

2018 | February



THE BORDER BULLETIN

EL PASO CHAPTER OF MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



Nationally Ranked Five-Star Chapter • MOAA Affiliate from January 23, 1956 • Our 62nd Year

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The Border Bulletin is the newsletter of the El Paso Chapter, Military Officers Association of America. It is published bi-monthly, even months, to inform the membership of issues and activities of interest to all. elpasomoaa.org is a non-profit entity within the State of Texas organized to represent the membership and to support the activities of the Texas Council of Chapters and MOAA National. Advertising contained on the website and in the newsletter and directory are not endorsed by the Chapter and does not represent any recommendation to the membership. Opinions expressed in articles contained herein are not necessarily those of the membership as a whole or the Chapter. Questions should be directed to the Editor, at the Chapter office.

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Five-Star Chapter

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Communications Award Print Newsletter

Five Star

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Winner

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

COL Forrest Smith, USA, Retired

1. MOAA National News. In January, MOAA National published the Top 10 Legislative Goals for 2018 in the newly formatted Military Officer magazine. There is an excellent detailed explanation of the background and remedy for each of these goals in the magazine. After 16 years of war, and with unpredictable political transitions in the coming year, the time has never been more important to “circle the wagons” and link arms in the fight to preserve your benefits and entitlements. We will discuss opportunities to collaborate on these goals throughout the year. I encourage you to join MOAA efforts at the local and National level, in our collective efforts to pursue the top 10 legislative goals for 2018.

A. Top 10 Legislative Goals for 2018.

- (1) Ensure TRICARE reform sustains access to top quality care.
- (2) Prevent disproportional TRICARE fee increases.
- (3) Sustain military pay comparability with the private sector.
- (4) Block erosion of compensation and non-pay and quality of life benefits.
- (5) Protect military retirement and COLAs.
- (6) Sustain wounded warrior programs and expand caregiver support.
- (7) End financial penalties to survivors and the disabled.
- (8) Ensure the Guard and Reserve system adequately supports the requirements for an operational reserve.
- (9) Ensure spouse and family support programs are aligned with current and emerging needs of an all-volunteer force.
- (10) Ensure timely access to VA health care and preserve earned veterans benefits.

Note: Visit www.moaa.org/email, or call (800) 234-MOAA to subscribe to The MOAA Newsletter on a weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly basis, and select topic areas of interest – and get periodic updates on goals and key actions.

B. New Military Officer magazine format. Editor Molly Wyman and the Rachel Barth, the Creative Director for Military Officer magazine, have combined efforts to execute an excellent revision of the magazine's format, emphasizing “relevance and value across MOAA's diverse membership.” In addition to the new format there are numerous informative articles to include an excellent presentation of the 2018 Transition Guide, and an excellent review of the 2018 NDAA in the Mission Critical Legislative news section, entitled “Final Text of FY 2018 National Defense Authorization Act Released.” Well done ladies.

2. Supporting the El Paso Community. So what can you do to contribute to your El Paso military community and MOAA's efforts to protect you benefits?

A. Get Informed. Understand MOAA's Top Ten Goals for the year, and track MOAA's progress in fighting for your compensation and benefits.

B. Get involved.

(1) Communicate directly with your political representatives. You can send elected officials your own message of support utilizing MOAA National's website, Legislative Action Center. You can also choose a MOAA-suggested message telling your elected leaders to stop defense bill personnel and compensation cuts. Your message will be pushed automatically to your House and Senate leaders. Communicate directly to your elected officials and be heard. It's easy. Go to www.moaa.org, and use their simple tools. Its easy...and effective.

(2) Become a MOAA Member and speak with one voice. Your membership entitles you to access to, and use of valuable planning tools, and continuous lobbying efforts to preserve your earned military benefits. Join now by visiting www.elpasomoaa.org.

“Professional Leaders belong to Professional Organizations.” Become part of the solution. Join MOAA.

“Never Stop Serving”.

Forrest Smith COL, USA, Retired
President

El Paso MOAA Outreach Foundation

NAME

The name of this organization shall be El Paso Chapter Outreach Foundation of the Military Officers Association of America, herein after referred to as the MOAA Outreach Foundation. Short Title: elpasomoaaoutreach.org.

The El Paso Chapter Outreach Foundation is registered with the IRS as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are 100% tax deductible.

FOUNDATION UPDATE

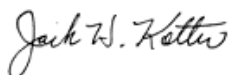
The Foundation received \$550 monetary donations plus a variety of canned food items at our December MOAA meeting. A "Tip of the Hat" to everyone who made monetary and/or canned food donations for the Junior Enlisted Family Center, YMCA Food Pantry. We know the recipients are grateful for all of our charitable actions. As the value of the Foundation grows we will be able to provide more and larger donations to support our soldiers who are currently serving and those who have served in the past. It is our intent to provide the support that is deserved to organizations and fellow veterans where it is most needed..

The actions of the Foundation Board have acted as intended in past few months. In the New Year it is our goal to provide the needed financial support to even more organizations and veterans who require our support to improve their quality of life. You may be proud of the actions of the Foundation as we participate together.

We are in the process of creating a closer relationship with the Junior ROTC programs in El Paso and the ROTC programs commissioning new junior officers. The first action will be establishing a \$500 scholarship for a ROTC cadet. Another initiative will be to provide the 2LT epaulets for UTEP cadets at their commissioning.

The Outreach Foundation continues to evolve and grow.

Service by Serving Others




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Colonel Forrest Smith



DFAS Changes Mailing Address,

the Defense Finance and Accounting Service announced it was changing mailing addresses for retirees and annuitants. Retired Pay correspondence should be addressed to DFAS, U.S. Military Retired Pay, 8899 E 56th St., Indianapolis, IN, 46249-1200. Annuitant correspondence should be addressed to DFAS, U.S. Military Annuitant Pay at the same address.

2017 Foundation Contributors

Mrs. Rachel Bustos
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Mrs. Judith Colletti
Lieutenant Colonel Martha Caldwell

February Guest Speaker



SEPTEMBER GUEST SPEAKER

Angie Barrill

Judge Angie Juarez Barrill, 346TH State District Court Judge, was elected in 2004 and is presently serving her 4TH term. Judge Barrill started the El Paso Veterans Treatment Court in 2012, a program that serves to treat our active military and veterans who suffer from PTSD, TBI and other mental illnesses. She also handles a criminal and a civil docket. Judge Barrill previously was elected as a Municipal Court Judge from 1993-2003. Prior to being elected, she worked as a Sole Practitioner, was an Assistant City Prosecutor and an Adjunct Professor at UTEP. In 2015 Judge Barrill was recognized

by the Texas Veterans Commission with the Patriotism Award for the Veterans Treatment Court. She received Congressional Recognition by Congressman O'Rourke for her work with the Treatment Court and her contribution in the Veteran Community. In 2014, Judge Barrill received from the Paso Del Norte Civil Rights Project the Outstanding Achievement in Legal Services Award for her Contribution with the Veterans Treatment Court. In 2013, she was selected as the Outstanding Jurist and received the award from the American Board of Trial Advocates. In 2012, Judge Barrill also received an Outstanding Achievement Award from the 1ST Armored Division/Old Ironside Association. And in 2006, Judge Barrill was appointed by Chief Justice Wallace B. Jefferson, Supreme Court of Texas to service to the 8th Court of Appeals. She has also contributes annually to the International Military-Sergeant Major's Academy-Fort Bliss regarding our Judicial System. She is presently a current member for the Juvenile Board, Current Law Library Board Committee Member, Founding Member of the LSPI advisory Board at UTEP and she has served for the last 10 years as the Presiding Chair of the El Paso County Bail Bond Board – which recently initiated E-Bond – the 1ST in the State of Texas.

