

THE[®] BORDER BULLETIN



Downtown, El Paso, 1908, 2014



AUGUST 2015

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 59th Year

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EL PASO CHAPTER NATIONAL AWARDS

Category 1 Outstanding Chapter

Runner-up

2000 and 2001

Five-Star Chapter

2001 thru 2014

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

INPUT deadline for October 2015 Border Bulletin 25 August 2015

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August 2015 • Vol 59 No 4

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.

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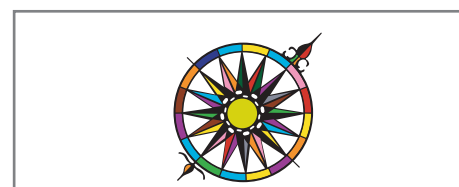


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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

COL Forrest Smith, USA, Retired

Your local El Paso MOAA Chapter continues to work closely with MOAA National to keep its members informed on key legislative decisions that affect YOUR military pay and benefits. I am asking local members to focus their efforts on three key actions in the August and September. They are: (1) Actively reject cuts to veterans' military pay and benefits; (2) Follow key legislative actions that directly affect Veterans pay and benefits with an understanding that our / your legislators vote on those actions; and (3) support the September Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) dinner and seminar on 25 September 2015.

Most of you are aware that the Supreme Court recently ruled that the Affordable Care Act (ACA) can, in fact, continue to provide subsidies for health insurance to qualifying individuals, regardless of whether they purchase insurance through federally run exchange systems or state run systems. Importantly, the ACA ruling will NOT affect TRICARE or the VA's health administration, eligibility, or cost to beneficiaries. This is because Congress, with MOAA's urging, passed the TRICARE Affirmation Action in 2010, providing statutory regulation that TRICARE satisfies the minimum coverages required of the ACA.

Many of you are also aware that as Congress returned from 4th of July holiday, lawmakers began to tackle the FY16 Defense Bill. The FY16 Defense Bill poses threats to veterans' pay and benefits in the following areas: (1) Pay raises that fail to keep pace with the private sector; (2) Dramatic pharmacy fee increases; (3) Erosions to housing allowances; and (4) Continued cuts to commissaries. Veterans need to vocally reject military pay and benefits cuts...and here's how you do it. Visit the MOAA website Legislative Action

Center. MOAA has established an automated form "suggested message"/ letter that enables you to send your message directly to our legislators. It has never been easier to communicate your position directly to your legislator. I encourage you to take advantage of this process during this critical time.

I also wanted to highlight several additional pieces of key legislation that Congress is currently working on. Please take a moment to send your elected officials a MOAA-suggested message on the following pieces of legislation:

S.1085: Military and Veteran Caregiver Services Improvement Act. This bill provides veterans of all eras eligibility for a full range of caregiver support services through the VA.

S. 469: Women Veterans and Families Health Services Act. This bill improves reproductive assistance provided by DoD and VA to severely wounded, ill, or injured members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their spouses or partners.

S. 901: Toxic Exposure Research Act. This bill establishes a national center for research on the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions for the descendants of veterans who were exposed to toxic substances during service in the Armed Forces.

Note: MOAA recommended substituting the term "Uniformed Services" for "Armed Forces" to ensure that research conducted at a designated VA Medical Center is applicable to commissioned officers of the Public Health Service and NOAA Corps.

S. 1641: Jason Simcakoski Memorial Opioid Safety Act. This important bill keeps veterans safe by providing the VA with the necessary tools to provide effective pain management services.

H.R. 303: Concurrent receipt .

This longstanding, top MOAA priority authorizes full concurrent receipt of military retired pay and veterans' disability compensation for retirees with regular or Guard/Reserve retirements, regardless of disability rating.

H.R. 1384: Honor America's Guard-Reserve Retirees Act. This bill would grant veteran status to members of the Reserve Components who served a career of 20 years or more and are military retirees, but who are not recognized by the government as "veterans" because of no service under active duty order.

On a final legislative note, the El Paso Chapter has nominated MAJ (Ret) Ed Stone for the MOAA National Legislative Award. Well done Snuffy Smith.

On a final note this month, I want to encourage maximum support, and participation for the Retiree Appreciation Day events on 25/26 September 2015. MOAA is working with NAUS to host this year's events. The Dinner will begin at 1800 on 25 September with follow on seminars scheduled for the 26th of September. The guest speaker for the dinner will be Colonel (Retired) Mark Radke, the Retired Services Officer for the Army. Notices will appear in the Fort Bliss Bugle, El Paso Times and El Paso INC in coming weeks. You are encouraged to submit your reservations early and can do so online at the El Paso MOAA Chapter website, or using the registrations forms in this issue, and the August issue of the Border Bulletin.

Forrest Smith
COL, USA, Retired
President

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August Guest Speaker: Bob Dockendorf

Robert J. (Bob) Dockendorf, a lifelong aviation enthusiast was born and completed his formal education in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He entered the commercial property and casualty insurance

business as a retail agent in 1970. After assignments in Los Angeles, Detroit, Phoenix and El Paso Bob retired in 2012 from his position as an International Property Insurance Broker for a large banking institution.

His desire was to pursue a challenging career related to aviation and automobile history and make use of his successful marketing achievements.

Bob accepted his current assignment of Executive Director at War Eagles Air Museum in February of 2012 and is currently pursuing his continuing education in the museum industry.

