

THE DEFENDER

A monthly publication of the Northwest Florida Military Officers Association www.nwfmoa.org

Vol. 18 No. 8 Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services AUGUST 2012

Breakfast Meeting & Discussion

When: Wed, 1 August 2012 Time: Open: 0700; Bkst: 0715; Meeting: 0800-0900

Place: Eglin Bayview Club Program: Col Antonio Douglas, 96th ABW Vice Commander

Eglin Bayview Breakfast

Please:

- Make a reservation
- Wear a name tag
- Bring proper change.
 \$7.00 for Club Members
 \$9.00 for Non-Members

Reservation deadline is Friday at noon prior to the meeting. Call Ken Wright at 582-6442 or send an email to: kmwrightjr@gmail.com if you are attending.

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Twenty-fourth Amendment

The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President, for electors for President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay poll tax or other tax.

Come Meet Your "Vice"

By Scott Berry

No, I'm not talking about your personal shortcomings but rather the Vice Commander of the 96th Air Base Wing, Colonel Antonio T. Douglas.

He's been with us for about a year. In this position, Col Douglas is second in command to more than 5,000 personnel and directs base operating support and services for one center, six wings, and over 50 associate units as well as over 20,000 milita

over 20,000 military, dependents, and retirees on and around the world's largest military installation of over 724 square miles.

Having graduated *Cum Laude* from The Citadel in Charleston, South

Carolina, he was commissioned through ROTC and entered active duty in 1988. His primary expertise is financial management and served



in related positions at the wing, major command, and Air Staff level. In his over 24 years of service, he's served as far west as Hawaii and as far east as Germany and twice served as a squadron commander.

While Eglin is frequently in the news, the base has been highlighted

even more in the recent past because of the AFMC restructuring. We're fortunate to have a senior officer like Col Douglas speak to us and hopefully provide some insights on the latest developments.

Secretary's Scrawl

By Scott Berry

Hot, humid, and rainy greetings!

It's a very small world. A long article in a recent Daily News was about a retired colonel who was cooking BBQ for one of the squadrons on Eglin. He has a unique nickname which caught my eye and after reading the article recognized him as a



Scott Berry

fellow maintenance officer from Malmstrom AFB, MT, in 1984. It's amazing how so many roads lead to the Emerald Coast.

But the world gets even smaller. One of our newest members is LTC Dennis Skelly, USA (Ret). That name took me back to 1988 where we were in the same seminar at Armed Forces Staff College. It was a fabulous 5 1/2 months. I still have some questions for Dennis about purple balloons.

As you'll note as you peruse this issue, there are several recurring articles missing. As I am the Editor of the Defender and not supposed to be the AUTHOR, I once again solicit input from the general membership. I'm sure others have better tips than mine about recycling of fluorescent light bulbs and erasing the PIN from your Cox bill. I'll be gone for about two weeks next month and will return to quickly get the Defender published. It'd be great if I had some extra input.

While we're barely past the year's midpoint, it's still about time to consider a slate for next year's officers. I'll be pushing this at the next board meeting. From my perspective, we haven't made it as transparent as we should with a lot of decisions made at the last minute which should have been completed long before. I found service work is very gratifying even if the pay isn't good. It's also an opportunity to make a difference. We're not talking about sweat shop working conditions or hours. Instead, we're talking about a couple of hours a month as a minimum to be part of the Board of Directors. And there's plenty to do if you want to make it a full time job.

The various position are pretty self-explanatory. If you have questions, the incumbents will be eager to tell you what's in their job jar.

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Recruiting New Members

The NWFMOA Chapter is depending on our membership for recruiting. The Chapter has continued to offer new programs of interest and has planned more activities in the future. Let people know what we have to offer and let's work on increasing our membership. Note! We only had 8 new members for the first 6 months of the year.

RECRUIT! RECRUIT! RECRUIT!

Tours: 3 tours are being coordinated (Dates TBA):

F-35 Air Education and Training Fighter Wing Tour 7th Army Special Forces Tour Climate Control Testing Facility Tour

Member Spotlight



Bill and Dottie Ryan

A Free(bie) For All!

