



**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 2007-4

August 2007

Santa Fe Trail Chapter, MOAA, meets for dinner on Tuesday September 18, 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. There is a very good chance that YOU will be part of the evening's entertainment.

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 14 September, 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): Capon w/Gold Sauce and Peas w/Pearl Onions - \$18.00; Menu (2): Cold Beef a la Parisienne - \$19.00. For all: Salad: Avocado, orange & Almond; Desert: Goteau Dacquoise (Cream Stuffed Meringue). Prices include gratuity. Drinks: Coffee, Ice Tea.

We value your presence. Robert Atkins, Chapter Secretary

Recently, a story has been circulating via the internet (it crops up every year or so and makes the rounds) concerning the origin of the bugle call "Taps". This is a short version of the true origin from the historian's office at Arlington National Cemetery. Share this with others who may have a mistaken idea regarding the true origin.

Another Version of the Origin of 'Taps'

A tune sounded during ceremonies at the Tomb of the Unknowns and at military funerals everywhere is known simply as

Taps

by Kathryn Shenkle*

During a visit to Arlington National Cemetery, Va., you might hear the echoes of "Taps" being sounded by a bugler from one of the armed forces of the United States.

The 132-year-old bugle call was composed by Brig. Gen. Daniel Butterfield, who commanded the 3rd Brigade, 1st Division, V Army Corps, Army of the Potomac, during the American Civil War.

Butterfield wrote "Taps" at Harrison's Landing, Va., in July 1862 to replace the customary firing of three rifle volleys at the end of burials during battle. "Taps" also replaced "Tattoo," the French bugle call to signal "lights out." Butterfield's bugler, Oliver W. Norton of Chicago, was the first to sound the new call. Within months, "Taps" was sounded by buglers in both Union and Confederate forces.

"Taps" concludes nearly 15 military funerals conducted with honors each weekday at the Arlington National Cemetery as well as hundreds of others around the country. The tune is also played at many memorial services in Arlington's Memorial Amphitheater and at gravesites throughout the cemetery.

"Taps" is sounded during the 2,500 military wreath ceremonies conducted at the Tomb of the Unknowns every year, including the ones to be held this Memorial Day. The ceremonies are viewed by many groups, including veterans, schools, and foreign officials.

One of the final bugle calls of the day on military installations, "Taps" is played at 10 pm as a signal to service members that it is "lights out."

When "Taps" is played, it is customary to salute, if in uniform, or place your hand over your heart if not. The composer of "Taps" was born Oct. 31, 1831, in Utica, NY, and joined the Army in Washington, DC.

He was awarded the Medal of Honor in the US Volunteers on June 27, 1862. After his brigade lost more than 600 men in the Battle of Gaines Mill, Butterfield took up the colors of the 83rd Pennsylvania Volunteers. Under heavy enemy fire, he encouraged the depleted ranks to regroup and continue the battle.

Butterfield died July 17, 1901, and was buried at the US Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. "Taps" was sounded at his funeral.

*Article reprinted with permission from Kathryn Shenkle, Historian with Arlington National Cemetery.

MINUTES OF THE KANSAS COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS

Meeting held on:

18 August 2007 at Lawrence, Kansas

FLINT HILLS CHAPTER, JUNCTION CITY, KS
JAYHAWK CHAPTER, LAWRENCE, KS
KAW VALLEY CHAPTER, TOPEKA, KS
SANTA FE CHAPTER, LEAVENWORTH, KS
SMOKY HILL CHAPTER, SALINA, KS
SUNFLOWER CHAPTER, JOHNSON COUNTY, KS
WICHITA CHAPTER, WICHITA, KS

COUNCIL OFFICERS PRESENT:

President: David Kennedy, CWO3, USMC-RET
President Elect: Richard Keller, LTG, USA-RET
1st Vice-President: Gary LaGrange, COL, USA-RET
2nd Vice-President: James S. Cooper, CAPT, USN-RET
Past President: Robert V. Hadley, COL, AUS-RET ~ ~ Not in attendance
Treasurer: Francis R. Fanning, Col, USAF-RET
Secretary: John W. Halladay, COL, AUS-RET
Legislative Liaison Chair: Hollis B. Logan, Col, USAF-RET
Personal Affairs Chair: Not appointed
Newsletter/Website Chair: David Kennedy, CWO3, USMC-RET

