



# *Silicon Valley Chapter* **The Bulletin**



Silicon Valley Chapter MOAA  
P.O. BOX 2  
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<http://www.siliconvalleymoaa.org/>

Volume III Issue No. 1

Editor, LTC Michael Sampognaro

January 2014

## *CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

<i>9 Jan</i>	<i>Board Meeting</i>	<i>10:00 AM</i>
<i>16 Jan</i>	<i>FBI</i>	<i>11:00 AM</i>
<i>6 Feb</i>	<i>Board Meeting</i>	<i>10:00 AM</i>
<i>20 Feb</i>	<i>TBA</i>	<i>11:00 AM</i>

## *LUNCHEON PROGRAM*

**16 January 2014**

**Social Hour: 11:00 AM      Luncheon: 11:45 AM**

**Local agent with the FBI**



**SECTION A**

★ PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE, EDITOR'S NOTES

**SECTION B**

★ OFFICERS, BOARD and CHAIRS, DIRECTORS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS,  
SVC MEMEBERSHIP REPORT, LOCAL VETERAN AFFAIRS, AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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★ LEGISLATIVE NOTES

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★ CHAPTER ACTIVITIES (to include involvement with our local communities)

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★ THE IN BOX (letters from members and other organizations)

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**SECTION H**

★ MEMBERSHIP FORM, LUNCHEON FORM, ADVERTISEMENTS AND EXTRAS

**PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE**

As you receive this bulletin, the Silicon Valley chapter is preparing to install new officers at our January lunch meeting. Priorities for the coming year will be shared both at the lunch and in the print and e-bulletins. Please contact one of our officers or directors if you are able to help further the work of the Silicon Valley Chapter! In fact, there is an opportunity for every current member - please bring your membership up to date for 2014 if you haven't already done that. If you have already renewed, then please be proactive and ask a friend who you know is eligible to join the Chapter. You might invite them to a lunch meeting or share you bulletin copy (or email access link) so they can learn more about local MOAA activities.

While most SVC members are retired from military life, we still interact with and support currently serving local members of the Armed Forces including those who have deployed in support of conflicts called "contingency operations" since the more descriptive term "war" is no longer popular. Most of the local active duty military has downsized or relocated so there is a much lower visible profile of uniforms in the Silicon Valley Chapter area. One of the largest units still present is the 129th California Air National Guard Wing. Our Chapter is fortunate to have close ties with this organization; their missions including life saving rescue and contingency fire suppression. The Wing also has personnel deployed overseas locations for combat search and rescue activity. Another local military installation is the Navy Operational Support Center San Jose which supports training and readiness activities for local area Navy Reserve forces. In early December, I represented the Silicon Valley Chapter at a welcome home "Honoring Ceremony" for more that 30 reservists who had completed deployments of up to a year in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait and Africa. It was an awesome ceremony; mayors of local towns presented letters of commendation and Major General Regua U S Army (ret.) gave an inspiring testimony to the hundreds gathered; the General praised the reservists, their families who endured separation and also employers who kept faith with their commitment to re-employ reservists.

Much attention in his remarks was devoted to the casualties of service during "contingency operations," both loss and injury including traumatic brain maladies and post traumatic stress that are part of the price paid by activated reservists. It was noteworthy to hear that support services are programmed for all returning reservists and also available on an acute response basis; Chaplains and senior enlisted command liaison links are the entry point for this support. Families of the reservists were also at the "Honoring Ceremony" and the event demonstrated this Navy Operational Support Center San Jose has mobilized to honor those who deployed.

*Paul*

**BULLETIN EDITOR**

I must admit, Col. Keith Giles, USAF-Ret, was not exaggerating; this is not an easy job. I am surprised he managed to keep doing it for so long. It not only is difficult but it is also thankless. I am not surprised that we have not had any volunteers willing to take over this post.

Do not contact me unless you want to spend your free time, working time, hobby time, family time, on a challenging and frustrating endeavor. You have to be able to fight the word smith thing, the many software battles and simple things like fonts and special characters.

So if you have more time than skill or maybe I mean time to kill....

Email me  
mike@sampognaro.net

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### **SVC MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

*As of Dec 2013*

**It is past time to renew your membership.**

**Please get your dues to Capt McBeth  
and save us the cost of a personal reminder.**

### **VETERAN AFFAIRS CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

## **2014**

**January 22 Veterans Town  
Hall/Collaborative, (2 sessions)  
9:00a.m.-11:00a.m. & 3:00p.m.-  
5:00p.m.,  
Contact: Eddie Ramirez 415-740-4399**  
Philip Burton Federal Building,  
450 Golden Gate Ave., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor,  
CA/NV Room, San Francisco, CA

**January 28 Santa Clara County  
Collaborative for Military & their  
Families, 11:30a.m.- 1:30p.m.,  
Contact: 408-313-Probation Dept.  
Office, 2314 N. First Street, San Jose,  
CA**

**February 5 CA Association of County  
Veterans Service Officers Capitol  
Legislative Day Capitol Basement,  
Eureka Room, State Capitol,  
Sacramento, CA**

**February 26 Veterans Town Hall  
/Collaborative, (2 sessions) 9:00a.m.-  
11:00a.m. & 3:00p.m.-5:00p.m.,  
Contact: Eddie Ramirez 415-740-4399**  
Philip Burton Federal Building, 450  
Golden Gate Ave., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, CA/NV  
Room, San Francisco, CA

*LEGISLATIVE NOTES*

## CHAINED CPI

It's important to be vigilant and act swiftly when politicians effect changes which potentially will impact negatively on member earned entitlements. This is a good time to focus on methods used to calculate cost-of-living expenses.

The consumer price index (CPI) is an economic measure used to assess the rate of inflation and changing price levels. It takes a virtual "basket" of consumer goods, including groceries, housing, gasoline and clothing, and tracks the average prices of the basket components over time. An overall rise in the basket price indicates increasing inflation in the economy. The federal government uses the CPI to index certain benefits, such as Social Security payments, as well as to set the boundaries of income tax brackets.

Legislators are considering adopting what is known as chained CPI, particularly because this approach to approximate the impact to consumers' pocketbooks of rising or falling prices is one more way to reduce the deficit. Although many economists believe that it is an improvement over conventional CPI measures, some lawmakers are hesitant to entertain it due to its impact on fixed-income seniors. Many liberal politicians are opposed to adopting chained CPI as it results in less income to retirees, although others see it as more palatable than cutting current benefits. On average, the chained CPI is less than the conventional CPI by 0.25 to 0.3 percentage points.

Many economists over time have stated that the CPI does not accurately assess the reality of today's economy. While the appropriate makeup of the basket of consumer items and the weighting of each item are hotly debated, the main concern is that the CPI does not account for changes in demand when prices rise and fall. If, for example, the price of canned salmon goes up, many consumers will simply switch to the less-expensive canned tuna, rather than buying less salmon or going without. This type of substitution lessens the impact of inflation on consumers. Chained CPI attempts to address this economic reality.

A task force co-chaired by former Sen. Alan Simpson and former White House Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles, released a paper estimating that the government could save roughly \$300 billion over 10 years by adopting chained CPI. Future Social Security payments would be reduced under the new measure as would pension payments to federal retirees. Income tax brackets wouldn't increase as much, pushing more taxpayer income into higher tax brackets and generating more federal tax revenue.

Although the subject of chained CPI has been raised in fiscal negotiations several times, it has been removed from consideration in recent talks. It may, however, be back on the table as discussions continue. Members are encouraged to contact their legislators and warn against a hasty adoption of this means of determining the rise and fall of prices, and perhaps starting here: Senator Barbara Boxer, <http://www.boxer.senate.gov/>, or telephone in Oakland (510) 286-8537.

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SOURCE: Adapted from Yahoo Finance

**LEGISLATIVE NOTES****LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE August 28, 2013****For Additional Information Contact: Stuart Drown Executive Director (916) 445-2125****Commission Calls for New Approach to Veterans Services**

California is leaving hundreds of millions of federal dollars untapped each year that should be going to veteran pension and health benefits. California must do more to identify veterans, educate them about their rights and help them file well-\_documented claims, especially women veterans.

Texas and Florida, which count fewer veterans in their populations, both bring in more federal pension and health benefit dollars per veteran than California does. These benefits are not a privilege, they are a right, and earned through sacrifice to the nation as a whole. Helping veterans to receive these benefits can immeasurably improve their lives and bring more dollars into the California economy.

In a study released today, *"An Agenda for Veterans: The State's Turn to Serve,"* the Little Hoover Commission identified recent improvements at the California Department of Veterans Affairs, or CalVet. However, the commission also noted that many of these improvements were slow to be implemented and will require continued oversight to ensure they fully take hold.

