

SOUNDINGS

Silver Strand Chapter of Military Officers Association of America

October 2006

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BG Wayne W. Hoffmann, AUS, Retired

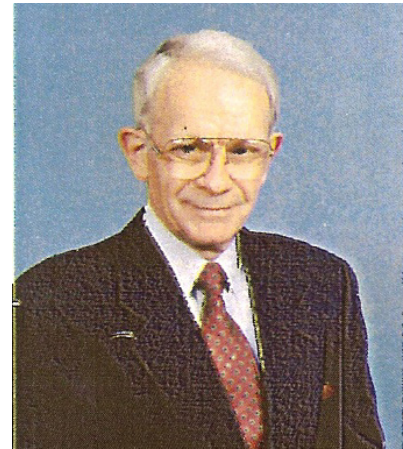
As the summer draws to a close, there are a number of thoughts that come to my mind. MOAA has generated national exposure through hosting the President of the United States for the delivery of a speech on the War on Terror. It was an unprecedented event. It demonstrated the continued importance and impact of our association as being for and with active and reserve forces and of course retirees.

On the local front, we continue to be challenged by recruiting and retaining members in chapters. As the new membership year approaches, think neighborhood rather than globally. You can make an impact on the national effort by encouraging your neighbor, who is a former or current officer in our armed forces, to join the Silver Strand Chapter and also national. If each member were to recruit one member, we would "double" our membership and our impact. Take the challenge!

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Admiral Leon "Bud" Edney will speak at the Joint Navy League/Chapter Dinner on 26 October. ADM Edney, former Chairman of the Board of TROA (now MOAA), completed his active duty career as Commander US Atlantic Command and NATO Supreme Allied Commander. He was the first to be appointed to the Leadership Chair and the U.S. Naval Academy. He remained operational from 1965-1981, commanding Attack Squadron 27, CAG TWO, USS PONCHATOULA and USS CONSTELLATION. He accumulated over 350 combat missions, 1,000 carrier landings and 5,600 flight hours. Some of his significant shore assignments include: Commandant of Midshipmen, Director Aviation Plans and Policy, Chief of Naval Personnel and Vice Chief of Naval Operations. ADM Edney holds a Masters Degree from Harvard and served a tour as a White House Fellow. He serves on a variety of corporate and non profit organizations. He resides with his wife Margon in Coronado.

See Page 7 for more information on 26 October Chapter dinner

Legislative Update

Defense Bill Squeaks Through The FY2007 Defense Authorization Act was passed by the House and Senate in the final hours before Congress adjourned to go home and campaign. The bill provides the Pentagon \$463 billion for FY2007, plus another \$70 billion in supplemental war funding. There's good news in the bill, including provisions on:

TRICARE Fees: Bars the Defense Department from increasing any TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Standard fees, pharmacy copays, or TRICARE Reserve Select premiums for FY2007.

Military Manpower Levels: Increases Army strength by 30,000, the Army National Guard by 17,000 and the Marine Corps by 1,000 over the President's original budget request (it approves Pentagon-requested cuts of 12,000 for the Navy and 23,200 for the Air Force).

TRICARE Pharmacy: Dropped a proposal to mandate use of the mail-order pharmacy for all refills of maintenance medications. But it also dropped MOAA-supported initiatives to eliminate copays for most drugs dispensed through the mail-order system and require drug companies to give TRICARE equal price discounts on drugs dispensed through retail pharmacies.

Reserve Health Coverage: Makes all drilling reserve members eligible for TRICARE coverage at the lowest current premium (28% of cost). Requires a Pentagon study of partially subsidizing continuation of a private employer's coverage of family members during periods of mobilization.

Military ID Cards: Authorizes permanent ID cards for permanently disabled dependents of retirees, and requires a Pentagon report on giving members an option to have their Social Security numbers removed from ID cards.

Servicemember's Group Life Insurance (SGLI): Provides \$400,000 free life insurance coverage for members assigned to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Dependent Education: Authorizes \$50 million in aid to civilian schools with significant numbers of military dependents.

Payday Lender Restrictions: Restricts unscrupulous lending practices by imposing 36-percent annual interest rate cap on loans to service members, along with other protections.

Household Goods Coverage: Requires paying full replacement value for goods damaged during military relocations, starting in 2008.

Military Pay Raise: Authorizes the minimum 2.2% military pay raise proposed by the Senate rather than the 2.7% House plan. The bill does include needed "targeted" increases for warrant officers and senior enlisted grades.

Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP): Dropped Senate-recommended provisions to implement 30-year paid-up SBP coverage immediately and end the deduction of VA survivor benefits from SBP when military service caused the member's death.

Concurrent Receipt: Dropped Senate-recommended provision to provide full, immediate concurrent receipt for disabled retirees designated "unemployable" by the VA.

Reserve Retirement Age: Dropped Senate-recommended provision to reduce retirement age by 3 months for every 90 days mobilized since 9/11.

