



Mississippi Coast Military Officers Association

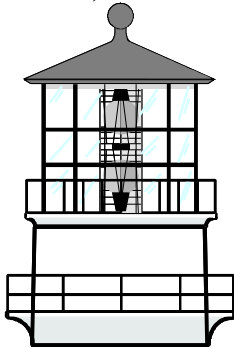
P.O. Box 5027, Keesler Station

Biloxi, MS 39534-0027

www.MCMOA.org

MCMOA Christmas Party

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January 2007

The Mississippi Coast Military Officers Association meets on the second Wednesday of each month at the Katrina Kantina located at the Keesler Marina. The Board meets at 10:30 followed by an informal luncheon and business meeting at 12:00. Any member is invited and encouraged to attend the Board meetings. January 28

2 It was a beautiful, early Mississippi December Evening and
2 the normally somewhat drab Katrina Kantina was aglow with the
2 Christmas Spirit. As you came through the front door, the highlight
2 was a beautiful, fully decorated Christmas Tree! The tables were
3 covered with red and green table cloths and there was ivy on the
3 columns and wreaths throughout the room. The table decorations
3 befitted the room full of handsome men and beautiful ladies. And
3 Yes, there was a BAND. It was our annual MOAA Christmas
3 Party. We were greeted at the door by two of our officers who had
3 arranged for the meal and the decorating of the Kantina. We were
3 then able to spend some quality time and great Christmas fellowship
4 with many of our fellow members and the Society of Dadalions who
4 had joined us for this festive occasion.

Many of us were also able to obtain some Christmas cheer from the bar the Kantina had arranged for our group. Our President, CDR Dick Hansen, welcomed everyone to this affair and thanked many of the people who had made this night possible; he then turned the mike over to Maj Lucy Welch. As one of the key people who had organized this event, she gave us the "order of battle" for the evening. We started with a pledge of alligence to the flag and a blessing for the food. She then described how we would go through the buffett line which featured a typical Christmas meal--turkey and dressing, ham, mashed potatoes, salad, and desert--all the things that taste so good!

Following a very good meal, our outgoing President--Dick Hansen-- introduced Lt Col Dick Wilson who was charged with installing the new slate of officers headed up by our new President, Major Lucy Welch. Col Wilson identified each of the new officers and directors for 2007 all of which were listed in last months news letter. Once he had completed the induction ceremony, the floor was turned over to Maj Welch who outlined some of her plans for the following year and ended by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

January Guest Speaker ...

Our next luncheon meeting will be held on **Wednesday, January 10, 2007** at the Keesler Marina in the Katrina Kantena.

We look forward to seeing you at this luncheon meeting to meet and hear our guest speaker --Col L. Frank Jacobs, Pharmacy Flight Commander. Shortly after Katrina, he returned to Keesler after an eight year absence. Like many of us is especially happy to be back on the Gulf Coast. He will give us an overview of what things were like immediately after the storm and the progress his organization has made since the hurricane and then shed some light on what the future looks like 3-5 years from now. It is an area all of us are interested in and many of us daily benefit from the medicines we receive from the pharmacy on base. This is another great opportunity to get "the" word from Keesler Pharmacy's head man.

Also, we encourage you to bring your spouse and/or a friend who may wish to become a member so they too can benefit from this valuable information..

Membership Renewal...

Yes, its membership renewal time again. There is good news again this year, the dues will remain the same as last year. Military members will be \$20 per year and auxiliary members \$15 per year. The deadline for renewing your membership is March 15, 2007. Please take advantage on this opportunity to participate in a growing and increasingly vibrant MOAA chapter.

Please complete the membership *renewal* form and enclose it with your check for \$20 (Regular members) or \$15 (Auxiliary members). Mail to MCMOA, P.O. Box 5027, Keesler

Key Keesler Phone Numbers--Part II

- Lodging (reservations)**-----377-9986
- Medical Center Information**-- 377-6550
- Military Pay**----- 377-7272
- Pass and registration**-----377-3893
- Pharmacy (refill call-in)**----- 377-6360
- Satellite pharmacy**-----377-9791
- Public affairs**-----377-2783
- Red Cross**-----377-3030
- Sexual assault prevention and response team**-----377-8635
- Law enforcement desk**-----377-3040
- Shoppette, Class Six**-----432-2367
- Telephone trouble**-----377-2130
- Traffic Management (outbound)**-377-2446
- Traffic Management (Inbound)**--377-7813
- Vistor center**-----377-2595
- Youth Center**-----377-4116

Membership Renewal Form

Please type or print entries. Information given may be shared with other members.

NAME:

GRADE:

SERVICE:

SPOUSE:

MAILING ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP:

TELEPHONE:

E-MAIL:

CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP:

REGULAR

AUXILIARY

LIFE MEMBER

If you have any questions please contact our Secretary/Treasurer, Bob Snyder, at (228) 388-9084.

Legislative Update

1. Eleventh-Hour Medicare/TRICARE Payment Fix

It looks like Congress has found a way to avert the 5.1% cut in Medicare and TRICARE payments to doctors that risked having more doctors drop these patients. One new difference is that doctors who agree to report their compliance with a specific set of quality standards will receive a 1.5% payment increase in 2007. This is a big deal for TRICARE beneficiaries as well as Medicare eligibles since TRICARE payment rates are tied to Medicare's. Our big concern has been that cutting payments to doctors can only deter more of them from accepting Medicare and TRICARE patients.