NEW MEMBERS

MAJ Charles R. Valentine
Mr Ric Lambart

RENEWALS

COL Dale Hawkins
COL Homer Pitzer
LTC Johnny Watson
Mrs. Connie Sullivan
Mrs. Mary Yancy
LTC Frida Atwood
Mrs Mary Henry

Lunch Menu August

Herbed Roast Beef
Sautéed Broccoli Almandine
Scalloped Potatoes
Tossed Green Salad w/Dressing
Roll and Butter
Coffee and Iced Tea

August Membership Meeting Program

**Saturday, 8 August,
Underwood & Golf Course**

Sequence of Events

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

**Please submit your Lunch
Reservations no later than
Monday, 3 August**

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

All lunch reservations
with payment to our
postal mail box

\$20 Per Person

**REMITTANCE
ENVELOPE ENCLOSED**



2d Vice-president Jan Rasmussen and Guest Speaker Ric Lambart at the June Luncheon.

Report a Retiree Death

Monday - Friday:

0730 - 1700

915-568-5207

After Hours (Installation)

915-569-6950/6951

2015 EL PASO CHAPTER MOAA EVENTS SCHEDULE

August 8, 2015	August Membership Meeting and Luncheon
September 10-12, 2015	Chapter Leaders Symposium
September 25, 2015	Retiree Appreciation Day Reception/ October Meeting & Luncheon (Start time 6:00 PM)
September 26, 2015	Retiree Appreciation Day
October 3-10, 2015	MOAA Signature Cruise to New England
October 29-31, 2015	MOAA 2015 Annual Meeting
December 12, 2015	December Membership Meeting and Brunch



FORT BLISS GATE OPERATING HOURS

All Department of Defense identification card holders and civilians possessing a valid state issued driver's license or government/federal identification card may access Fort Bliss through the following gates:

- Sheridan gate
- Biggs Army Airfield Main gate (formerly known as Sergeant Major)
- Buffalo Soldier gate
- Chaffee gate
- Fred Wilson gate
- McGregor Front gate
- Old Ironsides (formerly known as Global Reach) gate
- Alabama gate (5 a.m. - 9 p.m., Monday - Friday only)
- Ross Elementary School Pedestrian Gate (7 a.m. - 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m., and 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., Monday - Friday only)
- Pershing gate (4 p.m. - 6 p.m., Monday - Friday for outbound traffic only)

Commercial traffic can only access Fort Bliss through Chaffee gate. Only DoD ID card holders can enter Fort Bliss through the following gates; all non DoD ID card holders will be directed to access one of the above mentioned all access gates:

- Cassidy gate
 - IBCT-South gate
 - Sergeant Major North gate
 - Constitution gate (5 a.m. - 9 a.m., Monday - Friday only)
 - Jeb Stuart gate (5 a.m. - 9 a.m. and 2 - 6 p.m. Monday - Friday only)
- The following gates will remain closed to all DoD and civilian traffic:
- IBCT-North gate
 - Cemetery Pedestrian gate
 - McGregor Rear gate

Retiree and Annuitant Pay Dates for 2015

Entitlement Month	Retiree Payment Dates	Annuitant Payment Dates
January 2015	Friday, January 30, 2015	Monday, February 2, 2015
February 2015	Friday, February 27, 2015	Monday, March 2, 2015
March 2015	Wednesday, April 1, 2015	Wednesday, April 1, 2015
April 2015	Friday, May 1, 2015	Friday, May 1, 2015
May 2015	Monday, June 1, 2015	Monday, June 1, 2015
June 2015	Wednesday, July 1, 2015	Wednesday, July 1, 2015
July 2015	Friday, July 31, 2015	Monday, August 3, 2015
August 2015	Tuesday, September 1, 2015	Tuesday, September 1, 2015
September 2015	Thursday, October 1, 2015	Thursday, October 1, 2014
October 2015	Monday, November 2, 2015	Monday, November 2, 2015
November 2015	Tuesday, December 1, 2015	Tuesday, December 1, 2015
December 2015	Thursday, December 31, 2015	Thursday, December 31, 2015

WBAMC Pharmacy Services

Main Hospital Pharmacy

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

Freedom Crossing PX Pharmacy

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

Soldier and Family Medical Clinic (SFMC) Pharmacy

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

Soldier Family Care Clinic (SFCC) Pharmacy

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

El Paso VA Health Care System Pharmacy

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

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

Chaplain's Corner

LTC John H. G. Rasmussen
Chaplain, USA, Retired



Thank God! For the American Army!

I came across this letter today in a book of letters from which I've shared with you before.* It sums up for me why we exist as an organization and why the American Service Member is one of God's greatest blessings on earth. Only days after being liberated from a German POW camp, PFC James F. Norton writes this jubilant letter to his parents in St. Paul, Minnesota, on April 15, 1945.

Dearest , Mom and Dad, This (having the chance to write) is the second happiest moment of my life—at last a chance to write home. The happiest moment came a few days ago when the greatest Army in the world liberated me. Things have been happening so fast to me since I've been liberated, my head is still spinning. As much as I've cussed the Army, I love now... Gosh, there's so much to say, I don't even know how to start, and to tell the truth I don't know what I'm allowed to write or not...

I'm back in a huge, beautiful hospital in France... I've received nothing but the greatest of kindness from every one, and I never could put it in words what it feels like to be treated like a human being again. I am so happy I don't know whether to laugh

or cry. Today we had the meal I've been dreaming about for four months—steak and French fries, and how—how I've been eating...

I'll never forget as long as I live when I saw that first Yank. I always said I'd kiss the first one I saw who liberated us, even if it were a 2nd Looie, and you guessed it, he was. He was more surprised than I. Then they gave us chocolate bars and cigarettes and I went wild. From there to here it has been a smooth job of evacuation...

I was shot and taken prisoner on the memorable day – December 16th, the first day of the terrific German breakthrough in the Ardennes, when all hell broke loose. The next four months I will tell about when I get home, and will describe them now in two words, Living Hell...