The Governor and Legislature have allocated one-\_time money to help CalVet reach out to more veterans and assist their efforts to receive federal benefits to which they are entitled. The new money will be used to create three strike teams focused on eliminating a backlog of benefit claims at federal Veterans Administration offices in Los Angeles, San Diego and Oakland. The state also is supplementing aid to counties for their County Veterans Services Offices, one of the main outreach programs for helping veterans.

The Commission challenged CalVet to demonstrate that it can invest this added money in ways that improve the lives of California 1.8 million veterans.

The Little Hoover Commission urged the Governor and the Legislature to take a new look at the ways in which the state allocates resources to serving California veterans.

Leaders at CalVet expect the state to take in 35,000 or more new veterans each year for the next several years as the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan conclude. In past conflicts, neither the state nor the federal government has put its best foot forward in serving veterans. The federal government provides the broadest array of services and compensation to veterans, but slow processing, archaic systems and a complex benefit application process have created a system that is difficult to navigate, time consuming and severely backlogged.

The state historically has focused its efforts on a home loan program and on building and operating veterans homes. The department also has operated a Veterans Services Division funded at a fraction of the level of the other programs. It is through this program that the state can serve the greatest number of veterans and help veterans successfully return to civilian life. It will require helping the federal government do its part through assisting veterans to file complete and well-\_documented claims for benefits. It also means helping County Veterans Services Offices to be more successful in reaching out to veterans. Now that CalVet has been given one-\_time budget increases to bolster efforts in each of these areas, the department must demonstrate that it can deliver. To do so, it must hold County Veterans Services Offices more accountable for their performance

"Too many California veterans have earned benefits they are not receiving because of bureaucratic delay, government malaise, and a lack of coordination among a number of government offices and agencies," Commission Chairman Jonathan Shapiro said. "The best way to honor our veterans isn't through speeches or proclamations. It's by ensuring that each veteran gets all the services they deserve in a fair and timely way."

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### LEGISLATIVE NOTES

In its report, the Commission urges the Governor and Legislature to aid the department's transition by providing funding flexibility and improved oversight of veterans services. The Commission also urges CalVet to improve its outreach efforts, build a strong database of California veterans, monitor county veterans offices' work more closely to ensure effectiveness, and modernize its approaches to providing solutions to the needs of the youngest generation of California veterans.

Finally, the Commission urged the Legislature and Governor to revisit the state Military and Veterans Code. This outdated code is confusing, contradictory and misaligned with current CalVet practices and veterans' needs. It warrants updating to reflect current policies and CalVet's direction.

The Little Hoover Commission is a bipartisan and independent state agency charged with recommending ways to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of state programs. The Commission's recommendations are submitted to the Governor and the Legislature for their consideration and action. For a copy of the report, visit the Commission's website: [www.lhc.ca.gov](http://www.lhc.ca.gov).

Milton Marks Commission on California State Government Organization and Economy\_ <http://www.lhc.ca.gov/>  
925 L Street, Suite 805\_Sacramento, CA 95814\_916-445-2125\_fax 916-322-7709\_e-mail [littlehoover@lhc.ca.gov](mailto:littlehoover@lhc.ca.gov)

### THE ADVOCACY PROBLEM

In early November 2013 Colonel Ana R. Smythe, USMC-Ret, Director, MOAA Member Service Center, sent this appeal, "MOAA needs you now more than any other time in decades, with health care benefits and pay for all military members under threat. Please help us by updating your member information so we can mobilize your phone and email efforts as quickly and easily as possible."

Here's a key question: To what extent will chapter members rally 'round the flag, study the issues, and actually send an appropriate positive or negative support message to California senators and members of congress?

From time to time MOAA makes these kinds of appeals, asking members to visit a legislative office, telephone, e-mail, or send a facsimile to the legislator, or perhaps mail a form letter provided by the association. Making such contacts with a legislative office is the essence of the "One Powerful Voice." It may be that far too few members make the contact, causing efforts to fall short of success.

Colonel Steve Strobridge, USAF-Ret, until recently director of MOAA's legislative affairs office and appearing on a video said, "It's very difficult to get members to send a legislator a handwritten letter." At the same time, he said there is evidence that sending thousands of form letters has a real impact, telling how one senior legislator said the stack of letters on the desk would not be ignored.

Mr. George Friedman, chief executive officer of Strategic Forecasting—Global Intelligence (STRATFOR), when offering an explanation about the roots of the recent government shutdown, said there were unexpected consequences from shifts in the political system. "The reformers' vision was that the fall of the boss system would open the door to broad democratic participation. But the fact was that the American people did not care nearly as much about politics as the reformers thought they ought to," he said.

According to Friedman, "For most Americans, private life is more important than public life. There is only so much time and energy available, the issues are arcane and rarely involve things that will change ordinary citizens' lives much, and there is little broad-based ideological passion. Citizens frequently don't know or care who their congressman is, let alone who their state senator is. They care about schools and roads and taxes, and so long as those are functioning reasonably well, they are content."

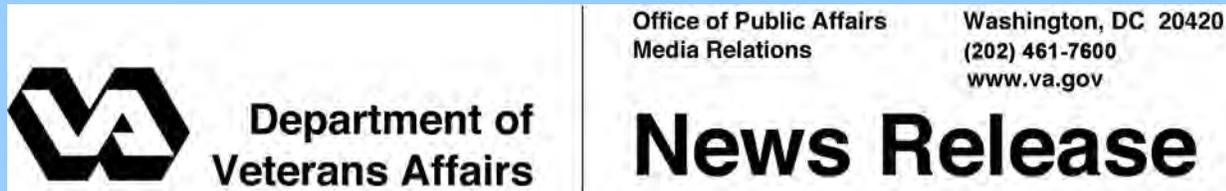
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**LEGISLATIVE NOTES**

This greatly frustrated the reformers. They cared deeply about politics, and believed that everyone should, too. And this reality is difficult for MOAA's, and Silicon Valley Chapter's, legislative advocates as they try to protect earned entitlements.

For six years in a row, MOAA was named as the top military advocacy association in Washington, D.C., by the influential newspaper "The Hill." Although MOAA's staff does a terrific job advocating on behalf of service members and their families, what really gives the association strength is the grassroots support provided by its council and chapter members.

SOURCE: Strategic Forecasting (STRATFOR)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 16, 2013

**VA to Expand Benefits for Traumatic Brain Injury  
Adds Five Illnesses Related to Service-Connected TBI**

WASHINGTON – Some Veterans with traumatic brain injury (TBI) who are diagnosed with any of five other ailments will have an easier path to receive additional disability pay under new regulations developed by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The new regulation, which takes effect 30 days from today, impacts some Veterans living with TBI who also have Parkinson's disease, certain types of dementia, depression, unprovoked seizures or certain diseases of the hypothalamus and pituitary glands.

"We decide Veterans' disability claims based on the best science available," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "As scientific knowledge advances, VA will expand its programs to ensure Veterans receive the care and benefits they've earned and deserve."

This regulation stems from a report of the National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Medicine (IOM) regarding the association between TBI and the five diagnosable illnesses. The IOM report, *Gulf War and Health, Volume 7: Long-Term Consequences of Traumatic Brain Injury*, found "sufficient evidence" to link moderate or severe levels of TBI with the five ailments.

**LEGISLATIVE NOTES**

The new regulations, printed in the *Federal Register*, say that if certain Veterans with service-connected TBI also have one of the five illnesses, then the second illness will also be considered as service connected for the calculation of VA disability compensation.

Eligibility for expanded benefits will depend upon the severity of the TBI and the time between the injury causing the TBI and the onset of the second illness. However, Veterans can still file a claim to establish direct service-connection for these ailments even if they do not meet the time and severity standards in the new regulation.

Veterans who have questions or who wish to file new disability claims may use the eBenefits website, available at [www.eBenefits.va.gov/ebenefits](http://www.eBenefits.va.gov/ebenefits).

Servicemembers who are within 180 days of discharge may also file a pre-discharge claim for TBI online through the VA-DoD eBenefits portal at [www.eBenefits.va.gov/ebenefits](http://www.eBenefits.va.gov/ebenefits).

The published final rule will be available Dec. 17 at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Information about VA and DoD programs for brain injury and related research is available at [www.dvbic.org](http://www.dvbic.org).

Information about VA's programs for Gulf War Veterans is available at [www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar/hazardous\\_exposures.asp](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar/hazardous_exposures.asp).

**CHAPTER ACTIVITIES****DINING-IN EVENT**

Chapter Director and Bulletin editor Col Keith Giles, USAF-Ret, represented the chapter at a San Jose State University Air Force ROTC Detachment 045 dining-in that was held the evening of December 5, 2013 in San Jose.

A dining-in is a formal military ceremony for members of a unit that includes a dinner, in some cases drinking, and other events to foster camaraderie and esprit de corps. A chaplain is usually invited if an invocation is needed. The unit's dining-in consists of only the members of the unit, with the possible exception of the guest(s) of honor.

