

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
ALAMO CHAPTER



THE



LARIAT

Volume 32, Number 1

“Five Star ★★★★★ Chapter”

January 2012



President's Message

Well, Christmas is upon us as I write this message. New Years will not be far behind. With the New Year we have many challenges before us. Not the least of which is the continued help that we must give to our veterans and their families.

The IRAQ war has officially ended and many of these young troops are now home with their families. That is wonderful!

What do they have to look forward to in this New Year? Will they now be deployed to the other war in Afghanistan? Will they leave the service as part of a draw down necessitated by budget cuts? Will they leave the service as a result of injury or disablement? Will they find a job to support themselves and their families?

We, in our Alamo Chapter cannot solve all of these issues, but we can certainly help. We are currently involved with the Texas Veterans Commission, ESGR, DoD, DoL and Work

in Texas in a program to help these veterans find jobs. We have members involved with volunteer work at SAMC (BAMC), Fisher House, Cookie Angels and other projects. The Chapter now has a volunteer coordinator, Mrs. Mavis Cleary, who will be calling on our members to see if there are opportunities for them to help with different organizations and groups to further help our veterans and their families as well as the active duty, National Guardsmen and Reservists. If you would like to know more about some of these opportunities please call the Chapter office at 210-228-9955.

Another thing that we must do as

members of MOAA is to play an active role in our legislative process whether it be at the National, State, County or local levels. If we, as citizens don't make our voices heard we will get legislation that we don't want or not get legislation that we need!

We must keep in mind, at all times, that MOAA and the Alamo Chapter are non-partisan in our advocacy. We are concerned about legislation that affects our military, having served, veterans and spouses. You already know many of the issues that we have fought

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Just some of the Christmas Angels who helped decorate the Audie Murphy VA Hospice Wards on November 29th.

Chapter News & Notices



Cookie Angels

Grateful thanks to those who either baked and or brought items to the wounded soldiers at Ft Sam Houston's Warrior and Family Support Center.

If you were able to give this month on behalf of the Alamo Chapter please call Susie at (210) 654-0351, so we may add your name to our list. Thank you.

Maryada Artiglia
 Ruth Baliram
 Donna Budjenska
 Irene Collier
 Frank and Delores DeVille
 Nita Felder
 Susan Filipini
 Marge Fraley
 Joe and Adele Genualdi
 John Gibbs
 Ed and Sue McCarthy
 Mac and Lori McDonald
 Lolly Orłowski
 Jan Rund
 Cheryl Smith
 Lou Strong
 Susie Tolman
 Dot Wise
 Tom and Evelyn Woods

TAPS

We have received information that the following members have passed away.

We wish to convey our sincere condolences and best wishes to their family and loved ones:

MAJ Francesco X. Giammalò USA (Ret)
 12/3/2011

Maj John B. Todd USAF (Ret)
 12/16/2011



Thank you to the following members who have generously contributed to either the Scholarship Fund or to the Operating Account. We appreciate it very much:

COL Douglas Ashby USAR (Ret)

Col Joseph Marchino II USAF (Ret)

COL Ted Reinsch USA (Ret)

Col Karen Stocks USAF (Ret)

CPT Cynthia Ward USA

LTC Peter Zielenski USA (Ret)

Corporate Partners

Abby Consulting
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 Republic of Texas Restaurant
 San Antonio Federal Credit Union
 Security Service Federal Credit Union
 Silverbridge Realty
 Spectrum Technologies, Inc
 USAA

Volunteer Opportunities

The Alamo chapter has the following positions open that we would love to have some help! You can spend as much or as little time as you have available. Call the office at 210-228-9955 to volunteer.

Photographer for Social Functions
 Greeters at Social Functions
 Duty Officer - Floater
 Members for Calling Committee
 Members for Program Committee
 Transportation Coordinator

Want Ad

The Officers Placement Service (TOPS)

If you are an area **employer** who is interested in hiring career transitioning officers or their spouses . . . or if you are a MOAA member who is interested in helping a career transitioning officer or spouse as a **San Antonio Networker** . . . or if you are a MOAA member **Job Seeker**, please contact me – David Patrick, Chapter TOPS Officer & MOAA Texas Networking Coordinator, 210-259-9867, dwpatrick01@gmail.com.



Legislative Update

As we come to the end of 2011, many are thinking we had a successful year and dodged some really bad things that could have greatly affected the military community. A year ago, the president's deficit commission proposed freezing military pay, whacking military retirement, dramatically raising health care costs for retired servicemembers of all ages, eliminating commissaries, and much, much more.

After 12 months of hand-wringing over how Congress might act on those proposals and what the grossly misnamed congressional "super committee" might suggest, it seems we've come to the end the year with no such changes.

But if that's what you're thinking, you are wrong, wrong, wrong.

The \$460 billion defense budget cut enacted in August 2011 is going to affect you and your family. We just don't yet know exactly how badly.

A Pentagon-proposed plan to implement the cuts is sitting on the president's desk, and all indications are that a large share will come from people, compensation, and health care programs. Within the next two months, that plan will be all over the news.

And that's not all.

