



# THE DEFENDER

A monthly publication of the Northwest Florida Military Officers Association  
[www.nwfmoo.org](http://www.nwfmoo.org)

Vol. 21 No. 11 Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services NOVEMBER 2015

## Lunch Meeting & Discussion

**When:** Thur, 5 November 2015

**Time:** Social 1130; Lunch Noon  
 Program following lunch

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

**Program:** Maj. Gen Second

Please:

### • MAKE A RESERVATION

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

Reservation deadline is Friday, Oct 30<sup>th</sup>. Register at [www.nwfmoo.org](http://www.nwfmoo.org), call Bill Van Hoesen at 225-2957, or send an email to [bvanhoesen@cox.net](mailto:bvanhoesen@cox.net) if you are attending.

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## 5 November Lunch Meeting at FWB Yacht Club

By Tom Godbold

### Maj Gen (ret) Richard V. Second

At our November MOAA luncheon, we will welcome retired General Richard Second as our speaker. This will be the second meeting at the Fort Walton Beach Yacht Club, following last month's excellent turnout for the new luncheon venue. In addition to telling us about activities at the Yacht Club, where he serves as Commodore, Gen Second will discuss current trends in Middle East affairs. These will include his take on our current involvement in the region, based on his extensive background with military sales and assistance over the years.

Gen Second's background includes assignment to the first US aviation detachment sent to the Vietnam War in 1961, the first of a notable series of covert operations, some involving the CIA. He has extensive experience in Special Operations, and was at one time managing all US military assistance to Iran. He continued his involvement in covert operations after retirement from the Air Force with several business



Maj Gen (ret) Richard V. Second.

ventures, some of which involved the Iran-Contra operations. Besides acting as Commodore for the Fort Walton Beach Yacht Club, Gen Second has recently served as the President of the Air Commando Association.

Please join us as we welcome Gen Second to our November monthly meeting. Make your reservations early, as we expect a "sell-out" crowd.



Please make a reservation indicating your plan to attend.  
 Register at [www.nwfmoo.org](http://www.nwfmoo.org) or call Bill Van Hoesen at 225-2957 or send an email to [bvanhoesen@cox.net](mailto:bvanhoesen@cox.net).  
 We need a good count. Thanks.

# From the President's Pen

By Scott Berry

Greetings!

I write this on the heels of another successful monthly meeting where we had the second highest attendance that I can remember. Thank you to all of those who attended although I have concerns about the 15 of you who showed up without making a reservation. We really need to do a better job at that so we don't have to rudely turn people away.



**Scott Berry**

As of this writing we have almost a full slate for next year's officers. I believe we still have vacancies for several of the director positions. I encourage you to consider that and let Jeff Watson or I know if that scratches your itch. It's not a lot of work but rewarding.

VADM Ryan, MOAA's president and CEO, will be retiring at the end of the year. The fruits of his hard work are probably not evident to all but he's done a great job in keeping MOAA involved in legislative issues and made MOAA the "go to" organization when congressional staffers have questions. Why? Because they know they'll get an objective and well-researched answer. I frankly get tired of hearing the emotional and sometimes hateful outbursts from every perspective when military-related issues are discussed.

This leads me to a topic that has been gnawing at me for some time. It's basically summarized by "two wrongs don't make a right." It's also disturbing to see so much myopic emotion in the media on important subjects that

affect the military. And I'm not talking about just the news channels. I see it via social media and the frequent emails that are circulated. Perhaps I'm naive but I firmly believe that our best means of educating others is by logical and well-reasoned comments. The "Ready, Fire, Aim" approach offends me even by those people who share the same opinions as I do. It just seems so counter-productive and is clearly not taking the high moral ground.

We can also make changes by letting our voices be heard in DC. MOAA has put a lot of emphasis on providing the tools for us to do this and in some ways has done everything for us except hitting the SEND key. They have pre-formatted letters for delivery to our congressional reps if you're so inclined to let MOAA do your composition for you. It's important to remember that recent history has shown emails have a greater impact than snail mail although any means of communicating is better than nothing.

Our annual military ball that raises money for the scholarship fund is rapidly approaching. I've always enjoyed myself at this event and ask you to consider doing the same. Canvas businesses you regularly patronize to ask if they'll made a donation for a raffle prize. Hard cash is always accepted and Dave Parisot will appreciate your work either way. The reservation form is elsewhere in this newsletter and available for printing on our web site, [nwfmoa.org](http://nwfmoa.org).

