



The Granite Slate

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



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Winter Edition

Portsmouth Country Club

Greenland, NH, 31 Jan, 2015

Summary by PAO K. Lull & Programs P. Dawson

Colonel Allen "Chad" Chadwick, USA (Ret.), President of the New Hampshire Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA-NH) and the Board of Directors was pleased to honor this year's award recipients for their service to our military at the fourth Annual Granite State Warriors Luncheon on Saturday the 31st of January 2015. The luncheon and ceremony was held at the Portsmouth Country Club in Greenland. The MOAA-NH Granite State Warriors Award is presented annually to individuals or organizations who have gone above and beyond in their service to the men and women of the U.S. Military and to the State of New Hampshire. Honored at this year's ceremony were the New Hampshire based office of BAE Systems, Inc. and Ms. Jo Moncher, Bureau Chief, Community Based Military Programs, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

BAE Systems, Inc. (Nashua, NH) is the U.S. subsidiary of BAE Systems plc, a global defense, security and aerospace company. BAE delivers an extensive range of products and services for air, land, and Naval forces. Additionally, they produce advanced electronics security systems, information technology solutions, and support services for customers globally. The company continues to provide support and service techniques for current and future defense, intelligence, and civilian products utilized by all US military services.

BAE was selected as a co-recipient for years Granite State Warriors Award for its work in the development of the Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System (WGU/59B) aka APKWS. The APKWS rocket converts an unguided 70mm (2.75inch) rocket into a precision guided rocket using a mid-body semi-active laser guidance and



BAE Reps & Jo Moncher receive GSWA plaques

(Photo by Peter W. Dawson / MOAA-NH)

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In Memoriam

MOAA-NH grieves in the recent loss of Stephanie Murdough Riley of Concord, NH. Stephanie was a career military and civilian nurse, and remained strong and positive throughout a lengthy battle with cancer. She has been serving as our chapter secretary, and was 47 on her passing; December 29, 2014.

"Stephanie was a true citizen-soldier," said Maj. Gen. William Reddel, the adjutant general of the New Hampshire National Guard. "As a nurse, she dedicated her life to helping others and she never wavered from that mission even in the midst of her own health crisis. She was an extraordinarily courageous woman, mother and wife. Today our hearts are heavy. New Hampshire has lost a genuine patriot and good friend to so many."

Born and raised in Henniker, NH, Riley attended St. Paul's advanced studies summer program, played sports, and graduated as valedictorian from Henniker High School. After graduating from Boston College in 1988 Riley joined the United States Air Force. She was stationed in California and Louisiana and served until the end of operation Desert Storm. In 2000, she rejoined the New Hampshire Air National Guard where she deployed to South East Asia in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In addition to her military service, Riley worked extensively throughout the United States as a traveling nurse. In 1999 after meeting her husband Shawn she took a full / part time position at the Concord, NH Hospital. She also spent time with the New Hampshire Army National Guard as the full-time occupational health nurse.

Stephanie obtained the rank of Lt. Col, and was subsequently honorably discharged due to her medical issues. She was most proud of her two children Shane 13, and Samantha, 9. Her husband, Shawn, was a firefighter/paramedic with the Concord Fire Department, and is now a senior staff member in

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President's Corner

Chad Chadwick

The Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commissioner's decision to hold fast the moral contract for those who have retired and for those currently serving on a career path is applauded. Also we applaud MCRMC recommendation for no change in TRICARE for Life program. The MCRMC report makes a simple but questionable change in the retirement program.

In essence, it takes the current system as it stands – a 20-year program with an available TSP (thrift savings plan) – and adds government participation. The government would make a 1 percent automatic TSP contribution and match contributions up to 5 percent. There is one more aspect, the report calls for a 20 percent reduction in the retirement multiplier – dropping it to 2.0 from 2.5. The result is that a service member with a 20-year career would receive a retirement check amounting to 40 percent of his final basic pay, 20 percent less than under the current plan.

There are many valid reasons to keep the current retirement system. It generally takes 15 to 20 years to generate the next generation of infantry battalion commanders and submarine captains. As a result, the department must ensure that the military retirement policy promotes greater retention and longer careers necessary to create these experienced leaders.

In recent testimony before Congress, Commissioner and former Senator Bob Kerry said, "I came into this commission believing that it's likely we've got a real problem with pay and benefits." But, Commissioner Kerry concluded, "It would be unfair to identify military retirement as the big problem because it isn't. The big problem is Social Security and Medicare, so it seems to me, to address military retirement without going after Social Security and Medicare is basically saying we're going to balance the budget on the backs of our military retirees. And I think that it would be a wrong thing to do and send a terrible signal."

Defending our national security is a tough job. It is arduous service and demands enormous sacrifice that many Americans are unwilling to commit. The strength of our national security depends mainly on three pillars; a vibrant economy, a strong defense and a faith in the nation and support for those who serve.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

MOAA news

Alexandria, Va. – The administration submitted its FY 2016 budget on Feb 2, 2015. Following its release, retired Navy *Vice Adm. Norb Ryan, president of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)*, said, "MOAA clearly understands the predicament the Pentagon faces, and we concur with DoD leadership's call for balancing the force and ending the harmful effects of sequestration. Not doing so is simply unacceptable and dangerous. However, the administration's budget just rehashes many of the same piecemeal proposals that Congress blunted or blocked last year. These proposals will further erode servicemembers' pay and benefits that are fundamental to sustaining the quality of the all-volunteer force."

