

Volume 52, Issue 1
January 2013

Huntsville Chapter
Military Officers Association of America

The Sentinel

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Dr. Bruce T. Robinson, MAJ, USA, Ret



Hi Everyone –

As we start a new year, I wanted to highlight a few of the Chapter's accomplishments in 2013, and what we have to look forward to in 2013:

- The Chapter was awarded the 5-star Level of Excellence streamer for 2012. Less than 20% of the chapters are so recognized.
- Arno Hoerle was recognized at our Christmas party last month as the Chapter Member of the Year for 2012. His name will be engraved on a plaque displayed in the Summit Club. A good time was had by all those who attended.
- Future Army leaders were recognized at two Gold Bar ceremonies.
- Our membership meetings were graced with some top-notch guest speakers: VADM Norb Ryan, Mo Brooks and Casey Wardynski.
- The Chapter held its first annual golf tournament and fully funded the scholarship program for 2013.
- We have a new Membership Chair – LTC Glen Williams – who will help execute National MOAA's new Chapter Recruiting Program that will be launched on 1 January 2013. This new program focuses on Chapter membership and will help us grow the Chapter.

There are many ways you all can help contribute to the continued success of the Chapter. Volunteer to help with one of our many committees – the Chairs can always use additional help and fresh ideas. If interested, give me a call.

Hoping that you all have a happy and prosperous New Year.

- Bruce

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Get Involved!

REMINDERS

Monthly Membership Meeting: Next meeting Wednesday 30 January 2013, 1100 hours at the Summit Club. Guest speaker is Dr. Harry Hobbs from the Huntsville Police Department

Auxiliary, WOW Support Group & MOAA Widow's Luncheon are scheduled. See articles inside for dates & times.

Breakfast: Next breakfast is Saturday, 26 January 2013, 0900 hours at the Steak and Shake – Madison Square Mall.

Governing Board: Next meeting Thursday 10 January 2013, 1100 hours at the Summit Club.



Legislative Corner

Lt Col Gerald W. (Jerry) Haynes, USAF-Ret



While we wait to see whether this economy goes over the “financial cliff” which seems to have many definitions to many people, as well as, many possible impacts, depending on your viewpoint, there actually is some good news related to the FY2013 Defense Authorization Act.

Though yet to be passed by the two houses, the Senate and House “negotiators” have completed their work and according to information obtained by MOAA, the “deal is done” and the formality passage seems to be imminent. Here are some of the main points of interest to this audience:

First, TRICARE pharmacy copays: The bill includes the MOAA-supported alternative to the dramatic Department of Defense (DoD)-proposed copay hikes:

- **Brand-name retail meds:** Instead of raising the current \$12 copay to \$26 and then to \$34 over the next four years, the defense bill caps it at \$17 for 2013, and limits future annual increases to the percentage increase in military retired pay. For example, if the retiree COLA for 2014 is 3%, that would translate to a 51-cent copay increase. But the new law bars any copay hike until the accumulated COLA-based increase is at least \$1, so (assuming the COLA for 2015 is also 3%), the copay would stay at \$17 for 2014 and rise to \$18 in 2015.
- **Non-formulary retail meds:** DoD proposed to eliminate these medications (currently available for \$25 copay) through retail pharmacy. The new law still keeps them available through retail for \$44 copay. Expensive, but better than not having them available at all.
- **Generic retail meds:** DoD proposed raising the current \$5 copay by \$1 a year, starting in 2014. The new law keeps it at \$5 for 2013, and applies the COLA cap for future annual adjustments. Barring large increases in future retired pay COLAs, it will likely be several years before we see an increase to \$6.
- **Mail-order generic copays:** Instead of the DoD proposal to reinstate a \$9 copay for generics in 2017, the new law retains the current zero copay.
- **Mail-order brand-name copays:** Instead of the DoD plan to raise the current \$9 copay to \$26 for 2013 and to \$34 over the next four years, the new law caps the 2013 copay at \$13, and applies the COLA cap for future years (at 3% per year, it would stay at \$13 for 2014 and 2015, then rise to \$14 for 2016).
- **Mail-order non-formulary copays:** Instead of the DoD plan to raise the current \$25 copay to \$51 for 2013 and to \$66 over the next four years, the new law caps the 2013 copay at \$44 and applies the COLA cap for future years (meaning an additional \$1 increase for 2014 if there’s a 3% COLA).

