

# THE BORDER BULLETIN

JUNE 2016



## HEROES HELPING HEROES

★ 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**

## Inside this issue:

3

President's Message

5

Luncheon Menu  
Program  
Guest Speaker

6

Events Schedule

7

Doc's Corner

9

Auxiliary Liaison

10

Army Nurse Corps History ...

11

Personal Affairs

12-13

EP MOAA Images

15

Membership

18

Chaplain Corner

19

Legislative

## INPUT deadline for August 2016 Border Bulletin 3 July 2016

### The Border Bulletin NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Editor: LTC William L. Moore 842-9650

#### EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

MG Edward Greer, USA 755-2244

MG William H. Riley, Jr. 584-8798

Advertising Manager: LTC William L. Moore  
publications@elpasomoaa.org

Printer: Northeast Printing, 755-6089

June 2016 • Vol 60 No 3

The Border Bulletin is the Official publication of the  
El Paso Chapter of

The Military Officers Association of America

P.O. Box 6144, Fort Bliss, TX 79906-0144.

This bulletin is published Bi-monthly.

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

#### Statement of Publication

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.

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

## Chapter Staff Emeritus

COL Margaret H. Baskfield	584-6826
Mrs. Penelope Cochran	778-5723
Mrs. Hedy Forcier	751-2638
LTC Rafael G. Garcia	593-1469
CW3 Emiliano Gorgas	594-0444
Major E. Dexter Lyerly	585-9619
Mrs. Blanche J "Maggie" Maguire	584-7682
CW4 Manuel Martinez	751-3791
LTC James L. McLaughlin	566-4976
LTC Daniel J. Schulte	755-3387
Mrs. Kathleen Schulte	755-3387
MAJ Edwin S. Stone, III	598-6058
Captain Jeanne B. Thompson	598-0981
COL Martin C. Wehmhoner	585-9106
COL Robert Pitt	533-5111
COL Lennie Enzel	755-2325
Mrs. Judy Stone	598-6058
COL Forrest Smith	449-8944
Mrs. Julie Pitt	533-5111
Mrs. Elma Smith	355-1849
LTC William Moore	842-9650
COL Steve Barrett	222-8307
Mrs. Janet Rasmussen	598-3835



**WM. DAVITT, EYE M.D.**

Eye Diseases • Lid Surgery • Research • BOTOX

**William F. Davitt III, M.D.**

8815 Dyer, Suite 130  
915-757-3937  
wfdavitt@juno.com

## 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



**NORTHEAST  
PRINTING**

SINCE 1973

9728-A Dyer St  
El Paso, TX 79924

PH 915.755.6089

FAX 915.757.2452

northeastprinting@yahoo.com





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

COL Forrest Smith, USA, Retired

### **MOAA President's Remarks Professionals and professional organizations.**

It goes without saying that Professionals belong to Professional Organizations. Lawyers, Firemen, Police, all belong to professional organizations which are committed to the well-being of members of their profession. If you are an active duty officer you should strongly consider joining a professional organization committed to the welfare of your profession. Whether you choose the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), or the American Legion, or MOAA, or some other professional organization, professional military officers should consider membership in a professional organization committed to fighting for your entitlements and your future. Whether you are an active duty service member (officer or enlisted), or a military retiree, the Military Officer's Association of America (MOAA) is here to serve you. MOAA national, and your El Paso Chapter, continue to advocate for your benefits and entitlements in this increasingly resource constrained, and politically uncertain time. I want to remind readers that this past October, "The Hill" recognized MOAA among the Top 50 Lobbyist associations in Washington DC....for the ninth year in a row. MOAA remains the ONLY Veteran Service Organization (VSO) on that list. If you are going to make that commitment to a professional organization then you should consider MOAA first. No other Veteran Service Organization can serve you as effectively in Washington DC, and your local MOAA Chapter has been serving service members and their families in this community for sixty years. If

you are already a member, encourage others to join. If you are not a member, consider joining both your local El Paso Chapter and MOAA National. Do it today. You can join online at "elpasomooa.org". Check it out.

### **El Paso Chapter News.**

**60th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon.** Your El Paso MOAA Chapter will celebrate its 60th Anniversary on 11 June 2016 during a luncheon at the Underwood Golf Course. That's right, the local MOAA Chapter has served this community for sixty years! Come celebrate with us. The guest speaker for the 60th Anniversary luncheon will be the President and CEO for MOAA National, Lt Gen Dana Atkins (USAF Retired). You can RSVP online at elpasomooa.org, or submit one of the RSVP forms in the online or printed version of our Award Winning Border Bulletin.

**Five Star Awards for Chapter Website and Border Bulletin.** The El Paso MOAA was recently awarded the Five Star award, MOAA's Highest Chapter Award, for both the chapter Website and the Newsletter. We were the only MOAA Chapter in Texas to win Five Star awards for both categories. The Newsletter, The Border Bulletin, has been recognized nationally, on an annual basis since 2010. As a side note, the El Paso Chapter received the overall Five Star Banner this past October...for the sixteenth year in a row.

**Texas Legislative Spotlight.**  
**Free Texas Vehicle License Plates and Lifetime Registration.** Texas state legislators recently passed

legislation that expanded the list of acceptable military medals which allow vehicle registration fees to be waived. Military service members and Retirees who have received one of the listed medals will be provided a FREE set of license plates and vehicle registration fees will be waived as long as the military member/Retiree registers that vehicle in the state of Texas. Retirees can submit proof of medal awards via their DD214. The form to be used is the VTR-421 Rev 01/16. Learn more at elpasomooa.org/freelicense or VetNet.

### **MOAA National Website**

**Spotlight.** I want to continue to encourage you to visit the MOAA National Site and explore the tremendous range of information on legislative actions affecting you and your families. Highlighted below are just a couple of examples:

**MOAA President Comments on House Defense Bill.** Lt. Gen Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret), President and CEO of MOAA, provides an excellent video commentary online on MOAA's April 2016 lobbying effort, "Storming the Hill", to inform the FY17 NDAA Markup. Lt. Gen Atkins focuses on two key efforts; 1) Protecting military beneficiaries against disproportionate TRICARE Fee Hikes; and 2) Protecting 63,000 surviving military spouses by ending the \$15,000 annual penalty, commonly referred to as the Widow's Tax". You can watch these comments via the chapter website or via the MOAA national website.

**Veteran's Benefits.** The Senate

Con'td on page 4

# Free Texas Vehicle License Plates and Lifetime Registration

Free Texas Vehicle License Plates and Lifetime Registration. Texas state legislators recently passed legislation that expanded the list of acceptable military medals which allow vehicle registration fees to be waived. Military service members and Retirees who have received one of the listed medals will be provided a FREE set of license plates and vehicle registration fees will be waived as long as the military member/Retiree registers that vehicle in the state of Texas. Retirees can submit proof of medal awards via their DD214. The form to be used is the VTR-421 Rev 01/16.

Learn more at <http://www.elpasomoaa.org/freelicense> or VetNet.

