



# 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 Burger 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.

#### OFFICERS

President  
Col Harvey Kaplan  
USA Ret  
Past President  
LCDR Art Glover  
USN Ret  
1<sup>st</sup> VP  
LCDR Art Glover  
USN Ret  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP  
CAPT David H.  
Peterson  
NOAA Ret.  
Secretary  
Col G. R. Surman  
AUS  
Treasurer  
LCDR William Schultz  
US Navy Ret

**Luncheons -- 2011** -- 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](mailto: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>

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### Chapter News

**The Chapter President's Corner** - Let me begin by taking this opportunity to wish all of our members and their families a very Merry Christmas, a Happy Chanukah, and a totally joyful holiday season, followed by the best of everything in the New Year. A hearty **Thank You** to all the members of the

December 2011

Board and Chapter who made 2011 such a productive year for us and one in which we certainly will qualify for a third successive National MOAA Levels of Excellence Award including another streamer for our Chapter flag.

Our Montgomery County Chapter is extremely pleased that we have accepted well over 100 new members through MOAA's "Give Me 10" Program. That means that National MOAA has awarded these active duty and participating reserve component individuals a complimentary one-year membership in the National organization and recruiting Chapter. National reimburses the Chapter. New members that may be stationed or posted outside of the DC Metro area may choose to join or meet with a local chapter. Be assured that your National membership will not be affected, and you will continue to receive your copies of Military Officer monthly at the mailing address you furnished to us when you applied for membership. New members need to make note of the fact that they need to advise National MOAA ([msc@moaa.org](mailto:msc@moaa.org)) that they have transferred from one Chapter to another, and provide any address, e-mail, and phone number changes. Of course, we are pleased that many of our new members are local, and we encourage you to participate in our monthly Wednesday luncheons and other activities whenever you can. For the information of our numerous new USPHS and NOAA Commissioned Corps members, we have Liaison Officers on our Board for you to contact as necessary: [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration] CAPT Anne Lynch, 301-713-7711; [Anne.Lynch@noaa.gov](mailto:Anne.Lynch@noaa.gov) and [US Public Health Service] LCDR Julian Canizares; 301-796-5560; [Julian.Canizares@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Julian.Canizares@fda.hhs.gov) .

We have some exciting programs coming up in 2012. We will be conducting our first program for Wounded Warriors at the new Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (in Bethesda). We also have some great speakers lined up for our monthly Wednesday luncheons at Manor Country Club, so watch your e-mail for the detailed announcements. Of course, all members are welcome to join us for our monthly evening board meetings (following an optional dinner) in Rockville. We plan to participate in the 2nd Annual Maryland Congressional Appreciation Luncheon on Capitol Hill. The first one, held earlier this year, was a success. We continue to work with our MOAA Maryland Council of Chapters on legislative issues at the State level. With MOAA National we work with the staff of "Legislative Affairs" on congressional issues including the annual "Storming of the Hill." Our support to local ROTC units (High School and the University of Maryland) will continue, along with our contributions to Youth Leadership Programs (for High School students). We still are looking for two new "at-large" Board Members to work with us in planning and executing all these meaningful programs. I encourage you to contact me ([kaplan@starpower.net](mailto:kaplan@starpower.net)) if you'd like to learn how you can participate in a substantive way without feeling burdened. I look forward to seeing you in the months ahead! .

Sincerely, Colonel *Harvey J. Kaplan* USA Ret

**October Luncheon** - William Bugg was the luncheon speaker for October. Mr. Bugg had the unfortunate experience of caring for his wife during the progression of the

Alzheimer's disease. He has written a book (Soaring Above Adversity) on his experience as a caretaker, and has given many talks on the subject.

Mr.. Bugg took us through the process of observing symptoms, diagnosis, and preparing for the tasks to come. Making the home a safe environment was one of the tasks covered. He also presented factors to be considered for home care and for choosing an outside facility.



Mr. Bugg discussed the importance of positive thinking on the part of the caretaker. He made the point that worry destroys the ability to act. In short, the caretaker must be an "I can" person rather than "I can't."

