



# *Silicon Valley Chapter* **The Bulletin**



Silicon Valley Chapter MOAA  
P.O. BOX 2  
Moffett Federal Airfield, CA 94035  
<http://www.siliconvalleymoaa.org/>

Volume II Issue No. 11

Editor, LTC Michael Sampognaro

December 2013

## *CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

<i>5 Dec</i>	<i>Board Meeting</i>	<i>10:00 AM</i>
<i>19 Dec</i>	<i>A Turkey Trot</i>	<i>11:00 AM</i>
<i>9 Jan</i>	<i>Board Meeting</i>	<i>10:00 AM</i>
<i>16 Jan</i>	<i>TBA maybe FBI</i>	<i>11:00 AM</i>

## *LUNCHEON PROGRAM*

**19 December 2013**

**Social Hour: 11:00 AM      Luncheon: 11:45 AM**

**Col Keith Giles, USAF (Ret)  
Touring in Turkey**



**It is Membership renewal time Please send in your check**

**SECTION A**

★ PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE, EDITOR'S NOTES

**SECTION B**

★ OFFICERS, BOARD and CHAIRS, DIRECTORS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS,  
SVC MEMEBERSHIP REPORT, LOCAL VETERAN AFFAIRS, AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**SECTION C**

★ LEGISLATIVE NOTES

**SECTION D**

★ CHAPTER ACTIVITIES (to include involvement with our local communities)

**SECTION E**

★ LUNCHEON SPEAKERS (present and past month)

**SECTION F**

★ THE IN BOX (letters from members and other organizations)

**SECTION G**

★ PERSONAL AFFAIRS (info that would be helpful to our members)

**SECTION H**

★ MEMBERSHIP FORM, LUNCHEON FORM, ADVERTISEMENTS AND EXTRAS

**PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE**

In recent years SVC has provided donations to meet some startup costs of a Veterans Center at SJSU; supported the Fisher House at the Palo Alto Veterans Hospital; helped our Chaplain, Fred Tittle, with Wounded Warriors' donated to Paws for Vets and the USO; funded scholarships at the Navy Operational Support Center in San Jose; Santa Clara, and San Jose State Universities' ROTCs. Member contributions for specific projects have been applied to these activities. Also the Silicon Valley Chapter Board uses a proven validating process for a new recommend (by Chapter members) projects to stimulate more membership involvement, participation, and, hopefully, donations.

This is the time of year when SVC memberships are renewed; we ask you also consider the activities named above and continue to support them.

Looking forward, there are changes and opportunities for this Chapter. In the past few years we have welcomed new board members - they bring fresh perspective. An electronic bulletin with expanded content has been initiated and it is getting good reviews from readers.

Cornerstone services to members have been maintained: Local information, commonality, and seeing friends from the military community at our meetings while hearing from interesting speakers.

Expanding resources to help Veterans transition to post military service are now seen as something SVC can help accomplish; this is an opportunity and also a challenge, needing more involvement from those who are able. Continuing emphasis for the SJSU Veterans Center is a worthy goal; First Vice President (2014) Neil Miles is "project manager."

Please continue to join us at our monthly meetings; if you have not able to do that in 2013, put us on your list for at LEAST one meeting in the first quarter of 2014 so we can share your company. *Paul*

**BULLETIN EDITOR***OK Folks***Plain Talk \*\*\* We NEED Help**

Lt. Col. Keith Giles, USAF-Ret, has been The Bulletin editor for many years and has now retired. He's ready to take his place at a chapter luncheon table and simply enjoy the camaraderie, a nice meal, an often-entertaining speaker, and good cheer. And he's earned his retirement!

If you are too busy, and have lots of things to do, one more will not be a problem and you might even enjoy the challenge.

Most of the content is likely to be provided; chapter members have been faithful offering drafts on a wide variety of topics. The task is to assemble appropriate content, create an effective layout about a month in advance of publication, maintain liaison with the printer, and supervise distribution. The newsletter will be posted to the chapter's website.

*Try it, you will like it.*

Email me  
[mike@sampognaro.net](mailto:mike@sampognaro.net)

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 2nd VP: LTC Jay Craddock USAF 650-968-0446  
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**SVC MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

*As of Dec 2013*

**It is past time to renew your membership.**

**Please get your dues to Capt McBeth  
 and save us the cost of a personal reminder.**

**VETERAN AFFAIRS CALENDAR OF  
 EVENTS FOR December 2013**

**December 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Wreaths Across America Ceremony,  
 8:45 a.m., Contact: Leo McArdle 650-  
 303-2725 Golden Gate National  
 Cemetery, 1300 Sneath Lane, San  
 Bruno, CA**

**December 17**

**Santa Clara Veterans and Military  
 Collaborative, 11:30a.m.-1:30p.m. 2314  
 First Street, Tahoe Room, San  
 Jose, CA**

**December 18 Veterans Town**

**Hall/Collaborative, (2 sessions)  
 9:00a.m.-11:00a.m. & 3:00p.m.-  
 5:00p.m.,  
 Contact: Eddie Ramirez 415-740-4399  
 Philip Burton Federal Building,  
 450 Golden Gate Ave., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor,  
 CA/NV Room, San Francisco, CA**

**2014**

**January 22 Veterans Town**

**Hall/Collaborative, (2 sessions)  
 9:00a.m.-11:00a.m. & 3:00p.m.-  
 5:00p.m.,  
 Contact: Eddie Ramirez 415-740-4399  
 Philip Burton Federal Building,  
 450 Golden Gate Ave., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor,  
 CA/NV Room, San Francisco, CA**

*LEGISLATIVE NOTES***GRASSROOTS ACTION**

In early November 2013 the Patriot Post published the details of a strategy by Department of Defense civilian administrators and their surrogates which had the potential to set a legal precedent to force the removal of “so help me God” from all military oaths. The Patriot Post is a highly acclaimed advocate for the promotion of free enterprise, national defense and traditional American values.

As a result, 28 members of Congress issued a letter of inquiry to DoD officials requesting information on why they had already omitted “so help me God” from some Air Force officer and enlisted oaths, despite the fact that the phrase is used in the very statutory language of the United States Code. The letter resulted in a DoD reversal and commitment to restore the oaths.

From time to time chapter leaders recognize an opportunity to carry out its purposes through federal or state legislation. Issues are analyzed, opinions are formulated, member support is requested, and messages are sent by telephone, fax, or U.S. Mail to California senators and congressional representatives, as well as state officials as appropriate. There’s a lot of work involved, yet occasionally there is a very positive outcome with state-level achievements reported in detail by Pete Conaty & Associates, a Sacramento veterans affairs advocate, and published in the e-Bulletin.

National MOAA has been named among the top lobbyist groups on Capitol Hill and achievements are published regularly in Military Officer Magazine. The association has an ambitious legislative agenda and the grassroots support “One Powerful Voice” is needed now more than ever, particularly in a challenging fiscal environment. Again, the effort is designed to protect earned entitlements, those which have been promised over the years; there is no intent to ask for new benefits or free handouts of any kind.

The Patriot Post indicated that this and other "course corrections" is one way the team measures success. They said they succeed in big and little ways, not because they’re great communicators, but because they’re communicating great things to the current generation of Americans. Further, they say they are able to do that because interested citizens have sustained their effort and helped them grow their ranks.

By late November senior military officers suggested that there could be drastic cuts to military pay and benefits as a result of a continuing sequester and the drawdown of the armed forces. Legislation will be in the spotlight and efforts will continue to protect earned entitlements, particularly promised medical care benefits. The chapter will measure its success partly in terms of member participation but mostly in terms of legislative outcomes.

