

# SOUNDINGS

Silver Strand Chapter of Military Officers Association of America

August 2010

## Presidents Message MajGen Bob Butcher, USMC (Ret)

Captain Edward Cedrun presented a wonderfully informative account of Captain Phillips (MV Mearsk) rescue from Somali pirates at our June Meeting. We thank the Coronado Council of the US Navy League for hosing this meeting.

Your chapter is hosting the August 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. Our speaker will be Captain Yancy Lindsey, the Commanding Officer of Navy Base Coronado. Here is your chance to learn what is highest on Captain Lindsey's agenda as he leads "our" Navy Bases in these tough times. There will be plenty of time after his presentation to ask the questions that are on your mind. (For example: Why does the commissary shuffle the stock on the shelves every time that I get familiar with where things are?)

Those of you who haven't paid your 2010 dues will be hearing from me soon. I urge you to renew, and while you are at it, consider renewing for five years for \$40.00. We need your membership and support now, more than ever! There are only 119 members of Congress (94 in the House and 25 in the Senate) who have served in the military and there will be incredible pressure on Congress to cut

*Continued on page 4*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2** Legislative Update
- 3** Memorial Day, Keep the Spirit of '45 Alive!
- 4** President's Msg (cont), June Dinner, Taps, New Members
- 5** Paws for Patriots, Chapter Board Positions, WWII 65<sup>th</sup> Aniv
- 6** Cal-MOAA Joint Luncheon Sep 18
- 7** August 16 Dinner Reservation Form



**Captain Yancy B. Lindsey, Commanding Officer, Naval Base Coronado** will speak at the joint dinner meeting on August 16. CAPT Lindsey was commissioned through Aviation Officer Candidate School in October 1986 and was designated a Naval Aviator in December 1987. His initial sea duty assignment was flying LC-130 aircraft in Antarctic Development Squadron Six (VXE-6) where he served as a Polar Transport Aircraft Commander, Communications Officer and Aircraft Division Officer while completing three five-month deployments to Antarctica. He twice served in VAW-113, the second time as Administrative and Maintenance Officer while completing an Arabian Gulf deployment onboard USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN-72) in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH. Captain Lindsey assumed command of the VAW-117 Wallbangers in 2005, earning the Battle Efficiency Award and completing an Arabian Gulf deployment onboard USS NIMITZ (CVN-68) in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.

**See Page 7 for more information on Chapter dinner Monday, 16 August**

# Legislative Update

**Board Says Military Retirement "Unaffordable"** On July 22, the Defense Business Board task force recommended that the Secretary of Defense reduce the DoD civilian workforce by more than 111,000, and laid the groundwork for potential future recommendations to cut spending on military retirement, health care, family support, and other programs.

Additionally, the task force recommended drastic reductions in combatant command staffing, hiring freezes, and elimination of organizational duplication. These preliminary recommendations will be followed in October by additional cost-cutting proposals.

For the last year, the Defense Business Board has predicted major problems for the Defense budget as the nation deals with deficit reduction efforts, the economic slowdown, escalating health care and personnel costs, and the potential exit from two wars.

Board members believe that avoiding a looming fiscal crisis will require cutting the Defense budget beyond Secretary Gates' recently announced target of a \$100-billion reduction in "overhead" spending.

The **Board's "Initial Observations"** briefing devoted an entire section to costs for military compensation, retirement, health care, veterans affairs, concurrent receipt, commissaries, dependent education, and military family housing. It particularly highlighted costs associated with TRICARE For Life.

A page titled "The 'Military Retirement' sacred cow is increasingly unaffordable" cites increases in the number of military retirees since 1980 (as if this weren't the direct result of decisions by every administration and Congress since the 1950s to induce a large standing career force to protect America and the world) and criticizes the 20-year retirement system (as if the military could have sustained the force over the last 10 years of repeated wartime deployments without it).

Another cites personnel cost growth since 1998 - conveniently overlooking that 1998 was the nadir of two decades of erosion of military pay, retirement, health

care, and other benefits and that the resulting retention problems of that era were what sparked Congress to embark on an extended program to fix them.

Unfortunately, the Defense Business Board report is only one of the early shots in what likely will be years of budget battles to reconcile military and other needs with truly daunting deficit projections.

**War Funding Clears Hill** The House approved the Senate's \$58.8 billion version of the FY2010 war supplemental (H.R. 4899) on Tuesday. The bill now heads to the White House for the president's signature.