It was reported that the facility was perfect for a dining-in event, that the ceremony was well attended, and that an extraordinary number of distinguished guests participated. San Jose mayor Chuck Reed made a special presentation, telling in part about his graduation from the Air Force Academy, his active duty service, and especially his A-10 pilot daughter's actions in Iraq that resulted in her being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

The practice of dining-in is thought to have formally begun in 16th-century England, in monasteries and universities; though some records indicate that militaries have held formal dinners as far back as the Roman Legions. The Americans, taking many of their traditions from the British military, held mess nights in the 18th and 19th century, but the tradition waned after the Civil War. During World War II, the custom was revived in the U.S. military, initially in the US Army Air Forces 8th Air Force, which was based in Britain.

Portions of the event tend to become quite humorous in nature, while others remain somber. The dining-in follows established protocols. After a brief cocktail period of 30 to 45 minutes, the presiding officer, known as the "President of the Mess," announces, "Please be seated." The group will then retire to the dining area to be seated. After tasting the meat (usually beef), the President will declare it "tasty and fit for human consumption," after which the meal will be served to the diners. After the dessert is finished, the President will invite the chief steward to bring forth wine and/or punch to be served, and toasting will begin. After the toasts have been concluded, the guests will have the opportunity to speak if they so desire. After this, the mess is often then returned to an open cocktail hour, and then the evening concludes with final honors.

Formal toasts are the heart of the formal dining-in. A junior officer, known as "Mr. Vice", proposes a toast to the guests, at which the guests remain seated. After this, various parties will offer toasts to the Commander in Chief, to the heads of state of a visiting or host nations, to their branch of service, to the units, and to the fallen members of the military. The final and most solemn toast is "always to fallen comrades". Often this tribute is marked with a table setting dedicated to those military members killed, captured, or missing in action.

Most Messes attempt to furnish the night with military music and marches, with live bands if possible, or recorded music. Depending on how formal the ceremony is, the diners may be required to march to their seats. The Air Force ROTC event proved to be a lavish affair; Col Giles reported that he had an extraordinary head table view of the proceedings.

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SOURCE: Dining-In Traditions

**CHAPTER ACTIVITIES****SGT. BRIAN JERGENS**

Silicon Valley Chapter Chaplain Fred Tittle was a primary participant at a Homes for Our Troops Key Ceremony conducted Thursday, December 12, 2013, in Hollister, an event marking delivery of a specially adapted gift home for the Sergeant Brian Jergens family, one with special meaning as these young people receive freedom and independence. LCDR J. C. Burns, USN (RET) of Hollister was the official chapter representative at this event.

Army Sgt Jergens and his wife, Jennifer, have been guests at a chapter luncheon where members had a chance to meet the couple, learn more about their lives, and offer different kinds of support. Chaplain Tittle has been working with the Jergens family in an effort to make their lives better.

The Key Ceremony was attended by about 200 people including many local dignitaries. Brian and Jennifer arrived on a Hollister fire truck accompanied by Santa Claus. The fire truck was escorted by the police and of course since it's Hollister a motorcycle escort. Brian walked from the fire truck up the driveway to the ceremony. He was presented several certificates, including a key to the city of Hollister. Brian stood behind the podium and read some prepared remarks which he didn't think was sufficient so he spoke off the cuff for several minutes. Jennifer also spoke and she is very articulate, poised, and intelligent. A truly outstanding couple.

Brian was on his first deployment when he lost both of his legs below the knee, suffered a severe traumatic brain injury, hearing loss, internal organ damage, a broken neck, and damage to his right elbow in an IED blast in Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan on August 7, 2011. An Army Medic, SGT Jergens was the driver of the fourth HUMMVEE in a convoy that day, and was thrown from the vehicle. Life-saving measures performed by his teammates prepared him for medevac to Tarin Kowt Hospital and then the Kandahar Airfield Hospital (KAF). Next transported to Bagram Air Force Base, Brian would also be treated in Landstuhl, Germany before arriving stateside. Arriving at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, TX on August 14, 2012, Brian remained there until September 19, 2012 when he was transferred to the Palo Alto Poly Trauma Center; he continues his treatments and therapies there at this time.

SGT Jergens grew up in a military family, attending more than many schools before graduating from high school in Lawton, Oklahoma while his father was stationed at Fort Sill. Brian and his wife enjoy attending sporting events and concerts, and walking their dogs. They look forward to the day when Brian can begin working toward his college degree and would like to start a family in the future. Knowing that Brian's specially-adapted home has been built to address his specific needs will give them security and stability as they focus on Brian's recovery and their future.

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SOURCE: Homes for the Holidays

**CHAPTER ACTIVITIES****RADM JAMES GREALISH, USNR (RET)**

Chapter Member James Vincent Grealish, Rear Admiral, US Naval Reserve, passed away at home on December 18<sup>th</sup>, surrounded by his family. He was born on August 8, 1920 the first son of Martin and Molly (Mary) Grealish, Irish immigrants from County Galway, Ireland. Proud of his Irish heritage, he was a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians for over 70 years.

A Native San Franciscan, he was born South of Market and raised in the Eureka Valley district, attending Most Holy Redeemer grammar school (beginning First Grade on the day the school first opened), Saint James High School (class of 1938) and the University of San Francisco (class of 1942). He joined the Naval Reserve in 1942 serving on active duty during World War II (1942-46) and the Korean War (1951-53) remaining in the Reserve until his retirement in 1979.

He served in the Pacific during World War II aboard USS Waters (APD 8) which carried Marine Raiders and other troops participating in landings on Japanese-held islands in the Solomons (rescuing survivors of the USS Helena (CL 50) from the Japanese-held island of Vella Lavella), New Georgia, Saipan, Iwo Jima (where he observed the flag being raised on Mount Suribachi), and Okinawa. His last assignment was Commanding Officer, USS Cronin (DE 704).

After the war he remained in the Naval Reserve and was recalled for the Korean War serving as Executive Officer, USS Nawman (DE 416) and USS Cushing (DD 797). His most notable Naval Reserve assignments were: Commander Naval Reserve Readiness Command Region 20, Commander Naval Reserve Special Warfare Program, Commander Reserve Destroyer Division 12<sup>th</sup> Naval District and Commanding Officer USS Naifeh (DE 352). His awards and decorations included the Legion of Merit, Navy Meritorious Service Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Medal (7 battle stars), Philippine Defense Medal, Korean Service Medal, Secretary of the Navy Meritorious Public Service Award and the Order of Malta Cross of Merit.

After his release from active duty in 1953 he served in various financial management positions including over 41 years with Protected Investors of America, a full service investment firm founded in 1934. He last served as Chairman Emeritus of the firm.

He was invested as a Knight of Malta in 1979 serving as Vice President of the Western Association and received the Oder of Malta Cross of Merit in 1979. In 2012 he received the Blessed William Joseph Chaminade Award from Archbishop Riordan High School. He was a founding member of Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Daly City where he was a lector for 13 years. He was also a member of the Westlake Catholic Men.

He was predeceased by his brother Joseph (1925) and is survived by his wife of 67 years, Jean, sister Mary Parnow (Ted, deceased), brother Jack (Pat), son Kent (Barbara), daughters Kathleen Ciardella (Michael) and Susan Flanigan (James), 9 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

A funeral Mass was celebrated at Saint Ignatius Church on Friday, December 27<sup>th</sup>. Donations may be made to the Saint James Scholarship Fund (Archbishop Riordan High School).

SOURCE: Obituary

**CHAPTER ACTIVITIES****CHAPTER MANAGEMENT**

There are a large number of tasks which must be managed by the directors and officers, including communicating with the membership, identifying luncheon speakers, recruiting new members, supporting legislation, and much more. And the chapter currently has a dedicated group of professionals getting the job done.

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A photographer for CNN was assigned to cover a Northern California wildfire. He wanted pictures of the heroic work the firefighters were doing as they battled the blazes. When the photographer arrived at the Santa Cruz summit fire, he realized that the smoke was so thick it would seriously impede, or even make impossible, his getting good photographs from the ground level. He requested permission from his boss to rent an airplane at Watsonville airport and take photos from the air.

His request was approved and he used his cell phone to call the airport to charter a flight. He was told a single engine plane would be waiting for him at the airport. Arriving at the airfield, he spotted a plane warming up outside a hangar. He jumped in with his bag, slammed the door shut, and shouted, "Let's go!"

The pilot taxied out, swung the plane into the wind, and roared down the runway. Once in the air, the photographer instructed the pilot, "Fly over to the ridge and make two or three low passes so I can get some pictures of the fire on the hillsides. "Why?" asked the pilot? "Because I'm a photographer for CNN," he responded, "and I need to get some close-up shots."

The pilot was strangely silent for a moment. Finally he stammered, "So what you're telling me is, you're NOT my flight instructor?"

