

# SOUNDINGS

Silver Strand Chapter of Military Officers Association of America

April 2007

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### CAPT Jim Cahill, USNR, Retired

Your Silver Strand Chapter was chartered 36 years ago, February 1971, with 65 charter members. Our membership now stands at 209 active and auxiliary members. In those first few years, there were no auxiliary members. A name change from TROA to MOAA was made in January 2003.

One thing that has not changed, as far as my research and long time members recall, is the chapter dues in those first years of \$10 and to this day still is a real bargain for you, especially if you realize that \$10 in 1971 is now worth \$49.75!

Some other demographics comparing Silver Strand Chapter to National MOAA may be of interest to you:

- The percentage of regular to auxiliary members in the Chapter is 89% to 11% VS 79% to 21% Nationally
- The percentage of male to female members in the Chapter is 84% to 16% VS 74% to 26% Nationally

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CAPT Donald Auten is the author of "**Roger Ball**", a historical biography of Navy fighter pilot John Monroe "Hawk" Smith from his earliest days in the Navy to his position as Commanding Officer of TOPGUN, and his recognition as a tactical innovator in air combat. CAPT Auten retired from the Navy in November 1998 following a twenty-seven year career. He completed several staff and command assignments on both coasts. Although originally trained as a light attack pilot, he graduated from TOPGUN fighter and adversary courses and became an adversary instructor pilot. In the course of seventeen years of operational flying He completed six squadron assignments and logged nearly 5,000 hours. He makes his home with his wife and two Labradors in Coronado, California. CAPT Auten will discuss his book "**Roger Ball**" at our chapter dinner on April 16. See Page 6 for more information on "**Roger Ball**."

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

# Legislative Update

## **2007 Priorities for House Armed Services Committee**

MOAA Government Relations and representatives of several other Military Coalition members testified for two hours before the House Armed Services Military Personnel Subcommittee, answering the Subcommittee's questions about priority issues for active duty, Guard/Reserve, and retired members and their families and survivors.

Chairman Vic Snyder (D-AR) asked each representative what their priorities would be for inclusion in the FY2008 Defense Authorization Act, which the committee will be drafting next month. The Coalition representatives cited:

- Ensuring proper care, support, and smooth transition from military to VA services for wounded warriors and their families
- Ensuring the services have enough manpower to meet their mission requirements and ease terrible stresses on active duty, Guard and Reserve families due to high deployment rates
- Rejecting disproportional, budget-driven health fee increases and putting standards in law for military health benefits that recognize career military members' pre-payment of extraordinary, up-front premiums through decades of service and sacrifice
- Correction of Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) inequities for "greatest generation" retirees and widows of members who die as a result of service
- More progress in eliminating the disability offset to earned military retired pay
- Continued progress in restoring full pay comparability for active duty, Guard and Reserve members who are paying such a high price in the current conflict

## **Budget Resolution on TRICARE Fees, Concurrent Receipt, SBP**

House and Senate resolutions rejected the Administration's budget proposal to impose large fee increases on retired military beneficiaries under age 65. Both resolutions restored the \$1.86 billion that the Administration had proposed cutting from the Defense health program.

Only a small portion of the proposed budget cut was attributable to increased revenues from higher fees. Most of the proposed reduction was attributable to an assumption that the fee increases would drive hundreds of thousands of military beneficiaries away from using their earned TRICARE benefits.

Both chambers saw that as inappropriate and restored the full funding amount - which means the Armed Services Committees will again have the latitude to reject the proposed increases, just as they did last year.

That doesn't mean we're out of the woods, as the Committees may still consider any fee increase proposals recommended by the DoD-appointed Task Force on the Future of Military Health Care, which owes the Committees an interim report in May. But at least the Committees now won't be under budget pressure to adopt any such recommendations.

There was good news on other fronts as well, as the Budget Resolution draft from the House Budget Committee also would allow "providing funds to increase military pay and improve military benefits."

MOAA had previously briefed the Budget Committee staff on the need to enhance the military pay raise and provide at least some additional relief on concurrent receipt and SBP. The resolution is scheduled to come up for action before the full House during the week of March 26. The process is further along in the Senate. The Senate resolution already contains provisions that would allow increases in benefits and assistance for wounded servicemembers, unspecified increases in VA benefits, and latitude to increase Medicare and TRICARE payments to doctors, all of which are on MOAA's legislative agenda.

# MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

Monday, May 28, 2007



The Silver Strand Chapter of MOAA, the General Henry D. Styer Post (VFW Post 2422) And the Coronado Council of the Navy League will offer a Memorial Day Service on Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 10:00 AM in Coronado's Star Park. The Guest Speaker will be Brigadier General Angela Salinas, Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego; and Commanding General, Western Recruiting Region. Participants will include MCRD Marines, CHS NJROTC Color Guard, Coronado Battalion Sea Scouts, Boy and Girl Scout Troops, Gold Star Mothers, and honored guests. After the service, a light luncheon will be provided at the VFW Hall, 557 Orange Avenue. Join your fellow patriots as we celebrate our freedom and honor our fallen comrades. At the Korean War Memorial in Washington D.C. cut into granite is the statement: **'FREEDOM IS NOT FREE'**.

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## New Silver Strand Chapter Members

Col James Lare, USAR (Ret)  
CAPT Keven Lover, UNS (Ret)

Welcome Aboard



CAPT Jim Cahill, USNR (Ret), Silver Strand Chapter President and BG Wayne Hoffmann, AUS (Ret) present Col Lee Lange, USMC (Ret), MOAA Director of Council and Chapter Affairs, a contribution of \$500 for the MOAA Scholarship Fund. Silver Strand Chapter members made donations to this fund throughout 2006. The MOAA Scholarship Fund supports MOAA's Educational Assistance Program, a program that provides interest free loans and grants for up to five years of undergraduate study to students who are children of active duty, reserve, National Guard, or retired military personnel. This fund has helped more than 8,500 college students from military families attain a college education.

Silver Strand Chapter members heard an encouraging message on MOAA's legislative goals for 2007 from Col Lee Lange on February 21 at the Coronado Yacht Club. Col Lange's address included MOAA's support for an active duty pay raise of at least 3.5% for FY08, holding the line on dramatic TRICARE fees for retired officers under 65 and immediate 30 Year paid up SBP implementation. Pictured from the left, Janet Lange, Nancy Hoffmann, Col Lange, CAPT Kathy Bruyere, Sandy Strickland and CAPT Jim Cahill.



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- The average age of Silver Strand members is 72.12 years
- Service affiliation of our Chapter members is: 62% USN, 11% USMC, 8% USA, 5% USAF

Congratulations are in order to the Coronado High School NJROTC marksmanship program and their coach, Gunnery Sergeant Wayne Wootton, USMC (Ret). In only their second year of competition, five members of the varsity squad took third place out of 60 other teams in the NJROTC Area 11 marksmanship championship. The team consisted of four female cadets and one male cadet competing with .177 air pellet guns. Third place in the Area 11 competition gained them automatic invitations to shoot in the NJROTC western regional marksman championship, held at the USA Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs in early March. The team did not finish at a high level, having to compete with much larger schools with many years of shooting competition, but gained valuable experience and are eager to return next year.

Your continued contributions support this fine program and other activities of the two NJROTC programs your Chapter contributes to, CHS and Mar Vista High School, are important and much appreciated.

Jim Cahill

### **Soundings Available on Line**

Over 60 of our members have elected to receive “Soundings” on line rather than through the mail. Choosing to receive “Soundings” on line helps save the cost of printing and stamps as well as the time it takes to prepare the mailing. The on line version allows you to see it in color on your computer screen and print those portions you want in paper form. The dinner reservation form on page seven would need to be printed and sent to the chapter post office, along with your check, to make a dinner reservation, pay your dues or contribute to the various activities your chapter supports.

Every other month an e-mail notice is sent to those members who have filed an e-mail address with the Chapter Secretary to notify them that a new edition of “Soundings” has been posted to our site. If you have not been getting these notices, it is because the Chapter Secretary does not have your updated e-mail address. Please send your e-mail address to: [jcs1048@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jcs1048@sbcglobal.net) if you have not already done so and are interested in receiving “Soundings” on line.

You can view the Chapter Web Site at: <http://www.cal-moaa-silverstrand.org/> The most recent “Soundings” are available under “Newsletters” as well as archived copies of past “Soundings.”

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### **Silver Strand Chapter Membership & Dues Report**

In January 2005 your Chapter had 154 members. After several membership drives spearheaded by MajGen Bob Butcher, USMC (Ret), our current membership has grown to 209 members of which 22 are Auxiliary members. This increase in membership gives us a stronger voice as we work on issues important to each and every one of us.

**One area we need to work on is improving timely payment of dues.** We currently have 57 members who are **delinquent on their 2007 dues.** **If your mailing label has the year 06 beside your name, you have not paid your 2007 dues.** Please use the form on Page 7 to correct that oversight and mail them in today. Thank You!