(Continued on page 12)

2011-2012 GOVERNING BOARD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson USA-Ret, 256-450-2252, brobinso@mitre.org

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Navy Representative: LCDR Harold F. Swanson, USN-Ret, 256-527-6217, halaurel@att.net

Air Force Representative: Col Edward L. Uher, USAF-Ret, 256-882-6824, biged992K@aol.com

Immediate Past President: COL Harold J. Hicks, USA-Ret, 256-233-3548, halnpat@aol.com

Second Past President: Maj Glenn S. Crawley, USAF-Ret, 256-883-2323, glenncrawley@comcast.net

STANDING COMMITTEES

Membership: LTC Glen Williams, USA-Ret, 256-585-3406, eaglepacific@msn.com

Programs: Vacant

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Chapter Auxiliary & Hospitality: Mrs. Carrie Hightower, 256-882-3992

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Commissary & Post Exchange: CW4 William W. Wright, AUS-Ret, 256-883-4456, www33@knology.net

FAHCLiaison: Col Edward L. Uher, USAF-Ret, 256-882-6824, biged992K@aol.com

Golf: LTC Glen Williams, USA-Ret, 256-585-3406, eaglepacific@msn.com

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THE SENTINEL Editor: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-450-2252, brobinso@mitre.org

Life Membership Trust

MAJ Robert C. Szeremi, USA-Ret, 256-883-5127, szeremi@comcast.net (June 2014)

CAPT William L. Howard, USN-Ret, 256-881-3168, whoward@juno.com (March 2013)

CW3 William C. Billingsley, USA-Ret, 881-0513, bill.billingsley@sparta.com (March 2013)



X / Commissary
CW4 William W. Wright, AUS-Ret



EXCHANGE (Formerly the PX)

Just before Christmas Cathy Foote, the Food Court Service Manager, retired with a ceremony. The food service is evolving but there are no set goals. Drop in and look for changes. While I was in the store, the Gun Counter sales were out of control. The manager of that section begged for some relief and there was none. She said the sales are going “crazy”.

The hospital restaurant (or snack bar) in the main entrance from the back parking lot has more than drinks, chips, and sandwiches. The manager, Doris Hamley, has something new almost every day. She had her own restaurant in Germany so her German foods are authentic, but so are her Italian foods such as Mediterranean Meat Loaf. She designs lots of “wraps.” She recommended their Coffee Mocha and their Chai Latte.

January 4–10 is a BE FIT FOR THE NEW YEAR SALE. January 11-17 is the Annual White Sale. January 18–24 is DOLLAR DAYS. Check the Military Sales area. I got some great leather gloves I use with my Rototiller, shovel, clippers, and saw. They are quality leather and save my hands for the TV Remote.

COMMISSARY

Mia Culpa!! I said there would be fruit baskets for Christmas. There were not. I am sorry. I had promised about three baskets for myself. The cellophane and “filler” never arrived.

The Special Olympics will be celebrated in the store with displays from Proctor and Gamble and possibly others. The Super Bowl will be recognized and celebrated with displays by Coca Cola, Pepsi, and Frito Lay. In the past they have had drawing. I would expect to see some of the same thing this season.. There is also a football game involving Alabama and some Church School up North. Good time for barbeque, munchies, and Hot Chocolate or your favorite beverage.

Next month is Valentine’s Day. Some things such as the really nice boxes of candy disappear fast. Plan ahead. 🍬

HCMOAA is reporting time spent on volunteer activities to Redstone Arsenal. Please keep track of your volunteer hours throughout the month and report them to Ray Weinberg at 256-885-0089 or ray.kw@juno.com.

Need Addresses

- LTC George Leach**
- LTC Richard Carzoli**
- BG Wendell Childs**
- LTC John Lary**
- CW4 William Little**

We have lost track of the above members. If you know their whereabouts, please have them contact Chris Downing at 256-828-9740 to update their addresses.