The super committee's inaction means a budget sequester aimed at cutting almost another \$500 billion from the defense budget over the next 10 years is already in motion to take effect a year from now.

Many in Congress are up in arms over what cuts that deep will do to national security, but there are just as many who are determined to have the cuts come from the Pentagon rather than other programs.

What's at stake? COLAs to all federal annuities, TRICARE, TRICARE For Life, major force and compensation cuts, commissaries, exchanges, family-support programs, and just about every military program you and your family use.

If you survived the budget cuts of the 1970s, '80s, or '90s, you know how bad those were. But they were nothing compared to the budget pressures we're all going to face over the next four or five years.

We congratulate ourselves on our successes of the past decade — which were due to the power of MOAA members' grassroots input to their legislators.

This year, members set an all-time record on that score,

sending more than 1.3 million messages to their elected officials via media we can count.

That total includes more than 820,000 emails sent through MOAA's website, blasting past last year's previous record of 499,000.

But it will take a far broader effort to avoid budget disasters in the years ahead.

First, there are high-powered, well-connected, well-heeled lobbyists fighting (and making hefty political contributions) to preserve their shares of the budget pie — at your expense.

Second, if you look past the impressive 820,000 MOAA-generated emails, you find only 67,000 individuals generated all of those messages.

In other words, most of MOAA's legislative effort is being carried by less than 20 percent of its members.

Are the other 80 percent oblivious to the threat? Do they think, "It's just politics and will blow over like most of the threats of the past 10 years have?" Do they assume their input wouldn't make a difference?

(Continued on Page 6)

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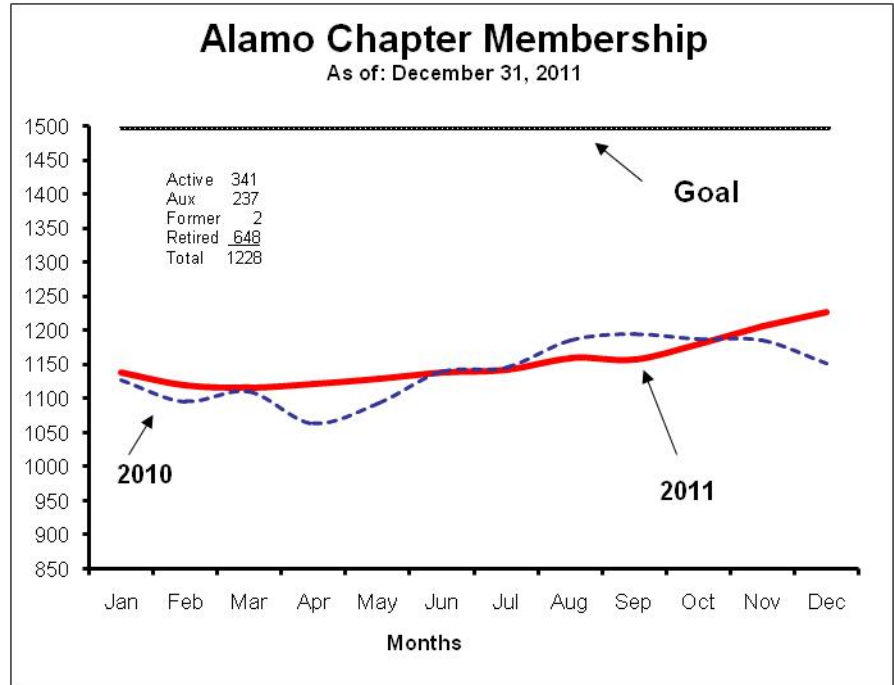
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Welcome New Members:

- Gen Edward Rice, Jr USAF
- COL Mark DiTrollo USAR
- Col Preston Kleinman USAF (Ret)
- Col Patrick Lopardi USAF
- COL Gil Richardson UAS (Ret)
- COL Michael Rozsypal USA (Ret)
- COL Richard Young USA (Ret)
- LTC Booker T. King USA
- LTC Neil Nelson USA
- LTC James Nolen USA (Ret)
- LtCol George Ozuna, Jr USAF (Ret)
- LtCol Charles Peters III USAF (Ret)
- LTC Charles Steinmetz USA (Ret)
- LtCol Dennis Tucker, Jr USAF
- LTC Hector Villarreal USA (Ret)
- LTC Robert Walsh USA (Ret)
- LCDR Warren Aris USN (Ret)
- LCDR Monique Frazier USPHS
- LCDR Michael Koerner USN (Ret)
- Maj Joan Bowling USAF (Ret)
- Maj Frank Gudat USA (Ret)
- MAJ John Morrell USA (Ret)

Year to Date Membership Stats



- Maj Temple Ratcliffe USAF
- MAJ N.M. R. Richard USA (Ret)
- Maj Frank Valois USAF (Ret)
- Maj Phuong Vanecek USAF
- Capt Sean Amport USAF
- CPT Heather Atamian USA
- CPT Kenneth Bailey USA
- CPT Allison Brunson USA
- CPT James Delgado ARNG
- CPT Chad Gagnon USA
- Capt Mark Haydell USAF
- CPT Carl Kizzie USA (Ret)
- CPT Jeff Negard USA

