



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 2008-2

March 2008

Santa Fe Trail Chapter, MOAA, meets for dinner on Tuesday March 18, 2008, 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 program will consist of speakers from the Leavenworth High School JROTC.

Please make your reservations, menu choices and check payments to "Santa Fe Trail Chapter MOAA" c/o Treasurer Clark Cummins, 1033 Fifth Avenue, Leavenworth, KS 66048 (651-4545) by not later than March 14, 2008. **Please pay phone reservations at the door.**

Menu (1): Chicken w/herbs & Garlic Potatoes - \$19.00.

Menu (2): *Boeuf a la Bourgvignonne - \$19.50.

For all: Saint Lioba Mushroom Soup; Petits pois aux morilles; Desert: Saint Patrick's Delight. Prices include gratuity. Drinks: Coffee, Ice Tea. *Beef stew Burgundy Style.

Your 2008 Dues are due and payable as of 1 January 2008.

We value your presence. Robert Atkins, Chapter Secretary

A message from your Chapter Secretary:

It has been our practice for quite some time to announce our dinner meetings in two ways:

1. By E-mail to all those members who have access to E-mail, usually as part of one of our newsletters.
2. By post card to every member of record. Postal costs continue to rise and will increase again on May 8th.

We are going to continue this practice of multiple notifications to our members for the next two dinner meetings in May and July 2008. Beginning with the dinner meeting scheduled for September 2008 we will only mail post cards to those members who have no access to E-mail AND to those members who ask for post cards in addition to E-mail notification. To ask for the continuation of post card notifications please contact the secretary by E-mail, postal mail or telephone anytime between now and the first of September. Address: Robert Atkins, 421 Osage Street, Leavenworth KS 66048; Phone 913-772-8176; E-mail: roberta664@sbcglobal.net.

GEN Casey and Secretary of the Army Pete Geren just published the 2008 Army Posture Statement. They also just testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee on the Army budget. According to the Army's Chief of Staff, he has four imperatives that he wants to stress in this next year. They are:

1. Sustain the soldiers, families and civilians of the Army.
2. Prepare the soldiers to be able to continue to future conflicts.
3. Reset - return soldiers and equipment to appropriate levels of readiness.
4. Transform into an agile campaign force.

For those who have an Army Knowledge online account - they can read more information about the Posture of the US Army at www.army.mil/aps/08.

Subject: RAS (UNCLASSIFIED)

All Hands:

LTG Chuck Pitman, former Deputy Commandant for Aviation with Gen Al Gray, requests that this Veteran scoop be passed along on the All Hands.

"Just wanted to let you know that, the same as many of you, I recently received my Military Retiree Account Statement. Please review the back of your statement and verify who you have designated as the beneficiary in case you die. Mine has changed to someone I don't even know ("wife") as getting 100%. Based upon the fact that recently the VA had military retiree personnel information compromised it is interesting that somehow my beneficiaries have changed.

"If you look at the broader picture of what this means that many veterans probably wouldn't catch this and that as we lose more of our fellow service men and women each day this would leave their dependents without the benefit they deserve.

"I will be calling DOD first day they are open as well as the DOD IG and local congressman. Please send this out to the retirees you know and alert them to check whether their current beneficiary is correctly shown. Ask them to pass it along."

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

John Holladay's Editorial note: This could possibly happen. It is always a good idea to check this anyway, because we do have changes that take place and if not up-dated the beneficiary listed is the one who will receive the benefits and there is nothing that can be done if it is wrong and you are dead -- if they have documents on hand that you have signed.

This E-mail is from the Army Chief of Staff with a link to the new FM 3-0, and the Chief's focus.

Dear General Officers,

As you know, Field Manual 3-0 is the Army's first update to our capstone doctrine since September 11, 2001, and reflects six years of wartime experience in an increasingly complex global security environment. I would appreciate your thoughts on it. The manual is located at <http://www.army.mil/fm3-0.pdf>.

One of the principal challenges the Army faces is regaining our traditional edge at fighting conventional wars while retaining what we have learned in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere. FM 3-0 provides the operational concept for achieving this goal. As you read this manual, I ask you to focus on five key elements of the doctrine:

- The description of the complex environment where operations are increasingly conducted "among the people;"
- The operational concept for full spectrum operations where commanders simultaneously employ offensive, defensive and stability (or civil support) operations to achieve decisive results;
- The emphasis on commanders and their role in battle command;
- The increased emphasis on information superiority as an element of combat power; and that
- Soldiers remain the centerpiece of our formations and our ultimate asymmetric advantage.

