

Military Officers Association of America

***-- One Powerful Voice --
- For every officer at every stage of life and career -***

Heartland of America Chapter

******* August 2007 *******



***.... from across the shimmering waters,
... a faint but pleasant tune could be heard;***

***"We were sailing along... on Moonlight Bay!!
You could hear the gentle voices... they seemed to say...
'you have stolen my heart, now don't go way'...
as we sang love's old sweet song.. On Moonlight Bay!"***

***Our 2nd "Annual" river dinner-cruise
Tuesday the 14th of August***

Check out our website at
www.HeartlandMOAA.us

The Bulletin Board

Is the Newsletter of the Heartland of America Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America. Content is from members, MOAA internet mail, MOAA's Affiliate, and other military-oriented sources.

Lt Colonel Patrick Jones, USAF (Ret) Webmaster & Editor
Colonel Quinn Smith, AUS (Ret), Contributing Editor Emeritus

Volume XXI Number 8

August 2007

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The security of our personal information has once again been compromised with the compromise of TRICARE customer data. I had earlier sent an email relayed to me by MOAA with information on this compromise. You might also receive more correspondence from SAIC, the contracting agency, regarding risks. They put forth information about the compromise and ask anyone with an interest to log on to their website (www.saic.com), which contains the press release, questions and answers, contact information, and suggestions. I encourage all to check out their website.



I recently participated in a telephone townhall meeting with Congressman Terry. The congressman had the opportunity to answer quite a few off-the-cuff questions plus do several polls that would allow for responses from all on the teleconference. He apparently has these telephone meetings every couple of weeks and they rotate throughout various parts of the district. I thought there were about 300 individuals on the conference and there was a backlog of questions. Unfortunately, some questioners had rather long winded questions that seemed to take up quite a bit of time. If you are interested, you may want to call the congressman's office and ask to be put on the call list.

Our Give Me 10 recruiting list is slowly growing. We all need to keep that ball rolling. I just sent approximately 30 invitations to join MOAA to last May's UNL graduates. One of our members on the Cadre staff is ensuring they are forwarded to the appropriate addresses. We await the returned applications. Every new member is important to the strength of our organization, but I think it is vitally important to introduce the new young officers to who we are and what we do.

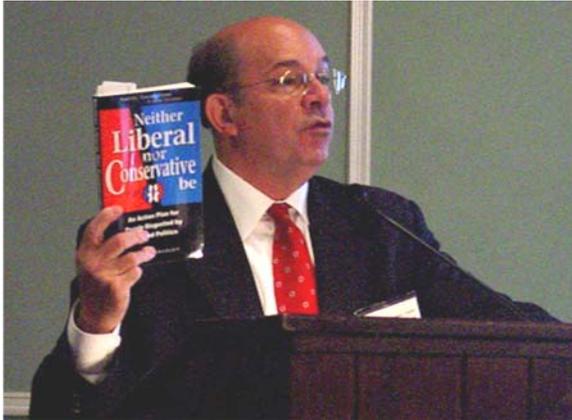
Speaking of the younger generation, we recently received an invitation to participate in some of the activities of the Arnold Air Society/Silver Wings Area/Region VIII Conclave (ARCON 2007). There should be at least ten to fifteen AFROTC units in attendance and we have the opportunity to have an information table plus participate in some of their activities. Please call or talk to me if you are interested in attending. This event takes place on October 5 to 7 at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln. I will be unable to attend since I will be in Dallas for the Chapter Presidents' Symposium.

Finally, August is an important time in United States military history. Many of our members were there when the world was at war, and our military was instrumental in bringing that conflict to a close in August 1945. Take the time to thank those warriors for their service.

Hope to see you all on the August 14 boat ride meeting. Best wishes. -- Rene Dreiling, Lt Col, USAF (ret), 592-3902, remi3@sprintmail.com

JULY DINNER PRESENTATION

In July we were very fortunate to have one of our own members, Larry Bradley, speak on the current state of polarized politics in the United States. For those who are not yet aware, Larry recently published the book, "Neither Liberal nor Conservative be." This book provides an action plan to



readers who are disgusted by polarized politics. He gave us his insight on the current spectrum of views in our country, and how the extreme (quite often limited agenda) groups have managed to get a stranglehold on the two major political parties and quite often hold candidates hostage to their very narrow-minded views. Larry postulates that the vast majority (70 to 80%) of Americans occupy the middle of the spectrum in political thought and the far left and far right each hold about 15% of the populace. However, as mentioned earlier, these extremes control the political parties and consequently dramatically shape the views and voting of our elected representatives. He feels that the time may be

upon us for the formation of a new political party that could represent the vast middle ground and this party could have a very reasonable chance to attract sufficient votes to start gaining representation in our government. Larry's message is one of involvement. We all need to be involved if we desire to be heard and want to effect change in our government.



