

SOUNDINGS

Silver Strand Chapter of Military Officers Association of America

December 2006

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BG Wayne W. Hoffmann, AUS, Retired

December is filled with many events, to include the transitional ceremony of the Silver Strand Chapter of MOAA. Your current cadre of officers will have completed two years (at least) of service in their position. Nominations to elected positions will be made and elections will be held on the floor of the December meeting. Installation will follow.

Our chapter has done well these past few years. We have been nationally recognized as a Five Star Chapter and have enlarged our membership number. We have also joined with Navy League on a regular basis to co-host dinner meetings

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Lieutenant Colonel Larry Stump, USAF (Ret) is President of the California Council of Chapters (Cal-MOAA). His Air Force flying career included duty as an instructor pilot, pilot and navigator/bombardier. He also served as Director of Training, Budget/Plans in Strategic Air Command and Director of Plans at HQ US Air Forces Europe. He flew 134 combat missions in Vietnam in the B-52. He is an active speaker in the Speaker's Bureau for First Command Educational Foundation, serves on the March Field Air Museum Board of Directors, and the Riverside Chamber of Commerce.

LtCol Stump will install the Silver Strand Chapter MOAA 2007 Board of Directors and review the status of Cal-MOAA. Cal-MOAA provides direct and indirect support to affiliated chapters and is an effective platform for supporting the military community.

See Page 7 for more information on 5 December Chapter dinner

Legislative Update

Percentage of the 110th Congress Having Served in the Military:

Twenty four percent of the entire Congress has military experience. With each new Congress, we've noted the steady decline in the number of senators and representatives who have experienced some form of uniformed service. The following figures include any form of active, Reserve, or National Guard service.

	1991	1995	1999	2003	2005	2007
Senate	68%	56%	43%	35%	31%	29%
House	48%	37%	31%	27%	25%	23%

This year's difference is highlighted by comparing those who left Congress by retirement or defeat vs. the freshmen legislators who replaced them:

	Departed	New Freshmen
Senate	20%	10%
House	25%	11%

The declining number of veterans in Congress is a reflection of the same trend among all Americans. With smaller forces, the proportion that has served will continue to decline as time passes.

But we shouldn't jump to the conclusion that veteran status is a good litmus test of the legislator's likely support for issues affecting the uniformed service community. Many non-veterans are among our strongest supporters on the Hill, and some who have advocated severe benefit cutbacks have served in the armed forces with great distinction.

More than anything else, the figures above illustrate the education challenge we face in getting our legislators to understand our issues. Most want to do the right thing, but their unfamiliarity with our issues means constituents who are veterans need to make special efforts to outline both problems and solutions for them.

Symposium Panelists Dubious on Draft: On November 16 over 300 MOAA members and guests attend MOAA's Military Professional Symposium, at which a distinguished panel of experts discussed whether the all-volunteer force (AVF) can be sustained in an extended conflict. Participants included:

Gen. Barry McCaffrey, USA-Ret., former advisor to the Secretary of State and the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations;

* Hon. William Chatfield, Director of the Selective Service System;

* Hon. Mike Dominguez, Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness;

* Lt. Gen. Mike Rochelle, USA, Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, and

* Mr. Tom Donnelly, senior advisor for the International Security Program at the Center for Strategic International Studies.

If attendees expected any of the panelists to call for reinstatement of the draft, they were disappointed. One thing the panelists appeared to agree on - especially in their answers to multiple questioners on that topic after their prepared remarks - was their belief that Congress and the country wouldn't stand for that in any scenario short of a war for national survival.

The panelists all agreed that the AVF today is clearly highly motivated, of superb quality, and more capable than the conscription force. General McCaffrey said that shortly after the draft was ended in the early 1970s, "You couldn't find a general in the Army who liked the all-volunteer force. But 10 years later, when they saw the quality they were getting, you couldn't find one who wanted to go back to the draft."

McCaffrey also expressed strong views on adjustments in recruiting standards and force sizes. "Generally speaking, we've quadrupled the number of lowest mental category recruits, we've quadrupled the number of non-high school graduates, and we're granting 6,000 to 8,000 more moral waivers," he said. "When you tell me that you think enlisting a 42-year-old grandmother is the right thing to do, you don't understand what we're doing. We need 19-year-old boys and girls in good health to carry guns and fight."