The vote marked the end of a five month dispute amongst members of both parties concerning inclusion of additional economic stimulus money and disaster aid. The Senate pared down a previous House version of the bill which included funding for teachers and other domestic programs.

MOAA maintained throughout the process that prompt action on essential wartime supplemental appropriations should not be held hostage to debates over domestic spending. Secretary Gates warned that failure of Congress to act before August recess would negatively impact our servicemembers serving overseas.

**MOAA Addresses VA Issues at White House** On July 29, MOAA President VADM Norb Ryan, Jr. (USN-Ret) was invited to the White House, along with a small group of military and veterans association leaders, for a discussion with President Obama, National Security Advisor Gen James Jones (USMC-Ret) and VA Secretary Eric Shinseki.

The association leaders received updates on a variety of topics, including progress on implementing automated systems for processing GI Bill payments, efforts to reduce veteran homelessness, and reduce the disability claims backlog.

VADM Ryan related his recent discussions with VA officials in Gainesville, FL, where the VA has had significant success in reducing homelessness, but said the key is jobs - ensuring vets are meaningfully employed.

## Memorial Day Service Coronado 2010



*CHS NJROTC Color Guard*

MajGen Thomas L. Conant, Commanding General, 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Aircraft Wing was the guest speaker at this moving and memorable tribute to our Nation's fallen service members. General Conant gave a speech right from his heart recalling his family members lost or wounded in WWII, and reflected on the movie "Taking Chance." This movie captured the respectful reaction of all Americans who came in contact with the remains of Lance Corporal Chance Phelps during his transportation from Iraq and funeral in Wyoming, and is shown often on this day. He reminded everyone that at this hour in Afghanistan service men and women are on watch in harms way protecting the freedoms we enjoy. Over four hundred seats had been set for the Memorial Day Service on May 31 and many in the overflowing crowd stood throughout the service.



*General Thomas Conant*



*Cadet LCDR Kimberly Kitchener, CHS NJROTC*

Many flower arrangements were presented on the memorial platform beneath the flag pole as tributes to groups and individuals lost during past and present conflicts.

The service was offered by the Silver Strand Chapter of MOAA, the General Henry D. Styer Post (VFW Post 2422) and the Coronado Council of the Navy League. Participants included Webelo Pack 122, Boy Scout Troop 801, Troop 806, Coronado Girl Scouts, Coronado High School NJROTC, Marine Corp Band San Diego, and the Marine Recruit Depot Honor Guard.



*CAPT Herb Frank, USN (Ret), Pearl Harbor Survivor*

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### **Keep the Spirit of '45 Alive!**

"Keep the Spirit of '45 Alive!" is a national grassroots campaign to mobilize communities across the country to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the end of World War II on August 14 by establishing a permanent annual day of remembrance to honor the legacy of the men and women of America's "greatest generation.

The goal of this nonpartisan, nonprofit initiative to inspire a renewed sense of community and national unity in our country by establishing a day when America will stop to reflect on the achievements of the men and women who endured the Great Depression, preserved freedom and democracy in the most devastating war in history, and then went on to rebuild their shattered world. Their example of courage, self sacrifice, and commitment to community can inspire a renewed sense of national unity at a time when our country must once again come together to meet common challenges.

You can be part of this important national campaign by: Urging your elected officials to issue proclamations and write letters of support for the creation of a National Day of Remembrance that will be observed on the second Sunday of every August ([Click here](#) to read the text of House Concurrent Resolution 226 -- passed by Congress on July 26, 2010!).

*Continued from page 1*

the defense budget. The only way we can counter that pressure is with numbers of members that we represent. Your membership truly is important!

MOAA recognizes the importance of chapter membership and they have started a new initiative that targets their more than 170,000 members who don't belong to a chapter. These members will receive a cover wrap with a tear off post card to return to National MOAA for a free one year chapter membership. This offer will run through September, so if you know a National MOAA member who might be interested in joining us, tell them to return the card! (You won't receive this invitation, because you are already a chapter member.)

We recently received a special display copy of the MOAA's Federal Charter, which became Public Law 111-95 on 6 November 2009. That impressive copy has been turned over to the Coronado Historical Society for inclusion in our file held by that organization.

We'll have four vacancies on our board of directors next year – Second Vice President, Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Air Force Representative and Personal Affairs Representative. If you'd like to be considered for one of these vacancies please contact me at 619.298.7888. I'm often not there, so leave a message and I'll return your call ASAP.