As the Army's current and retired senior leaders, your insights are critical to improving this doctrine and ensuring our continued success on the battlefield. We need your ideas and feedback. Submit your opinions and recommendations to: leav-cadd-web-cadd@conus.army.mil.

George W. Casey, Jr.
General, United States Army

[MOAA Talks TRICARE Fees With Hill Staffers](#)

Today, MOAA briefed almost 50 House staffers about DoD proposals to raise health fees for retirees under age 65 including raising copays for prescriptions that would make TRICARE's drug plan worse than half of all civilian plans.

To help MOAA fight these disproportionate fee hikes, please take the time to send the tear-out post cards to your legislators included with the March edition of your Military Officer magazine, which will be in your mailbox soon if you haven't received it already. Feel free to add a handwritten note at the bottom to give your letter an extra punch.

[COLA Watch](#)

The Consumer Price Index for the month of January jumped 0.5% over December's value.

[More \\$22 Drugs](#)

DoD has approved moving eight more medications to the \$22 copay level, and restricted access to three others.

[Hill Receives Recruiting Report Card](#)

Hill defense leaders heard testimony from civilian and military personnel chiefs on their efforts to bolster recruiting and retention. The quality of recruits and force stress topped the issues of concern.

[House Hears About Revising VA Disability Ratings](#)

A House veterans panel heard testimony on the need to revise the VA rating system to take into account quality of life, social impact, and functionality. The rating system hasn't been comprehensively updated since 1945.

Late Nite Talk

MOAA's COL Bob Norton, USA (Ret.), Deputy Director of Government Relations, joined Sen. Jim Webb (D-VA) Monday on a late night syndicated radio talk show to discuss educational benefits for servicemembers and veterans.

Guard-Reserve Caucus Breakfast

MOAA was a proud sponsor this week of a House National Guard and Reserve Caucus event hosted by co-chairs Reps. Gene Taylor (D-MS) and Steve Buyer (R-IN).

Hill Receives Recruiting Report Card

The House and Senate Armed Services Personnel subcommittees met this week to review the current status of the military services' recruiting and retention efforts from the four personnel chiefs and Dr. David S.C. Chu, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

Dr. Chu and the service personnel chiefs presented a fairly strong recruiting and retention "report card" even though Chairwoman Susan Davis (D-CA) expressed her concern over "the erosion of recruit quality" in her opening statement. Chu emphasized in his oral comments that the quality concern is "largely in the Army and is largely about the proportion [of new recruits] that are high school graduates." The Army failed to meet the department's high school graduate benchmark of 90% for new recruits, accessing only 82% in 2007.

Congressional members from both sides of the aisle engaged the panel on key issues including the Pentagon's reliance on supplemental funding; the ongoing stress on the force and military families as a result of repeated deployments and extended tour lengths; and concern over growing personnel costs.

Chu discussed the importance of retaining the family and asked for Congress' support for three family programs - improving "transferability" of the GI Bill to spouses and children; providing "career" opportunity for spouses in the workforce; and accelerating child day care access.

MOAA has worked with Sen. Bob Corker (R-TN) to support his bill, [S. 2599](#), which would accomplish a number of the goals above.

Chu also updated both committees on the progress of DoD's and VA's pilot program intended to streamline and improve the continuum of care and seamless transition for wounded warriors, a process MOAA has been closely following.

Another MOAA priority was addressed in the department's written statement – reform of the Uniformed Services Former Spouses Protection Act (USFSPA). DoD has submitted fourteen USFSPA reform proposals this year - two major provisions would prohibit court-ordered payment of retired pay prior to retirement and compute divisible retired pay based on rank and years of service at time of divorce.

House Hears About Revising VA Disability Ratings

On February 26, the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs conducted a lengthy hearing concerning needed changes to the Veterans' Affairs Schedule for Disability Ratings (VASRD), which has not been comprehensively updated since 1945. This was the third in a series of hearings concerning the VA claims

processing system.

The committee called upon 19 separate witnesses to comment on the recent recommendations of the Veterans Disability Benefits Commission (VDBC). Testimony was provided by representatives from the VDBC, the Institute of Medicine, the Center for Naval Analyses Corporation, the American Academy of Disability Evaluating Physicians, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Legion, the VA, and others.

