



# THE DEFENDER

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

Vol. 23 No. 07

Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services

JULY 2017

## Lunch Meeting & Discussion

**When:** Thur, 6 July 2017

**Time:** Gathering 1130, Lunch 1200  
Program to follow

**Place:** Ft. Walton Bch. Yacht Club  
180 Ferry Road, NE, FWB

**Program:** Son Tay Raid Part II  
Lt Gen LeRoy Manor, Jr.

Please:

### • MAKE A RESERVATION

- Wear a name tag
- Bring proper change:  
\$13.00 for everyone

Reservation deadline is Friday at noon prior to meeting. Go online at [www.nwfmoo.org](http://www.nwfmoo.org) and select the link where it says "Click here to make reservations", or email Dick Prater at [nwreservations@gmail.com](mailto:nwreservations@gmail.com), or call 850-613-6080 if you are attending.

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## Son Tay Raid - Part II

By Scott Berry

Every good undertaking, whether it's a combat operation, writing a book, or describing a unique historical event, requires a solid foundation as a starting point.

We got that last month in Gen Manor's Part I presentation of the Son Tay raid in November 1970. Most of the raid's description found on the internet, including Wikipedia, describes the mission as a failure. And there have been books written by people with no personal knowledge of the actual raid but using personal observations of some of those who participated in the operation. Those books run the gamut in perspectives and quote some supposedly disgruntled members who participated in the raid. While everyone is entitled to their opinion, Gen Manor has some insights he'll share at the upcoming presentation that few people understand. He shared some of those with me in planning for this presentation and all I'll say is that his comments shed a completely different light on the raid, its purpose, and whether it was a success or failure. And if you haven't gotten past the phrase that "everything you read on the internet is true" then Gen Manor's remarks may be a rude awakening.

The raid had a military jointness to it long before we heard the phrase "purple suit", passage of the Goldwater-Nichols Act that many view as the initial push towards more cooperation between the services, or that jointness was the "in" thing. The chief planners were Air Force and Army. However, during the execution phase, the Navy had plenty of critical involvement and



Assault Team on HH-3 In Route to Son Tay

there was plenty of danger and risk to all the parties.

So with that as a little background and summary, I encourage you to come back and hear "the rest of the story." There are few people among us who can speak with personal insights like Gen Manor. And while you're at it, bring a potential member.

# From the President's Pen

By Scott Berry

Greetings!

Is the year almost half gone?  
Where has the time flown?  
We'll be soon starting the  
process to elect next year's  
officers and double-checking the  
preliminaries for the Military  
Ball in December.



Scott Berry

While the number of new members has decreased, we're stilling making positive headway in recruiting new members. Thank you to all of you who have had a hand in that. I received an unsolicited email from a prospective member several weeks ago. Once upon a time that was unheard of so the conclusion I draw is that word is getting out. That's all good because many chapters are not so lucky and have declining memberships. And certainly none of us are getting any older!

The last 30 days had several events of note that got our name in the public eye. As in the past we had a float in the Billy Bowlegs Parade. Although our float wasn't as elaborate as others, the crowd appeared to enjoy the candy we distributed. We also participated in the Memorial Day ceremony at Beal Cemetery to recognize our comrades in arms who have died before us and whose shoulders we have stood on to make our military the best in the world. Thank you to all who attended.

It's time for another Officers Call. If I have time to coordinate with a local watering hole there'll be an article in this Defender. Otherwise, we'll shoot for August. Many of our members don't have computers/email so it's important to use the Defender as the primary communication vehicle for this kind of event. Watch for it.

We're doing well on lining up quality speakers for the rest of the year. Timing on some of them is fluid and therefore there may be substitutions so I won't go public with the list just yet.