Finally, I have just learned that two Coronado students have received interest free loans from the MOAA Scholarship Fund and another was given a Senior Grant. We are in the process of submitting the paperwork needed to be officially recognized as a tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization to ensure that your contributions are tax free.

**Thanks for your continuing support to our chapter, to MOAA and to our country, Bob Butcher**

### **Joint Navy League/Silver Strand Chapter MOAA Dinner**



CAPT Edward Cedrun, USN, Chief of Staff for Commander, Expeditionary Strike Group THREE was the guest speaker at the June 21 joint dinner at Coronado Yacht Club. He Commanded USS Boxer which served as the flagship for Commander, Task Force 151 and participated in the rescue of Captain Richard Phillips from the M/V Maersk Alabama in April 2009. He gave a riveting talk of his and his crew's involvement in this high profile rescue from the time he was directed to steam to the area where the Somalia pirates held Phillips until the mission was complete. CAPT Cedrun gave a blow by blow account of each challenge his crew faced throughout the rescue, and the many government agencies the coordinated with including the State Department and FBI. He credited the superior training, skill and professionalism of his crew and all service members who participated in the rescue for the success of the mission.

**TAPS**  
**CAPT Bill Jepson, USN (Ret)**

**New Silver Strand Members**  
Maj William McBreen, USA (Ret)  
CDR Scott Orosz, USN  
**Welcome Aboard**



## Paws for Patriots

How can hugging a puppy, walking a dog, or fostering a young puppy help wounded warriors from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan? Such simple tasks mark the beginning of a unique guide dog program. "Paws for Patriots" is designed especially for our returning veterans with trauma, visual problems, and other disabilities.

The program began in 2003, when a board member of Southeastern Guide Dogs in Palmetto, Fla., heard about a young Marine blinded by a bomb in Iraq and found out there were no programs to provide Seeing Eye dogs. With the help of Gen. Tommy Franks, USA-Ret., the staff of Southeastern Guide Dogs created Paws for Patriots to provide free guide dogs to wounded veterans.

Their efforts led to therapy dogs being placed at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. Therapy dogs lifted spirits of veterans during physical therapy. Paws for Patriots was on its way, partnering veterans with visual and other disabilities with professionally trained guide and therapy dogs to provide mobility with independence and dignity to those who have sacrificed so much for their country.

Providing a guide dog from puppyhood to placement, including lifetime support, costs about \$60,000. Volunteers foster and walk the dogs until they are 18 months old. After being trained by a professional, the dog is matched with a veteran. A final one-month boot camp for the veteran and his or her dog on the Palmetto campus creates a lasting bond as they become a team.

The program has provided about 140 dogs to injured veterans. To date, there is no government funding so private funding is necessary for the program to continue. Join MOAA's Bradenton (Fla.) Chapter, which contributed \$1,000 last year to the program, or volunteer to walk a dog. Give a wounded warrior the chance to rebuild his or her life. Visit [www.guidedogs.org](http://www.guidedogs.org) for volunteer opportunities and information on how you and your chapter can help. Their service to our country gives us independence; help them regain theirs.

Members, Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee

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## Silver Strand Chapter Board Positions

A Nominating Committee is being formed to present a slate of officers for the 2011 Board of Directors to be considered by our members at the December 7 dinner meeting. Your Board meets six times a year in the odd months to plan and manage the business of the Chapter. There are several positions that need to be filled: Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Air Force Representative and Personal Affairs Representative.

If you are interested in serving your Chapter in one of these positions please call Bob Butcher at 619.298.7888.

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### KEEP THE SPIRIT OF '45 ALIVE!

Chula Vista Mayor Sheryl Cox and Chula Vista Veterans Home Administrator Neal Asper invite you to a special event commemorating the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of WWII and honoring the legacy of our WWII generation.

Saturday August, 14, 11am – 2pm

Veterans Home of California, Chula Vista, 700 E. Naples Court

BBQ Lunch & Live Entertainment & Exhibits "Where were you on August 14, 1945?"