My biggest concern and something that has always been on my mind is how you two are and how the Missing in Action affected you. But you are both brave, strong parents so I'm sure everything is all right... Death has faced me many times in the past months and by the grace of my Lord and Savior I am here today to write this letter, I always considered myself a good Christian until I was captured, and

then I learned what a fool I had been and what it really means to have faith and the power of prayer...

To see your faces again will be the happiest moment of my life. I love you both and thank God every day I have such wonderful parents. Your loving Son, Jim In this wonderful and jubilant letter one American Soldier speaks of his life changing experience during World War Two. But he really speaks for all American Service Members, at least from this retired Chaplain's point of view. The very reason for the existence of the Armed Forces of the United States is to make letters like this possible. The American Army does not come to conquer or to enslave. It comes to liberate—to free! And for that I say with Jim as he wrote to his parents in 1945—Thank God!

** Grace Under Fire: Letters of Faith in Times of War, ed. Andrew Carroll (Colorado Springs, CO: WaterBrook Press, 2007), 86-88.*

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.



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

August 2015 Membership Meeting & Lunch
General George Underwood Golf Course
Building 3193, 3200 Coe Ave., El Paso, TX 79916

Date: Saturday, 8 August 2015

Time: 1100 - 1400

Guest Speaker: Mr. Bob Dockendorf
Director, Santa Teresa Air Museum

Menu

Herbed Roast Beef
Sautéed Broccoli Almandine
Scalloped Potatoes
Tossed Green Salad w/Dressing, Roll & Butter
Water, Coffee & Iced Tea



Dress: Casual

Cost: \$20.00 per person

Lunch Treasurer: treasurer@elpasomoaa.org

Membership or email queries: membership@elpasomoaa.org

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

Please fill in this acceptance slip, and return to the Treasurer by Monday, 3 August 2015 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, August 5, and pay at the door.

Lunch will be on Saturday 8 August 2015 at 11:00 a.m.

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

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

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

Name of Member: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Name(s) of Guests:

Auxiliary Corner

Mrs Connie Sullivan
Auxiliary Liaison



Having been and Exercise Instructor at El Paso Community College Senior Adult program and a Spanish Dancer for many years, I have become very much circumspect of the fact that at our age, and I am 73 years with osteoporosis, how important it is to do some kind of movement for our bodies to prevent stiffness and sometimes aches and pains.

Of course, taking on any physical program, needs to be approved by your doctor. For some people, it is difficult to make or find time to exercise. But, I have found that by taking advantage of the commercial times when watching television programs can be beneficial.

For example, just by simply getting up and walking in the same room, stretching the legs by walking even if it is just around the room still watching the television can be very helpful.

Going, as well, to get a glass of water could also work. The commercial time is approximately three minutes.

If it is not possible to stand up, maybe just moving the arms or legs to accord a sense of relaxation.

Doing any movements with the body requires circumspection; of course. It is vital to take care of oneself in this elderly stage of our lives. Because we have been through so much in our journey on this earth, there are times when letting a friend or a spouse is of encouragement to us and that can foster habits of good physical activities.

The following is taken from the MOAA Spouse Blog

Congress Divided on Future of Commissary

The House and Senate have approved their versions of the defense bill, and they don't see eye to eye on the commissary.

The Senate

The Senate unfortunately took aim at the commissary system in its version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Senate lawmakers cut \$322 million from the commissary budget. A cut this big will lead to increased prices, reduced operating hours and days of operation, and a reduction in store staff.

Also tucked inside the bill was language allowing DoD to increase prices in stores to cover costs.

Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) sponsored an amendment to restore the \$322 million funding and to strike language that would allow DoD to adjust commissary prices, but her amendment did not come to a vote.

Even though her amendment wasn't voted on, as Vice Chairwoman of the

Senate Appropriations Committee, Mikulski rejected the commissary cut and provided full funding.

Civics 101: What does that mean?

Every year Congress works on two major types of legislation: authorization bills and appropriation bills.

Authorization bills tell federal departments (like DoD) and agencies what to do. Appropriations bills fund federal agencies. Appropriations bills distribute money to federal departments, agencies, and programs. These bills tell DoD how much they can spend and where the money will go.

Currently, the money for the commissary is in the Senate appropriations bill but the authorization to spend it is not in the Senate authorization bill.

The House

The House passed its version of the authorization bill in May. In it, House lawmakers rejected the cuts to commissary funding. The House defense appropriations bill included

full funding for the commissary in the budget.

What's Next?

The Senate is currently working on its version of the defense appropriations bill. Once passed, it will go to conference where differences between the House and Senate bills must be resolved.

The defense authorization bill is also headed to conference. We are hopeful that funding for the commissary subsidy will be restored during this process.

Ultimately, without the funding, the cost of operating the commissary will slowly shift to you, the shopper.

MOAA thanks Senator Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) and Mikulski (D-Md.) for leading the charge to prevent privatization of commissaries.

If you are on social media, thank Senators Inhofe and Mikulski for fighting for commissaries. You can contact them here: Senator Inhofe @ JimInhofe and Senator Mikulski @ SenatorBarb.