- CPT Katharine Roberts USA
- CPT Casey Strohbach USA
- CPT Francis Sullivan USA
- CPT Richard Vincent USA
- 1Lt Hai-Phuong McMannan USAF
- 1Lt Kris Price USAF
- 1LT Reve Segura USA
- 2LT David Anderson USA
- 2LT Shanna Antoine USA
- 2LT Omar Haye USA
- CW3 Eudell Hannah USA (Ret)
- Donna Haney

**AND....Thank You
Renewing Members:**

- COL Douglas Ashby USAR (Ret)
- Col Charles Crain III USAF (Ret)
- Col Harvey Johnson USAF (Ret)
- Col Joseph Marchino II USAF (Ret)
- COL Douglas McCary USA (Ret)
- Col Kenneth Ratcliff USAF (Ret)
- Col Karen Stocks USAF (Ret)
- LtCol Don Byrd USAF (Ret)
- LtCol Thomas Gaj USAF (Ret)
- LtCol John Gilg USAF (Ret)
- LtCol Marshann Kessenich USAF (Ret)
- LtCol Bill Polasek USAF (Ret)
- LTC Peter Zielenski USA (Ret)
- MAJ Jeffrey Green USA (Ret)
- LCDR Charlotte Koch USN (Ret)
- LT George Frecsko USN (Ret)
- CPT Cynthia Ward USA
- CW3 Michael Gates USA (Ret)
- Delores Eubanks
- Hope Gans
- Christel Shields
- Marilyn Weltz

The Rodney Ramble



MOAA Volunteers Glimpse into the Future

The title does not refer to events that happened at the MOAA Christmas Party for those who drank too much spiked punch. The title does not refer to a Hollywood flick about time travel. This story is about a few MOAA members who were given the honor to participate in a Service Academy Nomination Review Board for Congressman Canseco, Representative of the 23rd District of Texas.

In the story, the Future was represented by the young men and women who desire to become future Cadets of our Military Academies. Every year, thousands seek out nominations from our elected officials. Our Congressmen and Senators sift through piles of applications to find the gems worthy of nomination. Only those candidates possessing superior traits in leadership, integrity, and desire to serve in the military complemented with academic excellence, community involvement, and athletic ability are such gems and receive nominations. Ultimately, these future military officers are our future to continue our legacy and uphold the standards that make the military the most admired and trusted institution in our nation.

As for our members, their glimpse into the future was spent one Saturday conducting interviews with the candidates and additional hours reviewing academic records and letters of recommendation. This would seem a great sacrifice of time, but all agreed it was worth it. Some members commented that not all candidates were Academy

material, but that whatever path these young people take, they will be successful and will be leaders in their fields. One member stated that despite all the problems facing the country today, seeing the quality of young men and women gives me renewed hope that the country will have outstanding leaders who will step forward to face the problems of the future.

In the future, the Alamo Chapter of MOAA hopes to receive future invitations such as this to support our young people who will become future military officers and MOAA members.

2011 MOAA Christmas Party

The evening was a festive event full of fun and revelry. The ballroom at the Randolph Air Force Base Parr Club was beautifully decorated and with an open layout for guests to mingle around the bar or around the dining room. Guests were greeted by our wonderful volunteers, Irene Collier and Suzie Tolman. "Don't forget to get a ticket for the door prizes."

The evening program began promptly at 1900 with a "Welcome" from the Master of Ceremonies LTC (R) Rodney Takahashi. As our President was not present for the event, Rodney was assisted by Santa Claus, Ole Saint Jim. Following the invocation by Chaplain Taylor, the buffet line was opened. The evening's menu included succulent pork loin and beef tenderloin for the main course, a spring salad, and a wonderful selection of sides and desserts.

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The Rodney Ramble

(Continued from Page 5)

Christmas music by the Wilburn Brothers played as guests caught up with old friends and in some cases made new ones.

As dinner wrapped up, the dance floor did not stay empty as a few couples stole the opportunity to get a few dances in before the program continued. The Wilburn Brothers were quick to oblige and kept the dance floor occupied for a few songs. The program continued with door prizes, singing “Jingle Bells”, and a quiz on Christmas Carols. The mood of the group became very intense and competitive during the quiz, and one academically superior individual nearly achieved a perfect score to win a bottle of Riesling.

Santa made a few rounds handing out stockings of coal to a few naughty boys and girls. Finally, the group’s singing ability was pushed to the limit as they sang the 12 Days of Christmas. Words cannot describe the scene as everyone took part in singing. You just had to be there. Just ask someone who was.

Finally, the Wilburn Brothers took charge of the rest of the evening as couples danced, mingle, and took photos in front of the Christmas tree. What a beautiful ending to a festive event.

LTC Rodney Takahashi (Ret)

(See some of the photographic evidence on Page 10!)

Legislative Update

(Continued from Page 3)

Regardless of the reason, the complacency and inertia of “the other 80 percent” is the biggest budgetary threat to you and your family.

If you’re in that 80 percent, you’re your own worst enemy. Your continued inaction will jeopardize not only your family and your future but also the families and futures of your brothers and sisters in arms.