Berry "OUT"

## PUBLIC RECORD

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# Hear Yea Hear Yea.

## Commissary Catch-22

By: Jamie Naughton

The end of the year is rapidly approaching; there are less than 60 days left when you read this. For most of us that means that it is time to renew our Chapter membership. (those of you that have Life or 3 year memberships not expiring can skip the rest of this. Look at the mailing label on your Defender and it will give you the expiration date of your membership.) I know that you do not want to end your association with our great MOAA Chapter.

There are many excellent events during the year where we gather to enjoy each other's company and to hear entertaining and educational speakers. Every monthly meeting features an outstanding speaker. I would not think that you would want to miss these any of these. Where else can you meet "The Geek" and get to ask him questions in person. Or hear a great speech from General Horner. Where else can you gather with your fellow officers for the periodic **Officers Call** at Shalimar Cheers.

**Membership Renewal** 1 yr—\$25.00, 2 yr—\$48.00,  
3 yr—\$65.00

Get your membership renewed now and [avoid the year end rush](#).  
Mail to NWFMOA, PO Box 310, Ft Walton Beach, FL 32549-0310

In budget cutting exercises, commissaries are often easy pickings for the chopping block. Critics say the \$1.4 billion Congress spends on groceries for military families could be better spent on other purposes.

The almost 12 million patrons authorized to use the commissary tell a different story. Being able to buy groceries at cost, with a five percent surcharge, can save military families big bucks. DeCA, the Defense Commissary Agency, estimates that a military family of four can save almost \$3,000 a year.

This year's defense bill calls for DoD to figure out how to make the commissary system cost neutral. The report, due in March, will look at how DoD can privatize commissaries while keeping the same level of customer savings and satisfaction. It will also look at strategically closing commissaries in markets with competing shopping options, and the willingness of commercial grocers to provide eligible commissary patrons discounts.

If cutting funding without increasing costs for consumers seem like conflicting ideas, it's because they are. It's unlikely that commissaries will be able to take the budget cut without passing the buck to shoppers. "The language of the report establishes standards that are impossible to meet," said Karen Golden, Deputy Director at MOAA.

Commissary patrons are particularly sensitive to price fluctuations. For many commissary shoppers, particularly junior enlisted members without access to off base shopping, they are literally a captive audience.

According to RAND, a consultancy, "the elimination of the appropriation, while reducing the DoD budget, comes at a cost borne primarily by those currently and formerly in the armed forces." RAND's findings go on to note that increasing commissary pricing may have negative effects on retention and recruitment, cuts to Morale, Well-Being, and Recreation programs, and possible changes in the calculated cost of living adjustment.

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at Save Our Cats and Kittens, Inc

**We are a non-profit 501(c)3 no kill cat and kitten shelter that needs VOLUNTEERS!**

Do you have a few hours a week to spare?  
Do you have any of these skills, or others to offer?

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- Public Relations
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Do you want to help out with our Shelter or Thrift Store?



Please contact us:  
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To learn more about us, go to  
[www.saveourcatsandkittens.com](http://www.saveourcatsandkittens.com)





# Surviving Spouse Corner: Agent Orange

By Sharon DeVaney, vice chair,  
Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee

After my husband died unexpectedly from a heart attack and the shock wore off, I began to learn about Agent Orange and the part it might have played in my husband's death. Like many veterans his age, he served in Vietnam, and I thought he might have been exposed to Agent Orange. He was a forward air controller and flew small planes over combat areas from 1967-68. After he returned from Vietnam, he was assigned to Strategic Air Command as a B-52 pilot. During 1970-71, his temporary duty assignments took him from Minot AFB, N.D., to Thailand, where he flew bombing runs over the war zone.

We had a speaker from the VA at one of our monthly MOAA luncheons. He talked about Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). He wasn't specific about who was eligible, but it seemed my husband's death might qualify me for DIC. I already had met with personnel at the VA soon after my husband's death so I would understand my benefits. I was disappointed with the reception and the information I received. I was reluctant

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## Ouch!

By Scott Berry

While I'm excited to see how the attendance at our monthly meetings has gradually increased this year and last month was a great showing, the unexpected attendees who don't make a reservation are killing us. Last month the Yacht Club scrambled to set up an additional table and fortunately there was enough food although that could change in the future.

