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LTC Gary Williams gives LCDR Sacramento an Ohio Council of Chapters challenge coin following his presentation.

The Silent Service – Submarines

By LTC Mike Wisniewski

Approximately 30 members of the Mahoning & Shenango Valleys Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America gathered at a luncheon meeting at the Community Activities Center of the Youngstown Air Reserve Station (YARS) in Vienna on Friday April 28th to hear a presentation by one of our own Chapter members, LCDR Benjamin Sacramento, USN. As a member of an elite force of "Submariners", LCDR Sacramento is the Commanding Officer of Navy Operational Support Center Youngstown. His tour of duty at the YARS will end in November of this year upon which he will transition to Naples, Italy along with his beautiful wife and adorable 22 month old daughter.

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Such an Honor to Present Awards to Cadets

Members of MSVC presented three MOAA medals, a scholarship and a set of gold bars in one week. Read article on page two *Do You Believe in JROTC?*



East High School, Cadet Aaron Santos received the MOAA medal from LTC Rod Hosler.



East High School drill team performance—note they are in step.



YSU, Former LT Florence Hosler presents the MOAA medal and a scholar-ship to Cadet Zachary J. Szewczy.



YSU, LTC Rod Hosler presents gold bars, officer's guide and shoulder boards to new 2LT Lonnie Bissmeyer.





TCTC, Cadet Michael Crites receives his MOAA medal from Lt Col Ralph Minton. Picture on left TCTC cadets.

Submarines from page 1

LTC Gary Williams, President of MSVC, welcomed members and guests and asked Lt. Col Ralph Minton, USAF, Ret. for the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by LTC Rod Hosler, USA, Ret. After the lunch meal, Col Dick Calta, USAF, Ret. gave a brief summary of his recent experience of "STORMING THE HILL" in Washington, DC together with LTC Rod Hostler. As MOAA's representatives from the Ohio Council of Chapters both Dick and Rod literally met with each of Ohio's 16 Congressional Representatives and two Senators (or their staff) to articulate MOAA's stance on three main issues that they feel are of prime importance and need to be addressed by Congress. From chapters and State Councils from all across the nation, each member of the House of Representatives and the Senate were visited by MOAA members on April 5th to discuss these three issues affecting the military: 1) Sequestration. 2) SBC-DIC offset penalty for surviving spouse. 3) Freeze TRICARE premium hikes. Col Calta also gave a brief synopsis of how favorably or not the State of Ohio ranks in terms of tax treatment of military retirement pay and benefits. This information as well as the ranking of all the states can be found on MOAA's website. Ohio was ranked favorably in this category.

MSVC is hosting the State Convention at the YARS on 23 September. Both Representatives Bill Johnson and Tim Ryan have been invited to attend. Lt Gen Atkins will be the keynote speaker at the convention. Information and registration forms will be sent out shortly. In the meantime, mark your calendars and plan on attending as this is really a feather in our cap to be able to host a State Convention of this magnitude as a young 5-year old Chapter. Part of the activities planned for the Convention includes a round-trip ride aboard a C-130 to Niagara Falls, NY!!! Also, rooms are available at the Eagles Nest Lodging for only \$65.00 a night.

Our guest speaker, LCDR Sacramento, gave an unclassified slide presentation of our current submarine status, strength, home port locations, types and capabilities of our subs, and overview of our Navy Reserve submarine force personnel. With a Force Manpower of 28,000 personnel including reserves and civilian, the submarine fleet consists of approximately 70 vessels of various classes. These include nuclear ballistic missile platforms (Trident Submarines), tomahawk and navy seal launch platforms (SSGN), and the Virginia class of attack submarines designed for post-Cold War security environment. The United States undoubtedly has the most advanced and best trained submarine fleet in the world. With only 8% of Navy personnel, it operates 25% of warships, consumes 15% of the Navy budget, and has approximately 70% of accountable nuclear warheads. Since WWII, the U.S. Navy has used its global dominance

to stabilize the world's maritime commons, permitting the greatest expansion of trade, prosperity, and living standards in history. Whereas 40 countries in the world have a submarine fleet, over 370 of them are Diesel Electric subs. The United States has all nuclear-powered submarines which can operate totally submerged for extremely long periods of time. Their only constraint for underwater operation is the amount of food that can be carried onboard. LCDR Sacramento presented a rare glimpse into the life onboard a submarine by answering many questions from the audience. Thank you LCDR Sacramento for an extremely interesting and informative presentation.