Berry "OUT"



Charter President Scott Berry presents  
MOAA Leadership Award to Cadet/  
LTJG Elise Samuelson of Baker HS

## PUBLIC RECORD

### New Members

George W. Hanks, CAPT, USAF  
Billy V. Wheat, CDR, USN (Ret)

### In Memoriam

Donald W. Burger, COL, USAF, 5/18/2017  
Guy B. Dunn, LT COL, USAF, 6/2/2017  
Charles R. Moore, LTC, USA , 6/3/2017

### New Auxiliary Members

Jo Berger, AUX  
Herta (Sonja) Moore, AUX

### EDITORIAL POLICY

The Defender is a monthly publication of the Northwest Florida Military Officers Association. The purpose of this publication is to communicate with, inform, and educate chapter members. The national MOAA, this local chapter, and this publication are totally nonpartisan.



# Surviving Spouse Corner: SSAC Storms the Hill

**By Patricia Bergquist, Surviving Spouse  
Advisory Committee (SSAC) member**

On April 5, Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee members joined over 165 participants — including members of MOAA's board of directors and staff, council and chapter leaders from almost every state, and members of the Currently Serving Advisory Committee, and Currently Serving Spouse Advisory Committee — for MOAA's annual Storming the Hill event in Washington, D.C. The storming teams provided congressional legislators detailed fact sheets on sequestration, the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) offset, and TRICARE.

The return of sequestration in FY 2018 will cut billions from the defense budget and impose increased risks to U.S. national security. Debt reduction is a national responsibility, and the budget should not be balanced by placing a disproportional burden servicemembers and their families. Sequestration puts our national defense at risk with reduced spending on readiness and modernization, hollows our uniformed forces, and affects morale. A bipartisan debt-reduction package is needed to avoid disproportionate penalties to DoD that impact servicemembers and military retirees and their families.

SBP is an insurance annuity to provide a military spouse up to 55 percent of the servicemember's retired pay upon death for any reason. For active duty post-9/11 deaths, the coverage automatically is provided to the spouse. Under current law, survivors of deceased active duty and retired servicemembers must forfeit DIC dollar-for-dollar from their SBP when military service causes the death and DIC is awarded by the VA, currently \$1,258 a month (\$15,095 a year). Those impacted by this inequity (64,100) lose all or part of their SBP. MOAA has been fighting for full repeal of the offset for 16 years.

In 2008, Congress approved a Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) to partially compensate for the SBP/DIC injustice with incremental increases over 10 years (October 2017) toward eliminating the offset. The SSIA was extended last year at \$310 a month (\$3,700 a year) and ends May 2018.

# Legislative Liaison

by Dave Parisot

In Florida, funding for School Districts comes primarily from property taxes. Have you ever wondered how the extensive properties of Eglin and Hurlburt AFBs, which do not pay property tax, affect our school district funding? A federal program to offset these losses of property taxes is called "Impact Aid". The below article from the MOAA website helps to explain this program, and highlights that President Trump has not included this item in his FY2018 budget proposal.

## **"MILITARY KIDS' EDUCATION AT RISK"**

June 9, 2017 (From MOAA website)

If you are active duty military and have school-aged children, chances are good you have filled out an Impact Aid Parent/Student Survey. It is a form asking about your family's connection to the federal government.

Federal land is non-taxable by local and state governments and thereby reduces local tax revenues to fund schools. Due to the lack of tax resources, school districts that serve federally connected children, including military children, submit an application requesting Impact Aid to offset the cost of textbooks, teachers, utilities, etc.

There are five categories of Impact Aid:

1. Basic Support Payments - based on the number of federally connected children
2. Payments for Federal Property - based on the loss of local property taxes (including military bases, Native American lands, and other property tax exempt federal land)
3. Disability Payments - based on the number of federally connected children with disabilities
4. School Construction Payments - based on the ability of the local school district to raise capital from its tax base for school construction
5. DoD Supplemental - additional aid provided by DoD (as opposed to the Department of Education) to schools with particularly high concentrations of military children.