Army Nurse Corps History

By COL Constance J. Moore, USA, Retired, Army Nurse Corps Association Historian Army Nurse Care for Mustard Gas Patients During World War I

When the United States entered the World War in April 1917, American forces were ill prepared to confront the horrors of chemical warfare. Mustard gas, particularly, was difficult to manage because of its long life cycle. While other chemicals, such as chlorine and phosgene, evaporated over several hours, this agent remains active for up to 25 to 30 years.¹ Thus, after battles were concluded, even when the soldiers rested, ate food or slept, mustard gas remained dangerous. It is not surprising that mustard gas caused the largest number of chemical casualties in the war, and earned the sad title of the "King of Battle Gasses."²

Once combatants were exposed to the poison gas, they needed immediate decontamination or within 30 minutes of exposure, huge blisters would spot their entire bodies.³ The decontamination process required that soldiers were stripped of their uniforms, bathed and given new clothing to wear before they were brought to the hospital for treatment. Miss Julia Stimson, later Chief of the Army Nurse Corps, described the phenomenon, "We have been receiving patients that have been gassed and burned in a most mysterious way. . . they had burns on their bodies, on part that are covered with clothing."⁴

Several treatments were devised. Acute conjunctivitis required alkaline eye irrigations over and over again until the symptoms lessened and abated. With the large numbers of patients admitted to hospital units, this meant the nurses started at one end of the ward and by the time they had reached the other end of the unit, it was time to begin a new round of treatments.⁵ For those who had breathed in the mustard gas, nurses at Base Hospital 32 helped devise a mixture of "guiacol,

camphor, menthol, oil of thyme and eucalyptus [that forced the patients to expectorate the inflammatory material]. Patients received immediate relief, [respirations were less labored so] . . . healing was begun."⁶

Chemically burned soldiers took longer to heal than thermally burned combatants.⁷ Simple burns were mostly treated with sodium hypochlorite on the wounds.⁸ More extensive burns were treated with Vaseline gauze.⁹ Nurses first excised blisters then wrap the affected area. Chief Nurse Lily B. Craighton of Red Cross Military Hospital # 6 described how the treatment was performed in their hospital:

"The men would come in with hideous blisters, extending from their shoulder down [the length of their bodies]. The nurses would clip away all this blistered skin, clean the . . . raw surface with antiseptic solution, dry it with an electric blower and spray on the "amberine" [spray]. Burns treated in this way healed in an incredibly short time."¹⁰

At the war's end, more than 30% of the casualties were related to chemical warfare and 80% of the casualties were directly related to mustard gas.¹¹ In creative and compassionate ways, Army nurses,

as members of the busy healthcare team, rose to the challenge of caring for combatants who were injured by this hideous type of warfare weapon. Without their ingenuity, and dedicated service the majority of the gas cases would not have been successfully treated.¹²

¹ Robert Joy, "Historical Aspects of Medical Defense Against Chemical Warfare," in Frederick Sidel, Ernest Takafuji and David Franz, editors, *Medical Aspects of Chemical and Biological Warfare*, (Washington, DC: The Borden Institute, 1997): 96.

² Gerard Fitzgerald, "Chemical Warfare and Medical Response During World War I, *American Journal of Public Health*, 98 (April 2008): 4.

³ *Ibid*: 5.

⁴ Julia Stimson, *Finding Themselves*, (New York: The Macmillan Co., 1918): 80.

⁵ Minnie Goodnow, *War Nursing*, (Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders Co., 1918): 115.

⁶ Alma Woolley, "A Hoosier Nurse in France: The World War I Diary of Maude Frances Essig," *Indiana Magazine of History*, 82 (March 1986): 42.

⁷ M.W. Ireland, *The Medical Department of the United States Army in the World War, Vol. 14: Medical Aspects of Gas Warfare* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1926): 1821.

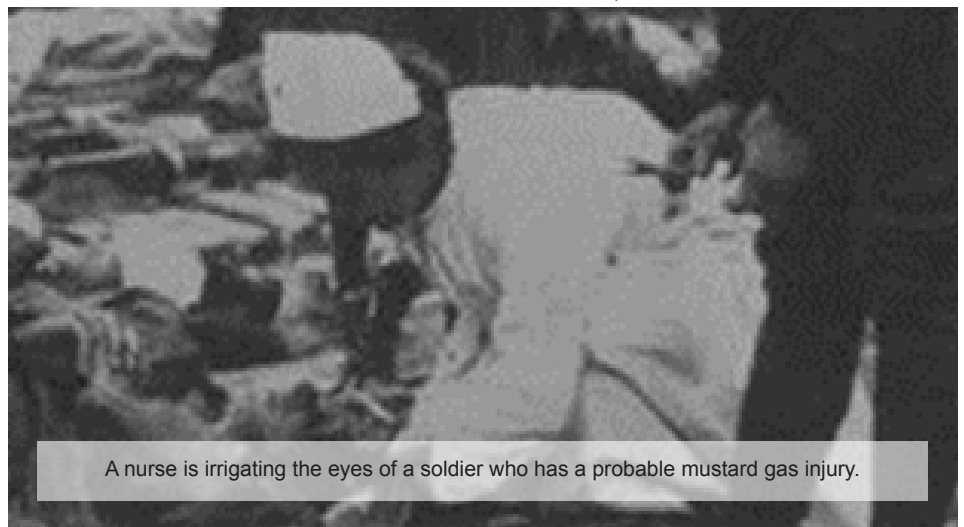
⁸ Robert Joy, "Historical Aspects of Medical Defense Against Chemical Warfare," in Frederick Sidel, Ernest Takafuji and David Franz, editors, *Medical Aspects of Chemical and Biological Warfare*, (Washington, DC: The Borden Institute, 1997): 100.

⁹ M.W. Ireland, *The Medical Department of the United States Army in the World War, Vol. 14: Medical Aspects of Gas Warfare* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1926): 1687.

¹⁰ Lavinia Dock, *History of the American Red Cross Nursing*, (New York: The Macmillan Press, 1922): 611.

¹¹ Gerard Fitzgerald, "Chemical Warfare and Medical Response During World War I, *American Journal of Public Health*, 98 (April 2008): 5.