2. MOAA, Coalition Meet with TRICARE Leader

Leaders from MOAA and other military associations met with Maj Gen Elder Granger, USA TRICARE's Deputy Director and Program Executive Officer. General Granger expressed his intent to establish a quarterly meeting with association representative to ensure direct feedback for leadership, as well as an opportunity to inform associations of TRICARE's efforts to support beneficiaries.

3. GI Bill "Partnership" gears up

MOAA is working with the Partnership for Veterans Education to urge Congress to re-structure the Montgomery GI Bill to meet 21st century needs.

Why join MOAA ???

First, MOAA is a leader in The Military Coalition that works each year to pass national legislation that benefits military members and their families. Second, MOAA has many programs and benefits in place that can help you with everything from transitioning to a second career in the civilian sector to booking a discounted vacation cruise.

The thing MOAA does best, however, is continually educate its members about their earned military benefits and entitlements and keep them abreast of changes that affect them. Recently, we came across an item in the Green Valley (Ariz.) Chapter's newsletter, which was written by Cmdr. John Chernoski, USNR-Ret., membership cochairman and webmaster. His comments served as a reminder that active membership in MOAA has real value.

Retiree Activities Update

1. New Appointment hours are Monday thru Friday 5 AM until 6 PM with 5-6 AM for active military only.

Appointment services are closed weekends and federal holidays.

2. The Medical Center now has **flu shots available.**

3. Radiology: The following tests are available at the Keesler Medical Center and requests from civilian providers are honored: A. X-Rays; B. CAT Scans; C. Mammograms

It should be noted that MRIs are not currently available.

4. Lab tests can be done and requests from civilian providers will be honored. Have the FAX # of civilian providers available in order for results to be faxed to the provider.

5. VA health care enrollment update. Many veterans believe if they lose their job and its associated health care insurance they will be able to get health care at their local Veterans hospital. Primarily because they were told upon discharge that, as veterans, they were eligible to use these facilities. But under federal rules blamed on budget constraints, millions of middle-class veterans who weren't injured in the military can no longer enroll in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs health-care system. Under a 2003 enrollment policy, a single veteran who earns \$32,600 or more, and doesn't have a service-connected injury or illness is not allowed to enroll in the VA medical system. Those enrolled before 17 Jan 03 are grandfathered in, and there's a special provision for those returning from Iraq or Afghanistan. Information is available on the internet and there is a pamphlet that describes enrollment policies.

Scholarships Available

Scholarship applications are available! Eligible children of military service members can apply on line for a loan or grant through MOAA's education assistance fund for the 2007-2008 school year. More information is available at <http://WWW.MOAA.org/education>.

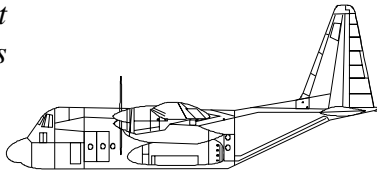
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The Newsletter is published monthly for members and friends of the Mississippi Coast Military Officers Association. It aims to broaden their awareness and understanding of events and issues relevant to military officers in this area.

December 28



**Monthly Luncheon Meeting on
 Wednesday, January 10, 2007**

Chapter Officers for 2007

PresidentMaj Lucy Welch (867-0893) **2nd Vice President**Maj Jeff Neel (896-6588)
1st Vice President ..LT Bob Carson (388-7511) **Secretary/Treasurer**Lt Col Bob Snyder (388-9084)

Past Presidents

CAPT Clark Wakefield - *President Emeritus*

Col. Matthew Thompson	Lt. Col. Carl Remley	Lt. Col. Dean Todd	Maj. Gen. Leo Jones
Lt. Col. Hollie Wilkes	Lt. Gen. Bryan Shotts	Lt. Col. Sid Marcus	Lt. Col. Fred Dunaway
Lt.Col. Dick Wilson	CDR Dick Hansen		

Directors

Maj. Gen. James Garner - Col. Phyllis Luttman - Col. Harvey Nixon
 CDR Dick Hansen - Maj. Joseph Littlepage

Committee Chairs

CBC Council	CAPT Clark Wakefield	Medical Center	Col. Phyllis Luttman
Chaplain	Col. Joe Peck	Retiree Activities	Lt. Col. Yvonne Dougherty
Commissary & BX ...	Col. Phyllis Luttman	Membership	Lt. Col. Bob Snyder
Dinner Seating	Mrs. Gloria Skillestad	Newsletter	Col. Harvey Nixon
Directory	<i>To be appointed</i>	Personal Affairs	Maj. Jeff Neel
Club Representative	Lt. Col. Dick Wilson	Programs	Maj. Lucy Welch
Legal Council	Lt. Col. Russell Thompson	ROTC	Lt. Col. Tom Varble
Legislative	Lt. Col. Fred Dunaway	Scholarships	CW4 Ray Skillestad
Marina	Maj. Glenn Bremenkamp	Webmaster	CDR Ron Miller