and also the largest in any metropolitan U.S. city. The legislation would eventually transfer the mountain range from the Department of Defense to the Department of Interior.

To make Castner Range a National Monument, download the letter at:
http://www.elpasomoaa.org/Files/Castner_Letter_President.pdf;
 complete and send your original letter to:

The Frontera Land Alliance, 3800 N. Mesa St., Suite A2-258, El Paso, Texas, 79902 or
E-mail: Janae@Fronteralandalliance.org or
 Go to fronteralandalliance.org
Phone: 915-3551-8352

Need more inspiration? Watch a 10-minute summary at: <http://fronteralandalliance.org/castner/>

The following people are available to answer questions and / or speak to your organization:

Judy Ackerman, 915-755-7371, jpackerman53@gmail.com
Lois Balin, 915-227-1988, elpasowild@aol.com
Scott Cutler, 915-494-2193, scottmcutler@sbcglobal.net
Janae' Reneaud Field, 915-351-8352, Janae@fronteralandalliance.org

Con'td from page 3

President's Message

ing support managing the decorations and the raffle events. Under her leadership the chapter really achieved a first class setting and heightened sense of professionalism in all of our ceremonies. MAJ Ed Stone and his wife Judy received the award for the 1st Quarter FY16. Ed Stone most recently served as Legislative Liaison, a duty for which he is widely known among MOAA leaders, but he has been a past president and has served in numerous key leadership roles, directly influencing the

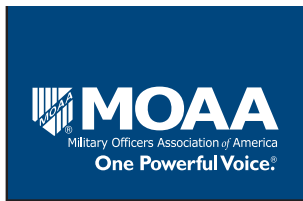
success of the board for more than a decade. Judy has been instrumental in the Public Relations and Public Affairs role, essentially serving as our marketing director, ensuring MOAA activities were well advertised in all the local media. Ed and Judy have been the cornerstone team of the MOAA Board of Directors for many years. Ed, Judy and Julie deserve a special thanks for their selfless commitment to MOAA and the El Paso community.

El Paso Chapter Sixtieth Birthday. Your El Paso Chapter turned 60 years old in January. MOAA National has been in existence for 86 years. We are looking for an opportunity to celebrate this significant event at a later date in

the year, as we continue to seek senior MOAA representation at this special event. As an aside, the El Paso Chapter received the highest MOAA award, the Five Star Level of Excellence streamer at the end of 2015...for the sixteenth year in a row.

MOAA Day at the Races. I want to remind members to join us at the MOAA Day at the Races at Sunland Park on 5 March.

MOAA National Website Spotlight: The MOAA National Website recently announced its partnership with American Corporate Partners (ACP) to assist veterans in their transition process.



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THE BORDER BULLETIN



CHAPLAIN CORNER

Mrs. Connie Sullivan

There is HOPE

Most of us at one time or another have been addicted to something that has not been beneficial for us mentally or physically.

For example too much coffee, excessive eating, the Internet, substance abuse, alcohol etc., and feel overwhelmed because we just don't have the strength to either give it up or stop.

Sometimes we think that it is impossible to break this overpowering chain or habit.

The truth of the matter is that most of us can't do it without spiritual intervention.

The beauty of life is that we can rely on our Supreme Being, for those who believe, or get help from different sources.

For the ones who believe in God, He will give you the strength to overcome this overpowering force. For others there is help out there of people that do care and will be there for you; and yes, it does take one step at a time.

THE STORY OF THE FOUR CHAPLAINS

It was Feb. 3rd 1943, and the U.S. Army Transport Dorchester was one of three ships in a convoy, moving across the Atlantic from Newfoundland to an American base in Greenland. A converted luxury liner, the Dorchester was crowded to capacity, carrying 902 servicemen, merchant seamen and civilian workers. It was only 150 miles from its destination when shortly after midnight, an officer aboard the German submarine U2 spotted it. After identifying and targeting the ship, he gave orders to fire. The hit was decisive, striking the ship, far below the water line. The initial blast killed scores of men and seriously wounded many more. Others, stunned by the explosion were groping in the darkness. Panic and chaos quickly set in! Men were screaming, others crying or frantically trying to get lifeboats off the ship.

