



Soundings, October 2014

President's Message

Greetings ALL Silver Strand Chapter MOAA Members!!!

Our last joint SS MOAA hosted August 18th dinner meeting at the Coronado Yacht Club with the Commanding Officer of Naval Base San Diego, CAPT Curt Jones, USN as our Guest of Honor/Speaker was a GREAT event – MAXIMUM THANKS to all who attended!!!

Information on our upcoming CCNL hosted joint dinner meeting on October 14th appears on pages 2 & 3 of this newsletter, with a reservation (RSVP) form that can be printed out and sent in with a check to make a reservation for the meeting. Please note that this dinner meeting will be held on a Tuesday evening at the Coronado Yacht Club. Our Guest of Honor/Speaker will be Ms. Erika Putnam, Director of Education and Outreach for the National Marine Mammal Foundation – this should be another VERY interesting pres-

entation!!! RSVPs are due NLT Friday, October 10th - PLEASE come out and join us for dinner and a GREAT time!!!

We also had our second “less formal” chapter event – our Summer Social - in conjunction with the Concert in the Park on August 24th - THANKS VERY MUCH to all who attended!!! We had a great turnout on another absolutely perfect Coronado evening, with plenty of great eats and drinks, and all attendees seemed to have a great time – we’ll do it again once or twice next summer!!!

We will have a SS MOAA entry in the San Diego Veterans Day Parade on November 11th, and will be looking for any members who would like to participate in our entry on that day – please let us know if you’re interested!

We have now begun in earnest (actually in desperation) our search for those members who might be inclined/willing to

serve as a chapter officer or on our Board of Directors next year. We have formed a nominating committee, chaired by our Immediate Past President CAPT Kathy Bruyere, USN (Ret.), to identify those who would be willing to give a little time to the betterment of our chapter. It is both a fun and rewarding experience! The list of officer and board positions and those currently filling them appears near the end of this newsletter. PLEASE let Kathy or me (or any board member) know if you’d be interested in/willing to serve the chapter in any way – THANKS VERY MUCH!!!

We are also entering our dues renewal period for those members whose chapter dues will expire at the end of 2014. Since we began our multiple-year membership options a few years ago, not every member’s dues expire on the same year, and since we are e-mailing (vice snail mailing) our

newsletters now, we realize members may not know or remember just when their chapter dues expire. Therefore, at the end of this newsletter is a list of members with the date your dues are paid through to the right of your name. If a “14” appears by your name, your chapter dues are paid through the 2014 year, and would need to be renewed for the 2015 (or beyond) year. We still have three dues options: \$10/year, \$40/5 years, \$50 paid through 2020 (one half these amounts for Auxiliaries). We hope you will ALL decide to continue membership with chapter the long into the future!!!

MAXIMUM THANKS ALL - hope to see you all on October 14th!!!

V/R,

Tom

Auxiliary Liaison News

Please remember to check the VA website to see if any health conditions are listed as service connected (www.va.gov) - look under Health Benefits, then Military Exposures. Also, an education bill passed giving the spouses of post 9/11 active duty deaths the Fry Scholarship effective Jan, 2015. It is

good for 15 years from the date of death. Previously only the surviving children would receive this benefit.

Special points of interest:

RSVPs for the October meeting are due NLT NOON, Friday October 10th.

Membership Dues Status located at page 5.

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Guest Speaker



Erika Putnam

Director of Education and Outreach for the National Marine Mammal Foundation

The National Marine Mammal Foundation has a mission to improve marine mammal and human health through research to inspire creative thinking and a commitment to ocean conservation in future generations. Its vision is to enrich life for marine mammals and humans through scientific innovation, education, and national and humanitarian service. The Foundation supports undergraduate education

programs for Animal Care and Training Interns, Veterinary Externs, Naval Academy Midshipmen and the Sea Cadets.

Putnam joined the Foundation at its founding in 2007. Prior to that, she was Coordinator of Volunteer Opportunities at the Navy’s Marine Mammal Program. She obtained her degree in Psychology from the University of Arizona. After completing dolphin cognition research internships with the University of Hawaii and The Living Seas at Walt Disney World, she accepted a position working with the research

program at Disney. She then spent eight years with Disney, working on projects involving artificial language, problem solving, echolocation and tool use with bottlenose dolphins. She also ran a research internship for college students during her time there.

Apart from running the internship programs, Erika is working on expanding the education and outreach opportunities for the Foundation to create world-class educational opportunities for both students and members of the public.

National Military News

DoD policy will allow some immigrants in U.S. illegally to serve

Sep. 25, 2014

A small number of immigrants living in the U.S. illegally will have an opportunity to join the military for the first time in decades under a new Defense Department policy unveiled Thursday. The new rules will expand an existing program allowing recruiters to target foreign nationals with high-demand skills, mostly rare foreign language expertise or specialized health care training. For the first time, the program — known as Military Accessions Vital to National Interest, or MAVNI — will be open to immigrants without a proper visa if they came to the U.S. with their parents before age 16. More specifically, they must be approved under a 2012 Obama administration policy known as Deferred Action for Child Arrivals, or DACA. The new DoD policy may be the first phase of a broader government-wide effort to ease pressure on immigrants and create new paths to citizenship. President Obama, frustrated with the failure of Congress to pass any substantial immigration reform, has

vowed to aggressively use his presidential authority to change the way immigration policies are carried out.