Health Care Access: Dropped Senate-recommended provision requiring additional incentive payments to doctors to take TRICARE patients in areas with physician shortages.

More \$22 Drugs: A panel of beneficiary advisors has concurred with a DoD pharmacy panel's recommendation to move Crestor and Caduet, which lower so-called "bad cholesterol" (LDL), to TRICARE's "third tier" of medications (which carry a \$22 copay). The change could affect about 44,000 beneficiaries. TRICARE will continue to cover 12 other cholesterol-lowering drugs (including the popular Lipitor and Zocor) at the \$9 copay.

New Silver Strand Chapter Members

Keith Gilbert, CAPT, USNR (Ret)
William R. Ball, Col, USMC (Ret)
Jason Rimmer, LCDR, USN

Welcome Aboard

TAPS

Robert C. Parker, CAPT, USN (Ret)

James Rose, CWO4, USN (Ret)

Jeanne Danis, AUXILIARY

Chapter Wins 5 Star Award From National MOAA

Add another really big feather to our chapter hat! After being recognized for having the second best newsletter for a chapter of our size, the Silver Strand Chapter has been recognized as being one of the very, very best chapters in the country.

Receipt of this prestigious Five Star Award was the result of hard work by every member of your Board of Directors. Chapters are rated in eight different objective areas worth a possible 120 points and five subjective categories worth a maximum of another 120 points. 220 out of 240 points are needed to qualify for Five Star status. We scored 230 points.

This is certainly a wonderful acknowledgement that your chapter is doing a great job and that our efforts are recognized. 230 points is a great score, but there is room for (a little) improvement. We'll work on that next year.

Now that we're on top, the challenge is to stay there! You can do your part by renewing your membership, by recruiting new members for the chapter, by continuing to contribute to the two outstanding NJROTC units we support, by attending our dinners to hear great speakers and by supporting National MOAA's legislative agenda.



VADM Ryan, USN, Ret., President MOAA presents Five Star Ribbon to BG Hoffmann, President Silver Strand Chapter MOAA at the Joint Chapter Luncheon on 16 September.

Approaching Medicare/TRICARE Cut Threatens Doctor Availability

MOAA and the American Medical Association held a press conference in Washington D.C., on Sept. 13 to urge Congress to reverse the 5.1 percent cut in Medicare and TRICARE payments now scheduled for January 2007. The AMA leaders said that, if these cuts go into effect, thousands of doctors will be forced to stop taking Medicare and TRICARE patients rather than operating their offices at a loss. Medicare and TRICARE are virtually the lowest-paying insurance plans in the country and typically pay doctors 20% to 30% less than commercial plans.

On a personal note, I will be participating in a regional meeting in the southeast as National Chaplain, and then also at the Cal MOAA Rally in Sacramento. I will report on those next month. "Go get 'em"...Wayne

Wayne W. Hoffmann

GIVE ME 10!

National MOAA is again sponsoring a campaign to gain more members and, understanding the value of chapter members, help chapters at the same time.

We gained sixteen new members during last year's campaign and are seeking to improve on that success! We need your help identifying current, former or retired military officers who don't belong to our award winning chapter and current chapter members who are not Life Members of MOAA – perhaps you?

National MOAA will reimburse the chapter \$10.00 for every new member we recruit and \$20.00 for every current member who converts to Life Membership in National MOAA. Your Board of Directors has decided to use that money to pay for a free one year chapter membership (a \$10 value) for new members and to extend current chapter members for two years (a \$20 value) if they convert to Life Membership in National MOAA.

The only way to take advantage of this program is by calling (435-6979) or emailing (ThunderBGB@san.rr.com) our Membership Chairman – Bob Butcher. Bob will be happy to contact potential members and answer your questions regarding these two great opportunities!

Thanks for your help!
Silver Strand MOAA Board of Directors

TRICARE Cautions Beneficiaries

TRICARE cautions that you should never give your personal or financial information to anyone who calls you or comes to your home uninvited, claiming they are collecting fees or other funds on behalf of TRICARE or selling TRICARE-related products. Keep your personal information safe. Only give personal information when you have made the contact--for example calling one of the TRICARE toll-free customer service numbers or visiting a TRICARE Web site. TRICARE won't contact you to persuade you to enroll in a program or ask for your financial information. TRICARE will ONLY request this information when you initiate the call and ONLY when appropriate. If you receive a call of this nature from someone identifying themselves as a TRICARE representative, please let TRICARE know by writing to: TRICARE Management Activity, ATTN: Privacy Office, 5111 Leesburg Pike, Suite 810, Fall Church, VA 22041. For TRICARE contact information, visit; <http://tricare.osd.mil/contactus/>.