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**MOAA Silver Strand Chapter: [www.cal-moaa-silverstrand.org](http://www.cal-moaa-silverstrand.org)**



**MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION  
OF AMERICA (MOAA)  
SPECIAL EVENT**



**CAL-MOAA Region VIII Joint Luncheon  
Saturday, 18 September 2010**

Miramar Chapter (Host), San Diego Chapter, Pendleton Chapter  
Silver Strand Chapter, Heartland Chapter, Sweetwater Chapter

**Where:** MCAS Miramar Officer's Club

**Time:** 1100 hrs – No Host Cocktails  
1200 hrs – Lunch

**Price:** \$25.00 per PERSON

**Menu:** Plated Meal Choice of Sliced Marinated Top Sirloin Steak or Grilled Salmon

**Speaker:** MajGen Thomas L. Conant, Commanding General of 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Aircraft Wing (Tentative)

Please detach and mail the reservation form below, with check made out to Miramar Chapter, MOAA, NLT 10 September 2010, to MAJ Tim Cullen, USAR – Treasurer, 7665 JADE COAST RD, San Diego, CA 92126. For questions contact Tim; 858-586-1191 or timcullen@naifa.com or Elsa Ang; (858-558-4142).

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

CHAPTER:  Silver Strand Chapter MOAA  SPOUSE/GUEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Menu Selection: # Marinated Top Sirloin \_\_\_\_\_ # Grilled Salmon \_\_\_\_\_  
Vegetarian/Gluten Free Meal \_\_\_\_\_

**Joint Silver Strand Chapter MOAA /Coronado Navy League Dinner Meeting**

Date: Monday, August 16, 2010

**Captain Yancy B. Lindsey, Commanding Officer, Naval Base Coronado**

Where: Coronado Yacht Club, 1631 Strand Way

When: 1800: Social Time

1845: Dinner

1930: Program

*Prime Rib w/ Creamy Horseradish Au Jus & Twice Baked Potatoes, or  
Grilled Salmon w/ Creamy Lemon Dill Sauce & Wild Rice, or  
Vegetarian Plate - Portobello Mushroom w/ Chardonnay Sauce  
Pear & Cranberry Spring Salad Mix, grilled vegetables, desert, rolls, coffee, tea; \$30 per person*

Use the coupon below for:

- August 16 Dinner Meeting Reservation
- Pay 2010 Dues
- Donate to NJROTC & Naval Sea Cadets
- Donate to MOAA Scholarship Fund

**Chapter Meeting Monday, August 16, 2010**

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Reservations must reach our PO Box by **Noon, Friday, 13 August (Firm)**

Indicate your choice (s) of entrée \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending dinner \_\_\_\_ X \$30 = \$\_\_\_\_\_

**2010 Dues (\$10 for members) (\$5 for Auxiliary)** \$\_\_\_\_\_  
**(\$40 for 5 years) (\$20for 5 years)**

Donation to NJROTC (Coronado and Mar Vista High Schools) \$\_\_\_\_\_

Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Coronado Battalion \$\_\_\_\_\_

MOAA Scholarship Fund \$\_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$\_\_\_\_\_



## Silver Strand Chapter Board of Directors

President	Bob Butcher, MajGen, USMC, (Ret)	435-6979
First Vice	Nancy Owen, CAPT, USN (Ret)	437-0542
Second Vice	Kathy Bruyere, CAPT, USN (Ret)	409-9505
Secretary	Jim Strickland, Col, USAF (Ret)	435-6608
Treasurer	Tom Bernitt, CAPT, USN (Ret)	424-6365
Air Force Rep.	John Stihl, Maj Gen, USAF, (Ret)	435-4155
Army Rep.	Don Mayhue, BG, ARNG (Ret)	435-7400
Marine Rep.	Fred Allega, Col, USMC (Ret)	429-4282
Navy Rep.	Jim Cahill, CAPT, USNR (Ret)	435-8077
Legislative Chair	Jim Cahill, CAPT, USNR (Ret)	435-8077
Newsletter Editor	Jim Strickland, Col, USAF (Ret)	435-6608
Personal Affairs	Joan Thomas, CDR, USN (Ret)	435-3812
Chaplain	Tom Johnson, CAPT, USN (Ret)	435-3408
TOPS	Tom Bauer, CAPT, USN (Ret)	437-6689
Auxiliary Liaison	Kathleen Prout, Auxiliary	435-6623
Past President	Jim Cahill, CAPT, USNR (Ret)	435-8077

## Dates to Remember 2010

### Chapter Meetings

**August 16**  
**October 21**  
**December 7**

### Board Meetings

**September 21**  
**November 16**

### SOUNDINGS

Silver Strand Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America  
P. O. Box 180043  
Coronado, CA 92178-0043

Return Service Requested

**TIME DATED MATERIAL**