Through the pandemonium, four men spread out among the soldiers, calming the frightened, tending the wounded and guiding the disoriented toward safety. They were four Army chaplains, Lt. George Fox, a Methodist; Lt. Alexander Goode, a Jewish Rabbi; Lt. John Washington, a Roman Catholic Priest; and Lt. Clark Poling, a Dutch Reformed minister. Quickly and quietly the four chaplains worked to bring calm to the men. As soldiers began to find their way to the deck of the ship, many were still in their underwear, where they were confronted by the cold winds blowing down from the arctic. Petty Officer John J. Mahoney, reeling from the cold, headed back towards his cabin. "Where are you going?" a voice of calm in the sea of distressed asked? "To get my gloves," Mahoney replied. "Here, take these," said Rabbi Goode as he handed a pair of gloves to the young officer. "I can't take those gloves," Mahoney replied. "Never mind," the Rabbi responded. "I have two pairs." It was only long after that Mahoney realized that the chaplain never intended to leave the ship.

Once topside, the chaplains opened a storage locker and began distributing life jackets. It was then that Engineer Grady Clark witnessed an astonishing sight. When there were no more lifejackets in the storage room, the chaplains simultaneously removed theirs and gave them to four frightened young men. When giving their life jackets, Rabbi Goode did not call out for a Jew; Father Washington did not call out for a Catholic; nor did Fox or Poling call out for a Protestant. They simply gave their life jackets to the next man in line. One survivor would later call it "It was the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven."

As the ship went down, survivors in nearby rafts could see the four chaplains -- arms linked and braced against the slanting deck. Their voices could also be heard offering prayers and singing hymns. Of the 902 men aboard the U.S.A.T. Dorchester, only 230 survived. Before boarding the Dorchester back in January, Chaplain Poling had asked his father to pray for him, "Not for my safe return, that wouldn't be fair. Just pray that I shall do my duty...never be a coward...and have the strength, courage and understanding of men. Just pray that I shall be adequate."

Although the Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart were later awarded posthumously Congress wished to confer the Medal of Honor but was blocked by the stringent requirements, which required heroism performed under fire. So a posthumous Special Medal for Heroism, The Four Chaplains' Medal, was authorized by Congress and awarded by the President on January 18, 1961. It was never before given and will never to be given again.

-Special thanks to CH (LTC) Joel Harris (USA Ret), the Chaplain at The Citadel, for sending the above and the reminder this morning that today is the anniversary of the heroism and spiritual leadership of Chaplains Goode, Poling, Washington and Fox.

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LEGISLATIVE COL. Lennie Enzel

MOAA and the El Paso Chapter are independent, nonprofit, and politically nonpartisan organizations

I must admit that I am quite intimidated as I try to fill Ed Stone's huge shoes as your MOAA-El Paso Legislative Liaison. Ed is well-known on the national, regional, and local level as an incredibly knowledgeable, impassioned, and persuasive force to be reckoned with. His resurrection of Sergeant Snuffy and his ability to needle politicians has gone a long way to preserving our hard-earned benefits and trying to right injustices of the past such as the 'widow's tax'.

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

SBP-DIC Offset

For those who might not know, the 'widow's tax' is the financial penalty imposed on 63,000 military survivors. Current law unfairly makes military survivors forfeit part or all of their military Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity when military service caused the member's death. Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is a VA program providing a \$1,254 monthly annuity for survivors of veterans whose death is ruled service-connected. SBP payments are reduced dollar-for-dollar by DIC. This is often called the "widows' tax." MOAA has been seeking repeal of this unfair law for decades.

Our El Paso Congressman, Rep. Beto O'Rourke said, "You have [our] support because you have been so effective outside of this hearing in our offices... the argument that you've made in my opinion is incontrovertible, and you've made it on its merits, on the facts." But even though committee members acknowledged the inequity of the offset, Ranking Member Susan Davis (D-Calif.) pointed out that a full repeal has a price tag approaching \$7 billion, and securing funds will be difficult. MOAA believes that even in a budget-constrained environment, fair treatment for survivors of servicemembers who gave their lives for their country shouldn't be last in line for funding and they will continue to fight this issue. It is imperative that you also lobby your congressional representative to right this wrong that has cost so much money to so many deserving military widows.

