



SURFWIND

MID-FLORIDA GULF COAST CHAPTER OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



United We Stand

FEB. 2007



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By **BG Pete Chiefari**

As I said last month, with each new year comes a new beginning; new goals, aspirations, and resolutions.

As I read about the new Congress and the debate about the Troop surge, I remembered a report recently written by MOAA's Fred Edwards. It was about an address given last November by Army General John Abizaid, the senior general responsible for 27 countries stretching from the Horn of Africa into Central Asia.

He said U.S. Central Command is maintaining combat forces of 206,000 Americans and 22,000 coalition members, and handling 1,300 combat aircraft, in a vast undertaking that has moved 1.5 million people into two countries. Furthermore, he added, in five years CentCom has not lost a platoon in combat. He added that the region has a history of conflict, and war is long standing among the peoples, requiring patience, because "We're *not* going to control this part of the world, but we can shape it."

He explained that much of **what is going on is a conflict of globalization and modernization versus the old way of life**. The result, he said, creates "an incredible danger." He said he has four major conflicts to confront:

1. Stabilize Iraq;
2. Stabilize Afghanistan;
3. (handle) the Middle East peace process;
- and 4. Conduct counter-terrorist operations anywhere in the region.

He added that the most important countries to watch after Iraq and Afghanistan are Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. He emphasized that they cannot be allowed to come under extremist domination. Extremist threats make the entire region volatile because they grow from non-state ideologies that cross borders. He mentioned three. 1. The rise of extremist Shia influence. This brings the Iran missile threat, which translates into a global terrorist threat. 2. The rise of Sunni extremism under Osama bin Laden. He said that this ideology is against everything we stand for, and the members are ruthless. 3. AQAM (Al Qaeda and Associated Movements). Giving this a little thought makes one remember the terrorist attacks in Spain and London as well as other strikes around the world by terrorist groups held together by the glue of radical Islam. He said that in the region **in the next 50 years**, we will see the clash of civilizations (Western and Eastern). This puts us in a test of wills. "**You can back away from them but they won't back away from us.**" So the way for us to win this war is to tell the truth and have it heard. He concluded that **the enemy can't beat us militarily**. (Does this sound familiar to you Viet Nam Veterans?) They just want to stay alive to continue the fight for their version of moral victory.

He said that **military force can counter only 20 percent of the threat**. The other 80 percent has to be mobilization of **all** our resources to counter the enemy's full-scale mobilization. We must use the media and the Internet. We must counter their recruitment and education. We must find and neutralize their safe havens, stop their financiers, expose sympathetic members of legitimate governments, and destroy or dismantle their training camps. In short, we must mobilize every non-military element of our national power (Diplomatic, Information and Economic). He didn't add that the **United States also can't beat them militarily**, but he didn't need to after enumerating the 80 percent of the non-military tools that we must mobilize and employ.

When you read the reports of the debate on the "surge" of troops to Iraq, remember these words. It puts them in a context that the media does not.

Look forward to seeing you all in February, Pete

A WARM WELCOME TO NEW CHAPTER MEMBER LT Frederic W. Haeussler and his wife Elizabeth, USA. Auxiliary membership is available to the surviving spouse of an officer eligible to join our Chapter.

Kay Kolasinski has undergone brain surgery and is having radiation and chemotherapy treatments for the next five weeks. Please join us in sending she and Warren prayers for strength throughout this difficult time. The address for cards is in the *Roll Call*.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MFGCC Board Meets Palm Harbor Library	Feb 1
Groundhog Day	Feb 2
Lincoln's Birthday	Feb 12
MFGCC LUNCHEON DUNEDIN COUNTRY CLUB Father Doescher, 9/11 Experiences	Feb 14 11:30 AM
Valentine's Day	Feb 14
President's Day	Feb 19
Washington's Birthday	Feb 22



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To volunteer your services

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SURFWIND is the official newsletter of the Mid-Florida Gulf Coast Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, published Sept. through May. Questions or comments about any material published in the Surfwind should be directed to the editor:

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By BG Pete Chiefari

We're optimistic for progress on MOAA's legislative agenda in the 110th Congress that convened January 5th.

Following in his illustrious father's footsteps, our own Representative Gus Bilirakis has reintroduced concurrent receipt legislation well known to MOAA members.

H.R. 303 would eliminate the 10-year phase-in period for retirees with a disability rating of 50% - 90% and extends concurrent retirement and disability payment (CRDP) eligibility to retirees rated less than 50%.

H.R. 89 would extend eligibility for combat-related special compensation (CRSC) to chapter 61 (disability) retirees with fewer than 20 years of service.