Concerns

This month the following people were reported as being ill or recuperating and need our support and prayers:

None this month

Persons to contact are:

Army Representative:

LTC Arno Hoerle
256-837-6253

arhoerle@mediacombb.net

Navy/USMC Representative:

LCDR Harold F. Swanson
256-527-6217

halaurel@att.net

Air Force Representative:

Col Edward L. Uher
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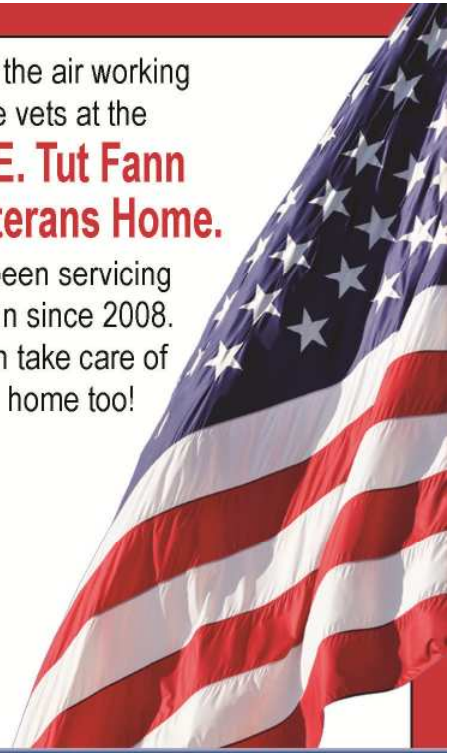


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Carrie's Notes

Mrs. Carrie Hightower, 256-882-3992

MOAA Auxiliary

Our meeting in November was cancelled due to conflicting commitments around the Thanksgiving Holiday. Please join us for cards and lunch on January 18th, same time and place. Happy Holidays to all.

WOW Support Group

Our lunch in December was attended by twelve members at Victoria's Cafe. Everyone agreed that the location was a great choice. Our next luncheon on Thursday January 17th will be at the Tai Pan Palace Restaurant, 2012 Memorial Parkway, at 11:00 AM. Reservations are a must. Happy New Year!



Fox Army Health Center

Col Edward L. Uher, USAF-Ret



2013 Outlook for Fox Army Health Center

At the heart of Fox Army Health Center's goals and mission for 2013 is the very reason for the facility's existence – the patient.

Beginning this year, FAHC transitions to Patient Centered Medical Home, a MEDCOM directive, which puts the patient exactly where they should be when it comes to their healthcare, at the center of attention. Each beneficiary will be assigned to a team – red or white for primary care, blue for active duty and special populations – that includes three primary care doctors, a pediatrician and an internal medicine physician who will handle all of their care, with the help of a support team of nurses and other healthcare professionals. With the change comes enhanced staffing and an improved ratio of support staff for providers. The first of the three teams will roll out the first part of February.

“I think that will help enhance appointment availability and continue to refine the team concept of care for the patient, and the patient feeling that the care is centered around him or her,” said FAHC commander Col. Elizabeth Johnson. “Principles of Patient Centered Medical Home were utilized in the past – the patient was the center of care. It's interesting, that old is new again in a sense.”

The transition to PCMH is just one initiative sure to keep up the momentum from a productive 2012, where highlights at FAHC included a successful Joint Commission visit and the completion of planned renovations, including the front entrance and pharmacy area. Johnson anticipates 2013 to be just as good, if not better, as the facility strives to serve the patient day in and day out.

“In fiscal year 2012, we had 99,000 outpatient visits to Fox,” Johnson said. “We do a lot of healthcare business here and we see a lot of beneficiaries. As we enhance our access to care with patient centered medical home, I expect it to increase in 2013, as that facilitates some efficiencies and effectiveness in health care, as well as keeping it personalized.”

Continued on page 8



Chaplain's Corner
CH (LTC) Bert Wiggers, AUS-Ret

The Massacre of the Innocents

When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

“A voice is heard in Ramahⁱ,
 weeping and great mourning,
 Rachel weeping for her children
 and refusing to be comforted,
 because they are no more.” Matthew 2:16-18 (ESV)

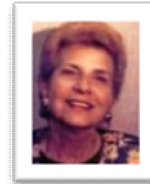
An entire village of baby boys was massacred due to the insane rage of a jealous king. This tragic account reminds us that growing numbers of children today die needlessly from the sins of adults. Furthermore, untold thousands are abused by brute force and have their innocence violated.

The weeping and wailing in Bethlehem must have gone on for days. It could not be silenced nor comforted quickly. As some would say, “Get over it...” No, the grief of the loss of a child of any age for a parent is the most difficult grief. No one gets over their grief. One must go “... through the valley of the shadow of death...”

