



# November 2014 Cape Fear Infogram



Publisher COL Juan I. Chavez, USA, Ret. - Editor LTC Don Gersh, USA, Ret.

*A monthly newsletter for the members of the Cape Fear Chapter*

## Nominees slated for 2015-16 chapter officers

By Don Gersh

In compliance with the bylaws, the Nominations Committee presented its slate of officers for the next two-year term to the secretary, said Bob Garman, chairman of the five-member committee.


According to Bob, he received confirmation from the nominees that they agreed to serve the two-year terms if elected.

“However,” Bob said, “nominations will be also be accepted from the floor during his presentation at the Annual Meeting on Nov. 21.”

Serving with Bob are LTC (Ret) Dave Beshlin, USA; LTC (Ret) Dennis Franken, USA; LTC (Ret) Steve Mannell, USA and MAJ (Ret) Ron O’Brien, USA. The bylaws also require the chairman to forward the slate to the secretary one month prior to the annual meeting. Ballots will then be prepared and distributed to the membership either via electronic means or printed ballots.

The nominees are all currently serving the 2013-14 term either as elected or appointed officers, and are slated to keep their positions. They are:

President - COL (Ret) Juan Chavez, USA;  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - COL (Ret) Art Rodriguez, USA;  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - COL (Ret) George Blanc, USA;  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President - LTC (Ret) Bill Dadek, USA;  
Treasurer - LTC (Ret) Ed Thomas, USA, and  
Secretary - LTC (Ret) Don Gersh, USA.

The staff officer positions are appointed, not elected. If anyone is interested in running for one of the six elected offices and would like more information, call Secretary Don Gersh at (910) 484-4545. 



LTC (Ret) Bob Garman, USA, chaired the Nominations Committee for the 2015-16 term. (Photo by CFC Photo)

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# **President's Report**

By COL Juan I. Chavez, USA, Ret.



## **“Excellence” award streamer to chapter presented at National meeting in Virginia**

I recently returned from the MOAA annual meeting held in Arlington, Virginia where I accepted a 4-Star Levels of Excellence Award for our chapter from General (Ret) John H. Tilelli Jr., USA, outgoing Chairman of MOAA. It was a proud moment and I couldn't help but reflect on all the hard work by many of our chapter members to earn this award.

It was most reassuring to learn that the senior leadership at MOAA is most appreciative of the work being done at the chapter level. Both General Tilelli and VADM Ryan, President of MOAA, repeatedly emphasized that the strength of MOAA come from its chapters and profusely thanked all the council and chapter presidents for leading that grass-roots effort.

This was my second opportunity to attend a MOAA National event, the first being the MOAA Chapter Leaders Symposium held in Jacksonville, Florida in September, and again I was most impressed with the overall professionalism and efficiency of the MOAA staff – simply speaking, they have their act together. They are a dedicated group of people, all experts in their field, who are making a huge difference. One can readily appreciate why MOAA is the leader of the military coalition and why it is so highly respected on Capitol Hill. It is indeed “One Powerful Voice.”

The 4-Star Streamer I brought back with me will be pinned on to our chapter colors at our annual meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2014. The meeting will be held in conjunction with a dinner at the Fort Bragg Club starting at 1800 hours and we

have an interesting guest speaker and program in store for you.

Included in the business agenda is presentation of a slate of candidates for election to chapter president and all executive board positions for the term 2015-2016. Ballots will be distributed for those wishing to vote early. The recommended dues structure for 2015 will be voted on by the general membership that evening as well. It's an important meeting and I encourage everyone to attend.

The month of November is just a busy one for all of us. The Veterans Day parade in downtown Fayetteville is scheduled for Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> and this year's parade will pay special tribute to Afghanistan War veterans. The Parade Grand Marshal is one of our own members, General Dan McNeill. If you haven't attended one of these events, you must start so this year. The entire community turns out to honor our veterans – it's emotional, it's patriotic, and it's very well done.