Why? It's the NWFMOA Officers Call When? August 9, 2012 from 5:30 - 7:30 PM Where? Prop's Brewery & Grill, 225 Miracle Strip Parkway SE, B-19, Paradise Plaza, FWB http://www.propsbrewery.com How Much? Nada (for the first two beverages)



By Sarah A. Shirley, Ch, Maj, FLANG

Religion is typically resistant to change or innovation, at times to the good and at others to the detriment of its institutions and the world it serves. True to form, the chaplain's column has been a slow adopter of the magnificent facelift our editor



Chaplain Shirley

has been performing on The Defender. The chaplains are (finally) on board! This month we debut the column's new name and banner honoring the Constitutional foundation of Federal chaplaincy. COEXIST is not original or unique. In fact, the graphic is used with permission of its owner, Peacemonger.org, an outreach collaborative dedicated to peace, non-violence, and interfaith cooperation.

The origins of the COEXIST graphic reside with Polish graphic artist Piotr Mlodozeniec. Mlodozeniec created the first coexist design to participate in an art contest hosted by Israel's Museum on the Seam. The contest introduced a traveling exhibition bringing the universal message of diversity and acceptance of the other through art. The exhibition, "Coexistence," has been in 30 different cities around the world "calling for mutual understanding between fellow humans, nations and religions and its opening ceremonies are attended by local leaders of the states it encounters on its global journey" (Museum on the Seam, www.MOTS.org.il).

Like Peacemonger.org, many companies today sell detailed coexist images that use Mlodozeniec's design as the foundation for their religious tolerance products. Most of these promote peace and reconciliation among people of different faiths, belief systems, and world views. The first coexist design focused on harmony between the three great monotheistic faiths – Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

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So I Said.....

A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. On my desk, I have a work station.

<u>Life Members</u>

CWO Leonard J. Cole, USAF (Ret)July 4, 2012COL James F. McCarthy, Sr., USA (Ret)July 15, 2012

COL McCarthy was a LIFE chapter member and our president from 2005-2007.

<u>Member</u><u>Died</u>

Col Norman S. Drake, USAF (Ret)

June 28, 2012

Died

Col Drake's spouse, Adelaide, died several hours after him on the same day.

On behalf of NWFMOA, we express our sympathy to the families of those who have passed to their eternal rest. We wish comfort for all those who grieve.

Miscommunication Can Cost You \$\$\$ By Scott Berry

I 'm normally pretty good about doing what I'm told, so when my homeowners insurance company (unnamed but a military-friendly company with its base in San Antonio) sent me a review sheet on the particulars on my home, I gladly filled it out. After all, if you're driving a Rolls and the insurance company thinks it's a Corvair, there will be some challenges if you ever have a claim. Makes sense, right?

The company was so insistent about getting the update they called and told me they haven't received the paperwork after a certain period of time.

I completed the form, corrected some errors, then forgot about it--until I received my annual renewal and saw a \$360 annual increase. What??? (To save space, please insert here my long diatribe about how this could have happened).

When I called the insurance company, it appears they duplicated (not replaced) details on my home. No, I don't have **TWO** Florida rooms and the one I have is NOT fully enclosed with heating and a/c. I don't have **TWO** indoor jacuzzis. The list goes on. Once we were on the same sheet of music, my premium actually **WENT DOWN**.

My story may not mirror your situation but isn't it worth a phone call to find out? Send me an email if you discover a disconnect. Misery loves company.

On the Road..... By Jeff Watson, 1st Vice President

Legislative Musings...by Bill Van Hoesen

I hope everyone enjoyed their 4th of July! Mine was spent in the Garden State with my wife, Judy, and one of my children as we helped her job relocate. Twice in the last three weeks we've visited New Jersey and I will say I was surprised at how pretty the area is and how "folksy" the people are in many of the areas we



Jeff Watson

visited. I thought it was more like one of the "reality" TV shows that I channel-surf past while looking for a great movie to watch on television. Instead, it was more like "Winchestertonfieldville" in Adam Sandler's "Mr. Deeds." We even went to the same ice cream shop twice because it was so quaint and refreshing.