## WHO?

All military members who have received at least one of the following medals:

- Air Force Cross
- Air Medal w/Valor
- Army Distinguished Service Cross
- Bronze Star with Valor
- Defense Meritorious Service Medal
- Distinguished Flying Cross
- Distinguished Service Medal, Army
- Distinguished Service Medal, Department of Defense
- Distinguished Service Medal, Department of Transportation
- Legion of Merit
- Navy and Marine Corps Medal
- Prisoner of War Medal
- Soldier's Medal
- Air Medal
- Airman's Medal
- Bronze Star
- Coast Guard Medal
- Defense Superior Service Medal
- Distinguished Service Medal, Air Force
- Distinguished Service Medal, Coast Guard
- Distinguished Service Medal, Department of
- Homeland Security
- Distinguished Service Medal, Navy
- Meritorious Service Medal
- Navy Cross
- Silver Star
- Surviving Spouse

## WHAT?

Free Texas vehicle license plates & lifetime registration for member who have received certain decorations. Texas legislators recently passed a bill that expanded acceptable military medals which allow registration fees to be waived.

A military member who has received one of the medals listed on the attached application form will be provided a free set of license plates and vehicle registration fees will be waived as long as the military member registers that vehicle in the state of Texas.

One medal can only be used to waive registration for one vehicle. For instance, a military member with multiple MSMs can only register one vehicle using the MSM medal. However, a person who has earned two different types of medals listed can register two vehicles in this program, and three different medals equal free registration for three vehicles, etc... Keep in mind that these license plates depict a military medal, which does identify them as either a present or former military member.

## HOW?

Bring the following items with you to the vehicle registration office:

- 1) A completed application form (VTR-421 Rev 01/16.)
- 2) A copy of your DD214 or Record Brief (vMPF) with the award listed (proof of earned medal)
- 3) ID

## Con'td from page 3

Veterans Affairs committee approved a massive bill to shore up accountability in the VA, expand health care and upgrade benefits.

**House Defense Bill addresses Survivors and the Draft.** After a marathon session the HASC rejected proposals to cap military pay raise and cut force levels.

**Military Health Care Overhaul.** House committee proposals signal major military health care changes, while generally grandfathering current beneficiaries from TRICARE fee hikes.

**National Legislative Updates.**

Additional resources are also available for veterans through the Retiree Advisory Office Bulletins. They are an excellent resource. Provided below are RAO websites for use as additional resources:

<http://www.nhc-ul.com/rao.html>  
<http://www.veteransresources.org>  
<http://frabr245.org>  
<http://veteraninformationlinkasa.com/emos-rao.html>

I hope the information provided in this edition of the Border Bulletin, and through the various MOAA resources, prove useful and informative. I encourage you to forward any sug-

gestions you might have to make our efforts more productive. Your El Paso Chapter Board of Directors and I hope to see you at our 60th Anniversary celebration on 11 June 2016. Come join us and celebrate sixty years of selfless service, to those serving, and those who have served.

"Never Stop Serving"



Forrest Smith  
COL, USA, Retired  
President



## June Guest Speaker Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins

Lt. Gen. Atkins is a native of Portland, Ore. He earned his bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Portland and holds two master's degrees, one in aeronautical science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and another in national security strategy from the National War College.

A command pilot with more than 4,000 hours in fighter aircraft, Atkins has served in a number of key command and staff positions, including commander, 20th Fighter Wing, Shaw AFB, S.C.; commander, 35th Fighter Wing, Misawa, Japan; vice commander, 7th Air Force and U.S. Air Force Korea; director of opera-

tions, U.S. Pacific Command; and special assistant to the supreme allied commander Europe during the air war over Serbia. During his career, he flew as a demonstration pilot for both the European A-10 Demonstration Team and the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds.

At the time of his retirement from the Air Force, Atkins served as commander, Alaskan Command, U.S. Pacific Command; commander, 11th Air Force, Pacific Air Forces; and commander, Alaskan North American Defense Region, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska.

He and his wife, Laura, were the 2004 recipients of the General and Mrs. Jerome F. O'Malley Award, which recognizes the wing commander and spouse whose contributions to the nation, the Air Force, and the local community best exemplify the highest ideals and positive leadership of a military couple.

Before becoming the ninth president of MOAA, Atkins served as president of Chronicle Media, a print and digital media company based in Augusta, Ga., that serves the southeastern U.S.



Connie Sullivan and Forrest Smith after Connie's performance at the April 2016 Luncheon.

## Lunch Menu June

Herbed Roast Beef  
Steamed Broccoli, Cauliflower,  
and Baby Carrots  
Oven Roasted New Potatoes  
Tossed Green Salad w/Dressing,  
Roll & Butter  
Water, Coffee & Iced Tea

## Meeting Program

**Saturday, 11 June**  
**Underwood Golf Course**

### Sequence of Events

1100 — 1200	Social Hour
1200 — 1215	Opening Ceremony
1215 — 1230	Cake Cutting/ 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  
Friday, 3 June**

Treasurer: MOAA  
PO Box 6144  
El Paso, TX 79906-0144  
All dinner reservations  
with payment to our  
postal mail box  
**\$25 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

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

September 23, 2016 Retiree Appreciation Day Reception

September 24, 2016 Retiree Appreciation Day

October 8, 2016 October Membership 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 – 6:00 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](http://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

### Side Effects

**Don't forget the front effect!**

Yes, it's always wise to read the package insert. But do remember, it's written by a team whose job it is to protect the drug company.

Where does the info come from? My technicians and I did clinical trials for years. That's when a drug company asks us to test a new medication. We did this on weekends so participants didn't miss any work. At each visit, we'd ask if anything new happened since their last visit. We'd write their answer down.

Let's say a dozen people in the test group went skiing the week before, and twisted an ankle. That injury would

now be part of the record. If enough study participants nationwide mentioned a twisted ankle, that would wind up as a side effect. You might think the medication had nothing to do with the injury. You'd be right. But life isn't always logical.

Going further, if you read the package insert for air, you'd worry about taking another breath. Ditto for water.

A better angle is to always keep the FRONT effect in mind. Cancer drugs provide more sunrises. Glaucoma drops keep those sunrises brilliant. Can you think of any side effect that's worse than no more sunrises or your world will be very dark from now on?

### Second Opinions

**It's your body! Protect it!**

Serious health problems are never welcomed and are certainly not good news. Being sure of the diagnosis and treatment plan is the first step toward success. All providers I know welcome second opinions. A little secret: the better the doctor, the better the diagnostic skills, the more welcoming are they of a second set of eyes on a vexing problem.

Where is that second set of eyes? Easy. It's at your doctor's level or

above. Implementing that easy answer is the challenge. Some examples follow.

An internist might help with a nagging problem your family physician has tried to help with, like diabetes or high blood pressure. Yet another step is an endocrinologist for the diabetes and a cardiologist for the hypertension. Your family physician will usually bring this up and provide a short list of specialists he/she trusts.

From an eye standpoint, an optometrist may suggest a general ophthalmologist [Eye MD] or if you're with an ophthalmologist already, he/she may suggest a subspecialist [in glaucoma, retina, cornea, neuro, pediatrics].

Always take your data [clinic visits/ tests/MRI's] with you. That's the only way your specialist can know what your original doctor was thinking. Starting from scratch only delays your return to health and repeat tests.

To review, don't keep your search for a second opinion secret. Get your current doctor's advice on the direction to take AND bring all our past data.

