



THE CAPE FEAR CHAPTER of MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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INFOGRAM - June 2014

EDITOR: LTC John W. Hazlett, US Army (Ret)

www.cfmoaa.org

CHAPTER WINS TWO MOAA AWARDS

By Don Gersh

The Cape Fear Chapter was recognized recently by MOAA for having the best website and top electronic newsletter in its annual Colonel Marvin J. Harris Communication Awards Contest.



President of NC Council of Chapters Jeri Graham presented the awards to Cape Fear Chapter President Juan Chavez at the 30 May General Membership Dinner Meeting.

“You are (code) NC01, number one in the state,” she said during the presentation.

Col. Chavez is the webmaster/editor of the Chapter’s website, and serves as editor of “*A Gram of Info*,” the electronic newsletter. The awards were judged by a panel at MOAA National headquarters and were compared to other chapters of our membership size.

The website (www.cfmoaa.org) was recognized for its format, ease of navigation through the site, editorial content and creativity. The electronic newsletter is the fastest means to contact the majority of the membership and usually features a single subject with active links to the website. It is prepared by the Chapter president to “get the word out.”

(Editor’s Note: Don Gersh served as a Public Affairs (Relations) Officer in the Pentagon and worked with Col. Harris, an Air Force PAO. Col. Harris became MOAA’s Public Relations Director after his retirement.

Don says naming the Communication Awards after him honors Col. Harris' contributions to all fields of communications.)

**PRESIDENT'S NOTES by Juan Chavez, phone: (910)797-5419,
email: President@cfmoaa.org**

Our bi-monthly general membership meeting held on the 30th of May at Chris's Steak House was quite eventful and enjoyable. I thank all who attended, and all who had a part in making it a great evening.

I had the pleasure of introducing five new chapter members, plus several special guests including: Colonel (Ret) Jeri Graham, President of the North Carolina Council of Chapters; Mr. Drew Brooks, Military Editor of the Fayetteville Observer, and Mr. Brian Pollard, Wealth Manager of the USAA Financial Centers in Fayetteville.

Colonel Jeff Sanborn, the Fort Bragg Garrison Commander, our featured speaker for the evening, did an excellent job of explaining the impacts that sequestration has had on the installation, and gave us a glimpse of what challenges still lie ahead. I thank Colonel Sanborn for accepting our invitation to speak to us and also for becoming the newest member of our chapter.

During the evening, I also had the privilege of presenting a certificate of appreciation and a chapter coin to Chaplain (Major) Ron Webb for his outstanding service as Chapter Chaplain since November 2013. Ron who is the Chaplain of the 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade will be deploying with his unit to Afghanistan in August. Ron will remain a member of the chapter and will return to Fort Bragg after his deployment; we wish him Godspeed.

With the loss of Chaplain Webb, I will be adding the chapter chaplain position to our list of "volunteer opportunities" that we have published in the Infogram the past two months. I am somewhat disheartened that out of a pool of approximately 500 souls (members, spouses and auxiliary) not a single person has felt inclined to volunteer their time and talents to help us operate and administered the chapter; the proverbial 5% continues to carry 100% of the load. Needless to say, the "year of the volunteer" has been a total flop thus far, but I am not ready to throw in the towel – not yet, there are still seven months left. I have a feeling that the phone will start ringing off the hook as soon as this hits the street.

To close on an upbeat note, the US Army will celebrate its 239th birthday on the 14th of June, so the best of wishes are extended to all our Army brethren. The following day happens to be Father's Day, so many of our members will be double-dipping in June – they'd earned it; enjoy a great weekend!

EDITORIAL

Today's Army – Soldier Strong

In 2014, as over the preceding 239 years, American Soldiers are standing guard for freedom. From Iraq to Afghanistan and in hot spots around the world, they serve with distinction in protecting the American people from all enemies.

Today's Soldiers exemplify and uphold Army values: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage. If you are reading this in freedom, thank a soldier!