With the midterm elections behind them, the Congress will begin debate on the 2015 defense budget. There are several proposed cuts that effect our military in a big way, e.g., reduction of the active duty pay raise from 1.8% to 1%; a 5% decrease in basic housing allowance; disproportionate TRICARE Rx increases; reduction of commissary subsidies, among others.

We must contact our elected representatives to oppose these reductions and to demand that they not balance the budget on the backs of our military.

(REPORT continued on Page 12)

# Editorial By Don Gersh

## Chapter voting begins Nov. 21

November always seems to be one of the busiest months for me. Besides national, state and local elections, it's the time of the year when I order online holiday Chanukah and Christmas presents, birthday presents for my wife, Debbie, and Son #3 of 4 (I know, by now I should actually call them by name, but it's quicker and more accurate when identifying which one I mean), and picking out an anniversary gift that my wife will think I spent more than ten minutes looking for.

And now completing my two-year tour as secretary for the Cape Fear Chapter, November means membership renewal, preparing the most accurate membership roster possible for submission to National MOAA, the Chapter's Annual Meeting, and the biannual elections.

Bob Garman and his Nominations Committee sent me their slate of officers for the 2015-16 term. It's the same team we have in place now, and all have agreed to run for office. This is important for apparently the last election did not have a complete slate. Several of us received phone calls from then President-elect Juan Chavez and asked to serve in our respective positions.

For this election, there is a full slate of experienced volunteers with an energetic leader. It's good to be part of an organization that has leaders who are dedicated to the mission and membership.

In accordance with our constitution and bylaws, the slate will be presented to the membership at the Annual Dinner plus nominations from the floor will be accepted. Ballots will be available at the dinner meeting, online and mailed. It is not necessary to "vote early and vote often." Once will be fine.

Well done Nominations Committee!

### Cape Fear Chapter

*An affiliate of*  
Military Officers  
Association of America

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

##### **President**

*COL Juan Chavez, USA Retired*

##### **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

*COL Art Rodriguez, USA Retired*

##### **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**

*COL George Blanc, USA Retired*

##### **3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President**

*LTC Bill Dadek, USA Retired*

##### **Treasurer**

*LTC Ed Thomas, USA Retired*

##### **Secretary**

*LTC Don Gersh, USA Retired*

##### **Personal Affairs Officer**

*1LT Andrea Candlish, USA*

##### **Auxiliary Liaison Officer**

*Carol Ivey*

##### **Chaplain**

*Chap (MAJ) Ron Webb, USA*



##### **President**

*COL Juan Chavez, USA Retired*



##### **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

*COL Art Rodriguez, USA Retired*



##### **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**

*COL George Blanc, USA Retired*



##### **3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President**

*LTC Bill Dadek, USA Retired*



**Treasurer** *LTC Ed Thomas, USA Retired*



**Secretary** *LTC Don Gersh, USA Retired*

# Annual Chapter Membership Meeting/Dinner

The annual meeting will be held at the Fort Bragg Club on November 21. A slate of candidates for election to chapter president and all executive board positions for 2015 will be presented by the Nominations Committee. Dues structure for 2015 and other issues will be voted on by the general membership as well.



Guest speaker MAJ (Ret) Rusty Bradley,  
US Army Special Forces (Contributed photo)

Our featured speaker for the evening will be chapter member Major (Ret) Rusty Bradley, a former Special Forces officer and author of the *Lions of Kandahar: The Story of a Fight Against All Odds*. To read more about this remarkable warrior and why he wrote this book, please go to “A talk with Rusty Bradley” at: <http://www.lionsofkandahar.com/why.html>. You do not want to miss this; for reservations and other details see event flyer in this issue (Page 9).