H.R. 333, introduced by Rep. Jim Marshall, called the "Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act," which is the most comprehensive concurrent receipt legislation ever introduced. Marshall's all-encompassing bill includes the elements of H.R. 303 and H.R. 89, and would also open CRDP to chapter 61 retirees with less than 20 years of service. In essence, H.R. 333 would vest service-earned retired pay at 2.5% times years of service times base pay - exempting that amount of retired pay from any offset by VA disability compensation. This formula is the same formula that is now used for chapter 61 retirees with over 20 years of service.

In MOAA's view, H.R. 333 is our ultimate concurrent receipt goal, though we likely will need to continue making incremental progress in getting there. MOAA is extremely grateful to these two champions for keeping the interests of disabled uniformed service retirees in the forefront. MOAA fully endorses these three bills.

In related action, the Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission (VDBC) will hold its monthly hearing in Washington, D.C., and concurrent receipt is on the agenda. On behalf of The Military

See Legislation Pg. 4

TRICARE EXPRESS-SCRIPTS—

Sign in, compare prices, order prescriptions, track your order; view their Drug Digest and obtain Program details. Website is: www.express-scripts.com.

ATTENTION VETERANS

Visit www.myhealth.va.gov and register for **online ordering of VA prescription refills**, or view your VA Personal Health Journal! Online prescription refill is exclusively for VA prescribed medications.

Agent Orange Disability Eligibility- For Vietnam Retirees who served in 1962-1975 and Korea 1968-1969. Registry Exams from the VA are required.

MACDILL AFB MEDICAL & PHARMACY SERVICES- Urgent Care/Walk In Care has been closed. All emergencies go to Tampa General. Flyers with facts and locations of local TRICARE clinics are available at MacDill.

PHARMACY SERVICES LOCATIONS:

MacDill AFB Pharmacy 24/7 automated refill system; call week before Rx expiration. For policies and services available, call (813) 828-2226.

BX Refill Pick Up Center (door by Taco Bell in Food Court) - for all unclaimed at PharmaCARE Center.

Hospital Pharmacy (immediately right of entrance) - hospital provider patients

PharmaCARE Center-(Beside Burger King W. of BX) - all beneficiaries, outpatient pharmacy.

DEPENDENTS ID CARD RENEWAL: Permanent cards for dependents 75+ years should be available, but call before making the trip. **MacDill AFB DEERS Processing Center** - Hours: M-F 0730-1530, Tel: 813-828-2278 (questions). Reservations available.

ELDER CARE CONTACTS

Senior Abuse Hotline 800-677-1116
Elder Care Svc. Locator 800-677-1116

SOCIETY OF MILITARY WIDOWS Joyce Dieckhaus, Chmn St. Petersburg Chapter (727) 866-8061; E-mail GMJAD@NetZero.com

**MID-FLORIDA GULF COAST CHAPTER
OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**



MEMBERSHIP

2007 DUES NOW BEING ACCEPTED Our annual membership is from January 1st through December 31st, and not on an anniversary date basis, as is National MOAA. Our Chapter does not offer Lifetime Memberships; if you are a Lifetime Member it is for National MOAA. The MFGCC cost for annual dues is \$15.00, effective for the 2007 membership dues.

MEMBERS WHOSE DUES ARE PAID BY MARCH 1st WILL BE LISTED IN OUR "ROLL CALL" ROSTER.

Please pay for your 2007 dues by check only, to MFGCC-MOAA, and mail to Col Parcels (address below).

NAME BADGE REQUESTS: Submit form and print name as you want it on the badge (Pin \$7.00 or magnetic \$8.50). Make check payable to MFGCC, and mail with this form to Col. Phyllis P. Parcels, 110 Annwood Rd., Palm Harbor, FL 34685.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

MOAA ID NO.: _____

PHONE: _____ CELL PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

AUX. MEMBERS REQUEST ID RENEWAL REMINDER:

Dependent ID Expiration Date: _____

OUR chapter only grows if YOU recruit new members!

LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM

Please make _____ reservations for me for the luncheon on **WEDNESDAY, Feb. 14, 2007** at Dunedin Country Club with the following number of selections: **Each meal costs \$16.00.**

- ____ **Buffalo Chicken Salad**
- ____ **Liver/Onion/Bacon Grill, w/fried tomato**
- ____ **Grouper Piccata, w/ rice and vegetable**

(All entrees include Vegetable Soup, rolls and butter, Fruit Strudel, coffee or tea)

NAME: _____

PHONE#: _____

GUEST: _____

(Guests are welcome, attendance is not restricted to houseguests or prospective members)

Please clip out this form and mail for receipt at mailbox by Jan. 5 to:

**Mid-Florida Gulf Coast Chapter
P.O Box 716
Palm Harbor, FL 34682-0716**

Enclose check payable to MFGCC—MOAA

VOLUNTEER HOURS/BLOOD DONATIONS

Please report your volunteer hours by completing the yellow card on your luncheon tables or you may phone your **Volunteer Chairman, Maj. Geoffrey R. Moody, 787-8345**. A yearly total of 795 has been reported.