Jesus can offer specific comfort to those who grieve the loss of a child. Actually, the babies of Bethlehem died for Him. He must have carried the pain of that throughout His life and onto the Cross. He had a special concern for children (Matthew 18:6-7). His activity toward them summons us to find ways to serve and protect children today. Will we serve and protect? Or will we continue to philosophize, filibuster, demand our “rights,” and forget?

Matthew’s retelling of this massacre is a very significant part of the Christmas story. In a powerful way, it reminds children today that they need not die nor suffer in vain; Jesus lived and died for them, too.

ⁱThe descendants of Benjamin, Rachel’s son, died or were taken into captivity when the city of Ramah was defeated by Babylon.



MOAA Widow's Luncheon
Liz Townsend
256-721-9762

11 January 2013

The MOAA widow’s luncheon will be held on Friday, 11 January 2013, at Redstone Village, 12000 Turnmeyer Drive, Huntsville, AL. I will be our hostess. We will meet at 11:00 AM.

Please call the telephone committee: Fran Tyra, 256-881-6938 for reservations.

MEMORIALS

In memory of: **LTC Robert F. Sullivan**

‘My Company Commander
 Co C, 708th Maintenance Battalion’

By: COL Hal Hicks

In memory of: **LTC Robert F. Sullivan**
MG Oliver D. Street III

By: CW4 Aniceto Bagley

If you would like to send a memorial contribution to the Huntsville Chapter MOAA, please send the following information along with your check to: Memorials, HCMOAA, P.O. Box 1301, Huntsville, AL 35807

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO HUNTSVILLE CHAPTER MOAA

CDR Richard Berg, USN
CPT Herb Hayes, USA
COL William Holbrook, USA
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Barbara Q., USAA member



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Fox – continued from page 5

While Redstone Arsenal mourned the loss of the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School Soldier population as they relocated to Ft. Lee, Va. with BRAC last year, the absence has inadvertently improved access to care at FAHC.


“One of the things that did impact our ability to provide care for the beneficiaries was the departure of OMEMS to Ft. Lee,” Johnson said. “That has enhanced some opportunities to have more physical therapy appointments available for all of our beneficiaries as well as increased behavioral health and TBI (traumatic brain injury) services. Those are good things for 2013. Already a high scorer in overall beneficiary satisfaction, Johnson hopes to see those numbers go even higher this year, as patients continue to provide feedback to the commander and her staff on ways they can better serve them.

“We keep working at improving patient satisfaction, and we continue to do very well with overall patient satisfaction,” Johnson said. “There’s always room to grow and we’re continuing to look at ways to improve patient satisfaction. We’re always open to suggestions and to comments. I’m very grateful for the beneficiaries that let us know when something isn’t quite right. They feel very free to communicate with us and I hope that continues through 2013.”

As the defense budget continues to take center stage in the media, Johnson noted the challenges that lie ahead this year when it comes to the dollars and cents of healthcare, but reassured patients that their access and level of care will remain the same, if not improve, in 2013.

“I think we all have to be attune to the budgetary climate and what we need to do to make sure that we’re continuing to be good stewards of the resources that we’re given,” Johnson said. “Of course those precious resources are people as well as the money, and being able to take good care of those resources – there are challenges with the budget and resources available and effectively managing resources will continue to be a priority. But I believe we are on a good foot here at Fox with the personnel resources that we’ve been able to acquire as well as being able to take advantage of funding for different projects. I believe we’re on a good foothold for 2013.”

In addition to the roll out of patient centered medical home, FAHC will also undergo several energy savings initiatives throughout the year to help with cost effectiveness and energy savings, including the replacement of windows, improvements to lighting, and the renovation of the HVAC system. FAHC also plans to enhance their social media initiatives to help beneficiaries meet their healthcare needs online. Ongoing collaboration with all of Team Redstone will continue throughout 2013 to keep the Arsenal population safe and healthy.

“We do have a huge civilian workforce at Redstone and we are increasing our occupational health and industrial hygiene staff to help meet the needs of the civilian workforce and their healthcare requirements,” Johnson said. 

