



# THE DEFENDER

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

Vol. 20 No. 6

Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services

JUNE 2014

## Breakfast Meeting & Discussion

**When:** Wed., 4 June 2014

**Time:** Open: 0700; Bkfst: 0715;  
Meeting: 0800-0900

**Place:** The Meridian at Westwood,  
1001 Mar Walt Dr, FWB

**Program:** LTC Michael Patrick

Please:

### • MAKE A RESERVATION

- Wear a name tag
- Bring proper change.  
\$7.00 for everyone

Reservation deadline is Friday at noon prior to the meeting. Call Bill Van Hoesen at 225-2957 or send an email to: bvanhoesen@cox.net if you are attending.

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## Lieutenant Colonel Mike Patrick

Lieutenant Colonel Michael A. Patrick currently serves as the Commander of the 73d Ordnance Battalion. This command trains and produces EOD Technicians at Eglin AFB, FL, Radar Systems Repairers at Fort Sill, OK and Signal / Communications Systems Repairers at Fort Gordon, GA.

Lieutenant Colonel Patrick was born on 11 August 1974 in Petersburg, Virginia. He received his commission as a Second Lieutenant in May 1996 from Norfolk State University in Norfolk, VA and holds a Bachelors of Science degree in Interdisciplinary Studies. Additionally, LTC Patrick holds a Masters in Administration from Central Michigan University and a Masters in Theological Studies from Liberty University and Seminary.

LTC Patrick's military education includes the Ordnance Officer Basic Course, Combined Logistics Captains' Career Course, Combined Arms

Services Staff School and the US Army Command and General Staff College.

LTC Patrick's previous assignments include Platoon Leader, Shop Officer and Engineer Support Platoon Leader, 4th Forward Support Battalion and Company XO, 704th Main Support Battalion, 4th Infantry Division (TFXXI), Ft Hood, TX, Company

Commander, 84th Ordnance Company (DS/GS), 6th Ordnance Battalion, Camp Carroll, Korea, Ordnance Basic and Advanced Course Instructor, APG, MD, Aide to the Commanding General, US Army Security Assistance Command (Foreign Military Sales), Ft Belvoir, VA,

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Lieutenant Colonel Michael A. Patrick

## OFFICERS CALL

TUESDAY, JUNE 10 • 4 :30-6:00

CHEERS

1270 Eglin Pkwy., Shalimar

Come out and enjoy the camaraderie!

# President's Message

By Jeff Watson, Colonel, USAF (Ret.)

Good day to you! Isn't it great being in such a verdant part of the world? Growing up, I learned the saying "April showers bring May flowers" but this month it should be "April floods bring us wet duds." I hope all of you got through the record-breaking rains, lightning and flooding on the last day of April.



Jeff Watson

This past weekend threatened to be a repeat weather event but we were spared with just overcast skies. I went to a Blue Wahoos game Friday night and they beat the Chattanooga Lookouts 4-2. It is so much fun to watch minor league baseball at the Pensacola Bayfront Ball Park. Have you been? If you are interested in a local NWFMOA outing, why don't we get a group together to enjoy our local panhandle professional team? You may remember from last month's article that the Pensacola Blue Wahoos are affiliated with the Cincinnati Reds. We had wonderful, breezy weather even though the forecast was for thunderstorms and rain showers. Let's do a road trip this summer; it's only an hour away.

As for May, please remember that Memorial Day is on Monday, May 26th, this year. Please make plans to join me at the Beal Memorial Cemetery to recognize and honor those service members that gave their lives for our country or have passed away since the last memorial service. If you can't make it to Fort Walton Beach, check with your local community to see how Memorial Day will be honored.

On another topic, we have been talking about the Florida Council of Chapters MOAA Convention for sometime and it is now around the corner! We will meet on 6-8 June 2014 in St. Petersburg, FL. The convention is open for every

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## PUBLIC RECORD

IN MEMORIAM: Mrs Fay Dunmyer, AUX,  
4/21/2014.

NEW MEMBERS: COL Michael C. Appe, USA  
(Ret); Lt Col Kevin Sutton, USAF.

## Cutoff For July Defender



## Member Spotlight



Jim Hardy

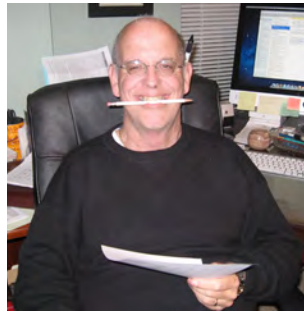


# Secretary's Scrawl

By Scott Berry

Greetings!