Continued on page 5

By Chaplain Tom Azar, USAF Retired

## FORLORN FUNERALS ON THE FOURTH OF JULY

Protecting God's precious ones with words of endearment.  
 Massaging faith with groaning prayers watered from tears of loss.  
 Sharing the vulnerable till taps accompanies them into the dark

Will we ever hold grace's hand before looking into the eye of God?  
 I stretch to preach and pray far beyond the polished tombstones  
 packed like the jetty's endless dive on waves of refreshed green

Lord, your one soft touch on my soul's wrinkles are balm enough  
 to carry me to another ineffable fusion with a bleached full moon  
 My King and Heart love, come quickly as the new day sun sprays

Who can calm the broken hearts of grieving family and friends  
 The buried have given all and now are honored in patriotic love  
 Chaplain, proclaim God's peace to families and the unsure

By Dave Parisot

NWFMOA participated in the Billy Bowlegs LXVI Torchlight parade in Fort Walton Beach on the evening of June 5th. Our parade float was decorated with United States flags, the POW/MIA flag, and our Chapter banners. As we slowly drove down Eglin Parkway there were many call-outs from the crowd of "Thank you for your service" and much applause. Our 'float riders and candy throwers' as well as our safety walkers had a great time. My thanks to **Carol Baker, Fred Westfall, Dick Solt, Bob Cluskey, Ken Zepp, and Nick Marotta** for joining me in the parade (see photo).



**NWFMOA at the 2017 Billy Bowlegs LXII parade on June 5th: Fred Westfall, Bob Cluskey, Dick Solt, Dave Parisot, Nick Marotta, Carol Baker, and Ken Zepp.**

## Surviving Spouse (cont.)

Continued from page 3

MOAA Hill "stormers" ask legislators to cosponsor and support current legislation (H.R. 846 and S. 339) and engage House and Senate Armed Services, Appropriations, and Budget committee members, as their support will be needed for a solution to fully repeal the offset. If a full repeal cannot be funded, the SSIA should be extended.

Stormers also provided a document on TRICARE fee increase prevention to each congressional office. MOAA believes congressional actions should remain consistent with current philosophy and prevent disproportionate TRICARE fee increases.

Please contact your legislators on these issues using MOAA's toll-free line to the capitol switchboard, (800) 272-6622. Ask the operator to connect you with your legislator's office, then ask to speak with the legislative assistant or military legislative assistant, and request cosponsorship of H.R. 846 or S. 339.

- See more at: <http://www.moaa.org/Content/Chapters-and-Councils/Council-and-Chapter-eNewsletters/The-Affiliate/2017-Affiliate/June/Surviving-Spouse-Column--SSAC-Storms-the-Hill.aspx#sthash.qfT2RnzN.dpuf>

Independence Day is on July 4<sup>TH</sup>. Remember to fly your flags. If you are traveling, please be safe so you can join us at the July Chapter luncheon on July 6<sup>TH</sup> to hear Part 2 of General Manor's presentation on the Sontay Raid in Vietnam.

## Now and Always We'll be There.



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## Legislative Liaison (cont.)

Continued from page 3

President Trump's budget proposal has recently proposed elimination of funding for payments for federal property (the Obama Administration did, as well). This would mean an elimination of \$68 million to assist 200 school districts in 29 states. Such a loss of funding would affect not just federally connected children, but every child in those school districts.

Fully funding education is already a struggle for many states. Reducing Impact Aid could cause irreparable harm to students already fighting to meet state and national standards. Impact Aid does not fully cover the cost of educating each federally connected child, but it does represent a critical supplement for districts with federally connected revenue challenges.

Luckily, last year Congress fully funded the payments for federal property, and MOAA has signed onto a letter penned by the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) requesting Congress replace them again. School districts that would lose a significant source of funding include those around national parks, laboratories, Army Corps of Engineers projects, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, and the U.S. Air Force Academy. We do not believe these districts should be disadvantaged because of a large federal presence.

If you would like to let Congress know how you feel about Impact Aid, we have made it easy for you. Send your legislator a MOAA suggested message."

Contact MOAA on this issue and to send a message to Rep. Gaetz, and Senators Nelson and Rubio, go to [www.MOAA.org/kidseducation](http://www.MOAA.org/kidseducation).

### ***SUPPORT MOAA***

Do what you can to support our national organization. To learn what's going on and to find out what you can do go to: <http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/> We all will benefit from your efforts.

## TRICARE Changes Coming Soon

The 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) brought sweeping health care reforms, many of which will take effect in just a few months. MOAA is working closely with TRICARE program officials to learn what new processes and responsibilities these changes will bring for TRICARE beneficiaries and when they will occur.

