



THE DEFENDER

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

Vol. 24 No. 03 Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services MARCH 2018

Lunch Meeting & Discussion

When: Thur, 1 March 2018
Time: Gathering 1130, Lunch 1200
 Program to follow
Place: Ft. Walton Bch. Yacht Club
 180 Ferry Road, NE, FWB
Program: The Changing Face of Terrorism
 Dr. Marie Hallion

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.nwfmoa.org and select the link where it says "Click here to make reservations", or email Dick Prater at nwfreservations@gmail.com, or call 850-613-6080 if you are attending.

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The Changing Face of Terrorism

By Scott Berry

Rarely do we have a speaker who can talk about international topics that get all our attention. Today is an exception.

For the past four years, the Islamic State has overshadowed the political dynamics in the Middle East. With the fall of the caliphate in 2017, there is presently an ongoing shift of focus. Once again, Al Qaida has emerged as a viable force with thousands of fighters in Syria and Yemen. ISIS continues as an insurgency in the Euphrates Valley. Regional stability is threatened by the competing interests of Iran, Russia, and Saudi Arabia.



Dr. Marie Hallion

Our speaker, Dr Marie Hallion, will look at these developments and their impact on the U.S. and international security. She comes to us very well qualified to discuss this. She is an Adjunct Professor at the Graduate School and the School of Undergraduate Studies of the University of Maryland University College (UMUC). She specializes in organizational theory and behavior, geopolitics, and national

and international security. Marie teaches a wide-range of courses in Management and Political Science. She has developed and teaches courses on global terrorism and homeland security offered at a variety of sites including the Pentagon and the National Security Agency. She has received the UMUC

Teaching Excellence Award and the Graduate School Commitment to Excellence Award. Her additional professional experiences include serving as a member of the White House staff where she worked closely with the National Security Council and the Office of

Protocol, U.S. Department of State. She has also served as an Historian for the U.S. Department of Energy where she undertook research on the history of energy and energy policy.

Marie is a Trustee of the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida. She also lectures for the Center of Lifelong Learning, University of West Florida.

From the President's Pen

By Scott Berry

Greetings!

Elsewhere in this issue you will (hopefully) see an article about our upcoming state convention in Ft Myers. I mentioned at last month's meeting that the location is great and the prices even better. They'll have outings for the spouses so there's something for everyone. Janet and I would sure like some company so please consider signing up. You'll also have the opportunity to rub elbows with some of MOAA's heavy hitters and air your pet grievance.



Scott Berry

Our speaker this month is certainly not a typical one. I hope that you'll enjoy her presentation as I have another one in the wings (who happens to be her brother)! We frequently have presentations focusing on the tactical level and this one is a pleasant change at the strategic one. She also has qualifications that we rarely see at our meetings. I'm really looking forward to it and hope you'll attend.

The search for a new Defender editor continues. The April edition, published late next month, will be Larry Williamson's last one so my stress level is rising with no clear volunteer in sight. It takes about 5-6 hours a month and your writing skills can be minimal as you simply process all the input from various sources, send it off to the printer, then proof the draft copy and you're done. No hitting the streets for advertisers—just a simple editing job. But it's an essential one as it's our primary way of communicating with chapter members. The internet doesn't speak to some of our members. PLEASE give it some consideration. Thanks!

Continued on bottom right panel

PUBLIC RECORD

In Memoriam

Kristine J. Sams, Surviving Spouse 1/13/2018

New Members

Donald N. Panzenhagen, Col, USAF (RET)

Dennis J. Phillips, CW5, USA

Legislative Issues

By Dave Parisot

UPDATE ON FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE BILLS

The Florida Legislature began its 60-day session for 2018 on January 9th. My quick review of Bills filed in the House and Senate on January 9th showed several that can have positive impacts on military and veterans. Some of these are: SB (Senate Bill) 328 and HB (House Bill) 107 which will require the Dept of Safety & Motor Vehicles to create a veterans' ID card for honorably discharged veterans; SB460 and HB75 would waive certain student activity and service fees for active duty military attending college courses using military tuition assistance; SB816 and HB69 create a sales tax holiday for veterans of US Armed Forces on certain items from Nov. 1 thru Dec. 31 annually; and, SB910 and HB603 would create exemptions for business taxes for veterans and surviving spouses.

