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Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter

Military Officers Association of America



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Navy Operational Support Center Youngstown • MSVC-MOAA
3976 King Graves Road Bldg 540 • Vienna, OH 44473-5980

New Location, New Board Members Installed, Informative Presentation

by LTC Michael O. Wisniewski

Our chapter officers and board members were sworn into office by one of our very own, the Honorable Robert P. Milich, (Lt. Col, USAF Ret.), Youngstown Municipal Court Judge on January 22, 2015 at an installation banquet held at Cassese's MVR in Youngstown. Three new board members were installed: former Navy Lieutenant Florence M. Hosler, wife of President Rod Hosler, to help bolster the important Legislative Affairs Office, LTC Donald Rasile, USA, RET and Mrs. Bonita Rasile, both serving in the Personal Affairs Office of the Chapter. We welcome these new board members although Don Rasile was a 2nd Vice President, charter member during the Chapter's inception. We welcome back all the other returning officers and board members. Their office and title is listed in the photo.

Serving for his second term as President of MSVC-MOAA LTC Hosler has had a distinguished military spanning 25 years, most notably with HQ, First US Army FORCES Command, 6th Infantry Division, and the 82nd Airborne Division. He was a Junior ROTC instructor at Rayen High School for two years and the Assistant Professor of Military Science at Youngstown State University for five years. LTC Hosler also serves as the Commander of American Legion Post 15 and is President of the Mahoning County United Veterans Council. He and his wife, Florence, reside in Boardman.

The highlight of the evening's banquet was a riveting and informative presentation by one of our Charter members, LTC Thomas G. Raseta, USA, Ret., who formerly served for seven years as a member of the White House Military Office (WHMO). Tom's power point slide show presented an overview



Seated from left: MAJ Peter Mihai, USA Ret., Past President; Mrs. Janet L. Oglesby, Secretary; LTC Gary Williams, USA Ret., 1st Vice President; LTC Roderick A. Hosler, USA, Ret., President; LT Bruce A. Bille, Frm USN, Treasurer.

Standing from left: LTC Michael O. Wisniewski, USA, Ret., Public Affairs Board Member; COL John L. Koshan, USA, RET, Legislative Affairs Board Member; LT Florence M Hosler, Frm USN, Legislative Affairs Board Member; Mrs. Bonita Rasile, Personal Affairs Board Member, LTC Donald E. Rasile, USA Ret., Personal Affairs Board Member. Missing from photo: CPT Nick R. Spano, USA RET, 2nd Vice President and CPT Dennis J. Gartland Sr, Frm USA, Board Member.

of the WHMO, its organization and functions. His active military service included serving under Presidents Ronald W. Reagan, George H. W. Bush, and William J. Clinton. LTC Raseta also served in the US Army Intelligence and Security Command, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and the White House Military Office – Office of Emergency Operations. Upon retirement from active military service, Tom continued to work for the WHMO as a civilian contractor. As a graduate of Hubbard High School and Youngstown State University, Tom and his wife, Maria, reside in Hubbard.

You've heard of the "Shadow Government" – that nebulous, secretive government body that lurks deep within the cavernous underground tunnels and bunkers of the White House? Well, Tom Raseta confirmed its existence. Essentially, the Shadow Government consists of designated key individuals from every federal agency that are part

of "Emergency Relocation Groups" that are ready to take over the duty of supporting the essential functions of this nation following a catastrophic national emergency. Following a set protocol of established threat levels, the Shadow Government would ramp up its forces and relocate to alternate facilities in order to maintain command and control of the population and virtually all

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LTC Tom Raseta receiving the MSVC flag set from President Rod Hosler

President's Notes



We are a month into the new year and continue to make great strides in our chapter and 2015 will be another great year.

The MSVC will continue to have interesting and insightful presentations at our monthly dinner meetings. Please attend and be part of the program. Our January meeting at the Mahoning Valley Restaurant (MSVR) in Youngstown featured

LTC Tom Raseta as our speaker. Tom served as a member of the White House Military Office. Very interesting!

Our speaker in February will be Dr. Robert Marcus from the VA Clinic in Youngstown and talk about the VA Homeless Veterans and Suicide Prevention Programs.