Subcommittee Chairman Rep. John Hall (D-NY) addressed the need to revise the current rating system in light of the VDBC recommendations stating that "our nation's disabled veterans deserve to have a system that is based on the most available and relevant medical knowledge." Much of the current rating system is based on occupational capabilities and many disability specialists agree that quality of life, functionality, and social adaptation need to be considered as well.

These hearings are the first steps in revising the VASRD and ensuring more equitable disability ratings for servicemembers. The revision will take several years to complete and will require the consideration of many experts inside and outside the government. MOAA applauds the effort of the subcommittee and is committed to tracking the efforts to reform and improve the disability rating system.

Late Nite Talk

"Westwood One" talk show host [Jim Bohannon](#), a Vietnam veteran, welcomed freshman Senator Jim Webb (D-VA), MOAA Deputy Director for Government Relations, COL Bob Norton USA (Ret), and three other GI Bill experts to discuss Webb's plan to 'upgun' educational benefits under the GI Bill to match the cost of education.

The late night broadcast has the fourth highest rating of similar syndicated radio programs. Webb made the case to substantially increase veterans' benefits under a new GI Bill for the 21st century that matches the service and sacrifice of a "new greatest generation."

The Virginia lawmaker declared that all service men and women deserve "access to a first class future" via the GI Bill. Webb's S. 22 would re-authorize a World War II-style GI Bill program that would cover most veterans' educational program costs.

Last year the bill was criticized as too expensive with a whopping \$75 billion, 10-year price tag. Webb's staff has been working with MOAA and other groups to re-tool the bill to lower the sticker shock. Webb introduced an amended version of S. 22 on the Senate floor Thursday, but the bill text was not available at press time.

Norton pointed out that a recent government report (Jan. 2008) showed that the Montgomery GI Bill only covers about 60% of the cost of an education at the average public college and only 42% at the average private school. He thanked Sen. Webb for his leadership in sponsoring his bill and leading Senate efforts on the issue.

MOAA's top priorities for the GI Bill this year are to raise rates to cover at least the average cost of a 4-year public college education and to allow reservists who serve active duty tours to accumulate GI Bill entitlement for multiple call-ups up to the 36 month maximum for active duty troops. MOAA has also recommended to Sen. Webb's staff that officers commissioned from the service academies and ROTC scholarship programs should be authorized to enroll in the GI Bill if they agree to an extension of their service commitment.

During the call-in portion of the show, Norton responded to a caller from the Illinois National

Guard who asked about improving reserve retirement to match today's service expectations for Guard and Reserve members. Norton called the current age-60 reserve retirement program a "relic of the Cold War" that needs to be modernized in recognition of the greater demands of service for today's operational reserve warriors. MOAA also addressed this issue in the [Jan. 18 Legislative Update](#).

Guard-Reserve Caucus Breakfast

VADM Norb Ryan, USN (Ret.), MOAA President and MOAA Deputy Director, COL Bob Norton, USA (Ret.) represented the association at the annual House National Guard and Reserve Caucus breakfast Wednesday. The caucus helps to broker important readiness issues affecting the reserve forces in the legislative process.

MOAA was one of six Military Coalition (TMC) partners that sponsored the event. The featured speaker, LTG Steve Blum, USA, Chief of the National Guard Bureau noted that there's controversy about the recently released [Commission on the National Guard and Reserves report](#) but said it was a "good place to start the debate" on transforming the reserve forces for their 21st century operational missions at home and abroad. (MOAA endorses many of the report's findings but has expressed deep concern over the adoption of another study-group's recommendation to scrap the active duty retirement system and replace it with a deferred age-57 retirement for all active and reserve retirees and adopt "401k'-like" vesting at 10 years' service.)

Each National Guard and Reserve Chief was invited to voice his component's "top three" issues at the event. Among the issues on their radar this year are dental "unreadiness", recruiting incentives, support for military families and employers, additional full-time active duty -- 'full-time support' -- for G-R units, and improving the GI Bill.

The leaders were thankful of the recent expansion (October 1, 2007) of the TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) program to all members of the Guard and Reserve and their families in drilling status. MOAA and TMC began the fight for expanded health insurance options for reserve families prior to 9/11 and we are pleased at the impact TRS is beginning to have on family morale, retention, and readiness in the National Guard and Reserves.

This message was sent to you at the following email address: roberta664@sbcglobal.net | [Manage Subscription](#)

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201 N. Washington St., Alexandria, Va. 22314 | (800) 234-6622 (MOAA) |

KILROY WAS HERE!