Dr. Bill Davitt, Board Certified 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

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

**Date:** Saturday, 11 June 2016

**Time:** 1100 - 1400

**Guest Speaker:**

**Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, President & CEO, MOAA**

**Menu**

Herbed Roast Beef  
Steamed Broccoli, Cauliflower, and Baby Carrots  
Oven Roasted New Potatoes  
Tossed Green Salad w/Dressing, Roll & Butter  
Water, Coffee & Iced Tea

**Dress:** Business Casual

**Cost:** \$25.00 per person



Lunch Treasurer: [treasurer@elpasomoaa.org](mailto:treasurer@elpasomoaa.org)

Membership or email queries:

[membership@elpasomoaa.org](mailto: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 Friday, 3 June 2016 with a check for \$25 per person, the cost of the luncheon. **Late Reservations**, call Bob Pitt, 915-533-5111 or Bill Moore, 915-842-9650, by Noon, Wednesday, June 6, and pay at the door.

Lunch will be on Saturday 11 June 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$25.00 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**

Worry, as we know, is a part of life. We worry about our health, our children and our finances.

There are people, of course, that have their lives in order and stress does not affect them as it does others that are sometimes struggling due to dire circumstances.

For us, that do tend to worry, we need to be more conscious of how we handle it because stress can be quite damaging to our mind and wholesome state of the body.

When anxiety occurs, diverting our thoughts to positive mental reasoning can go a long way to help us feel better and can prevent health problems, physically & mentally.

Perhaps it would be wiser, that if we are going to worry at all, to worry about things we can change instead of those we cannot alter. For believers, we can trust in God. For others just putting your mind at rest by occupying it with something else besides oneself, can be more effective.

I heard a preacher say that worrying was like sitting in a rocking chair, that no matter how hard we rock, we don't go anywhere.

## 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

### **PROTECT YOURSELF FROM FRAUD (Reprint from the May 2016 Affiliate).**

Many dishonest people work diligently every day to gather information illegally to steal identities and money. To help protect yourself from fraud, be aware: Do not open suspicious emails, carefully read emails from agencies and businesses that appear to be legitimate, and cautiously answer telephone calls from unknown individuals. In addition, do not deposit checks that come in the mail from unfamiliar sources. USAA, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and banks are three of the most commonly targeted sources for scams. Some clever thieves now can show USAA, IRS, and the names of banks on the telephone caller ID and send emails that look authentic. In 2014, USAA shut down 6,724 fraudulent websites. According to the Federal Trade Commission, from 2013 to 2014, IRS scams increased by 20 percent, with more than 54,000 Americans being targeted in 2014. In addition, almost daily, media reports scams involving banks and bogus checks.

USAA advises that legitimate communications from their company always will have a "USAA Security Zone" stamp. Look for your name and the last four digits of your member number. Like all security cautions from any source that might be compromised, USAA directs that you should not reply to any email with personal information, such as passwords, Social Security numbers, credit card numbers, or bank account numbers. If you receive suspicious communications from USAA, contact them at (877) 762-7256 or forward suspicious email communications to [abuse@usaa.com](mailto:abuse@usaa.com).

Fraudulent IRS agents can be quite intimidating. They call and state back taxes are owed and say the only way to avoid jail is to pay back taxes and fines immediately. Then they offer various methods of transferring the money. Sometimes the con artists take a positive approach, telling people they have a refund due and then asking for personal information. If you receive a suspicious IRS call, assume it is a scam. The IRS does not call people about back taxes or refunds; you will receive notice via a mailed letter. The IRS also does not solicit information by email, text, or social media. If you are contacted by phone, report the incident to the U.S. Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at (800) 366-4484. If you are contacted by email, forward the message directly to the IRS at [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov).

**Con'td on page 10**

# ARMY NURSE CORPS HISTORY

By COL Constance J. Moore, USA, Retired, Army Nurse Corps Association Historian  
Psychiatric Nursing During World War II

Lt Helen Sands had shocking news for her family when she corresponded with them in 1943. She revealed that she was to serve (as an Army nurse) on an Army hospital ship! Surprisingly, few people knew then or now that the Army actually operated more ships than the Navy during World War II. When the United States declared war in 1941, the Army had very few trained psychiatric (called neuropsychiatric) nurses. Nurses, like LT Sands, generally came to the Army with little or no training. They either learned what they could on-the-job training, or if they were lucky, from a 12-week formal psychiatric nursing course. Army nurses applied their new knowledge at the clinical settings-- on the water, on ground, and in the air.

LT Helen Sands was assigned to the U.S. Army Hospital Ship Emily H. M. Weder with 10 other volunteers to the neuropsychiatric section. These busy nurses supervised 200 patients who were transported to hospitals along the evacuation route, providing two levels of psychiatric nursing

care along the way. For the anxious and depressed patients, who were competent and mostly ambulatory, the nurses provided recreational activities, and counseling to encourage them to discuss their fears and problems. "Several of the psychotic patients . . . had tropical skin diseases which the restraints had aggravated. The psychiatric nurse[s] . . . medical and surgical nursing skills were called upon as well." <sup>1</sup>

At Walter Reed General Hospital, in Washington, DC, where the most definitive psychiatric care was offered in the military, nurses worked with the most severely mentally ill cases. They used the era's most innovative treatments, such as "insulin therapy, wet packing, narcotherapy, group therapy, hydrotherapy, [and helped to supervise] occupational and recreational therapy."<sup>2</sup> Although today we might argue that several methods were more harmful than therapeutic, we value their motives to help their patients.

Army<sup>3</sup> nurses served as flight nurses throughout the world caring for the sick and wounded as they were transported to health care facilities for more definitive care and transported for care closer to their homes. Safety concerns while in-flight were paramount. Flight nurses developed many therapeutic interventions to work with this fragile group. They demanded that all restrained patients, whether they are sedated or conscious, must have an escort. This seventy-year old policy is still in use today.

At the war's ending, the Army medical department was convinced of the importance of maintaining a cadre of experienced psychiatric nurses. The Army Nurse Corps requested and was given the mission to establish a permanent military training course in psychiatric nursing. On 5 June 1946, a 26-week course in psychiatric nursing was introduced at Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. This course marked the first ever, Army-wide education in clinical nursing practice. Army psychiatric nursing had officially arrived.

1. R.S. Anderson, A.J. Glass, and R.J. Bernucci, eds., *Neuropsychiatry in World War II: Vol. I - Zone of Interior* (Washington, D.C., Department of the Army, 1966), 648.

2. R.S. Anderson, A.J. Glass, and R.J. Bernucci, eds., *Neuropsychiatry in World War II: Vol. I - Zone of Interior* (Washington, D.C., Department of the Army, 1966), 642.

3. There were not Air Force flight nurses. The Air Force was created in 1947.

## Con'td from page 9

Wells Fargo has excellent information on their website regarding bank fraud and scams, including tips on how to protect yourself, such as:

- If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Do your homework before cashing checks received in the mail from unknown sources. Call the bank, and independently research an individual, company, or check to verify legitimacy.
- If you receive an email asking for money, forward it to your local police department.
- Shred documents containing personal or financial information before discarding. Many fraud and identity theft incidents happen as a result of mail and garbage theft.
- Promptly retrieve incoming mail, and place outgoing mail with financial information in a U.S. Postal Service mailbox, instead of your home mailbox.
- Consider paperless options for your bills and financial information.