Army Chief Issues Dire Warning

September 26, 2014

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno issued a grave warning about the continued threat of sequestration and its impact on national security. “It will be very difficult for us to lead around the world. Fiscal year 2016 is a breaking point.” “I’m not seeing peace breaking out all around the world in [2016].” The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 provided some relief from sequestration in FY 2014 and 2015, but unless Congress acts on a broader debt reduction plan, sequestration will return from FY 2016 through 2021. The ramifications of these cuts would be severe. The meat-axe sequestration cuts would eliminate about \$9 billion from Army funding in 2016. Gen. Odierno says those cuts would have a “significant degradation” on the force. Sequestration is forcing Army

leadership to not only make tough choices, but to move forward with draw-downs in more aggressive ways — like notifying soldiers in combat zones that they are being forced out.

If sequestration were to continue, the Army could be reduced to 420,000 soldiers by FY 2019. In testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee in April, Gen. Odierno said that a force level of 450,000 soldiers would “pose a significant security risk;” at a force level of 420,000, the Army would “not be able to execute the defense strategy.” MOAA strongly feels that if the services have to continue to draw-down they use the tools Congress has already provided to draw-down with dignity.

New US Marine Corps Crisis Unit to Be Based in Kuwait

QUANTICO, VA. — The US Marine Corps is preparing to deploy about 2,100 grunts to be based out of Kuwait in a new unit configuration designed to respond to crises in the region, according to Corps officials. Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force (SPMAGTF) Central Command will be

equipped to perform noncombat evacuation, humanitarian assistance, infrastructure support, tactical aircraft recovery, fixed-site security and theater sustainment missions, said Brig. Gen. John Love, assistant deputy commandant for plans, policies and operations. Plans to deploy the unit predate the conflict in Iraq and Syria with the Islamic State. Love, who spoke Sept. 25 at the Modern Day Marine expo, made no reference to the militant Islamic group or where the unit would be deployed, and a Marine Corps spokesman would say only that the Marines would be based in multiple locations. Speaking at the Pentagon on Sept. 25, Col. Kenneth DeTreu, commanding officer of 8th Marine Regiment and the commander of SPMAGTF-Crisis Response, said the new unit’s headquarters will be based out of Kuwait.

Current House Of Representatives Veteran Legislation

Bill	Discussion	Status
American Heroes COLA Act (H.R. 570)	H.R. 570 would increase disability compensation, clothing allowance, and survivor benefits equal to this year's Social Security COLA – a 1.5 percent increase.	House Passed 5/21/2013; Similar bill, S. 893, became Public Law 113-52
Ruth Moore Act of 2013 (H.R. 671, as amended)	H.R. 671 would reform the evidentiary standards for survivors of military sexual trauma (MST) who file claims for mental health conditions with the Department of Veterans Affairs.	Pending in Senate (House Passed 6/4/2013)
Secretary of Veterans Affairs to include a notice of disagreement form (H.R. 1405, as amended)	H.R. 1405 would require the VA secretary to include an appeals form along with any benefits-denial notification, institute key reforms to VA's fiduciary program and provide honorary veterans status to members of the National Guard and Reserves.	Pending in Senate (House Passed 10/28/2013)
Veterans Economic Opportunity Act of 2013 (H.R. 2481, as amended)	H.R. 2481 would establish an Economic Opportunity Administration within VA, enabling the department to better focus on veterans' transition to civilian life.	Pending in Senate (House Passed 10/28/2013)
Veterans' Advisory Committee on Education Improvement Act of 2013 (H.R. 2011)	H.R. 2011 would extend the term of a special veteran students advisory committee for two years.	Pending in Senate (House Passed 10/28/2013)
Disability claims by the Department of Veterans Affairs (H.R. 2189, as amended)	H.R. 2189 would establish a commission or task force charged with examining the root causes of the Department of Veterans Affairs disability claims backlog and providing solutions for ending it by 2015.	Pending in Senate (House Passed 10/28/2013)
Department of Veterans Affairs Major Medical Facility Lease Authorization Act of 2013 (H.R. 3521, as amended)	H.R. 3521 would authorize 27 Department of Veterans Affairs major medical facility leases requested by VA in its fiscal year 2013 and 2014 budget submissions.	Pending in Senate (House Passed 12/10/2013)
GI Bill Tuition Fairness Act of 2014 (H.R. 357, as amended)	H.R. 357 would enable G.I. Bill recipients to receive in-state tuition rates at any public college or university in the country, not just those in a veteran's state of residence. The bill also contains a number of other provisions designed to enhance veterans benefits and bring more accountability and efficiency to the Department of Veterans Affairs.	Pending in Senate (House Passed 2/3/2014)
Veteran Access to Care Act of 2014 (H.R. 4810, as amended)	H.R. 4810 The Veterans Access to Care Act would require VA to offer non-VA care at the department's expense to any enrolled veteran who cannot get an appointment within VA wait time goals or who lives more than 40 miles from a VA medical facility.	Pending in Senate (House Passed 6/10/2014)