The new TRICARE Select option, which replaces TRICARE Standard and Extra, begins Jan. 1, 2018 -- just 6 short months from now. TRICARE Select is the self-managed preferred provider organization (PPO) option. It provides freedom of choice of providers, with reduced/fixed fee beneficiary out-of-pocket costs for care in the network. TRICARE Prime, TRICARE Reserve Select, TRICARE Retired Reserve, and TRICARE Young Adult and TRICARE for Life will remain as is.

Under the new model, beneficiaries must make an active, annual choice of health plan for themselves and/or their family. Because 2018 is the first year of the plan, there will be a grace period, and beneficiaries will be automatically renewed in their existing TRICARE option as of Dec. 31, 2017. This means beneficiaries currently in TRICARE Standard or Extra will be converted automatically into TRICARE Select.

Active duty family members newly entitled to TRICARE will be automatically enrolled in TRICARE Prime if they live in a Prime Service Area (generally around a military treatment facility). If not, they will be enrolled in TRICARE Select.

Two populations may be at risk of losing coverage:

1. Active duty members who retire and do not elect to enroll in an option. MOAA is advocating for a seamless enrollment default option for this population, as well as increased transition education services.
2. Retiree beneficiaries who fail to pay their enrollment fees. Officials have stated that eligible beneficiaries will never lose their benefit, as they will always be eligible for care at military hospitals. However, this would most likely be on a space-available basis.

Continued on page 6



# Scholarship Fund

By Dave Parisot, Chairman

This is the “slow season” for Scholarship Fund activities following a very busy May with our scholarship presentations at our Chapter luncheon and at each of the high school’s JROTC Awards programs and the Senior Class Awards programs. However, we are still a few members short on our goal of having at least 35 active contributors in our Century Club program. Will you help fund our scholarships to JROTC cadets? The donation form is in each issue of the Defender

Our 50/50 raffle at the June luncheon had \$190 in ticket sales and was won by Larry Bush who graciously donated his winnings of \$95 to the Scholarship Fund. Thanks, Larry, and to all who bought tickets for this scholarship fundraiser. We had no new Century Club memberships in May.

Here’s the complete list of Gold Century Club members (\$500 cumulative minimum donation since 2015) and BG Frank Glunn Century Club members (\$100 minimum donation) for the most previous 12 months of 2016/2017 along with our Business Donors. Your support is greatly appreciated. :

**Gold Century Club:** **Bill Ryan** (Feb 2016); **Ruth Cullen** (Oct 2016); **Dave Parisot** (Feb 2017); **Janet Taylor** (Mar 2017); **Chris Beam** (Mar 2017).

**BG Frank Glunn Century Club:** May 2016: **Kristine Sams**. June 2016: **Fred Boyer** (Renewal); **Eileen Arpke** (Renewal); **Larry Bush** (Renewal); July 2016: **Beryl Brenner** (Renewal); August 2016: **Tom Churan** (Renewal); October 2016: **Ruth Cullen** (in memory of William Cullen) (Renewal); **John Feldman** (Renewal); November 2016: **Pete Peterzen**; **Jean Dutton**; **Howard Fisher** (Renewal); December 2016: **Karl Eschmann** (in memory of Col. Bud Day) (Renewal); **Frederick Rall** (Renewal); **Chris Beam** (Renewal); January 2017: **Clyde Locke** (Renewal); **Mel Bryant** (Renewal); **Dick Prater** (Renewal); February 2017: **Carol Baker** (in memory of David Baker) (Renewal); **Larry Bush** (Renewal); **Al Bills**; **Dave Parisot** (in memory of Chong Parisot) (Renewal); **Charlie Brown** (Renewal); March 2017: **Fred Westfall** (Renewal); **Rod Gerdes**; **Nick Marotta**;

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# TRICARE Changes (cont.)