CHAPTER DELEGATES PRESENT

Flint Hills Chapter: Roy A. Watson, CW4, USA-RET, 1st Vice-President
Gary LaGrange, COL, USA-RET, Past President
Jayhawk Chapter: Michael P. Sullivan, RADM, USN-RET, President
James S. Cooper, CAPT, USN-RET, Treasurer
KAW Valley Chapter: Ed Gerhardt, BG, AUS-RET, President
Santa Fe Chapter: Mary Goodwin, COL, USA-RET, President
Richard Keller, LTG, USA-RET, Past President
Smoky Hill Chapter: No one present
Sunflower Chapter: David Kennedy, CWO3, USMC-RET, Past President
Wichita Chapter: Francis R. Fanning, Col, USAF-RET

OTHER CHAPTER MEMBERS:

Jayhawk Chapter: John Priddle, Col, USAF-RET
Jayhawk Chapter: Tom Carmody, LT, USA-Former
Jayhawk Chapter: Bob Burkhart, LCDR, USNR-RET

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 1000 hours, Chapter flags were displayed with the American flag

ADM Sullivan lead the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance and opening prayer. After opening the session, Judy Sweet, Audiovisuals Archivist, gave us a tour of the Dole Institute of Politics. This took about 45 minutes and the Council meeting continued at 1100 hours.

Self-introductions were given to start the meeting

5 May 2007 minutes - The minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's report - The report was presented and accepted.

Give Me Ten Program: This was discussed a little as to where we stood on new members. Also, it was noted that the Chapters need to make sure the applications that are forwarded for Give Me Ten have a notation on the application in large letters (**GIVE ME TEN**), so it is not noted as just a National Membership application

The new Give Me Ten Program is \$26.00 for the two years vs. the \$24.00 previously

Joint Council Meeting, CWO Kennedy informed us that he had only received one letter from Nebraska with a possibility for a meeting. Therefore, it was decided to forgo this effort and deferred it to LTG Keller for him to follow-up on his watch next year.

Coalition - LTG Keller has been working with MG Strukel on ways that we can work in expanding on a coalition of force with other organizations in Kansas. One of the ways we can help is to advertise more on what our Chapters are doing in support of the community and put these things on the web sites for people to see. Let your Congressmen know what is going on as well.

Chapter of Excellence Awards - CWO Kennedy advised that the Santa Fe Trails Chapter received the Five Star Award, and the Jayhawk and Sunflower Chapters received the Four Star Award for the year 2006 efforts. Comments made in support of sending in your Chapter Award consideration reports: say what your Chapter has done in support of the many efforts put forth by MOAA National, as well as your community support items. One other thing mentioned was the fact that we are getting charged for Chapter members who belong to the Chapter and not a member of MOAA National. Thing that MOAA National has to consider is the fact that even though some of these members join the Chapter, they have no incentive to join National because they are not retirees and would not receive benefits. Of course, this affects the Chapter percentage at MOAA National. Some of these members do send in the cards and correspondence to their Congressmen, even though it would not benefit them.

Kansas Council Web Page - CWO Kennedy asks that we provide him with items of interest for the Council Website so it can be posted, Chapter items or items of interest legislatively. Any changes to status of members, etc., need to be brought forward for posting. It is possible to make it possible for members to pay their dues on line through the website, as well as donations and meeting payments. This would have to be coordinated with the bank involved for the money transfer to the bank. Electronic newsletters can be produced using **html**.

Jayhawk Chapter - ADM Sullivan's comments: He congratulated the membership of all the Council chapters who won MOAA National 2006 Awards, including the Jayhawk Chapter for its Four Star Award. The Chapter has been pushing for more membership, especially the Give Me Ten program, and so far has obtained two new members this year. COL Kish, as prospective Jayhawk Chapter President in 2008, is going to represent the Chapter at the October 2007 Council and Chapter Presidents Symposium in Dallas, along with CAPT Cooper and COL Halladay.

