



**The Santa Fe Trail Scout
Santa Fe Trail Chapter
Military Officers Association of America**
Serving the Military Community of Leavenworth County and Vicinity

Chapter Newsletter Number 2007-3

June 2007

Santa Fe Trail Chapter, MOAA, meets for dinner on Thursday July 19, 2007, at the Leavenworth Country Club, 455 W. Eisenhower Road, Lansing. Hospitality begins at 6:00 PM; dinner will be served at 7:00 PM. Our guest speaker for the evening will be Steve Strukel, who will bring us up to date on “The Future Army.”

Please make your reservations with menu choices and check payments to “Santa Fe Trail Chapter MOAA” and mail or phone to Treasurer Clark Cummins, 1033 Fifth Avenue, Leavenworth, KS 66048 (651-4545) by not later than 16 July, 2007. **If you have not have paid your 2007 chapter dues of \$15.00 you may pay them with your dinner reservation. Please pay phone reservations at the door.**

Menu (1): Sautéed Chicken w/chives & cilantro - \$18.00; Menu (2): Prime Rib of Beef w/Baked Potato - \$22.00. For all: Red Cabbage & Watercress Salad and Ratatouille Vegetable Mix, and Walnut & Ricotta Cake for Dessert. Prices include gratuity. Drinks: Coffee, Ice Tea.

We value your presence. Robert Atkins, Chapter Secretary

Please note that this dinner is on Thursday, not our usual Tuesday evening.

Grassroots Support Works!

When you look at the June issue of *Military Officer*, take note of the report on this year’s Storming the Hill effort. Within two weeks after council presidents and MOAA state representatives visited their legislators’ offices on Capitol Hill, cosponsorship of MOAA-supported Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) and TRICARE bills increased by more than 85 percent! The success of this effort started with you at the chapter level. Your calls, letters, and visits to your legislators in their local offices softened them up, and your council presidents and representatives took it from there. Thanks for your support, and keep it up.

Take MOAA's TRICARE Survey Now

MOAA needs your help to achieve maximum member feedback on an important survey aimed at identifying areas of the country where people are having trouble finding doctors who will accept new TRICARE and/or Medicare patients.

Surveys conducted by the Pentagon reportedly show beneficiaries generally don't have many problems finding doctors who participate in TRICARE. But we continue to hear anecdotal cases of problems at various locations, either in finding any participating doctors or in finding particular specialists.

Results from MOAA's survey so far are inconclusive. While we've had several thousand responses, we haven't heard from many localities, and we've received small numbers of responses in many others. If your chapter members or their TRICARE-eligible friends have had trouble finding participating doctors in your area, please have them complete MOAA's survey. You can make a difference and by helping us identify problem locations so we can work to get those problems fixed.

Please help us by publicizing the survey at chapter meetings, in chapter newsletters, and on chapter Web sites. The survey is for all military beneficiaries, whether they use TRICARE Prime, TRICARE Standard, TRICARE Reserve Select, or TRICARE For Life. The survey will be continued at least through the end of July.

Council and chapter leaders have always been the core of MOAA's grassroots influence. Thanks very much for your continued support in helping us publicize this important survey.

MOAA and Estate Planning

For most people, making a will isn't easy. Perhaps that's why millions continue to avoid doing it. Four United States presidents— Ulysses S. Grant, Abraham Lincoln, Andrew Johnson, and James Garfield — who each were married with children, died without a will. Today, 60 percent of adults in the United States who live in households with children don't have wills.

A suggestion: Instead of fearing the mortality that making a will can evoke, try thinking of it as a way to extend your love for your spouse, children, grandchildren, friends, and charitable causes.

How Can MOAA Help?

Visit "Planned Giving" on our Web site. Members can request an electronic copy of "Questions and Answers About Wills" or obtain any of our 17 "e-brochures" by sending an e-mail to moaasf@moaa.org. You also can contact MOAA's Scholarship Fund Development Director, Capt. Shelley Marshall, USN-Ret., at 1-800-234-6622, ext. 169.

