



The Granite Slate

The Official Newsletter for the
New Hampshire Chapter of The Military Officers Association of America



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Speaker Lt. Col. Steven J. Betts
Greeted by Chapter President CDR Avery



Head Table

In the News: Furloughs and MOAA

May 17, 2013

--On Tuesday, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel officially announced what had long been expected -- DoD will furlough nearly 680,000 civilian employees during the last three months of FY 2013. (continued pg. 3)

The MOAA annual spring luncheon was held for the first time at the Abenaki Country Club in the NH seacoast area (April 12). This private club was founded in 1899 in an old orchard and field, and now covers over 100 acres in the heart of Rye Beach, NH.

Our chapter had 127 members and guests for this occasion, and we were privileged to have LTC Steve Betts, Battalion Commander, US Army Recruiting Battalion NE as our guest of honor. LTC Betts delivered an excellent presentation centered on the challenges of recruiting qualified young men and women into the military. His focus for this talk was on the US Army's particular efforts and recruitment strategies.

After his presentation LTC Betts fielded a myriad questions regarding the current status of the US Army in general, and his own areas of responsibility. His presentation is further outlined in this publication.

The staff at Abenaki furnished a wonderful meal and excellent service throughout the afternoon, and look forward to our selecting their location for another get-together in the future.

(Continued on page 3)



Abenaki Country Club Dining Room

Chapter Officers

President	CDR Bruce F. Avery, USN (Ret)	(603) 526-2854, bruceavery@tds.net
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Visit the Chapter's website at: www.moaa-nh.org



President's Corner

Bruce Avery

Under the leadership of our Programs Director, COL Chad Chadwick, USA (Ret), our 2013 programs have gotten off to a great start. Good speakers, interesting venues and great camaraderie. Next up is the 3 August Clam-bake at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. Our Programs Flagship is our Annual Meeting on 9 November featuring VADM Norbert Ryan, USN (Ret), President and CEO of the Military Officers Association of America.

A wide variety of colorful ceramic tiles honoring each of our military services as well as the Old Man of the Mountain have been added to the MOAA-NH Virtual Store. These images are also available on drink coaster sets. The new offerings can be viewed on our web site. A sample of these items will also be displayed at future membership meetings. Also available at the Virtual Store are MOAA-NH ball caps, visors, challenge coins and a wide variety of MOAA-NH paper products (placemats, notecards, bookmarks, etc.)

Our travel plans for 2014 continue to evolve. To start 2014, a 20-day trip to Australia and New Zealand departs on the 20th of February. Details of this trip are now available on our web site (MOAA-NH.org). To celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the World War II Normandy Beach Landings, we will offer a land-based tour of Normandy in May 2014. A river barge trip in October 2014 is also planned starting in Paris traveling on the Seine River out to the Atlantic Coast for visits to the Normandy Beaches. We will have detailed brochures and information on our web site for Normandy trips by late July. Please contact me at (603) 526-2854 or bruceavery@tds.net if you have any questions.

(continued on page 3)

US Army Chinook helicopters first arrived in Vietnam Nov, 1965. Spectacular missions dropping 100's of troops into mountain areas.



New Chapter Members Welcome Aboard!

MG John J. Deyermond
USA (Ret)
Spouse: Barbara
25 Koper Ln
Pelham, NH 03076-2610

Capt Gale J. Furey
USAF (FRM)
Spouse: Capt Robert M.
44 Wendover Way
Bedford, NH 03110-6053



Spring Luncheon, Meredith, NH

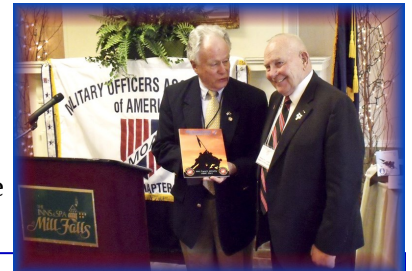
The chapter held its late Spring Meeting and Luncheon on June 8, 2013 at the Inn at Mill Falls, Chase House in Meredith NH. The staff were very friendly, and extremely responsive to our requests as **103** members and guests braved the beginning of "Motorcycle Week" held in nearby Weirs Beach, NH.

We were pleased to have as our guest of honor, and speaker, chapter member **Major Frank H. McCarthy, USMC (Ret.)**. He provided a very impassioned talk on the search for MIA's in SE Asia following the Vietnam War, and afforded a great deal of insight into this very emotional subject.

As a decorated veteran who spent several years in country during the campaign, Maj. McCarthy summarized first-hand accounts of many tragic events that occurred during the war.

Additionally, we were joined by two first time members: **Miles and June Waltz** of North Conway, NH. Our chapter extends a warm welcome aboard to you both.