## *Kudos to*

### FAYETTEVILLE AIRPORT USO LOUNGE VOLUNTEERS

Members of the CFC devoted a total of 260.5 volunteer hours in manning the USO lounge at the Fayetteville Regional Airport during the third quarter of 2014. Our heartfelt thanks are extended to chapter members: Barbara Azzarelli, George Blanc, Bob and Nancy Garman, John Hazlett, Bob Ives, Dave and Dot Miller, Art and Argie Rodriguez, Arlie Smith, and Burt VanderClute.

Their dedication and service to our military community are commendable.

***Do you have  
any free time?***

***If “yes,” why  
not volunteer  
to serve on  
one of CFC’s  
committees?***

***Volunteers are  
needed!***

# Membership: Recruiting and Retention

**RECRUITING** Three new members joined our rolls during the month of October 2014, bringing our total to 50 this year. We have two more months to make this recruiting year the best ever – let's do it, there's too much at stake!

A warm welcome is extended to our newest members:

**COL (Ret) Eli Ballard, USA**  
**MAJ Laureen A. Otto, USA**  
**CPT Rufino Farias, Jr., USA**

There are big challenges ahead with disproportional budget cuts and sequestration. We need to strengthen our base more than ever. You can help by recruiting someone to join. 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** We will be launching our membership renewal campaign for 2015 this month – our goal of course is 100% renewal. Renewal invoices will be going out in the mail immediately following our annual meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November, but you do not have to wait, use the form on the back of the *Infogram* and remit today. Those who prefer to renew online and pay by credit card may do so by going to <http://www.moaa.org/OnlineChapterDuesPayment/>.

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

## Formal Holiday Celebration

We are very excited about the formal ball and dinner being planned by our joint CFC/LOM committee. We have a great dance band on contract and a first class sit-down dinner planned.

This will be the last event we'll ever have in the Lafayette Room of the former Fort Bragg Officers Club because the facility will close indefinitely at the end of February 2015. Plans are to demolish that portion of the building that contains the grand ballroom. I'm sure many of us have fond memories of many formal affairs, e.g., dining ins, dining outs, seasonal formals, etc., when those events were a very large part of a military officer's social life.

The formal holiday celebration we have scheduled for Dec. 13, 2014 will be a nostalgic affair as we'll relive those old traditions. In that regard, we ask all our active and retired military members to wear their dress mess uniforms if possible, if not, a tuxedo decked with miniature decorations/badges will be most appropriate and encouraged. Of course, we anticipate that the ladies will be in their finest formal evening attire.

Please make it a point to attend what is shaping up to be a memorable event and make your reservations early; the cost for this gala evening is most reasonable. For more information and reservations see the event flyer on Page 10.



## **Chaplain's Corner, from Afghanistan**

By Ch (MAJ) Ron Webb  
email: [chaplain@cfmoaa.org](mailto:chaplain@cfmoaa.org)

If you think the world is a bit crazy right now, you are absolutely correct. 2014 has been a horribly tumultuous year with threats coming from within and without. Nevertheless, there are many constants, which we can be most grateful for during this November month of Thanksgiving.

First and foremost we have a God, who always loves us, is always faithful, and always true. God speaking through the prophet Malachi said “for I am the LORD, I change not” (Malachi 3:6) and he continuously watches over and cares for His people.

We can also be grateful that our Nation’s colors still stand for “freedom.” Furthermore, as George Orwell pointed out many years ago that people can “sleep peaceably in their beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf.” I spoke to a female US Air Force F-15 pilot today and I will definitely add “rough women” to that group as well.

This is something that you men and women of MOAA know very well and makes me very proud every day to be numbered with you. May God bless each of your families with a Happy Thanksgiving!

