



The Eagle's Eye

October 2013



Newsletter of the Gainesville, Florida Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)



President's Message:

Thank you to all members who joined us for our fall social calendar kick-off luncheon with the Greater Gainesville Rotary Club at Napolitano's Restaurant on Monday, 16 September. Twenty four (24) Chapter members enjoyed the opportunity to dine with our Rotary Club partners. Our speaker was Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agent Joseph Armstrong.



I am pleased to report your Chapter Board of Directors unanimously approved a cash award to the South West Advocacy Group (SWAG) for their 2013 Thanksgiving turkey program. This annual community service project is spearheaded by Alachua County Sherriff Sadie Darnell.

It is sad news to report the unexpected passing of Captain Don Freese, USNR (Retired). Don was a Florida Council of Chapters Board member for the past 5 years. He went from being the President of the Florida Council to his selection as a MOAA National Board member in 2012. Don was a strong advocate to every Florida chapter with his unsurpassed support throughout his tenure as President, Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC).

Plans are complete for an Oktoberfest Luncheon at the Gainesville Country Club (GCC) on Thursday, 10 October. This luncheon was a 2012 highlight with chapter members enjoying a sumptuous German themed buffet lunch set by the GCC culinary team. This is a do not miss event. See details in the announcement/flyer and reservation form included in this edition of the *Eagles Eye*.

We look forward to seeing you at our Oktoberfest Luncheon on Thursday, 10 October. Send your reservation form now. **Carter**

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- Speaker series: National Security In A Changing World, 4 Oct (see page 6) Phillips Center for the Performing Arts
- MOAA Oktoberfest Luncheon, 10 Oct , 11:30 am, GCC
- Veterans Advisory Board Meeting 14 Oct , 5:30 pm, Kanapaha Memorial Park
- MOAA Veterans Day Picnic , 11 Nov, 2:30 pm, Ginnie Springs

Notice of Chapter Elections—Our November *Eagles Eye* will contain a ballot for the election of Chapter Officers and Directors for 2014. We will install our Officers and Directors at our Holiday Dinner on Thursday, December 12th. Our nominating committee proposes the following slate to the membership. We Thank these members for volunteering. Ballots coming next month.

President: John Menoski (Capt., USAF)
First Vice President: Tom Hennessey (COL, USA Ret)
Second Vice President: Vacant
Treasurer: Rodney Bolling (LCdr., USN Ret)
Secretary: Parker Lawrence (Capt., USN Ret)

Directors:
Paul Albritton (B Gen., USAF, Ret)
Carter Nute (Capt., USN, Ret) (Immediate Past President)
Candy Gleason (Member Spouse)
Mickey Smith (Capt., USN, Ret)
Bill Moore (CDR, USN, Ret)
Walt Visniski (CDR, USN, Ret)

Annual Dues

Chapter by Law, Article VI-Dues Section 1 requires that the annual dues for each Member and Auxiliary Member be recommended by the Board of Directors .

The Board of Directors recommends:

1. Annual Dues for members remain at \$15.00 per calendar year.
2. Annual dues for Auxiliary Members remain at \$10.00 per calendar year.

SAVE THE DATE

November 11, 2013

10:30 AM, Kanapaha Park Veterans Day Ceremony

and

2:30 PM, Ginnie Springs MOAA Sponsored Picnic

COME ONE! COME ALL!

JOIN US FOR A SONNY'S CATERED PICNIC, FRIENDSHIP AND THE SPRINGS

Reservation form will be in the next *Eagles Eye*

Please join us for the

**Gainesville Chapter
Military Officers Association of America**

Oktoberfest Luncheon

Gainesville Country Club
7300 SW 35th Way
Gainesville, Florida 32608
(352) 372-1458

11:30 AM Thursday, October 10, 2013

Event schedule

:

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM Social – Cash bar
12:00 – 12:10 PM Welcome remarks; Invocation; Pledge to the Flag
12:10 -1:00 PM – Oktoberfest Buffet Luncheon (\$14 per person)
1:00 PM Adjourn

Reservations required insuring an accurate, guaranteed count

**Please mail your reservation request to arrive not later than Monday
October 7, 2013**

Members needing transportation contact Carter Nute at (352) 335-1293 or at
ccnute@earthlink.net