Lunch Menu February

Baked Italian Beef Lasagna
Green Bean Almandine
Tossed Green Salad w/dressing,
Roll w/Butter,
Coffee, Iced Tea, and Water
MOAA Cake

Meeting Program

Saturday, 10 February
Underwood Golf Course

Sequence of Events

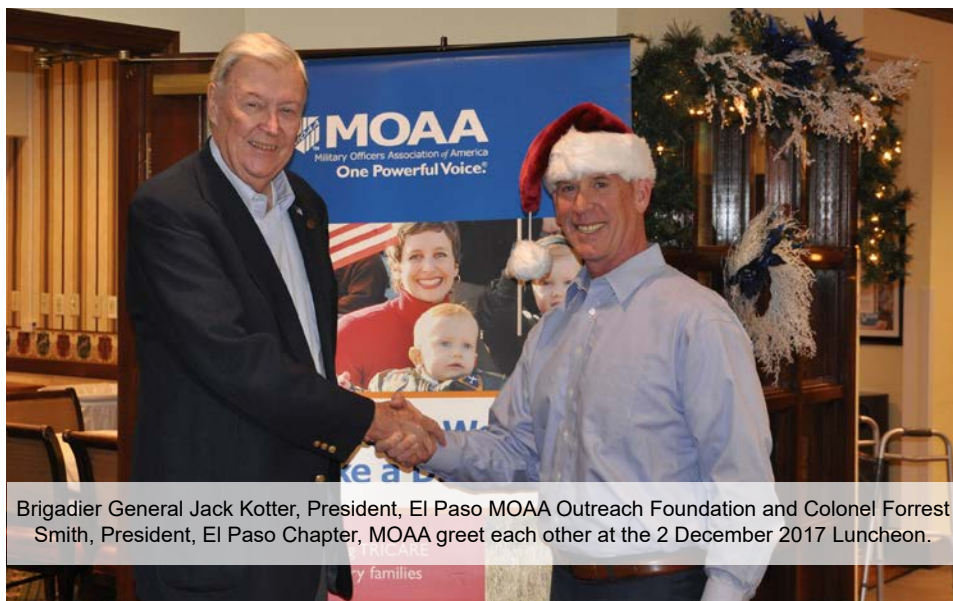
11:00 — 11:45	Social Hour
11:45 — 1200	Opening Ceremony
12:00 — 12:45	Meal Service
12:45 — 13:30	Program
13:30 — 13:45	Door Prize Drawing
13:45 — 14:00	Closing Ceremony

Please submit your Lunch Reservations no later than Monday, 5 February, 2018

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**



Brigadier General Jack Kotter, President, El Paso MOAA Outreach Foundation and Colonel Forrest Smith, President, El Paso Chapter, MOAA greet each other at the 2 December 2017 Luncheon.

Report a Retiree Death

Monday - Friday:

0730 - 1700

915-568-5207

After Hours (Installation)

915-569-6950/6951

2018 EL PASO CHAPTER MOAA EVENTS SCHEDULE

February 10, 2018	February Membership Meeting Luncheon
March 25, 2018	Bataan Memorial Death March
April 14, 2018	April Membership and Luncheon
May 28, 2018	Memorial Day
June 9, 2018	June Membership Meeting and Luncheon
June 14, 2018	Flag Day
June 17, 2018	Father's Day



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.

Fort Bliss Visitor Control Centers

The Buffalo Soldier VCC will operate from 5 a.m.-9 p.m. every day of the week, including holidays.

The Master Sgt. Peña VCC will be closed to the public indefinitely for visitor passes, but will be open for un-cleared contractor processing only.

The Sheridan VCC will be closed to the public indefinitely for visitor passes and will process foreign visitors and special access only.

However, the Peña and Sheridan VCCs will be the primary automated installation entry registration points, operating between 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. for AIE registration (Mondays-Fridays only). The specific start date for AIE registration will be published in the near future.

The following hours still apply for Fort Bliss VCCs: the Chaffee VCC will operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (including holidays), and the Old Ironsides VCC will operate from 5 a.m.-9 p.m. every day of the week, including holidays.

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 2017

Entitlement Month	Retiree Payment Dates	Annuitant Payment Dates
January	Thursday, Feb. 1, 2018	Thursday, Feb. 1, 2018
February	Thursday, Mar. 1, 2018	Thursday, Mar. 1, 2018
March	Friday, Mar. 30, 2018	Monday, Apr. 2, 2018
April	Tuesday, May. 1, 2018	Tuesday, May 1, 2018
May	Friday, June 1, 2018	Friday, June 1, 2018
June	Friday, June 29, 2018	Monday, July 2, 2018
July	Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2018	Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2018
August	Friday, Aug. 31, 2018	Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2018
September	Monday, Oct. 1, 2018	Monday, Oct. 1, 2018
October	Thursday, Nov. 1, 2018	Thursday, Nov. 1, 2018
November	Friday, Nov. 30, 2018	Monday, Dec. 3, 2018
December	Monday, Dec. 31, 2018	Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2019

WBAMC Pharmacy Services

Main Hospital Pharmacy

Monday through Wednesday and Friday	7:30 AM – 6:00 PM	915-742-2793
Last Thursday of every month	8:30 AM – 6:00 PM	
Saturday	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

I hear this question often, surprisingly, from seniors! You'll know why this interest doesn't make sense as you read on.

LASIK changes the shape of the front curve of the eye. It does so by sanding the center of the curved clear window [cornea]. This makes the center of the cornea less curved. If the cornea happens to have a bit of egg shape, LASIK can make this shape closer to a ping pong ball. So the front curve is 'flatter' and more of a sphere [similar curves going in all directions;

WHAT ABOUT LASIK?

less astigmatism]. Tissue is removed so what's left is always thinner. If someone is very nearsighted, more tissue must be sanded. If what's there to start with is already thin, AND the patient is very near-sighted, LASIK might not be possible. Or the amount of correction may have to be less = thinner glasses but still glasses. Otherwise, what's left after the sanding may not be strong enough to allow the eye to function normally.

LASIK gives you only ONE prescription in each eye. Passing age 41, you'll soon need TWO. One for driving and a different one for reading. LASIK can't do that. Remember, you get ONE prescription per eye. So if you're able, after factoring in your high near-sightedness AND your thin corneas, to get a full correction for driving, you'll need reading glasses. Or you'd have one eye for distance, and the other for closeup. For some, though, this throws off depth perception, permanently.