*Pro Deo Et Patria*

I



**Chapter President Juan Chavez** presents SGM Carl R. Youngs, Chief Medical NCO, 82nd Airborne Division Surgeon Section, with four \$50 dinner gift cards donated by the Cape Fear Chapter for award to the top two teams in the All American Top Medic Competition held on Oct. 8. The top 2-medic teams in this grueling competition will advance to the All Army Best Medic Competition to be held at Camp Bullis, Texas on Nov. 5-7. (Photo by CFC MOAA Photo Service)



## **Auxiliary NEWS**

### **Windfall elimination and your Social Security benefits**

By Addie Marie Beima, member, MOAA Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee

If you worked for the federal government and Social Security taxes were not withheld from your salary, the benefits you receive may be reduced. The Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), enacted in 1983, reduces the earned Social Security benefits of an individual who also receives a public pension from a job not covered by Social Security, including the civil service. In fact, nine out of 10 public employees affected by government pension offsets not only lose all of their own benefits but also their spousal benefits. Even though their spouses paid Social Security taxes for many years, the offsets apply to the servicemember's benefits as well as to those earned by the annuitant. It is important to consider this when planning for retirement. Most of us think such offsets do not apply to entitlements earned by our spouses, so we plan accordingly only to find out the incomes we depended on are not there.

Here's how it works. The provision primarily aims to reduce the Social Security benefits of individuals who receive public pensions through the Civil Service Retirement System, but nonprofit organizations and other entities are affected as well. The reduction in Social Security benefits varies depending on the amount the individual contributed to non-Social Security pensions. To calculate retirement benefits, a worker's average income is separated into three sections. For example, in 2010, the first section was monthly income up to \$761, the second section was monthly income between \$761 and \$5,347, and the third section was income above \$5,347. The Social Security Administration multiplies each section of income by a different factor to calculate the monthly benefit. This system allows workers who earn lower wages to collect more benefits in retirement, because the factor for the first section is 90 percent, the second factor is 32 percent, and the third factor is 15 percent. In my case, my government pension was offset at a rate of \$1 for every \$2 of pension I received, and, because the offset exceeded the benefits to which I was entitled, I was ineligible to receive my husband's Social Security benefits, which amounted to more than \$10,000 of lost income a year.

Read more about [WEP](#) and ongoing initiatives to repeal it at the [Social Security website](#). Also, a number of bills have been introduced to repeal WEP and other offsets in recent years. I urge you to contact your representatives and encourage them to support or cosponsor bills to end WEP and restore Social Security fairness.

## **Leaders Target Sequestration Relief**

The White House, senior military leaders, and key members of Congress all have spoken out recently on the need to repeal or relieve the across-the-board cuts of sequestration. The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 – brokered by Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) and Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wisc.) – mitigated sequestration's cuts to defense programs in FY 2014 and 2015 by \$31.5 billion. The full cuts return in FY 2016 unless Congress acts. The president indicated his FY 2016 budget submission will include an extension of sequestration relief. At a recent trip to the Pentagon he said, "[We must] make sure that if we're asking this much of our armed forces, that they've got the equipment and the technology that's

(SEQUESTRATION continued on next page)



## Spotlight on

### New ROTC Leadership:

Lieutenant Colonel Brian C. Scott  
Professor of Military Science  
Campbell University

LTC Scott was commissioned in 1990 as a branch detailed Armor/Military Intelligence officer from the University of Tampa. In the past 24 years, he has served in a variety of assignments from the tactical and operational to strategic.

In the tactical and strategic arenas, he has served as a commanding officer and battalion commander, S1, S2, S3, S4, Deputy CO, and executive officer. He has deployed four times: Bosnia, Kosovo-initial entry, Iraq-invasion, and Afghanistan. He attended and graduated from officer Primary Military Education courses from Armor Officer Basic Course to the Army War College.

LTC Scott is married with two children. His wife is COL Suzanne Scott, the Chief Nurse of FORSCOM. LTC Scott strives to run a marathon in each of the 50 states, and has completed seven so far. He is interested in furthering his education and possibly finishing his career in a teaching position.




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(SEQUESTRATION continued from previous page)

necessary for them to be able to succeed at their mission...that we're supporting their families at a time when, even after ending one war and winding down another, they continue to have enormous demands placed on them each and every day."