Filing a Bill is one thing; to get it passed requires approval by three separate committees in each of the Senate and House followed by approval by the Senate and House as a whole. A lot can happen during the legislative process to amend or derail proposed bills. I will follow-up on the above proposed legislative bills with impact on our military and veteran citizens in future issues of the Defender.

As of February 13th, none of the above bills had made it through both the Senate and House to be forwarded to the Governor. SB328/HB107 (Veterans ID Card) has one more Committee hearing in the Senate and is at first reading in the House. This one might make it.

SB460/HB75 (Waive student fees) is in its final Senate Committee (Appropriations) and has passed the House of

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President's Pen (cont.)

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Nick Marotta, our new membership chair, has promised to come out with a systematic plan to recruit new members and I'm hoping it'll be on the streets by our next meeting. Look for it because as we've done fairly well in the past on a one-sie/two-sie basis, we're barely holding our own in number of members because we lose so many during the year. As I heard at several MOAA events, "every chapter member is a member of the membership committee!"

Berry "OUT"

Surviving Spouse Corner

Building a New Social Life

By Sharon DeVaney, Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee member

How do you fill the void in your life after you lose your spouse? Here are some ideas to help you become the outgoing person you once were.

- If you don't have to relocate, it could be possible to rely on your family and friends for a while. Your family members have suffered a loss as well. Try to brighten their days. You could meet for lunch or bring a salad or dessert to share a meal.
- If you have grandchildren who have school programs or sporting events, you can attend and be there for them. Perhaps, their school needs volunteers or mentors.
- Maybe your church sponsors a grief support group. Listening to speakers and sharing with others might help you process your loss.
- Calling another widow or widower and inviting them to a MOAA meeting will help both of you keep that connection to military life. Offer to help. You could represent surviving spouses if that position is not filled.
- Volunteering to help at your church or for a community function will bring you as much reward as you will give to others. Every group needs new faces and willing hands.
- Try something you haven't done before. I became a docent at our Fine Arts Center. I loved touring visitors of all ages. For many children, this was their only exposure to art. Also, other docents became my new friends.
- Use your work-related skills. I volunteered to teach a life story writing class at the nonprofit in my community. That brought a group of strangers together who became new friends as they shared their amazing life stories.
- Discover a new talent. I moved this summer and joined the drama club at the senior center. I hoped to find people who wanted to attend plays. Instead, I learned the club was producing the Fall Follies. All of a sudden, I had bit parts in three skits and the opening and closing numbers. We closed with a Salute to Veterans, which moved the audience to come to their feet!

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Florida Council Convention

It's time to **Make Your Reservation** for our 2018 Annual Convention to be held 1- 3 June 2018 at the Sanibel Harbour Marriott Resort in Fort Myers, FL.

This promises to be a super convention with a line-up of distinguished guest speaker, starting with MOAA's President, Lt Gen Dana Atkins, Coast Guard Admiral Thad Allen who directed the federal response to Hurricane Katrina, plus speakers from the VA, MOAA Staff, and Fort Myers Historical Society.



We've been given a great room rate of \$139 a night, with free parking and no resort fee (and no taxes if you sign up through the FCOC site). The same rate applies if participants wish to register up to three days before or three days after the convention. Please check out the FCOC website, www.MOAAFL.org, for more information and photos, and register online with your credit card.

March Dates To Remember

11 Daylight Saving Time begins

17 St. Patrick's Day

20 Spring begins

25 Palm Sunday

30 Good Friday

30 Passover begins at sundown

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2017 DUES YET???



By Chaplain Tom Azar, USAF Retired

Please check your address label on this Defender. If the date you see is 2017 then it is time for you (actually past time) to pay your 2018 dues. Just like you have your personal budget, we have a NWFOA budget. We need your help so that we can pay our bills. Your membership and help is greatly appreciated. I hope to see you at our next meeting.

Legislative Issues (cont.)

Continued from page 2

Representatives. This is a bill that Dr. Stephenson talked about at last month's luncheon. Outlook on the bill remains favorable.