The issue here isn’t ensuring the military community takes no budget hits. The nation’s budget problems are such that no segment of America will escape taking some significant hits.

The issue is resisting taking a disproportional share of hits simply because those with other interests are more active and better connected and have deeper pockets.

If you’re not getting involved to defend what your service and sacrifice has earned — and actively seeking to motivate others to protect theirs (and yours) — you’re helping paint the target on your COLAs and health care and on the troops and their families and your own family’s future well-being.

Consider yourself warned.

Col Steve Strobebridge (Ret)

MOAA

Director of Govt Relations

Need a new ID Card?

For those of you needing a new ID Card or an update to DEERS, you will have to plan ahead.

Joint Base San Antonio implemented new procedures for ID Card/CAC issuance facilities. According to a press release from the 502nd Air Base Wing, an appointment-only process is in effect for service members, retirees, dependents, civil service employees, and contractors.

Appointments will be scheduled in 20-minute intervals.

ID/Card/CAC and DEER services are only affected at the following facilities:

- 902nd Force Support Squadron, Bldg. 399, JBSA-Randolph; 210-652-1845
- 502nd Force Support Squadron, Bldg. 367, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston; 210-221-0415
- 802nd Force Support Squadron, Bldg. 5616, JBSA-Lackland; 210-671-4178

In order to schedule an appointment, you can call the facility or visit this website.

<https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil>

Receiving The Lariat Online?

If you would prefer to read your newsletter on-line rather than receive a printed copy, send us an email with the subject line as OLLO and we’ll gladly remove you from the printed version mailing list.

We will notify you by email when the new issue is available for viewing, and include a link that will take you directly to the designated website page.

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Medical Minute

Warning Signs of Worsening Heart Failure

If you have heart failure call your doctor if you notice any of these signs. With the stress of Christmas holidays and bad weather, heart patients must be alert to symptoms of heart failure.

1. Sudden weight gain, 2 or 3 pounds in one day, or 5 pounds in one week.
2. Extra swelling in the feet or ankles.
3. Swelling or pain in the abdomen.
4. Shortness of breath not related to exercise
5. Discomfort or trouble breathing when lying flat.
6. Waking up short of breath
7. Coughing or wheezing
8. Increased fatigue
9. Mental confusion.
10. Loss of appetite

Source: Harvard Health Letter: November 2011

Col Irene Collier (Ret)



To all our members
and their families



Solitaires



Why you should have an Emergency Evacuation Kit (Bug Out Bag) By Bill Strout

What is going to happen to us in San Antonio that we would need to prepare for evacuation? In June of 2004 there was a train wreck that leaked Chlorine Gas/Ammonium Nitrate that killed two people and injured 50 others. Recently we had wild fires that resulted in people being evacuated and homes being destroyed. Most of the things we will be evacuated for are for a few hours and would be classified as an inconvenience, not a true emergency.

I don't expect people will put everything I suggest in their bag, but if you can at least have some of the items together in one place, it will be better than not being prepared at all. Start with what you have on hand and add one or two items a month.

Here are some suggestions of what to have in your Bug Out Bag (bag or backpack that you can carry comfortably if walking).

Insurance Papers – A photographic inventory of what is in your home, copies of your insurance papers (at least the pages with policy numbers, coverage and contact numbers). The easiest way is to take digital pictures of everything in your home. Turn things such as TV's. and computers around and take a picture of the back to show the model and serial numbers. The USAA website will allow you to download copies of your insurance policies. I scan my receipts as those that are printed now quickly fade.

You can put the digital information on a flash/thumb drive or CD. These will be invaluable if something happens to your home. Copies of birth certificates, Social Security card, and

driver's license. A printed list of phone numbers. Small notebook and pen or pencil.

First Aid Kit – Any medicine you are required to take, with a current prescription. A few of each size Band-Aid. Sanitary napkins for their original purpose and for larger wounds that require pressure. Duct tape and napkins equal a bandage. Disinfectant and alcohol wipes. Aspirin/Tylenol. Antihistamine, such as Benadryl (Diphenhydramine Hydrochloride). Haemostatic Agents (e.g., CELOX) for severe bleeding trauma control. Some means of applying a tourniquet (get training in its proper use). Mole skin for blisters. Super Glue works well to seal wounds. Sun block and insect repellent. Anti-diarrhea medication.

Learn CPR and emergency first aid. Latex gloves (non-latex if you are allergic to latex). Multivitamins. Tweezers. Snake bite kit. Remember to check the expiration dates on medicines.

Food – A three day supply of food for each person and pets. The food should be something that you normally eat but does not require any preparation and can be eaten cold. I don't have this in my backpack, but I do have it ready in my pantry. That way I can rotate it as I eat it. Small cooking pot(s). Don't forget the can opener. I have a supply of soups and canned fruit with pull top lids as well as energy bars. Fork, spoon, knife, cups, and plates.

Water – One gallon a day per person. Bottles with a recycling number 1 or 2 (on the bottom of the bottle) may be used. Purification tablets/drops. You may also want to invest in a camping water filter (around \$30 and up). Dish for pets water and maybe a pet carrier.

