



Charleston Chapter, Military Officers Association of America

September, 2011 Issue 8-2011

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Web site: www.chasmoaa.org

History Comes to Life The US Army's Spirit of America



The 2011 Spirit of America performance will bring more than 300 active duty soldiers from the U.S. Army Military District of Washington to the North Charleston Coliseum on September 16th and 17th.

The history of the nation will come to life through historical reenactments, musical entertainment and precision military drill. Historical accounts, taken directly from Soldiers' letters and diaries provide the story line for this powerful drama, designed to entertain while presenting the history and development of the U.S. Army from its origins thru the wars, conflicts and missions that have molded the Army and the Nation.

Spirit of America performances are open to the public, and admission is FREE, but tickets are required. Show times are Sep 16, 1030AM and 7:30 PM, and on Sep 17th at 2:00PM and 7:30PM. You can request them by mail, by Sept 2nd with a self addressed, stamped envelope, mailed to: North Charleston Coliseum ATTN: Spirit of America, 5001 Coliseum Drive, North Charleston, SC 29418. Or, you can pick them up at the ticket office on Montague Drive.

September Luncheon

When's the last time you took advantage of a Space-A flight? Do you know the details of the program? The destinations available? Most of us at one time or another have heard of the program, and many of us have used it. But...do we understand it or have we kept abreast of changes? At one time, dependents were not authorized travel in CONUS – has that changed...? Come join us Friday the 23rd for a presentation by Space – A desk personnel here at CAFB. If you've ever used the program, you may remember there's more to it than simply packing a bag and showing up at the terminal. For those who understand how it works, though, it really can be an outstanding benefit! And, the answer to dependents flying in CONUS? Come join to learn specifics (but, I believe the answer is: Yes!)

Place: Charleston Club, Charleston AFB

Date: Friday, September 23rd, 2011

Time: Social Hour 11AM (Beer & wine honor bar)

Lunch: 12 Noon

Menu: Seafood buffet (fried/steamed shrimp, collards, red rice, baked/fried cod, hush puppies, soup & salad, dessert)

Cost: \$13.00 per person (non-members). Charleston Club members \$11.00 (provide membership number). Make checks payable to Charleston MOAA

Dress: Casual

RSVP: Check to arrive NLT Tuesday, September 20th

Mail To: Dave Farley, CDR, USN, Ret, 126 Cainhoy Landing Road, Wando, SC 29492

Need additional information: Call 881-9452 (home); 708-8110 (cell); or e-mail dejarley@bellsouth.net

Legislative Update CDR Gordon B. Hobgood, USN Ret

View from the Crows Nest:

We've begun updating our chapter Legislative Affairs website every couple of days with breaking legislative news and/or news needing MOAA member action. Legislative activity will be sparse until Congress returns from vacation in September.

Rough seas ahead!

Washington appears to feel their work is done and have returned to their respective states for vacation. In the eleventh hour, they finally raised the debt ceiling and created a committee of 12 (**'Dirty Dozen'**) to work out \$1.2T in budget cuts over the next 10 years by Thanksgiving. If the committee fails, automatic draconian cuts will be spread out across the board. Either way, nothing is being spared the scalpel ... everything is on the table. That being said, we still see individual politicians making headlines declaring pet programs in their home states safe from the knife or targets they expect to push for cuts. The battle of Guns vs. Butter has begun.

Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA), senior Democrat on the House Financial Services Committee, said the biggest reason the U.S. is seeing its credit downgraded is that it spends too much money being "military policemen of the world". Rep. Frank told CBS's "The Early Show", reining in defense spending is "going to be my mantra" for the next few months. He said \$200 billion could be saved without "endangering our security" by dialing back military involvement in the world, including operations in Western Europe and Asia. The military establishment has always had this "great momentum" in politics, but says the credit reversal "could change our thinking." Frank calls the military a logical target "if we're looking for something that breaks the mold" on spending. **AP**