I cannot begin to do justice to his whole presentation. I would encourage you to read his book, or contact him on his website (www.KindredMindsEnt.com). --Rene Dreiling, 804 Lexington Lane, Papillion NE 68046, remi3@sprintmail.com.

[Possible TRICARE Data Compromise](#)

Admiral Ryan, MOAA President, has asked that the message below be distributed to councils around the country. Please feel free to pass this on to all chapters. This alert is also being included in MOAA's weekly Legislative Update. Please pass this on to anyone you know who could be affected. --Rene Dreiling, 804 Lexington Lane, Papillion NE 68046, remi3@sprintmail.com.

Defense contractor SAIC reported the potential compromise of personal/medical information of 870,000 TRICARE beneficiaries. SAIC announced a "security failure" in the handling of TRICARE customer data. The company alerted MOAA that "uniformed service members, family members and others were at risk of potential compromise." The company said the situation was a "totally unacceptable failure on our part." SAIC said that "forensic analysis has not yielded any evidence that any personal information was actually compromised; however, the possibility cannot be ruled out." SAIC is notifying approximately 580,000 households (870,000 beneficiaries) of the incident.

The SAIC's [website](#) contains additional information including a news release, questions and answers, and contact information.

MOAA is deeply troubled to learn of yet another potential breach of personal information of the uniformed services community. It is vital to the nation's security that the personal information of military families be protected at all costs. Additional updates will be provided through various MOAA media as information becomes available.

Sincerely,

Bret S. Shea, Legislative Content Manager, Government Relations, MOAA, 201 N Washington St, Alexandria, VA 22314-2539, (800) 234-6622 x807: (703) 838-5807.

ANTI-WAR VETS ARRESTED AT FORT BENNING

Three Iraq war protesters were arrested after crossing onto Fort Benning property. Nate Lewis and Liam Madden, both members of Iraq Veterans Against the War, were charged with criminal trespassing. They are currently on a bus tour protesting at military bases around the country. Wonder who is paying the bill for all that? Wonder if Offutt is on their travel itinerary?

MORE DRUGS MOVING TO COSTLY THIRD TIER

On June 21, the DoD Beneficiary Advisory Panel (BAP) met to review DoD proposals to move certain cholesterol, prostate, and blood pressure medications to the third tier, or \$22 copayment level. They also re-reviewed some acid reflux drugs that were originally evaluated in 2005.

Among cholesterol drugs, DoD proposes to move Tricor, Antara, Omacor, and Welchol to the third tier. Six cholesterol medications will remain on the formulary at \$3 or \$9 copayments. In order to persuade beneficiaries to use Triglide, a low-cost brand-name drug, DoD is proposing to lower the \$9 copayment to \$3.

Among prostate drugs, the plan is to move Avodart to the third-tier, leaving the generic Proscar on the formulary for \$3.

DoD is re-evaluating certain acid reflux medications that were originally reviewed in February 2005. At the time, they moved multiple drugs, including Nexium, to \$22, based on their relative high cost. Now, DoD has gotten a reduced price on Nexium and proposes to reduce its copay all the way down to \$3, even though it's not a generic drug.

However, DoD is proposing to put a "prior-authorization" requirement for this class of drugs, requiring beneficiaries to try either Nexium or Prilosec before being authorized to use other drugs in the same class. Current prescriptions for the other acid reflux drugs would be grandfathered at \$22. But future prescriptions wouldn't be covered for those drugs, even for the \$22 copayment, unless TRICARE approves a doctor's statement that there's a "medical necessity" to prescribe them (e.g., because Prilosec and Nexium aren't effective or have adverse effects for the patient.)

Finally, among drugs for hypertension and chronic heart failure, DoD proposes to move Avapro, Avalide, Benicar, and Diovan to the third tier. This would leave Atacand, Cozaar, Hyzaar, and Micardis on the formulary at the lower copayment.