So why does LASIK not make sense for seniors? First, you're well into the zone where you need two or even three prescriptions: reading or driving; or reading, computer, and driving. Again LASIK only provides ONE, so you'll need glasses to focus precisely at the other two distances. Since most folks think LASIK will allow them to go without glasses, this obviously won't work. Unless you can sacrifice your depth perception. You might find some hobbies challenging, for example.

What else? Well, you're in the age group where a cloudy lens, inside your eye, may begin to handicap your vision. You've heard the word cataract? Removal of the cloudy lens, and replacing it with a man-made clear one, allows you a clear view again. It allows your surgeon to fine tune your focusing distance. Here again, you can select the distance. The difference is, your

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When millions of American citizens were left without drinking water or electricity after Hurricane Maria demolished much of Puerto Rico, thousands of U.S. servicemembers descended on the island to assist.

Within weeks, upward of 10,000 troops were in Puerto Rico or just off-shore providing much-needed humanitarian relief. Sailors aboard a Navy hospital ship assisted patients after 58 of the island's 69 hospitals were left without fuel or power. Other troops conducted medical evacuations and delivered relief supplies to hard-hit areas.

Assisting Puerto Ricans in the wake of such a devastating storm proved challenging. The Trump administration faced backlash for what some called a slow response. Reaching the stranded and delivering supplies was difficult, though. Roads and other infrastructure were washed away following the Sept. 20 Category 4 storm, and many first-responders were themselves storm victims.

By early October, an Army three-star general was on the ground to lead relief efforts. The number of U.S. troops there more than doubled to about 11,000 after the scope of the devastation became clear.

Maria's wrath also came on the heels of two other destructive hurricanes: Harvey and Irma. Those storms prompted their own massive military responses in places like Florida, Louisiana, and Texas.

Here's how tens of thousands of servicemembers stepped up to help in the wake of back-to-back disasters.

A vital recon mission

Before Harvey and Irma hit, NOAA Cmdr. Scott Price and his crew were flying high above the Caribbean - and straight into the deadly storms.

Flying into hurricanes feels a lot like a roller coaster, says Price, a former naval aviator who flies the WP-3D Orion for NOAA. "It is not uncommon in these storms to go up or down 1,000 or 2,000 feet, and it can happen pretty quickly."

NOAA's National Hurricane Center was tracking Harvey and Irma long before they became the storms everyone was talking about, Price says. More than a week before Harvey's late-August landfall, which brought historic flooding to heavily populated areas like Houston, Price deployed to the Virgin Islands to fly into the storm. Days later, he and his crew took off from Barbados to fly into Irma - one of the Atlantic's strongest storms on record.

Back on the ground, servicemembers like Coast Guard Capt. Tony Hahn closely monitored data collected on those risky flights. "NOAA and the National Weather Service did a fantastic job forecasting the path and the stagnation over Houston," says Hahn, commander of Coast Guard Sector Corpus Christi and a MOAA member.

Based on those forecasts, the Coast Guard braced for the worst-case scenario. When Harvey made landfall, dumping more than 50 inches of rain in some areas, members of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Public Health Service flocked to the region, joining Coast Guard members in a massive humanitarian mission.

Before their work was complete, some were told to brace for Irma, Jose, and Maria as they careened toward the U.S. and its territories.

"Everyone came with a spirit of service," Hahn says. "They showed up and asked, 'How can I get the job done?' There was some incredible bravery."

Reaching the stranded

Since the Coast Guard falls under

the Department of Homeland Security, Texas-based coasties were some of the first carrying out search-and-rescue missions in Harvey's wake.

Hahn's sector prepares for hurricanes regularly. With the storm approaching Texas, coasties pre-staged boats and aircraft in areas where they wouldn't get damaged. Coast Guard family members also were ordered to evacuate so servicemembers wouldn't worry about their safety while on duty.

Harvey still was wreaking havoc over the area when multiple mariners reported they were in distress. Hahn had to carefully assess conditions before sending coasties into the fray.

"For me, that was the biggest challenge," Hahn says. "The stress of ... knowing they were in a tough spot while the wind conditions were not conducive to sending aircraft out."

By daybreak, the winds had subsided, and Hahn's team rescued 19 people. That launched the start of a massive rescue mission for the Coast Guard. Within two weeks, the service saved 11,022 people and 1,384 pets, according to Coast Guard data.

Coasties from as far away as Alaska, Guam, and Hawaii would join their efforts. Members of the Air National Guard from Alaska, California, Connecticut, and Oregon also assisted. Marine Corps Capt. Paul Clarke, a combat engineer officer with Marine Wing Support Squadron 473, was about 250 miles north of Houston in Fort Worth when Harvey made landfall. Tapping active duty and reserve units for domestic missions is rare, and they only are allowed to assist if a request comes from a governor or the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

It took about four days for Clarke's unit to get the call for help, but they'd been preparing long before that.

"We were very proactive," he says.

Twenty-one members of his unit headed to southeast Texas, where they teamed with 14th Marine Regiment to form a special-purpose Marine air-ground task force.

Clarke says: "Being a Texan myself, seeing the human suffering and devastation was disheartening. It was a great honor to participate in this humanitarian mission."

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AUXILIARY LIAISON

Mrs. Connie Sullivan

Dear Members, hope that everyone had an enjoyable Christmas and happy holidays.

We are starting a New Year, and it's like a new beginning to set goals: plans for projects or travels, some for taking on routines for physical fitness.

Whatever our ambitions, it would be wise to think of our desires with good strategies. For example, planning projects, researching what we want to accomplish.

For traveling, seeking information about the places we want to visit.

For people that will begin a diet, it is important to consult with your physician as to what kind of foods would benefit your program.

Most importantly to prepare for our needs and wants is of vital significance because consequences of not planning in advance can not only be disappointing but could perhaps be disastrous.

So, let's start the New Year with a positive outlook toward our future, with God's help, even if we have had a difficult year. If last year was not as happy as we wished it had been, let's make this one a more promising one.

Leaving negative attitudes and thoughts behind and looking toward what is ahead, can be a tremendous great remedy for our well-being, for the best is yet to come.

HOW TO ENJOY A DIFFERENT KIND OF CRUISING EXPERIENCE

If you're considering a cruise vacation, you're not alone; the Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) predicts that more than 25 million of us will board a ship this year. As the popularity of ocean cruises continues to grow, so does the size of the ships. The current world champion, Royal Caribbean's *Harmony of the Seas*, stretches a whopping 1,188 feet and holds 6,780 passengers and 2,300 crew. That's impressive, but it turns out not everyone wants to cruise on a ship the size of a small city. For those travelers, river cruises fit the bill.

"Many of the oldest cities in Europe sprang up beside rivers," notes Carolyn Spencer Brown, editor in chief of *Cruise Critic*. "Budapest, Vienna, Basel, Strasbourg, Amsterdam - so many beautiful cities are located on rivers. But cruise ships, even small ones, can't go there. So river cruising is a great way to see the interior parts of Europe."

