



March 2015



A Four-Star Chapter

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

State of the Chapter Report to be presented by President Chavez at March 6th ‘awards’ luncheon at The Mash House ... 1130 hours

Ralph Hinrichs takes over Personal Affairs Duties

By Don Gersh

LTC (Ret) Ralph W. Hinrichs, Jr., USA, is the Chapter’s new Personal Affairs Officer. He was sworn in by President Chavez last month at the Board of Directors meeting.

As the Personal Affairs Officer, Ralph will bring you information from DoD and the Services that affect pay, health, and even burial at sea.

He contacted MOAA National after accepting the offer to be the PAO and requested a complete copy of the updated pamphlets to establish a library. MOAA has already mailed them to Ralph. Ralph notes that Life Members can receive the updated pamphlets free.

If you know of a member or spouse who has been hospitalized, please let Ralph know ASAP at : pao@cfmoaa.org or (910) 867-7754.



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President's Report

By COL (Ret) Juan I. Chavez, USA

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Sequestration still with us

All of us have recently read or heard news reports about sequestration, and the detrimental effect it is having on our national defense posture, at a time when the world is in utter turmoil and our homeland security is at risk. What is sequestration and what can we do to help?

The Budget Control Act (BCA) of 2011 established automatic across-the-board budget cuts known as sequestration. During the 2011 deficit reduction negotiations, the administration agreed to reduce the Pentagon's budget by \$487 billion over a ten-year period. The later enactment of sequestration added \$500 billion more in defense cuts, thus placing our national defense capabilities at great risk

The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 mitigated the spending cuts only in FY 2014 and 2015. Sequestration returns in full force in FYs 2016-2021 unless current law is changed. DoD will have to cut an additional \$54 billion in FY 2016 and a total of \$269 billion over the following five fiscal years.

Unless some sequestration relief is enacted by congress this year our military services will have no other option but to cut force structure in order to meet mandated sequestered budget reductions, thereby, rendering our military incapable of executing our national defense strategy. Our service chiefs recently testified that sequestration is also adversely impacting on force readiness and modernization at a time when increased threats to our national security are placing challenging demands on our forces.

Closer to home, our senior commanders at Fort Bragg recently briefed community leaders that they are currently funded at 50% of their requirements while their mission demands remain unchanged. Elements of the XVIII Airborne Corps are currently deployed to 18 countries, while our Special Operations Forces have soldiers in 60 countries around the world with more deployments from the 82nd Airborne Division scheduled later this year. Doing more with less results in tightening budgets and tough decisions such as civilian work force reductions and hiring freezes, and installation maintenance not being done.

MOAA is leading the military coalition on Capitol Hill in fighting for the repeal of sequestration. Additionally, MOAA continues its campaign to educate our members of congress to not balance the federal budget on the backs of our military. Budget cuts to military compensation, increases of TRICARE fees, commissary discount cuts, etc. are all on the table. Our men and women in uniform and their families are already sacrificing enough with multiple deployments, family separations, etc.

Moreover, dramatic changes to the military retirement system, medical care delivery systems, and other benefits and entitlements are being considered as a result of the recently released report from the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission. All of these developments will have an adverse effect on retention and

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Editorial

By LTC (Ret) Don Gersh, USA

Phone (910) 624-4597, email: Secretary@cfmoaa.org

Smell the roses

Take Time (Anon.)

Take time to think – thoughts are the source of power.

Take time to play – play is the secret of perpetual youth.

Take time to read – reading is the fountain of wisdom.

Take time to pray – prayer can be a rock of strength in a time of trouble.

Take time to love – loving is what makes living worthwhile.

Take time to be friendly – friendships give life a delicious flavor.

Take time to laugh – laughter is the music of the soul.

Take time to give – any day of the year is too short for selfishness.

Take time to do your work well – pride in your work, no matter what it is, nourishes the ego and the spirit.

Take time to show appreciation – thanks is the frosting on the cake of life.