(Continued on Page 13)

Decorating the VA Hospice Wards



THANK YOU:

Jim Cunningham
Mavis Cleary
Marge Fraley
Gary & Cheryl Howe
Fred Koechley
Augie McLamb
Ed Marvin



THANK YOU:

Lolly Orlowski
David Patrick
Jo Swearingen
Chaplain Taylor
Susie Tolman
Bob & Charlotte Williams
Dot Wise





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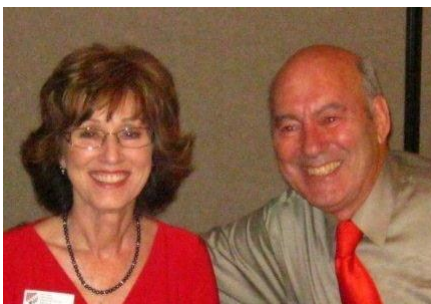
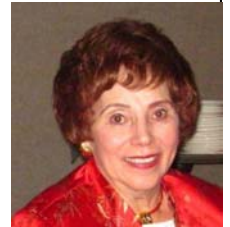
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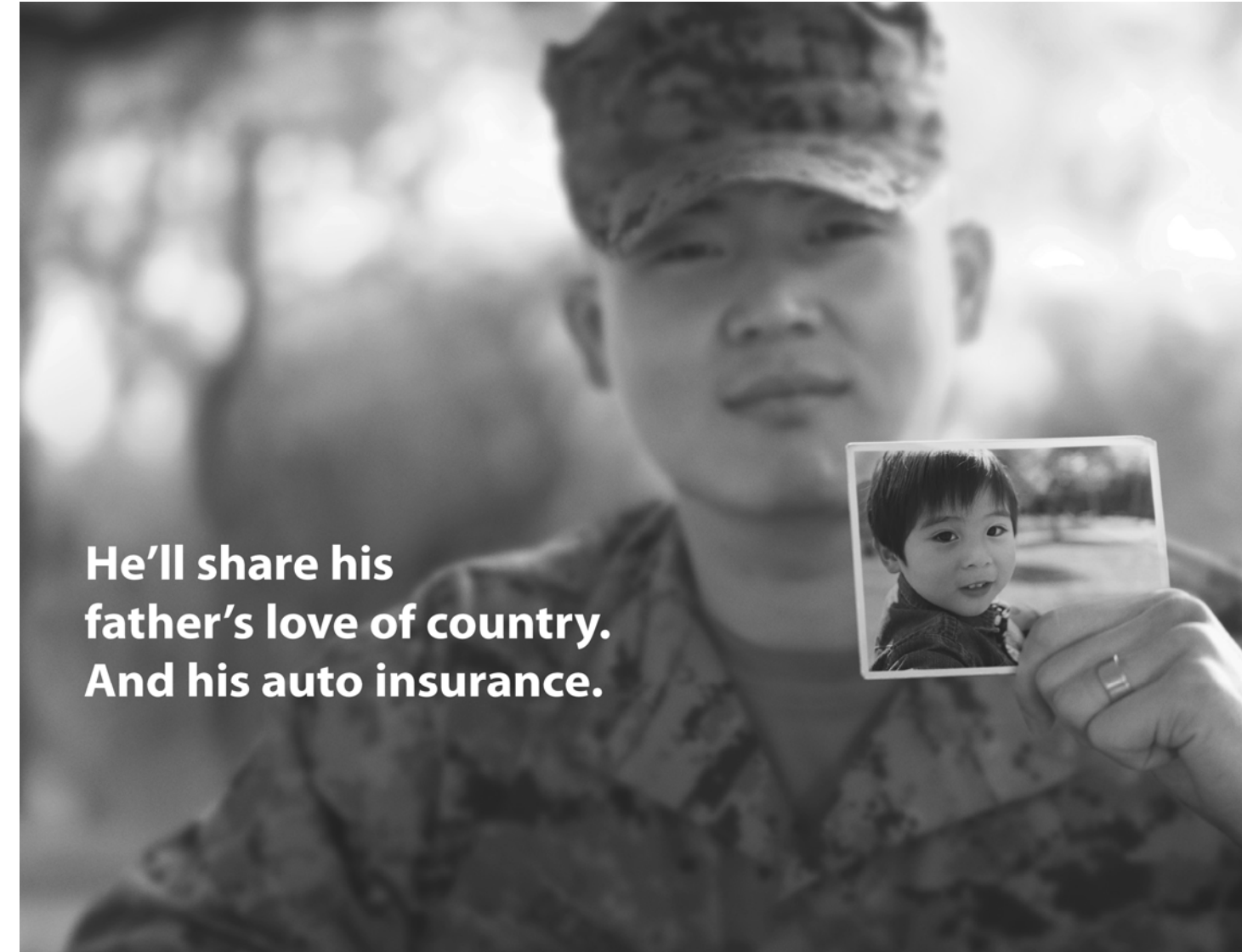
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Benefits of Membership of MOAA and the local chapter