SB816/HB69 (Sales Tax Holiday for Veterans) seems to be going nowhere as it has yet to be heard by any Senate or House Committees.

SB910/HB603 (Business Tax exemptions for veterans and surviving spouses) has two more Senate Committees, but has made it to the floor of the House. Outlook is favorable if the clock on the 60-day Legislative session does not run out.

Over the past few years, the Florida Legislature has passed many laws that make Florida one of the "friendliest" states for military personnel and veterans. These groups have a most significant impact on our economy and bring strong job skills from their military service. The above bills are some of the small pieces to this puzzle to continue to keep Florida "military friendly".

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.

DOD NEEDS GOD

The American flag is solidly spread worldwide, an indication of our continued strength, concern and passion. America possesses the greatest military in human history. However, as our military shrinks in population, patriotism has become more stressed because of multiple deployments. Hence those who raise their hand and take the solemn oath to defend the United States need to be fit and healthy warriors. Personal wholeness and health is a definite force multiplier that yields a superior result. One key support component is the trained chaplain's availability and accessibility eight days a week to meet the myriad needs of an individual and family.

Experienced military leaders realize the most valuable resource in our arsenals is the total health and wholeness of our men and women. What is the value of an airmen, sailor or soldier? It is measured in their lived out core values. The less problems a squadron or ship has with inter- and intra-personal problems, the better it will perform its mission, and the more effective it will be as a war fighting unit. Each person is like a link in the chain; one breakage affects all.

Secondly, individual, family and spiritual education sharpen the sword. To win wars, one must be in the best mental, emotional and spiritual health. The chaplain holds a vital place in reinforcing the military's backbone. They additionally assist in maintaining the retention of airmen, in building up their spiritual and moral character, and in guiding their families to be healthy reservoirs of patriotic values both during and after years of service.

Finally, today's airmen are highly mobile and to maintain good order and discipline, plus increase high unit morale, cohesion, readiness and productivity, the chaplains are employed to lead, guide and reconcile individuals with the intrapersonal and interpersonal issues that they encounter. In my experience, 40-60 formal counseling cases per month was normal.

Chaplains assist all airmen in their military and faith pilgrimages. One can try to separate these two worlds, but they are inextricably interwoven. You can't be saying one thing at work and doing another at home. This is unsafe, inauthentic and dangerous. Mission accomplishment is a group responsibility. No one steps up to the plate, expecting to win the game solo; therefore, DOD needs GOD.

President's 2019 DOD Budget

President Donald Trump's FY 2019 DoD budget request released Feb. 12 attempts to meet future strategy requirements and reflects the new view outlined in the new defense strategy that sees inter-state competition, not terrorism as the primary concern in future U.S. national security - with long-term strategic competition with Russia and China becoming the Pentagon's main focus.

Counterterrorism, long the dominant factor in DoD planning, is still important. However, investment in next generation weaponry to stay ahead of rivals is the prevailing theme throughout the new strategy.

The strategy, in particular, focuses resources on three main areas as detailed in the budget:

- building a more lethal force,
- strengthening alliances and attracting new partners,
- and reforming DoD for greater performance and affordability.

The strategy further highlights DoD's need to continue to put resources toward recruiting and retaining high quality personnel.

In terms of numbers, the FY 2019 request of \$716 billion lifts the sequester cap and includes \$617 billion in the base budget and \$69 billion in Overseas Contingency (war) funding for a total of \$686 billion, with an additional \$30 billion for other programs.

The newly released budget also directly supports several of MOAAs stated goals and objectives for FY 2019:

- a 2.6% military pay raise at ECI;
- includes no new compensation cost share reforms, such as increases in TRICARE fees;

- and increases end-strength for the force by 25,900 (24,100 in the active components and 1,800 in the reserve components) over the FY 2018 budget.

The budget for FY2019 also puts resources toward sustaining family support initiatives by investing over \$8 billion in family readiness and related programs.

Hearings before the key oversight committees in Congress by DoD senior leadership to discuss details in the budget are set to begin immediately on the hill and will continue through the House and Senate defense authorization and appropriation committee legislation mark ups in the late spring.

