

# Council Comments

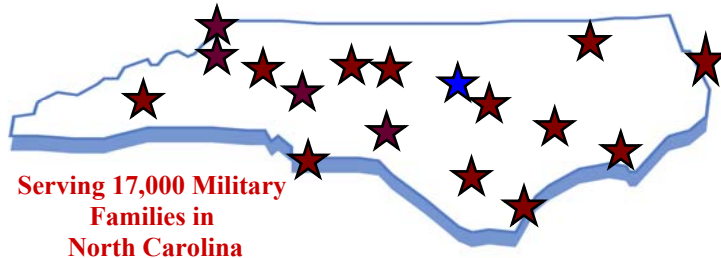
NC Council of  
Chapters [web](#)  
site:

[www.moaa-nc.org](http://www.moaa-nc.org)



Volume XV Issue 2

April 2011

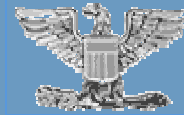


Published by the  
North Carolina  
Council of  
Chapters of  
MOAA

Editors:  
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(Ret.) & Dee  
Culler,  
New Bern



## The President's Message COL Fred Black USA (Ret.), Chapel Hill



Greetings to all!

It was a very busy annual MOAA "Storming the Hill" in Washington again this year. From Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup> to the afternoon of the 14<sup>th</sup>, I along with 34 other Council leaders and Chapter leaders from 15 other states and Puerto Rico prepared ourselves to meet with our delegations, receive briefings from our National President and updates from our staff. The "Storming" occurred on the 13<sup>th</sup> and I met with nine of our 15 North Carolina legislators or their staff.

This year our focus was on two major issues, capping any future TRICARE fee increases at the COLA percentage and protecting the currently serving force against manpower cuts and pay raise cutbacks.

We also reminded our members of the issues from last year that still await a final resolution: making progress toward ending unfair compensation penalties imposed on thousands of disabled retirees, military

survivors, and Guard/Reserve warriors. Specific bills are:

- **H.R. 1092** – Grants Congress, not SecDef, authority to set TRI-CARE fees
- **H.R. 333, H.R. 186, S. 344** – End deduction of VA benefits from retired pay
- **H.R. 178, S. 260** – End deduction of VA benefits from SBP annuities
- **H.R. 181, H.R. 1283** – Authorize Reserve retirement age credit for all active service since 9/11, and eliminate a glitch that denies full credit for active duty tours that span more than one fiscal year.

We have asked Chapters to send follow-up letters to our senators and representatives to thank them for receiving us and asking them to support these critical MOAA issues.

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## The President's Message (Continued from page 1)

On the evening before we “stormed” in a literal storm we attended a reception in the Capitol’s Cannon House Office Building Caucus Room. MOAA presented the Colonel Arthur T. Marix Awards (founder of MOAA in 1929) to **Sen. Daniel K. Akaka of Alaska** and **Rep. Joe Wilson of South Carolina** for being strong supporters of national defense and the uniformed service community. Additionally, awards were presented for distinguished, meritorious service to MOAA.

A real highlight of our “Storming” week was the dynamic speakers who addressed us. We heard from our new chairman of the MOAA Board of Directors, **ADM Steve Abbot USN (Ret.), California Rep. Howard P. “Buck” McKeon**, the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, and **LTG Thomas P. Bostick USA**, the Army’s Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, G-1. Each speaker make it clear how much MOAA has and is doing for those who served, are serv-

ing, and their survivors and families.

As we Presidents interacted during “Storming” week, we had a very familiar conversation about a critical topic – growing our Chapters. There are 377,000 national MOAA members and about 70,000 are in chapters. That is less than 20%. In North Carolina, there are 13,000 national members as of March and almost 1900 are in chapters, or nearly 15%. The message is clear – we must “restock” our Chapters and gain members who are willing to serve in positions of leadership in our Chapters. Every president reported similar experiences with making this happen. We also discussed Auxiliary members and their cell phone initiative. We will discuss this at our May meeting.

We also brought home eight Communications awards to North Carolina which are listed on the next page in this issue. Congratulations to all our award winners and thank you for all you do for MOAA!



State Council President **COL Fred Black USA (Ret.)** is pictured with **Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC)** on the left and with **Rep. David Price (D-NC4)** at the right on 13 April during MOAA’s President’s Symposium.