- Our monthly newsletter, *The Lariat*, which includes a calendar of events, is sent to each member (or made available on-line), and includes both MOAA and Alamo Chapter news. Stay informed!
- Monthly luncheons, which rotate between the Randolph, Fort Sam Houston, and Lackland service clubs, feature informative speakers and are also open to guests.
- Benefit information of all kinds is provided through the Alamo Chapter. We have an experienced Vice President of Personal Affairs who can give quick answers to your and family members' questions, or who can research the more complex issues.
- The opportunity to enjoy the camaraderie of meeting fellow chapter members and their guests. We also plan for various social events, open to families and guests. In addition, our chapter features a singles group called the Solitaires, some of who are surviving spouses. The Solitaires have a busy social calendar.
- Make your voice heard on proposed state and national military legislation which may affect you and your family. Both the Alamo Chapter and MOAA national welcome your views!
- Enjoy many benefits, discounts, and services, to include career planning through TOPS (The Officer Placement Service). The Alamo Chapter also provides college scholarships to those who qualify.

Referred by: _____

The Give Me 10! Campaign Options:

1. Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve officers of all services, who are not past or present members of MOAA national are eligible for a one year **free** national and local MOAA (MOAA-AC) membership.
2. Retired Officers or Auxiliary (surviving spouses), and lapsed members of MOAA national, can receive a 2 year membership for \$30.00 (The usual yearly membership rate is \$31). You will then receive a one year local MOAA-AC membership **free**.
3. Those already members of MOAA national need to complete this application to receive a 1 year **free** local membership to MOAA-AC.

Normal Dues: MOAA national \$31 per year, MOAA local \$25.00 (Auxiliary & email newsletter subscribers \$15)

Membership Application

(Annual Membership)

Are you a member of MOAA National? _____



Military Officers Association of America

Alamo Chapter

Circle Status: Commissioned & Warrant Officers of all services - Active, Reserves, Former, Retired, National Guard, NOAA, PHS, Surviving Spouse.

*Name _____
(Print) Last First MI Spouse

Residence Address City State Zip

Rank/Grade Service Date of Birth

Home phone _____ Email _____

* May we have your permission to publish this information in the Chapter Membership Directory? _____ (not dob).

(*This directory and your e-mail address are exclusively for the use of the chapter and will not be sold or used for any other purpose than chapter communications and/or board approved activity.)

Would you like to access our monthly newsletter (The Lariat) at our website versus having a hard copy mailed to you? _____ (Dues reduce to \$15 per year).

Would you be interested in helping in chapter volunteer activity? _____

Signature Date

Payment by Credit Card

Card Number: _____ Exp Date: _____

Billing Zipcode: _____ Amount: _____

CHARITABLE OUTREACH PROGRAM

Please accept my tax-deductible donation of: \$ _____ to (check one)

Outreach Fund* _____ Operations _____

*a fund for annual college scholarships and other charitable programs and services.

Send applications to:

MOAA-AC, P.O. Box 340497, Ft Sam Houston, TX 78234

**For questions please call (210) 228-9955 or e-mail: moaa-ac@sbcglobal.net
Also visit our chapter's website at www.alamomoaa.org**

Please feel free to copy and provide this form to prospective members.

1-1-12

Solitaires

(Continued from Page 7)

Cash – At least a couple of hundred dollars, mostly small bills. Keep hidden to avoid theft.

Clothes – Things that are durable and comfortable. Long and short pair of pants and shirts. A pair of good walking shoes and two pair of socks (not cotton). A wide brim hat. A heavy jacket in the winter. Work Gloves.

Spare Glasses, Hearing Aids, etc. - Even old ones are better than nothing.

Tools – A large pocket knife with a locking blade. A large hunting/survival knife that is suitable for cutting small limbs. Do not get one with a hollow handle, as it can break in two. Any compass, even the cheap ones, that works. A map of the area. A multi-tool (such as a Leatherman) or Swiss Army knife. Signal mirror. Safety whistle (better than yelling). Fishing hooks and line. A walking stick. Small hand shovel.

Duct Tape – A partial roll will do. Not sure you want to carry a full roll.

Rope/String – A small package of 550 para-cord. Get the cord with small strands wrapped in a larger outer covering. The small strands can be pulled out and used as string/fishing line. You may want to get a larger rope, but remember you may be carrying it while walking.

Flashlights – A small one (AA or AAA size) that you carry all the time and a larger one for your bag. Don't forget extra batteries. Light sticks. Consider a solar power/cranked light/radio combination (some are worthless, so buy wisely and use it to see how it works).

Radio – Preferably one that has a crank so that it is not dependent on batteries. They often come with a flashlight as well, so it can serve dual purposes. Remember to keep it light weight.

Poncho/Survival Blanket – Get a

good one, as it can serve as a shelter as well.

Trash/Storage Bags – Have two or three of each size. You can pack your clothes and other things in them to keep stuff dry.

Guns and Ammo – This is a touchy subject. Just remember that the police most likely will not be available and you will be on your own. Guns are not only for protection, but for hunting if the disaster is of a longer duration. I would suggest a pistol in a large caliber (.40 or .45) and a rifle or shotgun. At any rate find a gun that you are comfortable with and enjoy shooting, regardless of caliber or size. Practice with it enough so that you can manage it without having to think about how to run it. Spare ammo and clips. If you cannot adjust your mindset to be prepared to shoot someone, then it is probably better for you not to have a gun. Consider pepper spray.