Convenience is key

To reach Paris while vacationing on

an ocean cruise, you'd have to board a bus at La Havre (the nearest port) and spend two-and-a-half hours traveling to visit Paris. If you don't want to spend half your day en route to see the sites, Brown notes, "There is a new luxury river cruise ship that literally docks in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower." And unlike the major oceangoing cruises, the price of shore excursions is usually included in the price of a river cruise.

Ready access to inland destinations is a major selling point for long-time cruise aficionados looking for something new, says Helge Grammerstorf, managing director of IG RiverCruise, the European river cruise association. "Today it's possible to sail through Europe from the North Sea to the Black Sea," she says. "Every day, you're in a different destination, without changing accommodations."

The smaller size of river cruise ships encourages a more intimate experience and makes it easier to get to know your shipmates. European vessels car-

ry fewer than 200 passengers, versus the thousands of travelers you'll find on an ocean cruise liner. "It's a very leisurely, comfortable way to travel," says Grammerstorf.

Unique voyages

Of course, smaller ships mean fewer built-in activities. "You won't find a 12-deck waterslide, casinos, or 35 restaurants to choose from," Brown says. Think of a river ship as a well-appointed boutique hotel that, while it might not have a gym, does take you to new and exotic destinations each day.

For those who'd like additional experiences away from the ship, they're available in most ports, according to Brown: "If you want a more elaborate spa or dining experience, you can have it off the ship. Because the ship literally pulls up into town and you can walk right off, it's not necessary to have everything on board." Brown notes that, unlike an ocean cruise, you often can

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CRITICAL CARE NURSING IN VIETNAM AT THE 67TH EVACUATION HOSPITAL

BY COL. CONSTANCE J. MOORE, USA (RET.), ARMY NURSE CORPS ASSOCIATION HISTORIAN

Lieutenant (later Colonel) Mary Jo Rice-Mahoney was confronted with a highly stressful, intellectually demanding role of a critical care nurse when she was assigned to the 67th Evacuation Hospital in Qui Nhon on the coast of South Vietnam, in 1969.

Critical care nurses dealt with patients who were wounded with numerous projectiles requiring the attention of a variety of specialists. The multiplicity of their wounds were cared for to provide patients with the best chances for survival and recuperation. The most common type of injuries were multiple fractures, traumatic amputations, crushing chest injuries, and severe abdominal injuries. Correction of sucking chest wounds, control of hemorrhage, and immobilization of fractures was paramount and challenging.

Rice focused on developing her nursing skills, and this was easy to do when she worked in the emergency area and in the intensive care unit. The task of handling mass casualty situations - not just once but time and time again - sharpened her ability to organize the available resources and to improve her triage skills. With experience came the knack of differentiating between the routine cases and the urgent ones.

Basic principles of pre- and postoperative care also became second nature to her - a patent airway, control of hemorrhage, prevention or treatment of shock, maintenance of proper fluid and electrolyte balance, proper hygiene, and prevention of infections. She became a life saver for medical patients who suffered asthma attacks, or developed the insidious symptoms of cerebral malaria and hepatitis.

Moreover, Rice remembered, "You worked when they needed you and rested when you found the time. If you were asked to work seven days a week, you didn't question your commanders. You just responded to the needs of your team." Working and living under austere and often life-threatening conditions could understandably be challenging.

Despite these stresses nurses like Rice-Mahoney made lasting differences in the lives of their patients. Two highly traumatized patients contacted her after many years because they were touched by her caring competence. One remembered the simple gesture of replacing a NG tube that he had inadvertently pulled out. ²

The other told her eloquently, "“You

assisted me from my bed into an old, rickety wheelchair. There were several Vietnamese war orphans in the hospital, and you placed one of the toddlers, an amputee, on my lap. It was then I realized that if this child could smile, laugh, and live life to the fullest, I could do the same.” ³ Rice-Mahoney explained their remarkable actions, "When you live through a situation like that, it's so intense that it marks you for life. When you come across people in that experience who have shared any kind of significant moment or event, you do wonder what happened to them in the rest of their life." ⁴

Giving hope to wounded soldiers was the essence of critical care nursing in Vietnam and continues to be a hallmark of Army nursing today.



Picture Caption: LT Rice is the 2nd from the right

¹ Terry Ratner, "Reflections on nursing in Vietnam," American Nurse Today, accessed December 116, 2017, <https://www.americannursetoday.com/reflections-on-nursing-in-vietnam/cduche>

²Brian Albrecht, "39 years Later, Vietnam Vet Reaches Out To Compassionate Nurse," The Plains Dealer, November 10, 2008, accessed December 16, 2017, http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2008/11/39_years_later_vietnam_vet_rea.html

³Terry Ratner, "Reflections on nursing in Vietnam," American Nurse Today, accessed December 116, 2017, <https://www.americannursetoday.com/reflections-on-nursing-in-vietnam/>

⁴Brian Albrecht, "39 years Later, Vietnam Vet Reaches Out To Compassionate Nurse," The Plains Dealer, November 10, 2008, accessed December 16, 2017, http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2008/11/39_years_later_vietnam_vet_rea.html



PERSONAL AFFAIRS

Jose Luis Hernandez

FEDERAL LONG TERM CARE (FLTCIP)



The Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program™

Long term care is care that you need if you can no longer perform everyday tasks (eating, dressing, bathing, etc.) by yourself due to a chronic illness, injury, disability or the aging process. Long term care isn't intended to cure you. It is chronic care that you might need for the rest of your life. This care can span years and can be expensive depending on the type of care you need and location where that care is received. Long term care insurance is one way of helping to pay for these expenses.

Visit the FLTCIP Web site for more information on the basics to long term care.

Eligibility

Many members of the Federal family are eligible to apply for coverage under the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP) including Federal and U.S. Postal Service employees and annuitants, active and retired members of the uniformed services, and qualified relatives. Check the lists below to see if you are eligible to apply for coverage:

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- Federal employees in positions that convey eligibility for the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program (whether or not they are actually enrolled)
- U.S. Postal Service (USPS) employees in positions that convey eligibility for the FEHB Program (whether or not they are actually enrolled)
- Active members of the uniformed services who are on active duty or full-time National Guard duty for more than 30 days, including:
 - Active members of the Selected Reserve (members of the Individual Ready Reserve are not eligible to apply)
- Other eligible employees:
 - Tennessee Valley Authority employees (even though they may not be eligible for FEHB coverage)
 - D.C. Government employees who were first employed by the D.C. Government before October 1, 1987
 - D.C. Courts employees
 - Navy Personnel Command (BUPERS) employees
 - Nonappropriated Fund (NAF) employees

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- Federal or USPS annuitants
 - Retired members of the uniformed services who are entitled to retired or retainer pay, including:
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 - D.C. Government annuitants who were first employed by the D.C. Government before October 1, 1987
 - D.C. Courts annuitants
 - BUPERS annuitants
 - NAF annuitants
 - Surviving spouses receiving a survivor annuity*
- *If you are a surviving spouse receiving a survivor annuity, your current spouse and adult children are considered qualified relatives and eligible to apply.