"We need to learn from the past," Ryan said. "Sequestration is tying the hands of the Pentagon's budgeteers, and we are re-

(Continued next column top)

2014 New Chapter Members Welcome Aboard!

CWO4 Roger M Loos	MAJ Joseph V Titone
USMCR (Ret.) Claudette	USA (Ret.)
817 Fox Hollow Way	71 Portsmouth Ave
Manchester, NH 03104-6428	Seabrook, NH 03874-4724

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peating many of the bad drawdown decisions that led to serious retention problems in the late '90s.

"We have a commitment to the all-volunteer force, the 1 percent in uniform and their families who have sacrificed so much for the other 99 percent of Americans over the past 13 years," Ryan concluded. "There is no more dedicated group in America but also no group more stretched." See the entire article at: http://www.moaa.org/Main_Menu/multimedia_and_press_room_news

Veterans in Need

LOS ANGELES – An army of volunteers fans across greater Los Angeles to count the homeless – and more than 1 in 10 is a veteran. Los Angeles has long had the largest population of homeless veterans in the country, even though many get a cool reception.

It wasn't always that way. In 1888, 300 acres of land were given to the federal government "to be permanently maintained as a National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers." A VA facility was established but much of what the site, which eventually became 387 acres was leased to outside interests having nothing to do with veterans. The land ultimately became some of the priciest and most coveted in California, with neighborhoods like Brentwood and Westwood closing in. Vets like James Carr, homeless for more than a year, sees a raw deal. "They don't care about any of this. They want to take this property and turn it into what they want," he said.

In 2011, the veterans and their attorney, Ron Olson, filed a class action lawsuit to force the federal government to honor the original deed. "You've got politicians going around the country saying it's not right for these young men and women to go abroad and fight for their country and then have to come home and fight for a roof over their head. And yet these same politicians don't make something happen – that's hypocrisy," Olson said. Olson and his coalition felt they had a slam dunk case, but the Justice Department disagreed, arguing that the agency was within its rights to lease out land meant for veterans. Former Santa Monica City Councilman Bobby Shriver found many of his wealthy and powerful neighbors turned against him when he advocated housing homeless vets in the facility.

Two weeks ago, the new Veterans Affairs secretary Robert McDonald announced a deal to settle the lawsuit and a plan to end homelessness among veterans in Los Angeles County. The

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Chapter Members,

Please add your comments to the MOAA-NH web-site (moaa-nh.org), and send possibilities for our next edition to "poko@comcast.net." Also note that a full color version of this document is always available at the chapter web-site (MOAA-NH.org).
-editor-

Stephanie Murdough Riley (Continued from page 1)

emergency medical services for the Laconia Fire Department. Stephanie leaves behind her husband Shawn, daughter Samantha, son Shane of Concord, her Mother and Father: the late Kenneth Murdough Sr. and Janet Murdough of Henniker, her mother-in-law and father-in-law: John and Judy Riley of Penacook, four brothers Noel of Milton, Morgan and Brian of Henniker, Skate of Con-toocook, along with their wives Lisa, Mary, Becky and Sarah. Additionally many wonderful nieces, nephews, and countless friends and colleagues join in mourning their loss of Stephanie.

A memorial service was held Tuesday, Jan. 6, at 11 a.m. at Grace Capital Church in Pembroke. Interment followed at the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen, NH.

Jan. Chapter luncheon (Continued from page 1)

control kit. It is highly effective against lightly armored and soft targets with low collateral damage. The system requires minimal aircraft integration & training time, is low weight, increases stowed kills (and on station time), and fills the weapons gap for soft and lightly armored targets.

In combat since 2012, the APKWS has been successfully fired from 12 different platforms. It is a combat multiplier and gives US and coalition forces an added advantage in the fight against global terrorism. Receiving today's award for BAE systems is Mr. David Harrold. Mr. Harrold is "Product Lines Director for Precision Guidance Solutions."

In his opening remarks, he spoke for his team of 8 attendees in thanking MOAA-NH for honoring both them and BAE Systems with this prestigious award. He then devoted some time to explain this rocket system and its advancements during the past several years. An impressive video was included in his presentation that displayed this advanced rocket system in use against many types of ground targets.

Jo Moncher is a co-recipient of this year's award and in recognition of her work as the first Bureau Chief for Community Based Military Programs at New Hampshire's Department of Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). She is the only person to hold that position since it was created in 2008 as the first position of its kind in the United States to help facilitate and develop partnerships between military and civilian healthcare providers; it in fact remains the only position of its kind in the country to date.