## Air Shows in the Local Area (From the Wilmington Navy League Newsletter)

**US Navy Blue Angels**  
30 April - 1 May - MCAS Beaufort, SC  
24-25 September - NAS Oceana, VA



**Canadian Forces Snowbirds**  
14-15 May—MCAS New River, NC



## North Carolina Council & Chapters Win 8 Communications Awards



MOAA takes the time every year to recognize the top communicators in its Councils and Chapters who do an outstanding job keeping their members informed. State Council leaders received

awards for their Chapters on 14 April at the Council President's Seminar in Arlington, VA. North Carolina received eight awards as follows:

- State Council Website First Runner-Up, North Carolina Council of Chapters [www.moaa-nc.org](http://www.moaa-nc.org) (**Karrie Johnson, Webmaster**)
- State Council Print Newsletter First Runner-Up - *Council Comments* (**Maj Bill Culler USMC (Ret.) & Dee Culler, Editors**)
- Winner Best Print Newsletter - *The New River Current* (**Lt Col Kenneth Lynn USAF (Ret.), Editor**) (Less than 120 members)
- Winner Best Website Legislative Coverage

- Coastal Carolina Chapter, [www.ccmoaa.org](http://www.ccmoaa.org) (**LtCol Roy Evans USMC (Ret.), Webmaster**) (120-199 members)

- First Runner-Up Overall Website, Coastal Carolina Chapter, [www.ccmoaa.org](http://www.ccmoaa.org) (**LtCol Roy Evans USMC (Ret.), Webmaster**) (120-199 members)

- 2d Runner Print Newsletter, Coastal Carolina *Clarion* (**Maj Bill Culler USMC (Ret.) & Dee Culler, Editors**) (120-199 members)

- Special Recognition, Honorable Mention for Recruiting Cards, Catawba Valley Chapter (fewer than 120 members)

- Special Recognition, Honorable Mention for Postcard Project, New River Chapter (fewer than 120 members)



## Cape Fear Chapter Celebrates 50th Anniversary

North Carolina's oldest Chapter celebrated its golden anniversary at a gala event on 10 March at the Ft. Bragg Officers Open Mess. Attending as special guests were MOAA National President VADM Norb Ryan USN (Ret.) and NC State Council President COL Fred Black USA (Ret.) and his wife Sylvia.

In a letter received by Chapter President

LTC Arlie Smith USA (Ret.), VADM Ryan stated, "It was a real pleasure to visit with you, Ingrid and the rest of your Cape Fear Chapter last week! It was a terrific event in every respect."

Cape Fear was one of the two North Carolina Chapters receiving MOAA's 5-Star Streamer of Excellence in 2010.

## MOAA's Gold Bar Program (By 1st VP LTC Bob Garman USA (Ret.), Fayetteville)



During 2011, MOAA again is offering the Gold Bar Program as a part of the Give Me 10! Campaign. The program is designed to encourage chapter to reach out to ROTC units in their area and present graduating cadets/midshipmen with their first set of gold bars—along with free, one-year memberships in national MOAA that they are eligible to receive as newly commissioned active duty officers. Chapters will earn Give Me 10! credit for each new officer they recruit under the Gold Bar Program, which launched Jan. 1, 2011.

National MOAA will provide up to 3,500 sets of free gold bars to Chapters supporting ROTC commissioning ceremonies at colleges and universities. This is up from 3,000 sets last year.

Requests for gold bar sets should be e-mailed to [awards@moaa.org](mailto:awards@moaa.org). You also can snail-mail your request to **MOAA, 201 N. Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314, Attention: Chapters**. An informational copy of your request also should be sent to the State Council.

**Each gold bar request should include the following information:**

- name of the Chapter requesting gold bars;
- name of the college or university;
- name and address of the person to whom the gold bars should be mailed;
- confirmation that arrangements have been made with the ROTC staff to allow MOAA to present free gold bars and complimentary,

one-year national MOAA membership to cadets and midshipmen;

- date of the commissioning ceremony; and
- number of new officers who will be commissioned along with the service branches of those officers.

Gold bars will be allocated on a first-come, first-serve basis. MOAA also has certificates and folders that can be used by chapters to prepare personalized packages for new officers. The most successful chapter efforts rely on advanced planning. Chapter leaders should work with ROTC staffs to get Give Me 10! membership applications (yellow forms) filled out **prior to** the commissioning date or arrange for the cadets/midshipmen to complete the forms before the commissioning ceremony.

