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Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter

Military Officers Association of America



May 2016 • Volume 6 Issue 5

Never Stop
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Navy Operational Support Center Youngstown • MSVC—MOAA
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Our Chapter Gives and Receives Awards



LTC Gary Williams presents the MOAA medal, certificate and a \$300 scholarship to ROTC cadet Lonnie Bissmeyer at YSU. Photo provided by YSU



Lt Col Shane Ostrom accepts the MSVC flag set and the Ohio Council of Chapters Challenge Coin from President LTC Gary Williams.



JROTC Cadet Jenny Rodriguez accepts the MOAA medal and certificate from CPT Mike McNair at East High School.



JROTC Cadet Sydney Hayford accepts the MOAA medal and certificate on behalf of his twin brother Lymon from Lt Col Ralph Minton at TCTC.



Janet receiving 5-star award



Bruce receiving 5-star award



Mike and John receiving MOAA Challenge Coin



by LTC Mike Wisniewski

Once again our Chapter was able to be graced with a distinguished visitor from MOAA Headquarters located in Alexandria, Virginia at our latest dinner meeting held at the Consolidated Activities Center, Youngstown Air Reserve Station in Vienna. This time Lt Col Shane Ostrom, USAF, Ret. who is the Deputy Director of MOAA's Transition Center gave a very informative briefing to a very well attended gathering of members. Several new prospective members from the surrounding communities who received a special invitation by mail were also in attendance. With over 50 guests in attendance, Lt Col Ostrom highlighted the various "hits" that our military forces and their families have had to endure in the past few years and that are projected to continue into the future as budget battles in Congress and the Executive Branch continue to affect almost all aspects of our military. After years of playing "catch up" with civilian equivalent pay, the pendulum is swinging the other way as pay raises have not kept pace with what is known as the Employee Cost Index in the civilian world. While the House has approved a 2.1% increase for the coming year, a 3.1% increase is needed just to keep current, but the DOD and the Executive Branch are proposing only a 1.6% increase. In fact, the lowest pay raise in 50 years—1%—was recently granted for our military forces. The Commissary is also under attack. Outsourcing the commissary is tantamount to a 6% benefit cut for military families who use the commissary and would hit the enlisted ranks the most. The DOD is under pressure to cut housing allowances 1% per year over a 5-year period and increase fees and premiums

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COL Walter Duzzny, president of Mahoning ROA along with LTC Gary Williams (far right) president of Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter of MOAA presents certificates, gold bars, officer's guide and shoulder boards to the new 2LT's Matthew McIntire, Adam Hoover, Candi Burrows and David Smith.

Photo provided by YSU.

President's Notes

by LTC Gary Williams



April 28th was a busy day for MSVC-MOAA members. It started with an 8 AM Army ROTC awards breakfast and ceremony at the DeBartolo stadium club at Stambaugh Stadium sponsored by YSU. It was an exciting event and was said to be one of the largest crowds ever to attend this yearly ceremony. The day ended with one of the largest crowds to ever attend an evening dinner meeting of the MSVC-MOAA to hear Lt Col Shane Ostrom, USAF, Ret., speak about financial concerns of military retirees and their spouses. Shane joined the MOAA staff in 2006, and is a valuable resource to all military personnel, and their families. In fact, Shane is the third person from MOAA to visit our chapter since we were organized five years ago. The evening was eventful with Janet Oglesby and Bruce Bille receiving 5 star awards for excellence in newsletter preparation and web site design. Also, Mike Wisniewski and John Koshan received MOAA challenge coins for their efforts in public relations and legislative matters. We are blessed to have such exemplary individuals as part of the leadership of our organization! Congrats to all of them, and to all of you for your great attendance at meetings this year, and I hope to see you at our next meeting on May 26th. Keep up the great work, and remember, we are only as strong as the membership wants us to be!

Awards from Page 1

for TRICARE as a means to help balance a diminished military budget still under sequestration constraints. MOAA has been and continues to be one of the leading advocates in Washington lobbying to preserve and enhance military pay and benefits. They constantly provide our legislators and their staff with definitive number-crunching studies and analysis that help them shape the budget for our military. While active duty military can only quietly acquiesce to whatever they are "given" in pay and benefits, it is the members and leaders of veteran organizations, such as MOAA, that can actively lobby and speak to our legislators on behalf of our military forces.