Qualified Relatives

- Current spouses of eligible employees
 - Current spouses of eligible annuitants (but not former spouses, even if they are receiving an apportionment of annuity)
 - Parents, parents-in-law, and stepparents of living eligible employees (parents, parents-in-law, and stepparents of annuitants are not eligible)
 - Adult children (at least 18 years old, including adopted and stepchildren) of living eligible employees and annuitants
 - Same-sex domestic partners** of Federal or USPS employees and annuitants (but not of active or retired members of the uniformed services)
- **A Declaration of Domestic Partnership form must be submitted to the employee's agency or annuitant's retirement system before you apply. Visit the Domestic Partners section of our website for more information.

Potential Costs

For plans and potential costs please visit the FLTCIP Web site.

Additional Information

Visit the Federal Long Term Care Web site for more information.

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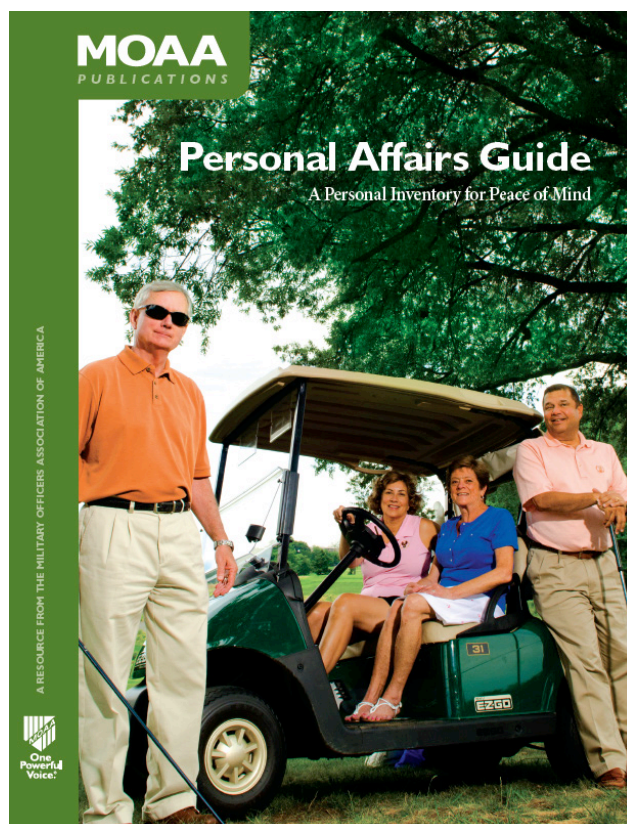
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THE INSIDE STORY OF MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT CAPTAIN GARY MICHAEL ROSE



Retired Army Capt. Gary "Mike" Rose received the nation's highest valor award in October, nearly five decades after his actions during a top-secret mission saved his wounded comrades.

President Donald Trump presented Rose, a MOAA Life Member and Huntsville, Al. chapter member, with the Medal of Honor during an Oct. 23 ceremony at the White House. Rose, a prior-enlisted soldier who served as a Special Forces medic, risked his life several times during an intense four-day battle to treat the injured, despite being wounded himself.

Then-Sgt. Rose was deployed to Vietnam with the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) when on Sept. 11, 1970, his team was sent west across the border into Laos, according to an Army news release. The company-sized force, which included American troops and indigenous Montagnard fighters from Vietnam, was on a covert mission called Operation Tailwind.

They flew about 40 miles into enemy-controlled territory near Chavane in southeast Laos and began taking fire almost immediately.

Rose and his team spent four days fighting off a growing number of North Vietnamese soldiers. In 1971, he received the Distinguished Service Cross, the Army's second-highest valor award, for his actions during the mission. Supporters spent years fighting to have that award upgraded to the

Medal of Honor. In 2016, Congress finally passed a measure that made it a reality.

It was a hazardous operation, says Maj. John Plaster, USA (Ret), a former Green Beret who led a reconnaissance mission northeast of Rose's team.

"It was like whacking a hornet's nest to see how many flew out," Plaster says. "They were dependent entirely upon air support - and if the weather turned bad, they would have no support at all.

"Yet not one Green Beret hesitated to go on the operation," he adds. "That's a level of dedication few people would understand."

Rose was the second Vietnam veteran to stand in the White House's East Room this year to receive the Medal of Honor.

Behind enemy lines

Once on the ground in Laos, Rose and his team soon faced off against an enemy squad.

"We started taking ground fire from the moment we hit the ground, and it didn't let up until we were extracted on the fourth day," Rose told Military Officer. Two Americans and two Montagnards were hit, and one of them was trapped outside the company's defensive perimeter. Rose rushed into the fray, disregarding his own safety to treat the man.

The enemy withdrew as Rose's team forged ahead. When more gunfire

broke out, the medic again rushed forward to treat the increasing number of wounded. Crawling from position to position, Rose offered words of encouragement while still directing fire. It was his job, he said, to keep the men alive and out of shock.

First, "you want to make sure they're breathing," Rose says. "Then you want to make sure that you stop the flow of blood. ... Shock is your biggest concern [after] you stabilize the first two, because they may think their injury is a lot worse than it is. And even if it is, you don't want them to know that."

The next day, a company of North Vietnamese soldiers ambushed Rose's team. A Montagnard fighter was hit about 40 yards from the company's position. Rose ran, crawled, and maneuvered his way to the man, shielding him with his own body as he rendered lifesaving medical treatment, the news release states.

Rose then dragged the wounded man back to their defensive position with one hand while firing his weapon at the enemy with the other. Then a rocket-propelled grenade landed nearby, spraying Rose with shrapnel that hit his back and leg and blew a hole through his foot. It didn't stop him.

Rose picked up a stick, which he used as a crutch for the remainder of the firefight. He ignored his own wounds while tending to others.

Pinned down and surrounded

As the fight dragged on, Rose's company requested medical evacuations for the wounded. The first helicopter approached but was unable to land, due to incoming fire. Rose stood, despite the danger, and attempted to pass the wounded up to the hovering aircraft's crew. The pilot had to abort the mission as gunfire ripped through the aircraft. The severely damaged helicopter took off, only to crash a few miles away.

Plaster was flying in a Cessna L-19/O-1 Bird Dog to "get the lay of the land" when he saw a downed helicopter. It was clear that the enemy had anti-aircraft weapons, which wasn't a good sign.

"My pilot and I thought Mike and his company were in great danger," Plaster said. "They might not get out of there."

Rose's company eventually was able to break out of their defensive position. With more than half the company wounded at that point, Rose dug trenches where he could treat the men - while still ignoring his own injuries.

"Rose never took time to eat, rest, or care for his own wounds," the release states.

On the final night of the mission, North Vietnamese soldiers surrounded the team. Rose braved rockets, grenades, and mortars in order to continue treating the wounded.

By the next day, the team got word more than 500 North Vietnamese soldiers were headed toward their position. Finally, the company was told to head to an extraction point as the Air Force provided close-air support. They reached the landing zone but still were surrounded. The enemy fire intensified, and more of Rose's men were hit. Rose braved the assault to reach the wounded and bring back the bodies of the fallen.

