



Cape Cod Currents



*Military Officers Association of America
Cape Cod Chapter
Monthly Newsletter*



JULY 2010



LUNCHEON

July 13, 2010

**Clam/Lobster Bake
Gray's Beach, Yarmouthport**

From Route 6 (Mid-Cape Highway) take Exit 7 and go north on Willow Street toward Yarmouthport. Turn right on Route 6A (Old King's Highway); Go 1.3 miles to Center Street on left. Turn left on Center Street and proceed to end of Street.

Registration – 1:30 p.m. – Luncheon at 2:00 p.m.

Menu

Cape Cod Clam Chowder

Steamer Clams

1-1/4 lb. Lobster or Steak

Sweet Italian Sausage

Corn on the cob, Red Bliss Potatoes, and homemade coleslaw

Watermelon

Cost: \$35 per person

Reservations by July 6, 2010

Bring your own refreshments!

News You Can Use

MOAA on TRICARE Impacts of National Health Reform-

Q1. I heard the new legislation will roll TRICARE into a massive government health care program. Is this true?

Al. Definitely not,

Q2. I've seen message traffic saying the new legislation poses a "sneak attack on TRICARE." Is that true?

A2. Defense Secretary Gates has issued a statement asserting that health reform "won't have a negative effect on TRICARE."

Q3. What does deeming TRICARE as "qualifying coverage" mean?

A3. Under the new legislation, people who don't have qualifying coverage will have to pay a financial penalty. Since TRICARE and VA coverage will be qualifying coverage, those beneficiaries won't be subject to the penalty.

Q4. How about VA care?

A4. The new legislation states that care rendered under title 38 of the US Code (VA care) is also qualifying coverage.

Q5 I've seen message traffic saying that the new law will end TRICARE as of 2014, and that TRICARE

beneficiaries will then have to buy other coverage. Is that true?

A5. That's definitely NOT true. There's nothing like that in the new law.

Q6. Can I expect my TRICARE enrollment fee, premiums, deductibles or co-pays to go up because of this legislation?

A6. No, there's nothing in the legislation that would change any TRICARE fees. That said, it's unrealistic to think that TRICARE fees will never go up, even if retired pay doubles or triples over a retiree's lifetime.

Q7. What's MOAA doing to make sure beneficiaries aren't negatively affected by the national health reform legislation?

A7. MOAA has pushed House and Senate leaders for much of the past year to make sure that language was included in any health care debate to protect the unique nature of military and VA health benefits and prevent taxation of those benefits.

Q8. Is TFL also "qualifying coverage" under the new law'?

A8. Yes. Both Medicare and TFL are expressly deemed as such under the legislation already passed by both the House and Senate.

Q9.1 understand Medicare is cut \$500 billion under the new law. Won't that have to cut payments to doctors and threaten TFL?

A9. It's true that the new law reduces Medicare spending by about that much, but most of those changes are relatively less painful ones that probably won't affect TRICARE or TFL beneficiaries much

AF Base Dining Open to Retirees -Many Air Force base dining facilities have seen use rates drop below 50 percent. Instead of closing these facilities, Air Force plans to open some facilities at six bases to retirees. Retirees will pay the same market price as everyone else, and there will not be an added surcharge on top of the menu price. The six Air Force bases participating in the initiative are Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, Patrick AFB, Fla., MacDill AFB, Fla., Fairchild AFB, Wash., Little Rock AFB, Ark., and Travis AFB, Calif.

National Resource Directory - The National Resource Directory redesigned and enhanced its website at www.NationalResourceDirectory.gov. Created for service members, veterans, wounded warriors, and their families and caregivers, NRD is a tool for service providers to reach out to the military and veteran's communities. It provides access to thousands of services and

resources at the national, state and local levels to support recovery, rehabilitation and community reintegration. If you are aware of community programs and services that should be available to veterans, please submit them for review to the Suggest A Resource feature on the NRD. The National Resource Directory is a Department of Defense (DoD) and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) initiative.

Adopt a Military Working Dog - After completing their service, some military working dogs are made available for adoption. The adoption law gives priority to their handlers, then to civilian law enforcement agencies and finally to the general public. An Adoption Suitability Test -- given and videotaped by the dog's handler -- is required by the DoD to determine if the animal is suitable for civilian adoption. To request an application, send an [e-mail](#) or call 210-671-5874. Additional information is available at the [Military Working Dog Adoptions website](#) or at the [DoD Military Working Dog School website](#).

Space-A Travel - The Air Force's Air Mobility Command (AMC) designed a website to serve as a one-stop shop for all your travel needs. Since July 2009, the site has offered space-available (Space-A) travelers a wealth of information, including an updated AMC passenger terminal contact list (complete with phone number, e-mail address, and Web links), and more than a dozen travel documents, example letters, and brochures. Here is how to go about using the AMC system. Go to www.amc.af.mil/amctravel/index.asp.