\*\*\*\*\*

It can be a pleasure with potential for great personal satisfaction working with a dedicated commissioned officer group who know what they're doing. Anyone interested in joining the chapter's management team should contact CAPT Paul Barrish, USN (RET) without delay, telephone 1-408-356-7531.

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SOURCE: Board Minutes

**CHAPTER ACTIVITIES**

**FEAR OF COMMITMENT**

Since November 10, 1950 chapter leaders have been working hard to carry out the specific purpose of the organization, namely to provide pleasure, fellowship, and camaraderie, as well as protect the earned entitlements of members, families and survivors. Current leaders have been serving for many years; additional member volunteers are needed now to begin service in 2014 as officers, directors, committee chairs, and committee members. Perhaps this is an ideal time to make a commitment to the chapter and its future.

The difference between involvement and commitment is like an eggs and ham breakfast - the chicken was involved but the pig was committed. The sad reality is that most people settle for being involved without ever making a commitment. The pun about the chicken and the pig is funny but how close to home does that hit when we honestly look at the commitments we have made to Silicon Valley Chapter.

What is there to be afraid of? Conditions are never going to be perfect. Bad experiences elsewhere won't necessarily play out here. The skills of a commissioned officer are more than adequate to manage the chapter effectively. And a desire for independence has some serious downsides.

Here's how to overcome a commitment phobia:

--Examine the opportunity. Attend a board meeting, meet chapter leaders, find out what the organization is trying to do, hear the experiences of others, and determine if there is a service role with potential for impact and self-satisfaction;

--Do a cost benefit analysis. Time and effort will be involved, but the probability for success helping to move the chapter forward and having a good time with other military professionals is likely very high;

--Take a chance. Recognize it's not 100% sure that a decision to participate actively will be the right one, but if one waits until conditions are perfect nothing will ever get done;

--Trust the leadership. The opportunity involves creating a desire to get involved and the power to help accomplish the chapter's mission, and other long-serving leaders will offer total assistance and support.

The chapter is in real need right now for members who will step forward and make a commitment, in short saying "Use me!" Members who are willing to help manage the chapter are encouraged to telephone CAPT Paul Barrish, USN (RET), President, at 1-408-356-7531.

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SOURCE: Adapted from Power of Commitment by David Dewitt

**CHAPTER ACTIVITIES****NEW GENERATIONS**

According to the 1950 edition of The Armed Forces Officers Guide, one major issue had to do with the prospect of becoming rich serving as a commissioned officer. Some officers gained financially through wise investments, writing, exercise of special skills, or some other means; most had no such prospect. In support of a service experience, it was noted that, "The only truly happy people on earth are those who are indifferent to money because they have some positive purpose which forecloses it."

MOAA was founded on February 23, 1929 in Los Angeles in order to provide assistance and advice to military officers as well as foster natural fraternal relations among members from all branches of the uniformed services. It is currently the largest of the military professional associations with a membership of more than 380,000. On November 10, 1950 what is now Silicon Valley Chapter was formed in part to provide useful services for and to protect the interests of members and their dependents and survivors.

Today, in an environment of decline due to budget setbacks, the Armed Forces are changing dramatically. There is an all-volunteer army, sexual assault is said to be rampant, and "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is a thing of the past. Compensation and benefits plus earned entitlements are all in danger of being sacked in whole or in part. As in the past, however, national MOAA and Silicon Valley Chapter leaders work hard to protect the interest of all members.

It takes only one generation to forget what has happened with the services and people and what the military professional associations have done to make a positive difference.

The culture has been changing dramatically. The officer's club traditionally has been the nucleus around which revolved much of the off-duty social and recreational life of officers and their spouses. It's where stories were told, where the younger officer learned of opportunities, customs, traditions, and received useful guidance. Yet, the clubs are mostly gone and perhaps the younger officers are now communicating by means of technology and social media. There is much more going on than can be explained by a simple generation gap.

It's likely necessary to make some serious changes fast if the younger generation officer is to be attracted to the organization. Silicon Valley Chapter, for example, holds its luncheon meetings at the Santa Clara Biltmore Hotel, a very nice place. But maybe younger generation officers are not interested in such places. The luncheon is buffet style, also very nice, but maybe that's the wrong way to go; young officers might prefer a simple sandwich. How might the chapter be described by those growing up? Old-fashioned; elitist; boring; too political; mean, angry, critical; excludes people; insensitive to others. Perhaps these are stereotypes which are not reality. Just like in many contemporary churches, the organ, long robes, and the golden cups have all been replaced with more modern equivalents, such as use of the guitar, drums, and flute.

It's possible to bring new hope to the younger generation officer. It takes only one passionate chapter member to effect change, to bring new life to an organization and its people. It's a good time for members to help change the culture and then seek out the young officer and tell the truth about the chapter and what it can do to make a difference.

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SOURCE: Armed Forces Officers Guide/1950, 2008

**CHAPTER ACTIVITIES****ADRIFT**

It was meant to be a pleasant afternoon of fishing, chasing the wily striped bass out of Coyote Point and near the runways of San Francisco International Airport. After no fish and a move 5 miles offshore nearer the deep water channel, it was time to move again. Only this time the engine wouldn't start, there was an increasing 20 mph wind, the tide was moving out fast, the fiberglass 17 foot runabout was too heavy to paddle ashore, and the anchor wouldn't hold. Clearly, the boat was adrift.

In some ways, Silicon Valley Chapter is adrift. Board members know where the chapter is in point of time and where it wants the chapter to be; specifically, the chapter needs more board, officer, and committee chair and member candidates, and especially a new print newsletter editor. In late 2013 staffing improvements will be required if the chapter is to be managed at the highest levels of effectiveness and all the defined purposes, goals and objectives achieved.

What can and should the fishermen do when the boat is being drawn out to sea? What needs to be done when the chapter is adrift?

Not having a marine radio, the fishermen could attract attention only by using highway flares or a signaling mirror. But on a bright and sunny day the flares were almost useless. Sighting through a small hole in the center of the mirror, one of the fishermen directed the flash to a small helicopter far in the distance moving north on highway 101, into the cockpits of landing airliners, and toward the marina at Coyote Point, but apparently without success.

For some months items have appeared in The Bulletin calling attention to the need for additional leader volunteers and specifically the newsletter editor; in a sense, flares were burning brightly. Personal contacts have been made with members who some thought might have an interest in more active participation and service to the chapter, and yet for the most part without success.

For present leaders and other stakeholders who want the chapter to succeed, particularly after decades of a proud history, the recent months have been a time of constant suspense, anxiety and stress. The hope is that it is a time of darkness before the coming dawn.

In about 20 minutes a small blue helicopter approached from the north, circled the fishing boat from an altitude of about 200 feet, and once a signal was given that the engine was out the aircraft departed back toward the airport. It was the helicopter from the freeway that circled around to take a look at the boat. Within half an hour two California Fish and Wildlife officers out of Coyote Point arrived in a powerful Boston Whaler skiff, tossed a line, and towed the fishing boat back to the marina. It was later learned that pilots in arriving commercial aircraft contacted the tower about a boat in distress and in turn the Coast Guard was notified of a potential emergency. The game wardens were dispatched to make the rescue.

Who will seek out and accept leadership roles? When adrift, the first advice is not to give up hope. Board members indeed have high expectations that chapter members with at least an initial interest in greater responsibility will contact CAPT Paul Barrish, USN (RET) in Los Gatos, telephone 1-408-356-7531, without delay.

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SOURCE: Board Member Discussions

## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

ISRAEL 2012/PART 1  
Flight to Tel Aviv

The San Francisco (SFO) departure was at 8:00 am on Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, with U.S. Airways flight #706, An Airbus A-321 [Airbus 321](#) and [Aircraft Interior](#) wheels up at 8:09 am scheduled 4:45 pm ET arrival, a 4 1/2 hour flight as advertised. The routing was southern Nevada, northern Colorado, just south of Chicago at South Bend, Indiana, over Pittsburg and then straight into Philadelphia with a 20 minute early arrival. The country was cloud-covered with bright sun at flight level 33,000 feet. Passengers were warned that the flight was full and that there was not enough food on board for everyone; what there was didn't seem appealing. Perhaps the best part of the flight was an extended conversation with a member of the tour group and his wife, a retired police officer, residents of Santa Cruz.

At the airport I made a short visit to the United Services Organization (USO) facility, a group of volunteers who provide support services to armed forces personnel. They offered information, a computer center, television, extensive library, buffet meal, magazines and newspapers, plus take away items like toothpaste and tooth brushes. It was a very nice lounge with interesting people, in particular a retired U.S. Navy enlisted man who had countless sea stories to tell. Again, most of the wait time was spent in interesting conversation with other members of the group. Philadelphia was overcast and 72 degrees in the early evening.

