



January 2016



Cape Fear Infogram®

A Five-Star Chapter

Publisher COL (Ret) Juan I. Chavez, USA † Editor LTC (Ret) Don Gersh, USA
A monthly newsletter for members of Cape Fear Chapter (NC-01)
Visit our homepage at www.cfmoaa.org

New year, new board members

Marty Williams and Dennis Franken volunteered to help the Cape Fear Chapter by accepting the positions of 3rd Vice President and Treasurer respectively.

Marty, a retired Army lieutenant colonel living in Eastover, had been working with our long-serving ROTC Coordinator LTC (Ret) Bill Dadek, USA, who planned to step down the end of 2015 for medical reasons. As you know, Bill passed away Dec. 16. (See In Memoriam, page 9).

Dennis, also a retired Army lieutenant colonel, lives in Fayetteville and has been a member

of the Chapter's legislative committee and served on the 2014 nominating committee.

President Chavez thanked Marty and Dennis for quickly accepting the challenges of office.



Marty Williams



Dennis Franken

General membership meeting & luncheon; "State of the Chapter" report, at The Mash House

Our first bi-monthly meeting/luncheon of 2016 will take place on 20 January 2016 at The Mash House Restaurant and Brewery on Sycamore Dairy Road, Fayetteville. The meeting agenda will include the annual "State of the Chapter" report by the Chapter President. For additional details and reservations see event flyer at page 6.

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President's Report

By COL (Ret) Juan I. Chavez, USA

Phone (910)797-5419, email: President@cfmoaa.org

It was a record -breaking year

Hope all of you had a great Christmas or Hanukkah, and brought in the New Year with an optimistic disposition. It's difficult to believe that 2015 is already history, seems like it went by in a flash. They say that time flies when you're having fun, and perhaps that was the case because our Chapter had a phenomenal year in 2015.

It was a record-breaking year in several respects, e.g., fund raising, scholarships awarded, support provided to ROTC programs, average meeting attendance, just to name a few. We repeated as first place MOAA communications awards winners in two categories, (website and electronic newsletter), and we earned a MOAA Levels of Excellence Award and recognition as a 5-Star Chapter. This is just a broad brush, there were many other achievements and accomplishments by members of our Chapter throughout the year. I will provide you with a more comprehensive accounting in my State of the Chapter Report on the 20th of January. We can all take pride in the fact that our Chapter is in great shape and making a difference once again, but we must continue to grow.

As the threat to our national security becomes more acute we as advocates for a strong national defense must become stronger. We must continue to promote the policies and objectives of MOAA, fight for the due compensation and welfare of our all-volunteer force, and protect the rights and entitlements of our retirees and veterans. Consequently, we must not let up the pressure on our congressional representatives to stop balancing the budget on the backs of our military, the 1% of our population who carry 100% of the national defense load.

Moreover, our airborne and special operations forces here at Fort Bragg are taking on a bigger role in the war against ISIS and global terror in general, and this is not going to diminish in the foreseeable future. As their training and operational tempos accelerate, we too need to double up our efforts to do everything we can to support them and their families in any way we can.

I want to thank each and every one of you for your interest, responsiveness, and enthusiasm in meeting the challenges we undertook last year in our pursuit to revitalize our Chapter and its purpose. I would be remiss if I did not inject special kudos to our Board of Directors for their devotion and leadership. Their willingness to actively participate and take on the responsibilities inherent in their positions is commendable. They certainly personify the new MOAA tag line, "Never Stop Serving."

As we embark on a new year, an election year for our Chapter, I encourage all who have simply stood passively on the sidelines to get involved, we need all the help we can get to move our Chapter forward. Besides, staying active is good for your physical and mental health, and the feeling of paying back is extremely self-satisfying. Put your time and talents to good use, we need new energy and new ideas. Make this a New Year's resolution.

Best wishes to all of you for a prosperous New Year, a year filled with happiness and good health. May God continue to bless us as a strong nation and a beacon of hope, freedom and liberty for the rest of the world.

Juan



Editorial

By LTC (Ret) Don Gersh, USA
Phone (910) 624-4597, email Secretary@cfmoaa.org

Farewell Dr. Santa

It's not unusual in this area to see retired officers wearing their dress blues to a high school junior ROTC awards dinner. It is, however, unusual to see a decorated lieutenant colonel with a full, white beard presenting the MOAA ROTC Medal to a top cadet!