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SOURCE: The Patriot Post

**LEGISLATIVE NOTES****Camarillo woman appointed administrator of veterans home in Ventura**

*Gov. Jerry Brown has appointed a Camarillo woman to be administrator of the California Department of Veterans Affairs veterans home in Ventura.*

<http://www.vcstar.com/news/2013/nov/08/camarillo-woman-appointed-administrator-of-home/>

**Hotel idea floated as revenue option for Veterans Home**

*YOUNTVILLE – A state-commissioned report outlining plans to modernize the Veterans Home of California suggests that the state Department of Veterans Affairs look into pacts with private contractors for on-site revenue generators such as an inn – a step some veterans called unlikely but still worrying to other residents.*

[http://napavalleyregister.com/news/local/hotel-idea-floated-as-revenue-option-for-veterans-home/article\\_b246b978-49bf-11e3-b6f5-001a4bcf887a.html](http://napavalleyregister.com/news/local/hotel-idea-floated-as-revenue-option-for-veterans-home/article_b246b978-49bf-11e3-b6f5-001a4bcf887a.html)

**Plan aims to modernize, reshape Veterans Home**

*YOUNTVILLE – The landscaped grounds and Mission Revival architecture of the Veterans Home of California have made it a landmark of the Napa Valley for more than a century. But a study commissioned by the state Department of Veterans Affairs points to aging and obsolescent facilities at the nation's oldest, largest retirement community, and calls for an extensive overhaul that could last up to three decades.*

[http://napavalleyregister.com/plan-aims-to-modernize-reshape-veterans-home/article\\_cac70760-49be-11e3-a471-001a4bcf887a.html](http://napavalleyregister.com/plan-aims-to-modernize-reshape-veterans-home/article_cac70760-49be-11e3-a471-001a4bcf887a.html)

**Saturday: USO Show to Celebrate SCV Veterans Housing Project**

*USO Greater Los Angeles Area and Habitat for Humanity San Fernando/Santa Clarita Valleys are breaking ground on a new Habitat Enriched Neighborhood and memorial for veterans in Santa Clarita. To celebrate the groundbreaking, the two organizations are throwing a large-scale festival and fundraiser in celebration of Veteran's Day on Nov. 9. Built in collaboration with the California Department of Veteran Affairs, the Enriched Neighborhood™ provides no-cost social and educational services, including financial education, health information, dental hygiene, veteran assistance, homeowner education classes and children's programs such as after-school tutoring.*

<http://scvnews.com/2013/11/08/saturday-scv-veterans-housing-project-to-break-ground/>

### **LEGISLATIVE NOTES**

#### **Housing market another battlefield for U.S. Vets**

*What do Veterans come home to when they leave active duty and come back to the United States? In most cases, not to a home they own. According to data [released by CENTURY 21](#) this Veteran's Day, "only 18 percent of veterans return to a home they already own at the end of their service and only one-third of military families report actually looking for a home within a year of return from active duty." Why so few? The answer, according to this survey, has nothing to do with not valuing or desiring homeownership and everything to do with being unable to achieve it.*

<http://blog.sfgate.com/ontheblock/2013/11/11/housing-market-another-battlefield-for-u-s-vets/>

#### **Here's Why You Should Hire Military Veterans**

*Leaders do more than point. They are as much a part of the journey as are the men and women entrusted to their care. Followers do more than obey. Their ability to improvise keeps projects (and missions) on target and on budget. Teams are more than a group of people with a label. Teammates instinctively understand that success is assured when they are able to rely upon each other.*

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/xerox/2013/11/11/heres-why-you-should-hire-military-veterans/>

#### **Obama: US Owes Military Veterans Its Gratitude**

*President Barack Obama has joined millions of Americans on Veterans Day in a salute to the men and women who have served in the country's armed forces.*

<http://www.voanews.com/content/obama-us-owes-military-veterans-its-gratitude/1787989.html>

#### **AMVETS Names Muratsuchi 2013 California Legislator of the Year (AB639)**

*SACRAMENTO — Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance) has been named 2013 California Legislator of the Year by AMVETS, a national organization established to enhance and safeguard the entitlements for all American veterans who have served honorably and to improve the quality of life for them, their families, and the communities where they live.*

<http://www.rafu.com/2013/11/amvets-names-muratsuchi-2013-california-legislator-of-the-year/>

**LEGISLATIVE NOTES****Housing Affordability in California Takes a Hit**

*Housing affordability fell for the sixth consecutive quarter -- July through September -- in response to rising home prices and interest rates, a trade group said Thursday.*

[http://www.hispanicbusiness.com/2013/11/10/housing\\_affordability\\_in\\_california\\_takes\\_a.htm](http://www.hispanicbusiness.com/2013/11/10/housing_affordability_in_california_takes_a.htm)

**Veterans Day ceremonies to include dedication of park banners**

*Veterans will be honored at various events throughout Napa County on Monday, Veterans Day. The 45-minute ceremony includes the national anthem, a bagpipe and speakers, including Mayor Jill Techel, public safety chaplain Lee Shaw, and the Rev. Marlowe Link, former chaplain at the Veterans Home of California at Yountville.*

[http://napavalleyregister.com/news/local/veterans-day-ceremonies-to-include-dedication-of-park-banners/article\\_580933a6-48d8-11e3-89e7-0019bb2963f4.html](http://napavalleyregister.com/news/local/veterans-day-ceremonies-to-include-dedication-of-park-banners/article_580933a6-48d8-11e3-89e7-0019bb2963f4.html)

**More Homeowners Receiving Principal Reductions Under HAMP**

As of September, more than 1.2 million homeowners have received a permanent modification through the Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP), according to [Treasury](#).

<http://www.dsnews.com/articles/more-homeowners-receiving-principal-reductions-under-hamp-2013-11-11>

**Protecting Our Service Members and Veterans From Abusive Financial Practices at Home**

*On Veterans' Day, we pay particularly close attention to the men and women who make extraordinary sacrifices to defend our nation. We honor their service to our country and remember those no longer with us. But on every other day of the year, service members face the same financial decisions that other consumers face. They purchase homes, finance cars, and take out lines of credit to buy computers and other things for their families.*

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/sen-jay-rockefeller/protecting-our-service-me\\_b\\_4254937.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/sen-jay-rockefeller/protecting-our-service-me_b_4254937.html)



## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

### ELECTION 2013

The Election of chapter officers for 2014 was held at the November Luncheon.

The results are:

President: Lt. Col. Michael Sampognaro, USAF-Ret  
1st Vice President/President-Elect: Lt. Col Neil Miles, USAF-Ret  
2nd Vice President: Lt. Col. Jesse "Jay" Craddock, USAF-Ret  
Secretary: COL Warren Enos, AUS (RET)  
Treasurer: CAPT Lloyd McBeth, USN (RET)

### NEW CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Lt. Col. Michael Sampognaro, USAF-Ret, has been elected chapter President for 2014. He has been serving as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice president/Webmaster and currently is editing, producing, and distributing the chapter newsletters, The Bulletin and e-Bulletin, on an interim basis.

An Albany, New York native, he graduated from San Jose State University, completed more than 33 years in the Air National Guard, his last assignment with the 129<sup>th</sup> Rescue Wing, and retired in 2002. He then helped form and command the California State Defense Force-Air. He has extensive business experience, including IBM and 10 years with Apple Computer, and currently owns and operates a winery in Morgan Hill. He and his wife, Maryclaire, now live at the winery.

Lt. Col. Neil Miles, USAF-Ret, will serve as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, and will continue in the role as Veterans Advocate and liaison to a number of veterans groups and related organizations in Santa Clara Valley.

Born in Chicago, he graduated from the University of Illinois with a BS in Mechanical Engineering, Troy State with a MBS, and the Air War College. He served as an F-4 Weapons Systems Officer in Thailand, the UK, as well as the New Jersey Air National Guard; Staff Air Liaison Officer for the 50<sup>th</sup> Armored Division; and as a member of the NJANG HQ staff he served the State mission as the Deputy Chief of Air Operations for Civil Disturbances and Natural Disasters. In the private sector he performed various management duties, including the fabrication, assembly and test of spacecraft equipment and the launch of satellites. He and his wife, Lorna, live in the San Jose east foothills.