¹² The number of fatalities for chemical casualties was quite low. For American force it was 2% of all gas related injuries. As noted in: Robert Joy, "Historical Aspects of Medical Defense Against Chemical Warfare," in Frederick Sidel, Ernest Takafuji and David Franz, editors, *Medical Aspects of Chemical and Biological Warfare*, (Washington, DC: The Borden Institute, 1997): 101.



A nurse is irrigating the eyes of a soldier who has a probable mustard gas injury.



Hiding Your Personal Online Data

In the wake of terrorist hacks and information dumps targeting U.S. troops, the Marine Corps released a how-to guide showing troops how to get personal data taken off public online search engines and databases.

Published by the Marines' cybersecurity division in May, the 11-page handbook, titled "Public People Search Database Removal Guide" and available on marines.mil, describes methods to get sensitive or personal information removed from easy access points online, including top search engine Google.

Marine officials declined to link the handbook to specific incidents or threats, such as a "kill-list" released in March by the self-described hacking division of the Islamic State group that included photos, names and addresses of 100 U.S. troops.

"The Marine Corps has always advised Marines to safeguard their personal information, both online and off," said Capt. Tyler Balzer, a Marine spokesman at the Pentagon, adding that cyber threats are increasing daily.

Ask nicely. The new handbook informs Marines they can often remove compromising or personal information from Google searches by calling or emailing the website administrator of the source that published the information, and requesting it be taken down.

While the guide advises troops "not to take no for an answer,"

it also clarifies that sites are under no legal obligation to take information down.

"No one will want to help you if you are a jerk, so be nice!" the guide states.

White Pages and more.

For public records databases including White Pages, Intelius, PeopleSmart, PeekYou and more, officials provide site-specific instructions in the handbook to find opt-out request forms.

They advise Marines that these websites operate on implicit consent, requiring individuals to explicitly opt out in order to protect their personal data.

"Some of the sites allow individuals to opt out through requests online while others require individuals to upload a copy of a government-issued ID such as a driver's license to complete the process," they write. "It is recommended that the photo and the ID number be blacked out before submitting the copy to the site."

For Google, the authors tell Marines to cite the reason for URL removal requests as "outdated information."

Finding workarounds. Though the handbook's authors note that many sites limit users to five information removal requests per email or Internet Protocol (IP) address, they also offer a few sophisticated tools to trick the sites into granting more requests.

Troops can create a fake email address with Fakeemailgenerator.com and then hide their IP address with Turbohide.com, a proxy server tool.

Pay for privacy. When other methods fail, officials advise troops to pay for services that mask or eliminate personal info that may appear online, though terms and conditions vary by company.

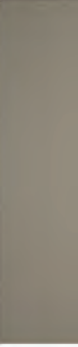
Sometimes, however, this method can backfire. Retired Army Lt. Gen. Patrick O'Reilly allegedly paid a "reputation management" company to flood the Web with positive information to hide news stories about accusations of toxic leadership, but the move put him in the news again when it was discovered by Army Times.

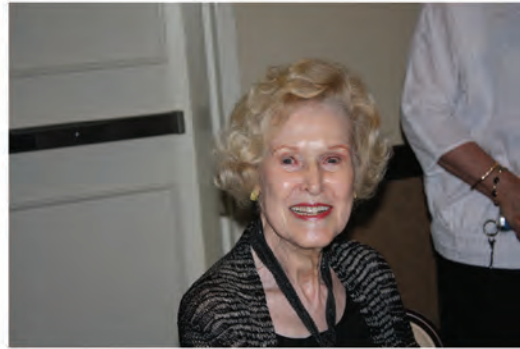
The best protection. The guide reiterates the importance of caution when posting any personal info online and reminds troops that they often lose the rights to what they post, per the terms and conditions of the websites they use.

"The most important thing to remember is that whatever you post to the Internet will be there forever, otherwise known as a 'digital tattoo,' the authors write.

SOURCE: MarineTimes at <http://www.marinecorpstimes.com/story/military/2015/05/23/hiding-personal-online-data/27847231/>

June Luncheon 2015







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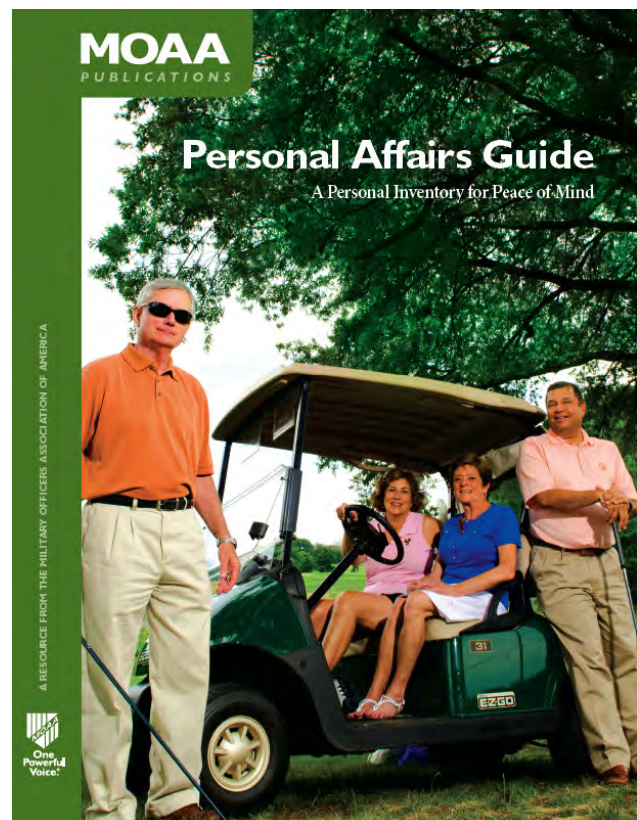
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In light of our recent celebration of Flag Day on June 14, 2015, and Independence Day on July 4, 2015, I think it is interesting to look at the history behind our flag, and when we can fly it.