Bill Dadek was that officer making the presentation at Terry Sanford High School. My youngest son was a freshman, and we attended the dinner.

It was another dozen years before I met Bill when I became the Chapter's secretary. Bill

built a dynamic program supporting the ROTC units in the region's colleges and high schools. The school's leaders all knew Bill and MOAA. But they may not have known that Bill earned a doctorate of education.



Bill Dadek

And they may not have known that Bill was a staple in the region every December with his bright red suit. Not what you'd expect from a former Special Forces officer. But Bill was special, and he is missed. Farewell to a wonderful person; farewell Dr. Santa!

Membership Update by Juan Chavez

RECRUITING

We added one new regular member to our rolls in December, bringing our total for the year to 33. It is my privilege to welcome our newest member:

LTC (Ret) Michael P. Gallagher, USA

As I mentioned in my opening notes, we must continue to grow. The challenges we are facing going forward are bigger than ever. We need to intensify our recruiting efforts in 2016. We just happen to be sitting in the midst of one of the largest recruiting markets in the country and we need to tap into it with vigor. Once again, I ask everyone to recruit just one new member this year.

To review, the **eligibility criteria** for membership are: *any commissioned or warrant offi-*

cer – active duty, retired, former, Reserve or National Guard, in any of the seven uniformed services.

RETENTION

The membership renewal campaign for 2016 is in full swing – our goal of course is 100% renewal. If we can close this out by the end of January 2016, it will spare us from a lot of anguish, and unnecessary expense.

Renewal invoices were mailed, but if you did not receive yours just 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 <https://chapterdues.moaa.org/Membership.aspx>.

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



**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE CAPE FEAR CHAPTER OF THE
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

Initial Application Renewal Date _____

(Last Name) (First Name) (MI) (Rank) (Branch of Service)

(Mailing Address: Number and Street) (Preferred Telephone Number)

(City) (State) (Zip) (Email Address)

Birth Date _____ Spouse's name _____

Status: Retired Active Duty Former Officer Reserve National Guard

Cadet/Midshipman Auxiliary In this case fill in the above information but show your deceased spouse's rank and branch of service.

I am a member of National MOAA; my member # is _____. I am a Life Member

I am not a member.

I would like to receive my chapter newsletter via: Email USPS

In addition to my dues, I have included a donation of \$_____ for the Chapter's ROTC Scholarship Fund.

Your signature: _____

Annual Chapter membership dues are \$20.00 for Regular members; \$10.00 for Auxiliary.

Please mail this application with check (payable to CFC, MOAA) to: **CAPE FEAR CHAPTER-MOAA,
P.O. Box 53621 Fayetteville, NC 28305**



Chaplain's Thoughts

By Chap (LTC) Timothy Atkinson, USA
phone (910) 978-3541 chaplain@cfmoaa.org

We have 366 days to make a difference

“Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, whispering, 'It will be happier (Alfred Lord Tennyson).’” With God hope does spring eternal. Each New Year we can declare a new beginning.

As I retire from the Army I am off on a new adventure. My wife calls it *Adventures of faith with Tim Atkinson*. I say that each day can be a new beginning and an adventure with the Lord. “Ring out the false, ring in the true,” says Tennyson. This is similar to our verse by Joshua as he was about to lead the Hebrew children into the promise land. Battles and giants were before them but they were to “put away” the gods that were not beneficial to them.

What false gods are seeking to rob us from God's best in our lives? In order to run a PT test we usually get as light as possible to pass the test. Joshua has a mind to serve the Lord and to lead his family in the way of God. The Bible says to draw near to God and he will draw near to us (James 4:7-8).

This New Year we have 366 days if the Lord tarries to make a difference in someone else's life, to help someone who is less fortunate than we are. On the MOAA national website the motto is:

“Never Stop Serving.” Galatians 6:2 says to carry each other's burdens and in this way we fulfill the law of Christ. When a person knows you understand what he is feeling, the burden instantly becomes lighter. Your visit can make him feel better—even healthier.

We have achieved much in 2015 and for this we are grateful. However, in 2016 we, MOAA, and as individuals, can go for greater things in God. The Apostle Paul said he had learned to forget the past and press on to what God had for him in the future. Ben Franklin said, “Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every New Year find you a better man.” Charles Kettering advised, “Every time you tear a leaf off a calendar, you present a new place for new ideas and progress.” So on this New Year let us choose to reach higher for the purposes of God, and move upward to the high call of Christ, and work with the strength that God gives us.