Several panelists highlighted an issue that MOAA has pushed for years - that today's forces are far too small for the huge missions that have been thrust upon them.

Silver Strand Chapter 2007 Dues Are Due January 2007

You can use the dinner reservation form on page 7 of this newsletter to pay 2007 dues.

Chapter dues are separate from National MOAA dues.

Your Chapter supports two NJROTC programs with your donations, Mar Vista High School and Coronado High School. Please consider increasing your NJROTC contribution to these programs in 2007.

The Chapter also supports the National MOAA Scholarship Fund.

Thanks!

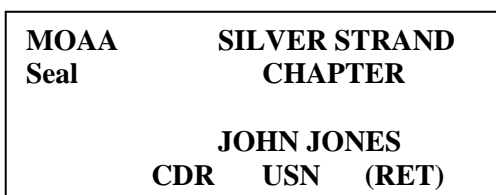
New Silver Strand Chapter Members

Kurt Sadorf, CDR, USN

Welcome Aboard

MOAA Nametags Available

Members can order a nametag for you and your spouse with the MOAA seal in the upper left-hand corner for \$8.00. Use the form on Page 7 and print your name exactly as you would like it spelled. Include your rank and service. The standard your Chapter has chosen is depicted below.



Admiral Leon “Bud” Edney was the guest speaker at the Joint Navy League/Silver Strand Chapter dinner on October 26 at the Coronado Cays Yacht Club. ADM Edney provided a thorough review of the goals of the war in Iraq, a sober assessment of the current status and the future challenges facing us. He had great praise for the troops under difficult conditions, saying they were better than they ever have been.



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The challenge to each one of us is to multiply us by one...each of us knows a person who is eligible for membership in our chapter. Ask, and ask again. It is only through your work will our chapter remain strong and vibrant.

Thank you for your support.

Wayne W. Hoffmann

REPORT OF THE SILVER STRAND CHAPTER NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee consisting of Filomena Manor (Chairman) Wayne Hoffmann and Jim Cahill propose the following slate of officers for the 2007 Board of Directors of the Silver Strand Chapter:

President: Jim Cahill, CAPT, USNR (Ret)
First Vice President: Bob Butcher, MajGen, USMC (Ret)
Second Vice President: Nancy Owen, CAPT, USN, (Ret)
Secretary: Jim Strickland, Col, USAF (Ret)
Treasurer: Tom Bernitt, CAPT, USN (Ret)
Air Force Representative: John Busbee, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
Army Representative: Don Mayhue, BG, ARNG (Ret)
Marine Corps Representative: Dave Martell, Maj, USMC (Ret)
Navy Representative: Lee Pontes, CAPT, USN (Ret)

In accordance with our Chapter Bylaws, this slate will be placed in nomination by the Chairman of the Nominating Committee at our Annual Membership Meeting on December 5, 2006. Additional nominations will be solicited from the floor, the nominations will be closed and the election will be held. Installation will take place immediately. Officers will assume their respective offices at the January 2007 Board Meeting.

Cal-MOAA Rally 2006

The Cal-MOAA rally 2006 opened on 25 October in the Lion Gate Hotel and Conference Center, the former officers club of McClellan Air Force Base, Sacramento. The California Council of Chapters, Cal-MOAA, was the sponsor of the rally, with the Sacramento Chapter the host for the MOAA members in California.

A variety of issues were discussed during the business meeting of the Council of Presidents including: the future direction for the Council, how to provide adequate resources in support of programs, state legislative matters, assistance to the chapters and their members and cooperation and assistance with other veterans and military organizations.

A new strategic plan for the council has been considered by the EXCOM and was presented and approved. This plan

