2 Items of Interest

Hi, Everybody. I have two items of information for you this month on totally separate issues.

Budget Squeeze

I do not have to remind you that President Obama let the shoe drop on the Defense Department last month, indicating a “leaner and meaner” fighting force. This is just the beginning, as the Department of Defense will have to find even more cuts to meet the additional $600 billion that is mandated, since Congress and the President cannot resolve the budget and deficit stalemate.

What this all means down the road for all of us is that we probably will pay more and receive less in terms of our military benefits.

Some Good News

However, there is one bit of good news in that under the TriCare pharmacy program, if you choose to use the Express Scripts Pharmacy Program, any 90-day supply of a generic brand prescription will now cost you absolutely NOTHING! And there are no shipping or handling costs. In addition, brand name prescriptions cost only $9 for a 90-day supply! Enrollment with Express Scripts is easy, both on you and your physician.

Therefore, I urge you to make the switch, as Sharon and I did several years ago, and you will not be disappointed.

Looking to Improve

At the January board meeting, I appointed a special committee consisting of Marie Fredricks, Beth Cullison, Rance Farrell and Frank Hoak to examine all aspects of what we currently do for our chapter members in hopes that we can improve on the value added to your individual memberships.

The committee will report back at the March board meeting, and I am confident that we will be able to agree on a number of ideas that will meet with your approval.

We realize that the Arizona Chapter has and continues to be one of the best all around chapters in the country, based on the various criteria used to judge chapter performance, but our aim is to make it even better in the coming months. I look forward to reporting the recommendations of the committee to you this spring.

That’s it for now. I hope to see you at the next luncheon meeting.

Play Ball!

Spring Game Tickets To Be Auctioned

Chapter member Jeff Young has donated four tickets to a spring baseball game to be auctioned at our February 18 luncheon. These are prime box seats, third base side right behind the dugout, for the San Francisco Giants vs. Cleveland Indians game on Wednesday, March 14, at 1 p.m. at Scottsdale Stadium.

The tickets, valued at $120, will go to the highest bidder with proceeds going to our Scholarship Fund. Be there.
MOAA Officer Gives the Lowdown on Association Challenges Ahead

Col Lee Lange, USMC (Ret), gave chapter members an overview of how the association is doing, why chapters are important and what we are up against when he was guest speaker at the February luncheon.

Col Lange is MOAA Director of Council and Chapter Affairs. He said MOAA ended 2011 with 377,000 members, a slight increase over 2010, and 412 chapters. MOAA is the fourth largest military association, “and that gives us clout,” he said.

Chapters play a significant role in grassroots support of MOAA goals, he added. “It couldn’t be done without your help.” He encouraged members to send Congress the tear-out letters MOAA will insert in the February Military Officer Magazine and the postcards in March. “They do make a difference,” he said.

State council presidents will be “Storming the Hill” in the spring to meet with legislators and promote MOAA goals.

As for chapters, he said, “You’re active in the community. The only way we tell our story is through what you do in the community.

“We probably face some of the biggest challenges in protecting our benefits,” he said. Referring to the president’s budget, expected to be released February 6, Col Lange said it could likely contain defense cuts, including personnel and services. He said there might be new fees in TriCare for Life, prescription cost increases, and it could call for a look at the whole military retirement system.

“We’ve got a big fight coming,” he said. “We’ll ask for your help. You need to stay informed and weigh in when we ask for help. This is no time to sit on the sidelines. You need to tell your legislators when you hear of things that don’t make you happy.”

Col Lange also performed the induction of 2012 officers. Chapter officer for this year are COL John Ady, president; COL Rob Welch, first vice president; Lt Col Jim Cullison, second vice president; Leonore Hoak, secretary; COL Bill Roscher, treasurer; COL Rance Farrell, COL Nancy Burt, CDR Jim Draper, Lt Col Ron Green and CAPT Frank Hoak, directors. Col Ron Perkins is immediate past president.

Col Lange said he plans to retire in 2013 and move to Arizona. To get him in the mood, the chapter presented him an ASU sweatshirt as a gift for being our guest.

Time’s Running Out for 2012 Dues

Annual membership renewals are past due. Renewals can be submitted with the form below. Fill out the form and send it with your check to Bill Roscher at the address shown.

Arizona Chapter 2012 Membership Renewal Form

Member Full Name: ________________________________________________________________

Membership Renewal: $20 Regular member ___________

Membership Renewal: $10 Auxiliary member ___________ (surviving spouse)

Any Changes in your address, phone number, e-mail, etc:

Make check payable to:  AZ Chapter MOAA

Mail renewal application and check to:
AZ Chapter MOAA
C/O Bill Roscher
4337 E. Sands Drive
Phoenix, AZ 85050
**February Speaker**

State’s Military History Comes to Life

COL Joe Abodeely, USA (Ret), will discuss Arizona’s military history as guest speaker at the February 18 luncheon.

