

## Rio Hondo Chapter Luncheon Meeting, Tuesday, 23 Feb 2010

Los Coyotes Country Club, 8888 Los Coyotes Drive, Buena Park, CA 90621

**Program/Special Speaker: Capt Kermit Rosenthal, USMCR Ret**

Social Time: 1200-1230 hours   Lunch and Program - 1230 hours   Menu: Hank's Choices-Salad or Sandwich w/soup



### Happy Birthdays!

The birthstone for the month of February is the amethyst and the flower for the month is the beautiful violet, which is probably one of the most grown plant. It is a big favorite for growing on the window sill or in a patio garden. The following people have birthdays in the month of February:

- 18 - Mary Cunningham
- 23 - Dick Partee
- 26 - Frances Sanders

Like we say every month - Happy Birthday to all of you and many more! And have a wonderful time with friends and family, or at least have a "sip" of the grape or grain with family and friends on this important day - but don't keep track of the years!



### Happy Anniversary!

February seems to have fewer couples who chose this month to get married. Perhaps, they had other things on their mind, or it just a shorter time to decide in. Or, perhaps, they were busy enjoying St Valentine's day! Our only couple celebrating their anniversary is:

- 14 - Lea & John Nowlin

All of us in the Chapter wish you a Happy Anniversary celebrating with close friends and family.

### The Prez' Message:

*from LCol John Nowlin*

I would like to address three important issues: (1) your Retiree Account Statement, (2) your DNA and (3) membership renewal.

Please check the Arrears of Pay Beneficiary Information on the back of your **Retiree Account Statement (DFAS-CL 72220/148)**. If it indicates "We do not have any Beneficiary Information on file", please call 1-800-321-1080 or visit the DFAS WEB SITE at <http://www.dfas.mil> under the retired and annuity section of the money matters area to obtain a beneficiary form. It is important that you have a beneficiary for any pay the service may owe your family after your death.

The Pentagon's office in charge of accounting for U.S. troops missing from the nation's wars is asking for help (DNA) *especially from WWII veterans*. This office identifies about 75 MIA annually, but many more could be identified (and quicker) if reference samples of DNA were on file. If you or someone you know has a missing service member, please contact the specific service in which the person served:

- ARMY                    800-892-2490
- NAVY                    800-443-9298
- AIR FORCE            800-531-5501
- MARINE CORPS    800-847-1597
- STATE DEPARTMENT 202-647-470

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### Chapter Officers & Board 2010

#### Officers

- Pres: LCol John B Nowlin, USA Ret
- 1stVP: Mrs Jan Fitzgerald, Aux
- 2ndVP: LCdr Claude Kerr, USN Ret
- 3rdVP: Cdr Wyly A Moore, USN Ret
- 4thVP: Capt Sam Chin, USAF Ret
- Secret.: LCol John B Nowlin, USA Ret
- Treasur: LCdr Claude Kerr, USN Ret
- Chapl.: LCol John B Nowlin, USA Ret
- Parliamentar'n Capt Sam Chin, USAF Ret

#### Board of Directors

- Duke Steinken, USMC Ret                    Chmn
- LCol George Shy, USAF Ret                2008-9
- CW04 Chuck Nordhausen, USMC        2008-9
- Mrs. Harriet Peterson                        2009-10
- Cdr Hank Barrett, USN Ret                2009-10
- LCol Clarence Reno, USAF Ret            Emeritus
- Capt Carl Buskness, USA Ret                Emeritus

#### Committee Chairs

- Personal Affairs:                            Mr. Ray Cole
- Public Relations:                            Mrs. Jean Robertson
- Welfare:                                        Mrs Barbara Rosenberg
- Legislative Affairs:                         LCol John Nowlin

### Rio Hondo Calendar:

**Feb 23, 2010 Lunch/BOD Mtgs  
At Los Coyotes Country Club...**

**Speaker:**

**Capt Kermit Rosenthal, USMCR (Ret)**

- Mar 23, 2010 Lunch/BOD Mtgs Open
- Apr 27, 2010 Lunch/BOD Mtgs Open
- May 25, 2010 Lunch/BOD Mtgs Open
- July 10, 2010 Annual Picnic-Chins' Home
- Aug 24, 2010 Lunch/BOD Mtgs Open
- Sep 26, 2010 Lunch/BOD Mtgs Open
- Oct 26, 2010 Lunch/BOD Mtgs Open
- Nov 23, 2010 Lunch/BOD Mtgs Open
- Dec 5, 2010 SW CAL-MOAA Lunch Mtg