Has everyone dried out? We were fortunate as we live on the upside of a downhill sloping street that connects to a much lower point in our subdivision so all we did was watch the rain run past us but I'm sure some of our readers weren't so lucky. The thunder and lightning did prompt a bout of insomnia for Janet and I so we witnessed the worst of it with a cup of coffee from the relatively dry interior of our Florida room. Reading lamps not required during the peak of the storm!



**Scott Berry**

Our deluge reminded me to review the renewal package for our home owner's policy I recently received. Our policy is with a company frequently used by military families. I was surprised to see an additional coverage for "Building Ordnance or Law Coverage Options" for almost \$700! It was nothing I asked for but was just tacked on. Based on my personal assessment we decided to decline it and it got me looking closer at the coverage I have—for homeowner's as well as other policies—to see if there are coverages or deductible amounts I consider unnecessary or too costly given the risk. It is for this reason, again a personal preference, that I elect to continue getting hard copies of policies. It's way too easy for me to ignore an



email which states "your new policy is available on-line." Years ago, I saved some money by reviewing the differences between "stacked" and "non-stacked" coverage on my auto policy. Guess which one is the more expensive and the default coverage unless you take action to change it?

With my Annual Military Ball chairman hat on, I can tell you we've booked "Retroactive" for this year. They've provided the music for the past several years. In the next month or so, the committee will start meeting to methodically work out the details for our big event. We changed the location in response to input from many of

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# Auxiliary Corner: Storming the Hill

By Patricia Bergquist, chair,  
Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee

Cherry blossoms and sunshine greeted nearly 170 participants who took part in the 2014 Storming the Hill event. The teams delivered the message to sustain the pay and benefits of our troops, reject TRICARE changes, and eliminate sequestration cuts.

For the second year, the proposed 1-percent pay cap failed to keep military pay comparable to the civilian workforce, as indicated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Employment Cost Index. The past three military raises averaged less than 1.4 percent, and the pay raise in 2014 was the lowest in 50 years. The continued pay gaps between military and civilian pay ultimately affect retention and readiness.

The FY 2015 budget proposes consolidation of all TRICARE health care options into one option, with fee hikes affecting all military and retirees' families. These hikes would increase annual fees, impose means-testing, and increase pharmacy copayments. The FY 2012 and 2013 National Defense Authorization Acts increased fees, including pharmacy copayments, and required future increases to be tied to the military COLA. DoD documents support that military personnel and their health care costs are not the problem. In fact, the problem lies in the inefficiency and mismanagement within DoD. Any changes to TRICARE-fee law would represent a breach of faith with those who already have paid extraordinary premiums in sacrifice and service through their 20-plus-year military careers.

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## President's Message (cont.)

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MOAA member so if you are interested, please join us. The first week of June will be busy for us as we host our monthly breakfast on Wednesday and drive down to St. Petersburg on Friday. We have a rich environment of speakers and First Vice President Lt Col (ret.) Paul Singleton knows how to find them! As you know from the cover article, we will hear from an ordnance expert. LTC Michael Patrick is the 73rd Ordnance Battalion commander, and we welcome him to our chapter in June. Did you notice the span of his battalion? He is not only responsible for training explosive ordnance disposal technicians for the U.S. Army but he is also responsible for radar specialists at Fort Sill, OK, and Signal and Communications repairers at Fort Gordon, GA. He has done a lot and seen a lot, so come with questions to our next meeting at The Meridien at Westwood.

If you were not able to attend our last meeting, you missed a stellar presentation by our own Lt Col (ret.) Bob Allen. Not only was his talk about the Shriners interesting, informative and inspiring, but his military biography is equally impressive! He flew C-119s in Vietnam among other places and no doubt has more stories he could tell on that subject alone. Bob

and Paul have known each other a long time. As for the subject of his talk, I learned that if you know of a child that has either burns or orthopedic challenges, the Shriners' mission is to help. If you know of a child between birth and eighteen

years of age, the Shriners will help the child for free! Not only will the Shriners help the child, but they will also cover transportation and a place for the family to stay while the child is being treated in one of the 22 hospitals in America. All you have to do is put the child's family in



**Bob Allen speaks to meeting attendees about the accomplishments and mission of Shriners Hospitals.**

touch with ANY Shriner and the Shriner will help them complete an application for treatment. Bob Allen told us that the annual budget for this is about \$600 million. I say, "Money well spent."

On the topic of our next Officers Call, I am targeting Cheers since we have not been to Shalimar. We can meet there from 4:30-6:00 p.m. and have some cheer! Let's meet on Tuesday, 10 June. We can discuss the trip to St. Petersburg, local and national issues of common interest and whatever else is on your mind. The important thing is to get together for fellowship. Picking a different place to meet helps accommodate everyone so I hope you can make it.