## PERSONAL AFFAIRS

Jose Luis Hernandez

### Space Travel

## What's Space A?

Every day, DoD airplanes fly all around the world. When these planes aren't full, military personnel (and often their family members) can fill the empty seats. Usually these flights are free if they're within the U.S.; flights outside the country require a small tax. Most of the available seats are on flights run by the Air Force's Air Mobility Command that include destinations in dozens of countries.

### Almost Everyone is Eligible

All active duty personnel can fly Space A, and usually their dependents can, too, even unaccompanied. This includes Guard and Reserve dependents in certain cases, like if their sponsor is deployed for 120 days or more. Retirees who are eligible to receive retirement pay can fly and bring their family members with them. Reservists and guardmembers who are on active-drilling status (not Individual Ready Reserve) can fly, too, when they're not on duty - but only to U.S. states or territories, which includes some appealing locations like Hawaii, Guam, and Puerto Rico.

Each kind of passenger must bring a different set of documentation. You'll need identification (passports or visas if you're traveling overseas) and copies of leave orders, if applicable. Reservists, guardmembers, and retirees need extra documentation to prove their eligibility. Find the specific eligibility and documentation requirements on Air Mobility Command's travel website.

The biggest hurdle to Space-A travel is the scheduling. For security reasons, specific times and destinations of flights are not published more than 72 hours in advance of a flight. So while some locations do have "regu-

lar" destinations they fly to, Space-A passengers should adopt the Marines Corps' unofficial motto *semper gumbly* (always flexible), avoiding concrete plans based on flight schedules that change often.

Most major Air Force bases have passenger terminals, as do many Navy and a handful of Air National Guard bases. Check out the full list of terminals. Most post their available flights on Facebook. If you can't find your terminal there, most terminals make their schedules available on recorded messages, or you can call the terminal directly.

Commercially produced guides list routes for each Space-A terminal, but don't make any major plans based on these published routes, which often are out-of-date by the time the books make it to print. Only the individual terminal's 72-hour notices are reliable, and even those are subject to change without notice. That *semper gumbly* attitude will take you far. The best way to make the most out of Space-A travel for leisure is to show up at a major passenger terminal that has lots of flights and go where the wind takes you.

### Get a Seat

Once you know what terminal you will depart from, sign up with the terminal to get your name on "the list." You don't have to sign up for a specific day. Putting your name on the list tells the terminal you plan to travel with them. Do this as soon as you can, up to 60 days in advance of the dates you want to travel. Usually you can sign up online, but check with your terminal because each has its own rules.

Once a flight you'd like to take is announced, show up prior to the roll call time listed on the 72-hour notice and check in with the terminal personnel. You'll tell them which flight you'd like to take, and they'll ensure all your paperwork is correct. If seats are available, they're given out based on the category of the travelers who want them. While a full list of the category breakdown is available online, the basic rule is, the more necessary the reason for flying, the higher the category assigned to the passenger. Active duty service-members and their accompanying families traveling on emergency leave are Category 1, for example, while retirees, guardmembers, and reservists are lowest priority.

Within each category, seats are

Con'td on page 18





# APRIL 2016 LUNCHEON



JUNE 2016







The El Paso Chapter MOAA  
needs you!  
You Need MOAA! See Membership!



## FREE BASIC MEMBERSHIP

(in MOAA National) to active warrant and commissioned officers dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and to preserving the earned entitlements of members of the uniformed services, their families and survivors.

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

# Physical Therapy AT IT'S BEST

Four Convenient Locations to Serve You



- Evaluation & Treatment of Orthopedic Problems
- Post-Surgical Rehab
- Sports & Athletic Rehab
- Work Related Therapy
- Spine Care & Stabilization
- Athletic Performance Training
- Osteoporosis
- Neuro Rehab

[WWW.BORDERTHERAPY.COM](http://WWW.BORDERTHERAPY.COM)

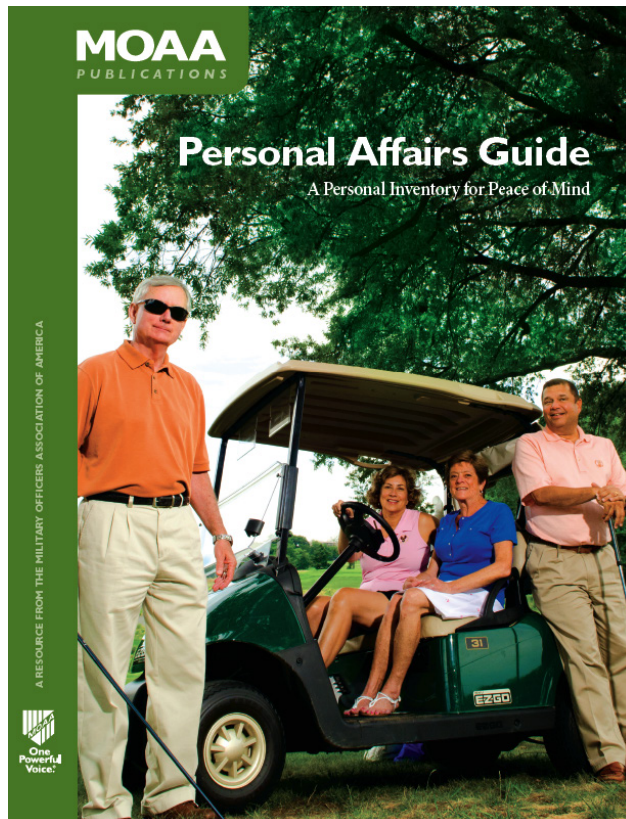
2280 Trawood  
(915) 595-3535

836 E. Redd Ste. B  
(915) 845-4060

4242 Hondo Pass Ste 110  
(915) 751-0599

12801 Edgemere Ste 102-B  
(915) 493-6795

FREE SCREENING  
MOST MAJOR  
INSURANCES ACCEPTED



**Get yours today at [MOAA.ORG](http://MOAA.ORG); your family will Thank You!**





**elpasomoaa.org**

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

## BASIC MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT

☒ YES! Sign me up as a **FREE** BASIC MOAA Member

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Retired ☐ Active ☐ Former

☐ Reserve ☐ National Guard ☐ Auxiliary\*

☐ Graduation Year (Cadet/Midshipmen) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address\*\* \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

*To ensure deliverability of MOAA communications, please provide a personal email without a ".mil" domain if available.*

*We value your privacy. MOAA does not rent or sell its members' emails to third parties. If you include your email address, you will receive e-communications from MOAA as a member benefit. Visit [www.moaa.org/email](http://www.moaa.org/email) for details.*

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name \_\_\_\_\_

*Your spouse has access to all of your MOAA member benefits.*

\*Surviving spouse of eligible officer

\*\*Email address required for BASIC Membership

Chapter Name \_\_\_\_\_

M1300CJOIN

M1300CJPRE

## Method of Payment

☐ Check (please make payable to El Paso MOAA) ☐ Visa ☐ Discover ☐ MasterCard ☐ AMEX

Charge my card \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Card number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*Dues to MOAA are not deductible as a charitable contribution for federal tax purposes.*

or

## Chapter MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT

☒ YES! Sign me up as an El Paso Chapter Member

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Retired ☐ Active ☐ Former

☐ Reserve ☐ National Guard ☐ Auxiliary\*

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Unit \_\_\_\_\_

*To ensure deliverability of MOAA communications, please provide a personal email without a ".mil" domain if available.*

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name \_\_\_\_\_

*Your spouse has access to all of your MOAA member benefits.*

☐ One-Year Hard Copy Membership \$20

☐ One-Year Electronic Membership \$15

☐ Multi-Year Memberships Contact Membership Chair

\*Surviving spouse of eligible officer

**Add your own voice to the fight.**



## Commissary Prices Update 04 Draft Bill Eliminates At-Cost Pricing

Sweeping changes in the commissary system may be coming sooner than expected — including how groceries are priced — under draft legislation that would bypass the need for pilot programs. Commissaries would be allowed to increase their profit margin so officials can reduce the amount of taxpayer dollars used to operate stores. The current-year budget for operating commissary stores worldwide is \$1.4 billion. By law, commissaries sell grocery items "at cost," with no profit. A 5 percent surcharge is used to pay for construction and renovation of stores.