When I was a captain in the officer advanced course, one of our guest speakers was a general from the Army Staff at the Pentagon. I'm sure if I dug deeply into the boxes in the attic, I'd find the week's lesson plan that identified him. I'm a packrat, and I've been saving my "documents" from ROTC until I retired almost 21 years ago. Anyway, his name is not important, but what he said was.

"Take time to smell the roses" is what he told us. And none of us believed him. As a lieutenant I was in the company area or in the field constantly. I quit playing golf, something my father taught me when I was about seven. I didn't return to "Dear Old (Penn) State" for the homecoming games, nor did I go on a single vacation.

"Take time to smell the roses." Who was he kidding? I was enough of a smart Alec to challenge him by asking if he took time to smell such roses, would he be a general? Of course he said "yes." He had to. His whole premise was about taking time for your family, for fun, for anything else, but we had to do it.

Sadly my family knew the Army came first. Just as my post-Army job came first. I had obligations and I had bills to pay. Smell the roses my tuchus!

Our class blew him off. I doubt if anyone in my class made general. I knew I studied hard and had the highest grades in my class. What did that get me? To 5th Special Forces Group like I asked? No. An assignment to Army Recruiting Command. It was one of the "priority" assignments.

Darn, maybe I should have stopped and smelled the roses. But I do like "Take Time." Now that I'm retired, I'll try to follow its recommendations, and maybe smell the roses at FTCC when they bloom!



Chaplain's Thoughts

By Ch (MAJ) Ron Webb, USA

Phone 910-705-6911 email: chaplain@cfmoaa.org

Contributions of the Irish

The month of March causes many things come to mind—windy, beginning of spring, basketball, etc. However, it also makes one think of Saint Patrick's Day and the Irish. Saint Patrick is the Patron of Ireland celebrated by both Catholics and Protestants for bravery through many perils and threats bringing Christianity to Ireland in the fourth and fifth centuries.

Saint Patrick's faith and courage continues to be celebrated and those are qualities that Irish immigrants (an oft-derided ethnic group) brought to America and to the American Military Heritage.

In fact, out of more than 3,400 Medals of Honor awarded since its authorization, an estimated 2,018 have been awarded to Irish-Americans. These include men like PVT E. Michael Burk for capturing a flag at the Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse and taking a bullet in the chest, and LT Edward Henry "Butch" O'Hare flying deadly raids against the Japanese and getting shot down in a raid by the Japanese near Papua New Guinea.

There is a lot of green and orange thread woven through American History, which should also remind us of our national motto, *e pluribus unum* (Out of many-one). This March think about Irish Americans and thank God. It is one more reason for our freedom and "one powerful voice."

Pro Deo Et Patria

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recruiting necessary to sustain our all-volunteer force.

In a recent message to MOAA members, VADM Ryan, President of MOAA asked for our help in the fight against sequestration and other proposed budget cuts by contacting our elected officials and letting our views be known. Our major military commanders here at Fort Bragg have likewise appealed to community leaders and supporters for help.

As MOAA members it is incumbent upon us to do our part, that's what our organization is all about. We are advocates for a strong national defense, we support the best all-volunteer military in the world, and we are protectors of

the hard-earned benefits and entitlements of our military retirees and veterans. Our military is currently facing some of the toughest challenges since pre-World War II, and we need to kick it up a notch.

I am asking every chapter member and spouse to contact their elected officials as soon as possible. MOAA National makes it very convenient to do this by providing pre-prepared letters and email messages to congressional representatives. Just go to the MOAA website at www.moaa.org, click on "Take Action" followed by "Contact Congress" and take it from there. After you do that, than ask six of your friends to follow suit.

Let's unleash our "One Powerful Voice" today!

Membership Update

Recruiting

We did not do too well in February in terms of numbers, but we did very well in recruiting another flag rank officer. MG (Ret) Anderson, formerly the XVIII Airborne Corps Deputy Commander joined our rolls, together with Major (Ret) Harrington, a retired Special Forces officer.