Yes, I recognize there are valid circumstances which prevent a timely RSVP but the opposite is true as well. We've gotten to a point where we might turn people away and hurt some feelings if the situation doesn't improve. I've beat this drum many times and truly don't want to get brutally blunt.

Please help me. Make a reservation in a timely manner if you plan on attending.

## HAVE A BALL

**Ticket Order Form for the  
NWFMOA Annual Military Ball  
to benefit the Scholarship Fund**

**WHEN:** 3 December 2015

**WHERE:** Fort Walton Beach Yacht Club

**DRESS:** Mess Dress, Gown or cocktail dress, formal or business suit.

**SOCIAL HOUR:** 1800; Pay-as-you-go bars will be open.

**DINNER:** 1900; **DANCING:** 2000 until 2200 with "Retroactive."

Dinner will include:

**First Course:** House Salad with Raspberry Vinaigrette

**Choice of Entrée:**

(1) 8 oz Beef Filet

(2) Chicken Cordon Bleu with Hollandaise Sauce

**Sides:** Green Beans Almondine and Twice Baked Potatoes

**Dessert:** French Silk Pie

Dinners served with rolls, butter, iced tea, and coffee

**Ticket Purchaser's name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CHOICE OF ENTRÉE:** \_\_\_\_\_

Number of tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ times \$45.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ with check enclosed.

(Price includes Meal & Gratuity)

**Spouse/Guest's name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CHOICE OF ENTRÉE** \_\_\_\_\_

When paying with cash, please provide full mailing address.

When ordering by mail include a **stamped self-addressed envelope**,  
a check payable to NWFMOA, and this form to:

**NWFMOA, PO Box 310, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-0310.**

Allow sufficient time to get your tickets returned by mail.

Ticket Order Form must be **RECEIVED** by **November 25, 2015.**

Table reservations may be made for groups of eight by contacting

**Scott Berry at (850) 582-0839 or email: [swberry@cox.net](mailto:swberry@cox.net).**

List names of people at your table. If you are to be seated at someone's  
reserved table please coordinate with the reservation holder.

+++++

You are encouraged to make a charitable contribution to the  
Scholarship Fund by supplying an additional check made payable to:  
NWFMOA Scholarship Fund.

*All proceeds from raffle ticket sales go to providing scholarships for  
JROTC cadets.*

**Raffle tickets & Silent Auction are CASH or CHECKS only, please.**

Continued from page 4

to return to the VA to learn more about DIC. Then I met someone who was actively encouraging widows and widowers to attempt to find out about the benefits their spouses had earned through their service.

I used the Internet to learn more about [Agent Orange](#) and found a list of presumptive diseases on the VA website.

I realized the cause of death on my husband's death certificate was on the VA's list of presumptive conditions, which includes ischemic heart disease, hairy cell and other B-cell leukemia, Parkinson's disease, prostate cancer, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, Hodgkin's disease, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, or multiple myeloma.

I made another appointment with the local VA.

Fortunately, my appointment was with someone who was very understanding. I was asked to bring all paperwork that showed my husband had been stationed in Vietnam sometime between Jan. 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975. I brought a stack of papers, including a copy of the Red Cross telegram notifying my husband of our son's birth in May 1968. The VA representative reviewed my paperwork and prepared an application. A few months later, I was awarded DIC.

If your spouse or a family member served in Vietnam and he or she has been diagnosed with one of the presumptive diseases, be sure to learn about possible benefits. For more in-depth information regarding DIC eligibility and the application process, visit the [DIC section](#) of the VA's website. If you believe you are eligible for DIC after reading through the information, we suggest you contact a local accredited [Veterans Service Organization \(VSO\)](#) to assist you in filing a claim.

- See more at: <http://www.moaa.org/Content/Chapters-and-Councils/Council-and-Chapter-eNewsletters/The-Affiliate/2015-Affiliate/October-2015-Affiliate/Surviving-Spouse-Corner--Agent-Orange.aspx#sthash.0Jeln622.dpuf>

The following is from Congressman Miller's newsletter concerning the VA Department's IG report that several of the senior leaders of the VA had filed for and been paid over \$100K each for relocation re-imbursments. In many cases the person had not moved their home but had only transferred to another position with the same duties. The Congressman seems to hot on their trail.