Among the guests attending the dinner were representatives from three other Ohio MOAA Chapters including COL Cary Weatherhead, Greater Cleveland Chapter, CAPT George Williams, past president Central Ohio Chapter, and Col Dick Calta, past president of Ohio Western Reserve Chapter. President Gary Williams introduced a few "first timers" to our dinner meeting. They are CDR Matt Stefanak, COL Robert & Becky Marx of Liberty, and Lt Col Richard and Janice Morgan of New Castle.

Following a brief Q&A, Lt Col Ostrom presented two Five Star Awards from MOAA National Headquarters. The first award was the Col Marvin J. Harris Communications Award to Janet Oglesby in the category of Print Newsletter for being the editor of our MSVC Newsletter. This is Janet's fourth such award. The other Five Star Award was again the Col Marvin J. Harris Communications Award in the category of Website. This was presented to former Navy LT Bruce Bille for being the Webmaster of <http://www.msvc.moaa.org>. A well deserved round of appreciation was accorded to both. In addition to these awards, Lt Col Ostrom recognized two individuals for their contributions to the Newsletter and advancing the Legislative Issues promulgated by MOAA. Both COL John Koshan, USA, Ret. and LTC Michael Wisniewski, USA, Ret. received MOAA Challenge Coins from Ostrom.

Please read the Chapter's newsletter for major upcoming events that will be taking place throughout the summer months. The next meeting is on May 26th at 1830 at YARS which will feature our honored YSU ROTC award winners as well as High School JROTC award winners. We welcome donations to help defray the dinner cost of our Cadets and their guests.

Our Chapter membership has just past the Century Mark in just four years. The various programs and activities that this Chapter presents to its membership is a testimony to its growth. We need your active participation to continue its stellar growth and excellence.

The 50/50 raffle winner graciously donated his winning number back to the chapter for the cadets meals. Former Captain Dennis Gartland once again donated a number of beautiful ladies bracelets for use as additional door prizes. Thank you, Dennis.

Let's Celebrate America

ARMED FORCES DAY

11 a. m. - 6 p.m. May 21, 2016 - Buhl Park - Hermitage, Pa

Facebook: Let's Celebrate America on Armed Forces Day

At the Pavilion
1130 - Opening Ceremony
Honoring Veterans
Noon - Shenango Valley Chorale
1 pm - Buhl Park Band
2-6 pm - Bands featuring
folk and patriotic music

For Veterans
information
assistance
support
interviews

FOOD!

For Kids
Games - crafts - activities
Obstacle Course
Military-Style Boot Camp

For Everyone
Military Reenactors

As American as
APPLE PIE
baking contest

Veterans' Memorabilia
Exhibits - Displays
Military vehicles

INFORMATION: Mary Lynn Reid - (724) 981-5522 ext. 4

Legislative Issues – May



COL John Koshan, Legislative Affairs Chair

Our legislative updates for the past few months have been a review of the proposed FY 2017 Defense Authorization Bill. The Administration submitted their proposed budget to Congress in February. Congress has from March until May to review, accept, change, cut or expand upon the proposals submitted by the Pentagon. This process takes place independently in both houses of Congress by the Armed Services Committees and Sub-committees. Each body of Congress develops and formally votes on and passes its version of the Defense Budget. Then a reconciliation process takes place

whereby differences are resolved and a finalized version is passed and sent to the President. The goal is to have this complete in the final quarter of 2016.

This past month we have seen action by both the House and the Senate. The House Armed Services Committee has provided its draft version of the Defense Authorization Bill while the Senate Armed Services Committee is scheduled to start reviewing its various sub-committee's input this week. The goal is to have both chambers pass their versions of the Defense Bill by the end of June. This is very optimistic in my opinion. The whole Budget process is the woefully behind schedule and this Congress may once again "kick the can down the road" by passing yet again another Continuing Resolution (CR).