The connection was U.S. Airways Flight #796 and a 9:30 pm departure to Tel Aviv, 5,954 miles to the east, with arrival set for 3:15 pm the following afternoon. It was an Airbus A-330 wide body aircraft see [Airbus A-330](#) and [Aircraft Interior](#). Upon boarding a security officer—security was tight—said the flight was the longest one out of Philadelphia. The flight was full; dinner was served not long after takeoff. Then it was time to get some sleep, if possible, but the seats were uncomfortable—they would recline only about 4 inches. The routing was Halifax, St. Johns, across the Atlantic to the continent and the France/Spain border, continuing just south along the border, over Barcelona, southeast over Sardinia, southern Italy north of Palermo, south of Athens and Rhodes, and then straight into Tel Aviv and Ben Gurion International Airport, arriving at 3:17 pm, just a couple minutes late. And according to custom, everyone applauded when the aircraft touched down in the Holy Land.

The airport was described as being under tight security with heavily armed soldiers and police everywhere. However, upon arrival there were no soldiers in sight and only a few uniformed police officers could be seen. The airport was named after the country's founder and first prime minister, David Ben Gurion, and it was a beautiful place. See: [Ben Gurion Airport](#). Movement through baggage claim and passport control was very easy and the group was met by Kenny, the tour guide. Some group members were surprised that I could get along with only a backpack for a two week period; but when you backpack in the Sierra and spend time in the U.S. Army Infantry branch you learn to travel light. This was a bus tour and the planning and execution proved almost flawless.

After a half hour drive from the airport the group arrived at the Dan Panorama Hotel for the night, [Dan Panorama Hotel](#). This is no third world country. Dinner and the Middle Eastern food took some getting used to—kosher and non-kosher; meat and dairy products are not served together. The evening meal featured meat; therefore, the desserts were without dairy products, and to some tasted like chocolate covered straw. The first dinner was a great chance to get better acquainted with others on the tour, business executives, school teachers, retired airline flight attendants, warehouse managers, public relations officials, pastors and church staff personnel, real estate brokers, a civil engineer, and so on. They were all extremely nice people.  
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## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

## Cont'd - Flight to Tel Aviv

Tel Aviv, officially Tel Aviv-Yafo, is the second most populous city in Israel. It has a population of 404,400 within city limits. Known as "The City That Never Sleeps", Tel Aviv is a popular international tourist destination. It is renowned for its 24-hour culture, beaches, bars, restaurants, cafés, parks, shopping, and a cosmopolitan lifestyle. Tel Aviv is an economic hub, home to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, corporate offices and research and development centers. It is the country's financial capital and a major performing arts and business center. Tel Aviv has the second-largest economy in the Middle East, and is the 19th most expensive city in the world. In 2010, *Knight Frank's* world city survey ranked it 34th globally. Tel Aviv has been named the third "hottest city for 2011" (behind only New York City and Tangier) by *Lonely Planet*, third-best in the Middle East and Africa by *Travel + Leisure magazine* (behind only Cape Town and Jerusalem), and the ninth-best beach city in the world by *National Geographic*. Tel Aviv is consistently ranked as one of the top destinations in the world. See [Tel Aviv Photos](#).

There was time for a walk before dinner at the waterfront promenade across the street and the park-like area was crowded with ultra-orthodox Jews and their families. Cigarette butts everywhere. For the most part the men were dressed in long black coats and wide-brim black hats, the everyday attire. And they sported a long, single hair curl down the side of the head. Their lives are grounded in rigorous observance of Judaic law and study of the Torah, the first five books of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament). Their lifestyle involves an uncompromising rejection of modern life and all its trappings, which means no television, no cars, and minimum intrusion by technology—but I did see one man using a cell phone. They reject the mother tongue, Hebrew, and speak Yiddish. Some do not recognize the State of Israel or its laws, even refusing to pay taxes. They claim there can be no true Jewish state until the coming of the Messiah. See [Ultra-Orthodox Jews](#).

After dinner, since the hotel was right on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea and only a mile away from perhaps one of the oldest cities on earth, it was easy to take a walk to and around the port city of Jaffa. Jaffa was incorporated with Tel Aviv in 1950 creating the city of Tel Aviv-Yafo. Jaffa is famous for its association with the biblical story of the prophet Jonah. Jonah began his famous, fateful journey in Jaffa (Jonah 1:3). Boarding a ship bound for Tarshish, Jonah fled from God's presence only to find himself swallowed by a great fish which the Lord appointed to save him. God had compassion on Gentiles and told Jonah to go preach to them. Instead, Jonah headed to Jaffa to do just the opposite. Jonah knew about God's grace and that the Lord would relent of his intent to destroy Nineveh if the Gentiles repented. That's exactly what happened.

We saw the house of Simon the Tanner, apparently a place where the apostle Peter visited at one time. In the first century, God's concern for Gentiles again appeared at Jaffa. The Apostle Peter, while staying in Jaffa at the home of Simon the Tanner, received a message from God to go to Caesarea. In spite of Peter's confusion about the vision, he went to Caesarea and spoke of God's grace to the Gentiles (Acts 10-11). See [Jaffa Photos](#). We explored the area, got caught in a fast-moving rainstorm, and arrived back at the hotel just after dark.

To be continued...

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SOURCE: Travel Log

**CHAPTER ACTIVITIES**

**340<sup>th</sup> BSB BATTALION**

Board members have become acquainted with NCO leaders of the local California Army National Guard 340<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion at the 63<sup>rd</sup> Regional Support Center adjacent to Moffett Field, and decided to make a one-time only request for a cash donation. For a variety of reasons it's considered important to create and maintain a relationship with the unit and its personnel.

The commanding officer is an Army Guard captain who has been activated and is serving in Sacramento. The unit's mission is to provide transportation and logistic support for emergencies like major forest fires or widespread disasters when activated by the governor. The unit has about 90 enlisted soldiers and 70 transport vehicles.

The chapter will provide a \$100 donation which will help finance a holiday function for unit personnel and their families. Since moving to the current location about 3 years ago local leaders have been required to plan and conduct a special holiday event to improve morale; however, since there are no family support services available the NCOs have exercised leadership initiative and asked community members for financial support. Personnel of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Regional Support Command are providing general support.

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SOURCE: SSGT King R. Rtuta

**VETERANS CENTER PROPOSAL**

Chapter member and 2014 vice president-elect Lt. Col. Neil Miles, USAF-Ret, has written a comprehensive plan for development of a Veterans Resource Center (VRC) at San Jose State University, and efforts to implement the plan hopefully will begin early next year.

Providing support for young men and women veterans returning from active duty and often service in a combat zone abroad, often with a significant array of special needs, and now matriculating at the university and its challenging academic and social environment, has for some time been a major interest of chapter leaders and others.

Efforts to interest university officials in the need for such a center have been ongoing with early demonstrations of disinterest on the part of administrators a serious concern, particularly with acceptance of the concept and appropriate space allocation. And now with planning proceeding there is a need to provide significant financial support from external sources.

According to Lt. Col. Miles, "there is an imperative for the center which is supported by the Obama administration and advocated for by state officials." The purposes of the center include a safe place for vets to congregate, provision of special faculty and staff training, space for meetings and workshops, access for companies to hire veterans, workstations and quiet study areas, conference rooms for counseling/therapy/help, peer mentoring, and providing an opportunity for all on campus to learn about military culture and interact with student veterans.

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**CHAPTER ACTIVITIES**

Efforts are currently underway to refine a comprehensive schedule leading to designation of space ideally in the new student center, the hiring of a director, and outreach to the general and military communities in order to equip the center. There is a broad need for infrastructure which includes not only space for study, workshops, recreation and leisure but associated food service equipment, office equipment and furniture, electronic devices, plus provision for maintenance and utilities. A complete layout drawing for the center is available.

Campus life will be easier for young veterans if they have access to items such as a refrigerator, microwave, television, video game system, computers and printers providing internet access, a FAX machine, projector and screen, plus a number of bookcases.

Planners hope to have the resources to maintain Monday through Thursday 8:00 am to 6:00 pm and Fridays 8:00 am to 4:00 pm hours of operation, excluding the standard university holidays and depending on availability of staff. Access to the center will likely be longer during final examination week.

Chapter members who would like to make a donation for the purchase of equipment and for other purposes are encouraged to send a check made out to Silicon Valley Chapter and designated as a donation to the SJS Veterans Resource Center to the chapter's treasurer, CAPT Lloyd McBeth, USN (RET), SVC MOAA, P.O. Box 2, Moffett Federal Airfield, CA 94035.

SOURCE: Lt. Col. Neil Miles

**CHAPTER ACTIVITIES****LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS**

Beginning in February 2014, Scholarship Committee Chair CAPT Paul Barrish, USN (RET), will begin leading a search for local Armed Forces men and women who would benefit from modest academic financial support, college students with potential to complete a rigorous study program and later make a significant contribution to society.