COL Abodeely is a graduate of the University of Arizona and its law school with active duty and National Guard service from 1967-97. He is director of the Arizona Military Museum, which traces the state’s military history from the time of the Conquistadors in the 1500s through today’s war on terrorism. It is located on the Papago Military Reservation in Phoenix. The museum is operated by the Arizona National Guard Historical Society.

Reminder: The new reservation cutoff for our monthly luncheons is 4:00 p.m. on the Tuesday prior to the meeting, rather than Thursday. We are now ordering our meal ahead of time, instead of going with chef’s choice, and the earlier time gives the McCormick Ranch chef enough time to order the ingredients. You can see the February menu on Page 7.

**Coming in March**

Robert Barnes, Deputy Director of the Arizona Department of Veteran Services, will be the guest speaker. Previously, he was Veterans Advocate for the State of Louisiana and also had an interesting military career, which he is expected to recount.

**Tales of Members**

‘Operation Homecoming’ Welcomed Returning Prisoners of War in ‘73

“Operation Homecoming” was the name given to the return of American prisoners of war at the conclusion of the Vietnam War. Frank Hoak knows of the project very well because he was involved with it.

Frank, a retired Navy Captain and chapter board member, described his experience welcoming Navy personnel who had been prisoners when they were released by the North Vietnamese in February 1973. His brief talk was part of a new feature at chapter luncheons called “Tales of Members,” allowing a member to recount an experience from his or her career.

He told of the hardships the prisoners endured and the secretive way they communicated with one another, including recording prisoners’ names on the only paper available, the back of razor blade wrappers.

He also focused on two prisoners he knew personally, having served with them on the USS Hancock. CDR Paul Galanti was shot down in 1966 and was one of the pilots imprisoned longest. He was pictured as a prisoner on a 1967 Life Magazine cover and on Newsweek being reunited with his wife in 1973. CDR Ron Dodge was shot down in 1967 but did not return in Operation Homecoming. His remains were discovered in North Vietnam and identified seven years after the prisoners’ return. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Frank noted that a key effort was to find out who was left behind, and that persistence led to the recovery of CDR Dodge’s remains.

**TAPS**

We regret to inform you of the passing of one of our members:

Theron J. (Jack) Taylor, Capt USN (Ret)

June 20, 1921-January 16, 2012

Veteran of World War II, Korea, Vietnam

We extend heartfelt condolences to the family.
**Arizona Centennial**

**Road to Statehood Was Bumpy, Controversial**

When President William Taft signed a bill on February 14, 1912, designating Arizona as the nation’s 48th state, it ended a quest of nearly 30 years by territory leaders to join the union.

Arizona Territory was thought of back East as a barren area too sparsely populated to merit statehood. At best it was suggested that New Mexico and Arizona territories join the union together as one state.

Approval to proceed with statehood was finally granted, and a state constitution was drawn up in 1911. However, President Taft would not sign the statehood bill until a clause was removed in the constitution permitting recall of judges. It was removed, and Taft signed. Residents had hoped the president would sign the bill on February 12, Abraham Lincoln’s birthday, but Taft was busy that day. Lincoln had authorized creation of Arizona Territory in 1863.

One of the first acts of the new state legislature was to write a constitutional amendment reinstating recall of judges. The amendment passed as did another granting women the right to vote, eight years before a women’s voting rights amendment was implemented nationally.

The State of Arizona’s first governor was George W.P. Hunt, its first U.S. senators were Henry Ashurst and Marcus Smith, and its first U.S. representative was Carl Hayden, who later was elected senator and served until 1969. Arizona’s population in 1912 was about 205,000. Tucson was the largest city with 15,000 residents. The Phoenix population was 12,000.

**Arizona Centennial Trivia**

From AAA Arizona High Roads Magazine

When Arizona’s first university went to Tucson, what did Phoenix get? (Answer on page 5)

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**JROTC SCHOLARSHIP NEWS**

by Rob Welch

Scholarship Chairman

The search is underway for “The Best of The Best.” During the first week of January our Scholarship Committee sent applications to the 17 high school JROTC programs we support in the Greater Phoenix area. The scholarship applications are due back on March 25. At that time the Committee will evaluate the applications and prepare recommendations for the Board of Directors.

The Board will act on the committee’s recommendations at the April meeting. The committee will then send notification letters to the applicants. The selectees will be invited to our May 19 business luncheon to receive their scholarship awards and give a brief talk on their life’s goals and objectives.