"In great pain, Rose continued to retrieve and medically treat soldier after soldier, under the withering enemy fire with no regard to his own safety," the release states.

Rose hobbled toward the final extraction helicopter, with enemy soldiers closing in just 50 feet from the aircraft. Just after liftoff, the helicopter was hit with an anti-aircraft round. At 4,500 feet up, Rose heard the engine stop.

'If you were going to die, you'd already be dead.'

Rose was sitting on the tailgate when the rotors stopped. The helicopter got quiet.

"And when it goes quiet, you know you're in trouble," Rose says.

As the aircraft hung in the air, the crew noticed a Marine gunner near the door had been shot through the neck. Rose rushed to his aid, rendering lifesaving medical treatment as the helicopter plummeted back toward the ground.

The Marine pulled through that day. Undoubtedly, Rose's efforts to ensure the wounded man didn't go into shock helped. His tactic?

"If you can get someone angry at you ... they will come out of shock," Rose says. "So I reached down, and - pardon the language - I spoke into his ear and said, 'Listen, you son of a bitch. If you were going to die, you'd already be dead.'"

The bird hit several miles from the team's original extraction point. Rose was thrown from the aircraft before the point of impact, according to the release. Several troops were injured and knocked out in the crash. The helicopter was leaking fuel and smoking.

"Still dazed and wounded from the crash, Rose crawled back into the downed helicopter to pull his wounded and unconscious teammates from the wreckage, knowing it could explode at any moment," the release states. "Rose continued to ... [treat] the injured personnel until another helicopter arrived on the scene."

Wounded and covered in blood, Rose refused treatment until the others were tended to. The medic is credited with treating between 60 and 70 people during the relentless four-day battle; three men died.

Today Rose, 69, lives in Huntsville, Ala., with his wife, Margaret. The couple married in 1971 and have two daughters, Sarah and Claire, and one son, Michael. They also have two grandchildren.

Rose went on to become an artillery officer, after he was selected to attend Officer Candidate School in 1973, and he later served in Germany and Korea. He completed his bachelor's degree in general education and military science from Cameron University, Lawton, Okla., and his master's in communication from the University of Oklahoma.

When future generations read Rose's citation, he hopes they understand something vital: "You can succeed at what you need to do without being ... a superhero. Regular guys can do a lot of great things."

Rose says his award is a "collective medal," dedicated to the others with whom he served. Though Rose is too humble to accept the Medal of Honor for his own courage, Plaster says his fellow soldiers recognize Rose went above and beyond the call of duty.

"He consistently put his comrades first; he thought nothing of the danger he exposed himself to when helping wounded men," Plaster says. "He was always one of the best."

By Senior Staff Writer Gina Harkins and Senior Editor Laural Hobbes

Con'td from page 7

WHAT ABOUT LASIK?

medical insurance pays the bill, rather than you. And with an option called a premium lens implant, you may enjoy good closeup and good reading vision in each eye. Speaking from personal knowledge of an elder colleague, he went through this over a year ago, and picked one eye for driving, the other for computer work. Both were standard lens implants. That colleague was actually born like that, so his brain was very happy with the outcome. Most days, my colleague can see patients all day, and do procedures, only having to slip glasses on for very small print or detailed surgery. All without paying for LASIK.

LASIK, although a serious eye surgery with a host of possible risks, sadly, is often presented as 'you're missing out on life if you don't have this done.' The issues I outlined are glossed over like the guy who reads off all the side effects during those TV ads for a new medicine. It's not unlikely the young girl across the desk from you gets a pay check bump for signing you up. A lot to consider...

Daniel S. Washburn, Chief, Ophthalmology, WBAMC, and former founder and Director, Warfighter Refractive Eye Surgery Center and primary surgeon on at least 2000 LASIK procedures.



CHAPLAIN CORNER

Mrs. Connie Sullivan



Happy New Year to everyone!

It is amazing how fast the year has gone by.

Here we are in February now starting a new year, full of hope and feeling the joy of what the future has in store for us.

The experiences that we went through last year, whether happy or sad, are stepping stones toward what lies ahead. Some of the things that we heard or experienced will stay with us and perhaps help us be more compassionate and sensitive.

I recall a story I heard at the Post Office, while waiting in line, of a young man (a soldier) that was standing right behind me. We started a conversation about the military and he mentioned that he had been deployed to Afghanistan.

I told him that my son had gone not only to Afghanistan but to Iraq as well, as a Sniper. During our oral exchange of the subject, he related an incident that happened because of what he and the other soldiers did while in the war zone.

I didn't have the opportunity of getting all the details of his experience but he told me enough that left an impression on me because it seemed that it had been a miracle that he and the other soldiers had gone through.

Like I expressed before, that it was at the Post Office and the line was moving rapidly. He said that at the area where they were stationed, at one point they were receiving a great amount of gunfire and bombing.

One of the bombs reached almost where they were gathered, and that when the firing ceased for a little while, he and his buddies ran to the front of the hole and with the shrapnel and shell fragments, made a cross and set it right in front of the pit.

After that the miracle happened, according to him. He said that the gunfire and bombs were going over head and not even coming close to where they were at.

God is everywhere, for believers, and so are His angels.

Con'td from page 9

HOW TO ENJOY A DIFFERENT KIND OF CRUISING EXPERIENCE

visit more than one port in a single day. But if your main goal is to unwind, doing too much can defeat that purpose. "It's certainly possible to do a tour in every town," says Brown, "but sometimes you have to give yourself a day off - maybe sleep in and then just stroll around and relax."

A dizzying variety of European river cruises is available, lasting from just a few days to three weeks, with before-and-after land-based tour options as well. For first-timers, Brown recommends sailing the Danube or Rhine rivers, which flow through Austria, Germany, and Hungary, among other countries. Brown observes the best time to cruise is in April and May, as well as the fall season.

Something for everyone

There's increasing interest in specialty theme cruises, says Grammerstorf, the most popular being holiday cruises that explore Europe's signature Christmas markets. Additional themes include gourmet food, wine, music, art, architecture, and military history, among others. "The Paris to Normandy World War II cruise is incredibly powerful, and there are historians on board to lead you through it," says Brown.

You don't have to travel to Europe to experience a river cruise, of course. The mighty Mississippi, with its rich riverboat tradition, is one of the main - but by no means only - rivers to cruise on here in the U.S. Gliding along the river on a paddlewheeler can take you back to the days of Mark Twain, a steamboat pilot himself. Today, the ships ply the upper and lower Mississippi in style, offering passengers a luxurious vacation with some added American history for good measure.

As with any method of travel, there are a few caveats. Cruise lines can't control the weather, and spring flooding can make navigation hazardous, causing delays and detours. The opposite problem - droughts - can make some rivers impassable, depending on a ship's draft. Doing some research before you go and booking through a travel agent is highly recommended. As Brown puts it, "It's the most fun homework you'll ever do."