## Islander Company Excels, Validates Their Impact

Most of the expense of the Navy Junior ROTC program at Coronado High School is underwritten by the Department of Defense through annual subsidies. These include half of the two instructors' salaries, all textbook and uniform expenses, most technology needs, and limited administrative program funding. Fundraisers are used to distinguish the CHS unit from others by enabling purchases of special gear and to fund many field trips. Islander Company cadets are required to annually demonstrate to Navy program managers that DoD money is indeed being spent wisely and as intended for the character development of CHS cadets. This is normally done through a one day annual Area Manager's Inspection by CDR Ken Liles, and was scheduled for Thursday, February 22.

The Islander Company Cadet Staff, headed by their Company Commander, Cadet Lieutenant David Foy and Executive Officer, Cadet Lieutenant JG Kelly Sand, worked furiously all year to get their charges ready for "The Big Day". The Company's department heads spent untold hours preparing records and programs and Platoon leaders practiced with their platoons every block day since September. The culminating event of the day – the Pass-In-Review Parade on the football field – requires all 104 cadets to march in formation in front of inspectors, friends, parents, teachers and boosters. One chance on one day to do it all right!

Preparations were complete for CDR Liles visit when a week before the inspection pressing medical issues made him unavailable on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. CAPT Pontes, Senior Naval Science Instructor, asked CAPT Anthony Gaiani, Commander of Naval Base Coronado, to inspect the unit next and he graciously agreed.

In one week, the Cadet Staff changed their briefs and rewrote the parade script to accommodate the new inspector. In the morning of the inspection, CAPT Gaiani received an outstanding briefing from the Cadet Staff and then proceeded to quiz each Department Head during individual inspections of their departmental records. The CO and XO shared lunch with CAPT Gaiani and afterward took him on a tour of our campus. Following lunch, the platoons withstood CAPT Gaiani's thorough uniform inspection and prepared for the parade.

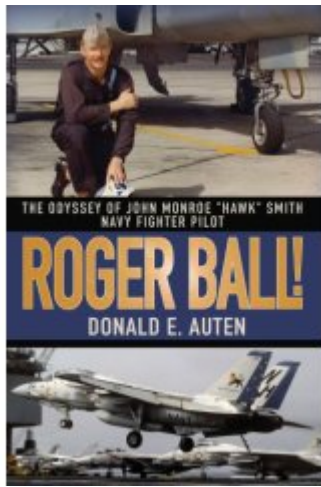
With over 250 parents, boosters, staff and friends filling the visiting-side bleachers, the Company marched on the field at precisely 1500. The ship's bell sounded welcoming Captain

Gaiani aboard, the Colors were paraded in, and Cadet Ensign John Fitelson gave a stirring, soulful rendition of our National Anthem. The Armed Exhibition Drill team, under the direction of Cadet CPO Andrew Stanley, performed flawlessly which was followed by an awards presentation to a dozen outstanding cadets. Cadets Ashley Lazareno and Jackson Hummeldorf were singled out as the two most impressive cadets at the uniform inspection, while Cadet Ensign Heidi McElrath was recognized as Islander Company's top platoon leader for the day! Company Commander David Foy, gave the order – "Islander Company, PASS – IN – REVIEW!" The music started and, as one, the 104 cadets of Islander Company marched smartly by the reviewing area much to the pleasure of all in attendance. CAPT Gaiani took time to address the onlookers and well-wishers, commending the Company for their sharp and professional

military bearing and thanking the parents for the wonderful job they had done in supporting their cadets.

With the company dismissed, the day closed with a reception put on by the CHS "Anchor Club" which is led by Islander Company parents Jim and Vicki Snyder. CAPT Pontes thanked all the CHS NJROTC parents and boosters, for their never-ending support.





“Roger Ball!” is the clipped transmission the Landing Signal Officer (LSO) makes to the pilot of an aircraft as he commences his final approach to the deck of a carrier. It means that the LSO has sight of the aircraft, it is in the proper configuration for landing, and within parameters to continue the approach. In naval aviation lexicon “Roger Ball!” most simply means, “You’re looking good. Keep it coming!”

Appropriately, “Roger Ball!” is also the title of a historical biography of a Navy fighter pilot. It chronicles the life experiences of John Monroe “Hawk” Smith from his earliest days, his budding infatuation with jet aircraft, to the many adventures and experiences that would shape and prepare him for a career as a Navy fighter pilot, Commanding Officer of TOPGUN, and tactical innovator.