MOAA will continue to follow the request and provide updates in the coming weeks as more details and potential impacts on servicemembers, veterans, and their families becomes clearer.

WANTED

Fun Volunteer Opportunity

By Larry Williamson, CAPT, USN (RET)

For the past 28 months or so I have served our chapter as "Editor" of the Defender. A few things are changing for me in such a way that I must (reluctantly) relinquish this fun assignment.

I will continue as Editor through the month of March where the April edition is created. We will need a new Editor as soon as a volunteer will step forward. So, the May edition, created during the month of April will require fresh talent.

If you're interested, don't let the "Editor" title scare you away. This function requires very little actual writing. It's mostly an aggregation function from officers, individuals, and sources that get collected, double checked for format, forward to our graphic designer who does the actual layout, proofed, and approved for printing and distribution. It really only takes a few hours a month (5 to 6) in the middle of the month but in time for the Defender to reach our distribution list before the next meeting.

For the lucky member who steps forward to assume this fun job I will prepare a detailed guide with a step by step list of what to do and when to do it. If you're interested, send me an email to "defender@nwfmcoa.org". We can talk and I can answer your questions. It's fun, it's a valuable service to our chapter, and it's a great way to stay on top of things.

Now and Always We'll be There.



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Scholarship Fund

by Dave Parisot

Applications from local JROTC cadets for this year's seven scholarships are due April 1st. **Applications and Scholarship Policies and Procedures** are on the Chapter website at www.NWFMOA.org. This is also good information for our members and scholarship fund donors to learn more information on how our scholarship program works. This year's scholarships will be awarded at our monthly luncheon on May 3rd at the Fort Walton Yacht Club. At the May 3rd luncheon we will also recognize our Gold Century Club Members for their contributions to the Scholarship Fund.

Our first ever Wine Tasting Buffet was held on an overcast Saturday, February 10th, at the Twisted Grape in Shalimar. About thirty chapter members and guests attended and enjoyed the varieties of wines and food available along with socializing. The combination of ticket sales, raffles, and the 'bottle pull' netted about \$800 for the Scholarship Fund. Thank you to all who participated and helped to put this event together.

Member donations to the BG Frank Glunn Century Club were very good in February with renewals by **Dick Prater**, **Nick Marotta**, **Eileen Arpke**, **Carol Baker**, and **Dave Parisot**, and an initial donation by new Chapter member **Dennis Phillips**. With her latest donation, **Eileen Arpke** has attained membership in the **Gold Century Club**.

The 50/50 drawing at last month's Chapter luncheon was won by **Dave Pemberton**. My thanks to **Nick Marotta** for doing the ticket sales.

Here is 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 2017/2018 along with our **Business Donors**. Your support is greatly appreciated. Remember, all of these donations are used to fund our scholarships to JROTC cadets.

Gold Century Club: **Bill Ryan** (Feb 2016); **Ruth Cullen** (Oct 2016); **Dave Parisot** (Feb 2017); **Janet Taylor** (Mar 2017); **Chris Beam** (Mar 2017); **Bob Garcia** (July 2017); **Rod Gerdes** (Nov 2017); **Larry Bush** (Nov 2017); **Dr. Howard Fisher** (Nov 2017); **Eileen Arpke** (Feb 2018).

BG Frank Glunn Century Club: March 2017: **Fred Westfall** (Renewal); **Rod Gerdes**; **Nick Marotta**; **Janet Taylor** (In honor of Bill Ryan); April 2017: **Eileen Arpke**