Winners of the 50/50 raffle were Edi Zentis and Irv Maurer. Again, former Captain Dennis Gartland and his wife, Esther, donated 5 lovely lady's bracelets to the Chapter for the 50/50 raffle. We sincerely thank you Dennis and Esther for you have done this many times in the past.

We remind you that our next meeting will be a 6:00 dinner on Thursday May 11th at the YARS where we will be honoring our University ROTC and High School Junior ROTC Cadets and their parents. Please make your reservations early for this event so that names of non-military ID card holders can have their names submitted to the front guard gate. We are also looking for dinner sponsors for our Cadets and family or if you wish to add to the Chapter's Scholarship Fund. We sincerely appreciate your help.

Do You Believe in JROTC?

By Rod & Florence Hosler and Janet Oglesby

We have been attending the YSU Army ROTC, and the East High School and the Trumbull County Technical Center JROTC awards programs since the MSVC began over five years ago. One reason is to have Janet take pictures of the MOAA medal awardee for the newsletter. The other reason, is hard to explain unless you were an educator or a leader of young people or a parent. That proud feeling you get knowing that you were involved in some small way in turning a person's life around in a positive way.

The Youngstown State University Army ROTC awards program, takes place in the DeBartolo room at YSU stadium with an abundance of university faculty, alumni, awards presenters and awards recipients. It is such an honor to see these young men and women to receive awards as they become Second Lieutenants in the United States Army.

The Trumbull County Technical Center Air Force JRTOC program started, when the school administration looked at the variety careers that were offered at TCTC, and realized a career in military should be considered. TCTC worked with the Youngstown Air Force Reserve Station to established a program, with retired Air Force Lieuten-

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May 4th Prime Rib/Fish Dinner at CAC

The chapter has been invited here to the CAC for a buffet of Prime Rib \$15.95 or Fried Fish \$12.95 from 4:00 to 9:00 this is the start of the UTA (reserve weekend). Also, on the buffet is a baked or sweet potato, vegetable and tossed salad. This is the afternoon that the bar opens at 3:30. Those without a military ID, your name has been submitted to security. No RSVP required.



Volunteers Needed

Air Show June 17-18

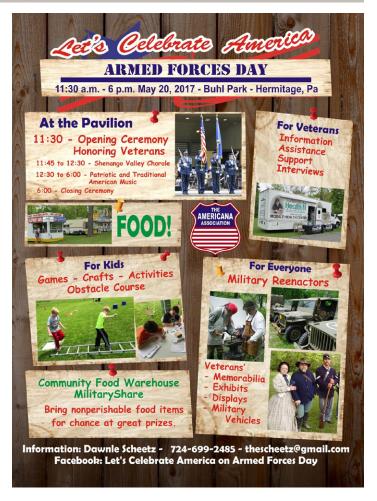


The 2017 Thunder Over the Valley Air Show is the Air Force Reserve's marquee event for celebrating the Air Force's 70th birthday. The goal of the show lineup is to

highlight the rich heritage and history of the U.S. Air Force. All performers listed below are *tentative*.

