

Bridge View



Charleston Chapter, Military Officers Association of America

March, 2010



Web site: www.chasmoaa.org



Rob Fowler has been Storm Team 2's Chief Meteorologist since September 1987. Before arriving in Charleston, Rob worked at TV Stations in Savannah, Georgia, and Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Rob is a member of both the National Weather Association and the American Meteorological Society and has been awarded the Seals of Approval from both weather organizations. Rob earned a communications degree from Georgia Southern University and his Broadcast Meteorology Certification from Mississippi State University. He has also studied weather and Oceanography at Portland State University in Oregon.

Following coverage of Hurricane Hugo, Rob was named "Meteorologist of the Year" by the National Weather Association. Rob has also been recognized as the state of South Carolina Weather Broadcaster of the Year in 1997, and won the Best Meteorologist in the Carolinas in 2000 from the Radio and Television News Directors Association. He has also been named Best Weathercaster by the Charleston City Paper 9 straight years.

Governor Mark Sanford awarded Rob Fowler the Order of the Palmetto; the highest award that can be bestowed upon a citizen of South Carolina; on June 30, 2006 for his work with the Toys for Tots program. Rob sat on the board of Broadcast Meteorology for the National Weather Association for 3 years, where he evaluated other Meteorologists on their presentation.

Married with three kids, Rob is active in the community, volunteering for many organizations. He also visits with thousands of Lowcountry school children every year, and host school tours of News 2's state of the art broadcast facility.

Charleston MOAA March Madness

To coin a phrase from the basketball world, madness is not what you may expect from the event this month. We will lunch with a local TV personality, Rob Fowler, Storm Team 2's Chief Meteorologist since 1987. Rob has worked at TV stations in Georgia and Wisconsin. He is a member of the National Weather Association and the American Meteorology Society. Married with three children, Rob is active in the community, volunteering for many organizations. He visits with thousands of schoolchildren every year and hosts school tours of News 2's state of the art broadcast facility.

March Luncheon

Make your reservations early and plan to attend our March luncheon at the POINT GRILL, 176 Patriots Point Road, Mt. Pleasant. Located in the Omar Shrine building.

Date: Friday, March 26 2010

Time: Social Hour 11 AM

Lunch: 12 Noon

Menu: Point Grill Friday Buffet includes a Seafood entrée, Salad and Dessert

Cost: \$16.00 per person

RSVP: Check to arrive No later than 23 March 2010

This is a casual dress affair. Make checks payable to Charleston MOAA and mail to William Mehard, 5926 Commonwealth Circle, Hanahan, SC 29410-2431

If you have special diet needs contact LCDR Mehard . Tel: 554-8391 or Mobile 834-0974. Email: mehardw@bellsouth.net

Who's this Month's MOAA Profile?
See Page Three

Legislative Update

CDR John E. Nolan, SC, USN

DoD FY 2011 BUDGET

The Pentagon FY 2011 Defense Budget is proposing a \$549 billion base budget (a 3.4% increase over 2010) and a \$159 billion more to support operations in Afghanistan.

During testimony before the House and Senate Armed Services Committee, the Secretary outlined three major priorities in the DoD base budget:

- * Strengthening the nation's commitment to the all-volunteer force
- * Rebalancing America's defense posture to prevail in current conflicts
- * Continuing DoD's commitment to reform, especially in acquisition

Highlights of initiatives proposed in the new budget include:

PAY RAISE-A military pay increase of only 1.4%. This would match private sector pay growth between 2008 and 2009. But it would be the lowest military pay raise since 1963. If enacted, it would be the first year since 1999 without at least some progress in reducing a basic pay raise gap that still stands at 2.4%.

CONCURRENT RECEIPT-The budget again proposes a five-year plan to phase out the disability offset to military retired pay for all members whose service caused conditions forced them into medical retirement. Congress failed to enact a similar proposal last year after being unable to identify cost-offsets.

FAMILY SUPPORT-The budget provides \$8.8 billion-an increase of \$450 million from last year-to emphasize the importance of child support and youth programs, spouse employment, commissaries and schools.

HEALTH CARE- The budget proposes \$50.7 billion to fully fund the Defense Health Program without any TRICARE fee increases for retirees.

PRESIDENT APPOINTS DEBT COMMISSION LEADER

In February, President Obama, by executive order, created a bi-partisan 18 member National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, consisting of 10 Democrats and 8 Republicans.

The Commission is charged with developing recommendations to reduce the federal budget deficit to 3% of the gross domestic product by 2015. The deficit is close to 10% today, and rapidly rising. All government programs will be subject to scrutiny, including defense expenditures, Medicare, Social Security, federal retirement programs, including military retirements, and VA benefits.