Bacon	Patti	1 pt. blood	
Boucher	Dr. Robert		20
Brunk	Merryann	St. Ignacius Church	48
Brunk, Chaplain	Richard		10
Chickos	Louis		12
Chiefari	Peter	Chapter, Dunedin Council	38
Connell	Paul	HOA	8
Crawford	Robert	City Dunedin, Church, Park	96
Devaney	Dorothy	All Children's Hospital	15
Fox	Marjorie	All Children's Hospital	15
Gant, Jr.	James		16
Graubard	Peter	Library	32
Hawkes	Edward	DCC Board, BAC & VA-1 pt. blood	35
Kolasinski	Warren	HOA, MOAA	10
Monk	William		16
Monk	Jessica	MOAA, Tampabay Harvest,	88
Moody	Geoffrey	Church, MOAA	14
Moody	Ralph	Church, MOAA	10
Moore	Ernie	Countryside Hospital	28
Parcels	Phyllis	MFGCC, St. Ignacius	35
Schnepf	William, June	DAV, MOAA, TVPAC, Eckerd	96
Spalding	Charles (Pete)	Shepperd Center	126
Wallace	Elizabeth	Hospice, Our Lourdes Church	32
Widman	Manfred	Rotary, MOAA	5

LUNCHEON INFO

PLACE:

Dunedin Country Club
1050 Palm Blvd., Dunedin
Tel: 733-6043

TIME: February 14, 2007
11:30—Attitude Adjustment
12:00—Luncheon
Luncheon is a 3 course meal.

PROGRAM: Father

Doescher, Rector, St. Alfred's Episcopal Church—Speaking about his 9/11 experiences.

Reservations are made by mailing above form with a check, (\$16 per lunch) payable to MFGCC-MOAA. The

amount of the check must equal the cost of lunch multiplied by the number of reservations.

For cancellations or questions,

call CDR Ed Hawkes 727-733-4683. Cancellations must be made by Friday prior to the luncheon, to be entitled to a refund. **NOTE:** Reservations are required prior to arrival at lunch; advance payment is strongly requested.



Mid-Florida Gulf Coast Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
PO Box 716
Palm Harbor, FL 34682-0716

"Serving Those Who Serve America."

<http://www.moaaf1.org/chapters-clubs/fl06.html>



Legislation (con'd.)

Coalition, MOAA's Col Mike Hayden, USAF (Ret), and FRA's John Davis have submitted a written statement to the Commission this week and will present it and discuss the new legislation in their oral testimony on January 19.

Additionally, Sen. Jim Webb (D-VA) has introduced S.22 which would establish WWII style GI Bill paying the full cost of college tuition plus a \$1,000/month stipend for personal expenses for members who serve after September 11, 2001.

Rep. Ginny Brown-Waite (R-FL) has introduced H.R. 92 which would establish a 30-day access standard for veterans seeking health care from the VA and would allow referral to civilian care in cases where the standard is not met. It also would require the VA to annually report its performance in meeting those access standards.

Sen. Larry Craig (R-ID) has introduced S. 225 which would expand retroactive payments of traumatic injury insurance to service members injured outside a combat area between Oct. 10, 2001 and Dec. 1, 2005. Currently, members injured during that time period are only eligible if their injury occurred in a combat zone, and members injured after Dec. 1, 2005 are covered regardless of where their injury occurred. And last but not least, Rep. Tim Holden (D-PA) has introduced H.R. 156 which provides dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) to survivors of former prisoners of war who died on or before Sept. 30, 1999. Currently, only survivors of members who die after Sept. 30, 1999 are eligible.

More on these and other bills as the session develops.

Visit the MOAA website at www.moaaf1.org, select *Legislative Action Center*, *Getting Involved*, and *Contact Congress*. See the Chapter *Roll Call* for addresses and phone numbers for both the Legislature and Congress. Remember, together we're **One Powerful Voice**, but must **SPEAK UP!**

THIS ISSUE OF THE SURFWIND IS BEING SENT BY E-MAIL AND BY MAIL UPON REQUEST AND TO THOSE MEMBERS WHO DO NOT HAVE E-MAIL. If you have an email address, but received this newsletter by "snail mail," we do not have your E-mail address. Please provide it to us at mmille31@tampabay.rr.com.

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