On June 14, 1777 the second Continental Congress adopted a resolution establishing the flag of the United States. It was to be red, white, and blue, and have thirteen stars and stripes. Over a hundred years later a school teacher in Wisconsin began to advocate that everyone recognize June 14 as Flag Day. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued Presidential Proclamation 1335 in which he “requested” that every community in the United States should observe June 14 as Flag Day.

Flag Day did not become a national holiday, however, until 1949 when Congress passed a law which established June 14 as Flag Day and requested the President of the United States to issue an annual proclamation for Flag Day. This proclamation instructs U.S. government officials to display the flag on all Government buildings and asks the people of the United States to observe the day in honor of the adoption of the Stars and Stripes as the official flag of the United States.

The original members of the Continental Congress choose red, white and blue for the American flag. Each color represented a virtue they hoped would resonate in the people of their new nation. Red stood for hardiness and courage, white for purity and innocence, and blue for vigilance and justice.

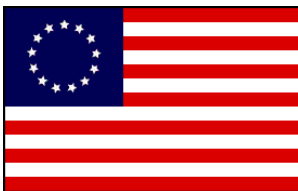
The Continental Congress also chose thirteen stars and stripes for the U.S. flag to represent the thirteen American colonies which rallied around the new flag in their fight against the British for self-governance. Those thirteen colonies included Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Virginia.

To this day, there are thirteen stripes on our flag to commemorate the original thirteen colonies. However, the number of stars on the U.S. flag has grown to fifty, representing every state in the Union.

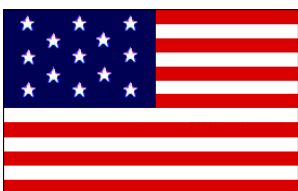
You may fly your American flag every day from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flagstaffs in the open. It should never be left in the dark. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed 24 hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness.

Flying your flag is a great way to show your patriotism, and your appreciation of those who have served our nation and defended its constitution by serving in the Armed Forces.

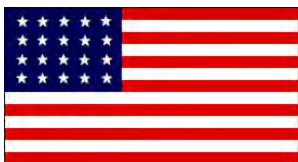
Another great way to show your patriotism and your appreciation of those who have served is to invite an active duty or retired officer of our Armed Forces to join the El Paso Chapter of MOAA. Making the voice of veterans and active duty members of the Armed Forces both heard and heeded is important for our country, and for everyone who has taken the oath of office to serve it.



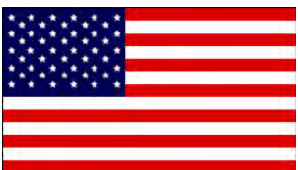
Betsy Ross Flag



The Thirteen Colonies
Star Flag



The 1818 20 Star Flag



The 50 Star Flag of
today

8 Tips for Staying Safe When Using WiFi

By Reid Goldsborough

We use Wi-Fi, short for wireless fidelity, everywhere and on many devices to connect to the Internet over the air instead of through a physical cable. Wi-Fi gives us more freedom and power, but not without risk.

You hear lots of scary-sounding jargon about Wi-Fi security risks, including the Evil Twin gambit, Firesheep attacks, and sniffing. Some of the fear is fanned by security companies trying to drum up business for their software or services and some by computer wonks showing off. But some is real.

One trick is for a bad guy to set up a rogue Wi-Fi network that looks like the legitimate one of the library or coffee shop you're visiting but that allows the crook see and harvest the information needed to steal from you. To avoid this, before connecting, verify the name of the network by asking a staff member or by checking any signs that are posted for instructions.

Home Wi-Fi networks also present security challenges. Some people don't turn on security when setting up a home Wi-Fi network, which can enable a neighbor to capture your personal information or freeload off your Internet connection.

Securing your home Wi-Fi simply requires using the software that comes with your router to type in the passkey whenever you add a new device to the network for the first time. Another trick sometimes recommended with new routers is choosing an intimidating sounding network name (SSID) such as c:\virus.exe to scare off nosy neighbors or passers-by. Alternately, you can disable SSID broadcasting, which hides your network's name.

To help you stay secure with Wi-Fi - at home or in public places - take the following precautions:

1. Use a virtual private network (VPN) service such as Hotspot Shield (www.anchorfree.com), Private Wi-Fi (www.privateWi-Fi.com), and WiTopia (www.witopia.net) when connecting to public Wi-Fi. Such services, which often come in free ad-supported versions and ad-free and faster-pay versions, encrypt all data that flows between your device and anything you connect to over the Internet.

2. Make sure any sites you connect to in which you have to sign in using a password use TSL (Transport Layer Security) or SSL (Secure Sockets Layer) security. With such sites, the Web address begins with "https." Most do, but it doesn't hurt to check, particularly when buying, banking, or doing similar activities.

3. Keep current with operating system and program updates on your devices. But whenever possible, it's best to do updates over connections you're sure are secure rather than using public Wi-Fi.

4. Use firewall and antivirus software, and keep it current, whether a pay service such as Norton Security (www.norton.com), which does it all, or a free service such as AVG Free (free.avg.com), which you can use in combination with your operating system's own firewall.

5. Set your browser to block pop-up windows. Be especially wary of updating software through a pop-

up window when you connect to a website.

6. Don't use the same password over multiple sites, particularly on sensitive shopping or banking sites.

7. Opt for two-factor authentication when it's available. With this, along with typing a password, you have to answer a question or receive a text, which is more secure.