It is my pleasure to welcome our newest members:

MG (Ret) Rodney O. Anderson, USA

MAJ (Ret) Daniel M. Harrington, USA

We must continue recruiting aggressively in 2015 as we still have some big challenges ahead, the biggest one being the fight for repeal of sequestration. We need to strengthen our voice more than ever; every one of us must help. You can contribute to this effort by recruiting **ONE** new member in 2015. To review, 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

Our membership renewal campaign for 2015 is still underway – our goal is 100% renewal; we are not there yet. Please complete your renewal form and return it with your remittance without further delay. 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.

From North Carolina Council of Chapters President Jeri Graham:

After many months of investigation, decision making, collaboration and process improvements, **we are now LIVE** with the first ever opportunity to electronically contact your state legislator about important legislative matters in NC. I represent you on the Communication and Legislative Committees of the 4th Branch. Because of our MOAA experience using current technology in our advocacy work, your NCCOC reps on the 4th Branch and Federal Retiree Task Force positively influenced the decision to go this route and I can now **proudly and urgently ask you to go to** www.4thbranchnc.org and then do the following:

* Complete the registration. Where it asks for organization, include *NCCOC Military Officers Association of America*.

* Where it asks for where you have served, please check off all applicable boxes including MILITARY.

* Make sure that you put in all numbers in your “five + 4” zip code.

* Please, then support our campaign and submit a letter to your legislator.

So now that you are registered, let’s build that POWERFUL VOICE in NC by contacting everyone you know and asking them to do the same. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE A MOAA member** to have a voice in this system. You just need to live in NC and complete the registration and there you go! I’d love to know that you registered and are doing what you can to make a difference in influencing very important matters. This system will also enable us to target messages for organizational groups. This is a start! It will not be effective if we don’t all participate. I’m counting on each and every person to get ENGAGED!!!

MOAA Legislative Update

By Don Gersh, Legislative Chair

US Rep. Renee Ellmers assigned to our chapter

A recent change to North Carolina Council of Chapter elected officials liaison program has linked the Cape Fear Chapter with U.S. Rep. Renee Ellmers, Republican from the 2nd District.



For the past several years, former Rep. Mike McIntyre (Dem. NC-7) was the Member of Congress our Chapter maintained contact with and visited his district offices.

Rep. Ellmers is from Dunn and is in her third term. She held no political offices before

being elected to the House of Representatives in Washington.

To contact Rep. Renee Ellmers via Web Form. Website: ellmers.house.gov

Washington, D.C. Office:

1210 Longworth House Office Building,
District of Columbia 20515
Phone: (202) 225-4531
Fax: (202) 225-5662

Dunn Office:

406 West Broad Street
Dunn, North Carolina 28334
Phone: (910) 230-1910
Fax: (910) 230-1940

Rep. Ellmers offers to help with Federal Agency

If you can't get an answer from a federal agency in a timely fashion, or if you feel you have been treated unfairly, my office may be able to help resolve a problem or get you the information you need. While we cannot guarantee you a favorable outcome, we will do our best to help you receive a fair and timely response to your problem.

Residents of the 2nd Congressional District of North Carolina can contact me for assistance in dealing with Federal agencies. Please include all pertinent information and claim numbers in your correspondence.

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: _____

CITY, STATE & ZIP: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ DATE OF BIRTH: _____

NATIONAL MOAA MEMBER? Yes _____, Membership # _____; No _____

Are you a National MOAA Life Member: Yes _____ No _____

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

Signature _____

“I'd like to donate \$ _____ to the Cape Fear Chapter ROTC Scholarship Fund.”

MAIL TO: CFC MOAA, PO BOX 53621, FAYETTEVILLE, NC 28305

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Here**

Contact:
Don Gersh at
(910) 624-4597
for rates



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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.”

***Awards Luncheon
March 6th**

Calendar of Events:

- 3 Mar - CFC Board of Directors Meeting, Location: Fort Bragg Club, 1100 hours
- *6 Mar - CFC General Membership “Awards” Luncheon Meeting, Location: The Mash House, 1130 hours
- 7 Apr - CFC Board of Directors Meeting, Location: Fort Bragg Convention Center, 1100 hours
- 5 May - CFC Board of Directors Meeting, Location: Fort Bragg Convention Center, 1100 hours
- 16 May - Armed Forces Day
- 25 May - Memorial Day