The chapter finished 2014 with 90 members, 11 spouse members, 25 new members, 23 of those were MOAA National members. We are winners of the recruiting challenge for our size category. I always encourage our MSVC members to become MOAA National members. Remember, MOAA National is our direct voice with those in power in the halls of government. With that in mind, 100 percent MOAA National membership will give us the coveted 5-Star Recognition! We were close last year, but did attain 4-Star Recognition. I salute our chapter members that brought in new members. Our board members Janet Oglesby, Bruce Bille, Gary Williams, John Koshan and Mike Wisniewski for their efforts. Everyone's talents were represented in our 4-star achievement. We will display our 4-star streamer and new chapter flag at our February meeting

The MOAA National legislative efforts to improve the armed forces (active, reserve and retired) that depend on the Federal government for sustainability continues to be strong and leads the campaign to be heard on Capitol Hill. MOAA National is in the forefront of leading the charge to end the "Sequestration" that is devastating the military and down grading our national defense. This can only be done by the vast numbers of MOAA National members that make up our organization. Let's carry the fight to maintain our strong armed forces, sustain our retirees, and to ensure the security of our nation. Read John Koshan article on the MCRMC reforms. The proposals are bold. If implemented, they would transform military pay and benefits. You still make a difference. LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD.

Finally, as I continue to say, any organization is only as good as its membership and their active participation, and the MSVC-MOAA is becoming one of the better chapters in Ohio and perhaps the country. We have much to be proud of. It's up to US to keep our chapter active and vibrant.

LTC Rod Hosler, MSVC President

"It's important that people know what you stand for, and what you won't."

New Location, New Board Members Installed, continue from pg 1

facets of the nation's economy. During the highest response level—Continuity of Government Readiness Condition Zero (COGCON 0) — the government has the ability and authority to deploy the military to enforce law and order, can seize all private communications facilities and assume control over all civilian voice and data communications, and activate the internet kill switch. It can also commandeer all U.S. domestic resources including food and water, seize all domestic energy and transportation infrastructure, and conscript national citizens to fulfill any labor required for the purpose of national defense and reconstitution. The details are classified and contained in part in CONPLAN 3600 and CONPLAN 3502.

To insure survivability, LTC Raseta briefly described the underground bunkers, tunnels, communications centers that are located under the White House and the alternate subway systems that can whisk the President and key officials quickly to secret, secured facilities outside of Washington, DC. Although it's been over 20 years since Tom's involvement in White House Military Office, there have been massive changes and improvements in the policies, protocol, and infrastructure of the White House. Of course, Tom's entire presentation was unclassified. But, if you're interested, in another 50 years or so, Tom will be able to release all the classified information many of us were hoping to hear about.

Although the venue for the Installation Dinner and monthly meeting was changed from the Youngstown Air Reserve Station in Vienna to the MVR in Youngstown due to renovations being made, the Chapter still had a nice turnout and the meals were delicious and reasonable. Our guest speaker, LTC Raseta, is another example of the interesting and varied programs we strive to present to our membership each month. We truly appreciate your attendance at these meetings, especially when outside guests are invited to speak. Our chapter has grown impressively since its founding in part because we try to bring information to you that is interesting, topical, and related to our profession. If you haven't been to a meeting recently, come join us for an evening of enrichment, camaraderie, and good food. Take note of our upcoming events and mark your calendars.

MSVC-MOAA Cares About You

The care and comfort of our hospitalized and homebound members is an ongoing concern in our Chapter. Feel free to contact the Chapter Personal Affairs Chairs or any MSVC board member to make them aware of a fellow member or family member in need of support or assistance.

Also, the Chapter Personal Affairs Chairs or Secretary will send an appropriate card for any hospitalized, homebound, ill, injured, or lonely member who needs to have contact.

LTC Don & Bonnie Rasile, Personal Affairs Chair

rasiled@zoominternet.net(330) 758-3348

Why You Should Mail Those Letters From *Military Officer Magazine* Letters and Send Emails to Legislators

Legislative Affairs Co-Chair, Frm LT Florence Hosler



In the February issue of *Military Officer* magazine there are four letters that need torn out and mailed. Do you wonder if it makes a difference? There is no rule saying that one form of communication is better than any other for contacting Congress Members, but, whichever method you use, mail, email, fax or phone calls, here are a few hints to keep in mind:

- form emails may not be read but counted
- letters will take up to a month to get to the Congress Member
- emails are read, be sure to include your contact info.
- faxes are fast, but remember your contact information
- phone calls, be prepared to speak to a staff person and provide your contact information too

If you write a letter you may feel a long winded letter is best to explain your reasoning, you have to remember that most representatives know all of the facets of a bill, so concentrate on the ways it will affect you they may not have thought of. Include details like:

- The area you live in.
- Your personal experience and history with the issue. If you have credentials, include those as well.
- Studies and newspaper articles from local sources.
- Your fears if the bill does or does not get passed.
- Your recommended course of action.