The Commission will be co-chaired by former Clinton White House Chief of Staff, Erskine Bowles and former Senator Alan Simpson (R-WY). Simpson served on the 1994-1995 Bi-partisan Commission on Entitlement and Tax Reform that failed to reach a consensus. Simpson joined some other members of that commission in recommending, among other things, severely limiting COLA's on Social Security, military, and federal retirement annuities. At that time Simpson asserted that COLA's weren't part of the "basic benefits package".

If Social Security and Medicare are to be on the table, there's not much else that won't be. It could include looking at how much we're willing to spend to be the world's police force in increasingly unpopular wars, how much taxes are required from individuals and business, how much we're willing to spend on military and VA benefits, cut in annuitant COLA's and much more. Tough years are ahead of us.



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LT COL Don Brock Army Air Corps Member Weatherman



With more than 2 million men and women constantly on the move, it's easy to see why the Army Air Corps during World War II might lose track of some of its people.

Perhaps that's why in 1943 2nd Lt. Don Brock got a strange answer when he asked who was the commanding officer of the Niagara Falls weather station he had just reported to. The answer: "You are!"

Brock had 2 1/2 years of college at the Colorado School of Mines when he enlisted in the Air Corps' aviation cadet program in 1942. He hoped to train as an engineering officer but the Air Corps decided he should become a weather officer instead.

He was commissioned at Grand Rapids, Mich., before heading to Niagara Falls.

"I lived in a hotel (at Niagara Falls) and rode to work each day on a bus," he said. "I thought this was terrible. I so disliked it that when I saw a message saying if you wanted to volunteer for nav (navigator) training, you could."

By January, 1944, Brock was at Ellington Field, near Houston, where he learned to be a navigator on top of being a weather officer. From Ellington, Don moved to Orlando, Fla., and soon worked out of various air fields in Florida. He flew as an observer in B-25s, looking for stormy weather.

"There was no other way to forecast weather in the tropics," Don said. We had nothing but surface data and weather balloons."

He soon got a strong taste of bad weather when a hurricane hit central Florida. He was working at a base near Kissimmee at the time.

"We evacuated Kissimmee," he said. "Everyone left except the ops guys and the weather forecaster. That meant I stayed."



Don Brock in 1944

Don was isolated for nearly a week, living in the ops building with no communications with the rest of the world. It was the toughest situation he had to face while in uniform.

Don's next posting could have been a lot tougher. Early in 1945 he was training to be part of the invasion force that was heading for Japan. The war ended and his deployment was cancelled.

Don stayed on active duty until September, 1946. He then returned to his civilian home in Missouri. He got his bachelor's degree in Physics from the University of Missouri and embarked on a civilian career in the sale of commercial filtration equipment for large diesel engines.

He remained, however, in the Air Force Reserve until 1981 when he retired as a lieutenant colonel. His job was to interview prospective cadets for the Air Force Academy. It was his most satisfying assignment.

"I talked with at least a couple of hundred young men and women who were accepted into the academy, including the first woman from Illinois to enter the academy," he said. "I totally enjoyed it."

Don finally retired from his civilian career in 2002 at age 81. He joined MOAA six months ago, bringing one of the "Greatest Generation" home to the chapter.

Welcome aboard, Don!



Don Brock today

VA Hospital Visit on February 20th




Butch Fuller, Al Dovre, Terry Joyce and Don Lovelace visit with World War II Vet Bruce Dayton.



Berneice Fuller visits with Reverend Ed Kessler, a Gulf War Vet and Nazarene Pastor



Terry Joyce shares a “Thumbs Up with Veteran Herman Collins during MOAA’s visit to the VA Hospital.



Sam Stafford III, M.D.
Mt. Pleasant Dermatology
1280 Johnnie Dodds Blvd.
Suite 300
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464
(843) 881-0320

THIS IS YOUR ASSOCIATION. BE A PART OF IT.

To be an effective association, its members need to be a part of it. Being a part of it means, that in addition to paying dues, members should participate in it, the functions and the leadership. By leadership, I mean being an active member of the chapter’s board; serving as an elected member, serving as a board member, making the decisions that keep the chapter vital.

Elected and Board members do wear out occasionally, and need some relief. Forcing these folks to continue to serve past their normal terms, and to also pick up the slack from some vacated board positions is unfair to them, and unfair to the chapter.

Your leadership experience should serve you well, if you would step forward in the near future and volunteer to serve as an elected member, or as a board member. You do have something to offer, so why not give it a try.

All of our board meetings are open to the membership. This is a good way to find out what goes on there, and you will get the opportunity to add your opinions and suggestions. We meet regularly on the second Friday of each month, at the Charleston Club. Meetings begin at 12:15, and last for about an hour. We will be glad to have you join us, and hopefully you will consider becoming an elected officer or board member.