We also provide a Lawyer Listing Service, with names of attorneys who are MOAA members and who have agreed to give other MOAA members a 25 percent discount off their regular and customary charges. The information in this list is validated annually. Beyond asking each attorney to confirm that he/she is admitted to practice in the state indicated, MOAA has not investigated these attorneys' backgrounds or capabilities in any way. We suggest you contact each attorney directly for additional information, including his/her areas of expertise.

How Can Chapters Help?

Make estate planning an agenda item during one of your meetings. Talk to your members about the services available from MOAA, from other chapter members, and within your community. It's never too early to make plans.

WASHINGTON, May 31, 2007 - The American Red Cross is warning military spouses about a new identity-theft scam that targets family members of deployed troops.

The Red Cross was alerted of the scam earlier this month, said Devorah Goldberg of the Red Cross.

The scam involves a person with an American accent calling a military spouse, identifying herself as a representative of the Red Cross, and telling the spouse that her husband was hurt in Iraq and was medically evacuated to Germany. The caller then says that doctors can't start treatment until paperwork is completed, and that to start the paperwork they need the spouse to verify her husband's social security number and date of birth.

It is hard to determine how many spouses have been targeted by this scam, Goldberg said, as there are many ways for spouses to report problems like this. However, one confirmed report was enough for the Red Cross to act, she said.

"We know that it happened to one person; it was probably going to happen to others, and we wanted to be prudent and alert people," she said.

American Red Cross representatives typically do not contact military members or dependents directly and almost always go through a commander or first sergeant, according to a Red Cross news release. Military family members are urged not to give out any personal information over the phone if contacted by unknown individuals, including confirmation that their spouse is deployed.

In addition, Red Cross representatives contact military members or dependents directly only in response to an emergency message initiated by a family member, the news release said. The Red Cross does not report any type of casualty information to family members; the Defense Department will contact families directly about family members' injuries.

It is a federal crime, punishable by up to five years in prison, for a person to fraudulently pretend to be a member of, or an agent for, the American Red Cross for the purpose of soliciting, collecting, or receiving money or material, according to the news release. Any military family member that receives such a call is urged to report it to their local family readiness group or military personnel flight.

[Web Version: <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=46232>]

MOAA Palm Springs, CA Chapter needs your urgent help with the National MOAA's current Legislative Update: TRICARE SURVEY. Our Chapter has a 2 year project trying to fix the flawed Sustainable Growth Rate Reimbursement Growth Rate cuts to physicians who are caring for TRICARE/TRICARE for Life members. Please link to CAL MOAA Website: <http://www.cal-moaa.org/blog/category/legislative-action-alert> for complete project information.

We were in Washington DC in April, 2007 and will be returning to testify before committees later this year. We are working with MOAA National and the AMA to help prevent a projected Medicare 2008 Physician Reimbursement Pay Cut of 10% for Medicare/TRICARE For Life and TRICARE members. We NEED MASSIVE SURVEY RESPONSES from ALL MOAA members to use when we talk with the Senate Finance, House Ways and Means, and Energy and Commerce Committee members. Our objective is to have at least 400,000 responses to this survey. Currently there are only 4,902 recorded MOAA member responses.

Please help us by registering your responses. We face a further reduction of physicians who may decide not to continue accepting MEDICARE/Tricare For Life patients.

If possible, we request each MOAA Chapter include this information in their monthly MOAA newsletters to further alert MOAA members.

Thank you for your assistance.

Palm Springs, CA. MOAA Legislative Affairs Committee members:

Judith L. Tilt

Robert Q. Ramirez

Patricia F. Barger

An Old Fighter Pilot Tells It Like It Is....

