



ROTC Program Today – Is So Different Than The Program We Experienced Years Ago

By LTC Mike Wisniewski

MAJ Robert Davidson, USA, Assistant Professor of Military Science at Kent State University and Youngstown State University was the guest speaker at our September Chapter Business meeting held at the Consolidated Activities Center of the Youngstown Air Reserve Station in Vienna. MAJ Davidson enlisted in the Army in 1995 as a Legal Specialist and received his OCS commission in the Military Police in April 2000. He received his Master's degree in Business and Organizational Security Management from Webster University, MO and his Bachelor's degree from Thiel College, PA. His many and varied assignments included tours in Korea, Germany, Fort Carson, CO and Fort Hood, TX and deployments for Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom before coming to be the Assistant Professor of Military Science and primary instructor of MS-4 Cadets for Kent State and YSU in July 2014.

MAJ Davidson briefed approximately 30 members of the chapter on how the current ROTC program across the country has been restructured to meet the needs of the military. As sequestration and the on-going down-sizing of our military forces continues into the near future, the need for commissioned officers also continues to decline. This means that the ROTC program has become very competitive in the number of commissioning contracts available for junior and senior level cadets. Yet, despite the fewer number of slots available, Youngstown State has the largest recruiting class in over a decade with a total of 53 cadets. These include 29 MS-1 cadets, 17 MS-2 cadets, 3 MS-3 cadets, and 4 MS-4 cadets. The YSU ROTC program is a satellite program which operates out of Kent State University.



LTC Rod Hostler (r) presented MAJ Davidson with our Chapter's Tri-flag set as well as our newly established challenge coin.

As MAJ Davidson explained, the ROTC program of today is much different than the program many of the present membership experienced many years ago. Today's Cadets are evaluated much more stringently for leadership qualities and academic excellence. Fifty percent of a cadet's evaluation is based on three standardized tests plus their overall GPA. Another 35% is based on the instructor's observations and evaluation of the cadet's performance, extracurricular activities, language proficiency, and cadet evaluations. The last 15% is based on their performance on their physical fitness test. This past summer YSU had four students attend the Cadet Leadership Training Course at Fort Knox, KY. This past year, over \$87,000 in scholarships were awarded to ROTC cadets, primarily to juniors and seniors who are contracted to be commissioned.

Reservists of C-123's To Receive Benefits From Agent Orange Exposure

Reservists who worked on C-123 transport planes after the Vietnam War soon could receive disability benefits and medical coverage for cancers and other illnesses related to exposure to Agent Orange.

It would affect up to 1,200 crew members who flew on or serviced C-123s after the war, when the planes were based at the 911th Airlift Wing in Pittsburgh, Rickenbacker Air Force Base in Columbus and Westover Air Reserve Station near Springfield, Mass.

Under the new rule, flight, medical and ground maintenance crew members who served on C-123s are presumed to have been exposed and for any reservist who is ill, the exposure is

presumed to have occurred while they were training, making them eligible for VA benefits including disability compensation, medical care, dependency benefits, indemnity compensation and burial.

The VA previously denied claims, saying the planes had been decontaminated and that the crew members didn't qualify for benefits anyway because they didn't serve in Vietnam and their disabilities didn't manifest during their military service.

Claims will not be awarded retroactively. Individuals with questions related to herbicide exposure on C-123 aircraft can call VA's special C-123 Hotline at 800-749-8387 or e-mail VSCC123.VAVBASPL@va.gov

President's Notes



Our 24 September meeting speaker was MAJ Robert Davidson, the new Assistant Professor of Military Science at YSU, who spoke about the program there and changes within the overall Army ROTC program.

A slate of officers was nominated at our September meeting and they are: Nominations for 2016 Chapter officers. President:

Gary Williams; 1st Vice President: Florence Hosler; 2nd Vice President: Dennis Gartland; Secretary: Janet Oglesby; Treasurer: Bruce Bille. Elections will be held at our annual business meeting in October. Four Board members attended the Ohio Council of Chapters Bi-Annual Convention in Dayton, 25–27 September. We met many other Ohio MOAA members and leaders, as well as received some very good and timely information regarding what is happening within the military and MOAA community. Our Chapter will host the 2017 Ohio Council of Chapters Bi-Annual Convention at the YARS. It will be a great event for everyone.

I wish to welcome our newest members **MAJ Robert Davidson**, USA and surviving spouse **Audrey Chengelis**. Our membership continues to be strong with 91 members, 3 surviving spouses, and 10 spouse members;. Share our web site and newsletters with a fellow officers. I continue to urge all MSVC chapter members to **become MOAA National members**. Remember that MOAA National is our direct voice with those in power in the halls of government and our hard earned benefits as well as those currently serving could be in jeopardy. I encourage all of our members to continue to check the Chapter and MOAA National websites as well as reviewing the e-mails that are sent out. MOAA National continues to keep its members informed on legislative matters and as always, needs your responses to ensure actions take place. An informed and active membership is a progressive membership. LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD.