Yes, I/we want to attend Gainesville Chapter MOAA Oktoberfest luncheon on Thursday, October 10, 2013

Name: _____

Number attending: _____ Guest name (s): _____

RSVP with \$14 per person, check payable to:

**Gainesville Chapter, MOAA
P.O. Box 142423
Gainesville, FL 32614-2423**

President Guides Military Retirement Study

September 13, 2013 [Printed form MOAA.Org]

On September 12 President Obama issued instructions to the Military Retirement and Compensation Modernization Commission created to jump start efforts to overhaul the current military pay and benefits system.

Congress established the commission and mandated that the President establish principles to guide the nine member commission in its work in the FY 2013 defense authorization act.

In his letter to Congress, Obama said that the commission would not alter the current retirement system for those already serving, retired or in the process of retiring. Along with a review of military compensation, the President asked that the commission look at the “interrelationship of the military’s current promotion system...as well as associated force shaping tools.”

President Obama stated that the commission must review “the full breadth of the systems,” including healthcare, military family support, and any federal programs that could influence the decision of current or future service members to stay in uniform or leave the service.

The President detailed a number of areas for the commission to study and upon which to make recommendations, including:

- manpower and compensation
- living standards
- pay
- effectiveness
- flexibility
- motivation to advance

He instructed the commission to consider differences between service in the military and other uniformed services, differences between regular and reserve military service, and to “facilitate, as appropriate, the use of the reserve...to support regular military service.”

Obama stated that, “while military compensation and retirement systems should prove a reasonable standard of living, they should be fiscally sustainable and impose the least burden on the American taxpayer.”

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[Continued from page 4]] **President Guides Military Retirement Study**

He went on to say that military compensation should be comparable to pay in the American economy. Moreover, it should be competitive with private-sector pay and incentivize servicemembers to continue to acquire skills, accept challenging assignments, and also to recognize hardships and danger. Finally, he said that compensation should facilitate the distribution and separation of service members when appropriate.

The commission's report is due on May 1, 2014

The Bottom Line — Change Military Retirement— Are You Crazy?

The August 8, 2013

By Col. Mike Hayden, USAF (Ret) [Printed From MOAA. Org.]

Some former Pentagon leaders and so-called “think tank experts” have called for a crazy, complete retirement overhaul criticizing the 20-year retirement as either unaffordable or unfair to those who leave before that point, or both.

Their points have gotten traction as a new commission — established as a result of provisions in the FY 2013 National Defense Authorization Act and tasked with reviewing and perhaps overhauling military compensation and retirement benefits — began its work in July.

As part of its charter, the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission's purpose is to review and make recommended changes to the compensation and retirement systems to ensure the long-term viability of the all-volunteer force.

The interesting twist is any recommended changes to the retirement system will grandfather existing retirees and currently serving troops.

You could characterize this as a divide-and-conquer-type strategy. Eliminate current retirees as well as all the currently serving troops who intend to stay for a career from the affected pool and you limit the backlash.

The commission is running on a short timeline, with quite a bit of work ahead of it before providing recommendations to the president by May 1, 2014.

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[Continued from page 5] **The Bottom Line — Change Military Retirement— Are You Crazy?**

With vast amount of issues to be looked at, there's a good chance the commission will dust off recent recommendations on dismantling the current retirement system for future entrants — for example, the “vesting” options as proposed by the Defense Business Board and 11th Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation.

In both of these proposals, the existing 20-year retirement system would be eliminated or modified in favor of a 401(k)-like plan to allow vesting and a transportable career device for those who leave short of 20 years BUT at the expense of those who stay beyond 20 years.

What kind of crazy retention formula is that? For example, who, after 10 years of service, four deployments, and three PCS moves, would stay on active duty for another 10 years or more if they would never see retired pay or have to wait until age 60 to draw it?

The bottom line: The commission needs to understand the most important element of national security is the sustainment of a dedicated, top-quality all-volunteer force. Overhauling retirement — the very system needed to entice troops to endure levels of sacrifice most citizens are unwilling to accept for even one tour of duty, let alone for two or three decades — is crazy.