The draft bill released 19 APR would change that, allowing the Defense Department to use variable pricing and develop private label products, moving away from selling groceries at cost. DoD officials are figuring out a detailed baseline of savings under the current system — how much commissary shoppers save vs. shopping outside the gates, estimated around 30 percent overall. It's not yet known what the expected level of savings would be under the reformed commissary system, but DoD documents laying out the plan say the savings for customers would be "reasonably consistent" with the level of savings under the current system. The released draft bill is an early step in the legislative process, from the House Armed Services personnel subcommittee, that will result in the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act once both houses of Congress have addressed it.

House staff said safeguards are built into the legislation to protect the commissary benefit and that the changes are "not irreversible" under the proposal. DoD would be required to submit reports at least

quarterly on the progress, and as lawmakers monitor the changes, if there are problems, DoD will have the authority to infuse more taxpayer dollars into the commissary system to make sure the benefit is maintained for service members. DoD and lawmakers have realized they will not be able to completely get rid of all taxpayer funding for commissaries, because some funding is needed to provide a savings benefit.

Under variable pricing, also called "flexible" or "alternative" pricing, commissary officials would determine the prices "in response to market conditions and customer demand," according to the Defense Department's legislative proposal laying out these reforms. The current pricing system, selling all items at cost, "constrains sales margins and limits potential savings benefits across disparate geographic markets," officials stated. Under a private label program, the commissary agency would develop its own store brands of certain items, similar to items found in commercial stores that are generally cheaper than name brands. Defense officials will start testing those two concepts — variable pricing and private label products — sometime this summer, said DoD spokesman Air Force Major Ben. Sakrisson. Information was not available about how the tests will be conducted, or where.

The tests were authorized in the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act. But this draft legislation gives DoD authority to move ahead without so-called pilot programs. "We're not calling it a pilot program, but there are enough escape valves that if it doesn't work, we'll go right back to appropriated

funds," a House staff member said. He said pilot programs need to be conducted across the entire commissary system and that running a test at one store or in one region is too small a sample to see the effects. Over the next five years, officials want to save a cumulative \$1 billion, with a goal of saving \$512 million in taxpayer dollars in fiscal year 2021, according to DoD documents outlining the reform proposals.

This draft legislation also gives DoD authority to convert the Defense Commissary Agency to a non-appropriated fund organization, allowing it to operate more like a business with the aim of gaining savings in its operations. A lot of that savings would be in pay, a House staff member said, but commissary employees wouldn't see a reduction in pay, and appropriated-fund employees wouldn't be converted to non-appropriated fund employees. The positions would be converted when the current employee left the job or retired. But that conversion also depends on whether the new pricing systems meet DoD's to-be-determined benchmarks for success. The commissary system would operate more like the military exchanges, which are non-appropriated fund entities. The legislative changes are necessary to provide DoD with the flexibility to improve business practices across the DoD resale system "while delivering the same level of service and savings to commissary patrons as the current system at substantially reduced cost to the taxpayer," according to the DoD document outlining the reform proposals. [Source: Military Times | Karen Jowers | April 19, 2016 ++]

**Thank you for serving... Now, let us serve you!**  
*This is the Retirement You Wanted!*



1575 Belvidere, El Paso, Texas • (915) 833-2229

Come to **The MonteVista** and see how exciting every, single day can be. Live surrounded by your peers, people who understand why you stop and salute when the flag goes by. Enjoy wonderful food served restaurant style – and the fun of laughter at the dinner table. At The MonteVista, you'll find:

- Superior service
- Spacious, sunny apartments
- Exceptional gourmet dining
- Wonderful planned activities
- Housekeeping and linen service, plus Scheduled transportation

*On-site skilled nursing and rehabilitation!*

*The*  
**MonteVista**  
*at*  
**Coronado**

A FIVE STAR  
 QUALITY CARE COMMUNITY

# MORE FOR YOUR MONEY

## 1.36% APY\* Two-Year Bump-Up Certificates



### A Higher Rate of Return on Your Money

- Open a Bump-Up Certificate with just \$2,500
- Higher deposits earn higher returns
- Bump-Up your rate for a better return

*Grow Your Nest Egg at...*

  
**FIRSTLIGHT**  
 FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

**FirstLightFCU.org | 915-562-1172**

\*APY = Annual Percentage Yield. \$2,500 minimum Certificate balance required to earn 1.36% APY. A penalty will be imposed for early withdrawal. Rate may be changed one time during the term to the existing rate at member's written request. Maintenance or activity fees could reduce the earnings on the account. Unless you indicate otherwise, the changeable certificate will be renewed at maturity at a like term if available or at the then-current rate in effect. 1.36% APY is a limited time offer, and is subject to change at any time, visit a branch for full details. Federally insured by NCUA.





## CHAPLAIN CORNER

### Mrs. Connie Sullivan

#### New Members

- COL Michael Adams
- MAJ Mike Schulte
- CPT Stephen Mendoza
- LTC Michael Beard

#### Renewals

- LTC Thomas Miller
- LTC Martha Caldwell
- Mrs. Dorothy Ladd
- Mrs. Christine Versaw
- Mrs. Nadiune Wilberger
- Mrs. Shirlee Smith
- Mrs. Elizabeth Brinkley
- MG Travis Dyer
- Mrs. Maria Childress
- LTC Donald Hughes
- LTC Alan V. Richard
- CAPT Joseph Quintana

## Caution!

Not long ago I was watching the television news and heard that the organization that I had been contributing for years was under investigation.

To say the least, I was devastated. It makes me extremely sad because at our age, and I say our, for the reason that our age group is advanced in years, there is so little we can do to help our soldiers except with financial means.

The days are over for some of us, when we could put a lot of physical effort in giving of our time to help our skilled warriors.

So, when we desire to give as we do with our hearts, we need to be careful and check the organizations we contribute to.

Perhaps checking in the Internet with business bureaus or our military facilities. Hope we continue seeking entities to help our men and women in the Armed Forces who, under God, we are blessed to have them protecting our country.