**November Luncheon** - Mr. Daniel O'Neil was the principal speaker for November. He gave his views on the operations of nonprofit, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and military assistance programs often rendered by the United States following an international disaster. His views were honed by his own contributions to disaster relief operations.



Mr. O'Neil expressed the opinion that NGOs that are indigenous to the country involved are best equipped to provide quick effective aid in a disaster such as occurred in Haiti. Their knowledge of the country, its infrastructure, and needs, can be of immediate use after a disaster. His own organization, after the quake in Haiti, concentrated on categorizing the remaining housing as to its suitability for occupancy. Housing continues to be its major thrust.

The military with its massive number of people and equipment were very effective in correcting infrastructure problems such as clearing debris, opening roads etc.

The US military operations cost about a half billion dollars while other US government operations added another \$700 million. Mr. O'Neil commented that many people that come to observe the situation late in the reconstruction process often comment on the apparent lack of progress. Those that witnessed the early stages of the disaster relief feel that the accomplishments are considerable. He commented that the \$4 billion spent by the United Nations provided little relief. His highest praise is for the NGOs which he considers a bargain.

**Cell Phones** - The Montgomery County Chapter can be proud of the fact that, so far, 86 cell phones have been submitted to National to be traded for telephone minutes for use by the war zone warriors. The program is to be completed at the end of January so there is still time to donate your old cell phone.

**Awards** - It is that time of year when the Chapter prepares to give outstanding performing ROTC seniors in our area an award and a check for their achievements.

**Chapter Officers** – January is the month for voting for chapter officers. It is safe to say that most of the current officers have served a good many years and would be quite willing to let a new person take the reins . If you are interested or would like to nominate someone for a position please so note to one of the current officers, or by E-mail to the [MOAA05@verizon.net](mailto:MOAA05@verizon.net) address.

**New NOAA Liaison Officer** - COL Kaplan has appointed CAPT Anne Lynch, NOAA, to the Chapter board as our new NOAA Liaison Officer. Anne is taking over that role from CAPT Ray Slagle, a long time member of our Chapter and Board. Ray recently retired and left the DC Metro area. Anne is a National Member of MOAA as well as a new Chapter member.

**Welcome New Members** - We welcome the following new members into the Chapter: CAPT Belsito, Linda Jo USPHS; LCDR Piromalli, Christopher USPHS; Ltjg Ramirez, Amanda USPHS; LCDR Pride, Kerry USPHS; LCDR Walten-Geer, Patina USPHS; LT Reilly, Meghan USPHS; LT Mirabal,Roxana USPHS; LT Hostetter, Megon USPHS; Ensign Van Sickle, Michael USPHS; LT Fish, Christopher USPHS; LT Kupper, Andrew USPHS; LCDR Lovell, Stephanie USPHS; LT Rodriguez, Michelle USPHS Ltjg Plott, Justin USPHS; LT Houston, James USPHS; LT Martinez, Katrina T. USPHS; LT Haney, Niki USPHS; Ltjg Bullock, Shay USPHS; Ltjg Onserio, Timothy USPHS; Ensign Uy, Joel USPHS; LT Ceant, Marjorie USPHS; LCDR Ertel, Donald USPHS; LCDR Forbes, Karen USPHS; LT Grant, Yoran USPHS; Ltjg Ireland, Jonathan USPHS; LT Kastner, Tameka USPHS; Ltjg Kennedy, Shara USPHS; LT Lucero, Shealyn USPHS; Ltjg Menna, Christie USPHS; Ltjg Moore, Melanie USPHS; LT Peglowski, Justin USPHS; LT Pinizzotto, Samantha USPHS; LCDR Rodriguez, Omayra USPHS; LT Scobie, Heather USPHS; LT Serby, Kristina USPHS; LCDR Singh, Tangeneare USPHS; LT Tesfazion, Anderson USPHS; LT Tian, Nancy USPHS; LT Tyson, James USPHS; Ens Westmoreland, Ebony USPHS; LCDR Shepard. Jennifer USPHS, LT Baker, Bridget USPHS; LCDR Jablonski, Holly NOAA; LCDR Dunsford, Sarah NOAA; LT Waddington, Rebecca NOAA; CAPT Lynch, Anne NOAA; LT French, Jonathan NOAA; COL Fleck, Herbert Alan USA:

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## MOAA Information

**Military Targeted** - Holding the Military hostage to the failed super committee budget exercise seems unconscionable. Defense, the single most important mission of the federal government needs to be examined in terms of the requirements forced by the threat environment.