The first time we visited, we helped her apartment hunt, and of course, that brought back memories for my wife and me from my early service years and law school. It was an interesting experience because the company where she works did not give her a RNLTD ("report not later than date" for those who forgot), and they used a relocation moving company that provides a "pod" and you (meaning daughter and parents) get to pack yourself and load yourself. Once again, the warehouse experience I obtained working for one of our local furniture companies when I was a teenager paid off. When the cube was delivered to her apartment on Tuesday, 3 July, the contents were just as we left them when we closed the doors and put the padlocks on in Shalimar. As my Georgia relatives would say, the contents were packed "tighter than Dick's hat band." I will say that it was much easier to unload and move (thank you Wright Brothers Furniture) into her apartment than it was to load - duh!

We spent the 4th watching a parade in Chester, NJ, where local municipalities paraded their fire trucks down the street, a dance company had little girls show off their rope-jumping skills and an occasional "float" (read: truckpulling flat bed trailer) of musicians played 60s-themed music. Janis and Jim (Morrison) would be proud! We also picked raspberries, blueberries and peaches at Alstede Farms before returning to the apartment to unpack some more. We were too tired to go in search of fireworks



Medicare Reimbursement Rates 2012 Update 12

Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) has introduced legislation eliminating the sustainable growth rate (SGR) governing the reimbursement rate for Medicare physicians, and replace it with a simple,

annual cost-of-living adjustment for these doctors. The Access to Physicians in Medicare Act, S.3337, would end what has become a periodic process in Congress of avoiding scheduled cuts to reimbursements for Medicare physicians. This has required passage of so-called "doc fix" legislation to delay these cuts under the current SGR formula. Instead, it would set up a process under which reimbursement rates could increase slowly each year, capped at 3 percent, based on a cost-of-living increase similar to the one used to calculate increases in Social Security benefits. Paul said this change would remove much of the current uncertainty surrounding the reimbursement rate, which, if cut, could lead to a significant drop in access to medical care. "As an eye surgeon, many of my patients are seniors, and many of those seniors are Medicare recipients," Paul said. "Medicare, in its constant quest to save money, cuts physician reimbursement and in turn puts America's seniors at risk of losing their access to quality healthcare. I know the value of quality care and I want to ensure our nation's seniors continue to get it." Paul said his bill would prevent a cut of about 30 percent to Medicare reimbursements next year, which represents cuts due under the current formula that have been avoided each year. He also said he would pay for this change by repealing expanded healthcare subsidies under the 2010 healthcare law. A related bill, the "Medicare Physician Payment Innovation Act (H.R.5707)" was introduced in the House 9 MAY by Representatives Allyson Schwartz (D-PA) and Joe Heck (R-NV). [Source: The Hill 26 Jun 2012]

Military Wisdom

Any ship can be a minesweeper. Once. Naval Ops Manual

Military Voting Rights --How Long Must They Wait

By Bill Van Hoesen

Sixty years ago, June 26, 1952, the Subcommittee on Elections, Committee on House Administration, United States House of Representatives conducted a hearing on absentee voting for military personnel fighting the Korean War. The Honorable C.G. Hall (Secretary of State of Arkansas and President of the National Association of Secretaries of State) testified that most military personnel in Korea and elsewhere would likely be unable to vote in the 1952 presidential election. Because of late primaries, ballot access lawsuits, and other problems, local election officials (LEO) would not have ballots printed and ready to mail until a few days before Election Day, in many cases. There simply would not be enough time for an absentee ballot to go from the LEO to the service member in Korea and back by Election Day.

President Harry S. Truman sent a letter to Congress, on military voting rights on March 28, 1952. In his letter, President Truman called upon the states to fix this problem, and he called upon Congress to enact temporary federal legislation for the 1952 presidential election. He wrote, "Any such legislation by Congress should be temporary, since it should be possible to make all the necessary changes in State laws before the congressional elections of 1954." Well, it didn't work out that way. President Truman left office in January 1953 and the Korean War ground to an inconclusive halt in July 1953.