Please let me know what prayer concerns you may have. Even though I am retiring from the Army I will continue to be your chaplain. As for me and my house we will serve the Lord in 2016. Email or telephone me. Remember Peggy and I care!

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"State of the Chapter Report"

General Membership Meeting and Luncheon

*The Mash House Restaurant
4150 Sycamore Dairy Rd.*

*1130 hours, Wednesday, January 20,
2016*

*Cost: \$22.00 Per Person
(Tax & Gratuity Included)*

Attire: Business Casual

RSVP NLT January 18, 2016

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

*George Blanc, 3490 Thamesford Rd.
Fayetteville, NC 28311*

Menu

Baked Lemon Pepper Cod, Mash House's
Signature Meatloaf w/Mushroom Demi-Glace,
Rice Pilaf, Sautéed Zucchini & Squash, Mixed
Greens Salad, Freshly Baked Bread, and Butter

Dessert: Butterscotch Brownie w/ vanilla ice
cream, or Apple Cobbler w/vanilla ice cream

Drinks: Pepsi Products, Iced Tea, and Coffee

(No Host Bar Opens 1130 hours)

Reservations Request

Name _____

Name of Guests

Number of Reservations _____

X \$22.00 = _____

MOAA News Release: Dec. 18, 2015

What's ahead of 2016?

2015 saw the biggest changes to the military retirement system in a generation. While the changes largely will affect only new recruits in 2018 and later years, Congress approved a major overhaul to military retirement in this year's defense bill, cutting their future retired pay by 20 percent and asking them to help fund their own retirement via Thrift Savings Plan accounts.

2016 is already shaping up to be the year where every military beneficiary - past, present, and future - could see dramatic changes to their health care benefits. Armed Services Committee leaders already tipped their hand in this year's Defense Authorization Act.

As the report language indicates, nothing about the current system will be sacrosanct when lawmakers examine TRICARE - and neither will your wallet. Proposals earlier this year recommended scrapping TRICARE altogether, forcing beneficiaries into plans similar to those of federal civilians, imposing significantly higher fees, and means-testing TRICARE and TRICARE For Life (TFL) benefits so beneficiaries with higher incomes would pay even more. All of those and others could be on the table again in 2016.

The question is: Are you prepared to protect your and your families' interests? MOAA members sent 420,000 emails to their elected officials in 2015. Your hard work helped avert even bigger military retirement cutbacks for future troops.

But now it's about you and yours. Proponents of big TRICARE/TFL fee hikes are hoping you'll get tired of writing your elected officials and just accept the changes proposed by the Pentagon. But if the answers you gave during **MOAA's recent survey** are correct, your priority is on fixing

the access and other problems many are having with TRICARE, and defeating proposals for disproportional fee hikes.

If that's how you feel, we'll need you to be more active than ever on these issues in 2016. Some who have an interest in deterring your messages to Congress will try to discourage you by saying your MOAA-recommended tear-out letters, postcards, and emails don't count much in legislators' minds. Nothing could be further from the truth.

We've seen from years of experience - and direct feedback from legislators and their staffs - that volume of correspondence counts. When legislators get tons of mail on a topic, the vast majority aren't going to ignore their constituents.

This isn't just a "defending our rice bowl" issue. Sustaining a top-tier health care benefit for career servicemembers and their families is essential to long-term retention and readiness. We're going to be asking for a lot of activity from you in the months ahead. We hope you'll stand with us as we continue to stand for you - and that you'll ask your friends and relatives to get active, too.

National and state MOAA leaders will be Storming the Hill on health care and other issues in early April. Their office visits with legislators will be much more effective if legislators have received a barrage of constituent input. Because of the coming holidays, this will be the final Legislative Update for 2015.

We wish you a happy - and safe and healthy - holiday season. We'll need all hands back and energized to take on the big health care challenges coming in the new year.

“*As I See It*” by Col. Steve Strobebridge, USAF (Ret)

One way or another, it always ends up being about the money. For years, Pentagon leaders have complained about personnel costs “spiraling out of control.” MOAA’s rebuttal showed personnel and health care costs have been stable at a relatively constant 30 to 32 percent of the budget for the past 30 years.