The House's Armed Services Committee version to the Defense Bill has some significant differences with the Administrations proposed Defense Budget. Some of these differences in areas more familiar with us are hi-lighted below. A number of these issues are in agreement with MOAA's positions.

Pay Raise - Rejects the administration's proposal to cap the 2017 pay raise at 1.6%, instead it provides for a 2.1% increase in line with the average civilian increase.

Retirement – Adopts a DOD proposal for flexibility in paying a continuation Bonus between 8 and 12 years of service under the new Blended retirement system taking effect in 2018. Rejects the DOD proposal to delay the onset of the governments Thrift Savings Plan matching fund until 5 years of service, continues the current plan of 3 years.

Force Levels – Increase force levels above DOD's proposal for all branches of the service.

Commissary – Allows DOD to implement variable pricing strategies and "house brand" products nationwide, but specifies the current position on savings and satisfaction.

Women and the Draft. - Requires both men and women reaching the age of 18 to register with the selective service.

With the House version of the FY 2017 Defense Authorization Bill comes big changes for the Military Health Care system. The specifics on each of the proposed changes will be debate "ad-nauseum" over the next several months and until the final bill is submitted to the President we will not know all the details. However, we can provide the generalities as seen in the House's version.

The Bill would apply a new fee structure similar to that propose by the Pentagon for future entrants beginning in 2018. However, the bill would grandfather currently serving and retired members and families against the large fees proposed in the Pentagon's 2017 budget. Fee increased in future years would be indexed by COLA rather than the higher Health Care Inflation Index favored by the Pentagon. This is in-line with MOAA's recommendations.

The Bill proposes no changes for TRICARE for Life or TRICARE Prime. It does change the current TRICARE Standard to a preferred provider system with flat dollar co-pays for doctor visits and requires an enrollment fees. For those who stay in this version of TRICARE Preferred, they will be required to enroll annually, both active and retire members.

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Legislative Contacts

MOAA Legislative Update
moaa.org/takeaction or
 1-800-234-6622 ext. 215

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Email the legislative contacts through their web site.

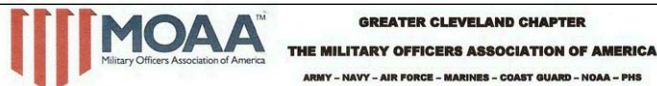
Legislative Issues – May continue

The most significant change would involve placing all Military Treatment Facilities (MTF's) under the direction of the Defense Health Agency for the purposes of unified policy, administration and budgeting. MOAA has advocated for this change for quite a while.

The House Armed Services Committee's budget is a massive 700 page document. It is expected to be taken up by the whole House yet this month. As things usually go we can expect more changes to what we already know.

In other action taken the Senate has approved a large Veterans Reform Package that includes new accountability rules for Department of Veteran Affairs' employees, a large expansion of the Veterans Caregivers programs and promises of changing the agency to a more friendly culture. The Bill establishes an office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection and tightens disciplinary and removal rules. The measure does face an uncertain future with the House and the Administration.

MOAA continues to press Congress on the issues affecting the Military, both Active and Retired. The month of April saw MOAA **Storm the Hill**, visiting nearly all the 535 Senators and Representatives. MOAA position on the changes to The Military Health Care system continues to place emphasis on improved care and facilities before expanding and increasing fees. Our efforts with our local representatives and with MOAA's help at the National level will help to make the right changes that affect personnel costs. Reform needs to be improved access and care for the military service member and family, thereby improving **Readiness** not just budgetary concerns.



The GCC Chapter of the MOAA

presents

LTC Karl D. Jansen, 72nd Commander

Buffalo District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

LTC Karl D. Jansen will speak at our May 2016 regular monthly membership meeting. LTC Jansen is the 72nd Commander of the Buffalo District of the US Army Corps of Engineers, and will provide an update on Army Corps of Engineers operations in and around Lake Erie.



