

**Military Officers Association of America**  
**SENCLAND Chapter**  
**P.O. Box 3971**  
**Wilmington, NC 28406**  
*September 2010 – Editor, Ken Finch (910) 395-5189*

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**COMING EVENTS**  
**WELCOME BACK!!**

**SEPTEMBER MEETING:**

**Date and Time:** Tuesday, 7 September 2010 at 1130 hours

**Place:** *The Bluewater Grill* at Wrightsville Beach

**Menu:** Please select from either Greek Salad with Grilled Chicken, or Bluewater Fish and Chips, or Roasted Chicken BLT Sandwich with Garlic Mashed Potatoes, or fried Green Tomato Sandwich with pasta Salad. \$13 paid at the door with your selection covers entre, beverage, tax and gratuity.

**Program:** We look forward to an informative and insightful presentation by our local Congressional Democrat representative, the Honorable Mike McIntire.

**Please RSVP** to Bob Jones at 350-0209 at [rjjones@ec.rr.com](mailto:rjjones@ec.rr.com) NLT 3 September 2010

**OCTOBER MEETING:**

**Date and Time:** Tuesday, 5 October 2010 at 1130 hours

**Place:** *The Surfer Restaurant* in Southport

**Menu:** Select from the menu

**Program:** This month, we will be honored to hear from the local Republican candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives, Mr. Illario Pantano

**Oxymorons to ponder:** *Why are they called 'stands' when they are made for sitting? Why is 'after dark' really 'after light'? Why is 'bra' singular and 'panties' plural?*

**Message from the President..**

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I am writing this column on 3 August, which is early but I leave tomorrow to start a journey to Kenya and Tanzania. A dream trip for sure! Our own Tom Spencer is the trip leader. I believe that this is his 16<sup>th</sup> trip so if you want to know anything about Africa, he's the man. Tom and Dot have been very supportive of the Huruma School in Kenya (outside Nairobi) for a number of years.

I hope that your summer is going well. It always goes so quickly. I look forward to seeing you in September at our first meeting. On the last page of our newsletter you'll find a "Refrigerator Calendar" for this season. The programs are always developing based on the availability of our great speakers. You'll see that I included the October 17<sup>th</sup> OPEN HOUSE at Casa Graham. I'll be sending out post card invites early in the fall but please Save the Date.

We have enlarged the geographic span for our chapter to include the zip codes in Jacksonville, NC, which were previously in that MOAA chapter. We heartily welcome those members to our SENCLAND family and I am sure that we'll learn much more about that area.

I'm very pleased with the cohesiveness of the New Hanover County Veteran's Council. We're working hard at supporting programs for all veterans in our community. I serve as 3<sup>rd</sup> V.P. now. We're trying to

develop a website for that group as we're trying to develop one for our SENCLAND chapter. The greater Wilmington area is resplendent with veteran's groups. There's so much to learn about all of them.

Mid September is the MOAA Southeastern Chapter/Council Leadership meeting in Jacksonville, FL. We'll have lots to share from that meeting.

The August edition of *Military Officer* is again filled with much valuable information. Your ballot is very important so please remember to complete the paper form or follow the directions to complete the online secure form.

Here's to another great year of camaraderie, service and learning for the SENCLAND MOAA Chapter. Wishing you well....

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

### **Survey on Don't Ask, Don't Tell..**

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Noting the importance of getting the opinions of those who would be most affected by a possible repeal of the so-called 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' law that bans gays and lesbians from serving openly in the military, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates recently urged servicemembers to provide their input. About 400,000 servicemembers are receiving an e-mail survey seeking their opinions. The DoD also has an online in-box for additional feedback from about 150,000 selected family members.

### **Scholarship Donation Dollars at Work..**

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About 90 SENCLAND members and guests enjoyed balmy June weather under clear skies for our annual Pig Pickin' at MacRae Park on 4 June. It was the first such event where free booze was not provided but it made little, if any, difference to the gaiety of the event, and will likely set the pattern for years to come. Providing the free booze presents significant logistical and financial problems for party organizers and doing otherwise ensures that those who 'bring their own' have the particular product and brand, and desired mix that they desire.

Thanks to the generosity and good hearts of so many of our members, we were able, once again, to increase the value and number of scholarships given to young members of our community.

### **Winners of Leadership Awards for 2010 and MOAA Presenters..**

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New Hanover High ---- Dominique Fish Presented by COL Jim Brumit	South Brunswick High ----- Charlene Caban Presented by BG Stu Stewart
Laney High ----- Dorian Jackson Presented by CAPT Bill Caster	West Brunswick High ----- Kevin Pruitt Presented by COL John Melia
Hoggard High ----- Jessica Pfeiffer Presented by COL Jeri Graham	East Columbox High ----- Adrianna Howard Presented by LCDR Don Hill
Ashley High -----David Holloway Presented by WO2 David Foster	Trask High ----- Jacob Lewis Presented by Ms. Irene Wallace
Pender High ----- Kayla Terry Presented by BG Walt Busbee	Whiteville High ----- Franchesca Clark Presented by BG Tom Jones
North Brunswick High ----- Stephen Aman Presented by MAJ Kris Frasure	

A Tip of the Hat to those chapter members listed above for making the Leadership Medal presentations at the schools indicated, and particular plaudits to COL Jim Brumit for putting this program together for the chapter.