(Photo by Peter W. Dawson (MOAA-NH))

Ms. Moncher represents DHHS working hand in hand with the Manchester VA Hospital, regional Vet Centers across the state, the New Hampshire National Guard, and other military and civilian provider agencies. She was instrumental in creating military and civilian partnership committees that focus on veteran and military member home-

lessness, suicide prevention, substance abuse, and other military family priorities and issues.

She is also Vice Chair for NH's Legislative Suicide Prevention Council and Facilitator



Portsmouth Country Club, Greenland, NH

(Photo by Peter W. Dawson (MOAA-NH))

of the NH Justice Involved Veterans Task Force. Ms. Moncher served in the USAF for 4 years during the cold war as a Czechoslovakian interpreter stationed in Augsburg, Germany.

In the news:

Commission calls for abolishing Tricare

The congressional commission has recommended a complete overhaul of the military health system — one that does away with Tricare, changes the medical command structure and seeks to improve Defense Department coordination with Veterans Affairs. The goal of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission's recommendations, according to its final report released Thursday, is to preserve the quality of combat care that saved many troops' lives in Iraq and Afghanistan but also improve access to health treatment for those who use the system. Under the recommendations, active-duty members and mobilized reserve component members still would receive medical care from the U.S. military, with easier access to specialty care in the civilian sector if they need it.

The full report can be found at : <http://projects.militarytimes.com/pdfs/2015-report-compensation.pdf>

MilitaryTimes, Jan 29, 2015
Ms. Patricia Kime, Staff writer

Remembering Ltc. Stephanie Riley in a poem by Ed Coet, Major, USA (Ret.)

I saw a burial with a bugler playing taps;
I turned to my father, "what happened?" I asked.
He clutched my hand and with a quiver in his voice,
he began to explain and his eyes became moist.

"My son," he said, "this is rather difficult for me;
for an old veteran like myself this is tough to see.
In that coffin lies a genuine patriotic warrior,
an honest-to-God hero, an American soldier.

I appreciate that soldier and the service she gave,
and I honor her sacrifice as she's laid in her grave.
She was honorable, selfless, courageous, and bold;
please remember her son, as you grow old.

The value of her service, I must explain,
if not remembered, will be lost in vain.
As a nation we're nothing without soldiers like her;
and failing to remember would be a terrible sin."

Rest in peace Stephanie, you will be missed by all.

Homeless Vet. Support (continued from page 2)

two sides moved from adversaries to potential partners in a matter of weeks.

Veterans like Robert Malone, who was once homeless, said it's about time.

"For crying out loud, we're Americans. Let's help our guys," Malone said. "Let's protect them now."

US Military news, Jan, 2015

Chad Chadwick (president) is addressing NH Veteran homelessness looking at possibilities for assistance. "The ongoing issues can be astonishing."

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12th YEAR



Members Deaths Reported in 2015

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| COL Alson W. Brown, AUS (Ret.) | E. Longmeadow, MA |
| LCDR Charles F. McAdams, USN (Ret.) | Dover, NH |
| Mrs. Marjorie A. Nims | Keene, NH |
| Lt Col Stephanie A. Riley, ANG (Ret.) | Concord, NH |
| Maj George R. Schmidt, USAF (Ret.) | Stratham, NH |

2015 Schedule

April 18	Bistro Nouveau at the Center at Eastman, Grantham (Congresswoman A. Kuster)
June 13	Grill 28, Pease G. C., Newington
August 1	Clambake (PNSY)
September 12	Eagle Mountain House, Jackson
November 7	Annual Meeting, Nashua C.C.

News from abroad (DOD news, Lisa Ferdinando, 5 Mar, 2015)

ABOARD THE USS CARL VINSON, March 5, 2015 - In the North Arabian Gulf, thousands of miles from home, a USO celebrity tour led by the **vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff** visited this ship to bring a piece of America to thousands of deployed sailors.

Between jets returning from and taking off for missions against Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant terrorist targets, Adm. James A. Winnefeld Jr. and the stars -- including NFL players, American Idol contestants and film and television personalities -- put on a performance aboard the aircraft carrier that was filled with humor, music and words of appreciation.

"The first thing I want to do is thank each and every one of you for your tremendous service and sacrifice," Winnefeld said. "You are protecting America. We appreciate it. Thank you very much for what you do."

Winnefeld thanked the USO for all it does for servicemen and women around the world, while his wife, Mary, made special mention of the service and sacrifice of the families.

"What's missing today are families," Mary Winnefeld said. "I consider the families serving right alongside everybody in this room, because they really do. Thank you and thank your families for your service." The visit to the massive carrier, which holds 3,000 sailors and 2,000 aircrew members, comes as Winnefeld and the group travel the world to thank the deployed service members. Other stops were Germany, Italy and Bahrain.

Your Granite Slate editor spent 12 months at sea aboard the USS Carl Vinson as an A-7E pilot during an around-the-world cruise (1983).

MOAA Travel: Our travel coordinator has several trips available for 2015. These include Ireland, National Parks, Germany, Prague, and others.

For additional information please see our website (MOAA-NH.org), or contact Tony Burdo, 603-391-7106 (email: tonyajib@gmail.com)

Sign up soon to take advantage of these great opportunities and discounts.