DATE: Thursday, 19 May 2016

**TIME: 6:00PM Social
6:30PM Dinner and Presentation**

**LOCATION: Independence Holiday Inn
6001 Rockside Road
Independence, OH 44131
(I-77 and Rockside Road)**

Reservations not required. Dinner and drinks a la carte

Contact COL Bart Stovicek, USA, Ret. for details (216) 857-0444 or bart.stovicek@att.net

We'll try to get some ammo, we need to know what type What type of gun will you shoot?

On August 18th MSVC member picnic will be held at the Vienna Fish & Game Club. We will start off the event by offering our members a special opportunity to fire military pistols and rifles at the rifle range. A picnic dinner will follow after the range has been secured. A stocked pond for fishing is also on site.

We are asking our members to volunteer in bringing their military weapons to the event. Please ensure they are in proper working order. You will be asked to allow others to shoot your weapon. You will be responsible for the cleaning and maintenance of your weapon after the event. If you would like to offer bringing a gun to shoot, please contact me. **Bruce Bille** bbille.usna82@gmail.com or call **330-333-0397**. I need to know what type of gun you will provide and will you bring your own ammo?

Ammunition. Those wanting to shoot the various military weapons will be responsible for bringing their own ammo or having cash to pay for ammunition used. We plan on having ammo provided by local sporting goods stores for purchase for the event, or to take home.

Schedule:

May 26–List of guns which will be available to shoot. Ask members which guns they want to shoot so we can have ample ammunition. Contact sporting goods stores.

July 28–Final preparations and confirmation. Determine guns and ammunition available.

Aug 18–Military Rifle and Pistol Shoot and MSVC picnic at Vienna Fish & Game Club tentative schedule

4:00 arrive, register

4:15 safety brief, range rules

4:30 shoot

5:30 range safe, clean up

6:00 picnic dinner



This free and open to the public event will feature a great selection of military, civilian and historic warbird aircraft, interactive ground displays and non-aviation military demonstrations. Times: 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Mahoning and Shenango Chapter Blue Star Families

Son of Mark and Patty Andrews

Maj Matt Andrew, USAF, Maxwell AFB Alabama

Son of Mike and Barb Wisniewski, CPT Steven Wisniewski, USA Germany, UH-72 Lakota helicopter pilot

Son of Jim & Carrie Hosack, LTJG Brennan Hosack, USN, Sasebo, Japan. Currently he is preparing to deploy with the USS Green Bay in the near future.

Son of Tom & Julia MacRae, Maj John MacRae, USAF, Elgin AFB, Florida F35 instructor pilot

Grandson of Tom & Marla Raseta, A1C Joshua Raseta, USAF, Hill AFB, Ogden, UT, F16 Fighter Squadron.

Active Duty Chapter Members

Maj Scott Allen, USAFR, Youngstown Air Force Reserve Station

Col James Dignan, USAFR, Youngstown Air Force Reserve Station

MAJ Robert Davidson, YSU ROTC PMS, retiring this summer

LTC Wil Kline, USAR, as of May 2016 the Joint Planning Support Element (JPSE) which is part of the Joint Enabling Capabilities Command (JECC) under USTRANSCOM. The joint AC/RC unit who's mission is to augment and support the Combatant Commands in standing up Joint Task Forces as part of a global response package this takes place in Norfolk, Virginia

Rev Michael Marcelli, USN Chaplain, USS John F. Kennedy

LT BJ Sacramento, USN, Youngstown Navy Reserve Center

MAJ, Lisa Stremel, USA, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii

YSU ROTC Graduates

2013—1LT Eric Hippley, USA, Elmendorf/Richardson Alaska

2013—1LT Jacob Rafidi, USA, Germany

2014—2LT Tyler Strohecker, USA Fort Rucker Alabama training for HH-60M Blackhawk helicopters

2014—2LT Lorin Davis, USA, Wheeler Army Airfield, Hawaii as of April 2016 with the 25th CAB. After BOLC I took over as the SSA (supply support activity) platoon leader and now I am the 3/5 Platoon leader, still with the same company in the 209th Aviation Support Battalion. My battalion is currently pushing out units for Pacific Pathways so I'm learning a lot as the BN unit movement officer. Our BC is a prior 160th SOAR commander so the BN is focusing a lot on Air Assault and Sling Load.2014 Dec.—2LT James Stiger, USA as May 2016, a Platoon Leader in the 509th Clearance Company, 5th Engineer BN at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. In the process of deploying to the Republic of Korea for a 9 month rotation.2015—2LT Jared Hideg, I am in Eastern Texas in the Texas National Guard as a Fire Direction Officer for the 1/133rd FA.**Where You Deployed for Desert Shield or Desert Storm?**