Don't provide new officers with blank forms to fill out after they are commissioned. They won't do it, and you won't get Give Me 10! credit.

Getting the information needed to fill out membership application forms in advance depends on forming personal relationships with the ROTC staff. ROTC staff members aren't required to have future officers fill out MOAA membership application forms. You need to persuade them to want to do it.

*Continued on page 5*

## MOAA's Gold Bar Program (Continued from page 4)

In addition to the Gold Bar Program, Chapter leaders also can sign up ROTC cadets in their junior and senior year. Effective Jan. 1, 2011, MOAA established a new membership category for ROTC cadets and midshipmen, who can join the association and receive a free, one-year electronic membership. This electronic membership will see cadets receive only electronic communications from MOAA that are tailored to their interests. To sign up interested cadets and

midshipman, use the yellow Give Me 10! application card and write, "ROTC Cadet/Midshipman" at the top of the form. So far, only five North Carolina Chapters have recruited

**Give Me 10 members for National:**

COL Lloyd A. Osborne-Piedmont 12; Western NC 2; Charlotte-Metrolina 1; Catawba Valley, 1 and Cape Fear 1.

## Retiree Appreciation Days at Fort Bragg - 13-14 May (From the Cape Fear *Infogram* - April 2011)



Fort Bragg has changed the dates for hosting the annual Retiree Appreciation Days to May of this year effective 2011.

RAD-11 will begin with a Retiree Golf Tournament at Ryder Golf Course on Friday morning, 13 May followed by a welcome social and retiree dinner Friday night at the Fort Bragg Officers Club in the Lafayette Room. The social hour (no host bar) is from 1830 to 1900. Dinner will be served at 1915. Entertainment will be provided by the All-American Chorus from the 82nd Airborne Division.

Womack Army Medical Center (WAMC) will be the central location on Saturday, the 14th. RAD events on Saturday will begin early with breakfast and a welcome from the

Commander. Legal Assistance and other services will be available at WAMC.

The Fort Bragg Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) and other Fort Bragg organizations will also take part in this very special event.

For more information on RAD activities, please call the Fort Bragg Retirement Services Office (RSO) at (910) 396-5304 or toll free at 1-800-535-6667.

[braggrso@conus.army.mil](mailto:braggrso@conus.army.mil).

Be sure to visit the Fort Bragg RSO website at <http://www.bragg.army.mil?Organizations/GARRISON-UNITS/DIRECTORATES/Directorate-of-Human-Resources/rso.aspx>

## Upcoming MOAA Cruises

### Earn \$50 for Your Chapter When You Book a 7-Day Cruise

Travel Headquarters, formerly MOAA Vacations is offering some bargain specialty cruises with major enhancements that offer Chapter members an opportunity to travel with fellow MOAA members as well as earn money for their Chapters. Your Chapter earns \$50 for each

7-day or longer cruise taken by a Chapter member and an additional \$50 for each additional couple who joins them. Members bringing along family or friends who are not MOAA members can still earn an additional \$50 for their Chapter.

Below are some of the highlights of upcoming group cruises being promoted to MOAA members across the country on the Holland America Line. These groups have outstanding savings and highly desired amenities. Chapters desiring to set up their own cruise group can be accommodated as well.

#### **Bermuda: 7 day cruise from New York City**

2 October 2011 - *Veendam*

Low as \$849

Highlights: St. George's & Hamilton

Special features: Concierge & host, private cocktail party, onboard amenity

#### **Europe: 12-day Mediterranean**

9 September 2011 - *Nieuw Amsterdam*

Low as \$2,099

Highlights: Venice, Split, Athens, Istanbul, Mykonos, Ephesus, Santorini, Olympia

Special features: Concierge & host, private cocktail party, exclusive shore event

#### **Canada & New England: 10-day New York to Quebec**

30 September 2011 - *Eurodam*

Low as \$1,719

Highlights: New York, Newport, Boston, Halifax, Sydney, Prince Edward Island, Quebec City

Special features: Concierge & host, private cocktail party, exclusive shore event

#### **South America: 12-day Santiago to Buenos Aires**

8 December 2011 - *Veendam*

Low as \$1,199

Highlights: Santiago, Puerto Montt, cruising Chilean fjords, Amalia Glacier & Strait of Magellan, Punta Arenas, cruising Glacier Alley, Ushuaia, cruising Cape Horn, Falkland Islands, Montevideo, Buenos Aires