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SOURCE: Biographies

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CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

We conducted a survey last month to find out if the meeting time or day were factors in membership participation. If you did not have a chance to complete the survey please do it now.

We hope you will take the time to complete this survey and if there is an area or topic we missed that you believe would be helpful please use the comment area.

- 1. Would you attend a breakfast meeting? yes\_\_\_\_\_ no\_\_\_\_\_
- 2. If yes to question 1. What time would a breakfast meeting is best for you ? 5am \_\_\_\_\_ 6am \_\_\_\_\_ 7am \_\_\_\_\_ 8am \_\_\_\_\_ 9am\_\_\_\_\_ 10am \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Is a lunch time meeting better for you? yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Is a dinner time meeting better for you ? yes\_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. Which is better? Week Day \_\_\_\_\_ M T W Th F Weekend\_\_\_\_\_ Sat Sun
- 6. What location would you be able to attend a meeting? Palo Alto area\_\_\_\_\_ Mountain View area \_\_\_\_\_ San Jose area \_\_\_\_\_ Gilroy area \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. Do you have a suggestion for a meeting place? \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. Is cost a factor in your attending a meeting. What is a your limit for cost of a Breakfast meeting \_\_\_\_\_ Lunch meeting \_\_\_\_\_ Dinner meeting \_\_\_\_\_.
- 9. The Board meets the first Thursday of each month at 10AM. Would you attend a Board of Directors meeting if it was held at a different time or day? yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_ If yes when \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. Would you be interested in extended membership with a discount in membership dues such as: 5yr @ \$23/yr\_\_\_\_\_ 10yr @ \$20/yr\_\_\_\_\_ Life @ \$300 \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

### CWO4 PAT CLARK COMMENTARY

Nidal Malik Hasan is a former psychiatrist and Medical Corps officer who fatally shot 13 people and injured more than 30 others in the Fort Hood mass shooting on November 5, 2009. At his court-martial in August 2013, Hasan admitted to the shootings. A panel of officers later convicted him of all charges and specifications and he is currently incarcerated at the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks, Fort Leavenworth, KS awaiting execution while his case is being reviewed. Issues about the man, his ideology and motives, the trial and conclusions, and particularly how he was able to obtain a security clearance all remain controversial.

Chapter member and director CWO4 Patrick Clark, USA (RET) recently provided a perspective on the requirements and challenges of conducting effective background checks of military and civilian personnel, as well as a general description of military intelligence and counter-intelligence missions, complexities and activities. He is currently employed by the Federal Investigative Service, a branch of the Office of Personnel Management.

CWO4 Clark related how as a young enlisted soldier he entered the intelligence field really by accident, initially by learning a foreign language, being assigned as a translator and briefly an interrogator, attending Army intelligence schools, and ultimately promoted to warrant officer. Over a period of time he served as an instructor, field operative working both in CONUS and abroad, as well as special projects related to national security. Upon retirement he entered the federal service and today conducts background checks; he is knowledgeable about local counter-intelligence matters.

According to Clark, a number of recent background investigation failures should be a basis for a reexamination of policy.

Navy veteran Aaron Alexis, who killed 12 people at a Navy building in Washington, D.C., had been suffering from mental illness, including paranoia and a sleep disorder. The former Navy reservist had a string of misconduct problems during active duty service, had difficulties with prior employment, and had an arrest record. A clearance was likely issued in part because his mental problems were seen as related to grief counseling.

Edward Joseph Snowden is an American computer specialist, a former CIA employee, and former NSA contractor who disclosed up to 200,000 classified documents to the press. He is considered a fugitive by American authorities who have charged him with espionage and theft of government property. The disclosures have fueled debates over the balance between national security and information privacy. The background investigation clearly was not careful enough.

Bradley Edward Manning, now known as Chelsea Elizabeth Manning, is a U.S. soldier who was convicted in July 2013 of the Espionage Act after releasing the largest set of classified documents ever leaked to the public, and has been sentenced to 35 years in prison. As an intelligence analyst in Iraq, he had access to classified databases. Investigators failed to “look for hidden stuff” which may have demonstrated mental instability.

Of particular interest was CWO4 Clark’s general conceptual briefing about counter-intelligence activities in and around the San Francisco Bay and Monterey Bay areas, particularly in the context of industrial espionage and technical intelligence, specifically how people unfriendly to the United States gain information about weapons and equipment used by the armed forces. Computer hackers can pose a real problem. In addition, he explained the need to shield academic and military installations from unauthorized access and provide physical protection to key business, industry, government, and especially senior military personnel.

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SOURCE: CWO4 Patrick Clark Comments

**CHAPTER ACTIVITIES****COMMISSARY COULD CLOSE**

Federal planners have targeted Continental United States (CONUS) commissaries for closure, according to a Department of Defense official. And that means the Moffett store could be on the chopping block again relatively soon.

The Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) has been asked to prepare a plan for closure of its 178 mainland stores, including those in Alaska and Hawaii. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel has made it clear on numerous occasions that “all cost-cutting efforts need to be on the table in order to meet the sequestration caps mandated under the 2011 Budget Control Act,” according to a Pentagon spokesperson.

Should a decision to close the commissaries be made, the stores are unlikely to close soon. The action would become a part of the FY 2015 budget and would have to be approved by Congress, and it’s certain The Military Coalition, comprised of more than 30 military and veterans advocacy groups sharing a common agenda, would fiercely oppose such a plan. Moffett store shoppers testify to the sometimes 30 to 40% savings, particularly in meats, dairy products, and fresh produce. Julia Brown says, “I love shopping at the commissary. It would be a disservice to close them.”

According to Steve Rossetti, director of government affairs for the American Logistics Association, commissaries are “one of the most valued benefits.” “For what this costs the department, they get a huge return,” not only in terms of the benefit itself but in other factors such as jobs for military spouses. About 30 percent of DeCA employees are spouses.

Rep. Joe Heck, R-Nev., an Army reservist, said other proposals under consideration include raising the commissary surcharge to 10 percent from the current 5 percent; raising prices by 2 percent to 3 percent to pay for shipping products to overseas stores; and creating an “enhanced” commissary that would sell other products at higher markups.

DeCA receives nearly \$1.4 billion in annual taxpayer subsidies. It has reduced its annual funding requirement by \$700 million over the last 20 years, said DeCA Director Joseph Jeu. He said the agency is constantly looking for ways to save money, but added that it has no more “low-hanging fruit” to cut.

It’s rather clear that if the Moffett store closes and its savings of 30% or more are lost, chapter members will suffer a real loss. It would be prudent to contact legislators and let them know what the impact on active and retired families will be, and starting here: Senator Dianne Feinstein, telephone: (415) 393-0707; and, Senator Barbara Boxer, telephone: (510) 286-8537.

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SOURCE: Staff Sgt. John D. Strong II / Air Force

**CHAPTER ACTIVITIES**

**WHY JOIN A MOAA CHAPTER?**

Here are six good reasons for any officer—active duty, Guard, Reserve, former, or retired, or their surviving spouse—to join a MOAA chapter today.

1. **Make yourself heard.** MOAA’s chapters provide critical grassroots support for MOAA’s national legislative agenda. Our benefits are under attack and MOAA is in the fight to preserve them. Chapter members let their legislators know what’s on their minds and open doors for MOAA’s legislative team in Washington, D.C. In these difficult times, MOAA members need to stick together and our chapters are the best way we know to do that.

2. **Giving back to the community.** Chapter members are MOAA’s ambassadors in their communities, supporting countless programs that make a difference in the lives of others. These members have gone the extra step to give back in the truest sense of servant leadership.