We would like to have chapter members who were deployed for Desert Shield or Desert Storm to share their experience at our June 23rd meeting. This meeting will be held at the Golden Corral in Hermitage. All our summer activities are casual and less formal. If you wish to contribute to this living history evening, plan your remarks to take 10 minutes. If there is an overwhelming response, we

may need round two in July. Contact Florence Hosler our program director at hoslerfm@zoominternet.net or (330) 788-3270 if you are willing to share your memories from 25 years ago.

MSVC-MOAA 2016 Calendar

Date	Location and Program
5/21	Placing the flags at Calvary Cemetery Mahoning Ave. 0800 just inside the front gate. Calvary Cemetery is at the corner of Mahoning and S. Belle Vista Avenues in Youngstown. Remember to bring a bottle of water and a screwdriver. Armed Forces Day at Buhl Park Hermitage PA see page 2
5/26	MSVC at YARS – ROTC/JROTC Recognition 1830 "Buy A Dinner for A Cadet" see last page
5/30	ROA Mahoning Chapter conducts a Ceremony at 0830 on Memorial Day at Calvary Cemetery Rod Hosler will be the speaker at Beaver Township Memorial in North Lima at 1000 AM on Memorial Day.
6/18	YARS Open House 0900–1600 see page 4
6/23	MSVC at Golden Corral, Hermitage, Pennsylvania 1830
7/23	Ohio Council of Chapters Meeting, Columbus
7/28	MSVC at YARS – Steak Fry and Corn Roast 1830
8/4-8	Vietnam Moving Wall 2670 E. State St. Hermitage, Pennsylvania
8/9	Wings-n-Wheels Show Ernie Hall Aviation Museum SLOAS Airfield 4033 North River Road Warren, 44484 www.erniehallaviationmuseum.org
8/18	MSVC at Vienna Fish & Game Club 1600–1700 shoot-up, see page 4 1508 Youngstown Kingsville Rd (Rt 193), Vienna, OH 44473.
9/22	MSVC at YARS TBA
10/22	Ohio Council of Chapters Meeting, Columbus
10/27	MSVC at YARS annual business meeting TBA
12/4	MSVC and ROA Christmas Party TBA
YARS - Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Vienna, Ohio TBA - To be announced Suggestions for programs contact: Florence Hosler	

Welcome new members

COL Robert Marx, USAR, Medical Corps, retired and his wife Becky live in Liberty Township.

Lt Col Richard Morgan, USAF Dental Corps, retired and his wife Janice live in New Castle.

LTC Larry D. Scheetz, USAR, retired and his wife Joyce live in Sharon.

Genevieve Strong Scupholm, surviving spouse, New Wilmington.



Navy Operational Support Center Youngstown
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Vienna, OH 44473-5980

Place
Stamp
Here



Thursday, May 26th ROTC/JROTC Recognition Dinner—RSVP by May 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: 1745 (5:45 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

Speakers: Our cadets

Attire: Request a sport coat or equivalent

Menu: Tossed Salad, stuffed chicken breast, roast pork loin, mashed potatoes, roasted vegetables, dinner roll, dessert, beverage, gratuity for \$22.00 per person. **Chapter pays for no-shows.**

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

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.

Asking for Sponsors

“Buy A Dinner for a Cadet”

Our May 26th Recognition Dinner Meeting for our cadets of ROTC & JROTC and newly commissioned cadets. For this meeting we have instituted a “Buy A Dinner for a Cadet” where a member can contribute \$22 to offset the cost of the chapter, paying for the dinner for a cadet, their guest, or their military staff member. If you can assist by “buying a dinner” you may do so at the door. Any surplus of donations will be put into the scholarship fund.