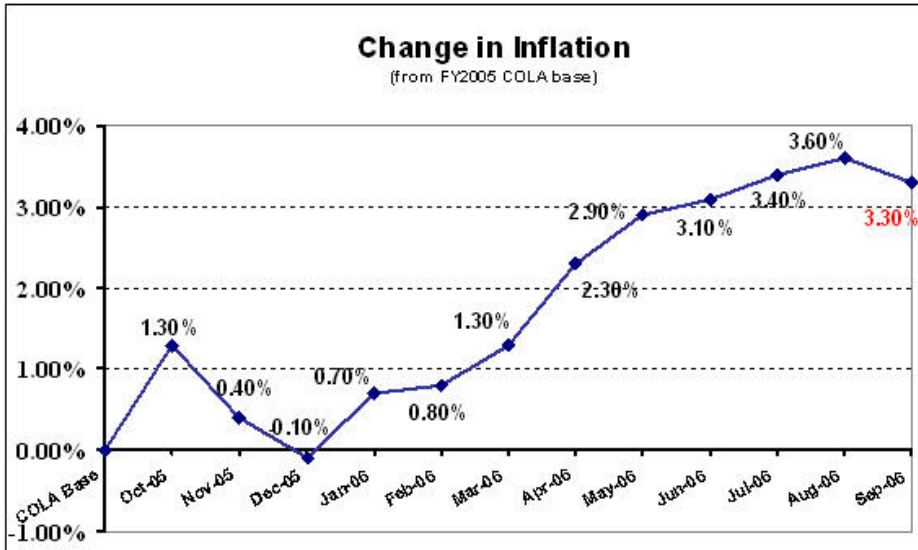
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Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)

The Bureau of Labor Statistics announced the September 2006 monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI), which is used to calculate the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for military retired pay, VA disability compensation, survivor annuities, and Social Security. The CPI decreased by 0.7% resulting in a 3.3% COLA.

The 3.3% COLA is effective on December 1, 2006 and will first appear in the January 2 checks.

For the second straight year, the retired pay cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will be larger than the military pay raise (2.2% for 2007). The 3.3% COLA is effective on December 1, 2006.



Retiree COLAs and the military pay raises have different purposes and are tied to different adjustment standards.

Military pay raises are based on private sector pay growth, as measured by the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Employment Cost Index (ECI). Their intent is to ensure military pay is kept reasonably comparable to private sector pay, to allow the services to compete successfully for manpower over time.

Retired pay COLAs, on the other hand, are *cost-of-living adjustments* that track to inflation, as measured by

the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Their purpose is to ensure that whatever purchasing power a member's retired pay represented on the date he or she left service isn't eroded by inflation over time.

Military Pay Changes Over Fifty Years

The previous chart and discussion about COLA and the basis of retiree VS active duty pay increases provides an interesting opportunity to study a comparison of military pay scales from 1955 through 2005.

Military Pay Scale: (Over 3 yrs service)	
	1955 / 2005
O-9	\$1,021.80 - none
O-8	\$1,021.80 - 8,459.40
O-7	\$850.00 - 7,119.00
O-6	\$631.80 - 5,784.00
O-5	\$507.00 - 4,961.10
O-4	\$429.00 - 4,388.40
O-3	\$351.00 - 3,823.20
O-2	\$335.40 - 3,541.20
O-1	\$296.40 - 2,948.10
W-4	\$354.90 - 3,573.30
W-3	\$323.70 - 3,197.40
W-2	\$280.80 - 2,871.30
W-1	\$251.20 - 2,603.10
E-7	\$222.30 - 2,515.80
E-6	\$187.20 - 2,205.90
E-5	\$163.80 - 1,967.70
E-4	\$140.40 - 1,787.10
E-3	\$117.00 - 1,641.00
E-2	\$101.40 - 1,384.50

Stockdale Memorial Dedicated at Coronado Library

Mayor Tom Smisek presided over the unveiling of the VADM James B. and Sybil Stockdale Memorial at the Coronado Public library on October 24. VADM Ed Martin emphasized the contributions the couple made: Admiral Stockdale through his courage and leadership to the POWs during captivity in North Vietnam, and Sybil through her national campaign seeking humane treatment for our POWs. The Coronado High School NJROTC Honor Guard presented the colors. The memorial titled: "The Stockdale Tribute" includes a boulder with a plaque calling the couple "Great American Heroes" and a flagpole that will fly the POW/MIA flag in perpetuity.



Silver Strand members were well represented on the Stockdale Memorial Committee: VADM Ed Martin, Co-chair, BG Wayne Hoffmann, representing MOAA & CAPT Jim Cahill, representing Navy League.