Free Information Calls - This is an awesome service from Google, and it's free -- great when you are on the road. Don't waste your money on information calls and don't waste your time manually dialing the number I am driving along in my car and I need to call the golf course and I don't know the number. I hit the speed dial for information that I have programmed (1-800-goog411). The voice at the other end says, "Say the name of the business and the City & State." I say, "Firewheel Golf Course, Garland, Texas." He says, "Connecting," and Firewheel answers the phone. How great is that? This is nationwide and it is absolutely free! Works on cell and landline phones. Click on the link and watch the short clip for a quick demonstration. www.google.com/goog411.

Discounts -- Home Depot offers a 10% discount with military ID. I believe that Lowes does, as well, but I haven't tried it.

TRICARE Hospice Benefit - TRICARE's hospice care benefit is a zero-deductible benefit that gives TRICARE beneficiaries access to personal care and home health aide assistance. It initially provides two 90-day periods of care, followed by an unlimited number of 60-day periods. Each period requires prior authorization from the regional health care contractor. Not all care is covered by the hospice benefit. Charges for medical care not related to the terminal illness fall under the beneficiary's basic TRICARE benefit. For more information about the hospice benefit, visit the TRICARE website at www.tricare.mil, contact TRICARE For Life, the regional managed care support contractor or your TRICARE Area Office.

COIN In Afghanistan: The Tyranny of Fires - If you haven't already stumbled across [Travels With Shiloh's](#) write up of the Army and Marine Corps Counterinsurgency Center COIN conference held earlier this month at Ft. Leavenworth, I heartily recommend it. Here is part one:

<http://iago18335.wordpress.com/2010/05/18/coin-symposium-recap-part-1/>

Military Family Resource Center

You're invited to the Official Opening Of the Military & Family Resource Center

Next to Army National Guard Billeting Office

Near Base Movie Theater

5219 Turpentine Road, Camp Edwards, MA

Wednesday, June 16th, 2010

12:30 p.m. Gathering

1:00 p.m. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Barbeque and refreshments

RSVP by Monday, June 14th, 2010

To Erica Waasdorp

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286 South Street, Hyannis, MA 02601

Dress: Military: Uniform of the day

Civilians: Business casual

Worth Bookmarking

Upcoming Elections - Congressional candidate disclosure information through March 31st, 2010, is now available from the Federal Election Commission. The gateway address is

<http://www.fec.gov/finance/disclosure/srssea.shtml> where you must select a specific state.

OpenSecrets.org sponsored by the Center for Responsive Politics provides user friendly access to campaign finance information. The OpenSecrets.org gateway is

<http://www.opensecrets.org/races/index.php>

Free On-Line Library - Going to the library takes time and gas money. Instead, browse a free digital library right from your computer. Check out www.readprint.com . It's a collection of more than 8,000 books. And they are all available for free.

Taps – Sandra Hill-Fenrick died on April 29, 2010. For those who might not have known Sandy, she was a past president of the Otis Civilian Advisory Council (OCAC), a long-time member, and very involved over the years in the life of the military people on the MMR. She was also a veteran (USAF). Sandy had been ill for many years, at times very seriously, and showed amazing fortitude throughout these health challenges. She supported many Cape Cod non-profit organizations over the years and had a special interest in the MMR base Chapel and Memorial Park. She will be missed by many.

And Then There's This

"Be more concerned with your character than with your reputation. Your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are." *Andrew Carnegie*

CCMOAA Scholarship and Charity Fund Contribution Chapter members who would like to make a *federal tax deductible* contribution to either our Chapter's Charity and/or Scholarship funds may do so by completing the information requested below and sending it to our treasurer. The Chapter thanks you very much for your generosity. Please check the appropriate boxes below and fill in the requested information.

I, _____, wish to make a contribution to the CCCMOAA

Scholarship Fund in the amount of \$25 () \$50 () \$75 () \$100 () Other ()

Charity Fund in the amount of \$25 () \$50 () \$75 () \$100 () Other ()

Please mail to: CCCMOAA P.O. Box 1553 Mashpee, MA 02649

Reservation for Lunch at Gray's Beach, July 13, 2010

Name: _____

Guests: _____

E-mail address: _____

Cost: \$35 per person. Choice: Lobster (___) Steak (___)

The deadline for reservations is July 6,, 2010 Enclose check payable to CCCMOAA in the amount of \$_____ Mail reservation form and check to: Cpt. R M Bowen (ret) 106 Ambleside Dr. Falmouth, MA 02540