CDR Avery presentation to Maj. McCarthy: Personalized gift plaque commemorating his years of service



In the news:

Medicaid Expansion Will Benefit Veterans

A new analysis suggests that veterans stand to benefit substantially from President Obama's healthcare law, particularly in states that choose to expand their Medicaid programs. Researchers with the Urban Institute report that as many as 40 percent of uninsured U.S. veterans would be eligible for healthcare under the law's insurance exchanges or its expanded Medicaid program. There are currently about 1.3 million uninsured veterans, the report said, but fewer than half of those who would qualify under broader Medicaid eligibility live in states that will accept the expansion. The report is available at the <http://www.rwjf.org/en/research-publications/find-rwjf-research/2013/03/uninsured-veterans-and-family-members.html> Robert Wood Johnson Foundation website.

LTC Betts (continued from page 1)

During the presentation, LTC Betts (New England Recruiting Battalion) covered both his own responsibilities, and some of the programs that are currently part of the Army's organization.

I am very appreciative of his providing me an outline of his presentation for MOAA members that were unable to attend. The following material is taken from his outline, and some editing has been done for space constraints. Quotation marks are not included due to editing.

My area covers the states of Maine, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island in addition to the entire city of Boston, the North Shore area, and South Shore out to the Cape and Martha's Vineyard. We have 225 recruiters in that region, and almost all with decorated combat experience. My discussion topics centered on the difficulties we have finding qualified folks who are also interested in serving this Great Nation.

First, we must ensure all prospective applicants are mentally qualified, and that begins by making sure they finish high school. Army Recruiters are engaged in high schools throughout our area with a focus on keeping kids interested and engaged in school curriculum and activities. During all of our relations with students, our main goal is to keep them on the right path to future success as productive members of society whether they join the Army or not.

I discussed the education benefits of service membership with particular attention to the tuition assistance available for many of those who qualify. Programs including the Post 9/11 "GI Bill" can alleviate some of the (mostly financial) problems families typically have with today's college tuition expenses.

There are some feasible loan repayment programs available in certain situations, especially for those with much needed specialty degrees. The Army frequently assists those members whose backgrounds, financial needs, and perceived motivations will benefit both themselves and organizations they are affiliated with in the future.

LTC Betts provided ample time following his presentation to answer many questions from the group. We were very impressed with his seminar, and appreciative of his taking the time on a gorgeous Saturday afternoon to attend our luncheon event.

Furloughs and MOAA (Continued From Page 1)

--"After extensive review of all options with the DoD's senior military and civilian leadership on how we address this budget crisis, today I am announcing that I have decided to direct furloughs of up to 11 days for most of the department's civilian personnel," Hagel wrote to all DoD personnel. "I have made this decision very reluctantly, because I know that the furloughs will disrupt lives and impact DoD operations. I recognize the significant hardship this places on you and your families."

--Furloughs begin July 8--

According to Hagel, DoD has been "doing everything possible" to reduce the budget shortage, cutting facility maintenance, shifting funds, and trimming back non-essential programs. But these steps have not been enough to avoid a furlough. Originally DoD had projected a 22-day furlough.

--The furloughs are expected to save the department about \$1.8 billion this fiscal year, and about 120,000 civilian workers will be exempt because of their critical tasks.

--MOAA views furloughs as a wildly inefficient way to cut the budget. Reducing our nation's debt burden is certainly a priority, but Congress failed to find an alternative to the automatic cuts of sequestration, and these furloughs are a direct result of congressional gridlock

President's corner (Continued from page 2)

Please keep in mind that the search for the 2013 recipients of our **Granite State Warriors Award** has begun. Please pass on your recommendations concerning a New Hampshire Resident or New Hampshire based organization worthy of receiving this award to a Chapter Officer or Director.

Please always remember that every day in New Hampshire is a beautiful day.

Bruce

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Dover NH 03821-0712

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10th YEAR



Upcoming Programs for 2013

August 3rd *Clambake, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard*

September 28th, LTC Joe Francouer, USANG
Experiences in Afghanistan

Common Man, Claremont

Nov 9th, Annual Meeting Manchester CC
*Speaker: VADM Norbert R. Ryan Jr., USN (Ret),
President and CEO of MOAA*

MOAA NAMETAGS Need a nametag? Have questions about ordering one? Ordered one, but don't have it yet? Please contact Sharon Day at (603) 642-7956 or cimice89@comcast.net.

2014 TENTATIVE Schedule

REGION

January 25	Seacoast (Portsmouth Country Club?)
<i>Granite State Warriors Awards</i>	
April 12	Seacoast
June 14	TBD
August 2	Clambake (PNSY)



Mrs. Gloria Creamer

2LT Robert F. Gardella, USA (Ret.)

CPT Leigh F. Ivey, Sr, USA (Ret.)

Strafford, NH

Rye NH

Dover, NH



WASHINGTON

(Reuters) - The U.S. Navy has announced that it will deploy for the first time a laser weapon on one of its ships that could be capable of shooting down drones and disabling vessels. The unit runs on electricity, and can fire at a cost of less than \$1 dollar per shot.