(Source: "I Got Your Six" by Martin J. Cervantez)

MEMBERSHIP - RECRUITING AND RETENTION

by Juan Chavez, President, phone (910) 797-5419; email President @cfmoaa.org

RECRUITING

Thanks to the efforts of Tammy Beshlin, Andrea Candlish, Don Gersh and Juan we signed up 7 new members during the month of May 2014 giving us a total of 28 year-to-date. We welcome our newest members:

COL Jeffrey M. Sanborn, USA
LTC (Ret) Allen K. “Chip” Grammer, USA
LTC (Ret) Kenneth R. Groff, USA
LTC (Ret) Richard H. Shereff, USA
LTC (Ret) Martin C. Williams, USA
MAJ (Ret) Jerry “Rusty” Bradley, USA
2LT Miles S. Porter, USA

We are doing well, but we could do a lot better if everyone got involved in the recruiting effort. If you haven't gotten your quota of one, please do it this month. We live in one of the largest recruiting markets in the country, so go out and make a difference! Once again, the **eligibility criteria** for membership are: ***any commissioned or warrant officer – active duty, retired, former, Reserve or National Guard, in any of the seven uniformed services.***

RETENTION

For the very few who have not responded to renewal notices, your membership can still be reinstated if you reapply. If you are one of the delinquents, please mail in your requests using the form on the back page of the *Infogram*.

If you have any questions please call Secretary Don Gersh at (910) 484-4545.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER by Ch (MAJ) Ron Webb, phone: 910-635-8308, **email: chaplain@cfmoaa.org**

During my last overseas assignment in Schweinfurt, Germany, I visited our Garrison Commander's house named the Roosevelt House not after President Theodore Roosevelt, but rather after his son, Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. And since this June marks the 70th anniversary of the Normandy Invasion, I can think of few better individuals to highlight.

General Roosevelt was a man of service, fortitude, and courage. He fought in World War I; he served in the New York State Assembly; he was Assistant to the Secretary of Navy; was Governor General of the Philippines and Governor of Puerto Rico, and served in a leadership capacity for many different kinds of organizations and businesses.

Despite being a man of privilege he chose the arduous and dangerous task to lead soldiers into combat in World War II. He commanded the 26th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division in Africa, Sicily, and Italy, and later led the first wave of the 4th Infantry Division's landing at Utah Beach; and, according to his Medal of Honor citation "he repeatedly led groups from the beach over the seawall...under constant direct fire."

Perhaps, the thing that amazes me most is that General Roosevelt did this voluntarily after being denied service twice and at age 56 with a heart condition! What kind of man does that? His spirit is the true spirit of a brave officer. He was not unlike a young warrior named David 3,000 years ago, who not only confronted Goliath, the giant Philistine, but also his shield bearer and the entire Philistine Army. He dashed across the battle lines successfully engaging the enemy

and inspiring his fellow countrymen to completely rout their opponents. We still have these kinds of soldiers. MOAA is comprised of men and women with the same spirit. Let us not forget June 1944 and let us keep praying for our officers to fight courageously with valor in June 2014. *Pro Deo Et Patria*

JUNIOR ROTC SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Junior ROTC Cadet Cody McWherter of the Navy JROTC unit at Cape Fear High School was presented a \$1,000.00 college scholarship as part of the 65th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day celebration activities at Fayetteville's Veterans Park on Saturday, May 17, 2014. Cadet McWherter's parents, Mr. & Mrs. Keith McWherter of Fayetteville were on hand for the ceremony. The event, sponsored by the Armed Forces of America Motorcycle Club, paid tribute to our men and women of the Armed Forces, past (veterans), present (active duty), and future (ROTC). Cadet McWherter, a model high school student and ROTC cadet, is an example of the quality young men and women aspiring to be our future military leaders. Cadet McWherter, a graduating senior at Cape Fear High School this summer, will begin his college education experience at UNC Chapel Hill this fall and will be enrolled in the university's Air Force ROTC Program. The scholarship was presented on behalf of the Cape Fear Chapter by Chapter President Juan Chavez.



JUNIOR ROTC SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The senior awards ceremony 2014 for Fairmont High School was held at the school on 20 May. During the awards for the JROTC seniors LTC (Ret) Bill Dadek, presented to Cadet Captain Sequita McAllister a certificate for her selection to receive a \$1,000.00 scholarship from the Cape Fear Chapter for the school year 2014-2015. The event was attended by families and school staff.