Our speaker this month is Dr. David Romans. His expertise is the VA non-service connected disability pension called *Aid and Attendance Program*. There are four pieces of the puzzle to be eligible.

- Must be 65 years old
- Must have an Honorable or General Discharge
- Must have served at least 90 days of active Federal duty with at least one day during a period of conflict.
- Must have a medical necessity requiring care
- Must meet income and countable asset criteria established by the VA

This may seem complicated or perhaps something that you personally will not qualify for, however, we probably all know Veterans or their surviving spouses who need assisted living but do not have the financial resources to manage this. Please take the time to become knowledgeable of this program.

continue in the next column

Dick & Linda Calta, will attend the MOAA Annual meeting in Orlando October 30–31. Dick will represent the chapter when he receives our 4-star streamer as being one of the *best* chapters in the country.

Youngstown State University is hosting the Fourth Annual YSU ROTC and Veterans Reunion Banquet and gathering See page five for the announcement. Hope to see you there.

We will have a joint Christmas Party with the ROA on Sunday, 6 December at 5:00 P.M. at The Manor Restaurant in Austintown. Donate a wrapped gift of \$20.00 valued to be auctioned off.

Our 2016 winter meetings will change to daylight hours. The meetings are on Fridays; 15 January, 19 February, 18 March. Call to order at 1:00 P.M. a pre order \$10.00 luncheon menu being served at 1:10 P.M. in the CAC at the YARS, with a program to follow.

Lastly, as I continue to say, any organization is only as good as its membership and their active participation in chapter programs and meetings. Our chapter has become one of the more active chapters and perhaps one of the best chapters in Ohio. I truly think in the country as well. In our short existence, we have much to be proud of, and I encourage all MSVC-MOAA members to continue to attend our dinner meetings, to meet other officers, renew old acquaintances and meet new members. It's up to US to keep our chapter active, vibrant and strong. Thanks for your continued support to MSVC-MOAA and MOAA National.

Rod Hosler, MSVC President

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

MSVC-MOAA 2015 Calendar

Date	Location and Program
10/22	MSVC at YARS See page 6
11/6-7	Veterans and ROTC Alumni Reunion–See page 5
11/11	Veterans Day
12/6	MOAA/ROA Christmas Party at The Manor in Austintown 1700 social, 1730 dinner, donate a \$20.00 wrapped gift to be auctioned off
1/15/16	MSVC at YARS – 1300 Luncheon Installation of Officers
2/19/16	MSVC at YARS – 1300 Luncheon
3/18/16	MSVC at YARS – 1300 Luncheon
YARS - Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Vienna, Ohio	
TBA - To be announced	
Suggestions for programs contact:	
Florence Hosler at hoslerfm@zoominternet.net 788-3270	
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Legislative Issues – October 2015

Legislative Affairs Co-Chair, COL John Koshan

Congress has once again dropped the ball. They have failed in their mission to pass a clean budget to fund the government for **Fiscal Year 2016**. Instead Congress has kicked the can down the road and have resorted to a **Continuing Resolution (CR)** to fund the government into December of this year. This CR funds the government at current levels and delays any solutions on some contentious issues until December. In my opinion look for another CR around *Christmas time*.

There is some good news however, in that the House and Senate conferees have reached agreement on a **\$612 billion** defense policy spending bill that the president has threatened to **veto**. The bill gives the administration the increase in funding requested but did so by using a war fighting account that is not subject to **Sequestration**. The administration has objected to this approach and is pushing to eliminate all sequestration requirements.

The following is a brief outline of the provisions contained within the **Annual Defense Bill**:

Military Pay: The bill **Caps** the active duty pay raise at 1.3%. This marks the third consecutive year of Pay Caps and continues to increase the wage gap between Military and the private sector compensation.

Military Retirement: The Bill includes major changes to the military retirement system. Beginning in January 2018 the Force will have a much different retirement than the **20 year or bust plan**. The defined benefit for serving 20 or more years will be cut by 20%. But a new **Blended Plan** will have new features including a **Thrift Savings Plan (TSP)**. This plan will have an automatic government contribution of 1% to the TSP with an additional match of up to 4% of a service member contributions. Essentially the government will match up to 5% of a service member's savings. This contribution will continue for up to **26 years of service**. The new plan also allows for a lump sum distribution of a portion of retired pay prior to Social Security eligibility. The new plan also provides for continuation pay i.e., payment at 12 years of service for those who agree to serve 4 more years. This provision will apply to both active and reserves. Additionally the new **TSP** accounts will be fully vested at two years and can be rolled into civilian employer 401K's, thus the issue of portability.

TRICARE: Congress has rejected the proposed major changes of means testing, higher enrollment fees and major consolidation efforts that were requested by the administration. Although no major changes were enacted, the Military Health Care system remains on alert for major re-evaluation. Increased prescription co-pays however, have been included in the bill. A compromise was reached on this issue and a one year increase was proposed. Increases range anywhere from 6% to 20% depending on retail or mail order. The MOAA web site contains a chart detailing the final proposals on these increases.