In earlier remarks Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno painted a grim picture for the services if sequestration resumes. "This is a lousy way to do business," he said and described FY 2016 as a "breaking point." If the cuts return it would seriously degrade the Army's capability to execute its mission requirements.

Retiring Senator and Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee Carl Levin (D-Mich.) hinted that legislators on both sides of the aisle were working on sequestration relief options behind closed doors. He expressed optimism that at least a partial fix could be reached in the lame duck session, saying, "The forces that compel an alternative to sequestration are so strong, and the impacts of sequestration are so strong, that something has to happen."

A growing consensus in Washington to de-trigger sequestration is an encouraging sign, but many obstacles remain. The last major deal to ease the effects of sequestration was done on the backs of military retirees. A future fix must carefully balance budget and defense concerns without singling out the one percent of Americans who serve in uniform with a disproportionate share of the burden. [Reach out](#) to you legislators and ask them to end sequestration.



**CAPE FEAR CHAPTER  
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING/DINNER**

**Hodge Room, Fort Bragg Club**

**1800 HOURS, FRIDAY, 21 November 2014**

**COST: \$26.00 PER PERSON (Tax & Gratuity Included)**

**DRESS: Coat & Tie for Gentlemen; Comparable Attire for Ladies**

**Menu**

**Classic Grand Buffet**

**London Broil Steak w/Bordelaise Sauce; Chicken Marsala in Wine Sauce; Wild Rice Pilaf; Green Beans w/Almonds & Thyme; Mixed Green Salad; Dinner Rolls w/Butter; NY Cheesecake w/Strawberry Topping; Unsweetened Ice Tea, Coffee, and Iced Water.**

**RSVP NLT 17 November 2014**

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**Send reservations and check (payable to CFC MOAA) to:**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME OF GUEST(S)** \_\_\_\_\_

**NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS** \_\_\_\_\_ **X \$26.00 =** \_\_\_\_\_

The Cape Fear Chapter of MOAA

And the Ladies of the CFC

Cordially Invite You To

A

*Formal Holiday Celebration*

Saturday, December 13, 2014

Fort Bragg Club - Lafayette Room

Cocktails 6:00pm

Dinner 7:00pm

Music by: GOLD RUSH BAND

7:00pm - 11:00pm

**Dress: Formal Attire**

*Menu*

FILET MIGNON

OVEN ROASTED HALF CHICKEN

GRILLED SALMON W/LEMON DILL SAUCE

MIXED GREEN SALAD

ROASTED HERB BABY RED POTATOES

SEASONAL VEGGIE BLEND

ICE CREAM W/PEACH SAUCE

**Reservations Due By 6 December 2014 ♦ No cancellations after 9 December 2014**

**Send in this portion with your check payable to CFC MOAA to:**

Argie Rodriguez, 3406 Sugar Cane Cir, Fayetteville, NC 28303 or George Blanc, 3490 Thamesford Dr, Fayetteville, NC 28311

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Number \_\_\_\_\_ x \$50.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Table Seating Preference \_\_\_\_\_ (8 per table)

CAPE FEAR CHAPTER  
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

ANNUAL TRIP TO MYRTLE BEACH, SC

FRIDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2014

**COST: \$75.00 per person**

*(Includes bus fare, show tickets, dinner and gratuity.)*

**PROGRAM:** Motor coach will depart Fort Bragg Club parking lot at 8:30 AM on Friday, 5 December 2014. Group will stop for lunch (Dutch Treat) at the K&W Cafeteria in Myrtle Beach. The Christmas Show at the Alabama Theater is at 1:45 PM, and dinner at the Chestnut Hill Restaurant at 5:00 PM. Group will have approximately 55 minutes to browse at The Barefoot Landing Shopping Center before dinner. Estimated time of return to the Fort Bragg Club parking lot is 9:15 PM.