College costs can be substantial and include tuition, fees, textbooks, supplies, and in some cases room and board and other living expenses. Basic estimated costs for academic year 2013-14 at a 2 year community college with a student taking a standard 12 unit load are \$1,104 tuition and fees and \$1,710 for books and supplies. In addition, there can be miscellaneous expenses up to \$4,275 depending on the study major. Costs at San Jose State University, for example, can be substantially higher.

Chapter members are invited to participate with CAPT Barrish in the upcoming scholarship fund-raising and selection processes. By autumn 2013 the scholarship fund was nearly depleted, then in a loss position for a time, but is currently several hundred dollars in the black. The chapter would like to offer three or four \$500 scholarships, which would be down from the several \$1,000 awards made in past years. Member donations continue to be important and critical to the program's success.

Beginning in 2003 state spending for public colleges and universities dropped sharply and tuition and required fee charges rose significantly throughout California and many other states. Many colleges reduced their student financial aid programs. It was the worst fiscal news for public higher education institutions and their students in at least a decade. Steep fee increases continued until late 2011 when they began to moderate; however, the financial situation for both the community colleges and universities remains difficult, and many students are finding it hard to make ends meet.

A \$500 scholarship might not sound like much in this geographic area but the funds will help purchase text books or special supplies, and that often encourages the student and makes life a little easier.

As in past years, CAPT Barrish will ask local military units to screen and recommend candidates. He and other interested chapter members will then ask the students to complete a detailed application and provide specific information about their backgrounds, campus affiliation, study major, and vision for the future. Later the candidates will be interviewed, providing some sense of interest, energy level, motivation, capabilities, and determination to succeed. Once the information is complete and verified, an award decision will be made and announced. Successful candidates will be invited to a luncheon meeting and presented with a scholarship check.

Members who would like to serve on the Scholarship Committee and be a part of this process are invited to contact CAPT Barrish at 1-408-356-7531. This is an opportunity to meet some very capable young people and both bring a ray of hope to the students and experience genuine self-satisfaction.

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SOURCE: Board Policies and Procedures

## LUNCHEON SPEAKERS

## DECEMBER SPEAKER REPORT

The chapter's December meeting was by tradition a joint event with Reserve Officer's Association (ROA) Chapter #63 of San Jose, and most members of the executive committee were in attendance. Following a delightful buffet luncheon, Col. Keith Giles, USAF-Ret, provided an illustrated presentation of a tourist trip to Turkey. The travelogue was scheduled because the results of a speaker topic preference survey indicated that members were interested in programs featuring both domestic and international travel.

Travel has real value when it comes to self-renewal. According to John Gardner, "As we mature we progressively narrow the scope and variety of our lives. Of all the interests we might pursue, we settle on a few. Of all the people with whom we might associate, we select a small number. We view our familiar surroundings with less and less freshness of perception. We no longer look with a wakeful, perceiving eye at the faces of people we see every day, nor at any other features of our everyday world. That is why travel is a vivid experience for most of us. At home we have lost the capacity to see what is before us. Travel shakes us out of our apathy, and we regain an attentiveness that heightens every experience. The exhilaration of travel has many sources, but surely one of them is that we recapture in some measure the unspoiled awareness of children." The presentation narrative and photos effectively cast the audience vicariously across the world for a time and provided an often much-needed respite from the cares of a life in Silicon Valley.

Now in his late eighties and well beyond the average lifespan, Col. Giles felt it was a matter of now or never for a guided tour of Turkey, a place he always wanted to visit. So he arranged to fly to Istanbul and began his adventure at the famous mosques and palaces and within a day took boat tours of the Bosphorus, a waterway between the Sea of Marmara and the Black Sea, and the Golden Horn, a body of water dividing the city of Istanbul. He was impressed with the thousands of multi-colored tulips and architecture featuring gorgeous bright blue tiles, along with merchants and their wares and foods, and even hardware on display. He showed photos of buildings large and small, the city streets, views from high points, bridges on the waterways, the people, and specific tourist attractions such as the Blue Mosque and Topkapi Palace. He entered the Grand Bazaar but didn't haggle his way to a bargain.

After an early morning flight to the capital Ankara which included an interesting breakfast likely featuring the famous Turkish flat bread, Keith and his group traveled on to the highlight of his trip, which was floating over the spectacular landscape of Cappadocia in a hot-air balloon. All along the way there were Roman ruins, huge rock formations, caves in the hillsides, courtyards and statues, museums, signs of ancient civilizations, underground cities and tunnels, "evil eye jewelry," a look that is believed to be able to cause injury or bad luck for the person at whom it is directed, and blue-topped minarets seemingly everywhere. There was a merchant in a stall selling viagra; and, there was always plenty of pressure to purchase ceramics or rugs.

The tour continued to Ephesus, an ancient Greek city near the western coast at Ionia, very close to present-day Selcuk in Izmir, which is the best-preserved ancient city in the eastern Mediterranean. Keith took some beautiful photos of the ancient ruins. Then it was on to the Dardanelles, a narrow strait in northwestern Turkey connecting the Aegean Sea to the Sea of Marmara. The tour group then went on to take in the history of the eerily peaceful Gallipoli Peninsula, learning about certain key battles of World War I. The tour guide planned to skip this part of the trip but Keith was adamant and demanded a visit on the basis he paid for it in advance. It proved so interesting that some of his Indian touring comrades thanked him for insisting on the visit. Finally, it was back to Istanbul and an early morning flight to Frankfurt, the first leg on his return home.

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SOURCE: Luncheon Speaker

## LUNCHEON SPEAKERS

## JANUARY SPEAKER

Federal Bureau of Investigation agents arrived in Benghazi, Libya October 2, 2013 in order to investigate the murder of the American Ambassador, Chris Stevens, and others. The FBI is a governmental agency belonging to the Justice Department which serves as both a federal criminal investigative body and an internal intelligence agency for counterintelligence. What were FBI agents doing in Libya or Egypt, or elsewhere in the world for that matter? The agency used to be confined to American soil to save innocent Americans from criminal situations, but it has expanded to assist with the global war on terrorism. More than 50 international offices called “legal attaches” exist in U.S. embassies and consulates general worldwide.

The chapter’s January 2014 speaker will be an experienced FBI agent or support specialist who will provide a briefing on the agency’s history, infrastructure, and operations, specifically from the perspective of the San Francisco field office. It’s possible that the speaker will share stories such as those depicted in the 1998 to 2006 television docudrama series “The FBI files.” The show described actual FBI cases, with dramatic reenactments and interviews with agents and forensic scientists who worked in the investigations. Members might want to ask about current most wanted bank robbers, kidnapers, or terrorists.

The FBI works around the globe to combat the most dangerous criminal and security threats facing the country from international and domestic terrorists to spies on U.S. soil from child predators to serial killers, and currently has jurisdiction over violations in more than 200 categories of federal law. Investigations into these violations generally fall under three national security priorities and five criminal priorities including in part protecting the U.S. from terrorist attack, foreign intelligence operations and espionage, high-tech crimes and cyber-based attacks, and corruption on all levels. The speaker is likely to disclose which of the following statements about the FBI are true: Elliott Ness was an FBI agent. The FBI prosecutes cases. The FBI spies on Americans. The FBI has X-Files. Machine Gun Kelly coined the nickname G-Men. The FBI has files on every American.

The personnel of the San Francisco office are not just agents. The employees include not only special agents, but also a variety of support staff such as intelligence analysts, financial analysts, investigative specialists, translators, paralegals, electronics technicians, and security experts. The heart of the organization lies in its investigative capabilities. In every case, personnel work to objectively gather the facts and to develop evidence that can stand up in a court of law. To do that, they interview witnesses, run undercover operations, analyze financial records, map and manage crime scenes, develop informants, make arrests, conduct surveillance, and gather information and intelligence from around the globe. Cases today are often complex, international, and multi-jurisdictional, requiring experienced, highly trained, and well-rounded professionals.

The achievements of FBI agents can be especially noteworthy. For example, Edward E. Nigma, aka “the Riddler,” and Oswald Chesterfield Cobblepot, aka “the Penguin,” were formally arrested and charged with multiple counts of conspiracy and kidnapping for their all too familiar villainous ways in Gotham City, according to FBI officials. “We’ve been chasing Nigma and Cobblepot for years and just when I was about to give up hope that we would ever bring them to justice, wouldn’t you know it—Batkid shows up and saves the day,” said United States Attorney Melinda Haag. According to the indictment, the Penguin and the Riddler thought it was a good idea to put an unnamed female in the path of a cable car, rob a bank, and kidnap San Francisco Giants mascot Lou Seal. Somehow, they thought these latest stunts would go undetected by Batkid. However, at approximately 9 p.m. on a Thursday the bat signal went up and predictably, the crime rate began to go down in Gotham and San Francisco. Stay tuned.