*This Poem so beautifully states what our soldiers do for us.*

### "IT IS THE SOLDIER"

**It is the soldier, not the reporter,  
Who has given us freedom of the press**

**It is the soldier, not the poet,  
Who has given us freedom of speech**

**It is the soldier, not the campus organizer,  
Who has given us the freedom to demonstrate**

**It is the soldier, not the lawyer,  
Who has given us the right to fair trial**

**It is the soldier,  
Who salutes the flag  
Who serves under the flag.  
Who allows protesters to burn the flag.**

**It is the soldier whose coffin is draped in the flag.**

**A poem by Charles M. Province**

### Con'td from page 11

given on a first-come, first-served basis. At the roll call, terminal personnel go down the list by category, filling seats based on who has checked in for the flight. If multiple travelers in one category are competing for a seat, the traveler who has been on the sign-up list the longest will get the seat. This is why signing up as close as you can to 60 days out is important. A passenger in the same category who has been on the list for 45 days will get a seat before a passenger who has been on the list for 35.

### Be Ready for Anything

If you're traveling for fun, you're a low-category traveler. That means you should be prepared to wait to get what you want. It's worth repeating, the No. 1 key to flying Space A successfully is flexibility. It is not unusual for flights to be delayed or canceled. Don't make the mistake of assuming because is a flight goes exactly where you want to go that you're going to get on it. If you have the luxury of coming back for the next week's flight, you're more likely to be successful. Even better, adjust your plans on the fly and pick a new destination to keep from wasting away

in a terminal hoping your number will be called.

### Have a Backup Plan

Fight the unpredictability of Space-A travel with a backup plan, especially for return flights. If you absolutely have to be somewhere at a certain time, you might want to consider other traveling options. But if you have the time and the desire to see whatever corner of the world makes itself available to you, Space A can be an incredibly cheap way to scratch the itch for adventure.



## LEGISLATIVE

### COL. Lennie Enzel

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

**In this election year, both the House and Senate Armed Services Committees and Veteran Affairs Committees are furiously hammering out legislation to be voted on by the full House and Senate.**

### Here are some of the highlights:

The House Armed Services Committee approved by a narrow margin an amendment to a defense bill to require women to register for the draft. The bill requires both men and women reaching age 18 to register with the Selective Service. By a 32-to-30 vote, the committee decided the recent opening of all combat roles to women means they should no longer be exempt from draft registration.

The House Armed Services Military Personnel Subcommittee approved its version of the FY 2017 defense authorization bill (H.R. 4909). The Subcommittee's mark differs significantly from DoD's FY 2017 defense budget proposal, and provides some early optimism on the 2017 pay raise and commissary issues. Here's how the bill addresses several issues of MOAA interest:

**Force Levels** increases force levels above the DoD budget request by 20,000 for the Army; 15,000 for Army National Guard; 10,000 for Army Reserve; 4,000 for the Air Force; and

3,000 for the Marine Corps. Approves the DoD request to reduce Navy forces by 6,300.

### Active Duty Pay Raise

rejects the administration's proposal to cap the 2017 pay raise at 1.6 percent, and instead would provide service members the same 2.1 percent pay raise experienced by the average American (as measured by the Employment Cost Index).

**Commissary** allows DoD to implement variable pricing strategies and "house brand" products at commissaries nationwide, but specifies current patron savings and satisfaction must be maintained, benchmarks for those measures must be established, and quarterly reports must be provided to track progress. MOAA appreciates the Subcommittee's extra efforts to preserve benefit value for patrons while pursuing system efficiencies.

**Military Retirement** adopts a DoD proposal for flexibility in paying a continuation bonus between eight and 12 years of service for members under the new blended retirement system (taking effect in 2018), but does not include other DoD proposals to delay the onset of government Thrift Savings Plan matching until five years of service, increase the maximum government match, and extend matching beyond 26 years of service.

**Uniform Code of Military Justice** adopts a long list of changes, including establishing new offenses involving use of government computers and credit card fraud, extending the statute of limitations for child abuse, and improving transparency of court records.

**Impact Aid** provides \$30 million in assistance for local schools serving significant numbers of military children.

**HEALTH CARE** in approving its version of the FY 2017 defense authorization bill, the House Armed Services Committee included big changes

for the military health care system. The bill would apply a new fee structure similar to that proposed by the Pentagon for future service entrants, beginning in 2018, however, the bill would grandfather currently serving and retired members and families against the large fee hikes proposed in the Pentagon's FY 2017 defense budget.

Fee increases in future years would be indexed by COLA the percentage increase in military retired pay rather than the (higher) health care inflation index proposed by the DoD. This is in line with MOAA's and The Military Coalition's recommendation.

The bill proposes no changes for:

TRICARE For Life or TRICARE Prime. It envisions changing the current TRICARE Standard program to a preferred provider system with flat-dollar copays for most doctor visits.

- Retired members and families wishing to stay in this updated version of TRICARE Standard (which would be renamed TRICARE Preferred) would need to enroll annually (no enrollment is required at present). An annual enrollment fee of \$100/\$200 (single/family) will be required of currently retired members on TRICARE Preferred, but wouldn't start until 2020 - once DoD demonstrates it has improved its capacity to provide timely access to quality care.

- New Tricare users would pay even greater fees. Active-duty family members would pay \$300 for an individual or \$600 for families to enroll each year, while future retirees who joined the service after 2020 would pay \$425 for an individual or \$850 for families.

- New beneficiaries who want to use Prime can do so, but also at a cost. Active-duty families would pay \$180 for an individual or \$360 for a family, while retirees would pay \$325 for an individual or \$650 for a family. Current users would not pay to use Prime.

- The bill will place all military treatment facilities (MTFs) under the direction of the Defense Health Agency,

effective Oct. 1, 2018, for purposes of unified policy, administration, and budgeting. MOAA has long supported this proposal based on the cost and inefficiency of building military health care programs around three separate systems for each of the services.

- The bill also establishes a wide variety of requirements intended to enhance beneficiary access to care. This includes extended hours at MTF's for primary care, providing urgent care until 11 P.M., and authorizing unlimited access to urgent care without a referral. The proposal also creates metrics for quality of care, wait times, provider-to-beneficiary ratios, and provider productivity.
- The bill would authorize military facilities to sell durable medical equipment (e.g., hearing aids) at cost to family members of retirees.

**Survivors** extends the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance by one year until Oct. 1, 2018, and keeps the monthly rate at \$310. SSIA was established in 2008 to provide incremental relief to survivors affected by the "widow's tax." Although MOAA is disappointed at the inability to increase the allowance, they were relieved it won't expire. A one-year extension automatically creates pressure for further action, and committee leaders have pledged to work toward raising the SSIA and phasing out the offset. The bill also changes the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) calculation for survivors of reserve personnel who die while serving under Inactive Duty Training (IDT) orders to the same (more favorable) method used for deaths on active duty. MOAA supported this issue.

**Former Spouses** changes the rules under the Uniformed Services Former Spouse Protection Act (USFSPA) by basing the amount of retired pay to be divided with a former spouse on the service member's grade and years of service at the time of divorce; the change would not be retroactive, but would apply to divorces finalized after this change becomes law. MOAA has long supported this measure.

**Veterans** A key health care section of the "The Veterans First Act" provides a plan to extend special Caregiver Act services for the full-time caregivers of catastrophically disabled veterans from the Vietnam era. Currently, benefits apply only to caregivers for Post-9/11 vets. But the benefits would not be triggered until two years after the VA certifies a successful upgrade of information technology systems to support the expanded services.