- The United States Air Force Thunderbirds
- B17, B24, B25 Bomber Formation
- 8th AF B17, P51 Formation

Continue in the column



Air Show Continue

- Red Tail Squadron P51 Demo
- Wings of Blue United States Air Force Parachute Team
- Air Force Academy Glider Team
- C-130H Hercules Mass Container Delivery System Airdrop
- C-130H Hercules Low Pass
- Man vs Impossible (Pulling a C-130 aircraft with human power)
- Canadian Harvard Aerobatic Team
- Shockwave Jet Truck
- Randy Ball MiG-17 / T-37
- A37 Dragonfly Demo
- F4 Phantom
- Warrior Flight Team Demo
- Team Fastrax Parachute Team Featuring a 7800^{ft} American Flag

The chapter will have a table at the air show, in the hanger. We need volunteers to man it, also need a coordinator to schedule the volunteers. Contact Janet if you can help.

Legislative Issues – May 2017



Legislative Affairs Co-Chair, COL John Koshan

The old adage goes, the more things change the more things stay the same. This couldn't be more true than today, after hearing the news that the Congress has passed still another CR (continuing resolution) to fund the government. The latest will expire in one (1) week, Friday May 5th. The plan is to allow the negotiators another week to craft a larger budget package thereby averting a government shutdown. Not being blamed for a government shutdown seems to be the objective here, and not the well planned and well run government we had hoped to see after the latest elections.

The government has been currently funded by a Continuing Resolution from the previous administration and as of today the 28th of April will continue to be funded for at least another week under a CR.

Congress is facing minimal time to resolve the funding dilemma. Of concern is the potential option of a new CR that would simply carry the government through to the end of the fiscal year. If this is the tract taken, it will not be well received by the Department of Defense. A failure to pass a budget is in the opinion of the Chief of Staff of the Army akin to business mal practice.

Adopting a CR means that funding remains under the previous year's level and that the start of new programs is not authorized except in rare instances. Implementing a full year CR would potentially mean canceled training, costly maintenance and supply shortages across the military.

The service chiefs all argue that the cumulative effects of the last eight years of CR's and five years of capped spending have significantly harmed the military, just as potential adversaries have made investments in their own military.

There are other funding options. Congress could pass a funding bill for the Department of Defense and not for other federal Departments. Congress could also craft a CR that would include provisions allowing Department of Defense to spend money as it requires within the statutory cap on total defense spending. Whatever necessary spending adjustments are not covered within the legislation could be changed by DoD redirecting funds within its budget or by congressional approvals to reprogram funds.

On the whole, a CR is a poor way to manage programs but the Congress, the Pentagon and the White House could probably insure that the worst does not happen.

The elephant in the room however, is SEQUESTRATION and by all accounts should be eliminated but as of yet still exists. Congress needs to act decisively and replace Sequestration with an alternate debt reduction plan. If not, an even more devastating round of defense cuts will occur and will put our nation's defense capabilities at an unacceptable risk. Avoiding Sequestration is fundamental to our nation's wellbeing. MOAA urges all of us to get involved and contact our representatives concerning this budget item.

The Military spending debate will rage on but it at least is on the side of budget increase not decrease. The President has called for increases for the military and both the House and Senate armed services committees have called for more than what the President has asked for. A Good Sign, now, it is up to the congress to deliver.

MOAA strongly urges congress to pass a defense spending bill, anything short is a failure to uphold their constitutional responsibility of providing for the Defense of the Nation. We have a role to play, our support for MOAA's legislative actions and our willingness to express our opinions to our elected officials are essential to our well being as a nation.

An addendum by the editor. On page five is an article on an issue that will appear on the November ballot in Ohio. This deals with the pricing of prescription drugs. All military organizations are asked to opposed it. In California it was defeated. It appears on state ballots with large veteran population and states like Ohio that make it easy to put an issue on a state ballot.

Legislative Contacts

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

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Ohio's Misleading Rx Ballot Issue is Serious Risk for Veterans

n November 2017, Ohioans will be asked to vote on a flawed, deceptive ballot issue that could raise prescription drug prices and limit access to needed medications for military veterans. It's bad for veterans and bad for taxpayers. Veterans' organizations should oppose it.