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SOURCE: Federal Bureau of Investigation

***THE IN BOX***

For the History buffs or trivia masters, here are some links to some great stuff:

[Aviation Pioneers](#)  
[World War I Aces](#)  
[Hall of Fame of the Air](#)  
[WW2 European Theater \(ETO\)](#)  
[WW2 Pacific Theater \(PTO\)](#)  
[WW2 US Marine Corps](#)  
[WW2 US Navy Aces](#)  
[WW2 Mediterranean \(MTO\)](#)  
[WW2 German Aces](#)  
[Korean War Aces](#)  
[Russian Aces](#)  
[Vietnam Era Aces Airplanes](#)  
[World War I Planes](#)  
[1930s Aircraft photos](#)  
[WW2 Fighters](#)  
[WW2 Bombers](#)  
[WW2 German Planes](#)  
[WW2 Airplane Pictures](#)  
[History of Airplanes blog](#)  
[Nose Art](#)  
[Postwar Jets](#)  
[World War Two](#)  
[WW2 Facts and Firsts](#)  
[WW2 Medals](#)  
[WW2 Museums](#)  
[WW2 Pictures](#)  
[WW2 Ships](#)  
[WW2 Weapons](#)

**THE IN BOX****CENTRAL COAST CEMETERY**

The effort to raise funds for the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery at Fort Ord, Monterey, was boosted recently when actor and former Carmel Mayor Clint Eastwood and financier Frank Quattrone of Pebble Beach each made \$100,000 contributions. Once the donations are matched, there will be enough money to pay for the first phase of the cemetery project, estimated to cost \$9,414,000.

When Fort Ord closed more than 20 years ago the community promised to build a veterans cemetery to provide veterans and their families with a final resting place that honors their achievements and sacrifices on behalf of our nation. “Thousands of vets who have been through Fort Ord feel this is their home. We need a cemetery to serve our rich military community,” said U.S. Army veteran Michael O’Brien.

Situated on a beautiful 78.7 acres located at the intersection of Normandy and Parker Flats Roads and near the California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) campus, the cemetery will serve the burial needs of area veterans for the next 100 years.

Upon completion the cemetery will serve all veterans, including the approximately 100,000 veterans and their families that live within the service area of the Central Coast region. The five counties that are within that area are Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Benito, Santa Clara, and San Luis Obispo.

The estimated interment needs of this veteran population are 5,600 burial and crypt sites for the initial 10-years. The actual interment sites to be provided in this initial phase will be approximately 2,800 burial and crypt sites. The Phase I plan will develop 26 acres of the site and will accommodate cremations in above-ground columbariums. In ground plots are not included in the first phase. At a minimum, the cemetery will provide approximately 11,500 gravesites in its 20-year build-out.

The Central Coast State Veterans Cemetery capital campaign mission is to honor those who have served the cause of freedom by raising local funds to deliver a beautiful cemetery. The site encompasses gently rolling hills with the natural and scenic beauty of Monterey Bay. As a lasting tribute to those who served in the armed forces, the new cemetery will remind future generations that we honor our veterans who were instrumental in preserving our nation’s freedom.

The Phase I \$9,414,000 total cost includes \$ 6,327,200 for construction and the remainder for architecture, planning, administration, and other fees and contingences. In addition to federal and state financing as well as other private donations, \$600,000 raised locally will be needed in order to accept Federal monies. Any remaining funds will go towards Phase 2 and the endowment to support the ongoing operations and enhancements of the cemetery.

According to Leon E. Panetta, Former United States Secretary of Defense, “America is strong because of the men and women in uniform who are willing to put their lives on the line to protect our freedoms. As Secretary of Defense, I will forever be proud of those who responded to the call of duty . . . now and throughout our history. They heard the call of the trumpet and they were there for us. Now it is our turn to be there for them. To give them the dignity and honor of finding a final resting place near their families and their communities on the Central Coast. The Veterans Cemetery is our way of saying thank you for the bravery, courage and sacrifices that have protected the blessing of liberty for ourselves and our children.”

Donations to the cemetery can be made at [www.ccveteranscemetery.org](http://www.ccveteranscemetery.org) or by calling the Community Foundation for Monterey County at (831) 375-9712. Tax deductible contributions will help make the cemetery a reality.

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SOURCE: Central Coast Cemetery Foundation

**PERSONAL AFFAIRS****New TRICARE TV Episode: What is TRICARE?**

11/01/2013

[New TRICARE TV Episode: What is TRICARE?](#)

November 1, 2013

Watch an overview of TRICARE, the Military Health Plan serving Uniformed Service members, retirees and their family members.

Watch the video at: [http://youtu.be/8d06l9DAe\\_s](http://youtu.be/8d06l9DAe_s).

**TRICARE Help: Never More Than a Click or Call Away**

11/26/2013

[TRICARE Help: Never More Than a Click or Call Away](#)

November 26, 2013

Beneficiaries who need information about their TRICARE benefit may not be aware of the information available on the Internet. There are many services available that can be completed online, like enrolling in a health care plan or comparing plans. However, new or transitioning beneficiaries may need to speak to someone for assistance and TRICARE has that covered too.

Read more at: [www.tricare.mil/CoveredServices/BenefitUpdates/Archives/11\\_25\\_13\\_ClickOrCall](http://www.tricare.mil/CoveredServices/BenefitUpdates/Archives/11_25_13_ClickOrCall).

Learn more about TRICARE

[www.tricare.mil](http://www.tricare.mil)

Sign up for TRICARE e-mail updates at [www.tricare.mil/subscriptions](http://www.tricare.mil/subscriptions).

Connect with TRICARE on Facebook and Twitter at [www.facebook.com/tricare](http://www.facebook.com/tricare) and [www.twitter.com/tricare](http://www.twitter.com/tricare).

**PERSONAL AFFAIRS****TRICARE Prescriptions**

Military retirees and family members who use Tricare For Life will be required to start filling long-term prescriptions by mail starting Feb. 14, 2014.

Under an interim rule published by the government Wednesday, retirees and family members age 65 and older must begin filling their maintenance medication prescriptions by mail when they come up for renewal on or after Valentine's Day next year. The requirement applies to maintenance medications only, not those needed for acute illnesses. It also will not apply to prescriptions covered by other health insurance.

The Defense Department has determined that nearly half the 70 million prescriptions filled for Tricare beneficiaries at retail pharmacies in fiscal 2012 were for Tricare For Life beneficiaries, at a cost of \$2.2 billion to the government. Since DoD pays 17 percent less for maintenance medications filled by mail compared with those filled at retail stores, Pentagon analysts concluded that costs could be trimmed significantly — by at least \$120 million a year — if Tricare for Life beneficiaries were required to use mail order.

The requirement also will save beneficiaries money: a 90-day refill of a generic medication costs nothing by mail, but require a \$5 copayment for a 30-day prescription at retail stores. Brand name drugs cost \$13 for a 90-day prescription by mail but \$17 for a 30-day prescription at a store. Over the next month, Tricare will begin publicizing the pending change. Affected beneficiaries also will receive letters. Beneficiaries will be able to opt out of the five-year initiative after one year. Their obligation starts when they first fill a prescription through mail order, according to the rule published in the Federal Register. To make up for any delays between ordering refills and receiving them, the new rule will allow beneficiaries to receive up to two 30-day refills at a retail store during the transition.

Public Health Service Rear Adm. Thomas McGinnis, the Defense Health Agency's pharmacy operations chief, said recently that Tricare and Express Scripts, Tricare's pharmacy contractor, have established a telephone concierge service to help beneficiaries make the switch. With a patient's permission, Express Scripts will contact the prescribing physician to help transfer the prescription. Express Scripts also will staff its toll-free number to serve customers as well as pharmacists and physicians. Case-by-case waivers may be granted out of personal hardship, emergency or "other special circumstance," according to the rule. Waiver requests would have to be made through Express Scripts.

A congressional budget analysis conducted in May 2012 said the program likely would save \$150 million a year, and it estimates that from 2013 to 2022, total savings from the proposal would be \$1.1 billion. A 2012 Military Officers Association of America survey of 130,000 members found that more than 92 percent of those who tried the mail-order system report being "very satisfied" or "mostly satisfied" with it. Retired Lt. Cmdr. Steve Tennison, of Pampa, Texas, who uses Tricare Standard, said his family recently received a phone call from Express Scripts offering to switch their maintenance medications to the mail order pharmacy. He described the process as "painless" and said his medications now arrive roughly every 60 days by mail, for free.

"We just talked to them on the phone and a few weeks later, the postman delivered a big plastic bag of medicine," Tennison said.

Refills can be ordered by calling 1-877-363-1303 or by going online at Express Scripts.