Finally, in 2009, Congress made the necessary changes. The Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (MOVE Act) amended the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA). As amended, UOCAVA now explicitly requires every state to mail out absentee ballots to military and overseas voters by the 45th day preceding any primary or election for federal office. See 42 U.S.C. 1973ff-1(a)(8)(A). This is section 1973ff-1(a)(8)(a) of title 42 of the United States Code. Your LEO must have absentee ballots printed and ready to mail by Saturday, September 22, so military personnel from your community will be able to vote in the November 6 general election, no matter where the service of our country has taken them. But the fact this is required by federal law does not necessarily mean it is going to happen. There are more than 7,500 LEOs administering absentee voting for federal elections, and many of them are ignorant of their obligations under federal law.



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Mlodozeniec's basic design is uncomplicated and easy to understand. The design uses three symbols that stand for Islam, Judaism, and Christianity. Mlodozeniec modified the word "coexist" in the following ways:

- for the letter "c," a crescent moon representing Islam is substituted
- for the letter "x," the Star of David representing Judaism is substituted
- for the letter "t," a cross representing Christianity is substituted

Newer designs add additional symbols:

- for the letter "o," the peace symbol or pagan/Wiccan pentacle is substituted
- for the letter "e," a male/female symbol or a scientific equation is substituted
- for the letter "i," a pagan/Wiccan symbol is substituted
- for the letter "s," a Chinese yin-yang symbol is substituted

As the military's Chaplain Corps expands to include faith traditions beyond the big three of Christianity, Islam, and Judaism, harmonious and cooperative coexistence remains essential. We hope the new name and banner of this column will celebrate and honor one of the foundational missions of the military chaplain: to protect the service member's constitutional right to the free exercise of religion.



Continued from page 2

I ask each of you to give that some thought. Please don't allow the mental rumblings of "I am not qualified" or "I don't have the skills" or "There are much better people available." We're definitely not talking about rocket science. My efforts in two positions is proof positive of that.

Please give it some thought. There will be more to follow.

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Berry "OUT"

Auxiliary Advocate

By Pat Shecter, Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee, MOAA

MOAA has many publications to guide you as you put your affairs in order. Of special interest to military survivors are the Personal Affairs Action Guide, Turning the Corner, the Survivor's Checklist, and the Auxiliary Checklist. As auxiliary members, we already have gone through much of this process when our spouses died. Now we have to arrange our own affairs to help our families when our time comes. To download these publications, visit www.moaa.org/infoexchange. To purchase a hard copy version of these publications, call MOAA's Member Service Center at (800) 234-MOAA (6622).

As the years go by, we tend to postpone actions along this line, figuring we have plenty of time. I've talked to many friends in their 70s and 80s regarding their degree of preparedness and have received varied comments. Some say that will be their children's problem (hopefully their spouses didn't feel that way and leave them without the necessary information). Others don't want to think about it, because it seems like an insurmountable task. Some have started a system of putting labels on items selected to leave to various recipients. Older folks downsize and try to get their children to take favorite items prior to breaking up the household, but many are finding their cherished items are not wanted by modern families. Others feel moving is too much work and then resent their children when they have to move and potentially give away their possessions. If you eventually have to move to be near family, make the transition while you still can make your own decisions and arrangements.

Make sure you have a will, and try to anticipate probate by adding an executor to your financial accounts in advance. Double check your accounts to ensure you have the correct form of ownership/survivorship and beneficiaries established. Everyone should have a medical power of attorney given to a relative, or a responsible party, to cover legalities of medical care. Your nearest military legal office usually provides dependents with help in setting up a will and powers of attorney as needed, so check for walk-in dates and times. To find out more information about estate planning, including tips on establishing a will, a living will, and a power of attorney, visit www.moaa.org/estate. With age comes a greater risk of diminished mental capacity, so it's important for families to step in and manage the care for aging parents. We understand this is an unpleasant subject to consider. However, a little preparation in advance will smooth the way families react and handle the stress, and we will know we have done what we could to leave a good memory. (Source: MOAA *The Affiliate*)

On the Road..... (cont.)

Continued from page 4

though I could hear them in one of the nearby townships. It was certainly different without a military presence - not even a junior ROTC!