Under federal law, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) receives discounted pricing on prescription medication from drug manufacturers. The ballot issue, put forth by a controversial California activist, proposes a new law that calls for the state of Ohio to pay no more for prescription medications than the lowest price paid by the VA. The proposed law would apply to programs that serve public retirees and state workers, Medicaid beneficiaries, injured workers, prisoners, patients in state university hospitals, and others. It does not apply to the majority of Ohioans with private health coverage.

Experts have concluded this proposal is unworkable and cannot be implemented. An almost identical version of the proposal appeared on the November 2016 California ballot as Proposition 61, and was defeated. More than 30 veterans groups in California were among 200 opposing organizations, including doctors, business, labor and patient groups. Every major newspaper opposed Prop. 61.

Impossible to Implement

The VA is not required to disclose how much it pays for medications. That means state entities would not know what benchmark to meet. But if Ohio voters approve the ballot issue, state officials would be *legally required* to implement the new law, forcing them to challenge the VA for information and taking up resources both the state and the VA could put to better use.

How much the VA pays for any particular drug is a moving target. In addition to specified percentage discounts, the VA frequently gets additional rebates from drug manufacturers, credit for volume purchases and other deals. These change periodically and are not disclosed by either the VA or the manufacturers.

The VA Says the Misleading Rx Proposal Will Raise Costs for Veterans

The VA itself said in a 2016 issue briefing that these additional discounts are likely to be eliminated by pharmaceutical manufacturers if VA pricing is extended to other entities like state governments. The briefing estimates an increase in VA prescription drug costs of \$3.8 billion a year, if the proposal is voted into state law.

The US General Accountability Office (GAO) has on several occasions examined the issue of extending VA discounts to

other programs and warned that a mandatory extension could undermine the VA's ability to obtain favorable pricing for drugs and the limit the availability of some medications to the VA. In 2000, the GAO advised against including Medicare in the VA's pricing structure for this reason.

Military Families are Already Paying More

Already, veterans in Ohio and across the country are seeing rising costs. As part of the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act, Congress voted to increase co-pays that military retirees and dependents of active duty military pay out of pocket by 25%. If the ballot measure passes and VA and DOD drug costs go up, we can expect added pressure to increase prescription drug co-pays that veterans, military retirees and dependents of active duty military have to pay out of pocket. That would affect more than 866,000 veterans, active duty military, and military retirees residing in Ohio, plus 21 million veterans nationwide who have served our country.

Alternatively, the VA and DOD could deal with higher drug costs by deciding to omit certain drugs from their formularies – limiting veterans, military personnel, and retiree access to needed medications.

There's No Benefit for Ohio Taxpayers

Medicaid and other state entities already use percentage discounts and rebates when purchasing medication. Should voters approve the ballot proposal, these existing contracts would cease, with unknown costs and complications for Ohio taxpayers. The administrative costs of trying to implement an unworkable law would fall on Ohio programs that serve vulnerable populations such as people who are developmentally disabled, people with mental illness, newborn infants, injured workers, the elderly and other Ohioans.

The VA's Program is Designed for Veterans

The Veterans Healthcare Act enables the VA to provide medical care including prescription medications to our nation's military veterans in recognition of their service. The discounts mandated in the Act were never intended to be extended to states. The program is also designed to meet the needs of the military population and the drugs included reflect that.

To learn more, and get involved in the campaign to fight this harmful ballot measure, please contact Mitch Given at 614-352-8333 or Mitch@MitchGiven.com.

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Do You Believe from page 2

ant Colonel John Miller and retired Sargent Kelley Kibbey are the instructors. Their awards program takes place in their classroom which was a converted auto body shop. The awards program and cadet change of command ceremony are formal military events. There are a many presenters representing many Veterans organizations and a substantial number of parents present. To see these young men and women fulfill the objectives of the AFJROTC program. Military service is not a requirement and they are under any obligation, but many cadets do joining the military. Many of TCTC students that do enlist in the military as the cadets will remark "I trade in my shoulder boards to put on stripes," Rod Hosler, Retired Air Force Lt Col Ralph Minton and Janet Oglesby have been attending for years