MOAA is requesting members to petition the Administration not to “Target Military

People in Defense Cuts” In its Action Alert, MOAA makes the statement: “The President is reviewing the Pentagon’s plan to cut \$450 billion from the defense budget over the next 10 years. Defense leaders say the plan focuses on personnel, pay and benefits as a primary target, more than procurement.” MOAA requests that you use the communication aid they provide to send a message to the Administration of your desire that the military personnel, and their benefits, not be the primary targets.

<http://tinyurl.com/c8q34kv>

Colonel Strobridge has briefed our Chapter several times. His insight has been accurate and useful. In his latest article he warns of the threat to military personnel:

“As we come to the end of 2011, many are thinking we had a successful year and dodged some really bad things that could have greatly affected the military community. A year ago, the president’s deficit commission proposed freezing military pay, whacking military retirement, dramatically raising health care costs for retired service members of all ages, eliminating commissaries, and much, much more. After 12 months of hand-wringing over how Congress might act on those proposals and what the grossly misnamed congressional “super committee” might suggest, it seems we’ve come to the end of the year with no such changes.

“But if that’s what you’re thinking, you are wrong, wrong, wrong. The \$460 billion defense budget cut enacted in August 2011 is going to affect you and your family. We just don’t yet know exactly how badly. A Pentagon-proposed plan to implement the cuts is sitting on the president’s desk, and all indications are that a large share will come from people, compensation, and health care programs. Within the next two months, that plan will be all over the news.” Col. Steve Strobridge, USAF-Ret. Full article:

<http://tinyurl.com/89u3fpe>

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## Of Interest

**Reserve Activations** - The Department of Defense announced the current number of reservists on active duty as of 6 DEC 2011. The net collective result is 2967 fewer reservists mobilized than last reported on 1 Nov 2011. The total number currently on active duty from the Army National Guard and Army Reserve is 68,440; Navy Reserve 4517; Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, 9778; Marine Corps Reserve, 5904; and the Coast Guard Reserve, 792. This brings the total National Guard and Reserve personnel who are activated to 89,431 including both units and individual augmentees. Reservists deactivated since 9/11 total 744,475.

A cumulative roster of all National Guard and Reserve personnel who are currently activated may be found at <http://www.defense.gov/news/d20111206ngr.pdf>.

Source: DOD News Release No. 1005-11 dtd 8 DEC 2011.

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## LINKS

**The Heritage Foundation** - would like a serious commitment to missile defense. The Heritage Foundation's research outlines the threats associated with the Administration's current approach to missile defense while offering policy recommendations that would protect the US and its allies from missiles tipped with nuclear weapons. This web site provides a series of reports on the subject. <http://tinyurl.com/y4expjw>

**The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)** - provides material on a variety of defense issues. Topics such as Defense and Security, Economic Development and Reconstruction, Energy and Climate Change, Global Health, Global Trends and Forecasting, Governance Human Rights, Technology Trade and Economics are presented.

CSIS is a bipartisan, nonprofit organization headquartered in Washington, D.C. The Center's 220 full-time staff and large network of affiliated scholars conducts research and analysis and develops policy initiatives that look into the future and anticipate change. <http://csis.org/about-us>

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### INSIGHT

"We should never despair, our situation before has been unpromising and has changed for the better, so I trust, it will again. If new difficulties arise, we must only put forth new exertions and proportion our efforts to the exigency of the times." - George Washington, letter to Philip Schuyler, 1777

"[T]he flames kindled on the 4th of July 1776, have spread over too much of the globe to be extinguished by the feeble engines of despotism; on the contrary, they will consume these engines and all who work them." -- Thomas Jefferson, letter to John Adams, 1821

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### Military Humor

"You're not a loser. You're just not my kind of winner..."

"He who strives for the minimum rarely attains it."