3. **Value added to chapter member lives.** MOAA chapters sponsor interesting programs and opportunities to interact with civic, political, military, and business leaders on issues important to members.

4. **Networking with fellow officers.** Chapters include second career members in the work force or retired service members who have contacts in the community that can be valuable to transitioning officers.

5. **Stay informed.** Chapter newsletters, websites, and meetings provide you the latest information on local, state, and national issues and changes to military benefits.

6. **Influencing state legislation.** Most states have a council of chapters that unites every MOAA chapter in the state. These councils often lobby for and pass state-level legislation that affects military members and their families, such as exempting military retired pay from state income tax or increasing funding for state-run VA programs.

SOURCE: MOAA

**CHAPTER ACTIVITIES****BOWLING ALONE**

Posted conspicuously in the entrance foyer of a local restaurant were photos of 19 Rotary Club members. That was down from more than 80 in 2000. Currently Silicon Valley Chapter has a few more than 200 members, including auxiliaries, which is twice the total of 10 years ago. The world has changed.

Chapter leaders often wonder why the membership is not being sustained, and of course there are a number of reasons. The military has left the Bay Area with the closing of Moffett Field a key loss; the Department of Defense Joint Ethics Regulation in most cases prohibits member recruitment at both active and reserve installations; and of course members are growing older. But there's a lot more to it than that.

In August 2001 Robert Putnam's book on social change, *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*, which quickly became a best-seller because of the perspective it provided on Americans' changing behavior over the past 25 years. People once bowled in leagues, usually after work, but no longer. They have become increasingly disconnected from family, friends, neighbors, and social structures, whether the PTA, church, recreation clubs, political parties, or bowling leagues.

When on active duty officers would join and gather at the officer's club for Happy Hour, a good meal, camaraderie, a social event such as a unit promotion party or a military wedding reception. It was a place to get acquainted, grow friendships, learn about the military culture and more, and just plain have a good time with others who have common interests. Today the clubs no longer exist or have been replaced with "all hands" groups or similar structures.

Silicon Valley Chapter has been trying to replicate the officer's club by scheduling general meeting luncheons at the Ramada Inn in past years and the Biltmore Hotel currently. But for a variety of reasons attendance numbers have been falling with a typical luncheon attracting about 30 people, down from more than 75 not too many years ago.

Putnam's groundbreaking work shows how social bonds are the most powerful predictor of life satisfaction. For example, he says that getting married is the equivalent of quadrupling your income and attending a club meeting is the equivalent of doubling your income. He notes that our shrinking access to the "social capital" that is the reward of communal activity and community sharing is a serious threat to our civic and personal health. If you both smoke and belong to no groups, it's a close call as to which is the riskier behavior.

The growing social-capital deficit threatens educational performance, safe neighborhoods, equitable tax collection, democratic responsiveness, everyday honesty, and even our health and happiness. In a time when Americans seemingly no longer value civic engagement or regard relationships with neighbors as worthwhile, Silicon Valley Chapter still provides an opportunity for interested officers and auxiliaries to meet, greet, eat, bond, and spend quality time together.

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**SOURCE: Robert Putnam**

**CHAPTER ACTIVITIES**

A Different Christmas Poem.

[Snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com) cites the origin from the International War Veterans Poetry Archive (IWVPA) saying the identity of the author is Michael Marks who wrote the poem in December 2000 as the first in a series of patriotic writings (<http://www.snopes.com/holidays/christmas/glurge/different.asp>). As veterans, I know you will understand the meaning and importance of this poem. Enjoy and have a great 2014!

A Different Christmas Poem  
-Michael Marks

The embers glowed softly, and in their dim light,  
I gazed round the room and I cherished the sight.  
My wife was asleep, her head on my chest,  
My daughter beside me, angelic in rest.

Outside the snow fell, a blanket of white,  
Transforming the yard to a winter delight.  
The sparkling lights in the tree I believe,  
Completed the magic that was Christmas Eve.

My eyelids were heavy, my breathing was deep,  
Secure and surrounded by love I would sleep.  
In perfect contentment, or so it would seem,  
So I slumbered, perhaps I started to dream.

The sound wasn't loud, and it wasn't too near,  
But I opened my eyes when it tickled my ear.  
Perhaps just a cough, I didn't quite know,  
Then the sure sound of footsteps outside in the snow.

My soul gave a tremble, I struggled to hear,  
And I crept to the door just to see who was near.  
Standing out in the cold and the dark of the night,  
A lone figure stood; his face weary and tight.

A soldier, I puzzled, some twenty years old,  
Perhaps a Marine, huddled here in the cold.  
Alone in the dark, he looked up and smiled,  
Standing watch over me and my wife and my child.

Continued:

**CHAPTER ACTIVITIES**

## ... A Different Christmas Poem

"What are you doing?" I asked without fear,  
"Come in this moment, it's freezing out there!  
Put down your pack, brush the snow from your sleeve,  
You should be at home on a cold Christmas Eve!"

For barely a moment I saw his eyes shift,  
Away from the cold and the snow blown in drifts.  
To the window that danced with a warm fire's light  
Then he sighed and he said "It's really all right,  
I'm out here by choice. I'm here every night.  
It's my duty to stand at the front of the line,  
That separates you from the darkest of times.  
No one had to ask or beg or implore me,  
I'm proud to stand here like my father's before me.  
My Gramps died at ' Pearl on a day in December,"

Then he sighed, "That's a Christmas 'Gram always remembers.  
My dad stood his watch in the jungles of ' Nam ',  
And now it is my turn and so, here I am.  
I've not seen my own son in more than a while,  
But my wife sends me pictures. He's sure got her smile."

Then he bent and he carefully pulled from his bag,  
The red, white, and blue... an American flag.  
"I can live through the cold and the being alone,  
Away from my family, my house and my home.  
I can stand at my post through the rain and the sleet,  
I can sleep in a foxhole with little to eat.  
I can carry the weight of killing another,  
Or lay down my life with my sister and brother  
Who stand at the front against any and all  
To ensure for all time that this flag will not fall.  
So go back inside," he said. "Harbor no fright,  
Your family is waiting and I'll be all right."

"But isn't there something I can do, at the least,  
Give you money," I asked, "or prepare you a feast?  
It seems all too little for all that you've done,  
For being away from your wife and your son. "

Continued:



**CHAPTER ACTIVITIES**

... A Different Christmas Poem

Then his eye welled a tear that held no regret,  
"Just tell us you love us, and never forget.  
To fight for our rights back at home while we're gone,  
To stand your own watch, no matter how long.  
For when we come home, either standing or dead,  
To know you remember we fought and we bled.  
Is payment enough, and with that we will trust,  
That we mattered to you, as you mattered to us."

\* \* \* \* \*

The poem is a reflection of how great our current military really are in today's world. Remember them and fight for their rights.

**CHAPTER ACTIVITIES**

**END OF AN ERA**



**T**he December issue of the Printed Bulletin is the last issue of the Bulletin under my editorship. I have been doing this for many, many years and decided 6 months ago that I would retire, giving the club time to find a new editor. The eBulletin editor is taking over as an interim editor. The club needs someone to step up and take over the editorship in order to keep the print edition available to members.



Many thanks to those who have helped in the Bulletin production: Submitting articles; suggesting articles; and proofing before being sent to the printer. A major contributor has been COL Warren Enos. Until they died, CDR Gordon Rollman and CDR Bob Smith did the proofing. CDR Al Mouns and his wife Judy are the current proofers.

I'm not disappearing – I'll hope to keep attending the luncheons.

*Col. Keith Giles*

## LUNCHEON SPEAKERS

## NOVEMBER SPEAKER REPORT

The climate is changing. Many climatologists claim that the earth is warming and that there is now overwhelming scientific consensus that it is happening, and human-induced. With global warming on the increase and species and their habitats on the decrease, chances for ecosystems to adapt naturally are diminishing. Many are agreed that climate change may be one of the greatest threats facing the planet. There are claims to show that in recent years there have been increasing temperatures in various regions, and/or increasing extremities in weather patterns. But is this true?