Our Annual Pig Pickin' was, as usual, a highly successful operation...Special thanks to Al Schroetel, Tim Marvin, Floyd Hood, and Ed Baisden for their contributions to the smooth operation of the event...many others (too numerous to name) pitched in to make it a most enjoyable evening.

### **Scholarship Contributions..**

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Tommy Townsend (Memory of Margaret Armfield)

### **Condolences..**

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Our condolences to the family and friends of Margaret Anne Armfield, surviving wife of CAPT John Armfield, longtime chaplain of the SENCLAND Chapter of MOAA. Margaret Anne moved to the Baltimore area when John died in 2002. She passed away on 31 March 2010 at the Edenwald Retirement Community...may she rest in peace and glory.

Our condolences to the family and friends of LtCol Sara Devlyn, USAF, Ret., who passed away Thursday, 22 July. Sara was preceded in death by her husband, chapter member Col John Devlyn. The Devlyns were long time members of the SENCLAND chapter.

### **SENCLAND Chapter Scholarship Winners for 2010..**

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Bobby James (\$2000), New Hanover High  
Danielle Neujhar (\$1000), Ashley High  
David Lewis (\$500) New Brunswick High

Sarah Harty (\$500) Ashley High  
Shanita Pearsall (\$500) North Brunswick High

Many thanks to COL John Melia for his excellent job of interviewing applicants and selecting our scholarship winners for 2010.

### **Secretary of Navy to Speak in Wilmington..**

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Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Ray Mabus, will be the featured speaker at a Navy Day celebration on October 20 at 1100 hours aboard the Battleship North Carolina across the river from downtown Wilmington. Congressman McIntire is also scheduled to be present.

Since the battleship can accommodate only a limited number of guests on the deck, the Navy League is coordinating through the various local veterans organizations, the distribution of free tickets to the event.

If any of our SENCLAND members would like to attend or if there are questions, call Bob Jones at 350-0209 or contact Dave Echevarria, president of the local Navy League via the Internet at [daviepe@charter.net](mailto:daviepe@charter.net).

### **Board Says Military Retirement "Unaffordable"..**

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On Jul 22, the Defense Business Board task force recommended that the Secretary of Defense reduce the DoD civilian workforce by more than 111,000, and it laid the groundwork for potential future recommendations to cut spending on military retirement, health care, family support, and other programs.

For the past year, the Defense Business Board has predicted major problems for the Defense budget as the nation deals with deficit reduction efforts, the economic slowdown, escalating health care and personnel costs, and the eventual cessation of two wars.

Board members believe that avoiding a looming fiscal crisis will require cutting the Defense budget beyond Secretary Gates' recently announced target of a \$100-billion reduction in 'overhead' spending.

The Board's 'Initial Observations' briefing devoted an entire session to costs for military compensation, retirement, health care, veterans affairs, concurrent receipt, commissaries, dependent education, and military family housing. It particularly highlighted costs associated with TRICARE For Life. A page titled "The Military Retirement' sacred cow is increasingly unaffordable' and cites increases in the number of military retirees since 1980.

Another page of the report cites personnel cost growth since 1998 – conveniently overlooking that 1998 was the nadir of two decades of erosion of military pay, retirement, health care, and other benefits and that the resulting retention problems of that era were what sparked Congress to embark on an extended program to fix them.

Undoubtedly, the Defense Business Board report is only one of the early shots in what likely will be years of budget battles to reconcile military and other needs with truly daunting deficit projections.

### **Concurrent Receipt Stripped..**

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MOAA was encouraged about prospects for near-term concurrent receipt progress when the recent arrival of newly appointed Sen. Carte Goodwin (D-WV) provided the 60 votes needed for Senate passage of H.R. 4213, the American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes act of 2010.

Already passed by the House, the legislation included President Obama's proposal to phase-out the disability offset to military retired pay to severely disabled medical retirees.

But last minute negotiations to nail down the necessary votes led to removal of all provisions – including the concurrent receipt fix – other than the extension of federal unemployment benefits through November 30<sup>th</sup>. The concurrent receipt language would have phased out the offset for all Chapter 61 (medical) retirees, regardless of years of service, whether the disability was combat-related or not.

H.S. 4213 provided a golden opportunity for further concurrent receipt progress, and its removal on the eve of passage is yet another bitter disappointment on the need to winning fair treatment for all disabled retirees. But it still doesn't rule out progress this year.