This work takes the reader on a journey that each pilot and Naval Flight Officer experience in the training command, the squadron, and overseas deployments. It captures the hardships of cruise, the thrill of piloting a fighter, the terror of night arrested landings, the excitement of overseas adventures, the heartbreaking pain of losing squadron mates, and euphoria of returning home.

Hawk’s story, “Roger Ball!” is a tale that should be told. It intertwines the true, first hand accounts and experiences of a fighter pilot with the significant developments in the fighter community and historical events in which Hawk was a part. Finally, it speaks to the men who laid their careers and sometimes their very lives on the line for their shipmates and their country.

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### **Silver Strand Chapter Recognizes Founding in February 1971**



Chapter President Jim Cahill, CAPT USNR (Ret), reviewed the state of the world in 1971 when the Silver Strand Chapter was founded as we celebrated our 36th birthday at the February dinner. He said we started with 65 charter members; dues were \$10 (same as they are today); we all had more hair, less aches and pains, better sight, flatter and smaller waists and were 36 years younger; most of us were still on active duty. There were no computers, Bill Gates and Steve Jobs were 15 years old and still in high school, and Al Gore had not invented the internet as yet.

Nixon was President, Spiro Agnew was Vice President, William Rogers was Sec of State, John Caffee was Sec of Navy and Elmo Zumwalt was CNO. Pentagon papers were published about US involvement in Vietnam; US blockaded North Vietnam; ports were mined and rail lines cut; UN voted to admit Communist China and expel Nationalist China;

Alan Shepard and Edward Mitchell landed on moon and collect rocks; Charles Manson was convicted; Joe Frazier defeated Muhammad Ali to win the world heavyweight championship and Hank Aaron hit his 600<sup>th</sup> career home run.

First class postage was 6 cents; ladies wore short skirts and men grew facial hair; Dow Jones on Feb 5 was 876 and for the month the high was 890 and the low was 868. In California, Ronald Reagan was Governor with a salary of \$49 k; US Senators were Alan Cranston (D) and John Tunney (D); US Representatives were Bob Wilson (R) and Lionel van Deerling (D); Walter Hahn was Mayor of San Diego with a population of 675,000.

In Coronado, Robin Goodenough was Mayor, Joe Overton was Vice Mayor; the bridge had opened and traffic was 6.7 million cars the first year; Oakwood apartments opened with rents at \$135 to \$340; Coronado shores first building near completion; population is 20,910; 3 bedroom house on a large lot costs \$35k; Jamaica Village town house costs \$52k; Jon Duringer sells Monte Carlo Chevrolets for \$3,099; Safeway sold a pound of coffee for 79 cents and T-bone steak for \$1.49 a pound.

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

**Date: Monday, April 16, 2007**

**CAPT Donald "Duck" Auten, USNR, (Ret)**

**CAPT Auten Will Discuss His Book "Roger Ball" And Will Have Copies To Purchase**

**Where: Coronado Yacht Club, 1631 Strand Way**

**When: 1800: Social Time**

**1900: Dinner**

**1945: Program**

*Slow Roasted Prime Rib w/ Peppercorn Au Jus & Creamy Horseradish, or  
Bacon Wrapped Fresh Salmon w/ Fresh Mango Salsa, Apple Cider Reduction  
Traditional Caesar Salad, rice, vegetables, desert, rolls, coffee, tea; \$30 per person*

Use the coupon below for:

- 16 April Dinner Meeting Reservation
- Pay 2007 Dues
- Donate to NJROTC
- Donate to MOAA Scholarship Fund

**Chapter Meeting Monday, 16 April 2007**

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

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

Reservations must reach our PO Box by Noon, Thursday, 12 April OR you may contact, Joan Sadorf at:  
[jrs\\_krs0585@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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 (\$8.50) \$\_\_\_\_\_

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



**Silver Strand Chapter Board of Directors**

President	Jim Cahill, CAPT, USNR (Ret)	435-8077
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Past President	Wayne Hoffmann, BG, AUS (Ret)	522-0031

**Dates to Remember  
2007**

**Chapter Meetings**

**April 16**

**June 19**

**August 20**

**October 16**

**December 4**

**Board Meetings**

**May 15**

**July 17**

**September 18**

**November 13**

**SOUNDINGS**

Silver Strand Chapter

Military Officers Association of America

P. O. Box 180043

Coronado, CA 92178-0043

Return Service Requested

**TIME DATED MATERIAL**