River Cruise Resources

Cruise Critic: www.cruisecritic.com
Cruiseline.com: www.cruiseline.com
River Cruise Advisor:
www.rivercruiseadvisor.com
Sign Up for Hot Vacation Deals

By Mark Cantrell, MOAA, <http://www.moaa.org/rivercruises/?list=4294967917&cat=4294967326aa,com>



LEGISLATIVE
COL. Lennie Enzel

Happy New Year! We ended the calendar year with yet another continuing resolution until 22 January as Congress narrowly passed a temporary spending bill to avert a government shutdown. That will merely delay action on immigration, border security, health care, national security, funding national disasters, and the budget to next year. Also at risk is the VA Choice Program which provides funding for Veteran's to seek care in the community.

Although President Trump signed the FY 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) in December, the lack of a comprehensive budget (i.e. the continuing resolution) does not allow the government to fully fund the items in the NDAA.

The key policy decisions in the FY 2018 NDAA that won't happen without a budget are:

- **A 2.4-percent active duty pay raise** which would be equal to the Employment Cost Index (ECI) which helps keep troops' pay competitive with private-sector wages. **However**, President Trump issued executive orders for a 2.4% pay raise for the military and a 1.9% pay raise for federal workers effective 1 January 2018. The White House Office of Management and Budget initially proposed only a 2.1 percent pay raise for the military.
- **Unchanged Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) calculation:** The Senate tried for the second year in a row to tweak the calculation for BAH in a way that would have negatively impacted servicemembers, particularly dual military families.
- **TRICARE:** the final NDAA included progressive year-over-year increases in pharmacy copayments. Most of the increases will be through the retail pharmacy sector, but beneficiaries still can obtain medications at military pharmacies for free.
 - o Other Tricare changes include changing both region borders and contractors. Rather than the three-region system used today, TRICARE will divide into two regions -- TRICARE East and West, TRICARE East will be managed by Humana Military and TRICARE West will be managed by Health Net Federal Service
 - o Starting on 1 January, Guard and Reserve TRICARE users will see a change in their out-of-pocket costs:
 - TRICARE Reserve Select and TRICARE Retired Reserve users will see point-of-service fee changes. Thanks to a change in how point-of-service charges are calculated, some users may see higher out-of-pocket fees in the new year, while others will see fees lowered.
 - TRICARE Reserve Select and TRICARE Retired Reserve users will see monthly premium changes
 - TRICARE Retired Reserve users' annual out-of-pocket cap will increase from \$3,000 to \$3,500
 - Starting in January, TRICARE Reserve Select users will pay \$15 per visit for in-network primary care and \$25 per visit for in-network specialty care until they hit their cap. In-network emergency room visits will run \$40, and in-network urgent care use will cost \$20
 - Retired Reserve users will pay \$25 per visit for in-network primary care; \$40 for in-network specialty care; \$80 for in-network emergency room use; and \$40 for in-network urgent care
- **More troops authorized:** The FY 2018 NDAA authorizes an additional 20,000 troops - much needed by the services. The Army will increase by 7,500, the Navy by 4,000, the Marine Corps by 1,000, and the Air Force by approximately 4,100. Reserve forces across-the-board will grow by about 3,400..
- **Lessens the "widows tax":** Congress included a provision in the FY 2018 NDAA that provides a permanent extension to the SSIA. Without congressional action, 67,000 military survivors would lose \$2,100 in 2018 if the allowance expired in May, as it was set to, and over \$3,700 a year after that.

Lastly, unless current law is changed, sequestration will return next year and automatically trigger deep cuts to the Defense Department.

THE MILITARY'S STORM SURGE

ian operation where I got to help fellow Texans directly."

Equipped with amphibious assault vehicles and 7-ton trucks, the Marines - along with members of the Army National Guard - pushed east of Houston into severely flooded areas like Orange and Beaumont. The troops reached those trapped by rising waters and delivered food, water, and toiletries.

"A lot of the people ... said the Marines were the very first military responders they saw since Hurricane Harvey hit," Clarke says. "Our motor-transport truck tires are about 55 inches high, so they could traverse these [flooded] roadways."

Opening commerce routes

Within days of Harvey hitting, Clarke and Hahn had to allocate resources in preparation for Irma's wrath. Marines, coasties, and other troops were again assisting Americans, this time primarily in Florida.

Saving lives in the wake of the storms was the No. 1 priority, Hahn says. But the Coast Guard and Army Corps of Engineers also were tapped with another crucial mission: reopening vital commerce routes in and around Texas.

"Corpus Christi, Houston, and Beaumont are [some] of the largest petrochemical ports in the whole nation," Hahn says. "That has impacts on our economy, as our refineries rely on materials coming in by ship to keep them going. We were doing everything we could to get the waterway open without rushing and making a mistake that could cause more problems down the line."

Reopening industrial ports is a team effort, Hahn adds. The Army Corps of Engineers first had to survey for obstructions, in case vessels sank during the storm or shipping containers had washed out to sea. They also checked the depth of the channel, in case the force of the hurricane changed the seafloor.

Once that work was complete, the Coast Guard had to get ship-channel buoys and markers back in place so pilots and mariners could find their way

through the channels. With most of the fixed aids marking the intercostal waterways destroyed, they put up temporary markers until they can replace the telephone pole-like permanent structures, which must be drilled back into the seafloor.

They then were able to open the ports back up during daylight hours to one-way traffic. Additional repairs were needed to resume normal operations, but getting some traffic moving, even with restrictions, was vital to the national economy.

"About \$4.5 trillion in commerce flows through the marine highways and all through the maritime infrastructure in the United States, and the Coast Guard just has a huge role in that," Hahn says.

Providing emergency care

Other vital infrastructure damaged in the storms included medical facilities. At one point during Harvey, 45 hospitals, dialysis facilities, and other care centers were closed due to flooding.

That's when members of the Public Health Service's Commissioned Corps swooped in to help. More than 550 of the Commissioned Corps' officers were deployed or placed on alert status for rapid response to Harvey, while another 150 were on call to deal with Irma, says Tara Broido, a Public Health Service spokeswoman. The officers not only provided direct care to patients but also moved them from locations impacted by the storm and served as liaisons to local partners.

"Since Harvey, health care professionals ... are the most in-demand resource," Broido says, with the most in-demand supplies being food and water. "The [operational tempo] is fast-paced. Most Corps officers are on two-week deployments and are working 12-hour shifts."

The Public Health Service stood up four 250-bed federal medical stations after Harvey. The young, elderly, and those with compromised immune systems or physical disabilities are at the most risk of medical emergencies after any disaster, Broido says. Top concerns include managing conditions like diabetes as well as the psychological consequences of surviving a natural disaster.

"The most common ailments seen by Corps officers are related to the trauma of having survived the hurricane," she says. "The Corps' behavioral health

providers are there to help those ... dealing with having to rebuild their lives after losing their homes, possessions, and more."