MOAA is working with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), the long-standing concurrent receipt champion, to introduce the same provision as an amendment to the 2011 defense authorization bill, which the Senate is expected to take up in September.

### **MOAA Addresses VA Issues at White House..**

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On July 29, MOAA President VADM Norb Ryan, Mr. (USN-Ret0 was invited to the White House, along with a small group of military and veterans association leaders, for a discussion with President Obama. National Security Advisor Gen. James Jones (USMC-Ret) and VA Secretary Eric Shinseki. The association leaders received updates on a variety of topics, including progress on implementing automated systems for processing GI Bill payments, efforts to reduce veterans homelessness, and reduce the disability claims backlog.

VADM Ryan related his recent discussion with VA officials in Gainesville, FL, where the VA has had significant success in reducing homelessness, but said the key is jobs – ensuring vets are meaningfully employed.

Ryan also urged Administration support for Sen. Akaka’s bill to correct several important oversights on the Post 9/11 GI Bill law – most particularly the importance of authorizing payments for non-degree vocational and job training programs. Many returning veterans are shocked to learn that – unlike all previous GI Bill legislation – the Post 9/11 law only covers college courses, and not the vocational training programs that are essential to help vets find meaningful employment in the short term.

<b>SENCLAND MOAA 2010 - 2011 SNAPSHOT CALENDAR</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Program</b>
7 Sep	1130	Bluewater, Wrightsville	
5 Oct	1130	Surfer Restaurant, Southport	
17 Oct	1500-1700	Graham’s House, 1300 Snapper Lane, Carolina Beach	Open House
2 Nov	1130	Bluewater, Wrightsville	
7 Dec	1130	Bluewater, Wrightsville	Holiday Luncheon
4 Jan	1130	Bluewater, Wrightsville	
1 Feb	1130	Bluewater, Wrightsville	
1 Mar	1130	Bluewater, Wrifhtsville	
5 Apr	1130	Bluewater, Wrightsville	
3 May	1130	Surfer Restaurant, Southport	
3 Jun	1730	TBD	Annual BBQ

**Editor’s Note: After hearing about the Army Pfc. who had leaked all those classified documents, you may have wondered how a lowly Pfc. would have access to so many classified documents in the first place. This Associated Press article explains it..**

**Fake lady Gaga CD Used to Smuggle Data..**

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A U.S. soldier smuggled classified data from military computers where he was stationed in Iraq on a disc disguised as Lady Gaga CD, Pentagon officials said. Officials told the New York Times they discovered the fake disc while investigating Pfc. Bradley E. Manning, 22, who is charged with downloading more than 150,000 diplomatic cables as well as secret videos and a PowerPoint presentation.

Manning allegedly hummed and lip-synched Lady Gaga tunes as he downloaded classified information onto the disc, capable of accepting text, video and other data files at an intelligence center in the desert of eastern Iraq, the Times reported. The Defense Department banned the use of USB drives and other removable storage devices in 2008 for security purposes but the ban did not extend to CDs.

Adrian Lamo, a former hacker who had traded electronic messages with Manning, told the Times the private had expressed unhappiness with the Army and described how he downloaded classified data. Lamo said Manning told of using data-storing CDs tucked inside recognizable music CD cases so he could ‘bring the data out of the secure room.’ Manning is accused of downloading and removing the classified data from last November to May. Pentagon officials said they would review the actions of Manning’s supervisors to determine whether security had been lax. Officials also plan to look at possible red flags such as an allegation manning had downloaded classified information not directly related to the mission of his unit, the Times aid.

## The New Infantry Museum..

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You Army guys (especially the ground pounders among us) might be interested in visiting the new Infantry Museum at Fort Benning, GA; you are in for a real treat when you do. It is a world-class facility with an extensive collection of military artifacts spanning every conflict this country has ever been involved in. I believe you old cannon-cockers and tank drivers would be equally impressed. (Incidentally, if you haven't heard, Fort Benning is now the "Infantry and Armor Center" – the Armor School either is or already has moved its facilities to Fort Benning).

The multi-storied building encompasses 190,000 square feet and visually relates the story of American's Infantrymen through a very impressive collection of more than 30,000 artifacts. Visitors experience an interactive journey through American's military history from pre-Revolutionary War right up to today's action in Iraq and Afghanistan. An authentic "World War II Company Street" adds a particular touch of nostalgia.

Three parking areas accommodate 900 cars and up to 50 buses. The entire site is disabled-friendly. There is no admission fee, but there is a small charge for the IMAX theater and the Infantry Adventure simulators. There is also a fine gift shop and an excellent restaurant offering good choices at reasonable prices.

The museum is open daily except Christmas and New Year's Day from 0900 – 1700 Mon. - Sat. and from 1100 – 1700 on Sundays. You can call for additional information at 706-685-5800.