- Caregiver Act services include training for qualifying caregivers, access to CHAMPVA health care, a stipend, and respite care.
- The bill establishes an Office of [VA] Accountability and Whistleblower Protection and tightens disciplinary and removal rules for senior VA executives.
- It also would require the VA and DoD to jointly update guidelines for the management of opioid therapy for chronic pain in wounded, ill or injured service members and veterans.
- Creating a pilot program to reduce the appealed claims backlog
- Allowing survivors who lost their spouses early in Iraq or Afghanistan conflicts (Sept. 11, 2001 - Dec. 31, 2005) up to five additional years to use their Fry Scholarship GI Bill benefits
- Authorizing GI Bill benefits for involuntary Guard - Reserve call ups for "pre-planned and budgeted" operational missions
- Enhancing research on the health effects of toxic exposures impacts on descendants
- Enabling speedier payment of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) for active duty deaths reported by a military service
- Sen. John McCain proposed legislation to expand and make permanent the choice program for veterans so they could go anywhere for health care removing the current restriction that veterans can go outside the VA system if they wait more than 30 days or live more than 40 miles from a VA facility. His bill would also allow veterans to go to walk-in clinics for minor illnesses. The VA would be required to contract with a national chain of clinics to pro-

vide the service and it would expand the operating hours of VA clinics and pharmacies.

Lastly, on the national front, the American Legion is again calling on its members to voice their support for legislation that will repeal the "disabled veterans tax" that has been in place since 1999. Under current federal law, some disabled veterans still are forced to forfeit \$1 of earned retired pay for each dollar received in veterans' disability compensation. The Retired Pay Restoration Act (H.R. 303 in the U.S. House of Representatives and S. 271 in the Senate) would repeal the current law. Veterans are urged to contact their members of Congress and ask them to support the Retired Pay Restoration Act. Members of the Senate can be reached through the main switchboard (202-224-3121) or through their websites.

As the presidential election nears, don't forget that the Hatch Act that governs service members concerning their participation in the political process. Military personnel must refrain from any political activity that could associate the service member with a partisan political candidate, group or activity. This means that military personnel may not campaign for a political candidate in a partisan election, speak at a partisan political gathering, hand out campaign literature, or solicit campaign contributions. They may not place a political sign on the lawn of their government quarters. On social media, they may follow, friend or like a party or a candidate, but may not post, forward, share, or re-Tweet links and comments from them. Members who violate these rules may face discipline for violating DoD Directive 1433.10 and pertinent provisions of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

## Texas legislation

- **Hazlewood Act:** The Texas Veterans Commission created the Hazlewood Act, which allows veterans who were either disabled as a result of military service or were honorably discharged



after more than 181 days of service to be eligible for waived tuition at any of Texas' public institutions of higher education. The benefit of waived tuition can also be passed on to the children or spouse of the veteran. The program was intended to benefit Texans. However, the Hazlewood Act came under fire in January after a U.S. District Judge struck down a part of the act that specified that veterans and their families may only receive benefits if the veteran enlisted while living in Texas. As a result, concerns have been raised that veterans who enlisted in other states could move to Texas to take advantage of the benefits of free tuition. These concerns are valid. The Hazlewood Act cost Texas' public universities \$169.1 million to cover 39,000 students in 2014, according to the Legislative Budget Board. If the program stays open for non-Texas residents, however, the Texas Veterans Commission estimates that the cost of the program could grow to nearly \$750 million and beyond. The responsibility of paying for the Hazlewood Act rests mostly on the shoulders of the universities in which the program beneficiaries are enrolled. Annually, the state picks up only about 10% of the costs. If forced to open this program to all comers, the program would become untenable and most likely would be discontinued.

## The Texas Senate

- Is studying the employment rate of Texas veterans, and considering ways to better coordinate federal, state, local and private resources to enhance employment services
- Is reviewing the process for filing with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs through the Texas Veterans Commission's Claims Representation and Counseling program to identify and maximize funding options, reduce claims backlogs, and increase the benefits received by Texas veterans.
- Is evaluating the status of mental health services for veterans and Texas Military Forces.
- Is studying the use and impact of Veterans Courts throughout Texas.

## PRESCRIPTION DECODING Understanding Key Pharmacy Terms & Abbreviations

Pharmacy terminology can be confusing. To make the most of your TRICARE® pharmacy benefit, it is essential to understand some key pharmacy terms. The following is a list of some of the most common terms you may encounter.

**Brand-name Drugs** Brand-name drugs are marketed under a trademark protected name. Brand-name medications can only be produced and sold by the company that holds the patent for the drug. If the patent has expired on a brand name drug, there may be generic versions available.

**Copayment** A copayment (or copay) is a fixed-dollar amount you pay for a medication. It is usually paid at the time of service. The amount can vary by the type of medication (such as formulary or non-formulary) and place of service (using a Military Treatment Facility, Home Delivery or a retail pharmacy). Copayments are the most common form of out-of-pocket expense for prescription drugs.

**Compound drug** A drug that is created by a pharmacist mixing multiple ingredients together to create a prescription drug that is specific to a beneficiary's needs. Express Scripts screens all TRICARE compound drug prescriptions to ensure each ingredient is safe, effective and covered by TRICARE

**Deductible** The annual amount a TRICARE Standard, TRICARE Extra, TRICARE Overseas Program Standard, TRICARE Reserve Select or TRICARE Retired Reserve beneficiary must pay for covered outpatient benefits, including pharmacy services received at non-network pharmacies, before TRICARE begins to share costs. TRICARE Prime beneficiaries do not have annual deductibles unless they use the point-of-service option.

**ePrescription** An ePrescription, or an electronic prescription, is a computer-generated prescription sent electronically from your prescriber's office directly to a pharmacy. ePrescribing provides accurate and error-free prescriptions.

**Explanation of Benefits (EOB)** A statement sent to beneficiaries showing that claims were processed and the amount paid to providers.

**Formulary** The TRICARE Formulary is a list of generic and brand name prescription drugs that TRICARE covers.

**Generic drugs** Formulary Generic drugs are medications approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that are clinically the same as brand-name medications. Generic drugs provide the same effective treatment as brand-name drugs and help you save money. The FDA requires that all generic drugs meet the exact same standards for effectiveness, safety and quality as brand-name drugs.

**Non-formulary** Non-formulary medications include any drug in a therapeutic class determined to be not as clinically effective or as cost-effective as other drugs in the same class. Non-formulary medications for TRICARE may be either brand or generic drugs.

**Maintenance Medication** Maintenance medications are medications that you take on a regular basis and are prescribed for chronic, long-term conditions. Examples of chronic conditions that may require maintenance medications are: high blood pressure, high cholesterol and diabetes.

Con'td on page 23

## VA Privatization Update 03— Evidence Does Not Support Need

There are few areas where there is more bipartisan support than the need to provide adequate health care for the country's veterans. While many of us opposed the war in Iraq and other recent military adventures, we still recognize the need to provide medical services for the people who put their lives at risk. This is why it is especially annoying to see right-wing groups invent scandals around the Veteran Administration's hospitals in order to advance an agenda of privatizing the system. If there was a real reason to believe that the current system is badly hurting our veterans, and that they would be better cared for under a privatized system, then it would be reasonable to support the transition. But this is the opposite of the reality. All the evidence suggests that a privatized system would make worse any problems veterans now face in getting care — and it is likely to cost more money.