8. Use long passphrases instead of short passwords. For help in remembering passphrases, you can make each a variation of a theme, changed in a standard way based on the site you're connecting to. Some people use a password management program such as Lastpass (www.lastpass.com) and KeePass (www.keepass.info). Others store their passwords in a word processing document and encrypt it themselves. Don't keep passwords on scraps of paper stuck on your computer's screen, which defeats their purpose.

*About the author: Reid Goldsborough is a syndicated columnist and author of the book *Straight Talk About the Information Superhighway*. He can be reached at reidgoldsbrough@gmail.com or reidgold.com. Article taken from the MOAA website, <http://www.moaa.org>.*



May 2015 JROTC MOAA Medal Presentations



El Paso Chapter President COL (Ret) Forrest Smith presented the Military Officers Association of America Medal to Yesleta Independent School District High School JROTC Cadets



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Not Acting on Combat Intelligence, Snuffy Smith Can Only Blame Hi'self

Snuffy knows that combat information is facts, real and sometimes wrongly assumed, developing as they occur. Combat intelligence differs in that the same information has gone through a rigorous vetting process that refines probabilities and possibilities – and even then, this highly developed means of trying to come up with the basis to lay out an operations plan can be wrong. Getting it correct the first time is the reason we belong to associations, like the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), that address legislation important to its members...we need to get it right, right the first time and act in an appropriate manner with immediacy. In the heat of a fight, one must go with what he's got at hand.

Snuffy's "bacon" is in the frying pan! It's the same military personnel legislative items that continue to bedevil a soldier. MOAA provides us with the refined information and asks us to act upon their suggestions if we agree.

On 12 June, MOAA came out with a Legislative Update, [ACT NOW: SUPPORT KEY SENATE AMENDMENTS](#), linking one to a letter to our Senators. MOAA is providing the strategy, the combat intelligence and operational plan, and the call for fire with Legislative Updates, combat information, the tactics for when items are urgent. Snuffy has got to do his part by firing off letters to Congress, either electronically or on paper, both provided by Capwiz links. Check the link, above, for example. At the moment, the Senate is getting ready to vote on their version of the 2016 Defense Bill. The Senate will have voted by the time this piece is published, which is the reason for subscribing to and acting by giving your input to legislation as requested....a sense of urgency in the middle of a fight.

The particular Call for Action referenced this time around concerns Senator Rubio's amendment to maintain the Active Duty Pay Raise at 2.3% and an amendment to restore Commissary funding put forward by Senator Mikluski. Additionally, MOAA's suggested message asked that Senator Bill Nelson's doing away with SBP/DIC Offset and Senator Harry Reid's amendment to allow concurrent receipt of retired and VA Disability Compensation for those retired before reaching "Twenty."

Snuffy guesses "we'll all 'see'," while remaining hopeful but skeptical. Cornyn voted against military widows in 2012 http://www.texas-moaa.org/Files/Snuffy_Disappointed_by_Texas_Vote.pdf when he had a chance to demonstrate his support. Furthermore, the Senator is all too happy to tell you his daddy served... Snuffy notes that the Senator did not serve, nor did Cruze. It'll be interesting to see where Senator Cruze stands. In either case, Cornyn or Cruze, Snuffy hears a lot of mouth, bloviation, without much action. So, Snuffy has to bring them around with MOAA's ACT NOW requests. Otherwise, Snuffy has no one to blame for miscarriages in legislation but himself. For what it is worth, Snuffy doesn't have to think about sitting on himself to know it will hurt.

Other items of current interest, 6/15/2015: A six month study to determine the way forward with DOD's personnel management system...what exists now is "antiquated" http://www.moaa.org/Main_Menu/Take_Action/Top_Issues/Serving_in_Uniform/Compensation/Antiquated_Pentagon_Looks_to_the_Future.html; Pentagon supports some retirement changes that are finding their way into the 2016 Defense Bill http://www.moaa.org/Main_Menu/Take_Action/Top_Issues/Serving_in_Uniform/Compensation/Pentagon_Supports_Retirement_Changes.html; and, threats to veto the Defense Bill because some of the funds to continue are tucked away in combat operations...a ploy to side step sequestration...imagine that...a bit of deviousness. http://www.moaa.org/Main_Menu/Take_Action/Top_Issues/Serving_in_Uniform/Compensation/Defense_Bill_Impasse_Brewing.html

Snuffy says, "Join the fight to preserve our country and military from harm: <http://www.moaa.org/join/> Also, contact membership@elpasomoaa.org." Sign up for Legislative Updates and Act Now!

Enlisted or Civilian and want to help? Join <http://www.voicesfortroops.org/> and get the same advocacy. Sign up for Legislative Updates and Act Now!

OPM DATA BREACH UPDATE 01

Dramatically Worse Than First Reported

Deeply personal information submitted by U.S. intelligence and military personnel for security clearances - mental illnesses, drug and alcohol use, past arrests, bankruptcies and more - is in the hands of hackers linked to China, officials say. In describing a cyberbreach of federal records dramatically worse than first acknowledged, authorities point to Standard Form 86, which applicants are required to complete. Applicants also must list contacts and relatives, potentially exposing any foreign relatives of U.S. intelligence employees to coercion. Both the applicant's Social Security number and that of his or her cohabitant are required.

In a statement, the White House said that on June 8, investigators concluded there was "a high degree of confidence that ... systems containing information related to the background investigations of current, former and prospective federal government employees, and those for whom a federal background investigation was conducted, may have been exfiltrated (i.e. unauthorized transfer of data from a computer)". Joel Brenner, a former top U.S. counterintelligence official, said "This tells the Chinese the identities of almost everybody who has got a United States security clearance. That makes it very hard for any of those people to function as an intelligence officer. The database also tells the Chinese an enormous amount of information about almost everyone with a security clearance. That's a gold mine. It helps you approach and recruit spies."