This year, in memory of our first Scholarship Chairman, the Colonel Ron Worthington Scholarship will be awarded to the top-rated selectee. This scholarship amount, though not set as yet, is expected to be at a higher amount than the other scholarships. Please put Saturday, May 19, on your calendars.

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**Welcome Our Newest Members**

Jane I. McCullough, COL, USA (Ret)
And husband Paul, Scottsdale

Edward D. Balaban, LT, USNR (Ret)
Scottsdale

Arlene B. Day, LCDR, USN, (Ret)
And husband Mark, Scottsdale

Shirley J. Manchek, LTC, USA (Ret)
Phoenix

Please meet and greet our new members.

---

**Donations to Chapter Funds**

Scholarship Fund

$75, Nancy Burt

In Memory of Lori Perkins

$40, Chuck Schluter

$30, Dan Germond

$20, Gene Raffanelli

$10, Kathy Upchurch
Personal Affairs
by Dan Conway
Personal Affairs Officer

Caregiving

Many of us are facing or will face the challenges of caregiving. I located a website which I found to be very informative. It is: www.familycaregiving101.org/.

The following stages and questions were taken from that site.

Stages of Caregiving

One way to think about caregiving is to see it as a set of stages. These stages were written with caregivers of the elderly in mind and may not apply completely to your situation. Also, the time spent in each stage will be different for everyone. Your care recipient's chronic condition or disability will determine how quickly or slowly you pass through the stages. No matter what kind of caregiving situation you're in, we think you'll find some useful ways to think about caregiving by reading these stages.

Stage 1. I may help a relative soon.
Stage 2: I am beginning to help.
Stage 3: I am helping.
Stage 4: I am still helping!
Stage 5: My role is changing.
Stage 6: My caregiving has ended.

Top 10 Questions

1. My parents live in a different state than I do. How do I locate the home care services they need?
2. Are there reputable websites where I can find information and resources, and perhaps even some support?
3. A friend of mine is taking care of her mother all by herself. She insists that it's no one's responsibility but her own, but I know she is really overwhelmed. How can I help?
4. My mother died several years ago and my elderly father is no longer able to live by himself. My husband and I have decided to have him live with us rather than sending him to a nursing home, and we want to make sure everything is ready when he comes. What are some of the things we need to anticipate - for his well being and ours?
5. My sisters and brothers have left me with all the responsibilities of caring for my aging parent. Any suggestions on how I can get them involved?
6. I'm feeling really stretched between my job and all the things I need to do for my parent. How do I approach my employer about this situation so that she knows I care about my responsibilities at work as well as those at home?
7. I know I would feel better about taking care of my spouse if I just had an afternoon each week to myself. How can I find organizations that provide respite care?
8. There never seems to be enough hours in the day. The second I get a handle on things, something new crops up and I feel overwhelmed all over again. What can I do to get organized?
9. How can I figure out what long-term care services my insurance will cover?
10. I'm concerned that my husband's health care needs are going to cost us all of our savings and we won't have anything left to live on. Is there any help available for financial planning/support in our situation?

Please consider me as an asset, and don't hesitate to call if I can be of assistance in any Personal Affairs matter. Phone 480-368-1427.

Daniel M. Conway

VA Adds More Vietnam Era Ships for Possible Agent Orange Exposure

From the Veterans Health Administration

The Veterans Administration has updated the list of U.S. Navy and Coast Guard ships that operated in Vietnam, adding 47 more vessels and expanding information for others. The list can help Vietnam-era Veterans find out if they qualify for presumption of Agent Orange exposure when seeking VA disability compensation for herbicide-related diseases.

Visit the Agent Orange homepage to learn more about Agent Orange: www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange.

Trivia Answer: An insane asylum.
With this being a major election year, it is entirely possible that the President and Congress will continue to kick the can down the road, with the associated gridlock being inevitable. However, we need to be more vigilant than ever in helping to defend the benefits we earned through years of service against disproportionate and indiscriminant hatchet work. As February rolls out, watch closely for MOAA requests for action stemming out of the President’s budget request and Congressional reaction to it. Also, look for a tear-out mailer in the February edition of Military Officer, the MOAA magazine, directed to the House and Senate Armed Services Committee leadership.

TRICARE Doctor Payments Still at Play
MOAA has already reminded us that Congress must take action before March 1 if we are to avoid the mandated 27% cut to Medicare/TRICARE payments to doctors, which would drive many doctors out of the system. In January MOAA requested we send pre-written emails to our congressional representatives through the MOAA website highlighting our concern over this issue. I hope you all joined me in doing so.

