



MOAA

Military Officers Association of America

Montgomery County, MD Chapter

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

4th Monday of Each Month -- Regularly scheduled meeting of the chapter executive group. The chapter meets for dinner at 1815 hours on the fourth Monday of the month. The business meeting starts at 1900. The meeting currently is being held at the Urban Barbecue in Rock Creek Village Shopping Center Bauer Drive just off Norbeck Road/MD 28 in Rockville. The meetings are open to any member who would like to participate in chapter deliberations – or just socialize. Contact a chapter officer prior to attending to confirm the date and location.

Luncheons -- Luncheons have been joint events with a federal retiree group. The luncheons are held at the Manor Country Club off Norbeck Road Rt. 28, just west of Georgia Avenue. They are regularly scheduled for the third Wednesday of the month. All luncheon meetings are at noon, with a lunch buffet at 12:30 PM. The price of the luncheon is \$20. Please RSVP with names and number of participants to: Jim Dittbrenner at 301-460-9611, or Jimditt@verizon.net or John Lass at 301-871-6734.

Manor Country Club Carrolton Road,
Rockville, MD 20853 • 301 929-1700
Dining Style: Casual Elegant
Cuisine: American
Website <http://www.manorcc.org>

OFFICERS

President
Col Harvey Kaplan
USA Ret
Past President
LCDR Art Glover
USN Ret
1st VP
LCDR Art Glover
USN Ret
2nd VP
CAPT David H.
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NOAA Ret.
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AUS
Treasurer
LCDR William Schultz
US Navy Ret

Chapter News

The Chapter President's Corner - Greetings to all-- There's truly a lot on which I can report at midsummer, but I'll limit myself to a few of the highlights with an emphasis on upcoming events and activities of the Chapter.

First of all, I'd like to welcome over 150 new members during the first half of the

calendar year. A large percentage of our new Chapter members are USPHS officers who recently graduated from the Officer Basic Course in Gaithersburg. We host an open house for each class (i.e., almost every month), and I'm very pleased that so many of the students opt to join our Chapter. In line with MOAA National policy, they receive a free membership (both Chapter and National) for the first year. I wish all of our new members the very best on their assignments; about 85% move to locations other than the DC Metro area. All of you are welcome to join us for programs whenever you are in DC Metro area, or if and when you are assigned to the DC area. By the way, we're always looking for volunteers to help us staff the MOAA table at the Open Houses. These take place on Thursday evenings, about once each month. Please let us know if you're interested in lending a hand; training is on-the-job and very easy.

We already have a contingent of our members scheduled to attend the 2nd Annual Congressional Luncheon with our Maryland Delegation. This year's event will take place at 11 AM, Tuesday, September 11th on Capitol Hill in the Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2186. If you'd like to join our group and sit with your member of Congress (House or Senate) I need to know now as the deadline is rapidly approaching. We're hoping to have our entire Maryland Delegation attend the Luncheon this election year (i.e., 8 Representatives + 2 US Senators). Please call me directly with your questions: 301-460-1883. If you e-mail me at htkaplan@verizon.net, I'll promptly send you a reservation form.

Our Wounded Warriors Luncheon at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (Bethesda) on 27 June was a resounding success. We provided a lavish buffet and served food/drink/dessert to about 160 recuperating military personnel, their families (including about a dozen children), and members of the Hospital staff. Our team of nine members did a grand job of assisting on the serving line and talking with our guests. Approximately 50 more people came by just to chat, and the program was most pleasant and "upbeat." We're been invited to do it again toward the end of the year. If you wish to participate, let a Chapter Board Member or me know!

As you know from the monthly announcements, we're trying to get all of our seven Uniformed Services to participate in our monthly luncheons. In August, it's NOAA on weather forecasting. In September, it'll be an update on BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) in Maryland -- this impacts all of us. In October we'll have a former Army nurse, now with the VA Hospital in DC, who'll talk about the special illnesses of veterans. In November we'll be hosting the Deputy Surgeon General of the United States, Rear Admiral Boris Lushniak from the USPHS. Of course, December will bring our gala Holiday Party (with dozens of great door prizes, a terrific buffet lunch, and a lot of fun for all). Watch for our monthly detailed announcements via e-mail. If you're not receiving those announcements, please contact Jim Dittbrenner at jimditt@verizon.net.