National Security In A Changing World

From the Perspective of an Academic, a General, a Spy, and Florida Statesmen

Featuring:

Professor Kenneth Anderson

General (Ret.) James T. Hill

Professor James M. Olson

Senator Bob Graham

Senator Bill Nelson

Friday, October 4, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

Curtis M. Phillips, M.D. Center for the Performing Arts

University of Florida

Free and open to the public

For more information or to submit a question to the panelist, visit <http://www.floridalawreview.com>

Medical Corner: Do You Have Hearing Problems? Read Chapter Member Jerry Kennedy's Email to me, and then read the next two pages to save significant money.

From: "Jared P. Kennedy" <jkennedy@psginc.co>

Date: September 19, 2013, 5:36:23 PM EDT

To: Jim & Candy Gleason <gleason6@cox.net>

Subject: Retiree Hearing Aid Programs

Dear Jim,

In an *Eagles Eye* article some months ago there was presented information on DoD supported programs that provide hearing aids at cost. The savings are substantial. If you think about the facilities, instruments and equipment involved in measuring and diagnosing hearing problems, combined with the fact that they aren't dispensed in high volumes it isn't surprising that they are so expensive. My hearing aids instead of being about \$2,800 each were a little over \$300 each. They are top of the line instrument (Resound). And I am quite pleased with the outcome.

The program is supported at a number of military posts and bases, as listed in the article. I looked for bases reasonably close to home. By the time I got around to acting the Sequester had begun to have an impact on availability. Long story made a little shorter, my best bet was Fort Rucker, Alabama, a little over four hours away. I called the number in the article (334.255.7185) and learned that I would need an appointment in the audiology clinic for evaluation and a second appointment about six weeks later when the hearing aids were delivered. I picked mine up August 11. Apart from the driving this was a hassle free exercise.

I was dazzled by everyone I met or talked to there, soldiers and civilians. If I stumbled on someone who couldn't answer my question they immediately found someone who could. See my letter to Col. Lazerta, attached. I very highly recommend this program and would be glad to chat with anyone who like to hear about my experience with it.

-Jerry

Jared P. Kennedy

Captain, USN (RET)

jpk939@gmail.com

Cell 352.359.8014

Medical Corner — Hearing Aid Assistance Programs For Military Retirees

The DoD sponsored **Retiree-At-Cost Hearing Aid Program (RACHAP)** and the **Retiree Hearing Aid Purchase Program (RHAPP)** are designed to help military retirees purchase hearing aids through an Audiology Clinic at a special government negotiated cost. The hearing aids available through this program are the same state-of-the art technologies available to active duty service members. The program is open to all military retirees who have hearing loss or tinnitus (ringing in the ears). Dependents of military retirees are not eligible for this program. Retirees can buy hearing aids at a significant savings by using the program. For example, a set of hearing aids (one of the best available) that retails for about \$5000.00 costs a retiree as little as \$755.00 or about 15% of the retail costs. Services for the hearing evaluation, hearing aid fitting and follow up hearing aid checks are part of the retiree benefits and are available at no cost to you.

Not every military medical facility is able to provide the RACHAP program. If you are traveling to a participating site from out of town, you need to compare your travel costs and purchase savings to the costs of purchasing hearing aids privately in your local community. Travel and overnight expenses are not covered. Generally, at least two visits are required for you to get hearing aids; one for your hearing evaluation and one for your hearing aid fitting.

Also, military retirees may be eligible for hearing aids from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and receive hearing aids from the VA free of charge – in most cases there is no costs to the patient. The Audiology Department can provide you with more information about VA services or you may contact the VA directly at 1-877-222-8387 or 1-800-827-1000. Dependents of retirees are not eligible for hearing aid services from military treatment facilities (including RACHAP) or from TRICARE. The family member is eligible for hearing evaluations and the audiologist can provide them with more information about hearing aids or local providers.

Military Audiology Association

The Military Audiology Association is providing information on its Web site -

<http://www.militaryaudiology.org/rachap/state.html> - regarding military hospitals that provide a hearing aid service available to retirees at a fraction of the normal cost. The extent of the service provided at these military hospitals is listed on the Military Audiology Association's Web

Medical Corner—Hearing Aid Assistance Programs

RACHAP/RHAPP Locations

Listed by State, Lower 48

Listed facilities along with contact information and whether or not the facility provides hearing aids at cost to US military retirees. This information is subject to change at any time. It is recommended that you contact the appropriate facility before incurring significant travel expenses.