(Renewal); **Don Litke** (in memory of Kay Litke); **Bob Gramm**; **Scott Berry**. May 2017: WWII Vet **Bill Colgan** (Renewal); August 2017: WWII Vet **Sam Lombardo** (In memory of Jean Lombardo) (Renewal); **Dr. Roger Riggensch** (In memory of Janice Riggensch). September 2017: **Beryl Brenner** (In memory of George Brenner); October 2017: **Doug Hardin** (In memory of Gen. Bill Kirk). November 2017: **Larry Bush** (Renewal); **Jean Dutton** (Renewal); **Charlie Brown** (Renewal); **Chris Beam** (Renewal); **Dr. Howard Fisher** (Renewal); **Karl Eschmann** (In memory of Col. Bud Day and Kay Litke) (Renewal); December 2017: **Dr. Roger Riggensch** (Renewal); **Dr. Keith Kulow** (In memory of Lt Col David Kulow); **Pete Peterzen** (Renewal); **Les Matheson**, **Dann Mittiza**; January 2018: **Fred Boyer** (Renewal)(In memory of Mike Flynt); **Clyde Locke** (Renewal); and WWII Vet **Mel Bryant** (Renewal); **Janet Taylor** (Renewal) (In Honor of Major Bill Ryan); **Dr. Roger Riggensch** (Renewal) (In memory of Janice Riggensch). February 2018: **Dick Prater** (Renewal); **Eileen Arpke** (Renewal); **Nick Marotta** (Renewal); **Dennis Phillips**; **Carol Baker** (Renewal) (In memory of David Baker); **Dave Parisot** (Renewal) (In memory of Chong Parisot).

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Surviving Spouse Corner (cont.)

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- Spread cheer by visiting residents in a nursing home. A friend in Florida makes bouquets from her garden and brings them to residents.
- Consider getting a dog. It will need to be fed, walked, and loved. I guarantee that you will be visiting with other dog owners on

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.

Scholarship Fund (cont.)

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2017/2018 Business Platinum Donor (\$750 minimum donation): December 2017: Gold's Gym of FWB (In-kind).

2017/2018 Business Gold Donor (\$500 - \$749):
December 2017: Eglin Federal Credit Union (Renewal);
January 2018: Merrill Lynch (Beam, McLaughlin & Associates) (Renewal).

2017/2018 Business Silver Donors (\$250 - \$499):
December 2017: Shalimar Pointe Golf Club (In-kind) (Renewal); **Indian Bayou Golf & Country Club** (In-kind).(Renewal); **Rocky Bayou Golf Course** (In-kind) (Renewal).

2017/2018 Business Bronze Donors (\$100 - \$249):
October 2017: Eye MD of Niceville November 2017: Gator Lakes Golf Course (In-kind) (Renewal); **Mary's Kitchen Restaurant** (FWB) (In-kind); **Buffalo's Reef Restaurant** (FWB) (In-kind); December 2017: Tammy's Journeys of FWB (In-kind) (Renewal); **Tommy Mattonie's Coastal Café** (FWB) (In-kind); **Popeye's Louisiana Kitchen of FWB** (In-kind); **Painting With A Twist of FWB** (In-kind); **Ernie's Dockside Café** of Niceville (In-kind); **Destin Party Boat Fishing** (In-kind); **Connect with Flowers of Shalimar** (In-kind); **Shalimar Cheers Pub** (In-kind); **The Twisted Grape** of Shalimar (In-kind); **Lee Nissan** (FWB).(In-kind). February 2018: **David Beaulieu, Agent for New York Life Insurance.**

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

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

Here's Why No New TRICARE Fee Increases Are Only A Small Consolation

The president's FY 2019 proposed budget submission for DoD included the following statement, indicating there will be no new TRICARE fee increases for 2019: "NO compensation cost share reforms in FY 2019. Instead, the Department is focusing on internal business process improvements and structural changes to find greater efficiencies, such as modernizing our military health care systems into an integrated system."

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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:

Name _____

Address _____

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. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State.

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This is indeed welcome news. Unfortunately, it will probably fall on deaf ears for most beneficiaries, who have discovered their TRICARE cost shares have, in many cases, drastically increased since Jan. 1.

This past fall, DoD unexpectedly implemented an across-the-board fixed-fee copayment schedule for the new TRICARE Select option. The new fee schedule was intended to replace the existing TRICARE Standard/Extra percentage, which had been based on a services-used model - the model most beneficiaries have been used to over the years. This change was to be cost-neutral to DoD. Some TRICARE Prime copayments also increased by as much as 150 percent.

Combine this TRICARE cost share inflation with the new increases in costs for prescriptions from TRICARE, and you can understand why military retirees, active duty servicemembers, and their families are starting to feel as if the government no longer considers military health care an earned benefit of their service. MOAA believes those who are serving and have served should not be put in the position to fund the cost of readiness or their own benefits.