The 17th Annual

MILITARY WOMEN VETERANS LUNCHEON



Guest Speakers

CAPT Amy Wandel, Medical Corps, USN

CAPT Kathy Goldberg, Medical Service Corps, USN

Topic: Comprehensive Combat Casualty Care Center (for returning Wounded Warriors)

Date: **Saturday, November 4, 2006**

Time: 1100-Social Hour/No host bar; 1200-Luncheon; 1300-Program

Place: Marine Corps Air Station, Miramar Officer's Club

Deadline for reservations **Friday, October 20, 2006**

For additional information contact: Toni Lopez (619) 462-6081

Name(s) _____ Branch of Service _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

No. of reservations _____ @ \$20.00 per person= Total \$ _____

Make checks payable to: Military Women's Luncheon

Mail to: Toni Lopez, 4950 Treasure Drive, La Mesa, CA 91941

Edelweiss Lodge & Resort

Officials of the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in Germany have announced that rooms sometime become available for individuals who can make vacation plans on short notice.

Call the Vacation Planning Center at (011-49)08821-9440 from the United States: (49)8821-9441 from Europe; and 08821-9440 from Germany. Hours of operation are 8am to 5pm, Central European Time, except American holidays.

The website and www.edelweisslodgeandresort.com offers more information and can be used to reserve a room online. The mailing address is Edelweiss Lodge and Resort, Unit 24501, APO AE 09053.

MOAA Silver Strand Chapter: www.cal-moaa-silverstrand.org

Retired Military Personnel Seminar and Resource Fair

November 4, 2006 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Base Theater, Bldg. 30 San Diego, CA

Presentations include information on Health Care, Legislative Matters, Pay, Survivor Benefits and other related topics. For more information call (619) 556-8987 or NRSWRAO@navy.mil

This event presented by the Retired Activities Offices of Navy Region Southwest and Marine Corps Community Services of MCRD San Diego

Allied Steam-Celebrating the History of Liberty and Victory Ships

Jeremiah O'Brien and Lane Victory Visit the Maritime Museum for Fleet Week

Mass produced vessels known as Liberty and Victory ships delivered equipment, supplies and fighting men to every theater of World War II. By the time the allies defeated the axis powers, over 3000 of these armed cargo ships had been constructed. More than 200 were sent to the bottom by enemy action, claiming the lives of over 9000 sailors. Today, only a few of these ships remain. Extraordinary examples of both types, the *Jeremiah O'Brien* and the *Lane Victory*, are coming to San Diego during Fleet Week for an unprecedented visit to the Maritime Museum of San Diego. The ships will be docked on the North Embarcadero alongside the museum's ships. They will be open to the public during regular museum hours Wednesday, September 27 through Sunday, October 1. Entrance to the *Jeremiah O'Brien* and the *Lane Victory* will be included with admission to the maritime museum.

Jeremiah O'Brien, a Liberty Ship, will be visiting San Diego for the first time since 1994. She was part of the Armada that steamed across the English Channel to support the D-Day landings on June 6, 1944. She made 11 trips across the channel that June to support the invasion forces that liberated Europe from Nazi occupation. The Victory Ship, *Lane Victory*, served with distinction in World War II supporting the liberation of the Philippines. She also served in the Korean and Viet Nam wars during her long and distinguished career. Both ships, each more than 400 feet in length, are National Historic Landmarks.

The Maritime Museum of San Diego enjoys a worldwide reputation for excellence in restoring, maintaining and operating historic vessels. The museum has one of the world's finest collections of historic ships, including the world's oldest active ship the *Star of India*. The museum is located on the North Embarcadero in downtown San Diego at 1492 North Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92101. The telephone number for general inquiries is 619-234-9153. Additional information can be found on the museum's website at www.sdmaritime.org

COLA Watch

In mid-September, the Bureau of Labor Statistics announced the August 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 continued its upward trend, rising 0.2% from the July value - for a total of 3.6% growth so far this fiscal year. The August CPI-W energy costs rose 0.3% and most of the other components of the CPI-W increased around 0.2%.

Silver Strand MOAA Chapter Meeting

Date: Thursday, October 26, 2006

Guest Speaker

Admiral Leon "Bud" Edney

Where: Coronado Cays Yacht Club

When: 1800: Social Time

1900: Dinner

1945: Program

Mahi Mahi With Cream Caper Sauce Or Sirloin Steak With Sautéed Mushrooms

Use the coupon below for:

- October 26 Dinner Meeting Reservation
- Pay 2007 Dues
- Donate to NJROTC
- Donate to MOAA Scholarship Fund

Chapter Meeting Thursday, 26 October 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, Monday, 24 April 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

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Dates to Remember

Chapter Meetings

October 26, 2006

December 5, 2006

February 20, 2007

April 17, 2007

June 19, 2007

Board Meetings

November 21, 2006

January 16, 2007

March 20, 2007

May 15, 2007

SOUNDINGS

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Military Officers Association of America

P. O. Box 180043

Coronado, CA 92178-0043

Return Service Requested

TIME DATED MATERIAL