**MOAA Legislative Alerts***(Excerpts from MOAA Magazine 1/15/2010)***DoD Budget-Concurrent Receipt, Pay Raise, TRICARE Fees**

The Pentagon rolled out its FY2011 defense budget this week, proposing a \$549 billion base budget (a 3.4% increase over 2010) and \$159 billion more to support war operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. During testimony before the House and Senate Armed Services Committee this week, Secretary of Defense Gates outlined three major priorities in the DoD base budget:

- Strengthening the nation's commitment to the all-volunteer force
- Rebalancing America's defense posture to prevail in conflicts
- Continuing DoD's commitment to reform, especially in acquisition

Highlights of initiatives proposed in the new budget include:

**Pay Raise** - A military pay increase of only 1.4%. This would match private sector pay growth between 2008 and 2009. But it would be the lowest military raise since 1963. If enacted, it would be the first year since 1999 without at least some progress in reducing a basic pay raise gap that still stands at 2.4%.

**Concurrent Receipt** - The budget again proposes a five-year plan to phase out the disability offset to military retired pay for all members whose service-caused conditions forced them into medical retirement. Congress failed to enact a similar proposal last year after being unable to identify cost offsets.

**Family Support** - The budget provides \$8.8 billion - an increase of \$450 million from last year - to emphasize the importance of child support and youth programs, spouse employment, commissaries, and schools. ---→

**MOAA Legis. Alerts: (Cont'd)**

**Health Care** - The budget proposes \$50.7 billion to fully fund the Defense Health Program without any TRICARE fee increases for retirees. When asked about rising health costs, Secretary Gates made it clear he thinks retiree fees should rise. "There has not been an increase in the premium for TRICARE since the program was founded in 1995," he said. "I ask anybody to point me to a health insurance program that has not had a premium increase in 15 years...We absolutely want to take care of our men and women in uniform and our retirees, but at some point, there has to be some reasonable tradeoff between reasonable cost increases or premium increases or co-pays or something and the cost of the program."

Gates said that when DoD previously proposed fee hikes and cut the budget to reflect that, Congress refused to make the increases, so the funding shortfall had to be made up. Rather than facing that scenario again, DoD has proposed full program funding, and looks to Congress for any action on TRICARE fees.

**New - Electronic Health Records**

To explain the government's strategy for creating a lifetime electronic health record for U.S. service members and veterans, Dr. Stephen L. Ondra, the VA's senior policy advisor for Health Affairs, recalls his days as a medical intern when he often had to borrow money from colleagues because banks were closed by the time his long shifts were over.

Life got easier for Ondra when cash became available around the clock at ATMs. In time, access

*(Continued on Page 3)***The Prez' Msg: (Cont'd from page 1b)**

On January 28, invoices for 2010 dues were mailed to 56 active and former Chapter members that had not paid their annual dues. As I write this message, 14 members (ten active and four former) have renewed. If you have not responded, please do so as soon as possible. The 2010 Roster will be mailed to all paid members on or about 1 April.

Letters to 3 members were returned by USPS as "unable to forward". If you have any information (address or telephone number) for LtCol Clarence Reno, COL Robert "Bob" France or Mrs. Zeilla Smith, please pass on the information so a renewal notice can be sent. Thanks to the 14 that have responded.

See you at Los Coyotes Country Club at noon on Tuesday, 23 February.

**January 2010 Meeting:**

There were 16 Members present. LtCol Mike Loyet and Allene were able to attend. We celebrated Ruby Anton's birthday with song and desert.

Capt Duke Steinken had produced two DVD's about his military career. We all enjoyed viewing DVD #1 reflecting his early experiences in several services before he found his home with the US Marines. He had amazing experiences he was able to recollect. We are all very thankful for his service to this great nation.

The 50/50 raffle winners were Claire Hamilton, Ruby Anton and Allene Loyet. Big Draw winner: LCDR Kerr was not present, however, Elaine Chin was on the second draw

**MOAA Legis. Alerts:***(Cont'd from pg 2)*

to cash became available almost anywhere, including overseas, as banks adopted universal standards for ATMs to guarantee access and security.

A set of standards now is key to making electronic health records of service members, veterans, and patients across the U.S. accessible to any health care provider, says Ondra. The VA and DoD have worked for years on health data exchange to create a seamless transition for patients leaving military care to seek treatment with the VA. Today, the two behemoths exchange more medical information than perhaps any two entities in the world.