One person who does not necessarily agree with that statement is chapter member and November luncheon speaker CDR Robert Whitten, USN (RET), Ph.D, a retired NASA scientist and trained meteorologist. He offered an overwhelming amount of information which would suggest entirely different conclusions.

CDR Whitten began by describing the sources and sinks of greenhouse gases, particularly carbon dioxide, and how they impact the earth's atmosphere. The outgassing of oceans and the earth as temperatures rise, termites, volcanoes, rotting vegetation and forest fires, plus the burning of fossil fuels (maybe 3-4%) all produce CO<sub>2</sub>. Forests and oceans, environmental reservoirs that absorb and store more carbon than they release, are examples of carbon sinks. To what extent has atmospheric carbon dioxide been increasing, if at all, and how significant is the problem if there is one?

A history of atmospheric carbon dioxide through 2012 and description of earth's thermal balance was provided, which included radiation trapping, solar radiation absorption and reflection, solar variability, infrared radiation absorption by CO<sub>2</sub> molecules, and states of the gas molecules, along with water vapor, all providing a basis for making valid judgments about observed outcomes. In so many cases, evidence of warming by CO<sub>2</sub> has come from the use of computer models as opposed to observational evidence.

CDR Whitten explained that computer models simulate the heating and flow of the atmosphere and listed a number of limitations which include: not able to model oceans and clouds properly, include solar variability, or predict present climate. On that basis, warming predictions by various models cannot be considered statistically valid. Conclusions about climate and global warming, from CDR Whitten's point of view and data, include there has been no global warming since 1997; alarmists have agendas other than "saving the planet;" cooling is a much greater threat than warming; there is significant Department of Defense involvement in the Obama administration policies (U.S. Air Force and Navy use of expensive fuels, for example), and there are certain dangers such as another glacial period or collision with an asteroid.

A significant basis for different conclusions is the political dimension, particularly corruption. Reason for alarmist claims include a quasi-religious belief; the importance of following the money (junk science pays well, crony capitalism, and the motives of politicians); ego and reputations; political power; research funds to academia; intimidation and censorship; and, "Climate-gate" or the attempt on the part of some to hide evidence contrary to alarmists' claims.

More information about this subject can be obtained at: <http://www.sepp.org/>.

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SOURCE: Luncheon Speaker

## LUNCHEON SPEAKERS

### DECEMBER SPEAKER

Turkey, located mostly on Anatolia in Western Asia and on East Thrace in Southeastern Europe, is a democratic, secular, unitary, constitutional republic with a diverse cultural heritage. It's Western-oriented and boasts a free enterprise economy. The cuisine is to die for, the coastline a dream, and many Turkish cities are dotted with spectacular old mosques and castles. It's a top Mediterranean coast travel destination.

The December luncheon speaker will be chapter member and Bulletin editor Col Keith Giles, USAF-Ret, who will provide an illustrated description of his tour to Turkey's Istanbul, Ankara, the Cappadocia region, and the western coastline. "I've always been fascinated with Istanbul after a lot of history reading when I was young," he said, "and approaching the "end-of-life" time I got to thinking that if I ever wanted to see it I had better get busy and arrange a tour."

According to Keith, "I knew I didn't want to be riding a bike in Turkey, so through a friend I contacted a Turkish travel agency. I flew to Istanbul and a tour guy met me. They put me in a hotel and it was arranged I would spend 4 days in Istanbul - 2 with a guide and 2 on my own. Then I was flown to Ankara to meet a group and travel by bus. Except for a Canadian couple who left the tour about halfway, the others were from India. They could speak English (the tour was in English) but mostly spoke their Indian dialect."

The heart of tourist Istanbul is the old section of the city, sprawling over the hills and tumbling down to the water in a grand spillage of glories from the past. The six minarets of the Blue Mosque are clearly visible; Hagia Sophia, lemon-colored and no less imposing than when it stood as the most important edifice in all Christendom; Topkapi Palace, where, swathed in the raiment of regal pomp, Ottoman sultans sat on golden thrones to chart the business of empire. It's a delight to walk portions of the five-mile-long Golden Horn and watch fishermen along the Bosphorus. Carpet-sellers offer tea just prior to the sales pitch.



"After visiting a couple of Ankara sites," Keith continued, "we drove southeast to the Cappadocia region where I had the highlight of the trip – a hot-air balloon ride. Then we worked our way westward to the Mediterranean coastal area, visiting places in the areas of Ephesus, Troy, and the Dardanelles. We saw quite a few Greco-Roman ruins."

The tour ended in Istanbul and Keith flew home the following day, completing a very special trip, a dream adventure, a Turkish delight, something he always wanted to do.

Per tradition, members of Reserve Offices Association (ROA) Chapter #63 have been invited to attend the Christmas luncheon and enjoy the travelogue presentation.

*SOURCE: Luncheon Speaker*

*THE IN BOX***SUCCESS THROUGH ENDURANCE**

Heather Dorniden was racing in the 600m at the Big 10 Indoor Track Championship when she took a tumble with one lap to go. Not missing a beat she leaped up and ran flat-out to not only catch up to the pack but to overtake them and win the race by the slimmest of margins. Now Heather Kampf, she was a former gymnast turned track runner for the University of Minnesota, the most decorated female athlete in the institution's history.

Finishing anything is harder than starting; the idea is never to give up.

Throughout 2013 chapter leaders have been running hard, initiating projects, working with various stakeholders, and following through to completion. Tasks have included making adjustments to the management structure, identifying luncheon speakers, seeking an interim editor for the newsletters, implementing a new member recruitment program, supporting or not as appropriate certain federal and state legislation, creating an innovative budget, maintaining the website, and so much more. There have been some stumbles along the way, but every effort has been made to recover and keep moving the chapter forward.

Board members have some good ideas about how to finish what they start even when they feel like giving up.

Run Encouraged. Based on past chapter membership renewals, the number and amount of member financial donations, feedback on The Bulletin and e-Bulletin, and luncheon meeting attendance numbers, all provide evidence that the general membership is cheering the leadership on, expressing appreciation for all that is being done.

Run Light. Some athletes have acquired high tech clothing and equipment which is light as a feather, making it possible greater speed. Board members have cast aside worry, bad habits, and more, literally throwing off everything that hinders. Should they stumble on a project, they're prepared to jump right up and keep going.

Run Steady. For most things, speed really isn't important; perseverance brings success. The goals and objectives set are worth risk and pain, and the key to endurance seems to be to determine what is needed and plod along until it's done. And every effort is being made to increase skills, abilities, and efficiencies.

Run Focused. In a time when some pay little attention to the constitution and bylaws, board members zero in on the purposes of the organization and create action plans which will help move the chapter to mission accomplishment. Committee members serve as running partners and help each other stay with the program objectives.

The big idea with board members is not necessarily to "try harder" but to trust in one another and the membership that everything will be done within the timeframe for accomplishment.

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SOURCE: Joel Stockstill

*THE IN BOX*

## UNUSUAL SPACE-A FLIGHT

It was a Friday about 11:00 am, a gorgeous day with bright sunshine, and I was at the tiny 1<sup>st</sup> Battle Group 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division officers club not far from the Fort Lewis, WA Gray Army Airfield, beginning an early lunch. The place was deserted. Shortly a U.S. Air Force colonel came through the door and joined me, a very different experience for a young first lieutenant, and we began what proved to be an interesting conversation and a special time together.

The colonel asked about my background, military unit and activities, and where I was from. I told him I was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area and that my home was there. With that, he told me he was responsible for all Air Force recruiting in several western states, that he was on a facilities inspection trip, and that he was flying a twin-Cessna L27A to Oakland and would be returning Sunday evening. He invited me to go along.