Our chapter secretary, Area Vice-President and Military Ball chairman, Col (ret.) Scott Berry updated us on the progress for the 2014 gala event. It will be held at the Fort Walton Beach Yacht Club this year and we already have our musicians lined up! So now is the time to take refresher dance lessons and think about which one of your contacts would like to be a sponsor for the Ball. Remember, it is only as good as you make it. Each of us can improve our big event by participating. The purpose of the Ball is to give back to our military community through education. We

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## LTC Patrick (cont.)

Continued from page 1

Brigade Log Advisor and S4, Brigade Border Transition Team, Iraq/Syria Border, Joint Training and Doctrine Officer, USFK J4, Yongsan, Korea, Battalion XO, 8th Transportation Battalion and Brigade S3, 8th Transportation Brigade, Ft Eustis, VA.

LTC Patrick most recently served as the Presidential Logistics Program Manager for the White House Military Office. In this capacity, he provided direct logistics support to the President of the United States.

LTC Patrick's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (2OLC) Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, US Army Parachutist Badge and Presidential Service Badge.

LTC Patrick is married to the former Carla Campbell of Millsboro, Delaware and together, they have four children.

## How Can I Tell If a Charity Is for Real

It seems that with increasing frequency we're being asked to donate to "charitable" causes. While most of us probably enjoy helping a worthy cause, unfortunately, there are people who want to exploit our goodwill and, more specifically, our money.

The easiest way is to check its name and reputation at the Wise Giving Alliance, [www.bbb.org/us/charity](http://www.bbb.org/us/charity), operated by the Better Business Bureau or at Charity Navigator [www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org) and GuideStar [www2.guidestar.org](http://www2.guidestar.org).

Unless you previously donated to a particular organization and provided the organization with your e-mail address, assume that any e-mail seeking a donation is bogus. Don't click on links promising to guide you to its website, photos or other "evidence" of need for your money—these links are a common way for hackers to infect your computer with a virus. To see a charity's website, type its address yourself.

If you want to donate to a charity that phones you, always request that it first send you printed materials. Then authenticate the address and phone number through directory assistance or an Internet search. Mailed material is no guarantee of legitimacy, but organizations that won't provide it may well be a fake.

Never give a credit card or bank account number by phone unless you initiate the call.

Beware of sound-alike names. Many bogus charities mimic legitimate organizations.

Old-fashioned mailings are least likely to be scams, in view of the cost of postage. Be suspicious of mail from groups to which you haven't previously donated. The sender may have purchased a mailing list with your name and address, but so can scammers. If a mailing seems genuine, authenticate the organization at the websites noted above before donating.

In general, good charities spend less than 35 percent of donations on fundraising and administrative costs. (Source: AARP.org)

## Florida Veterans' Benefits Guide

To access information on earned services, benefits, and support online go to [www.FloridaVets.org](http://www.FloridaVets.org) then click on Benefits Guide-Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs. Then you'll be able to request a copy of the booklet or view it online. It covers tax exemptions, medical facilities, and numerous other topics. The publication was sponsored by the Florida Veterans Foundation for retired and former service members of all ages.

Gayle D. Norgaard, LTC USAF Ret

## Secretary's Scrawl (cont.)

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you. As the number of attendees has steadily dwindled over the past several years, I'm hopeful that a location change and some other improvements will produce a larger turnout. More details to follow. I'm aware it's difficult to get excited about a Christmas ball in the beautiful month of May!

Berry "OUT"



Remember It's Father's Day!

June Fifteenth



## Tell Your Senators or Congressman What You Think

Listed below are the local mailing addresses and phone numbers for our DC legislative representatives. There's no guarantee you'll get the results you ask for, but it is a guarantee if you never bother to ask.

Senator Bill Nelson (D)  
U.S. Courthouse Annex  
111 N. Adams St  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
850-942-8415

Senator Marco Rubio (R)  
1 N. Palafox St, Suite 159  
Pensacola, FL 32502  
850-433-2603

Representative Jeff Miller (R)  
348 S.W. Miracle Strip Parkway, Suite 24  
Ft Walton Beach, FL 32548  
850-664-1266

To send emails, go to the individual's website and find the "Contact" or "Email" icon.

## President's Message (cont.)

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give scholarships for demonstrated leadership or leadership potential to cadets from each of our five county high schools. We fund the scholarship program through fund-raisers and this is our biggest event of the year.

I again participated in the Fort Walton Beach High School Junior ROTC Awards Night program. It was my honor to recognize the senior and junior that our scholarship committee deemed leaders. The night was electric as the cadets were fully engaged from the beginning of the program until the end. I am certainly proud of our high school cadets and know they are being prepared well for life's journey after high school, wherever their paths take them.

I hope to see you at the Memorial Day event next so until we meet again, we are ADJOURNED!