Last updated: 2013-09-10

State	Site	DSN Phone	Commercial Phone	RACHAP/RHAPP?
AL	Ft Rucker	255-7185	334-255-7185	Yes
CT	Groton		1-888-NAVY-MED	Yes
GA	Ft Gordon		706-787-6689	Yes
IL	Lovell Federal Health Care Center (FHCC)		224-610-3759	Yes, for those within 75 miles of the facility
KS	Ft Riley		785-240-7669	Yes
LA	Ft Polk	863-3300	337-531-3276	Yes
MD	Andrews AFB	857-8860	(240) 857-8860	Not at this time
MD	WRNMMCB		301-295-7840	No
NC	Ft Bragg	337-6751	910-907-6751	Yes
NE	Offutt AFB	271-7375	(402) 294-7375	Yes
NH	Portsmouth	684-2081	1-888-NAVY-MED	Yes
NV	Nellis AFB	348-2273	(702) 653-2273	Local beneficiaries only
RI	Newport		1-888-NAVY-MED	No
TX	Lackland AFB	554-5421	(210) 292-5421	Yes

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-Newsletter/TOPS Liaison - Jim Gleason (COL, USA Ret) gleason6@cox.net
(352) 333-8974

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Chapter Social Functions and Meetings

Wednesday, 13 February 2013— Sweetheart Dinner (Valentine's Event), at Gainesville Country Club. Social Hour: 6:00pm—Dinner: 6:30pm

Sunday, 7 April — Brunch at Gainesville Country Club. 12:30 pm

Thursday, 2 May — Cinco de Mayo Dinner at Mexico Lindo Restaurant. Social Hour: 6:00pm—Dinner: 6:30pm

June/July/August — no events.

Monday, 16 September—Joint Luncheon-Rotary Club at Napolitano's 11:30 AM "The FBI's role in Homeland Security"

Thursday, 10 October—Oktoberfest Luncheon at Gainesville Country Club 11:30 am

Monday, 11 November— Veteran's Day Picnic, at Ginnie Springs at 2:30pm

Military Officer's Wives (MOW) 2013 Social Hour 11:30am—Lunch 12pm

- Tuesday, 22 January 2013—Military Officers Wives (MOW) Luncheon-Gainesville Country Club, "What's your body type?"
- Tuesday, 26 March 2013—Military Officers Wives (MOW) Luncheon—Gainesville Country Club, BELK FASHION SHOW
- Tuesday, 28 May 2013—Military Officers Wives (MOW) Luncheon—Gainesville Country Club, BIRTHDAY BASH CELEBRATION
- **Tuesday, 22 October 2013—Military Officers Wives (MOW) Luncheon—Gainesville Country Club, Dr. Anna Heineman, Ph.D. art and fine object appraiser**

Medical Corner — Flu Shot

(From the VA website)

Take the Seasonal Flu Challenge: Prevent Flu

As fall and winter approach, flu season is upon us too.

Influenza (flu) presents health challenges not only to us as individuals, but to our VA and hometown communities. Flu is a respiratory illness that spreads easily. It is caused by viruses that can change from year to year. Each year in the U.S., flu causes more than 226,000 hospitalizations and about 36,000 deaths.

Even though most of these cases are among people age 65 and older, anyone can get the flu. This is why it is important for all of us to take the flu challenge and help to stop the spread of flu!

- **Veterans can get Flu Shots at the VA Medical Center (Malcolm Randall) on a Walk-In Basis, or at Kanapaha Park on Veterans Day, November 11, (before and after the 10:30am Ceremony)**
- **For those Members and Spouses who are Medicare eligible, flu shots are covered by Medicare.**

Chapter Board Meeting

Date: 8 October 2013

Time: 7:00PM

Location: Queen of Peace Church, 10900 SW 24th Avenue [Enter the Church, and follow meeting signs to the right]

All Members, Perspective Members, Auxiliary



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