Continued from page 5

## Enrollment Details

- Year 1 (2018): Auto renewal (Jan. 1, 2018) and grace period: Can change TRICARE Prime or Select at any time in 2018
- Year 2 (2019) and beyond: Can elect TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select coverage (enroll, disenroll, or change) only during annual open season (1 Nov - 20 Dec) or if the beneficiary has a qualifying life event:
  - o Marriage, divorce, or annulment
  - o Birth or adoption of a child
  - o Placement of a child by a court in a member's home
  - o Change in sponsor status
  - o Loss of eligibility (due to age, Medicare, etc.)
  - o Move to a new ZIP code
  - o Loss/gain of other health insurance
  - o Death of a sponsor, spouse, or child
  - o Change in eligibility status of any single family member in another family ( e.g. joint service member)

All qualifying life events require a Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) update. If beneficiaries request a change in coverage, it must occur within 90 days of the life event.

Beneficiary cost shares will be based on the sponsor's “date initially entered into service” (DIEMS). Per the 2017 NDAA, those who have entered into service prior to Jan. 1, 2018, are grandfathered into existing cost shares - unless the 2018 NDAA incorporates provisions from the administration's budget proposal to repeal grandfathering.

As many of these changes show, beneficiaries will be expected to take more responsibility for their health care. MOAA will continue to work closely with DoD to ensure program changes will be beneficiary-centered and clearly communicated to all stakeholders.

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## Scholarship Fund (cont.)

Continued from page 6

**Janet Taylor** (In honor of Bill Ryan); April 2017: **Eileen Arpke** (Renewal); **Don Litke** (in memory of Kay Litke); **Bob Gramm**; **Bill Colgan** (Renewal); **Scott Berry**.

**2016/2017 Business Platinum Donor** (\$750 minimum donation): December 2016: **Wyndham Vacation Resorts** (In-kind).

**2017 Business Gold Donor** (\$500 - \$749): January 2017: **Merrill Lynch (Beam, McLaughlin & Associates)**

**2016/2017 Business Silver Donors** (\$250 - \$499):  
November 2016: **Eglin Federal Credit Union**; December 2016: **Shalimar Pointe Golf Club** (In-kind); **Indian Bayou Golf & Country Club** (In-kind).

**2016/2017 Business Bronze Donors** (\$100 - \$249):  
November 2016: **Gator Lakes Golf Course**; December 2016: **Tammy's Journeys** (In-kind); **Rocky Bayou Golf Course** (In-kind); **Dr. Wayne Pullen** (In-kind).

Please support our local businesses that have contributed to our scholarship program.

**NWFMOA Scholarship Fund, Inc.:** "Helping to build future military officers and leaders."

## TRICARE Changes (cont.)

Continued from page 6

What is the most important thing you can do right now? Make sure your DEERS information is updated for both you and your family.

There will be much more to come over the next few months.

## SCHOLARSHIP DONATION FORM

Please accept this gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support the NWFMOA Scholarship Fund (Donations of \$100 or more will be recognized in the B/Gen Frank Glunn Century Club).

Donor Information (if not printed on check):

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

Gift is tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

☐ This gift is a memorial in honor of:\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please inform the following of this gift:

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City, ST ZIP\_\_\_\_\_

Make payable to: **NWFMOA Scholarship Fund**, and mail to: David Parisot, President; 56th 11th St, Shalimar, FL 32579

NWFMOA Scholarship Fund, Inc is a 501c(3) corporation. Donations are tax exempt as provided by law. Registration # CH20374. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the FL Dept of Agriculture & Consumer Services by calling toll free (800) 435-7352 within the State of Florida or via their website of [www.800helpfla.com](http://www.800helpfla.com). Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State.



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***Don't know who to ask?  
Email: [info@nwfmoe.org](mailto:info@nwfmoe.org)  
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<input type="checkbox"/> Life Member <input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> Auxiliary <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____								

Make checks payable to NWFMOA or to Northwest Florida Military Officers Assn., Inc. Check here if you do not want your ☐ name, ☐ phone number or ☐ 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 is automatically an auxiliary life member.

## Membership Application/Renewal

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receive membership through  
December 31 next year for \$25.00.**

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91-95	75.00	61-65	295.00
86-90	110.00	56-60	335.00
81-85	150.00	51-55	360.00
76-80	195.00	-50	395.00

### Auxiliary Members

Pay half of the above rates

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