Jeff Watson

## Auxiliary Corner: Storming the Hill (cont.)

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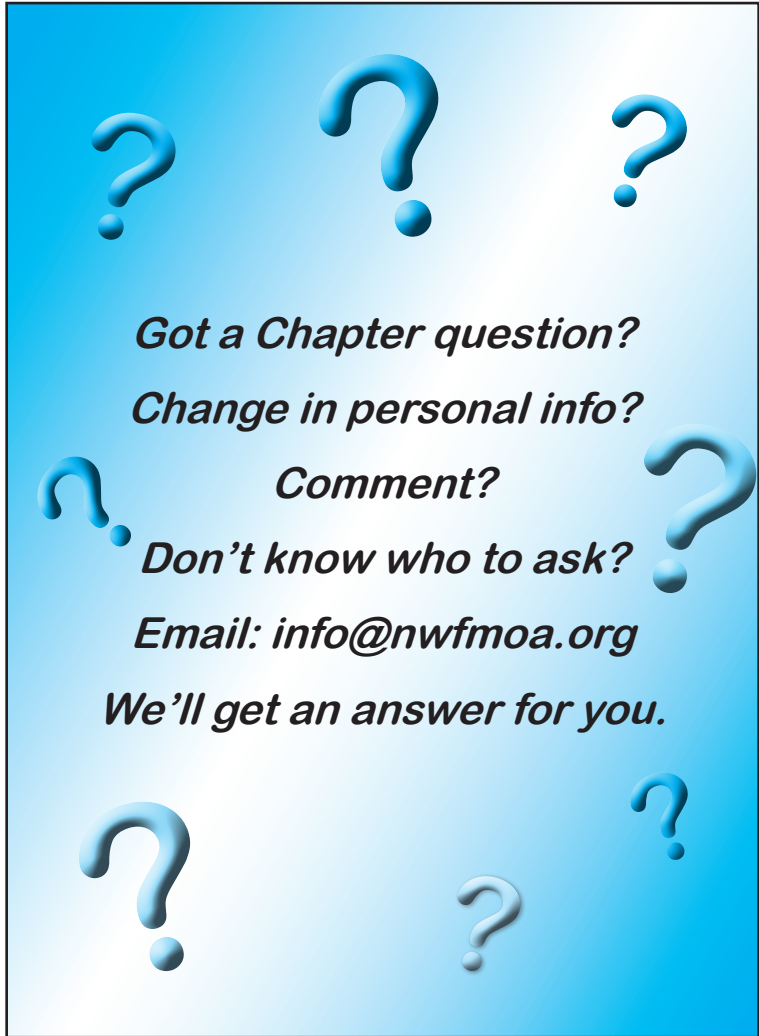
The proposed budget would slash commissary savings in the U.S. by 66 percent. For a family of four, this represents a loss of about \$3,000 in annual commissary savings. Additionally, a currently serving family would be required to pay 5 percent out of pocket for housing, an average cost of more than \$1,200 a year.

The proposed changes to military pay, basic allowance for housing, reduction in commissary savings, and the TRICARE fee changes would impact the annual purchasing power of an E-5 family of four by nearly \$5,000, and an O-3 family of four would lose about \$6,000 in purchasing power. MOAA strongly discourages changes to military pay and benefits prior to the report of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission in February 2015.

Hill-stormers left congressional leadership and staff with fact sheets on concurrent receipt for disabled military retirees (S. 234 and H.R. 333), the Survivor Benefit Plan/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset (S. 734 and H.R. 32), and the Guard/Reserve retirement issue (S. 240 and H.R. 690).

We were encouraged by responses from most legislators, but we encourage you to contact your legislators on these issues, too. To call your legislators' offices toll-free, use MOAA's direct line to the congressional switchboard: (866) 272-6622. Then, ask the operator to connect you with your legislator's office, and ask to speak with the legislator's legislative assistant or military legislative assistant.





***Got a Chapter question?  
Change in personal info?  
Comment?  
Don't know who to ask?***

***Email: [info@nwfmoa.org](mailto:info@nwfmoa.org)  
We'll get an answer for you.***

## DONATION FORM

Please accept this gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support the  
NWFMOA Scholarship Fund.\*

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Gift is tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

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☐ Please inform the following of this gift:

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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P.O. Box 310, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-0310

\*TAX EXEMPT UNDER IRS CODE SECTION 501(c)(3).  
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**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 automatically becomes an auxiliary life member.**

### Membership Application/Renewal

**New Members joining in 2014**  
**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\*\***

Age	Dues	Age	Dues
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	150.00	51-55	360.00
76 - 80	195.00	-50	395.00

### Auxiliary Members

Pay one half of the above rates