I quickly contacted my CO, arranged a pass for the weekend, got a few things together from my quarters, and headed for the airfield. The colonel was standing by his sleek Air Force blue executive type airplane and invited me to climb aboard into the right seat. He seated himself to my left, started the engines, and very soon we were making a takeoff run almost directly to Mt. Rainier in the near distance. The relatively low level flight down to California promised to be great fun.

We climbed out and leveled off at flight altitude and began to enjoy the scenery. We were so close you'd think we could reach out and touch not only Mt. Rainier but Mt. St. Helens and soon Mt. Hood just east of Portland. He asked if I'd like to fly the plane and before I knew it I had the yoke with feet on the rudder pedals. Later he asked if there was anything I'd like to see up close, and when I told him it would be nice to get a look at Crater Lake, Mt. Shasta, or the Trinity Alps he accommodated me even though some of those attractions were well off the planned flight path.

It didn't take long to get to California and very soon we were on approach to Oakland Airport, where a member of the family picked me up. It was truly a delight to get home for a short time and enjoy the family, home-cooked meals, wonderful weather compared to most days in the Pacific Northwest, and a time to relax in familiar and comfortable surroundings. It was clear the colonel had an interest in young military people and understood their wants and needs.

I found the colonel at flight operations as I arrived at the airport Sunday morning and he told me the aircraft had been serviced and we were ready to go. Within minutes it seemed we were airborne for the Seattle-Tacoma area, climbing out over the East Bay Hills, and headed initially for the west side of the Sacramento Valley. But we didn't get far before the colonel began a descent into McClellan Air Force Base; he told me the base had a very nice officers club and that it was time for breakfast.

Again, the weather was just perfect for touring through Northern California, central Oregon and the Willamette Valley, and then a direct route past Centralia and into Fort Lewis. We both expressed how much we enjoyed our flying adventure together, and we wished each other well. My fellow officers, at a barracks breakfast bright and early Monday morning, couldn't believe what I had done for the weekend.

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SOURCE: Space-A Traveler

***THE IN BOX*****New TRICARE TV Episode: What is TRICARE?**

11/01/2013

[New TRICARE TV Episode: What is TRICARE?](#)

November 1, 2013

Watch an overview of TRICARE, the Military Health Plan serving Uniformed Service members, retirees and their family members.

Watch the video at: [http://youtu.be/8d06l9DAe\\_s](http://youtu.be/8d06l9DAe_s).

**TRICARE Help: Never More Than a Click or Call Away**

11/26/2013

[TRICARE Help: Never More Than a Click or Call Away](#)

November 26, 2013

Beneficiaries who need information about their TRICARE benefit may not be aware of the information available on the Internet. There are many services available that can be completed online, like enrolling in a health care plan or comparing plans. However, new or transitioning beneficiaries may need to speak to someone for assistance and TRICARE has that covered too.

Read more at: [www.tricare.mil/CoveredServices/BenefitUpdates/Archives/11\\_25\\_13\\_ClickOrCall](http://www.tricare.mil/CoveredServices/BenefitUpdates/Archives/11_25_13_ClickOrCall).

Learn more about TRICARE

[www.tricare.mil](http://www.tricare.mil)

Sign up for TRICARE e-mail updates at [www.tricare.mil/subscriptions](http://www.tricare.mil/subscriptions).

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## *THE IN BOX*

### AUXILIARY CORNER

#### Grab and Go Box

Recent natural disasters have emphasized the importance of being prepared for an emergency. Depending on where you live, you might prepare for a hurricane, an earthquake, a tornado, a fire, or a flood. I think it would be helpful for everyone to have a “grab-and-go” box that contains important information for any type of emergency.

My grab-and-go box is in my family room by the door leading to the garage. My box contains cash, phone numbers (family members, doctors, pharmacy, bank, credit card company, etcetera), prescription medications, copies of prescriptions (medications, eyeglasses), copies of my homeowner’s insurance, deeds, wills, durable power of attorney, a health care directive, recent investment statements, a home inventory, and personal documents (birth, death, and marriage certificates; DD Form 214; passports; etcetera).

Also, my grab-and-go box contains the keys to my safe-deposit box, computer usernames and passwords, and the numbers of my Social Security card, driver’s license, bank accounts, credit cards, investment accounts, etcetera. It is important to include a list of debt obligations, including contact information. I also have added a cellphone charger and batteries.

I have decided on a few personal items I would grab if time permits. They include a shadow box of my husband’s medals and a box of family photos. I plan to take a thumb drive with recent documents and my cellphone, laptop, and tablet. If I had pets, I would need to prepare for them. It also would be helpful to have an inventory of valuables. A video camera or smart phone can help you gather this information. Other helpful hints are to have at least a half of tank of gas in your car at all times, maps in your car, and one or two escape routes in mind. Decide with family members on one or two possible destinations for meeting.

My home state of Colorado has experienced both fires and flooding recently. Residents are preparing as best they can for each possibility, and I hear them asking each other, “Do you have an emergency plan? Is your important information in a secure location? Is it readily accessible if you have to leave quickly?”

We never know when a disaster will occur. So prepare your grab-and-go box now.

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SOURCE: The Affiliate/Sharon DeVaney, Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee



*THE IN BOX***AUXILIARY CORNER/INVOLVEMENT**

When Janet Snyder was asked to serve as auxiliary liaison for the Southern Nevada Chapter of MOAA, she thought about our MOAA initiative to have an active auxiliary liaison in each council and chapter. Today, there are 185 auxiliary liaisons in our council and chapter system, and 12 of those perform dual roles at both the council and chapter levels. We'd like to have 20 council auxiliary liaisons. Currently, we have 16, or 80 percent, of that goal. The targeted goal for chapter auxiliary liaisons is 250. Currently, we have 171, or 68 percent, of that goal.

MOAA defines auxiliary members as the survivors of former national MOAA members who are deceased or survivors of deceased individuals who would, if living, be eligible for membership. Auxiliary members can be active chapter members. Understanding both the challenges and sacrifices of military life for service members and their families gives auxiliary members skills and talents that make them valuable assets to councils and chapters. Auxiliary members who serve as council or chapter auxiliary liaisons can serve in leadership positions on boards of directors or committees, plan and manage projects and programs, assist in recruitment and retention initiatives, and participate in grassroots advocacy.

The Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee (AMAC)-led Storming the Hill event in July introduced many of our younger surviving spouses to MOAA. As we grow our chapter and council system by welcoming these surviving spouses into the MOAA family, please encourage their participation in auxiliary liaison leadership roles. It is imperative our younger members be asked to become chapter leaders. This gives them a sense of purpose as well as a reason to attend meetings and be more involved in our organization. The reality is younger officers and auxiliary members are the future of MOAA.

The AMAC encourages you to build strong, vibrant councils and chapters that include auxiliary members in auxiliary liaison leadership roles. Your councils and chapters need them, and so do we.

If you are on Facebook, please join our [Surviving Spouses of MOAA group](#) . This group is for anyone interested in issues related to surviving military spouses and veterans.

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SOURCE: Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee (AMAC)

***PERSONAL AFFAIRS***

**We have relocated all of the Job links to their own page at our website.**

**You can access it from a link on the home page or directly with this:**

[www.svcmoaa.org/employment.html](http://www.svcmoaa.org/employment.html) □

***PERSONAL AFFAIRS*****Chipping Away at the Commissary Benefit**

Last August, when discussing the impact of the sequester on military readiness, President Barack Obama told a crowd gathered at Camp Pendleton, CA, “Hardworking folks are getting furloughed, families getting by on less, fewer ships available for your training exercises, the commissary your families rely on closed a day a week. We can do better than that. That’s not how a great nation should be treating its military and military families.”