On September 28, 2015, the VA Office of Inspector General released a report on the inappropriate use of position and misuse of relocation program and incentives in Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) that confirmed our biggest fears about VBA's relocation expenses program. This report is the latest in a long line of investigations showing VA officials helping themselves instead of helping America's veterans. While not surprising, the IG's report proves that VA's corrosive culture extends to the highest levels of VBA leadership and must be immediately rootd out once and for all.

In light of the serious misuse of taxpayer dollars and abuse of power substantiated by the OIG, it is Congress' responsibility to examine how such practices were

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Jeff Watson, Colonel (Ret.), USAF

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## NWFMOA Scholarship Fund

By Dave Parisot, Chairman

Thanksgiving will soon be here, followed shortly by NWFMOA's annual Military Ball at the Fort Walton Beach Yacht Club on December 3rd. The Military Ball is the prime fund-raising activity for our Scholarship Fund through auctions and raffles. In mid-October, we sent an "e-mail blast" to our members asking for your help in acquiring donations for the raffles. Within the e-mail were two "links", one was a letter you can use to get donations from area businesses, and the second was a donation receipt. Gift cards/certificates from restaurants and other businesses, rounds of golf from your favorite course, and donations of spirits and wine to the "Barrel of Booze" and "Wagon of Wine" raffles will be greatly appreciated. Please bring any donations and your bottle of wine or spirits to the November luncheon meeting at the FWB Yacht Club on Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>.

All donors to the auctions and raffles will be recognized at the Military Ball. We really need the NWFMOA members to support this fund-raising effort for our annual scholarships we give to local JrROTC students. We currently give out five scholarships annually totaling \$9,000.

Please note that the proceeds from the tickets to attend the Ball do not go to the Scholarship Fund. These are used to pay for the meals, entertainment, and other costs of hosting this very enjoyable event. Any donations for the Scholarship Fund should be made with a separate check payable to NWFMOA Scholarship Fund.

The winner of the 50/50 raffle at the October luncheon meeting was Dick Hallion and netted \$62 for the Scholarship Fund.

We now have fourteen members who have made contributions in 2015 to the B/Gen Frank Glunn Century Club. Our latest contributor is Fred Rall. Thanks Fred.. Here's the complete list of Century Club members for 2015 along with our Business Donors:

### **2015 B/Gen Frank Glunn Century Club Donors:**

(\$100 minimum donation)

**March 2015:** Winfred Boyer; Mel Bryant; Dan Brown; Dave Parisot; Fred Westfall. **April 2015:** John Feldman; Eileen Arpke; Olive Clyde Locke; Larry Bush. **May 2015:** Samuel Lombardo. **July 2015:** Beryl Brenner. **August 2015:** Dr. Howard Fisher; Tom Churan. **October 2015:** Frederick Rall.

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# Navy Birthday October 13, 1775



## Legislative Update (cont.)

Continued from page 5

allowed and put an end to VA's culture of complacency. I have called a hearing of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs for Wednesday, October 21, 2015 at 10:30 a.m.

It is clear from the report that senior leaders doled out outrageously generous relocation expense benefits as if they were an entitlement or perk of employment as opposed to a tool to fill job vacancies that no qualified manager would accept.



## Scholarship Fund (cont.)

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**2015 Business Gold Donors** (\$500 minimum donation): April 2015: **Eglin Federal Credit Union; ZT Motors of Fort Walton Beach; Resort Quest Vacation Rentals; Michles & Booth Law Firm.** May 2015: **Wild Willy's Adventure Zone** (In-kind).

**2015 Business Silver Donor** (\$250 - \$499): **Holiday Inn Resort** (In-kind)

**2015 Business Bronze Donor** (\$100 - \$249): May 2015: **Shalimar Pointe Golf Club** (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."**

## Commissary Catch-22 (cont.)

Continued from page 3

Previously, some national chains expressed willingness to provide discounts to military families to match commissary prices. But to date, no major retailer has made good on the offer.

After the report, DoD has the authority to launch a two year study on privatization in five of the largest stateside commissary markets.

MOAA will continue to work with Congress and make sure there are no significant changes to this critical benefit without looking at all the facts and the broad range of consequences.

### 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):

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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.



***Got a Chapter question?***

***Change in personal info?***

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***Email: [info@nwfmoe.org](mailto:info@nwfmoe.org)***

***We'll get an answer for you.***



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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 2015**  
**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
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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 one half of the above rates