Yet 60 percent of care provided to a typical veteran over his or her lifetime comes from the private sector. Those records, even if maintained electronically, can't be accessed by VA or DoD providers. And government health records, in turn, aren't accessible to private sector physicians.

That reality has forced officials who are in charge of creating the Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record >>>

**MOAA Legis. Alerts:** *(Cont'd)*

(VLER) system for service members and veterans, as President Obama ordered last April, to change their approach and look beyond ongoing efforts to integrate VA and DoD electronic record keeping.

The new strategy, adopted in June 2009, recognizes the entire nation must move to electronic record keeping and take full advantage of how information sharing improves patient safety, quality of care, and efficiency.

Universal standards for electronic record keeping and data sharing need to be adopted. Thankfully, VA and DoD officials discovered such an effort already was under way at the Department of Health and Human Services. The National Health Information Network (NHIN) is a collection of standards, protocols, legal agreements, and services for secure exchange of health information over the Internet for both the public and private sectors.

Last summer, VA and DoD officials began learning how NHIN can solve its own electronic health record challenges. >>>

**MOAA Legis. Alerts:** *(Cont'd)*

By February, DoD had joined with the VA and Kaiser Permanente in a pilot program to test how NHIN can allow exchange of basic patient information of volunteers in the San Diego area. The preliminary results are encouraging.

"I'm a neurosurgeon and have been a physician for 25 years [and] this is the most exciting development and moment I've seen in my medical career," says Ondra. "It's a moment that has the greatest potential to improve and change how we deliver care than anything that's happened in my lifetime. It's the first step in the Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record."

Ondra and other DoD-VA team members explained progress on the VLER system at a Medical Health System conference in Washington, D.C., in late January.

VLER is not a major acquisition program, says Norma St. Claire, director of information management for personnel and readiness in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. "What VLER does is create capability through *(continued on Page 4)*

**Reservation for the Tuesday, 23 Feb 2010, Chapter Luncheon Meeting**

**Please include me/us at the Chapter Luncheon Meeting and Program.**

**To RSVP: Call or eMail:**

**LCol John B Nowlin**

**Phone: 562-925-9134**

**or (Cell) (562) 455-6425**

**Email: [jbnowlin@aol.com](mailto:jbnowlin@aol.com)**

**Pay at the Door:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Hank's Choice Lunch \$15.00/person** \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

- Salad or Sandwich w/Soup

\_\_\_\_\_ **50/50 Drawing tickets, \$1.00 each** \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

**Donations for postage & printing.** \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

**2010 Dues: Members \$15.00, Auxiliary \$5.00** \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

**TOTAL \$** \_\_\_\_\_.

*Corrections/comments for the Chapter or Newsletter Editor:*

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**NOTE:**

*BoD Meeting immediately follows the Luncheon*

*If you have an Email address, please let us know - help saves stamps:* \_\_\_\_\_

**MOAA Legis. Alerts:** (Cont'd from page 3)

use of standards ... to share data not only with DoD and [the] VA but also with the private sector,” says St. Claire. “This way, each organization ... can have [its] own electronic records system but map into the NHIN standards [so] you don’t have to wait until everyone in the country is under the exact same system before you can start sharing data.”

Debra M. Fillipi, director of the DoD/VA interagency program office, says work continues on health record interoperability between the two departments. But VLER addresses gaps in veterans’ medical histories >>>

**MOAA Legis. Alerts:** (Cont'd)

from care delivered in the private sector, allowing all providers secure access to all electronically available health records.

The VA, which runs the largest integrated health system in the country, began the first VLER pilot last fall in San Diego with Kaiser Permanente, the nation’s second-largest electronic medical records system. DoD joined that pilot a few months in. Using health records of several hundred volunteers, the three systems are testing NHIN protocols, including privacy safeguards, in sharing patient data on their health problems, treatments, medicines prescribed and allergies. >>>

**MOAA Legis. Alerts:** (Cont'd)

The two critical software tools that make this possible are an adapter and a gateway, Fillipi explains. The gateway serves as a kind of on-ramp, off-ramp to and from the NHIN. The adapter is a universal data translator. Design of any individual electronic health record systems won’t have to change for data to be exchanged. The VA, for example, will get to keep its VISTA system and DoD can continue using its record system called AHLTA ... “Health information interoperability will become part of the fabric of our [national] health care system,” predicts Ondra, “and it will make it better, safer, more efficient.” **end**

**Rio Hondo Chapter**

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Time Dated Material.

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