To back up a step, we actually have a great deal of evidence on the quality of care provided by the VA system. In an outstanding book, *The Best Care Anywhere*, Washington Monthly editor Phillip Longman documents how the VA's system of integrative care outperforms the models used by private insurers. The key point was that the VA system effectively tracks patients through their various contacts with doctors and other health care professionals. This reduces the likelihood that they will get unneeded treatment, but more importantly, ensures that the patient's doctors are aware of the other treatments their patient is receiving. A major problem for patients seeing multiple doctors is that none of them may have full knowledge of the set of conditions afflicting the patient or the drugs they might be taking. By

keeping a central system and having a general practitioner assigned to oversee the patient's care, the VA system minimizes this source of mistakes. In fact, this model is so successful that most providers have tried to move in the same direction in recent years.

Longman was writing about the VA system of the 1990s, which had undergone a remarkable turnaround under the leadership of Kenneth Kizer who President Clinton had appointed to head up the health care system as Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The quality of care established by Kizer deteriorated somewhat under President Bush. This was partly a result of the large inflow of new veterans associated with the administration's wars. It was also partly due to the fact that Bush's political appointees showed the same sort of commitment to veterans' health as his appointees to the Federal Emergency Management Agency did to preparing for disasters like Hurricane Katrina. Nonetheless, as Alicia Mundy points out in a recent Washington Monthly piece, the VA system still did quite well by most measures. An analysis done for the VA in 2010 found that nearly all the studies comparing the quality of VA care with its counterparts in the private and public sector found that the VA provided care that was as good or better than what was available in its competitors.

Given this reality, the proponents of privatization had to invent a scandal to push their case, and they got one. They found evidence of substantial waiting lists at the VA hospital in Phoenix. According to accounts promoted in the media, 40 patients died while they were waiting to see a doctor. This of course sounds horrible. In reality, a report by the VA's Inspector General found that six, not forty patients had

died while waiting for appointments. And it wasn't clear that in any of these cases the death was related to lack of treatment. But the reality didn't matter, the right had their story and they were determined to push it everywhere they could. The Koch brothers funded a new veterans organization, Concerned Veterans of America (CVA), which made attacking the VA health care system the major goal of its work. While full-fledged privatization is clearly a step too far at this point (most veterans really value the health care they get through the VA system), their goal is to piecemeal privatization through a process of gradually outsourcing more and more services.

As this process gains momentum, full-scale privatization may look like less of a lift. The outsourcing is likely to undermine the quality of care, most importantly by making the VA system's practice of integrative care more difficult. It is also likely to increase costs, since the privatized services will almost invariably cost more than the services provided through the VA. In short, the practice of outsourcing more services from the VA and eventually privatizing it is likely to be a really bad deal from the standpoint of the country's veterans. It is also likely to be a bad deal from the standpoint of taxpayers, who will be getting a larger bill for lower quality care. But, it is likely to be a very good deal for the contractors making profits on VA business, and for that reason privatization of the VA is a very real threat.

[Source: Huffpost Politics Blog | Dean Baker | April 25, 2016 ++]

## OHI (Other Health Insurance)

Any non-TRICARE health insurance that is not considered a supplement. This insurance is acquired through an employer, entitlement program or other source. TRICARE pays last after all other health plans except Medicaid, TRICARE supplements, the Indian Health service or other programs or plans as identified by TRICARE.

**OTC Drugs** OTC Drugs are medications sold Over the Counter and can be obtained without a prescription.

Point of Service Point of Service or POS are designated places that you can have your prescriptions filled. TRICARE beneficiaries have four service options:

- Military pharmacies
- TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery Program
- TRICARE retail network pharmacies
- Non-network pharmacies

**Prior authorization** Prior authorization is a process of reviewing certain medical, pharmacy, surgical and mental health care services to ensure medical necessity and appropriateness of care before services are rendered or within 24 hours of an emergency admission.

## Specialty medication

Drugs used to treat serious chronic conditions. Specialty medications are usually high-cost, self-administered, injectable, oral or infused drugs. These drugs typically require special storage and handling and are typically not readily available at your local pharmacy. Specialty medications may also have side effects that require monitoring by a healthcare professional.

## EL PASO CHAPTER MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

### 2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	
COL Forrest Smith	449-8944
VICE-PRESIDENT	
Mrs Janet Rasmussen	598-3835
SECRETARY	
COL Steve Barrett	478-335-2888
TREASURER	
Mrs Elma Smith	
CHAPLAIN	
Ms. Connie Sullivan	778-0948

### DIRECTORS

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	
COL Lennie Enzel	755-2325
LEGISLATIVE LIAISON	
COL Lennie Enzel	755-2325
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN	
VACANT	
PROGRAMS	
COL Bob Pitt	533-5111
PUBLIC RELATIONS	
LTC Martha Caldwell	785-375-9404
PUBLICATIONS/NEWSLETTER EDITOR	
LTC William L. Moore	842-9650
SURVIVING SPOUSE LIAISON	
Ms. Connie Sullivan	778-0948

### COMMITTEES

DATABASE MANAGER/CHAPTER POC	
LTC William L Moore	842-9650
WEBMASTER/MASS EMAIL	
LTC William L Moore	842-9650
PERSONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CHAIR	
Mr. Joe Hernandez	
TOPS	
COL Chuck Wehmhoner	585-9106
CHAIR, JROTC/YOUTH ACT.	
COL Steve Barrett	478-335-2888
DOOR PRIZES	
LTC Martha Caldwell	785-375-9404
MARKETING	
LTC William L Moore	842-9650
POST LIAISON	
VACANT	
UTEP ROTC Liaison	
COL Steve Barrett	478-335-2888

#### Mail:

El Paso Chapter, MOAA  
PO Box 6144  
Fort Bliss, Texas 79906-0144

#### Telephone:

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

#### Email:

President -- president@elpasomoaa.org  
Secretary -- secretary@elpasomoaa.org  
Treasurer -- treasurer@elpasomoaa.org  
Membership -- membership@elpasomoaa.org  
Historian -- historian@elpasomoaa.org  
Publications -- publications@elpasomoaa.org  
General Info -- info@elpasomoaa.org  
Webmaster -- web@elpasomoaa.org  
The Officer Placement Service -- tops@elpasomoaa.org

## MY EL PASO DJ & PA SERVICE



We've provided quality DJ Service for over 1000 events from 2010-2015 and can help you with your special family or corporate event.

**CALL MIKE  
@ 241-2476**

**For more information  
www.myelpasodj.com**



# THE BORDER BULLETIN

is the print newsletter of the  
El Paso Chapter, Military Officers Association of America  
(MOAA)

P.O. Box 6144, Fort Bliss, TX 79906-0144  
<http://elpasomoaa.org>

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**WILLIAM TIPPIN & COMPANY, P.C.**

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

WILLIAM TIPPIN JR., CPA

7500 Viscount, Suite 108, El Paso, TX 79925  
(915) 592-9696 Fax (915) 592-9924  
Toll Free: 1(877) 692-9696

**CPA**

[wtippin@juno.com](mailto:wtippin@juno.com)

**NON-PROFIT ORG.**

**U.S. Postage**

**PAID**

**El Paso, Texas**

**Permit No. 2149**