Special features: Concierge & host, private cocktail party, onboard amenity

#### **Exotic: 14-day Asia**

5 February 2012 - *Zaandam*

Low as \$1,599

Highlights: Singapore, Nathon, Bangkok, Kampong Sam, Ho Chi Minh City, Nha Trang, Sanya, Halong Bay, Hong Kong

Special Features: Concierge & host, private cocktail party, onboard amenity

**Toll Free 1-800-211-5107**

**Website: [Travel-HO.org](http://Travel-HO.org)**



## Legislative News (From MOAA's *Legislative Update* - 21 April 2011)

### COLA Climbs Higher

Inflation rose 1.1% for the third month in a row and now stands at 2.1% for the year. At this rate retirees are almost certain to see at least a modest COLA increase in 2012.

### More Budget Woes on the Horizon

As Congress enjoys a two-week Easter recess after finally passing a FY2011 budget mid-way through the fiscal year, the budget crisis remains a hot topic in Washington and continues to make headlines.

The next hurdle for lawmakers upon their return in May will be to tackle the debt ceiling. Treasury Secretary **Timothy Geithner** reiterated that Congress will need to raise the debt limit on government borrowing by 8 July even if he employs "extraordinary measures" to avert the country from defaulting on its obligations.

The current legal debt is set at \$14.3 trillion and as the nation's debt inches closer to busting the ceiling, both sides of the aisle agree they must take action to prevent an economic disaster.

Following that hurdle, Congress will be getting back to work on the FY2012 budget - one that has significant implications for the

Pentagon.

Last week **President Obama** made it clear that the Pentagon would not be exempt from additional efforts to trim the federal budget. White House and Pentagon officials confirmed that the Administration is calling for an additional \$400 billion in savings through FY2023 . . . and that's on the heels of over \$440 billion in cuts that the Pentagon has reportedly made over the past two years.

Defense officials announced that the Pentagon will begin a "comprehensive review" to find the additional savings. **Defense Secretary Robert Gates** plans to provide **President Obama** with options - to include pros and cons of each - in order to make additional defense cuts.

**Pentagon Press Secretary Geoff Morrell** said Gates "has been clear that further significant defense cuts cannot be accomplished without reducing force structure and military capabilities" and that the review is not a "budget math exercise."

Regardless of the math, MOAA remains concerned that our military members and their families are already stretched to the limit . . . cutting forces without any reduction in operational tempo just won't "compute."

## Useful Web Sites (Contributed by **CDR Jack Overman USN (Ret.), Manteo**)

**Know your rights:** How to contest a traffic ticket . . . prepare a financial power of attorney . . . determine liability in an accident . . . resolve disputes with neighbors . . . more at [www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia](http://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia).

**Recall notices:** Find out about recalls on appliances, medications, toys, etc. [www.Recalls.justia.com](http://www.Recalls.justia.com).

**Summer jobs:** Short term positions at parks, hotels, resorts and other places. [www.SummerJobs.com](http://www.SummerJobs.com)



## 2d Quarter State Council Meeting at Fort Fisher –13-14 May

**North Carolina State Council of Chapters  
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)  
NCCOC Meeting – Fort Fisher Air Force Recreation Area  
Kure Beach, NC 28449**

The SENCLAND Chapter of MOAA will host the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2011 Council Meeting in conjunction with their monthly chapter meeting on 13-14 May 2011 at the Fort Fisher Air Force Recreation Area in Kure Beach, NC.

There will be a Steak Cook Out on Friday evening at the *Beach House* at the FFAFRA. Our Council Business Meeting will take place Saturday morning at the NC National Guard Training Center which is also on Fort Fisher. The details for lodging and other activities are included in an enclosed memorandum from **COL Jeri Graham, President of the SENCLAND Chapter** and 2<sup>nd</sup> VP of the NCCOC.

Thanks to everyone for making your cottage reservations at Fort Fisher in a timely manner...please do the same in completing and submitting your registration forms.

We look forward to an exciting and entertaining weekend on the southeast NC shore as guests of the SENCLAND Chapter.

**Fred Black**  
COL, USA (Ret)

**Leslie B. Petty**  
LtCol, USMC (Ret)

### **SENCLAND Chapter – North Carolina Council of Chapters**

The SENCLAND Chapter is honored to host the North Carolina Council of Chapters meeting at the Fort Fisher Air Force Recreation Area, 13-14 May 2011. We have reserved a number of cottages and obtained a training rate of \$23 per person, as we are all involved in continual leadership development. We are also able to use one of the conference rooms at the National Guard Training Center, which is a beautiful state of the art facility at Fort Fisher.