In 1946 the American Transit Association, through its radio program, "Speak to America," sponsored a nationwide contest to find the REAL Kilroy, offering a prize of a real trolley car to the person who could prove himself to be the genuine article. Almost 40 men stepped forward to make that claim, but only James Kilroy from Halifax, Massachusetts had evidence of his identity.

Kilroy was a 46-year old shipyard worker during the war. He worked as a checker at the Fore River Shipyard in Quincy. His job was to go around and check on the number of rivets completed. Riveters were on piecework and got paid by the rivet. Kilroy would count a block of rivets and put a check mark in semi-waxed lumber chalk, so the rivets wouldn't be counted twice. When Kilroy went off duty, the riveters would erase the mark. Later on, an off-shift inspector would come through and count the rivets a second time, resulting in double pay for the riveters.

One day Kilroy's boss called him into his office. The foreman was upset about all the wages being paid to riveters, and asked him to investigate. It was then that he realized what had been going on .

The tight spaces he had to crawl in to check the rivets didn't lend themselves to lugging around a paint can and brush, so Kilroy decided to stick with the waxy chalk. He continued to put his checkmark on each job he inspected, but added KILROY WAS HERE in king-sized letters next to the check, and eventually added the sketch of the chap with the long nose peering over the fence and that became part of the Kilroy message. Once he did that, the riveters stopped trying to wipe away his marks.

Ordinarily the rivets and chalk marks would have been covered up with paint. With war on, however, ships were leaving the Quincy Yard so fast that there wasn't time to paint them. As a result, Kilroy's inspection "trademark" was seen by thousands of servicemen who boarded the troopships the yard produced. His message apparently rang a bell with the servicemen, because they picked it up and spread it all over Europe and the South Pacific. Before the war's end, "Kilroy" had been here, there, and everywhere on the long haul to Berlin and Tokyo.

To the unfortunate troops outbound in those ships, however, he was a complete mystery; all they knew for sure was that some jerk named Kilroy had "been there first." As a joke, U.S. servicemen began placing the "Kilroy was Here" everywhere they went. Kilroy became the U.S. super-GI who had always "already been" wherever GIs went. It became a challenge to place the logo in the most unlikely places imaginable (it is said to be atop Mt. Everest, the Statue of Liberty, the underside of the Arch De Triumphe, and even scrawled in the dust on the moon.)

And as the war went on, the legend grew. Underwater demolition teams routinely sneaked ashore on Japanese-held islands in the Pacific to map the terrain for the coming invasions by U.S. troops (and thus, presumably, were the first GI's there). On one occasion, however, they reported seeing enemy troops painting over the Kilroy logo!

In 1945, an outhouse was built for the exclusive use of Roosevelt, Stalin, and Churchill at the Potsdam conference. The first person inside was Stalin, who emerged and asked his aide (in Russian), "Who is Kilroy?"...

To help prove his authenticity in 1946, James Kilroy brought along officials from the shipyard and some of the riveters. He won the trolley car, which he gave it to his nine children as a Christmas gift and set it up as a playhouse in the Kilroy front yard in Halifax, Massachusetts. So now you know.

2007/08 MOAA SANTA FE TRAIL CHAPTER OFFICERS

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**Santa Fe Trail Chapter
2008 Dinner Meetings
and Topics**

15 January - Command and General Staff College Speaker

18 March - Junior ROTC Speaker

20 May – Leavenworth County Commissioner Clyde Graber will be our speaker.

15 July - MOAA National Speaker to be announced.

15 September – Entertainment by Dr. Bob Worley – Army Nurses in World War II.

18 November – Army speaker to be announced later.

Note: Speakers subject to change depending on availability and scheduling.

The Board of Directors will meet at the New China Inn on 4th Street Trafficway on 24 April, 26 June, 28 August and 23 October 2008. Meetings will commence at 11:30 AM, unless otherwise announced by the President.



SANTA FE TRAIL CHAPTER
THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP & INFORMATION CHANGE FORM

Mail to: LTC Clark H. Cummins 1033 5th Avenue, Leavenworth, KS 66048

- Enroll Me as a New Regular Member
 Enroll Me as a New Auxiliary Member

- Address or Information change ONLY
 Dues payment & Information Update

Please print or type * Dues \$15.00 per year

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
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*** Initial dues Jan thru Apr - \$15.00; May through Aug - \$10.00; Sep through Dec - \$5.00**