30 January Membership Meeting

Guest Speaker

**Dr. Harry L. Hobbs - Communications Relations Officer
Huntsville Police Department**

Dr. Hobbs retired from the US Army as a CW5 after 29 years of service. His awards included the Legion of Merit and Bronze Star. Dr. Hobbs joined the HPD in 2010. He is currently responsible for primary external communications with the media and community, marketing the mission, vision and core values of the HPD to the community and administering crime awareness campaigns



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Huntsville Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
P.O. Box 1301
Huntsville, AL 35807-0301

Membership Application or Renewal Confirmation

Yes! I'd like to add my voice to the Huntsville Chapter.

| | | | | | |
|------------------|--|----------------|---------------------------------|-------|---|
| | New | Renewal | | | Interested in a chapter Life Membership? |
| | One year \$10.00 | | | | Contact us for pricing (based on your age) |
| | 2 years \$20.00 | | | | |
| | 3 years \$30.00 | | | | |
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| Telephone Number | | | Email address | | |

Attention Annual Members

A friendly reminder that memberships renew at the end of the calendar year. Make sure you fill out the above form and mail it in with your check for \$10.

What does this fee buy you?

- Twelve copies of our informative newsletter, *The Sentinel*
- Ten membership meetings to socialize with friends and hear informative speakers
- A summer and a Christmas party
- Opportunities to support worthwhile veterans- related causes

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26 Birthdays in December Happy Birthday!



BG William Fiorentino, USA
Mrs Rosemary Bundy
COL Wood DeLeuil, USA
COL Gordon Dison, USA
COL Jimmy Hill, USA
LTC Paul Keil, USA
LTC Jerry Fisher, USA
LTC Lud Newton, USA
Mrs Nada Gabardi
COL Thomas Kunhart, USA
MAJ Paul Freeman, USA
CW4 Lavon Messervy, USA
CAPT David Newberry, USN

COL Sarah Green, USA
COL Gilbert Stieglitz, USA
CPT Adrian Dull, USA
CDR Richard Taylor, USN
Mrs Patricia Daily
COL Edward Johnson, USA
COL Kenneth Chesak, USA
MAJ Paul Trainor, USA
COL Robert Brown, USA
CWO Harry Wallace, USA
COL Jack Amos, USA
COL Carl Owens Sr, USA
COL Gary Bliss, USA

Scholarships

The Chapter has instituted an active scholarship program. In conjunction with the Redstone Women's Club, we will issue one scholarship each year to a deserving student.

Please consider making a donation to our program. Contact Norb Patla for details.



TAPS

**MG Oliver D Street III, USA
COL Ivan R Prince, USA
LTC Robert F Sullivan, USA
COL Charles R Covell, USA
(Father of chapter member
CW5 Alex Covell)**

Our deepest sympathy to the families of our departed friends

Treasurer's Report CDR Robert P. Rolf, USN-Ret

| | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Beginning Balance | \$7514.12 |
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Convert to the e-mail-only version of this newsletter and increase the funds we allocate for charities. New members automatically receive the e-mail version unless a print copy is requested. To convert to the e-mail version please contact: brobinso@mitre.org

Web Page: huntsvillemoaa.org

(Legislative – continued from page 2)

- Mail-order/military pharmacy refills: To make up the lost revenue from capping copays at lower rates, the new law requires TRICARE-for-Life eligible beneficiaries to try using either military pharmacies or the mail-order system for refills of maintenance medications for at least one year. After a year, they can opt out and go back to using the retail system for all refills if they choose. This new requirement likely will take effect sometime in March 2013. The law establishes requirements to ensure no one is turned away at retail pharmacies without enough medication to last until a mail-order account is established for them. It also gives DoD authority to waive the requirement for selected medications (e.g., many generics likely will be exempted, because they cost no more in retail pharmacies) or beneficiaries (e.g., nursing home patients).

Second, Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission: This law addresses MOAA’s strong objections the Administration’s proposal. To protect against packing the panel with Administration “yes-people”, it allows the president to appoint one commissioner, with two each to be appointed by the Republican and Democratic leaders of the House and Senate, in consultation with Armed Services Committee leaders. And probably most important, the final law also drops any requirement for a congressional vote, let alone under BRAC-style rules. This is in stark contrast to the original position of the Administration (and approved by the Senate) that the members of this commission would have all been appointed by the Administration, and its recommendations would have to be considered by Congress under expedited, BRAC-type rules that would have barred any amendments and required a “yes or no” Congressional vote, with only limited time for review and debate. (Does this sound familiar? Remember the antics surrounding the passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act?)

And finally, the Military pay raise: All currently serving troops will see a 1.7% raise, the same percentage as I reported earlier for both military retirements and Social Security payments.

And remember in 2013, let your legislators hear from you personally and directly. It does make a difference!!