The MOAA National Meeting will take place in Arlington, VA, this year. It'll be during the final few days of October, starting on Sunday, the 28th, and will include a special meeting of the Maryland Council of Chapters. Everyone is welcome to attend this

enjoyable and highly informative gathering. Watch for more details soon!

Please remember, if you want to know more about what we're doing on a continuing basis (e.g., National and State Legislative Affairs, Youth Leadership Programs, High School ROTC support, University of Maryland liaison, MOAA Maryland Council of Chapters activities, etc.), you're always welcome to join us for a Board Meeting. Our next one is 13 August 2012, 6:15 PM (for dinner) at Urban Barbecue, Rock Creek Village Shopping Center, Norbeck & Bauer Drives (opposite Safeway). No reservations are necessary.

Enjoy the rest of your summer here in Washington or wherever your travels and assignments take you.

Sincerely, Colonel *Harvey J. Kaplan* USA Ret

June Luncheon - Captain Charles L. McGarvey, USPHS retired, provided a briefing concerning "Hurricane Katrina Revisited: Lessons Learned." Captain McGarvey was the lead of the USPHS Alpha Team that responded to the needs as a result of this horrendous storm. Thirty-seven Public Health members consisting of MDs, nurses, pharmacists, etc., were transported to the scene one day after the storm. Although originally scheduled to be set up in the New Orleans Coliseum, the facility was in no condition for a medical unit so they were diverted to the Louisiana State University Coliseum. There they met other government teams as well as volunteers and changed an empty facility into a field hospital. Volunteers played an important part. For example, although containers with pharmaceuticals were already in place outside the facility, securing them inside in some coherent manner was the project of such a volunteer. The individual made shelving overnight for the inventory, which was set up in the basement of the coliseum.



The field unit was operational within 8 hours of arrival, performing a triage function. The unit was ministering to up to 2000 storm victims a day. The pharmacy was executing up to 900 prescriptions a day. In all, 15,000 patients were received and treated in the first 9 days.

Making an efficient organization from many personnel from different government and private groups and volunteers presented administrative and logistic problems that required instant solutions. Examples of some of the issues:

- Division of authority caused problems. The top authority for the operation was at the State level. Federal personnel must also respond to Federal regulations and authority. In this situation the PHS retained Administration and Logistic responsibility, but the medical staff reported to the State.
- Credentialing of individuals was and remains a problem. Is the volunteer really a doctor or nurse?

- Scheduling of diverse groups
- Logistics including handling of donations of all types. Liabilities from shortages.
- Security of facility and narcotics.

Captain McGarvey, in the question and answer period, was asked for advice on meeting such a disaster at the personal level. Much has been written on the subject, but some interesting extensions are the advisability of having at least \$2,000 dollars in small bills on hand and having extra propane and gasoline.

July Luncheon - Dr. Regon Campbell US Navy Deputy Executive Director, Undersea Technology/ Deputy Undersea Warfare Chief Technology Officer, returned to our luncheon group to brief us of the role and design of the submarine.

Dr. Campbell started her briefing with the history of the submarine and its mixed successes. In more modern times the worth of the submarine can be attested to by the fact that in WW II the sub, which comprised just 2 percent of the US Navy fleet, provided 30% of the enemy shipping losses. Currently the submarine missions have expanded beyond anti-shiping to include launches of missiles, special operations forces and recovery tasks.



She described the design and purpose of the current submarine fleet to include the Los Angeles, Seawolf, Virginia and Ohio class subs. Her description of the modern anatomy of design was most insightful. The SUBFACE design initiative that focuses on hull integrity, which was initiated as a result of the Thresher incident, was discussed.

Mary Sanders Reports - The official Cell Phones for Soldiers (CPFS) campaign was coordinated and hosted by the Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee and supported by MOAA Nationwide ended. The original goal was to collect and donate 1 million minutes. The final total CPFS collection nationwide was 29,358 cell phones totaling 1,761,480 minutes of prepaid talk time for our Troops! Our Montgomery County Chapter contributed 170 cell phones, helping MOAA far exceed the goal. Thanks to everyone who participated and made a difference.