Now the comeback from Capitol Hill is, “OK, it’s true the percentage of the budget has been constant, but the cost per person is well beyond where it used to be. What’s your answer to that?” Yes, the cost per person has risen. But so has the cost of doing everything else. In particular, the cost per ship, cost per bomber, cost per personnel carrier ... and cost per whatever unit of nut, bolt, service, and equipment ... is what truly has skyrocketed.

For example, an aircraft carrier cost \$6 billion in 2009, but the cost has now shot past \$13 billion — a 117-percent increase in six years. The big problems with the defense budget are contract inflation, gross oversight failures, and stunning accounting lapses on the part of those charged with managing defense programs of all kinds.

For decades, dozens of Government Accountability Office, Inspector General, and other reports have documented that DoD cost accounting systems are so flawed, they’re unauditible, with billions having gone unaccounted for. Massive cost overruns have been the rule rather than the exception. But the system goes unfixed. So the bang for the procurement buck gets smaller quickly. But because the defense industry has built-in lobbyists with deep pockets, and because legislators with plants and jobs in their districts have vested interests in keeping even wasteful contracts alive, the target gets shifted to people programs.

There aren't any big campaign contributions supporting people programs, so they're easy to attack. And DoD leaders have shown little hesitation in using numbers selectively to make it look like people are the problem.

One popular way has been to use the year 2000 as a starting point to measure cost growth — conveniently forgetting that was a retention low point brought on by more than a decade of pay, health care, retirement, and other cutbacks. The funding increases in subsequent years were needed to restore career retention incentives and improve readiness and quality of life.

Another favorite stratagem has been to pile every possible nickel into the calculation of “cost per troop” to drive that figure as high as possible. For example, many such calculations include a present value for all future expected VA disability and health care costs for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans — as if the troops were at fault for exposing themselves to combat.

They almost universally include a figure for PCS costs — as if there’s a benefit value in being required to move across the country periodically and be reimbursed less than it costs you and your family (without even counting issues like lost spousal income) to make the move. The bottom line here is that many of the figures attributed as personnel benefit costs have nothing to do with compensation value for military people. An amputee would rather have his or her leg back than a monthly check from the VA. Military families would be far better off financially if the government never required them to move.

Military people understand the facts of life inherent in a military career. But they don’t expect to be handed a bill for their sacrifices. There’s a massive difference between benefit value to the troops and the government’s inherent cost of doing military business.

Economists and budgeteers want to count every penny of what they see as your cost to the government. What those exercises consistently fail to do is split out the government’s cost of readiness or acknowledge the flip side of the issue — the costs your service imposed on you and your family.

IN MEMORIAM

Lt Col (Ret) John F. Streit, Jr., US Air Force (February 2, 1932 – December 22, 2015)

It is with deep regret that we announce that Lt Col (Ret) John F. Streit, Jr., one of our regular members passed away on 22 December 2015. John was a loyal member of the chapter for many years. His loss will be keenly felt by all of us.

Our heartfelt condolences are extended to his wife Phyllis and all of the Streit family during their bereavement.

LTC (Ret) William J. Dadek, US Army (September 25, 1944 – December 16, 2015)

It is with deep regret that we announce that William J. Dadek, LTC, US Army, Retired, one of our regular members, and a serving Vice President of our Chapter, passed away on 16 December 2015.

Bill was a loyal and active member of our chapter for many years, serving as 3rd Vice President and Chairman of the ROTC Scholarship Selection Committee for the past 8 years. He loved his job and performed it with enthusiasm and excellence. Despite his physical limitations Bill was always there when help was needed, always going above and beyond, cheerfully and without complain. For this he was awarded the coveted 2013 Robert F. DeMeter Chapter Service Award, the most prestigious award the chapter bestows upon a member.

Bill's sustained outstanding service to the chapter was extraordinary and exemplary; his loss will be keenly felt by all of us. Our heartfelt condolences are extended to his wife Maureen and the entire Dadek family during their bereavement.

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***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.”***

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

18 Jan - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

20 Jan - CFC General Membership Meeting/Luncheon at The Mash House, “State of the Chapter Report”, 1130 hours

2 Feb - CFC Board of Directors Meeting at Fort Bragg Conference and Catering Center, 1100 hours

15 Feb - Presidents’ Day

1 Mar - CFC Board of Directors Meeting at Fort Bragg Conference and Catering Center, 1100 hours

17 Mar - CFC General Membership Meeting/Luncheon at The Mash House, 1130 hours

5 Apr - CFC Board of Directors Meeting at Fort Bragg Conference and Catering Center, 1100 hours