A Retired General Speaks His Mind

"Let's Be Specific"

Due to the thunderous applause that I received from the far-left over the "I Am Tired" letter written by one of our troops in Iraq, I thought it prudent to follow up with one last attempt to be very specific about what I have observed and actually personally encountered during my 36 years of service to this Great Country. Unlike Bob McClellan, I will not continue to whine, twist and degrade our country's leaders on a weekly basis. Instead, this will be a one time input attempting to reach some of those who are confused by McClellan and his ilk's unethical ranting and give some insight through my personal experience as a professional military officer over the years. These examples are but a few. In real life there were many more which space and time will not allow.

As a young fighter pilot, flying F-4s in Vietnam, I was stopped in my tracks by the decisions made by Lyndon Johnson and Robert McNamara. I was young and naive, but even then I knew their daily interference was wrong and would not allow us to win this thing and go home.

Decisions like not allowing us to strike enemy aircraft while still on the ground, keeping real targets off the target list, and allowing us to strike only rusted-out trucks made us basically a toothpick factory. However, the big one for me came the day I saw the President Lyndon Johnson on television, forcefully lying to the American people.

I'll never forget the language, "I want to assure the American people that the United States of America has never, and will never, bomb or use force inside the borders of

Cambodia". On and on he disavowed the reports that this was happening. I was amazed. Guess where I had put several F-4 loads of 750 pound general purpose bombs every day for the past five days. You guessed it, Cambodia!!! So much for Mr. Johnson. The only question in my mind was simply, "Was it just Johnson or was it the methodology of a particular political party?" I decided to delay answering that question until more experience gave me more insight.

Years passed, and I ignored politics as much as possible, as a good military man should. Then came Jimmy Carter. Our young people don't remember 18% interest rates and 18% inflation, but I'll bet someone in your family does. That is one really bad thing Carter did for our country, but it is not the worst.

During this period, I was an F-15 Squadron Commander stationed at Langley AFB, VA. Jimmy Carter and his Democratic Party stopped spare parts procurement for almost every weapon system in our military, and diverted the funds to social programs. The F-15 was brand new at the time with leading edge technology designed to provide air superiority anywhere in the world on a moments notice. That was my job. I loved it, but guess what? In a two year period from 1979 to 1981, there was not one day when more than one-third of my assigned aircraft were flyable. It is amazing the lengths we went to in those days, cannibalizing parts, expending twice the time and energy to fix every little item, and still two-thirds of the birds were always broken because of no spare parts. Had this country faced a really serious military threat during that time frame, only Montana Hunters could have saved us. The military had some equipment, but it was all broken.

Do you want to know the really bad part for me and the young fighter pilots working for me? Our flying sortie rate was so low that pilot proficiency dropped to dangerous levels. The accident rate tripled. That obviously was totally unacceptable, as we were losing expensive airplanes and highly trained young pilots at a rate comparable to losses seen in actual combat. All of a sudden, even a Texas Aggie like me began to see a trend.

Forward a few years to 1986. I am an F-16 Wing Commander at MacDill AFB, Florida, and Ronald Reagan is president. His change in attitude and policy toward the military had time to fix the spare parts problem. We were flying 26,000 flying sorties per year out of MacDill AFB, my aircraft fully mission capable rate (FMC) was above 90%, the aircraft accident rate was below 1.75 per hundred thousand flying hours, fighter pilots were flying and proficiency levels were at an all time high. The United States Air Force was ready to defend this wonderful country. Proof of the pudding is simple.

Look what the USAF, and the military in general, accomplished in Iraq during Desert Storm. And, they did it in less than 100 hours. Yeah, at this point I was starting to realize there was a difference in mentality between Democrats and Republicans, or should I say, the Right and the Left.

Then, came everyone's favorite---Bill Clinton. If there ever was an individual 180 degrees out of sync with the ideals and the values of the US military, it was Clinton. He was a known draft-dodger, a military-hating, self-absorbed, unspeakably shameless and immoral individual, whom the Left managed to elect President of the United States. Clinton's antics in the White House would have brought court martial, conviction, and

dishonorable discharge had he been a military member. But we still suffer oral sex on school buses because a U.S. president told the world it wasn't real sex, and some of our children bought that. It took a lot of years, but now I am certain.