Extra efforts have been put toward bringing the MG Clay Comfort Scholarship up to a fully endowed level of \$30,000 plus. LtCol Erv Hodges is leading this effort. Representative Nancy Boyda's appearance as our speaker brought about a larger than normal attendance for July and her talk was mainly covering her efforts to support Military needs. Representative Nancy Boyda's visit as our July program speaker brought about a larger than normal attendance. Her remarks mainly covered her efforts to support Military needs

Santa Fe Chapter - COL Goodwin's comments: Since their last meeting on 5 May, the SFT Chapter held its May dinner meeting at the Leavenworth Country Club on 15 May. Mrs Tracy Wooten and MS Barbara Wright spoke about TRICARE and what services Munson Army Health clinic and Gentry clinic now offer. They answered many questions at the meeting and offered to answer questions by e-mail and phone. There were 45 for dinner, a fairly large turn-out. LTG Keller presented the MOAA Excellence in Joint Services Warfare Writing Honors Award to MAJ Edward Croot at the US Army command and General Staff College's graduation ceremony on 14 June 2007. General Casey, the Army Chief of Staff and Mrs. Croot were also in the photo with LTG Keller. The Chapter's BOD meeting was held at the Village Square restaurant on 28 June 2007. They discussed the July dinner meeting, a quick report from the Secretary and Treasurer. Their Secretary arranged for a MOAA certificate to be presented to an Eagle Scout from Leavenworth KS. Their 19 July 2007 dinner meeting was held at the Leavenworth Country Club with MAJ Steve Strukel, their 1st VP, giving a short talk about new Army equipment. On 6 August COL Goodwin represented National HQs in presenting a MOAA Certificate and endowment to the C&GSC Military Instructor of the Year, LTC Caratola, USMC. On 11 August, Bob Storms, Steve Mulcahy and Mary Goodwin assisted John Plehal from MOAA National at PAIR Day at Sherman Army Airfield, Fort Leavenworth, KS. This event is arranged by the MWR agency for vendors, organizations and businesses to make the C&GSC students aware of their services or products. They enrolled 60 students or permanent party members in MOAA during the four-hour event. MOAA National also gave away an I-POD and the winner was MAJ Scott Kirkpatrick, a new C&GSC student. Their next BOD meeting is 23 August and their next dinner meeting is 18 September. They plan to participate in the Leavenworth Main Street event on 8-9 September and Fort Leavenworth's Retiree Appreciation Day on 27 October.

Wichita Chapter - Col Frank Fanning's comments: Their Scholarship Foundation program provides 9 - \$500 scholarships to the JROTC Students. The list received from MOAA National has not been much assistance in recruiting for Get Me Ten program, because by and large the people on the list are paid up members of National. We welcome them into our Chapter, but cannot get "Give Me Ten" credit. We are trying to make direct contact with officers who we think are not current members of National. A future meeting in Topeka was brought up, where the Kansas National Guard Officer Association has scheduled their annual Conference at the Ramada Hotel on 11-13 April 2008. The Conferences are normally attended by approximately 500 Officers and spouses. COL (Ret) Mike Hayden, from National MOAA had a table, passing out applications to join both the State and National Chapter Organizations and passed out copies of all items that MOAA supports, and then held a drawing from the applications he received. COL Hayden said he would be at the Conference and would be available to speak to the Council, providing it was scheduled on 12 April. LeRoy Meyer will work with COL Hayden in setting this meeting up and BG Gerhardt will assist in the final details.

Sunflower Chapter - Maj Harry Malnicof's comments: There have been no meetings since May. Members did participate in the Stand-Down for homeless Veterans in June. In July, members participated as a group and took in "Oklahoma" at the New Theatre in Overland Park. The 18 September meeting will start the new year off with a wine tasting. Using a calling-tree has helped keep attendance up to the minimum participation for the Club. This year the Chapter presented a \$3,000 scholarship award to a Navy ROTC student at KU. Scholarship fund raising consists of a raffle sent out to every member with 10 tickets to be sold or paid for at \$5.00 each, this drawing to be at the 18 September meeting. They also have their Christmas gift auction in December, where everyone brings something in to auction off, as well as merchants have donated items to be raffled off. They are having some difficulty in having someone to step up and take a leadership role for next year.