The Office of Personnel Management, which was the target of the hack, did not respond to requests for comment. OPM spokesman Samuel Schumach and Jackie Koszczuk, the director of communications, have consistently said there was no evidence that security clearance information had been compromised. The White House statement said the hack into

the security clearance database was separate from the breach of federal personnel data announced last week - a breach that is itself appearing far worse than first believed. It could not be learned whether the security database breach happened when an OPM contractor was hacked in 2013, an attack that was discovered last year. Members of Congress received classified briefings about that breach in September, but there was no public mention of security clearance information being exposed.

Nearly all of the millions of security clearance holders, including some CIA, National Security Agency and military special operations personnel, are potentially exposed in the security clearance breach, the officials said. More than 4 million people had been investigated for a security clearance as of October 2014, according to government records. Regarding the hack of standard personnel records announced last week, two people briefed on the investigation disclosed 12 JUN that as many as 14 million current and former civilian U.S. government employees have had their information exposed to hackers, a far higher figure than the 4 million the Obama administration initially disclosed.

American officials have said that cybertheft originated in China and that they suspect espionage by the Chinese government, which has denied any involvement. The newer estimate puts the number of compromised records between 9 million and 14 million going back to the 1980s, said one congressional official and one former U.S. official, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because information disclosed in the confidential briefings includes classified details of the investigation. There are about 2.6 million executive branch civilians, so the majority of the records exposed relate to former employees. Contractor information also has been stolen, officials said. The data in the hack revealed last week include the records of most

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Con'td on page 23



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TIME: 6:00 PM No-Host Social Hour, Dinner 6:30 PM
Program starts at: 7:15 PM
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**Members and guests of the following organizations are invited to attend:
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Green Salad w/Dressing, Dinner Rolls w/Butter, Coffee, Tea and Water, and Dessert.*

Reservations are required. Please make your reservations as soon as possible by completing the following reservation form. Please make checks payable to: El Paso Chapter, MOAA, mail to the address indicated below, to arrive NLT: **Friday, September 18th, 2015. Cost: \$26.00 per person.** Additionally, Reservations are available online at http://elpasomoaa.org/calendar_day.asp?date=9/25/2015&event=227

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**TO: El Paso Chapter, MOAA
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**Date and Time:6:00 PM until.... Friday September 25th, 2015
Location:The General George Underwood Golf Course
Schedule of Events:Program to be published at a later date
Cost:\$26.00 per person
Dress:Men - Coat and Tie; Ladies – Cocktail Dress/Semiformal)**

**Please make reservation(s) for the following persons attending the Reception/Dinner hosted by the El Paso Chapter, MOAA, to be held at the General George Underwood Golf Course on Friday, September 25th, 2015.
NAMES of persons attending:**

(Please Print)

**Enclosed is my check for the above reservation(s) _____ X \$ 26.00 = \$ _____
TOTAL AMOUNT: \$ _____**

OPM DATA BREACH UPDATE 01

Dramatically Worse Than First Reported

federal civilian employees, though not members of Congress and their staffs, members of the military or staff of the intelligence agencies.

On 11 JUN, a major union said it believes the hackers stole Social Security numbers, military records and veterans' status information, addresses, birth dates, job and pay histories; health insurance, life insurance and pension information; and age, gender and race data. The personnel records would provide a foreign government an extraordinary roadmap to blackmail, impersonate or otherwise exploit federal employees in an effort to gain access to U.S. secrets -or entry into government computer networks. Outside experts were pointing to the breaches as a blistering indictment of the U.S. government's ability to secure its own data two years after a National Security Agency contractor, Edward Snowden, was able to steal tens of thousands of the agency's most sensitive documents.

After the Snowden revelations about government surveillance, it became more difficult for the federal government to hire talented younger people into sensitive jobs, particularly at intelligence agencies, said Evan Lesser, managing director of <http://www.clearancejobs.com>, a website that matches security-clearance holders to available slots. Now, if you get a job with the government, your own personal information may not be secure," he said. "This is going to multiply the government's hiring problems many times." The Social Security numbers were not encrypted, the American Federation of Government Employees said, calling that "an abysmal failure on the part of the agency to guard data that has been entrusted to it by the federal workforce." Brenner said, "Unencrypted information of this kind this is disgraceful - it really is disgraceful. We've had wakeup calls now for 20 years or more, and we keep hitting the snooze button."

The OPM's Schumach would not address how the data was protected or specifics of the information that might have been compromised, but said, "Today's adversaries are sophisticated enough that encryption alone does not guarantee protection." OPM is nonetheless increasing its use of encryption, he said. The Obama administration had acknowledged that up to 4.2 million current and former employees whose information resides in the Office of Personnel Management server are affected by the December cyberbreach, but it had been vague about exactly what was taken. J. David Cox, president of the American Federation of Government Employees, said in a letter 11 JUN to OPM director Katherine Archuleta that based on incomplete information OPM provided to the union, "the hackers are now in possession of all personnel data for every federal employee, every federal retiree and up to 1 million former federal employees."

Another federal employee group, the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, said Friday that "at this point, we believe AFGE's assessment of the breach is overstated." It called on the OPM to provide more information. Former Rep. Mike Rogers, one-time chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, said last week that he believes China will use the recently stolen information for "the mother of all spear-phishing attacks."

Spear-phishing is a technique under which hackers send emails designed to appear legitimate so that users open them and load spyware onto their networks.

[Source: Associated Press | Lolita C. Baldor | June 13, 2015 ++]

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THE BORDER BULLETIN

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