There is a big difference in the right and the left on all fronts, and for the first time I started feeling angry and shamed that the majority of the American people were actually willing to vote for such an individual as Clinton or Kennedy or the like.

Sometimes, an abstract from someone of the following type tells the story in very simple terms: Jane Fonda, Tom Hayden, Lyndon Johnson, Robert McNamara, Ted Kennedy, Howard Dean, Bill Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Michael Moore, Tim Robbins, Susan Sarandon, Nancy Pelosi, Barbara Boxer, John Kerry, Benedict Arnold. The list goes on.

America, wake up! Give in to the likes of these people, and Abraham Lincoln's prediction of destruction from within just may come true. There is not a country in the world that can be considered a conventional military threat to the United States today. However, this country faces a new kind of threat---one that will not go away. It is a threat even more serious than that of WWII, because money, industry and technology will not defeat it.

It is a threat of defeat from within. It is a threat of a faltering economy because of a lack of resourcefulness, or even the simple threat of such a loss brought on by terrorism. It is a threat created by the American people trusting the inept. It is a threat created by the people understandably wanting change and perilously believing that the left can successfully deliver that change. Have you seen anything from the left that remotely resembles an answer to the Iraq situation? Have you seen anything more than continued Bush-Bashing? Is that an answer? If there was ever a need for a strong, well trained military, it is now.

THE LEFT HAS HISTORICALLY DISMANTLED OUR MILITARY IN THE NAME OF SOCIAL PROGRAMS DEDICATED TO THE REDISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH. We just cannot afford to let that happen now. If we do, the entire country will be bowing to the east several times a day within the next 50 years, maybe sooner.

Now, a final thought meant to upset as many as possible on the far-left. As you might guess, I don't believe in political correctness. So, let's look at the facts, not far-left rhetoric attempting to empower the Democratic Party.

Initially, I was not a George Bush fan. I am not even a Republican. I normally vote Republican, because of my total despise of communism, socialism, and the far-left in this country. I am a Conservative. However, during his watch, I feel President Bush just happened to stumble upon the leading edge of the greatest threat this country has ever faced. Mistakes have been made because of the newness of the threat. But overall, the president has done a superb job dealing with the threat and at the same time held off the constant ranting, raving, deceitful and malicious escapades of the far-left attempting to regain political power.

IF THERE WAS EVER A TIME THE COUNTRY NEEDS TO COME TOGETHER AND BACK OUR PRESIDENT, IT IS RIGHT NOW. WITHOUT CONSENSUS WE ARE

EMPOWERING THE TERRORIST!!!! The far-left is totally absorbed with the power struggle and with regaining control of the legislative and executive branches. They could care less about defeating the threat. It literally disgusts me to hear the constant disagreement with everything the president tries to do, all in the name of trying to make him look bad to the voters.

Unfortunately, by the time the American people really appreciate how bad the far-left really is, it may be too late.

What are the real facts? On the home front this country's economy is the strongest that it has been in my lifetime. Interest rates are as low as they were when I was in high school forty years ago. Inflation does not exist for all practical purposes. The Dow is approaching 13,000. Unemployment is non-existent. Wages are at an all time high. Home ownership is at an all time high. Taxes have been lowered to an almost acceptable level. Because of the surging economy the deficit is under control and projected to go away far ahead of schedule. The far-left is rich beyond its wildest dreams. Still, they yell "Mr. President, when are you going to 'fix' all these domestic problems?"