New Military Retirement Program:

Starting in 2018, newly servicemembers will no longer have the traditional 20-year, all-or-nothing retirement plan. Under the changes, it will be replaced with a blended pension and investment system, featuring automatic contributions to troops' Thrift Savings Plans and an opportunity for government matches to personal contributions. The new system is expected to give roughly four in five service members some sort of retirement benefit when they leave the military, as opposed to the current system which benefits only one in five. This new system could cut retirement benefits by up to 20%.

TRICARE

In 2015 there were proposals that ranged from completely scrapping TRICARE and forcing beneficiaries into plans like those of federal civilians to imposing significantly higher fees, and means-testing (which I believe to be inappropriate for an earned military benefit). All of those and others could be on the table again in 2016. To prepare for the oncoming attack on TRICARE, MOAA developed a survey to ascertain current level of satisfaction with the ability to access healthcare, what is perceived as a reasonable cost for healthcare, and the quality of healthcare received.

Once accessed, the vast majority of survey respondents are satisfied with their health care. Those who used TRICARE For Life are most satisfied. On the ability to get routine care within the 7-day DoD timeliness standard, 20% of TRICARE Prime beneficiaries said they "rarely or never" can get care that fast - almost double the TFL and Standard responses. Among Prime beneficiaries, those seeking care in military facilities reported much greater problems getting appointments than those seeing civilian providers. Among currently serving families and working-age retirees, TRICARE Standard had a higher satisfaction rate and significantly lower dissatisfaction than those who used TRICARE Prime.

There were 30,000 respondents with the following results:

	TRICARE for LIFE	TRICARE Standard	TRICARE Prime
Care Quality	95%	86%	81%
Ability to Pick Doctor	95%	81%	62%
How Much You Pay	95%	68%	80%

Despite DoD's consistent allegation that healthcare costs are "spiraling out of control", the truth is that military health costs have remained flat or have been declining for the past five years.

Commissary Benefit

Congress recently passed a provision that requires defense officials to come up with a comprehensive plan to make the commissary benefit, as well as the military exchanges, "budget neutral." In other words, the stores would operate with zero taxpayer dollars, while also sustaining their traditional hefty discounts to customers. A plan must be submitted by March 1, with a target implementation date of Oct. 1, 2018. It is widely believed that the only way to get the required budget cuts is to reduce savings, close stores or both. The Military Retirement and Compensation Modernization Commission and an outside consultant both completed reviews in 2015 that recommended consolidation of the military commissary and exchange systems, but defense officials continue to believe that is not necessary.

TEXAS LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Hazelwood Program:

Since 1923 the Hazelwood Program has offered Texas veterans up to 150 free credit hours at state universities. In 2009, it was expanded to allow Veterans to transfer up to 120 of those credit hours to their dependents. For veterans who use the Federal GI Bill, they become eligible for the Hazelwood program after their GI Bill runs out, or they are no longer eligible. Schools must provide the free education without being reimbursed by the state.

The cost of this program has skyrocketed and schools say they can no longer shoulder the burden of the ever-increasing costs and must raise tuition for other students to provide the program. A review of participants shows that 4 times more dependents use the program than actual Veterans.

The original law stipulated that only veterans who were Texas residents at the time of their enlistment and who returned to Texas after leaving the military service were eligible for the program. However, in January of this year a court ruling brought on by a lawsuit filed by a University of Houston law student, found the residency requirement to be unconstitutional. Texas legislators feared the ruling could potentially allow thousands of Veterans to move to Texas in search of a free education.

The new ruling requires non-Texas born military Veterans to live in the state for at least eight years before claiming tuition benefits for themselves or their families. Additionally, the amount of time Veterans have to serve in the military in order to pass Hazelwood benefits to their children increased from 180 days to six years. Veterans would have just 15 years from the time they are discharged to pass this benefit on to family members. The children of Veterans can now only use Hazelwood benefits for undergraduate degrees and have to maintain a 2.5 GPA - current high school juniors and seniors and college students already in the program would be grandfathered.

It is hoped that these moves will ensure long term viability of the program while addressing the ballooning costs.

Other Laws Passed By The 84th Legislative Session:

Legislation that will:

- improve mental health care
- exempt veteran-owned businesses from the franchise tax and create more job opportunities for our veterans
- establish the Texas Women Veterans Program

El Paso -MOAA Chapter's Annual "Day at the Races"



Saturday, 5 March 2016



At SUNLAND PARK RACETRACK & CASINO

The annual event honors Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve Personnel and invites members of EPAC-NAUS, MOWW & SMW Desert Sun Chapter 30. TIME: Assemble for Lunch and briefing... (Mt. Cristo Rey Room) -10:45 A.M. Lunch Starts 11:00 with Race Briefing & drawings: Racing 1st Post Time- 12:45 PM. Casino opens: 0930-0200 hours.