Thousands of servicemembers at sea also assisted patients after the hurricanes. Marines and sailors aboard the Navy's amphibious assault ships USS Wasp (LHD-1) and USS Kearsarge (LHD-3) and dock landing ship USS Oak Hill (LSD-51) transferred noncritical care patients in the Virgin Islands after Hurricane Irma struck there. And as of late September, the Kearsarge Amphibious Ready Group, which includes sailors and Marines, had conducted at least eight medical evacuations and 123 airlifts, Pentagon spokesman Army Col. Rob Manning says. The troops delivered 22,000 pounds of relief supplies and other cargo to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Preparing for the worst

Hahn credits the military's ability to respond to these natural disasters to realistic training scenarios that helped them brace for the worst. Requiring troops to train as they fight is crucial to getting the response right.

"We prepared our team, we prepared our families, and that allowed us to execute this mission," Hahn says.

Clarke agrees. His Marines were ready to head into some of the hardest-hit areas because of their training. Responding to a domestic disaster means teaming with partners Marines don't always work with, like the Red Cross. But they learned to speak each other's language to get the job done.

Hahn also credits strong leadership from his superiors. They were given good guidance and feedback, but weren't micromanaged.

Having the services' responses play out in such a high-profile way, with rescues being televised live on nightly newscasts, also helps remind the public of what their military is capable of in times of crises.

"When the U.S. at large gets to see how nimble and effective we can be, they understand our value proposition," Hahn says. "The capabilities we bring to bear are fantastic. I'm proud to be in the Coast Guard, and I'm proud when the public gets to see that."

By Gina Hawkins, MOAA

<http://www.moaa.org/Content/Publications-and-Media/Features-and-Columns/MOAA-Features/The-Military-s-Storm-Surge.aspx?list=4294967917&at=4294967326>

Think Tank Nation

Can Violent Extremists Be Rehabilitated?



The United States Institute of Peace (USIP) discusses how to keep former Islamist radicals from becoming suicide bombers or lethal insurgents in Deradicalizing, Rehabilitating, and Reintegrating Violent Extremists.

USIP is well known to military and other government officials because it educates them for work in dangerous areas overseas (Iraq, Afghanistan, etcetera). Although its roots go back centuries, when Congress considered creating a “Peace Academy” to match the yet to be born (but earnestly discussed) military academy, it was not until the late 20th century when President Ronald Reagan brought USIP into existence, in 1984. USIP has a bipartisan board of directors including the secretaries of state and defense. Both Jim Mattis and Rex Tillerson believe in USIP and insist it continue to exist and thrive.

Authors of the brief, Raafia Raees Khan and Feriha Peracha, assert that “effective deradicalization programming focuses on psychosocial support, familial involvement, pro-social activities, reestablishing ties with local communities, and interacting with and monitoring reintegrated individuals by both community and law enforcement.” They also argue that despite in-

creasing research, “questions remain about why individuals join such groups and why recidivism remains common among those who have undergone deradicalization and reintegration programs.”

According to Khan's and Peracha's research, when someone joins a violent extremist organization, they are stripped of their previous identity and given a new persona to serve the group's agenda. Social Welfare, Academics and Training for Pakistan (SWAaT), a nonprofit organization that develops and implements programs to prevent and count violent extremism in northwestern Pakistan, refers to this as “metaphoric murder” - a person's traits and personality are shaped entirely against a backdrop of militancy.

The brief's authors make recommendations based on the model from Pakistan's Sabawoon Center for Rehabilitation, which supports former violent extremists in rebuilding their identities and helping them replace the meaning and purpose they sought when joining violent extremist groups with more socially appropriate and acceptable goals. “A program needs to provide a 'safe space' for individuals to validate and express their motivations for joining a violent extremist group.

... Ensuring basic dignity, safety, and humane treatment is critical to building a basic sense of trust and rapport with those entering the deradicalization process,” Khan and Peracha argue.

They also recommend promoting skill-building before reintegration. “Throughout the rehabilitation process, focus should be on creating an individualized plan . . . promoting building skills for inductees to help individuals sustain themselves as they reintegrate. ... Other skills such as basic literacy . . . as well as basic mathematics, history, and cultural-social studies should also be compulsory. In some instances, corrective religious instruction, including moderate religious understanding through verification of Quranic text and discussion on critical aspects of jihad, should be encouraged, as should instruction on citizenship values that emphasize tolerance. ... Opportunities for continuing educational pursuits and skills acquisition should also be available.” The authors believe programs also should connect individual with guarantors in the community, such as neighbors, peer groups, or employers, who can help keep the individual on track after reintegration.

By Dr. Alan Gropman, MOAA



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

February 2018 Membership Meeting & Lunch
General George Underwood Golf Complex
 3200 Coe Ave., El Paso, TX 79916

Date: Saturday, 10 February 2018
Time: 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Guest Speaker

Judge Angie Juarez Barill
 346TH State District Court Judge



Menu

Baked Italian Beef Lasagna
 Green Bean Almandine
 Tossed Green Salad w/Dressing
 Roll w/Butter, Coffee, Iced tea and Water
 Mimosa

Dress: Casual / Christmas attire

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, 5 February 2018 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 7, and pay at the door.

Lunch will be on Saturday 10 February 2018 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:

New Members

SFC David H. Snider (FOC)
1LT David Davis
CSM Velton Locklear Jr.

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COL Lennie Enzel	CAPT James Hardin
MG Charles Rodriguez	LTC Terry Powers
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LTC C. S. Rhodes	LTC Dave Powell
LTC Benjamin Frias	Mrs. Kitoko Martinez
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COL Jorge Martinez	LTC Richard Cobbs
LtCol Clinton Rutherford	MAJ Betty Ritchley
Mrs. Wiebke Long	CDR Roger Springstead
CW4 Robert St. Almond	LTC Alan Richard

JUNIOR ENLISTED FAMILY CENTER, YMCA FOOD PANTRY

The Junior Enlisted Family Center's Food Pantry serves Fort Bliss needy families E-6 and under with non-perishable food. Presently, 1200 families are being assisted. The Food Pantry is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 12 noon until 4:00 p.m. Phone #: 915-562-6074 Approximately 150 people are helped each day.

Located in the Trading Post (old Commissary), 1717 Marshall Road, the entrance is located behind the building on the loading docks that face the Post Office. There are steps up to a door. Once you enter the doorway, immediately turn left and go down a hallway. The Family Center is straight ahead.

If a soldier is in need, the soldier must get a form from a chaplain or someone in his unit who is authorized to provide the form. Upon entering the Family Center, the soldier or spouse

must provide the form and their military ID. The Pantry is dedicated to helping the truly needy families.

What can you do to help? You may take donations of non-perishable food to the Pantry during the hours they are open. Please don't leave donations on the docks as those items are often "lost." Those food items that are in great demand are boxed macaroni and cheese, Ramen noodles, cereal, oatmeal, pasta and pasta sauce. If you have gently used furniture that you no longer want or other items such as baby strollers, a call to Kimberly or Wendy will get those unwanted items to families on Fort Bliss who need them. Furthermore, the Commissary will place a large carton near the exit for donations of non-perishable food from time to time during the year. Also, several times a year, there are brown paper sacks pre-packaged with food in the commissary which you may purchase and place in a carton near the exit.

Any help that you might provide will be greatly appreciated. Please contact Kimberly or Wendy if you have questions. Thank you.



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(MOAA)

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