Gas in your car/truck – I try to never let my truck get below half a tank. Depending on the disaster, gas may not be available. Another reason is that the fuel pump in a lot of cars is located in the tank and uses the gas for cooling.

Tent, Sleeping Bag or Blanket – You will want something to protect you from the elements if you wind up sleeping outside. A tarp/trash bags with some cord/rope and trees may be sufficient. I have a three man tent that is fairly light, has a floor and zips up to keep out bugs, snakes and other things. Sleeping bag (in waterproof bag) and pad.

Methods for starting a fire – This can be a lighter, matches, flint and steel or any other method

Toiletry Items - Tooth brush, toothpaste, soap, and towel. Shaving gear. Small bottle of Sanitizer. Toilet paper. Chapstick

Gas Mask or Dense Weave Cotton Material – This will be helpful if there is a chemical spill. I found one on line

for \$20.

Emergency Relief Centers – Use these with some caution. They are for the people who have made no preparations. If you are armed, they probably won't let you take your guns in them anyway.

Places to find equipment - Some places to find these items locally are Walmart, Academy, Bass Pro Shop and Dicks. On line I use Sportsman Guide, Midway USA, and Cheaper Than Dirt. Remember "Caveat emptor" (let the buyer beware), as the quality of items can vary greatly.

Keep A Positive Attitude – This is your greatest asset. This combined with a flexible mind will get you through a lot of emergencies.

W2 Bill Strout (Ret)

Note:

The first meeting of the year for The Solitaires will be a luncheon on Tuesday, January 3 at the Ft Sam Golf Club. We welcome our new President, Marge Fraley. The usual Sunday Brunch will be January 22 at the Randolph AFB Parr Club.

Col Irene Collier (Ret)

If you are a single man or lady and like to eat, chat, make new friends, experience or provide sometimes brief impromptu or scheduled interesting demonstrations, talks, or discussions, whether you are: visiting the area; active duty or retired; widowed or divorced; the SOLITAIRES is the group for you.

This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy camaraderie with other single men and ladies whose backgrounds and experiences are or have been with the military.

So make that New Year's Resolution to get out and about and come have some fun!!

Call the office (210) 228-9955 for more details.

Chapter Events Calendar

JANUARY

1 New Year's Day - Fly the Flag!

1 Volunteer Hours Due

3 Solitaire's Luncheon 11am Ft Sam Golf Club

4 VA Hospice Ward Decoration Removal 9am

5 Staff Meeting 10am Chapter Office

16 Martin Luther King, Jr, Day - Fly the Flag!

18 Ft Sam Volunteer Advisory Council Mtg 9am

18 Board Meeting 10:00am Chapter Office

22 Solitaire's Sunday Brunch 11 am Randolph Parr O Club

26 Chapter Luncheon Ft Sam Golf Club

31 Extravaganza Sam Houston Club (Ft Sam Newcomers Welcome)

FEBRUARY

1 Volunteer Hours Due

1 Deadline for Communications Award MOAA National

2 Staff Meeting 9am MOAA-AC Office

7 Solitaire's Luncheon 11am Ft Sam Golf Club

14 Healthcare Consumer Advisory Council Mtg 1130am Sam Houston Club

15 Ft Sam Volunteer Advisory Council Mtg 9am

17-18 1Q Texas Council of Chapters Meeting Tyler

20 President's Day

23 Chapter Luncheon Ft Sam Golf Club

26 Solitaire's Sunday Brunch 11 am Randolph Parr O Club

28 Extravaganza Sam Houston Club (Ft Sam Newcomers Welcome)

Note: Events **bolded** are for the **general membership** and *italicized* are for *staff*, though members are always welcome. Please call the office for details (210) 228-9955

Ongoing:

Cookie Angels delivering items to Warrior & Family Support Center . Call Susie Tolman for details (210) 654-0351.

MARCH

1 Volunteer Hours Due

1 Staff Meeting 9am MOAA-AC Office

3 Veterans Administration Volunteers Mtg 1pm

6 Solitaire's Luncheon 11am Ft Sam Golf Club

16 Ft Sam Volunteer Advisory Council Mtg 9am

15 Chapter Luncheon Air Force Village I

21 VAC Mtg

25 Solitaire's Sunday Brunch 11 am Randolph Parr O Club

27 Extravaganza Sam Houston Club (Ft Sam Newcomers Welcome)

APRIL

1 Volunteer Hours Due

3 Solitaire's Luncheon 11am Ft Sam Golf Club

5 Staff Meeting 9am MOAA-AC Office

8 Easter Sunday - Fly the Flag!

11 Board Meeting 10am Chapter Office

15-19 Storming The Hill

18 Ft Sam Volunteer Advisory Council Mtg 9am

19 Chapter Luncheon Ft Sam Golf Club

22 Solitaire's Sunday Brunch 11 am Randolph Parr O Club

24 Extravaganza Sam Houston Club (Ft Sam Newcomers Welcome)

President's Message

(Continued from Page 1)

for over the years and our successes and failures. We must keep trying, however.