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED!!

Be a winner while having a great time starting with a private buffet, **with half-priced champagne**, eaten in your own private Mount CRISTO REY Room. During lunch, we'll show you how to pick the ponies and place a bet or two, as well as, give you a ticket for the drawing of some great prizes.

After that, you can go to your reserved area in the FRANKLIN ROOM to view LIVE HORSERACING with world-class thoroughbred and quarter horses and participate in SIMULCAST WAGERING. If you feel the urge, you can try your luck at any of the over 700 state-of-the-art slot machines and should you get thirsty from all the winnings, try one of the full-service cantinas.

This Special Race day Package includes the Buffet Lunch, Racing Programs, Tip Sheets, Surprise Drawings, a Named (for the group) Race, and a Color Photograph in the Winner's Circle. Want more? Add Free Parking with Security provided by Sunland Park Racetrack & Casino and Free Membership to the Club Fiesta or Club 55 (now 50).

What's the CATCH? You ask. The Maximum number of attendees for this event is 80. That means you need to get your reservations in-ASAP. Please submit your reservations no later than Saturday, **27 February 2016** -- to the Treasurer. Lunch Cost: \$25.00 per person (including 18% gratuity, program, Tip Sheet, etc).

Online reservations are at:
http://elpasomoaa.org/calendar_day.asp?date=3/5/2016&event=230

RESERVATION FORM – MOAA, El Paso Chapter "DAY AT THE RACES" **Saturday, 5 March 2016**

Please mail checks (\$25.00 x _____ = _____) drawn/payable to:

MOAA, El Paso Chapter
ATTN: Treasurer
P. O. BOX 6144
Fort Bliss, TX 79906-0144.

Please make reservations for the following persons attending "Day at the Races" 5 March 2016 with members of MOAA/NAUS/SMW/MOWW, luncheon at the Sunland Park Racetrack and Casino: (Please print)....

Signature: _____

Army Human Resources Command, Fort Knox, Kentucky; and Chief of Clinical Operations (Chief Medical Officer), Pacific Regional Medical Command, Honolulu, Hawaii. COL Smyrski most recently served as Commander of the US Army Aeromedical Laboratory, US Army Medical Research and Material Command, Fort Rucker, Alabama, relinquishing command on 8 July 2015. He is currently serving as the Commander of William Beaumont Army Medical Center.

His awards and decorations include Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Iraqi and Afghanistan Campaign Medals, Humanitarian Service Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, United Nations Medal, Expert Field Medical Badge, Combat Medical Badge, Master Aviator Badge, Master Flight Surgeon Badge, Naval Flight Surgeon Badge, Space Badge, Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge and German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge. COL Smyrski is an Associate Fellow, Aerospace Medical Association. He is a member of the Army Aviation Association of America's Order of Saint Michael (Bronze Award) and the Army Medical Department's Order of Military Medical Merit. He is also a member of Delta Omega, the Honorary Society in Public Health and Society of US Army Flight Surgeons Aeromedical Order of Merit.

COL Smyrski holds a Doctor of Medicine degree from USUHS, a Master of Public Health degree from The University of Alabama at Birmingham, and a Master of Business Administration degree from Troy University. COL Smyrski is a graduate of the Aviation Officer Basic Course, Military Intelligence Officer Advance Course, and Intermediate Level Education. He is currently enrolled in the Army War College.

COL Smyrski, originally from Hastings, Minnesota, is married to the former Margaret (Meg) Walerius of Glenwood, Minnesota. They have two children, John (Capt, USAF) currently a C-5M pilot at Travis AFB, California, and Katie (Smith) who is a Programs Evaluation Fellow at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia.

Valentine's Day Oldies Dance

February 13 @ 1340 Murchison
7:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.

Tejas Band & DJ

\$30 each

- ♥ Includes: Beer, sodas, burger/brat.
- ♥ BYOB: Liquor/wine
- ♥ 50/50 Raffle

DOOR PRIZES. FOR INFO CALL:
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THE BORDER BULLETIN

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