Anyway, a lot has happened in the last month for us as well as the nation. It was the week of Independence Day that everyone got to discuss the U.S. Supreme Court's 28 June ruling that the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act comes with a tax. The opinion of the Court is available on line and is fascinating to read (assuming the electrons reflect the ruling of the Court). Disclosure: I've read the Syllabus and am still reading the full opinion. An interesting commentary found in the opinion of the court may be a challenge to this Nation of taxpayers (and voters): "Members of this Court are vested with the authority to interpret the law; we possess neither the expertise nor the prerogative to make policy judgments. Those decisions are entrusted to our Nation's elected leaders, who can be thrown out of office if the people disagree with them. It is not our job to protect the people from the consequences of their political choices." Quoting from Marbury v. Madison using Chief Justice Marshall's words, the Court went on to say: "The peculiar circumstances of the moment may render a measure more or less wise, but cannot render it more or less constitutional." It will be interesting to see where this leads. Of course, you, as informed citizens have the right to vote, if you choose, and the next few months into November will be important in that regard. Until then, have a great 2012 summer and let's get together at the next Officers' Call!

Best Regards, Jeff

Idiot-Syncrasies

Don't sweat petty things and don't pet sweaty things.

How "Green" is Your Garbage?

Last month I managed to fill a 20 lbs article about recycling fluorescent bulbs with only 2 lbs of information. Although this month's tip is equally important, I won't overtax your curiosity before I get to the bottom line.

Lithium batteries are now very popular in portable electronics devices such as cameras, watches, cordless phones, and cordless alarm systems where long life is very important.

When discarded inappropriately, they do bad things for the environment and even nastier things when exposed to high heat. They were cited as the cause of a fatal UPS jumbo jet crash in late 2010, so toting a suitcase of these batteries onto an airplane will probably draw serious criticism from the TLA. Get the picture?

Next time you're en route to Home Depot to discard you fluorescent bulbs, take your old lithium batteries with you. You can find a recycle facility by going to http://www. call2recycle.org and entering your zip code. I found three locations in Niceville: Radio Shack, Sears, and Ace Hardware. No charge for disposal. Radio Shack personnel were very appreciative I was recycling the batteries and praised my "greenness."

Next month: How to properly dispose of your excess paper currency to the Defender Editor retirement fund and increase my "greenness" in a different way.....

Military Voting Rights (cont.)

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Please contact your LEO and remind him/her of the requirement to mail ballots by September 22, and tell the LEO you will be back on Monday, September 24, to determine if the ballots have been mailed. If you find your LEO expects to miss or has missed the 45-day deadline, please contact CAPT Samuel F. Wright, JAGC, USN (Ret.), Director, Service Members Law Center, Reserve Officers Association 800-809-9448, ext. 730, Email: SWright@roa.org .

LEOs in our area are: Mr. Paul Lux, 850.651.7272, plux@co.okaloosa.fl.us; Ms Ann Bodenstein, 850.983.1900, bodenstein@santarosa.fl.gov, and Mr. Bobby Beasley, 850.892.8112, bbeasley@co.walton.fl.us.



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Make checks payable to NWFMOA or to Northwest Florida Military Officers Assn., Inc. Check here if you <u>do not</u> want your \Box name, \Box phone number or \Box email address listed in printed chapter directories. Membership includes a subscription to The Defender for the dues period. We are a charter member of MOAA and recommend that our members belong to the national organization. Our association is also a member of the Florida Council of Chapters, itself an affiliate of MOAA. **The spouse of a deceased life member automatically becomes an auxiliary life member.

Membership Application/Renewal

New Members joining in 2012 receive membership through December 31st of next year for \$25.00. **Membership Renewal** 1 yr - \$25.00, 2 yr - \$48.00, 3 yr - \$65.00 Life Membership Dues** D<u>ues</u> Age Dues Age 101 +Free 71-75 240.00 96-100 50.00 66-70 275.00 91 - 95 75.00 61-65 295.00 86 - 90 110.00 56-60 335.00 81 - 85 51-55 360.00 150.00 76 - 80 195.00 -50 395.00 **Auxiliary Members** Pay one half of the above rates