Kaw Valley Chapter - BG Edward Gerhardt's comments: Normal activities consist of four champagne brunches - two entertainment and two military presentations. They are still providing four JROTC Scholarships, one each for the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. They support the military activities in the community, such as the Military museums and units in the area. At the last meeting in August, LtCol Mike Welch, USMCR-Ret, presented the Marine Corps activities in Middle East. The October program will be LTG Richard Keller providing an Army/Army National Guard brief

Flint Hills Chapter - CW4 Roy Watson's comments: Normally, the Chapter holds four meetings annually. The annual Board meeting was held on 23 August. Arrangements are being worked on for Gen Myer to speak at their September meeting while he is visiting KSU. The Chapter supports the JROTC Region drill team competition in the area. The ROTC Awards were presented to the KSU students in May. Attendance at meetings has varied from 40 to 60 in attendance. They usually swap meetings between Manhattan and Junction City. MG Durbin is the new Commander at the First Infantry Division, Fort Riley.

Nomination Committee for 2008 Council officers - COL LaGrange has not been able to confirm the nominees for the coming years as of this date. He will present the slate at the November meeting.

Legislative Affairs - Col Logan reports: HR 3162 was passed on 1 August, stopping the 9.9% cut in Medicare and TRICARE payments to doctors, scheduled to take place in January 2008 under current law. This was a result of some 11,000 response by MOAA members to Congress. TRICARE formulary 1st Tier has changed again, moving Prilosec and Nexium to \$3.00 co-pay. Also, adding acid reflux medications, Prevacid, Zegerid, Protonix and Aciphex, as well as Avapro, Avalide, Benicar and Diovan to the third tier, or \$22 co-pay. Paid up SBP cost still holds out for 1 Oct 2008 for retirees with over 30 years payment into SBP. Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission reversed their decision and voted 12-1 that "Congress should eliminate the ban on concurrent receipt for all retirees and disability separations. Future priority should be given to Chapter 61s (medical retirees) with less than 20 years of service and greater than 50% service-connected disability and all combat disabled Chapter 61s." Response to MOAA notices have been very good

Attending Past Council Presidents comments:

Col Logan is still impressed with the talent and dedication of the Council members. Maj. Malnicof was just happy to be at the meeting.

Remarks were made that there are doctors in the Leavenworth area who will not accept MEDICARE. Anyone who has this situation should report it to MOAA National and your Representative. It should also be noted that TRICARE costs for Active Duty could go up as much as \$100 to \$400; this is not right for those who are serving their country in harm's way. There are many Veterans who never go to VA, because of the hassle to get any kind of service. This is an educational thing that we should do our best to head some of these old retirees in the right direction Readiness in the Army - Active and Reserve Components are at an all time low and a lot of it is due to the industrial base that cannot keep up with the demand to support the requirements. As of September, there are no more troops available unless more Reserve Components are called to Active Duty. And, the Army is having a hard time meeting its recruitment goal

Here is a valuable bit of information on VA Long Term Care availability, provided by COL LaGrange. While making nursing home arrangements for my aged father, I recently became aware of a valuable program that I wish to share with you. It is particularly helpful as you consider Long Term Care Plans and should be factored into your decision process.

"Aid and Attendance" is an underutilized special monthly pension benefit offered by the Veterans Administration for veterans and surviving spouses who require in-home care or live in nursing homes. To qualify, a veteran (includes the surviving spouse) must have served at least 90 days of active military service, one day of which is during a period of war, and must be discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. The veteran's benefit is \$18,234 annually (paid monthly) and increases to \$21,615 if a veteran has one dependent. The surviving spouse alone is \$11,715 annually. For more information, call 1-800-827-1000, visit <http://www.va.gov> (type "Aid and Attendance" in the search block), or contact your local VA office. You can also apply on-line at <http://vabenfits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp> however, a VA representative visited my dad in the nursing home before the benefit could be approved."

Fourth Quarter meeting - Wichita Chapter hosting in Wichita on 3 November 2007. More details TBA. Meeting Adjourned at 1500 hours.