#### **General Information about Fort Fisher AFRA:**

Please go to [www.ftfishermilrec.com](http://www.ftfishermilrec.com) for complete information about the facility. Of special interest are links to travel directions, facility map, information about the cottages and other amenities.

**Lodging:** Each cottage has 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, a living room, fully equipped kitchen and dining area. We are booking 2 bedrooms each cottage instead of 3. You must call Fort Fisher to reserve your room using your credit card. Please call Denise or Michelle at 910.251.7318 or 7317. I must turn back the unbooked cottages **29 April**. If you have folks that you want to share a cottage with, please provide them that information. The southeast North Carolina coastal area is so neat, that you may want to share this information with other chapter members etc and come with a group.

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## 2d Quarter State Council Meeting

### Friday:

\* **Check In** at Fort Fisher Reception Center – 1600 hours. Arrangements have been made for earlier check in for Council Officers. Cottages may be available sooner but it is best to contact the office to see if your cottage is ready.

\* **Steak Cook Out** – Our SENCLAND Board members will serve as your Grill Chefs for this wonderful dinner. This event will take place at the *Beach House (see facility map on website and in your arrival packet)* A cash bar is available. **Menu:** steak, baked potato and fixings, salad bar, corn on the cob, sautéed mushrooms, rolls, tea/coffee, dessert. The inclusive cost per person is \$15.00. Reservations **MUST** be received by **29 April**. There will be a program that evening. MG (NC) Lusk, the NC Adjutant General has been invited to be our Guest Speaker. The dress is beach/coastal casual. **See included Reservation Form.**

### Saturday:

\* **Breakfast:** There will be a designated Hospitality Cottage where you can easily walk over to a home-cooked breakfast, from 0700 to 0845 hours. The cottage number will be available in your welcome packet when you check-in.

\* **NCCOC Business Meeting:** The meeting will start at 0900 hours and take place at the NCNG Training Center at Fort Fisher. Again, please check your facility map. The Conference Room number will be available in your welcome packet.

\* **Saturday morning trip to Southport:** We are planning on taking a ferry boat ride to the beautiful village of Southport on Saturday morning. We'll plan to carpool to the Fort Fisher ferry terminal and get on the 0915 ferry. We'll be returning by noon.

\* **Saturday afternoon/evening:** If you are planning to stay Saturday night, you are cordially invited to CASA GRAHAM for a Happy Hour, at 1600 hours and we can then go to *Jack Mackerels* in Kure Beach for dinner. Please note on the Reservation Form if you are planning to attend so that I can plan accordingly. If you want to come a day or so early or stay later, you'll need to make those reservations when you call Michelle or Denise

### Home of Jeri Graham (Casa Graham)

1306 Snapper Lane  
Carolina Beach, NC 28428

Directions available in your Welcome Packet. It is approximately 2.5 miles from Fort Fisher to Casa Graham.

If you have any questions about your visit to the Wilmington area, area attractions, etc or have any special requests, please feel free to call me at **(Home) 910.458.1216 or (Cell) 910.616.3487** or email me at [jeriigraham@yahoo.com](mailto:jeriigraham@yahoo.com) (remember the two ii's)

COL Jeri I. Graham, USA (Ret.)  
SENCLAND Chapter President

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**2d Quarter State Council Meeting**

**SENCLAND Chapter MOAA – 2nd QTR  
NCCOC Meeting, 13-14 May 2011  
RESERVATION FORM**

**Please make all checks payable to SENCLAND MOAA and mail to:**

**SENCLAND MOAA  
P.O. Box 3971  
Wilmington, NC 28406-3971**

**Friday Evening Steak Cook Out \$15.00/person**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Spouse / Guest** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday Breakfast \$3.00 / person**

**Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Grand Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_

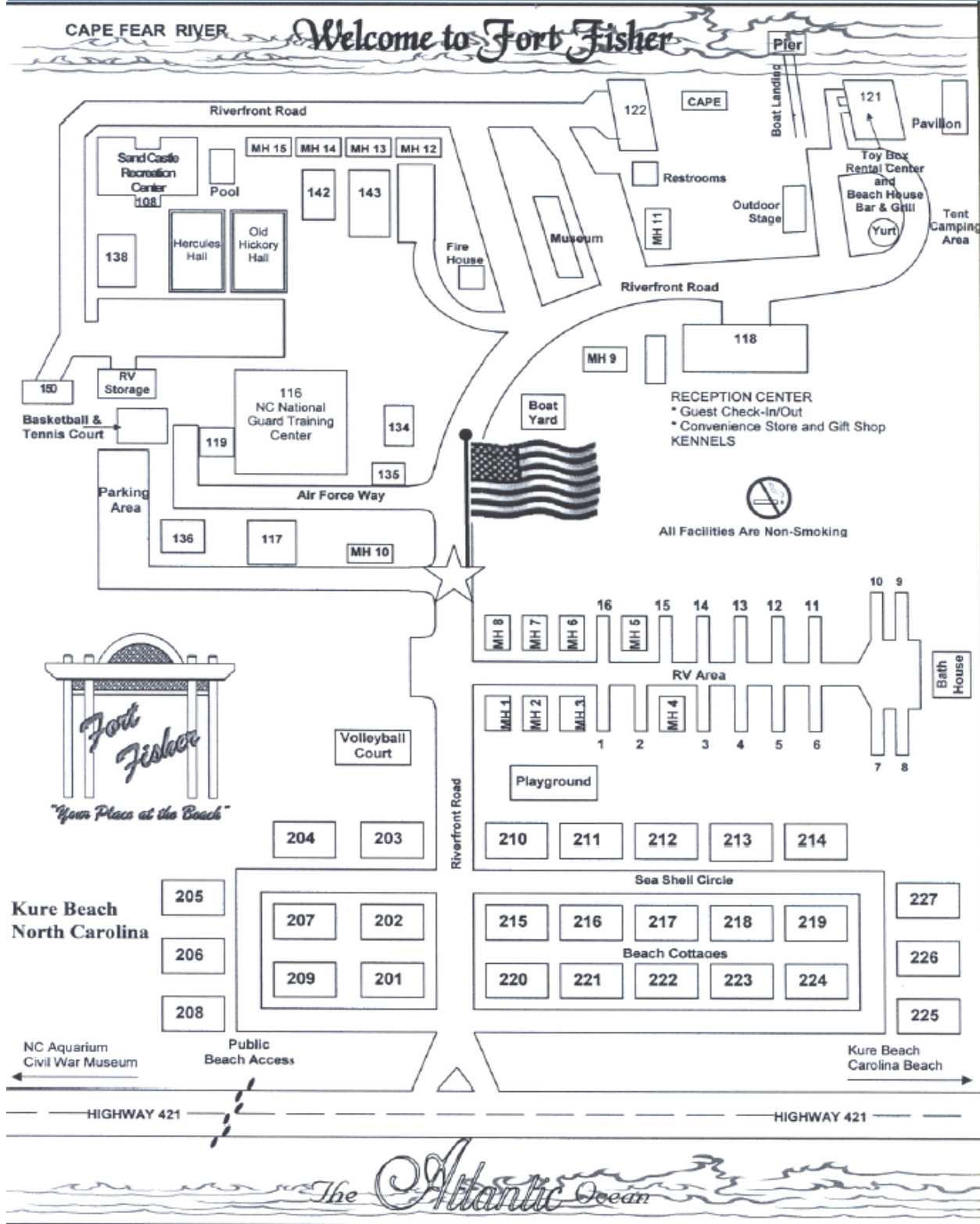
**I plan on taking the trip to Southport Saturday morning.  
Name and Cell number please** \_\_\_\_\_

**I / we would love to come to Casa Graham, Saturday for Happy Hour (no charge)  
1600 hours.  
Name/s** \_\_\_\_\_

**I/ we also plan on joining the group for dinner at Jack Mackerels on Kure Beach.  
(you select from the menu)**

**Name/s** \_\_\_\_\_

## Map of Air Force Recreation Center at Fort Fisher



## North Carolina Council of Chapters



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*Council Comments* is the newsletter of the North Carolina Council of Chapters and is published six times per year. A current issue of the newsletter can be found on the North Carolina Council of Chapters website [www.moaa-nc.org](http://www.moaa-nc.org). Anyone wishing to receive this newsletter by E-mail may do so by contacting us at [fourbranch@earthlink.net](mailto:fourbranch@earthlink.net)

North Carolina Council  
of Chapters  
111 Boros Rd, New Bern,  
NC 28560

Address Correction Requested