During this Presidential election year, we must also not fall victim to mis-information that will undoubtedly be put out about all

candidates, Democratic and Republican (or independent). Issues that we are concerned with such as the Doctor fix for TriCare and Medicare eligible folks, concurrent receipt, military retirement, manning levels, military health care, etc. must be kept at the forefront of issues that we talk with our Congressmen about on a regular basis.

Social media will undoubtedly be on fire with opinions, information and mis-information about all of these issues. Because of this, we must keep in mind that we have reliable sources of information such as the MOAA Legislative Alerts, the MOAA Blogs (MOAA.org) and the Military Officer magazine as well as our own Lariat (alamomoaa.org) that should be consulted for issue clarification and, again, non-partisan information.

It looks as if we are developing a good line-up of speakers for this coming year. In January, we will be having either Judge Wayne Christian or his Court Administrator, both veterans speaking to us about the new Bexar County Veterans Court. I have attended several sessions of this court and I have to tell you all that it seems to be most effective in keeping our veterans and active duty military out of jail and diverting them to programs that will get them rehabilitated in programs for drugs/alcohol, treatment of PTSD or TBI rather than the harsh reality of a jail cell. This will be on January 26 at the Ft. Sam Houston Golf Club.

We are working on future speakers that will include our political representatives at all levels to give their views and for you to interact with. Our new program Vice President, LTC Rodney Takahashi will welcome any suggestions that you may have for programs from our membership. Please contact him through the Chapter office.

We'd also like to welcome the new VP Public Relations, Maj Gary Howe USAF (Ret) to our fold, as well as Marge Fraley as our new Solitaires president.

Our membership continues to grow. We are approaching new levels and are the largest Chapter in Texas, at this point. Please continue to help us grow that membership! Remember we have the Give Me Ten program for Active Duty Officers and Warrants and includes the National Guard and Reserves. This program gives them a free membership at National and in the Alamo Chapter for one year.

In addition, for a limited amount of time, we are offering a free two year membership in National MOAA and one year in the Alamo Chapter for Officers who have retired or separated from the service who are either past members or have never been members. Those of you who are now members, may want to also consider becoming a Life National Member. This is a gift that keeps on giving, not only to you, but also to your spouse when you pass away as that membership passes on to them.

Let me wrap this up and wish all of you a Happy New Year. Hold on, because 2012 is going to be really eventful for us all!!

Jim Cunningham USAR (Ret)



Alamo Chapter

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Statement of Publication

The Lariat is the newsletter of the Military Officers Association of America—Alamo Chapter. It is published once each month to inform the membership of issues and activities of interest to all.

MOAA-AC is a non-profit organization within the state of Texas organized to represent the membership and to support the activities of the Texas Council of Chapters and MOAA National.

Advertising contained in the newsletter is not endorsed by the Chapter and does not represent any recommendation to the membership. Opinions expressed in articles contained herein are not necessarily those of the membership as a whole or the Chapter. Questions should be directed to the Editor, at the Chapter office.

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www.alamomoaa.org



MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
ALAMO CHAPTER

THE LARIAT

2009 National Award Winning Newsletter

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

WWW.ALAMOMOAA.ORG

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**Postmaster — please deliver by January 7th
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Thursday January 26, 2012



**Chapter Luncheon
Speaker: Judge Wayne Christian
Veterans' Court Judge**

Ft Sam Golf Club

Meet & Greet begins 11am - Lunch served approx 11:45am

Menu (Indicate Choice)

A) BBQ Brisket B) Chicken Mango Chutney
Tossed Green Salad, Parsley Potatoes, Corn with Red Peppers
Dinner Rolls & Butter
Assorted Sherbet
Water, Coffee & Tea Service and \$3.00 per small bottle wine

Cost per person \$18
Enclosed: \$ _____

RSVP by Noon Monday 23 January
Reservations not cancelled by noon 24 Tuesday will be billed
Non member Officers & guests are welcome with paid reservations

Name _____

Guest: _____

Send reservation slip & check made payable to
MOAA-AC to P.O. Box 340497, Ft Sam Houston, TX 78234
Call (210) 228-9955 with any questions.

Thursday February 23, 2012



**Chapter Luncheon
Speaker: TBD**

Ft Sam Golf Club

Meet & Greet begins 11am - Lunch served approx 11:45am

Menu (Indicate Choice)

A) London Broil B) Chicken Primavera
With Jack Daniels Sauce With Basil Sauce
Mixed Salad, Oven Roasted Potatoes, Green Beans & Carrots
Dinner Rolls & Butter
Peach Cobbler
Water, Coffee & Tea Service and \$3.00 per small bottle wine

Cost per person \$20
Enclosed: \$ _____

RSVP by Noon Monday 20 February
Reservations not cancelled by noon 21 Tuesday will be billed
Non member Officers & guests are welcome with paid reservations

Name _____

Guest: _____

Send reservation slip & check made payable to
MOAA-AC to P.O. Box 340497, Ft Sam Houston, TX 78234
Call (210) 228-9955 with any questions.