President, Military Leaders Dedicate Air Force Memorial

President Bush accepted the Air Force Memorial from Air Force Memorial Foundation Chairman Ross Perot Jr. during a dedication ceremony at its Arlington, Va. location overlooking the Pentagon on Saturday, Oct. 14, 2006. "Soldiers can walk the grounds where they fought for freedom," said President Bush, "and Marines can wander down the beaches they stormed, but Airmen can never visit the spacious skies they raced across in the defense of our freedom. But now, they can come here." Other military leaders participating were: Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney McKinley. Until this dedication, the Air Force was the only service without any memorial in the Washington D.C. area commemorating its service to the nation. The Memorial features three stainless steel spires that soar skyward intended to evoke flight and the flying spirit.



Cal-MOAA Rally 2006, continued

includes a new vision and mission statement. Ten goals were presented; including updating the governance system, acquiring financial and other resources, a public relations program, expand inter-organizational communications, establish a legislative center and provide direct assistance to chapters.

New member recruitment and retention of current members drew a lengthy discussion. How do we attract new members, especially those of the younger generation? A greater role for auxiliary members was also encouraged. Some chapters have an Auxiliary as president; others have Auxiliaries on the board of directors. This is a resource that needs to be fully utilized. Over 20% of the national membership, or 61,000, are Auxiliaries. In Cal-MOAA, with a total of 49 chapters, 12 have auxiliary chapter liaison appointments.

CAPT Jim Cahill, USNR (Ret)

Silver Strand MOAA Chapter Meeting

Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Lawrence (Larry) Stumpf, Lt Colonel, USAF (Ret)

State of Cal-MOAA: Goals & Priorities 2007

Where: Tent City in the Coronado Historical Museum Building

When: 1800: Social Time

1900: Dinner

1945: Program

Atlantic Salmon w rice pilaf, Lemon Herb Chicken w potatoes au gratin, Sweet Italian Lasagna, Roasted Mushroom Lasagna, all w green salad & steamed vegetables, Dessert (Choice of Bread Pudding or Brownie); \$30 per person

Use the coupon below for:

- 5 December Dinner Meeting Reservation
- Pay 2007 Dues
- Donate to NJROTC
- Donate to MOAA Scholarship Fund

Chapter Meeting Tuesday, 5 December 2006

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, 1 December OR you may contact, Joan Sadorf at: jrs_krs0585@sbcglobal.net or call 522-0885.

Indicate your choice (s) of entrée _____

Number attending dinner ____ X \$30 = \$_____

2007 Dues (\$10 for members, \$5 for Auxiliary) \$_____

Donation to NJROTC \$_____

MOAA Scholarship Fund \$_____

MOAA Nametag (\$8.00) \$_____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$_____



Silver Strand Chapter Board of Directors

President	Wayne Hoffmann, BG, AUS (Ret)	522-0031
First Vice	Jim Cahill, CAPT, USNR (Ret)	435-8077
Second Vice	Bob Butcher, MajGen, USMC, (Ret)	435-6979
Secretary	Jim Strickland, Col, USAF (Ret)	435-6608
Treasurer	Tom Bernitt, CAPT, USN, (Ret)	424-6365
Air Force Rep.	John Busbee, LtCol, USAF, (Ret)	437-8887
Army Rep.	Don Mayhue, BG, ARNG, (Ret)	435-7400
Marine Rep.	Dave Martell, Maj, USMC (Ret)	435-9459
Navy Rep.	Nancy Owen, CAPT, USN (Ret)	437-0542
Legislative Chair	Tom Bernitt, CAPT, USN (Ret)	424-6365
Newsletter Editor	Jim Strickland, Col, USAF (Ret)	435-6608
Personal Affairs	Carl Jennings, COL, USA (Ret)	435-1015
Chaplain	Tom Johnson, CAPT, USN (Ret)	435-3408
TOPS	Tom Bauer, CAPT, USN (Ret)	437-6689
Past President	Tom Bernitt, CAPT, USN, (Ret)	424-6365

**Dates to Remember
2006/2007**

Chapter Meetings

December 5, 2006
February 20, 2007
April 17, 2007
June 19, 2007
August 21, 2007
October 16, 2007
December 4, 2007

Board Meetings

January 16, 2007
March 20, 2007
May 15, 2007
July 17, 2007
September 18, 2007
November 20, 2007

SOUNDINGS

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

Return Service Requested

TIME DATED MATERIAL