Butch Fuller

REST IN PEACE

A grateful nation thanks you for your contribution

CAPT Owen A. Hardage, USN (Ret)

January 27, 2010

Survived by Wife Jeanette

COL Clarence “Sam” Horton, USAF (Ret)

February 18, 2010

A contribution will be made to the scholarship fund in memory of our lost member

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President's Pen

Details of the planned March event are described on the front page of this Newsletter. I ask each of you to contact your friends and appeal to them to attend these luncheon events. Many of our cherished benefits are being targeted for changes which will impact all of us and your chapter leadership is trying very hard to spread the word.

At our most recent meeting the Board of Directors formed a committee of three board members to conduct a search for potential chapter officers. This committee is composed of Clint Noren, Chapter Secretary and Chairman; Butch Fuller, Past President; and Rudy Smart, Past President. They will be contacting chapter members in an effort to improve interest in chapter activities and to find candidates willing to serve on the board in the future.

Within this newsletter is an article prepared by Butch Fuller which elaborates on the critical need for new board members and the potential consequences if new chapter officers are not forthcoming. I ask that any of you who may be contacted by our committee members to listen carefully to the opportunities to serve and agree to assist in the vital roles of our chapter leadership.

Cliff

Wanted: Ideas for Chapter Functions

We are always looking for new and innovative things to do at our monthly functions, fun things, informative things, etc. We normally have these functions every month except July and August.

If you have any ideas or suggestions, please contact 1st VP Bill Mehard at 554-8391 (home), 834-0974 (cell) or by e-mail at mhardw@bellsouth.net.

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2nd VP MEMBERSHIP	COL Allan T. Smith, USAF (thru 2010)	572-2011	alandmarty@comcast.net
SECRETARY	COL Clinton L. Noren, USAF (thru 2010)	552-7579	cnoren@earthlink.net
TREASURER	LTCOL. Ed Knowles, USAF (thru 2010)	553-5299	r66837.comcast.net
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DIR. LEGISLATIVE	CDR John E. Nolan, USN (thru 2010)	821-5767	sandlappers@sc.rr.com.
DIR. T.O.P.S/PUBLICITY	MAJOR Terry Joyce, USAF (thru 2012)	871-6360	wjoyce@prodigy.net
PAST PRESIDENT	COL Josiah (Butch) Fuller, USA (thru 2010)	821-0169	ButchFuller@aol.com
MEMBER AT LARGE	CDR Donald Lovelace, USN (thru 2013)	797-6326	Love29406@aol.com

REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD (Appointed by the President)

EDITOR	COL Josiah (Butch) Fuller	821-0169	ButchFuller@aol.com
CHAPLAIN	CAPT Henry Lovelady, USN	553-9581	capthensryl@comcast.net
SCHOLARSHIP	COL Rudy Smart, USAF	824-1263	rudy@thesmartsplace.com

News and Views herein are not necessary those of any Government Department or of other Chapters or Members. **Prospective Chapter Members:** if you are not a member of the Charleston Chapter, MOAA, you have received this copy as a courtesy invitation to call any Officer or Director for information about joining.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Total Membership: 474
Auxiliary Members: 97
Honorary Members: 25

MEMBERSHIP DUES

To those members who have not yet paid their annual dues, please note that your Membership is highly valued and we sincerely hope to continue counting you among us as we press on to further the goals and objectives of this Chapter. To remain a Charter member, please submit your dues.

Please remember that the Chapter's annual dues are expected at the beginning of each year. Check the mailing label on this newsletter, where it says, "**DUES PAID THRU.....**" date to see if your dues are current for the year **2010** or beyond.

If not, please mail your dues at your earliest convenience (\$10.00 for members or \$5.00 for Auxiliary members) payable to **Charleston MOAA**. Along with your dues please complete the Membership Application/Renewal form inside the back page of this Newsletter. Attach your check to the application and mail both to:

**Charleston Chapter, MOAA
P.O. Box 70421
Charleston, SC 29415-0421.**

Thanks in advance.

Dues Questions

Questions concerning your status should be directed to:

Al Smith, Membership VP. 572-2011
alandmarty@comcast.net

MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID DUES FOR 5 OR MORE YEARS

One additional member has joined the ranks of those who have paid their dues for five or more years. In addition to those previously recognized, we are pleased to extend our wholehearted thanks to the following member:

MajGen Arthur J. Rooney, USAF (Ret.)

WELCOME ABOARD!

Lt.Col Burton P. Emmett, USAF (Ret.)
5912 Commonwealth Circle
Hanahan, SC 29410

LCDR Thomas W. Pearson, USN (Ret.)
6888 Buckhorn Road
Ravenel, SC 29470-5510

Wanted: ROTC Awards Presenters

Spring is not that far away, and one thing that Spring brings in the Lowcountry are the annual Award Presentations at the various schools in the area.

Again this year, we are looking for volunteers from the Chapter to be presenters at one or more of these events. Ceremonies are usually on a weekday, daytime or evening, during late March, April or early May. Those who have presented in the past say the event is typically enjoyable.

Volunteers can contact Steve Rowe at 843-303-7438, or at srowe@carolinaone.com.

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