Finally, close the letter with a quick "thank you," and send it off. If it's an issue you're passionate about, it's never a bad idea to sit on your email or letter for a day or two in order to sort your thoughts out. You want to come off as passionate and informed, but not too passionate.

Since the Fall of 2001, all Capitol Hill ground mail is exposed to a thorough decontamination procedure and, therefore, can take up to a month to get through.

I highly recommend that you instead send an email to your representative. Every Senator and House member has a contact form on their website that allows you to instantly send them a message. These messages are either forwarded to the appropriate staffer or printed out by the interns and handed to them. A hundred unique e-mails on a subject would usually have the same impact on a member's decision as a hundred physical letters. The advantage here is that the turn-around time from sending the message until you receive a response is much faster.

Third, there are the phone calls. This is one way to instantly get your point across with minimal effort. When you call

your representative about a public policy issue or an upcoming vote, call the DC office. If you call a local office, they will just direct you to the Washington office. Save the staffers and yourself some time and call the (202) number first.

Do not expect to speak to your Congress Member, their schedules are very hectic. You will probably speak with an intern who will take your information and pass on your concerns. When the intern asks you for your personal information, feel free to ask them why. Some of the larger Senate offices collect the zip code or the area code of the caller just so the office has an idea of where the issue is most relevant. If they take your entire address, then the office is going to send you a physical letter back, explaining the position of the representative and any action they've taken. It is best to go along with this and just give them your address.

In all methods of contact, be courteous and to the point, and include your membership in **MOAA** in your information!

MSVC-MOAA 2015 Calendar	
Date	Location and Program
3/26	YARS–Program, Herm Breuer Director Trumbull County Veterans Service Commission. Spouses are encouraged to attend.
4/1	Champion High School–US Army Band and Chorus. Tickets are required for free admission. The chapter hopes to have a block of tickets to distribute on the 26 th
4/23	YARS–Program TBA
4/25	MOAA Ohio Council of Chapter Meeting at YARS, MSVC Hosts 0900 hr to 1200
5/28	YARS–ROTC/JROTC recognition dinner the chapter will be asking for donations to help defray the cost of the guests meals.
6/25	Golden Corral, Hermitage, Program TBA
7/23	Picnic at Centennial Park in Salem, Program TBA
TBA	Scrappers Game
8/27	YARS–Steak Fry/Corn Roast, Program TBA
9/24	YARS–Program TBA
9/25-26	MOAA Ohio Council of Chapters Convention at Fairborn Holiday Inn, Dayton, Ohio
10/22	YARS–Speaker TBA
12/6	MOAA/ROA Christmas Party

YARS - Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Vienna, Ohio

TBA - To be announced

Suggestions for programs contact:

Rod Hosler at hosler1@zoominternet.net 330-788-3270 or

Gary Williams at gwilliams15@comcast.net 330-385-4873

Legislative Issues – February 2015

Legislative Affairs Co-Chair, COL John Koshan



The new Congress and a new designated Secretary of Defense have taken over this month. Other than some posturing by new committee chairmen and speculation by any number of the media representatives, little of any significance has taken place this month.

There are several issues that will be front and center and will drive the discussion in the coming months. **The Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission (MCRMC)** report, the administrations **FY 2016 Budget** request and **Sequestration** will all be hot buttons over the next several months.

Though the Budget and Sequestration are closely related, the inordinate effect on the Military makes Sequestration an issue unto itself.

As noted in our last update, Sequestration, require arbitrary budget cuts to defense spending that are **not** based on National Security requirements. The Joints Chiefs testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee recently imploring the legislators to repeal the sequestration cuts. The Chiefs painted a grim picture of readiness and the effects on personnel. A smaller force would result with more frequent operation requirements that would degrade readiness and morale. Everyone, lawmakers, military and the administration agree that Sequestration should be repealed, but until there is a consensus on how to pay for it, we continue down the path to a weaker force. MOAA continues to call for congress and the administration to put aside partisan politics and eliminate the threat to our well-being as a nation. (Don't think we should hold our breath) On January 29th the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission released its report on proposals to change military pay and benefits. The objective of this Commission was to recommend ways to modernize Military Pay and Benefits so as to generate budget savings for the Defense Department and the VA. The proposals released, 15 total, are bold and if implemented would completely transform pay and benefits. MOAA is closely studying the impact that these reforms could have.