**Not how a great nation should be treating its military and military families.**

On Wednesday, Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC) Chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel, opened the Military Resale Programs Hearing by reaffirming his strong support for the commissary and exchange system, “The military exchanges, the commissary and the Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs are acknowledged as highly valuable and appreciated benefits that support active duty retention, the wellbeing of the military community, and the readiness of the force.” But Wilson also acknowledged, “The fiscal pressures on the Defense budget have caused the department and services to look at initiatives to reduce appropriated funding for these programs.”

Witnesses included Rosemary Freitas Williams, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy, Rear Admiral Lower Half Robert J. Bianchi (ret), Chief Executive Officer, Navy Exchange Service Command, Mr. Joseph H. Jeu, Director and Chief Executive Officer, Defense Commissary Agency, Mr. Thomas C. Shull, Director and Chief Executive Officer, Army and Air Force Exchange Service, Mr. William C Dillon, Director, Semper Fit and Exchange Services U.S. Marine Corps, Mr. Patrick B. Nixon, President, American Logistics Association, Mr. Thomas T. Gordy, President, Armed Forces Marketing Council.

One by one the witnesses testified about the ongoing efforts to find efficiencies within their respective systems. Regarding the Defense Commissary Agency, Jeu bluntly noted, “There is no low-hanging fruit to cut.”

**What budget cutting options were discussed at this hearing?**

Rep. Joe Heck (R-NV) inquired about three proposals under consideration:

- Increasing the commissary surcharge from 5% to 10%
- Raising prices 2 to 3 percent to cover secondary transportation costs (the cost of shipping goods overseas)
- Creation of an enhanced commissary that would sell additional products, such as alcohol, at a higher price

Cont:

***PERSONAL AFFAIRS*****Chipping Away at the Commissary Benefit cont:**

Jeu responded that all options have “direct impacts” and that they would shift the cost burden onto the military family. Gordy noted, “We would be taxing military families for their own benefit.”

Heck, a commissary patron himself, retorted, “If the shift allows the program to function, why not?”

**So there you have it! The plan? Chip away at this valuable earned benefit.**

There are rumors out there. The solution discussed at Wednesday’s hearing to save this earned, valuable, non-pay compensation benefit? **Charge us more!**

This is only the beginning!

*Hmm. What could be next, healthcare?*

***It’s your turn! Tell us what you think. How valuable is the resale benefit to you and your family? Would you pay more to shop at the commissary?***

***Given our Nation’s current fiscal crisis and the continuing sequester, the months and years ahead will be very challenging for the entire military community.***

***To keep up to date with military family issues stop by our MOAA Spouse Facebook Page, Twitter @MOAA\_MilLife, subscribe to our monthly MOAA Spouse E-News Letter, or join MOAA today!***

*Karen serves as Deputy Director, Government Relations (Military Family Issues)*

**PERSONAL AFFAIRS****VA Offers Dental Insurance Program**

WASHINGTON (Nov. 13, 2013) - VA is partnering with Delta Dental and MetLife to allow eligible Veterans, plus family members receiving care under the Civilian Health and Medical Program (CHAMPVA), to purchase affordable dental insurance beginning Nov. 15, VA officials announced today.

"VA continues to explore innovative ways to help Veterans get access to the care and services they have earned and deserve," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "This new dental program is another example of VA creating partnerships with the private sector to deliver a range of high-quality care at an affordable cost, for our Nation's Veterans."

More than 8 million Veterans who are enrolled in VA health care can choose to purchase one of the offered dental plans. This three-year pilot has been designed for Veterans with no dental coverage, or those eligible for VA dental care who would like to purchase additional coverage. Participation will not affect entitlement to VA dental services and treatment.

There are no eligibility limitations based on service-connected disability rating or enrollment priority assignment. People interested in participating may complete an application online through either Delta Dental, [http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=001-ujfwzEBRt6v3VWQI20YBkJ0P0loYqozqekFtd5\\_9XzETUPPBK5DCNtKL3rfpuPnRcze4oU\\_QB8ME3OC\\_zhK6kL8B8WMeCft5wm4HSfj75iwIjlyfPLjTgNViSCJMRTI7](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=001-ujfwzEBRt6v3VWQI20YBkJ0P0loYqozqekFtd5_9XzETUPPBK5DCNtKL3rfpuPnRcze4oU_QB8ME3OC_zhK6kL8B8WMeCft5wm4HSfj75iwIjlyfPLjTgNViSCJMRTI7), or MetLife, [http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=001-ujfwzEBRt6efBePgchzwh6H70mzt\\_XLXtvmUvxDjp958ZebzzXgARwk5-vWp058S7ehBQQQeJ5zVW0lixHGx9bH4sz7axhRPSOFfiG3wPT0VktuEQcqF5jHbEigy78n](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=001-ujfwzEBRt6efBePgchzwh6H70mzt_XLXtvmUvxDjp958ZebzzXgARwk5-vWp058S7ehBQQQeJ5zVW0lixHGx9bH4sz7axhRPSOFfiG3wPT0VktuEQcqF5jHbEigy78n) beginning Nov. 15. Coverage for this new dental insurance will begin Jan. 1, 2014, and will be available throughout the United States and its territories.

Also eligible for the new benefits are nearly 400,000 spouses and dependent children who are reimbursed for most medical expenses under VA's CHAMPVA program. Generally, CHAMPVA participants are spouses, survivors or dependent children of Veterans officially rated as "permanently and totally" disabled by a service-connected condition.

Dental services under the new program vary by plan and include diagnostic, preventive, surgical, emergency and endodontic/restorative treatment. Enrollment in the VA Dental Insurance Plan (VADIP) is voluntary. Participants are responsible for all premiums, which range from \$8.65 to \$52.90 per month for individual plans. Copayments and other charges may apply.

Historically VA's free dental services have gone to Veterans with dental problems connected to a medical condition that's officially certified as "service connected." Free dental services will continue for those Veterans.

For more information on VADIP, visit [http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=001-ujfwzEBRt5iBnu1Jdz\\_M2vRuKna4sBrUqtAAreoadAvAmUq6KWIMjEx7Hmsk110AMTSI2xKIV-Jbgv9MBZLatFlw01YH91hcnDFLu7D-857djd-XvWdF6LmBGHYPI3T03FGNwARAvl=](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=001-ujfwzEBRt5iBnu1Jdz_M2vRuKna4sBrUqtAAreoadAvAmUq6KWIMjEx7Hmsk110AMTSI2xKIV-Jbgv9MBZLatFlw01YH91hcnDFLu7D-857djd-XvWdF6LmBGHYPI3T03FGNwARAvl=), or contact Delta Dental at 1-855-370-3303 or MetLife at 1-888-310-1681.

Veterans who are not enrolled in the VA health care system can apply at any time by visiting [http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=001-ujfwzEBRt76TaG5oU048VvJ9mXXKqKwDgdYU1to-OpAKjPAv\\_d\\_xIF3E1gvvvhK1Hnwq0mHuP1Ppe7foKe7WGL7sNXFJyDA2AMyd5J9\\_mLD9iyyZSCRq5eWTr\\_w6D1BxDD3waGZaViGc=](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=001-ujfwzEBRt76TaG5oU048VvJ9mXXKqKwDgdYU1to-OpAKjPAv_d_xIF3E1gvvvhK1Hnwq0mHuP1Ppe7foKe7WGL7sNXFJyDA2AMyd5J9_mLD9iyyZSCRq5eWTr_w6D1BxDD3waGZaViGc=), calling 1-877-222-VETS (8387) or visiting their local VA health care facility.

Smokey Rickerd  
Executive Director  
AMVETS  
Department of California

## ***PERSONAL AFFAIRS***

### **ID CARD CHANGE**

The Moffett Field ID card office is currently located in the U.S. Army Reserve Center, 230 RT Jones Road, Mt. View, CA 94043-1809. The office can be reached by making the left hand turn from the 4-way stop immediately prior to the Moffett Field main gate. The building is one half mile down the road on the left.