**RSVP NLT 28 November 2014**

*(Trip limited to 52 passengers, make reservations early.)*

Send reservations and check (payable to CFC MOAA) to:

Art Rodriguez, 3406 Sugar Cane Circle, Fayetteville, NC 28303

**MYRTLE BEACH TRIP RESERVATION**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE Nr. \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS \_\_\_\_\_ x \$75.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

(REPORT continued from Page 2)

Finally, the issue of sequestration is still a nagging concern. While DOD was able to get some relief in FY 14 and FY 15, the full effects of sequestration will kick in FY 2016. The anticipated reductions in our military troop levels necessary to meet sequester-level cuts will result in a force too small to fully meet the requirements of our national defense strategy at a time when more and more requirements are being placed on our troops because of emerging threats around the world. We must join the fight to repeal sequestration and force Congress to come out with some other costs reduction alternatives. I invite your attention to the article entitled, "Leaders Target Sequestration Relief" that appeared in the MOAA website under Legislative Update, and reprinted in this issue for your convenience. Use the suggested message to contact your Congressional representatives on this matter without delay.

I close my notes with birthday greetings to our Marines. The United States Marine Corps celebrates its 239<sup>th</sup> birthday on November 10, 2014. [\*Semper Fidelis!\*](#)

*Need to get the word out to other MOAA members about your business?*

Advertise in the Infogram. Circulation is more than 300 using print and electronic media.

Business card ads start at \$20 a month.

Quarter, half and full-pages are available.

Contact Editor Don Gersh to place YOUR advertisement: phone (910) 484-4545 or email [doneal.gersh@gmail.com](mailto:doneal.gersh@gmail.com)

## Chapter presents checks to well-deserving organizations



1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Art Rodriguez presents a \$500 check to Rene Lane, Director of the Fort Bragg USO.



Receiving a \$500 check from Art is Lorie Southernland, Director of Fisher House at Fort Bragg. Argie Rodriguez (on right) accompanied Art.

**PLEASE ENROLL ME AS A MEMBER OF THE CAPE FEAR CHAPTER,  
MOAA**

Initial Enrollment \_\_\_\_\_ or Annual Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Category: Regular Member \_\_\_\_\_ (\$20) Auxiliary Member \_\_\_\_\_ (\$10)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

RANK: \_\_\_\_\_ SERVICE: \_\_\_\_\_ Active Duty \_\_\_\_\_ Retired \_\_\_\_\_ Former Officer \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL MOAA MEMBER? Yes \_\_\_\_\_, Membership # \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive my *Infogram* by: Regular Mail \_\_\_\_\_ or E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Cape Fear Chapter, MOAA POB 53621 Fayetteville, NC 28305**



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**Cape Fear Chapter, MOAA**  
**Post Office Box 53621**  
**Fayetteville, NC 28305**



*“We are a powerful voice speaking  
for a strong national defense, and  
representing the interests of military  
officers and their families at every  
stage of their career.”*

**Annual Chapter Membership  
Meeting/Dinner, Nov. 21**

## Calendar of Events:

- 4 Nov – Election Date
- 4 Nov – CFC Board of Directors Meeting, Fort Bragg Club, 1100 hours
- 8 Nov – Veterans’ Day Parade, Downtown Fayetteville
- 10 Nov – US Marine Corps Birthday
- 11 Nov – Veterans’ Day
- 21 Nov – CFC Annual General Membership Meeting and  
Dinner, Fort Bragg Club, 1800 hours
- 27 Nov – Thanksgiving
- 2 Dec – CFC Board of Directors Meeting, Fort Bragg Club, 1100 hours
- 5 Dec – Holiday Trip to Myrtle Beach
- 13 Dec – CFC/LOM Holiday Celebration Dinner Dance, Fort Bragg Club, 1800 hour
- 1 Jan - New Year’s Day
- 6 Jan - CFC Board of Directors Meeting, Fort Bragg Club, 1100 hours
- 21 Jan - CFC Installation Dinner, Fort Bragg Club, 1800 hours