Dinner Meeting Reservation/ Donation/Dues Form

Where: Coronado Yacht Club,
1631 Strand Way

When: October 14, 2014
1800: Social Time
1845: Dinner – **BUFFET @ \$30.00**
1930: Program

Gourmet Buffet

Pan Seared Fresh Catch and Creole Roasted Pork,
Garden Salad, Black Beans, Corn, Rice, Veggies,
Dessert, Coffee and Tea

Make checks payable and mail to:

Silver Strand Chapter MOAA
P.O. Box 180043
Coronado, CA 92178-0043

Name _____

Phone _____

Number attending dinner _____ x \$30 = _____

Donations to:

NJROTC (Coronado and Mar Vista High Schools) \$ _____

Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Coronado Battalion \$ _____

MOAA Scholarship Fund \$ _____

Dues:

\$10/year for Regular members, \$40 for 5 years \$ _____

\$5/year for Auxiliary members, \$20 for 5 years \$ _____

\$50 for "Renewal 2020" (dues paid through 2020) \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Check here if you need an official Silver Strand Chapter MOAA name tag: _____

If you are unable to RSVP by Friday, 10 October and would still like to attend the dinner meeting, please call Tom Bauer at (619) 313-2228 (days) or (619) 437-6689 (evenings), or e-mail bauertg@yahoo.com.

**Reservations must reach
our PO Box by NOON,
FRIDAY, 10 October
(Firm)**

(\$25.00 for Auxiliaries)

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Silver Strand Chapter Member Dues Status

Allega	15	Golden	14	McClure	16	Smisek	18
Andreasen	17	Gott	14	McCue	17	Spittler	14
Ball	14	Grimaud	14	McGrath	20	Stames	14
Bauer	20	Grimm	18	McGuire	18	Strickland	14
Bean	20	Hales	19	McKamey	13	Sund	17
Beatty	14	Harvey	21	Meyer	20	Sweeney	20
Behm	15	Hascup	20	Mitchell	LIFE	Teachout	15
Bell	17	Hatfield	14	Moeller	14	Townsend	14
Bennitt	14	Hayward	LIFE	Monroe	14	Turpit	15
Bernitt	28	Heinze	20	Moody	16	Tyler	14
Bianchini	15	Hernandez	20	Morris, R.	15	Van Rooy	14
Bixler	14	Herrmann	16	Morton	15	Vaughan	15
Blakely	14	Hinesley	14	Mummert	14	Wack	17
Bonelli	14	Hoffmann, D. & P.	20	Newcomb	17	Walsh	18
Bowen	14	Hoffmann, W.	20	Newport	20	Wamsley	14
Breay	14	Hostler	14	Newton	17	Ward	18
Bruyere	20	Howe	15	Nordgren	20	Wastila	20
Buckovetz	20	Humes	14	Nyquist	14	Watson	14
Busbee	15	Huskey	20	O'Brien	17	Weisbrod	15
Butcher	20	Ireland	16	O'Keefe	15	Wells	14
Clausen	17	Jackson	14	O'Leary	18	Woiwode	14
Cooper	14	Jennings	16	Orosz	14	Wood, David	16
Corriere	18	Johnson	25	Owen	15	Wood, Dennis	14
Cotton	14	Kachigian	19	Parker	17	Woods	19
Couture	16	Keeney	17	Penner	16	Worley	17
Crawford	14	Kemp	15	Peterson	20	Wright	18
Cronin	18	Keoleian	18	Pontes	15	Yorck	15
Crow	18	Knop	14	Potts	15	Zaludek	16
Deweese	17	Krejmas	14	Powell	18	Zortman	14
Donahue	19	Lafleur	15	Pray	14		
Downey, C.	18	Laird	LIFE	Prout	17		
Downey, J.	20	Lamberth	20	Quartly	14		
Duermeyer	15	Lanman	20	Rahill	LIFE		
English	18	Lee	17	Redding	15		
Erly	15	Lover	20	Rogers	14		
Fagan	20	Mallires	18	Ryan	17		
Farrell	20	Malone	15	Rud	14		
Finley	20	Martell	18	Sadlier	20		
Flynn	16	Martin	25	Sangalis	16		
Foley	LIFE	Mather	20	Schranz	15		
Foster	16	Mayhue	16	Shaw	16		
France	14	McCarthy	18	Sheridan	17		
Giorgione	17	McClung	20	Simmons	15		

Have you renewed
your membership?