MOAA's Cmd. John Class, USN-Ret., a member of the Beneficiary Advisory Panel convened to comment on the proposed changes, took the opportunity to reiterate MOAA's concerns that beneficiaries using the affected drugs aren't being given adequate notification about either the copayment change or about which medications are still available for the lower copayment. Since the Defense Department doesn't notify beneficiaries at all, and doesn't allow military associations time to print the notices in their magazines, most beneficiaries don't find out about the changes until their pharmacist starts charging them \$22 instead of the \$9. Without an education program, they usually just grind their teeth and pay the \$22, without awareness of lower-cost alternatives. This insensitive process causes both the beneficiary and the government to pay far more than they need to.

Cmd. Class urged providing more advance notice of such changes and making a greater effort to educate patients on alternatives so they can discuss the options with their doctors before getting hit with the higher charges. That would help ease major irritants for beneficiaries and their doctors, and also save money for all concerned. As things stand now, the intended purpose of the copay increase - to cause beneficiaries to choose lower-cost medications - is unlikely to be realized.

The beneficiary panel's concerns will be submitted to Dr. S. Ward Casscells, the new Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs), for final decision.

COMMISSION DECIDES ON CONCURRENT RECEIPT, SBP

The Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission met this week in Washington, DC to tentatively decide on two highly debated topics: survivor benefits and concurrent receipt.

The commission expressed strong support for widows and widowers by endorsing an end to deduction of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation from Survivor Benefit Plan annuities, a position MOAA has pushed for years.

Yet when the discussion turned to concurrent receipt, the commission was deadlocked over extending concurrent receipt to disabled service members that had their careers cut short before reaching 20 years of service.

The Commission also validated years of MOAA and Military Coalition efforts by recommending an end to the deduction of VA disability compensation from military retired pay, at least for members with more than 20 years of service.

Specifically, the commission proposed expanding eligibility for Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP) to retirees with 10- to 40-percent disability ratings and implementing full payment immediately (putting an end to the ongoing 10-year phase-in period). But MOAA was disappointed that the Commission was deadlocked, by a 6-to-6 vote, on extending concurrent receipt rules to members forced into medical retirement before attaining 20 years of service.

Commissioner MG William Matz (USA-Ret) and Commissioner Butch Joeckel (USMC-Ret) voiced strong support for inclusion of chapter 61 retirees, telling other commissioners that failure to support this fix will give the impression that the commission has disregarded the cause of wounded servicemembers at Bethesda, Walter Reed, and other military hospitals who face premature medical retirement.

Both urged the commission to reconsider their inclusion. MOAA couldn't agree more.

SPECIAL PROGRAM THIS MONTH!



River City Star Dinner Cruise

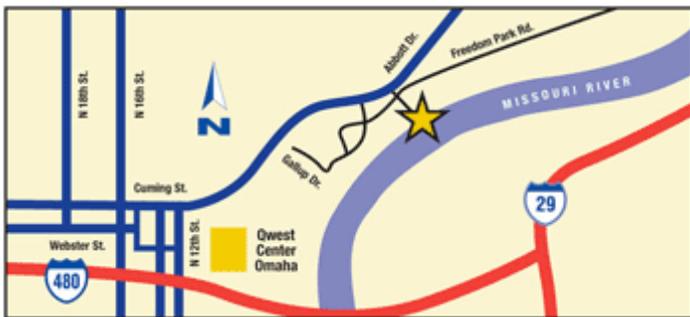
Date: TUESDAY, August 14, 2007

Place: River City Star

Time: 5:30pm to 6:30 pm Social Hour before boarding
Cash bar available
6:30pm to 8:00 pm Dinner cruise with live entertainment
(Stan Yank and the Jazz Merchants)

MENU: Chicken Parmesan; Pork Loin w/Ricotta Cheese and Italian Herbs, carved;
Fettuccini w/Alfredo and Marinara Sauces, Chef's Blend of Vegetables, Caesar Salad,
Bread Sticks & Dessert

See Map and Directions below: (Questions, call Doug Frost at 292-2973)



- For easy access, go through downtown Omaha on 10th St to Cuming St.
- (Cuming turns into Abbott Drive at 10th St.)
- Take Abbott Drive (East, towards airport) past the new Convention Center and up and over viaduct to 2nd stop light
- Turn right on Gallup Drive (signs say Gallup University)
- Take 1st left on Freedom Park Road

The first right turn is our parking lot.

Heartland of America Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
 P.O. Box 1756
 Bellevue, NE 68005-1756

LOCAL Membership Application

Membership : Initial or Renewal

Annual local dues \$20.00 \$10.00 (new ones after 1 July) Aux \$5.00
 Benefactor Donor: \$50, \$100, or more

Last Name..... First Name..... Init.....
 Nickname.....
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 Date of birth.....
 Rank.....
 Service..... Retired NOAA USPHS
 Active Duty Regular Reserve Natl Guard Former Officer

Spouse's name..... Spouse's birthday & month (year not reqd).....