Commissaries: The original budget proposals called for a consolidation of the commissary and exchange with significant funding cuts to the commissary. Congress has rejected DoD's proposal and instead provided DoD with new authorities to test ways to operate stores more efficiently including varied pricing schemes and evaluating the idea of privatization.

For all the compromise to control personnel costs, the president vows to veto the bill over how the congress has skirted **the Budget Control Act or Sequestration**. Rather than repeal or renegotiate the debt reduction act, which would better protect defense accounts, congress inserted \$\$ into the Overseas Contingency Operations account which is exempt from Sequestration. A long and contentious fight is about to begin, grab a chair and observe.

MOAA has expressed their disappointment in the final Defense Bill and its adverse effects on the military. MOAA's opinion is that slashing Military retirement and providing a 401K style retirement will erode recruiting and retention and may provide more incentive for members to leave the service early. This bill sets new policy to **Vest** retirement by imposing major cutbacks to retirement

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Email the legislative contacts through their web site.

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benefits of those staying for a career. This continual eroding of pay and benefits is sending the wrong message to our military. Long term readiness will be negatively affected.

With the Political Horizon looking the way it is this is definitely not the time to scale back and lead from behind. Our military is on track to become the smallest since the end of WWII and serious discussions and actions are needed to reverse this trend. **Our Voice along with MOAA will be needed. Please support MOAA's Call to Action and give our representatives a shout out!**

This newsletter is published for the benefit of the members of the Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter, which is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA and its affiliated chapters and councils are non-partisan. Articles in this newsletter are the opinions solely of the individual authors and do not necessarily express the policy or opinions of the newsletter's editor or publisher. Also, the individual opinions do not reflect an endorsement by the Mahoning Shenango Valleys Chapter or the national organization of the Military Officers Association of America, unless so indicated [Copyright 2015 Military Officers Association of America All rights reserved.] Questions or comments should be directed to: LTC Roderick Hosler USA, Ret. E-mail: hosler1@zoominternet.net

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Chapter Receives National Recognition

The Affiliate is MOAA's monthly newsletter for chapters and councils. *The Affiliate* includes information for both leaders and members of local chapters. It comes electronically the first Tuesday of every month. Every Friday, you can (should) receive the Legislative Update. Go to MOAA.org and establish a login. Present board members email msc@moaa.org and request your new *Council and Chapter Policies and Procedures Guide*, you may request two.

From the October Affiliate

Tip of the Hat

... to members of the Mahoning and Shenango (Ohio) Chapter for donating \$100 to Camp Corral, a free summer camp for military children.

The camp gives priority to children who have lost a parent or who have a wounded or disabled parent. Thanks for supporting military kids!

Save the Date!

November 6-7, 2015

Youngstown State University will hold its 4th annual

Veterans and ROTC Alumni Reunion

Friday, November 6 - Saturday, November 7

Friday, November 6th

Williamson College of Business Administration Atrium

5:30 p.m. | Reception
6:30 p.m. | Reunion Dinner

Saturday, November 7th

Veterans Resource Center

Stambaugh Stadium

12:00 p.m. | Reunion Picnic 2:00 p.m. | YSU vs. Missouri State Football Game

Invitations will be mailed in September. Contact Heather Belgin, Assistant Director of Alumni Engagement, at 330.941.1591 or habelgin@ysu.edu for additional information.

Youngstown
STATE UNIVERSITY

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

Membership in MSVC-MOAA shall be composed of: Men and women who are or have been commissioned or warrant officers of the seven United States uniformed services (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Service). Surviving spouses of deceased individuals who, if living, would be eligible for membership. Spouses of present members and honorary members. MSVC-MOAA memberships are open to all eligible people.

Membership Application for Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter

Name: _____ Military Status _____ Spouse Name _____

Component _____ Branch of Service _____ Rank _____ ☐ Active *(Regular)—☐ Reserve*—☐ National Guard*

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

*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 now to Dec. 31, 2016—\$20 now for new members.

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

nt you may use credit card and PayPal and paid, regular, spouses and auxiliary dues at 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

Return Service Requested



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Did you change your address, phone number, email, add a cell number?

The chapter will be producing a directory in November. Notify Janet Oglesby of these changes.

Thursday, October 22nd Membership Meeting at YARS – RSVP by noon Monday the 19th

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

Who: Members, Spouses, Guests

Lounge and Cash bar opens at 1500

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: Veterans Aid and Attendance Program, see *President's Notes* on page 2.

Speaker: Dr. Romans is VA qualified to provide advice and assistance on filing for this program. He and his company offer this service free of charge for Veterans, surviving spouses, and family members.

Annual Business Meeting

Attire: Business Casual

Menu: Tossed Garden Salad, Turkey w/dressing, Italian Sausage (Peppers & Onions) Candied Sweet Potatoes, Sweet Peas w/pearl onions, 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.

The cost of our dinners have gone up. The \$20 that the chapter charges will cover the expenses except for a credit card transaction. If possible pay by cash or check. We will still accept credit cards.

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 Consolidated 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.