Some significant highlights of the report are as follows:

Military Retirement – Replace the current 20 year cliff vesting system with a blended defined benefit and a 401k style package. The proposal would be optional for the current force but mandatory for new service members.

Health Care – The recommendation is to eliminate TRICARE for Military families and working age retirees and replace it with commercial insurance plans similar to Federal Civilian employees. The cost of insurance would be subsidized.

Others – Consolidate commissary and exchange system.
Expand Space A travel for families of service members.
Restructure cost of Survivor Benefit Plan Deductibles.

It is important to note that the MCRMC has put forth these recommendations and as of yet they are not legislative proposals. A more detailed look at these recommendations are available at the MOAA web site. It is recommended that members take a look at these proposals to get a better understanding of what is being considered. MOAA will continue to review, evaluate and recommend action as these proposals are taken up by congress and the administration. MOAA's biggest fear is that these proposals will be viewed merely as Budget savings and that the Congress will make decisions without regard to how compensation and benefits are necessary to recruiting and retention of a Quality Force.

MOAA's legislative goals were summarized in last month's article and continue to be the road map for dealings with our legislators. The next few months will be busy. All of us need to make sure our voice is heard by our legislators concerning the pay and benefits needed to sustain the force. MOAA needs our input. We are urged to respond to MOAA's legislative calls to actions when possible and to provide any input concerning MOAA initiatives to our legislators. Our Nation's Security and well being as a Nation is at stake.

Legislative Contacts

MOAA Weekly legislative updates www.moaa.org or 1-800-234-6622 ext. 215

Pres. Barack Obama (D)

The White House
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Washington DC 20500
Switchboard: 202-456-1414
www.whitehouse.gov

OHIO

Senator Sherrod Brown (D)

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713 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
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Fax (202) 228-6321
www.brown.senate.gov

Senator Rob Portman (R)

United States Senate
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Washington, DC 20510
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www.portman.senate.gov

Representative District 6

Bill Johnson (R)

192 East State St.
Salem, OH 44460
Phone (330) 337-6951
Fax (330) 337-7125
<http://billjohnson.house.gov>

Representative District 13

Tim Ryan (D)

241 West Federal St.
Youngstown, OH 44503
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Fax: (330) 740-0182
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PENNSYLVANIA

Senator Robert Casey Jr. (D)

393 Russell Senate Office Bld.
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: (202) 224-6324
Fax: (202) 228-0604
www.casey.senate.gov

Senator Patrick Toomey (R)

248 Russell Senate Office Bld.
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: (202) 224-4254
Fax: (202) 228-0284
www.toomey.senate.gov

Representative District 3

Mike Kelly (R)

33 Chestnut Avenue
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Phone: (724) 342-7170
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Email the legislative contacts through their web site.

Almost 100% Retention for 2015 — We Need Eleven Officers and Two Spouses To Pay

Donald Allen
Paula Allen•
 Scott Allen
 Mark Andrews
 Matthew Andrews
 Anthony Antolini
 Samuel Axtell
 James Basista
 Regina Bass
 Richard Bass
 Audrey Beatty
 William Begalla
 Grey Berrier
 Bruce Bille
 Elbert Bishop
 Dick Calta
 Linda Calta
 Brian Chadwick
 Frances Chadwick
 Matthew Chikosky
 Stephanie Crawford
 Lorin Delgros
 Ralph DeLucia
 Daniel Dickten
 James Dignan
 Kathy Duzzny
 Walter Duzzny

James Fairbanks
 Dennis Gartland
 Esther Gartland
 Eric Hippley
 Brennan Hosack
 James Hosack
 Florence Hosler
 Roderick Hosler
 John Hulan
 Harold Hutzen
 Harlan Jewett
 William Johnson
 John Koshan
 Sandra Lasure
 Michael Marcelli
 John Marino
 Thomas Masters
 Alan McBane
 Dennis McMahon
 Joseph Mersol
 William Meshot
 Peter Mihai
 Kay Milich
 Robert Milich
 Ralph Minton
 Andrew Nelko
 Janet Oglesby

Nicholas Pacalo
 William Petro
 Thomas Petzinger
 Jacob Rafidi
 Thomas Raseta
 Bonita Rasile
 Donald Rasile
 Daniel Rohan
 Jack Russell
 Roger Saphore
 Bill Schoenfeld
 James Shurtleff
 Edward Speedy
 Edwin Stahura
 Willard Stamp
 Matthew Stefanak
 James Stiger
 Lisa Stremel
 Tyler Strohecker
Marjorie Sweeney•
 CAPT Bill Sweeney
 CW5 Bill Sweeney
 Deanna Thomas
 Chris Whitehead
 Edwina Whitehead
 Gary Williams
 Patricia Williams