MOAA Information

TRICARE Costs - "Senior DOD and military leaders repeatedly [met with] Congress to assert radically escalating TRICARE costs are 'eating us alive.' They even [convinced] the services' senior enlisted leaders to join the campaign. A new DOD reprogramming memo proves those claims were bogus, and DOD leaders knew it – or should have known it". It turns out the DOD health budget had a surplus of over \$500 million in 2011.

The new reprogramming request to Congress states that military health care will cost \$708 million less than budgeted for FY 2012.

Of Interest

DOD Launches Revised TAP - Chapter member James Dittbrenner has been a player for years in the Transition Assistance Program (TAP), which prepares military members planning to enter civilian life. Jim reports that the TAP program has had its first change in 20 years and is now called "Transition GPS." In the past transition and preparation for the civilian workforce occurred late in a service member's time in the military. The new transition program will incorporate career readiness and transition preparation into the entire span of a service member's career. Transition GPS includes:

- **Pre-Separation Assessment and Individual Counseling:** Through the new transition program, service members will have individual counseling to discuss their career goals and start their personalized transition process.
- **5-Day Core Curriculum:** The five-day Transition GPS Core Curriculum will include a financial planning seminar, a workshop offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs on available veterans' benefits and services, and a redesigned employment workshop. Members can seek guidance from subject matter experts, identify career goals, and develop a road map for their transition.
- **Career-Specific Additional Curriculum:** In addition to the Core Curriculum, members will have the option of participating in a series of two-day tailored tracks: (1) an Education track, for those pursuing a higher education degree; (2) a Technical and Skills Training track, for those seeking job-ready skills; and (3) an Entrepreneurship track.
- **CAPSTONE Event:** Before their separation from military service, service members will verify that transitioning service members completed the Transition GPS curriculum and achieved Career Readiness Standards.

Military Honors website - The Defense Department has launched a website that will list service members who have received the Medal of Honor or service crosses since Sept. 11, 2001. The site, which will be hosted at <http://valor.defense.gov> eventually might include information on Silver Star recipients. Officials say that a complete database of all major medals awarded by the military would be impossible to compile.

National Guard and Reserve Activated as of July 30, 2012 - The Army and Marine Corps announced this week a decrease in activated reservists and National Guard members while the Navy and Air Force announced an increase. The net collective result is 277 fewer reservists activated compared with the previous week.

The total number currently on active duty from the Army National Guard and Army Reserve is 45,336; Navy Reserve, 4,285; Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, 9,304; Marine Corps Reserve, 3,267; and the Coast Guard Reserve, 793.

A cumulative roster of all National Guard and Reserve personnel who are currently

activated may be found online at <http://www.defense.gov/news/d20120730ngr.pdf> .

LINKS

Reverse Boot-Camp - DOD announced an initiative designed to help service members departing the military transition to civilian life. The Transition Goals Planning Success program includes a mandatory five- to seven-day “reverse boot camp” featuring information on preparing résumés, managing personal finances, and utilizing veterans’ benefits. <http://tinyurl.com/c864kn8>

Check out the MOAA Blogs - <http://www.moaa.org/blogs/>

INSIGHT

In October of 1941, amid the darkest of days in human history, against seemingly insurmountable odds, Sir Winston Churchill issued this charge: “Never give in, never give in, never, never, never, never -- in nothing, great or small, large or petty -- never give in except to convictions of honour and good sense. Never yield to force; never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy.”

“I love the man that can smile in trouble, that can gather strength from distress, and grow brave by reflection. Tis the business of little minds to shrink; but he whose heart is firm, and whose conscience approves his conduct, will pursue his principles unto death.” --Thomas Paine, The Crisis, No 1, 1776

Military Humor

Two army rules:

- #1. The commanding officer is always right.
- #2. If the commanding officer is not right, see #1.

Pilot’s pre-launch brief off the carrier to his passenger in a 2-place jet:

“If anything goes wrong off the cat, I’ll say ‘Eject Eject Eject’.

If you say ‘Huh?’, you’ll be talking to yourself”



**Walter Reed
27 June 2012**