**Tricare beneficiaries, including Medicare-eligible ones on Tricare for Life, also can fill prescriptions and receive refills at no cost at military treatment facilities**

**NOTE: You may view\post about this article at**

**<http://www.militarytimes.com/comments/article/20131212/BENEFITS06/312120014/Tricare-users-soon-must-fill-long-term-prescriptions-via-mail>**

***PERSONAL AFFAIRS***

**PROTECT TRICARE BENEFITS**

It is essential that you keep your information in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) up to date for you and your family.

DEERS is a computerized database of uniformed service members, active duty and retired, worldwide, their family members, and others who are eligible for military benefits including TRICARE.

Proper and current DEERS registration is key to receiving timely, effective TRICARE benefits including doctors' appointments, prescriptions, payment of health care expenses, authorization letters, and explanations of benefits.

Here are options to update your DEERS information:

--In person to add a family member or update contact information—visit a local identification card issuing facility; see [www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl), and be sure to call to verify the location and business hours;

--Telephone 1-800-538-9552 or for TDD/TTY 1-866-363-2883;

--Fax to change contact information only: 1-831-655-8317;

--U.S. Mail is Defense Manpower Data Center, Support Office, 400 Gigling Road, Seaside, CA 93955-6771;

--On line milConnect website: <http://milconnect.dmdc.mil>.

It should be noted that only sponsors (or those appointed power of attorney) can add a family member. Family members age 18 and older may update their own contact information.

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SOURCE: UnitedHealthcare news release

***PERSONAL AFFAIRS*****AUXILIARY CORNER/Storming the Hill**

On July 16, the Holiday Inn in Alexandria, VA, was a bustle of activity as nearly 100 surviving spouses and other supporters from 20 states, including members of the MOAA Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee (AMAC), MOAA staff, and surviving spouses from various military organizations, gathered to prepare for the July 17 AMAC Storming the Hill event. The focus of this historic MOAA-sponsored event was to educate the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress about the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) /Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) offset and garner co-sponsorship for H.R. 32 and S. 734, which would repeal the offset.

MOAA President Vice Adm. Norbert R. Ryan, Jr., USN (RET), thanked attendees and recognized MOAA staff and the AMAC for their efforts to make the event happen. “Successful organizations and successful people never give up,” Ryan said. He assured everyone MOAA would never give up.

MOAA Government Relations Department Director Col. Mike Hayden, USAF (Ret), and Deputy Director Col. Phil Odom, USAF (Ret), led a pre-Storming brief, while attendees mingled with their teams. During dinner, teams studied the materials in their leave-behind packets, which featured the Vow of Honor brochure, an SBP/DIC fact sheet, and testimonials from five surviving spouses.

On July 17, surviving spouses headed to a congressional breakfast at the Rayburn House Office Building. Ryan introduced Rep. Joe Wilson, who spoke about the injustice of the offset. Sen. Bill Nelson, who could not attend, was represented by Rebecca Lange, military fellow, along with other staff members. Traci Voelke and Suzanne Gerstner, surviving military spouses, delivered compelling testimonials on the impact of the offset in their lives and the lives of other surviving spouses. Odom delivered the education piece of the program to the legislative assistants and military legislative assistants in attendance. Then, four teams tackled the Senate offices and 38 teams, with up to three people a team, headed for the House offices to deliver their materials and the message to repeal the SBP/DIC offset and ask for co-sponsorship.

While we have seen a gain in co-sponsorship for both bills, we still need more legislators to sign on. You can help! Call your legislators’ offices toll-free via (866) 272-6622, MOAA’s direct line to the congressional switchboard. Ask the capitol operator to connect you with your legislator’s office, ask to speak with the legislator’s legislative assistant or military legislative assistant, and let them know why they should co-sponsor either H.R. 32 or S.734 to end the injustice to military surviving spouses.

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SOURCE: The Affiliate

*PERSONAL AFFAIRS*

## **JOBS**

**We have relocated all of the Job links to their own page at our website.**

**You can access it from a link on the home page or directly with this:**

**<http://svcmoaa.org/Employment.html>**

***PERSONAL AFFAIRS***

**ID CARD CHANGE**

The Moffett Field ID card office is currently located in the U.S. Army Reserve Center, 230 RT Jones Road, Mt. View, CA 94043-1809. The office can be reached by making the left hand turn from the 4-way stop immediately prior to the Moffett Field main gate. The building is one half mile down the road on the left.

It will be necessary to make an advance appointment for entry to the building and obtaining the new card. To make an appointment, use this number from 0800 to 1530, closed 1200 to 1300 for lunch: **650 526-9891** or on-line click on “Moffett Appointment” at this location <http://siliconvalleymoaa.org/iddecad.html>

**VETERAN BENEFITS**

For veterans benefits and more connect with *eBenefits* at <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/>

**Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about TRICARE  
but were Afraid to Ask**

There are many secure functions available to help you manage your TRICARE benefits, DEERS, etc., while at home or on the go, no matter your military status, active, reservist or retired. Your local MOAA Silicon Valley Chapter heartily recommends first checking into the TRICARE Home- page, <http://www.tricare.mil/>, then clicking on any/all applicable link(s) that may apply to your particular situation.

Each specific link should provide detailed instructions on accessing that desired area of interest.

**REPORTING DEATHS**

Members can report the death of a retiree locally through the Retiree Activity Office (RAO).

The phone number is 650- 603-8047.

You can also notify a MOAA member’s death to MOAA:

- \* Attn: MSC, 201 N Washington St, Alexandria, VA 22314-2539.
- \* Or call 1-800-234-6622
- \* Or: E-mail: <mailto:msc@moaa.org>.

**Membership Application and Renewal Form**

**Silicon Valley Chapter Military Officers Association of America Mail to:  
SVC-MOAA  
P.O. Box 2  
Moffett Federal Airfield, CA 94035**

**Membership Application and Renewal Form Date** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Enroll Me As: New Member** \_\_\_\_\_ **Renewing Member** \_\_\_\_\_ **Aux Member** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Annual Dues: \$26.00** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Auxiliary – Dues are not charged, donations gratefully accepted) Donations to SVC Fund  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donations to Scholarship Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donations to PAWS  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation to USO \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (All Donations are Tax Deductible)  
**Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Make checks payable to SVC-MOAA and mail to above address.**

**Please complete all applicable blanks**

**Status: Active** \_\_\_ **Reserve** \_\_\_ **Guard** \_\_\_ **Retired** \_\_\_ **Former Officer** \_\_\_ **Widow(er)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First MI Rank Service

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
Number Street (P.O. Box, etc.) Apt/Suite

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ **Spouse's Name** \_\_\_\_\_  
5 Digit 4 Digit

**Phone**(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**SVC Dues are due 1 January and are separate from National MOAA Dues. SVC Dues support the Bulletin and Administrative functions. Luncheons are self-supporting. Dues are not prorated. Donations can be made to the Silicon Valley Chapter's general fund and/or the various funds listed above.**

**If you are a new chapter member, please advise us how you learned about this chapter.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**For present members we are trying to update and enhance our records; so please provide the month and year you joined the SVC.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Are you a National MOAA Member?** \_\_\_\_\_

**LUNCHEON**

**LOCATION – BILTMORE HOTEL  
2151 LAURELWOOD RD, SANTA CLARA, CA**

**DIRECTIONS:** *Going North on Hwy 101:* Exit at Montague/San Tomas, then Montague; then Right on Laurelwood. *Going South on Hwy 101:* Exit at Montague/San Tomas, then Montague, then Right on Laurelwood.

-----Cut Here-----

**\*\*\*\*LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM\*\*\*\*  
Deadline to reach SVC no later than 10 January**

If you have not sent in your reservation form by the above date and still wish to attend, please call Jay Craddock, 650-968-0446

**LUNCHEON PRICE - \$26.00 Times: Social Hour 11:00 AM, Luncheon 11:45 AM**

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places for the **16 January Luncheon**  
A TOTAL of \$\_\_\_\_\_ including a donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for (circle one)  
Scholarship, PAWS, USO, or undesignated donation

**Make checks payable to: PROGRAM CHAIR-SVC**

**Mailto: LTCJayCraddock  
1448 Fallen Leaf Lane  
Los Altos, CA 94024-5809**

**RESERVE IN THE NAME OF:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MENU: Buffet - Two hot entrees with vegetables. Assorted breads and rolls. Desserts. Coffee and tea.**

**NAMES OF PERSONS WHO ARE INCLUDED IN YOUR PAYMENT:**

\_\_\_\_\_

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**ATTENTION**

Our chapter is pleased to welcome and offer businesses in the area with a great opportunity to post your advertisements in this eBulletin and the hardcopy bulletin. For just \$100 one gets 365 days of advertising. **Interested?** Just contact Michael Sampognaro at 408 779 7389 or email [mike@sampognaro.net](mailto:mike@sampognaro.net)