John Williams
 Patrick Williams
 John Wingerter
 Barbara Wisniewski
 Michael Wisniewski

Steven Wisniewski
 Mike Yaksic
 David Yeropoli
 Joseph Zentis
** New Member*

You can pay your CHAPTER dues online through MOAA's national web site. Use the MOAA web site www.moaa.org/OnlineChapterDuesPayment with a credit card and MOAA pays the 4% transaction fee. At this time SPOUSES CAN'T renew online but hopefully MOAA will change this in the future. You can also pay your dues and spouses dues on msvc-moaa.org web site under the membership menu.

To Join MOAA National: use the web site www.moaa.org/join or call 800-234-6622

Dues Invoice/Membership Application for Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter

Name: _____ Military Status _____ Spouse Name _____

Component _____ Branch of Service _____ Rank _____

☐ Regular Member (Retired, Former, Active* Officer of the seven uniformed US Services **Membership \$20/year**)

☐ Active *(Regular)—☐ Reserve*—☐ National Guard*
 *Free chapter membership if under government contract.
A non military email address is preferred, return this form

☐ Widow(er)—Auxiliary Member (Auxiliary membership is available for surviving spouses of officers **Membership \$10/year**)

☐ Spouse (local MOAA chapter only, not national, spouse is member of chapter) **Membership \$20/year**

Address: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Secondary Phone _____

E-mail: _____ Applicant DOB _____ Spouse DOB _____

☐ Newsletters will be emailed, if you prefer postal service, check this box

Member of MOAA National ☐ Yes ☐ No # _____

Chapter dues from Jan. 1, 2015 to Dec. 31, 2015

Make Check Payable to: **MSVC-MOAA** mail to address on right

You may pay regular and auxiliary dues (not spouses) with a credit card at: www.moaa.org/OnlineChapterDuesPayment
 you may use credit card and PayPal and paid, regular, spouses and auxiliary dues at www.msvc-moaa.org/membership

Navy Operational Support Center Youngstown
Attn: MSVC-MOAA
Janet Oglesby Secretary
3976 King Graves Road Bldg 540
Vienna, OH 44473-5980



Navy Operational Support Center Youngstown
 Mahoning & Shenango Valleys Chapter
 3976 King Graves Road Bldg 540
 Vienna, OH 44473-5980

Place
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Return Service Requested



Thursday, February 26th Membership Meeting at YARS – RSVP by noon Monday the 23rd

Where: Youngstown Air Force Reserve Station
 Community Activity Center
 3976 King Graves Rd • Vienna, OH 44473

Who: Members, Spouses, Guests

Lounge and Cash bar opens at 1530

Social: 1800 (6:00 P.M.)

Dinner: 1830 (6:30 P.M.) Reservations Required for the Dinner

Program: 1930 (7:30 P.M.) Welcome to join the dinner guests for the program

Topic: VA Homeless Veterans and Suicide Prevention Programs

Speaker: Dr. Robert Marcus from the VA Clinic in Youngstown

Attire: Business Casual which simply means no jeans or tee shirts. Attendees in the past wore a sport coat or sweater with open collar shirt and some wore shirt & tie with a sport coat.

Menu: Tossed Garden Salad, Stuffed Chicken Breast, Rosemary Pork Loin, Candied Sweet Potatoes, Vegetable, Dessert coffee/tea, tax and gratuity included for \$20.00 the **chapter pays for no-shows.**

RSVP: 1. Call Janet Oglesby, 330-568-4456 (leave a message if no answer).

2. Or Email Janet at djo52800@neo.rr.com

3. Or use the web site www.msvc-moaa.org and pay with PayPal. It isn't required to have a PayPal account to use the system. You will answer "no" to the message asking if you have a PayPal account then you will be asked for credit card information. PayPal is a secure system.

You can pay at the door with cash, check, credit or debit card.



Directions: The air base is on King Graves Road which can be accessed either off Rt. 193 or Rt. 11. After passing through the security gate on Arnold Rd., take the second left onto (Spatz Rd.). The Community Activity Center (CAC), "Herk's Place", is building #113. (You'll see a loading dock, back entrance of CAC) Parking is available on either side of the building but it is easier to enter the dining area from the upper parking lot. (There are a few stairs.) The handicapped entrance is at the front of the building. There are signs that indicate that location.