SENIOR ROTC COMMISSIONING CEREMONIES (SCHOOL YEAR 2013-2014)

Air Force ROTC Detachment 607 of Fayetteville State University held its commissioning ceremony on 9 May 2014. LtCol Allen Gradnigo, the Professor of Aerospace Studies and Detachment Commander and Capt Alycia Laseck, Assistant Professor of Aerospace Studies and Operations Flight Commander, each administered the oath of office to one of the new second lieutenants. The new officers were 2nd Lt Alanna Crockwell and 2nd Lt Michael Smith. LTC (Ret) Bill Dadek presented a set of gold bars and a one year free membership in MOAA to each of the new officers.

JROTC HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS (SCHOOL YEAR 2013/2014)

Lumberton Senior High School 8 May 2014 was the Lumberton High School JROTC awards night. The event was held in the school auditorium. The facility was nearly full of parents and students. It is LTC (Ret) Steve Eaton's last year as the SAI for Lumberton and he retires at the end of the school year. His replacement LTC (Ret) Harper was also at the event. LTC (Ret)

Bill Dadek presented the MOAA Medals to Cadet Brandon Anderson and Cadet Deni Mata.

Terry Sanford High School

The 40th Annual Terry Sanford JROTC Dining-out was held at the Fort Bragg Club on 9 May 2014. Major Patton and the Cadets did a fine job of organizing and conducting the event. The Guest Speaker for the evening was Mayor Nat Robertson of Fayetteville. The MOAA award was presented to Cadet Captain Alexandra Gephart by LTC (Ret) Bill Dadek.



St Paul's High School

May 10, 2014 was the St Paul's High School JROTC Military ball. The event was held in the school cafeteria. The facility was decorated by the cadets and the light food prepared by the school staff. Major (Ret) Hill, the SAI at St Paul's, and the cadets made the evening festive. LTC (Ret) Bill Dadek presented the MOAA Medal to Cadet Major Moises DeRios Perez. Cadet received academic and events awards in addition to the MOAA award.

East Bladen High School

East Bladen High School's annual awards day was conducted on May 14, in the school gymnasium and was the first award's ceremony for the new Senior Army Instructor, LTC (Ret) Gregory V. Marinich. The presentation of the MOAA Award was made by LTC (Ret) John Hazlett to Cadet First Lieutenant KaMaria Harrison. With this ceremony Three East Bladen High School Senior Army Instructors were present: LTC (R) Gregory V. Marinich, LTC(R) John Hazlett, and LTC (R) Roy Allen, recently retired from East Bladen, representing over 45 years in the high school JROTC program.



Union High School

The 2014 Union High School military Ball was held on 16 May at the Mad Boar in Wallace, NC. The cadets and their instructor, Ltc (Ret) Vencent Tripp and Msg (Ret) Anthony Austin organized and conducted a fun evening for all. The Guest speaker was CSM (Ret) Arthur L. Coleman Jr. a former CSM of the 82nd Abn Div and at retirement the CSM of III Corps and Fort Hood. LTC (Ret) Bill Dadek presented the MOAA medal and certificate to Cadet Captain



Ana Gonzalez, who was later in the evening named to Cadet Battalion Commander for the next school year, 2014-2015.

71st High School

71st High School Air Force JROTC held their 2014 Military Ball at the Fort Bragg Club on 17 May. Cadet Stephen Wilshire was presented the MOAA Medal and Certificate at the event. The medal was presented by the school Senior Air Force Instructor, LtCol Haley.

Westover High School

The Wolverine JROTC Battalion of Westover High School held their 2014 awards ceremony on 21 May at the school. LTC (Ret) Bill Dadek presented the MOAA Medal and certificate to Cadet Gabriel Mata-Ruiz. LTC (Ret) Kevin DiCassio and the cadet staff organized a well-executed event.

Hoke High School

Hoke High School held their awards dining out at the school on 23 May 2014. The new Senior Army Instructor, CW4 (Ret) Harold Thacker, and CSM (Ret) McPherson with the cadets planned and executed a fun evening. LTC (Ret) Bill Dadek attended to present the MOAA medal and certificate to Cadet Captain Eathan Joseph Hansen Matz, but due to family circumstances Cadet Matz was unable to attend. CW4 (Ret) Thacker, a longtime member of the Cape Fear Chapter, presented the medal and certificate to Cadet Matz during a school period the following week.



LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

VA Secretary Eric Shinseki stepped down today (30 May 2014) following confirmation by the VA Inspector General (IG) that secret wait-lists were used to deny veterans care in as many as 42 hospitals.

The IG report substantiated “serious conditions” at the Phoenix facility where 1,700 veterans were waiting for a primary care appointment but were not on its electronic wait list. Another 1,400 were on the official wait list and were scheduled to receive care. Phoenix managers in effect were cooking the books to sweeten performance appraisal accomplishments, “which is one of the factors considered for awards and salary increases” according to the IG.

A survey of 226 veterans showed they waited on average 115 days for a primary care visit. This was due to discrepancies between the veteran’s appointment request and the date an actual appointment was logged in the system.

The VA health care system is the largest integrated system in the country with nearly 10 million veterans enrolled, 6.5 million seen each year, and 220,000 visits per day in 1,825 locations including 152 hospitals, 800 community based clinics and 300 veteran centers. Two million new enrollees were added in 2013 resulting in a net gain of 1.4 million new patients system wide.

The IG reported that as many as 41 other hospitals in the vast VA medical system have similar problems. The VA IG has not completed its investigation over allegations that the secret wait lists at Phoenix led to as many as 40 untimely deaths.

Shinseki pledged to fix the problems. However, trust in his effectiveness was eroding quickly among Congressional leaders on both sides of the aisle, veterans, and the general public. The VA

Secretary is a cabinet-level appointment of the president confirmed by the Senate.

MOAA believes that the VA's problems present a unique opportunity to take a comprehensive, strategic look at VA health care structures, delivery systems and resources for our veterans in the 21st century. We continue to urge the creation of a high-level independent commission to examine VA health care for the benefit of our nation's veterans and their families.

The last comprehensive review of VA health care was done nearly 20 years ago. That effort led to the transformation of the VA health system, enrollment reform, creation of over 800 VA community-based clinics, and emphasis on comprehensive and preventive care for veterans. Until the mid-90s, the VA was mostly known for repairing veterans' war wounds but not providing complete care.

(Source: MOAA Legislative Update, 30 May 2014)

ALL- AUXILIARY LIAISON LETTER by Carol Ivey, phone: 910-868-3213,

email: auxlo@cfmoaa.org

This month there's some interesting information on the commissaries scanning our ID cards. If you write checks there is no longer a need to verify your personal information as the code on your ID card is encrypted. The demographic information DeCa will use is limited to card ID, rank, military status, branch of service, age, household size and zip codes. They will not use any personal information.

They promise the methods, processes and information they will use will not compromise customer's privacy. They believe the scan information will allow more accurate reporting to the military services on commissary usage.

LADIES OF MOAA CLUB NOTES by Janet Shipp, President, phone: 910-868-4998,

email: shippahoyx8@gmail.com

The MOAA Ladies enjoyed listening to tunes from the '40s '50s,'60s,and '70s as 52 members of Bowley Elementary School's Chorus gave us wonderful memories of songs we grew up singing. I know you were sorry to have missed this month's luncheon, but family comes first at this time of year. Hope your travels were, and continue to be, safe.

June's luncheon in the dining room at the Fort Bragg Club will feature Sue Kimbell, who will talk about a book on gardening. I hope she will help me get rid of some voles, those 50+ Asiatic Lilies I had were beautiful, but not cheap!

CALENDAR

JUNE

02	Ladies of MOAA Board Meeting	Fort Bragg Club	1000
03	CFC Board of Directors Meeting	Fort Bragg Club	1100
26	Ladies of MOAA Luncheon	Fort Bragg Club	1100

JULY

01	CFC Board of Directors Meeting	Fort Bragg Club	1100
07	Ladies of MOAA Board Meeting	Fort Bragg Club	1000
24	Ladies of MOAA Luncheon	Fort Bragg Club	1100
25	CFC General Membership Meeting/Luncheon	The Mash House	1130

AUGUST

04	Ladies of MOAA Board Meeting	Fort Bragg Club	1000
05	CFC Board of Directors Meeting	Fort Bragg Club	1100
28	Ladies of MOAA Luncheon	Fort Bragg Club	1100