The East High School Army JROTC awards program is likewise a privilege to attend and be a part of. Our chapter has an historical connection with the Army JROTC program at East. MSVC member Retired Army Major Carl Nunziato was instrumental in getting the program started at Rayen High School and retired Army LTC Rod Hosler taught at the program for three years until it moved to East High School. Currently, Retired Army Master Sargent Doug Moon is the Senior Army Instructor. There are too many students for one instructor, and finding another instructor that can keep up with the students and understands the environment that the cadets come from is difficult! After a pasta dinner in the school cafeteria, those in attendance went to the gym and watch an Unarmed Drill Team. We understand why they won first place. Then the battalion performs a "Knockout Drill" to determine the best cadet. The East cadets earned some impressive achievements this year, and a few of their noteworthy achievement

- Kenmore Unarmed Drill Team Competition 1st Place
- Lincoln West Unarmed Drill Team Competition 3rd
 Place
- Kenmore Color Guard Team Competition 3rd Place
- Kenmore Knockout Competition 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place

The Mission of the East High Army JROTC and TCTC Air Force JROTC programs is to motivate young people to be better citizens. Why such a privilege to attend? There is a tremendous showing enthusiastic camaraderie for all the cadets! The spirit of this camaraderie carries through the award presentation. The success of a JROTC program depends on the cadet leadership and both programs are losing many senior cadets to graduation.

Here is the list of awards:

- Military Officers Association of America Award (YSU, East High and TCTC)
- Reserve Officers Association Award (YSU and East High only)

- U.S. Army Recruiting Command Award (East High only)
- American Veterans (AMVETS) Award (YSU, East High and TCTC)
- American Legion Award (YSU and TCTC only)
- Veterans of Foreign War Awards (YSU and TCTC only)
- The Military Order of Purple Heart (YSU, East High and TCTC)
- National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (YSU and TCTC only)
- National Society Sons of the American Revolution (YSU only)
- National Sojourners Award (YSU, East High and TCTC)
- Embry Riddle Award (East High only)
- The Retired Enlisted Association Award (East High only)
- Special Forces Award (YSU and East High only)
- Order of the Daedalian Award (East High only)
- U.S. Army Warrant Officer Association Award (East High only)

With that number of awards you would think lots of presenters. At YSU and TCTC, there were many presenters, but at East High only the Army recruiter presented their awards and Rod Hosler presented the MOAA and ROA awards. It means so much for cadets to receive awards from someone other than their teacher.

These JROTC programs are life changing experiences! We get to witness that every year that we attend. These cadets are some of the best in the school. In case you think that JROTC is for the below average student:

Would you be willing to present an award to a cadet? If you can wear your uniform great, if not coat and tie. At East High, Master Sargent Moon presented the awards we didn't! The Hosler's comes from Boardman, Janet Oglesby comes from Hubbard and Ralph Minton from New Castle, Pa. It's what is important in the "big picture."

Do you want to be a small part of it? The East High program is on a Friday evening, late April or early May and TCTC is on Saturday morning late April or early May.

May Birthdays:

Jack R., Mark A., Janet O, Adam H.

June Birthdays:

Audrey B., Don R., Al L., Harold H., Bob M., Tom R., C. Jim B., Rod H.



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Membership Renewal or Application for Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter

Name:			Military Status	s	Spouse Name	
Branch □ Regular	Rank Member (Retir	Years Active/Reserred, Former, Active* Officervices Membership \$20 /	er of the	*Free chapter and you ma	Regular) — 🗖 Reserve*— 🗖 National Gua r membership if under government contrac vintain a MOAA national membership. ary email address is preferred.	
☐ Survivir	ng Spouse is avai	lable for surviving spous	e of a military o	officer Memb	ership \$10/year)	
☐ Spouse	(local MOAA cl	napter only, not national,	spouse is mem	nber of chapte	er) Membership \$20/year)	
Address:						
Primary Ph	ione:			Secondary Pl	hone	
E-mail:		····	Ap	plicant DOB	Spouse DOB	
☐ Newslet	ters will be ema	iled, if you prefer postal s	service, check t	this box	Navy Operational Support Center Youngstow	n
Member of	MOAA Nation	al 🗌 Yes 🗌 No MOAA :	#		Attn: MSVC-MOAA Janet Oglesby, Secretary	
Chapter du	ies from now to	Dec. 31, 2017 \$20			3976 King Graves Road Bldg 540	
Make Check Payable to: MSVC-MOAA mail to address on right					Vienna, OH 44473-5980	
You may pa	y regular and si	irviving spouses dues (n	ot spouses) wit	h a credit car	rd at: www.moaa.org	

You may use credit card and PayPal to paid, regular, spouses and surviving spouse dues at msvc-moaa.org/membership

MSVC Membership

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. Chapter specific membership for spouses of present members and honorary members. MSVC-MOAA memberships are open to all eligible people.

MSVC Mission Statement Our Purpose

MSVC will promote the objectives of the Military Officers Association of America providing a uniform lobbying platform on behalf of the active duty, Reserve, Guard, retired, and former officers of the uniformed services and their spouses and families.

Conduct activities which: perpetuate traditions, educate and inform members of world, national, and local events, which affect the current and former members of the U.S. military. Provide a fraternal and supportive community for members to network, socialize and promote camaraderie.

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 2016 Military Officers Association of American All rights reserved.] Questions or comments should be directed to: LTC Gary Williams, USA, Ret. E-mail: gwilliams15@comcast.net

	MSVC-MOAA 2017 Calendar
Date	Location and Program
5/4	MSVC board meeting 1500 at Navy Reserve Center
5/11	MSVC at YARS 1830 dinner ROTC/JROTC recognization program "Buy a Dinner for a Cadet" See page 8
	Placing 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.
5/20	Veteran's Breakfast Storytelling Event @ Buhl Park Activity Center 0830—1000
	Armed Forces Day Buhl Park, Hermitage, Pennsylvania MSVC will be there see page 3.
5/29	ROA Mahoning Chapter conducts a Ceremony at 0830 on Memorial Day at Oakhill Cemetery, birthplace of Memorial Day
6/17–18	Air Show featuring the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds aerial demonstration team. Youngstown Air Force Reserve Station
6/22	MSVC at Golden Corral, Hermitage at 1830. Topic: Camp Reynolds a WWII POW Camp located in Reynolds, Pennsylvania
7/22	Ohio Council of Chapters Meeting, Columbus
7/27	MSVC Vienna Rod and Gun Club, Shoot-em, picnic supper
8/6	Wings-n-Wheels Show Ernie Hall Aviation Museum SLOAS Airfield 4033 North River Road Warren, 44484 www.erniehallaviationmuseum.org
8/17-19	D-Day at Conneaut <u>www.ddayohio.us</u>
8/24	MSVC at YARS Steak Fry/Corn Roast—legislative night
9/22-23	MSVC hosting MOAA state convention. It will be the MSVC members assistance and attendance that will make it a success.
9/24	Ohio Council of Chapters Meeting, YARS



Military Officers Association of America NOSC–Youngstown 3976 King Graves Road Bldg #540 Vienna, OH 44473-5980



MSVC-MOAA Dinner at YARS Thursday, 11 May ROTC/JROTC Recognition — RSVP by May 8th

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

Speakers: Our cadets

Attire: Request a sport coat and tie 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 through PayPal with a credit card.

Asking for Sponsors

"Buy A Dinner for a Cadet"

Our May 11th 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.



SGT Moon, Cadet Tyler Wagner, Viola Sheeler, LTC Rod Hosler.

If you were/are a teacher there is always that chance you will run into former students. Viola was a student of Rod's when he taught JROTC at Rayen High School. Viola's son Tyler is a cadet at East High School where SGT Moon is the teacher of JROTC program.