MOAA membership #:..... Life Member? Yes No

Patriot Club Card #:(used at Club functions)
 Not a Club member

Brief Bio: (entered/left service; branch; assignment summary; interesting career anecdotes; use back of sheet if needed)

Signature: _____
 Make check payable to: **Heartland of America Chapter, MOAA**

Date of check: Amt: Check #:.....

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*Surviving spouse of eligible officer.

Annual dues include a \$12 subscription to **MILITARY OFFICER** magazine. Dues to MOAA are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal tax purposes.

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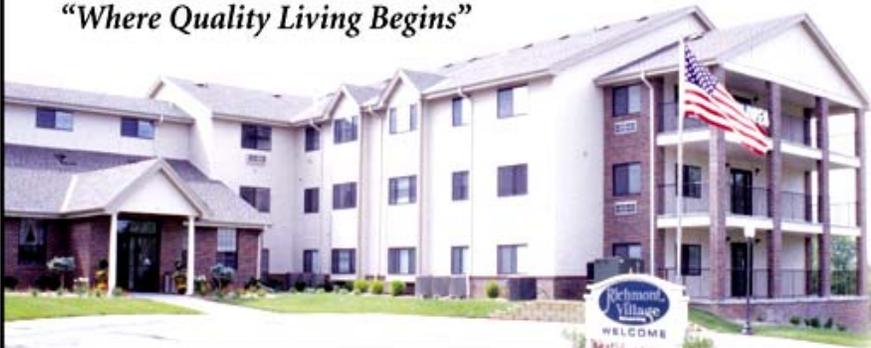
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**2007 Upcoming Events at Patriot Club
(formerly O-Club)**

(Dates subject to change)

Board Meetings

Dinner Meetings

June 14
July 12
August 9
September 13
October 11
November 8
December 6*

June 20
July 18
August 14
September 19
October 17
November 14*
December 12*



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Please Note!!!!

When our events are at Offutt, please **do not call directly to the Patriot Club** (formerly the Offutt Club) for your reservations. All reservations need to go through the reservation Chairpersons. Club rules state that no reservations can be added after the call-in on Monday morning by the Chairpersons. If you desire to hear a certain speaker and did not make reservations, you can check at the check-in table to see if there were any cancellations or you can enjoy a meal in the club dining room and then join the MOAA members when the speaker begins.

**Heartland of America Chapter
Military Officers Association of America, MOAA**

**DINNER CRUISE
on
RIVER CITY STAR**

TUESDAY, AUGUST 14, 5:30 to 8:00 pm

(Note - TUESDAY instead of Wednesday)

SOCIAL HOUR BEGINS AT 5:30 pm, before 6:30 pm boarding - Cash Bar available

**DINNER CRUISE FROM 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm w/BUFFET DINNER AND LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
(STAN YANK AND THE JAZZ MERCHANTS)**

COST FOR DINNER, ENTERTAINMENT, AND TRIP: \$32.10 per person.

Checks only, no credit cards please.

MENU: ITALIAN BUFFETT: See Program on Page 6 for details.

- Recommended dress is casual and comfortable
- Golf cart transport available from parking lot to boat, if needed
- Gangway and main deck are handicap accessible
- Concession stand, full catering facilities and restroom on board
- Absolutely no carry-on food, beverages, or pets

Mail your reservations to Ruth Frost by Friday, Aug. 10, 2007 Late reservations will be accepted by phone through Sunday Aug. 12, 2007 before 8:00 pm. If we are not available, please leave your name and phone number should we have questions concerning your reservation.

Mail your reservation AND CHECK to the address below:

**Ruth Frost
505 Martin Drive, N.
Bellevue, NE 68005-4730
Tel: (402) 292-2973**

**Make your check payable to: Heartland of America Chapter, MOAA
Please indicate the name(s) for those who are attending.**

See Program on Page 6 for Map and Directions.

LANSKY'S pizza, pasta & Philly steaks

Choose a family pasta, fresh tossed salad and dessert and..*presto!*..dinner is served.

Meat sauce, beer cheese or vegetable lasagna; chicken alfredo, chicken parmesan or manicotti.

Add a fresh tossed salad with your choice of dressings.

Add a gourmet dessert: tiramisu or chocolate pyramid (*for choc-aholics only*) or a variety of our freshly baked cookies.

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