It will be necessary to make an advance appointment for entry to the building and obtaining the new card. To make an appointment, use this number from 0800 to 1530, closed 1200 to 1300 for lunch: **650 526-9891** or on-line click on “Moffett Appointment” at this location <http://siliconvalleymoaa.org/iddecals.html>

### **VETERAN BENEFITS**

For veterans benefits and more connect with *eBenefits* at <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/>

### **Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about TRICARE but were Afraid to Ask**

There are many secure functions available to help you manage your TRICARE benefits, DEERS, etc., while at home or on the go, no matter your military status, active, reservist or retired. Your local MOAA Silicon Valley Chapter heartily recommends first checking into the TRICARE Home- page, <http://www.tricare.mil/>, then clicking on any/all applicable link(s) that may apply to your particular situation.

Each specific link should provide detailed instructions on accessing that desired area of interest.

### **REPORTING DEATHS**

Members can report the death of a retiree locally through the Retiree Activity Office (RAO).

The phone number is 650- 603-8047.

You can also notify a MOAA member’s death to MOAA:

- \* Attn: MSC, 201 N Washington St, Alexandria, VA 22314-2539.
- \* Or call 1-800-234-6622
- \* Or: E-mail: <mailto:msc@moaa.org>.

***PERSONAL AFFAIRS***

**California Vietnam Veterans Memorial Re-dedicated**

Sacramento, CA – Hundreds of people gathered today in Capitol Park to witness the re-dedication of the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Originally dedicated in 1988, the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial has stood as a testament to the 5,823 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice at the request of our Nation.

“I am honored to see so many people here today with us to honor and remember, not only the men and women who lost their lives in Vietnam during that very unpopular war, but also those who came back, became parents, artists, community leaders or most importantly, our neighbors and loved ones,” said Peter J. Gravett, CalVet Secretary.

The ceremony today involved three parts. The first was a motorcycle run with more than 300 riders making their way from Raley Field to the memorial. A beautiful solemn ceremony in honor of Prisoners of War and those still Missing in Action took place following the motorcycle ride. The main ceremony involved some very heartfelt speeches by Sister Linda McClenahan, Chairwoman of the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee; Stan Atkinson, longtime friend of B.T. Collins and supporter of the memorial; Peter J. Gravett, CalVet Secretary; and Col. Rocky Chavez, CA State Assembly.

“We are very grateful for the support demonstrated to Vietnam veterans and this memorial,” said Pete Conaty, Pete Conaty and Associates and committee co-chair. “We thank all our sponsors, the hardworking planning committee, volunteers and all the attendees at this event.”

Two very poignant events during the ceremony included the unveiling of PFC Ralph Henry Johnson’s newly engraved name. PFC Johnson is a Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient. The other touching moment came when several wreaths were laid at the memorial by different veterans’ service organizations. These two occasions brought many of the attendees to tears. The ceremony concluded with a touching rendition of Amazing Grace by the Scottish American Military Society

***PERSONAL AFFAIRS*****Veterans housed together in San Diego County jail**

By Associated Press 11:41 a.m. Nov. 18, 2013

VISTA, Calif. (AP) — A cellblock painted red, white and blue has been reserved for U.S. military veterans at the San Diego County Jail in Vista, as part of a new program initiated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The mission of the Veterans Moving Forward program is to encourage camaraderie and keep veterans from returning to jail by helping them gain job skills, find housing and undergo treatment for mental illness, the U-T San Diego reported for a story Saturday (<http://bit.ly/1aKldP1> ).

"The ultimate goal is transitioning them back to the community," Sheriff Bill Gore said. The 32 inmate veterans who moved into the special housing unit on Nov. 1 had applied for the privilege and agreed to take part in classes that began the following Monday, Vista Jail Capt. Erika Frierson told the newspaper.

Frierson said the jail was chosen as the first in the county to offer the program because of its location near Camp Pendleton Marine Corps base and larger percentage of military inmates.

There are an estimated 250,000 veterans in the county, Gore said. Of the approximately 5,800 inmates in the seven county jails, about 270 are veterans, according to the newspaper. Jail counselors in the veterans dormitory work closely with nonprofit organizations, social service providers and the VA's Veterans Justice Outreach Program to continue services after a prisoner gets released.

Angela Simoneau, a specialist with the outreach program, said it's being used in 23 jails and prisons across the country, including San Francisco and Los Angeles. Some measure of its success is that the veterans keep their cells neater, and get into fewer fights than other inmates, she said.

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Information from: U-T San Diego, <http://www.utsandiego.com>





**Membership Application and Renewal Form**

**Silicon Valley Chapter Military Officers Association of America Mail to:  
SVC-MOAA  
P.O. Box 2  
Moffett Federal Airfield, CA 94035**

**Membership Application and Renewal Form Date** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Enroll Me As:** New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewing Member \_\_\_\_\_ Aux Member \_\_\_\_\_  
**Annual Dues:** \$26.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Auxiliary – Dues are not charged, donations gratefully accepted) Donations to SVC Fund  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donations to Scholarship Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donations to PAWS  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation to USO \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (All Donations are Tax Deductible)  
**Total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Make checks payable to SVC-MOAA and mail to above address.**

**Please complete all applicable blanks**

**Status:** Active \_\_\_ Reserve \_\_\_ Guard \_\_\_ Retired \_\_\_ Former Officer \_\_\_ Widow(er) \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First MI Rank Service

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
Number Street (P.O. Box, etc.) Apt/Suite

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ **Spouse's Name** \_\_\_\_\_  
5 Digit 4 Digit

**Phone**(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**SVC Dues are due 1 January and are separate from National MOAA Dues. SVC Dues support the Bulletin and Administrative functions. Luncheons are self-supporting. Dues are not prorated. Donations can be made to the Silicon Valley Chapter's general fund and/or the various funds listed above.**

**If you are a new chapter member, please advise us how you learned about this chapter.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**For present members we are trying to update and enhance our records; so please provide the month and year you joined the SVC.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Are you a National MOAA Member?** \_\_\_\_\_

**LUNCHEON**

**LOCATION – BILTMORE HOTEL  
2151 LAURELWOOD RD, SANTA CLARA, CA**

**DIRECTIONS:** *Going North on Hwy 101:* Exit at Montague/San Tomas, then Montague; then Right on Laurelwood. *Going South on Hwy 101:* Exit at Montague/San Tomas, then Montague, then Right on Laurelwood.

-----Cut Here-----

**\*\*\*LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM\*\*\*  
Deadline to reach SVC no later than 13 Dec**

If you have not sent in your reservation form by the above date and still wish to attend, please call Jay Craddock, 650-968-0446

**LUNCHEON PRICE - \$26.00 Times: Social Hour 11:00 AM, Luncheon 11:45 AM**

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places for the **19 December Luncheon**  
A TOTAL of \$\_\_\_\_\_ including a donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for (circle one)  
Scholarship, PAWS, USO, or undesignated donation

**Make checks payable to: PROGRAM CHAIR-SVC**

**Mailto: LTCJayCraddock  
1448 Fallen Leaf Lane  
Los Altos, CA 94024-5809**

**RESERVE IN THE NAME OF:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MENU: Buffet - Two hot entrees with vegetables. Assorted breads and rolls. Desserts. Coffee and tea.**

**NAMES OF PERSONS WHO ARE INCLUDED IN YOUR PAYMENT:**

\_\_\_\_\_

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**ATTENTION**

Our chapter is pleased to welcome and offer businesses in the area with a great opportunity to post your advertisements in this eBulletin and the hardcopy bulletin. For just \$100 one gets 365 days of advertising. **Interested?** Just contact Neil Miles at 408-929-1142 or email [njmlem@gmail.com](mailto:njmlem@gmail.com).