State Legislature Gets Underway
At the state level, the legislative session began on January 9. As The Sentinel goes to press, there have been 28 bills and resolutions introduced that have potential impact on the military/veteran community, 12 in the Senate and 16 in the House. We know there are a few more that are being considered and could be introduced in the coming days. Of the existing bills, continuing the Arizona Department of Veterans Services and its related Commission for another 10 years, authorizing a World War II memorial to be built at Wesley Bolin Plaza, protecting Arizona military facilities from encroachment through land exchange, enhancing legislation with regard to veteran-friendly campuses and extending the life of the Military Family Relief Fund are the most impactful.

New Defense Strategy
On January 5 the President, the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff participated in a news conference to roll out a new military strategy for our nation. The strategy itself is contained in a document entitled “Sustaining U.S. Global Leadership: Priorities for 21st Century Defense.” The document is 16 pages long but only includes about 8 pages of strategy. As can be expected, it is long on generalities and short on specifics.

The report has sections on “A Challenging Global Security Environment”, "Primary Missions of the U.S. Armed Forces “, “Toward a Joint Force of 2020” and concludes with the following: “The United States faces profound challenges that require agile and capable military forces whose actions are harmonized with other elements of U.S. national power. Our global responsibilities are significant; we cannot afford to fail. The balance between available resources and our security needs has never been more delicate. Force and program decisions made by the Department of Defense will be made in accordance with the strategic approach described in this document, which is designed to ensure our Armed Forces can meet the demands of the U.S. National Security Strategy at acceptable risk.”

Looming Impacts Close to Home
The strategy is intended to be the prelude to implementing cuts to meet deficit targets mandated by the August 2, 2011, Budget Control Act. As mentioned, details are few, but the operative theme, “the balance between available resources and our security needs has never been more delicate,” clearly points toward looming personnel, health care and retirement program impacts. The next insight as to the details of beginning to implement the strategy and the mandated budget cuts over the coming decade is expected to be in the President’s FY2013 Budget Request. As The Sentinel goes to press, MOAA expects this to be released on or about February 6.

Bring your old cell phones to a chapter meeting for the Cell Phones for Soldiers program. The phones are exchanged for calling cards for deployed service members to keep in touch with family members.
Keep Us Informed
Please let the Chapter Secretary, Membership Chairman or any Chapter Officer know when you change your address, phone number and/or e-mail address.
Their names and phone numbers are listed on the next page.

February Luncheon Meeting

WHEN: February 18, 2012
11:00 a.m. Social Hour
12:00 Lunch

WHERE: McCormick Ranch Golf Club
Scottsdale, Arizona

COST: $20 Per Person

DRESS: Casual

MENU
Tossed Salad
Roasted Stuffed Pork Loin
Whipped Potatoes
Fresh Vegetable Medley
Fresh Breads with Creamery Butter
Desert of the Day
Regular/ Decaffeinated Coffee, Tea

PROGRAM: COL Joe Abodeely will tell us about the Arizona Military Museum.

Reservations must be received by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, February 14. Use the reservation form below. Cancellations must be received the same day to receive your money back.

CHAPTER FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION
If you would like to make a donation to one or more of the AZ Chapter Funds, include your check identified with the appropriate fund and mail to: Bill Roscher, 4337 E. Sands Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85050.

General Fund: $ ___________________________
Scholarship Fund: $ _______________________ [a 501(c)(3) charitable fund]

Name of Donor: _____________________________ Identify me as a donor in the next newsletter. YES ____ NO____

MEAL / MEETING RESERVATION FORM

Please reserve ____________ meals for (Name) ________________________________________________

Enclosed is my check for $ ___________________________ ($20.00 per person) for February 18, 2012

Make check payable to: AZ Chapter MOAA Received No Later Than: February 14, 2012

Send to: Bill Roscher, 4337 E. Sands Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85050. wroscher@cox.net

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Get your prescription mail-order form at www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE or call toll-free 1.866.DOD.TMOP (1.866.363.8667) and start saving immediately.

*The OSD Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee may set quantity limits on some medications. Other benefit limitations may apply. For more information, go to www.tricare.mil/mopformedinfo.cuse.
Harry Truman and Dwight Eisenhower were the only U.S. presidents to serve in uniform during World War I. Truman, a former National Guardsman, volunteered for duty and was an artillery Captain in France. He later rose to the rank of Colonel in the Army Reserve. Eisenhower, a 1915 West Point graduate, commanded a stateside training unit.

**The Arizona Chapter MOAA - 2012 Board of Directors and Committee Chairs**

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Access Arizona Chapter’s Internet Web Site at: [www.azchaptermoaa.org](http://www.azchaptermoaa.org)

Arizona Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
13819 N. 51st Street
Scottsdale, AZ 85254

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