On the war front this country has not been touched since 2001. I remember being part of a seminar at the USAF War College in 1983 discussing the terrorist threat. There were some good minds at that table and a lot of disagreement. However, one common thought was that the US would be hit within the next five years. Answers to the terrorist threat were just as hard to come by then as they are now. Well, it took a little longer than the projection, but the attack occurred. And for an old military guy like me, the main point here is that it has not happened again. We have suckered the bad guys into entering the fight somewhere other than in our country.

I smile every morning when I get up and realize that one of our great cities has not been blown away. And there is zero doubt in my mind that if we pull out of Iraq prematurely, that will happen within a short period of time after our departure. I don't care what you might think of President Bush personally. He has done the best he can with what he has, and this country is not smoking because of it. So, back off, McLean and McClellan. You honestly don't have a clue to what you are talking about. Call me, and I'll gladly tell you what I really think.

I realize there are different points of view on war, and I do not believe the meek will inherit the earth, at least not in the next few hundred years. To those like McClellan, McLean, poor Eve Kyes and Sinowa Cruz, let me say, This is a strong country. It has survived the uneducated thinking of the far-left before, and I'll just bet it will again.

Regardless of who is president, the people will not tolerate mass explosions on a daily basis, as our good friends in Israel have been forced to do. To protect that position of power, even Hillary will be forced to become a true hawk. To guarantee a few more votes, Ted Kennedy may be forced to begin supporting a strong military. One more attack on America might even wipe the giddy, 'I-am-finally-somebody' grin from Nancy Pelosi's face, and make her realize that it is not about votes and personal power. *IT IS ABOUT PROTECTING THIS GREAT COUNTRY FROM ALL ENEMIES, BOTH FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.*

To hell with political correctness. Maybe the president can't say these things. But I sure can.

Jimmy L. Cash, Brig. Gen., USAF, Ret.

"Victory at all cost. Victory in spite of all terror. Victory no matter how long and how hard the road may be; for without victory there is no survival."

Winston Churchill, May 13, 1940

The City of Leavenworth and **Leavenworth Main Street** will be having their annual downtown celebration on 8/9 September 2007. Our chapter has actively participated in this event in past years by providing block captains to facilitate the placement of vendors in the celebration area early on Saturday morning. Bob Storms has volunteered to coordinate this activity this year and is looking for volunteers to assist him. If you wish to be a part of this effort please contact Bob Storms at 651-7395.

The semi-annual PAIR Day at Fort Leavenworth for the new incoming class at the Command and General Staff College will be held on August 11 at Sherman Army Airfield. Both MOAA National and our chapter have jointly operated a booth at these events to recruit new members and to acquaint attendees with MOAA and its programs. If you desire to assist in operating our booth this year please contact Mary Goodwin, our President, at proeagles@kv.rr.com.

August 13, 2007 will be a red letter day at Fort Leavenworth. The newly constructed Lewis and Clark building will be dedicated and the new Command and General Staff Class will have its first day of instruction in the building. While a specific time for this celebration has not been set it is anticipated that the activities will begin about 10:00 AM. The general public is encouraged to attend this event. Buses will be provided from special parking locations to facilitate the public's participation. There will be extensive advance coverage of this event in the local newspaper. Make plans now to attend so that you can tell your grandchildren that you were one of the first persons to visit this state of the art military instructional facility.

Looking ahead in our annual program, Steve Mulcahy will be the guest speaker at our September meeting. He will be talking about the current problem faced by so many people – Identity Theft and how to prevent it. At our November meeting we are going to have fun with a script with a bunch of characters played by selected members of our chapter. Don't miss this event.

MOAA National is encouraging the formation of Auxiliary units at Chapter level. Auxiliary members are spouses of deceased members or other persons with an active interest in the aims and efforts of MOAA. We encourage the spouses of our deceased members to participate in our events and we will send invitations to those persons who ask to be included in the activities and programs of the chapter. An E-mail or a telephone call to the Chapter Secretary will facilitate your inclusion in our mailing list. Phone Robert Atkins at 913-772-8176 or Email him at roberta664@sbcglobal.net.