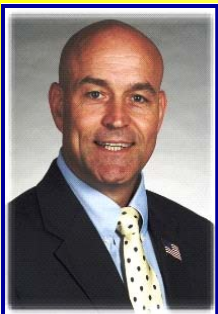
Expect high ticket items to bear the brunt of the cuts: troop reductions, missiles (Tomahawk/next gen SA & anti-missile defense), aircraft (V-35 & 22/refueling tankers/ additional C-17s), tanks, ships (submarines/destroyers/ aircraft carriers), plain old vanilla R&D, retirement benefits (pay, medical, commissary/exchange, 20 year retirement plan), and another round of Base Realignment and Closures (BRAC).

They get the most bang for the buck, affect fewer people, and stick out like a sore thumb. They are not visible or seen until many years down the road and are not perceived as a loss until it is too late to close the gap. This gives the look/feel of savings while giving politicians, up for re-election, room to politically duck and cover without limiting/eliminating social programs and angering voters back home.

The true test will come from the committee makeup and the short time frame available to get the job done. They will rely heavily on recommendations by two previous committees. There just isn't time to go back to SQUARE ONE. Those recommendations were shot down by both houses as too drastic, hard, and unacceptable. Requirement for an "**All Up or All Down**" voting process will allow many to duck responsibility and find politically acceptable cover as they run for re-election.

The **Dirty Dozen** represent states with some of the biggest stakes in DOD funded programs (i.e. Lockheed Martin, General Dynamics Corp., Raytheon Co. and Boeing Co.). Any significant program cuts will have ripple effects on their constituents' ... resulting in large scale layoffs of high salaried individuals and adding to the nation's unemployment problem. They will have incentive to craft their recommendations very carefully; however, they will also be tempted to horse trade and cut behind the scenes deals sparing programs in their states at the expense to other programs.

(continued on page 6)



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Commander Gordon Hobgood, USN

Meeting the Challenges



Retired Navy Cmdr. Gordon Hobgood is MOAA Charleston's new director of Legislative Affairs, but his service to MOAA can hardly be called new.

"I came back (to the chapter) because I had just retired from a second career. I have the time and am willing to do the job," Gordon said recently. Indeed, his return after a more than 15-year break is no surprise to anyone who's familiar with his work. But first some background.

Gordon started as a military brat. His father was a B-24 pilot in the Army Air Corps, later the U.S. Air Force. That meant the Hobgoods lived at bases in the Philippines, Germany and the U.S.

He graduated from high school in 1963 and joined the Navy the following year.

"I was in college when JFK (President Kennedy) was assassinated," he said. "Joining the Navy was a patriotic thing."

Gordon first became a hospital corpsman, specializing in neurology and psychiatry. He was assigned to the USS La Salle, an amphibious transport dock, then later to the old Navy hospital at the Charleston Naval Base. He left active duty in 1968 to attend Emory and Henry College in Virginia.

"I was a pre-med student," he said, "but then a Navy aviation recruiter arrived."

The recruiter gave Gordon an airplane ride and he was immediately hooked on becoming a pilot.

"I passed the physical, spent a summer at boot camp, finished college, and reported to Pensacola," the Navy's flight training base in Florida. "I soloed and did well until my depth perception became a problem.

"I would have killed myself or anyone riding with me," he said. "It wasn't worth it."

Gordon was still an ensign and the mine warfare career field beckoned. It was 1972 and the Vietnam War meant work for mine warfare officers.

"When I graduated from mine warfare school, an admiral's aide came up and told me "the admiral wants to send you to war."

That meant mining North Vietnam's Haiphong Harbor, then waiting for the peace agreement to be signed and all U.S. prisoners of war to be freed.



Gordon after his solo flight

It was logical that Gordon be ordered to sweep the mines since he had placed them in the water the year before.

In 1973, Gordon returned to Charleston where he was assigned as the executive officer on a mine sweeper. While here, he and his wife Margaret were married.

Two years later, Gordon and Margaret moved to Japan where he became the legal officer on the cruiser USS Oklahoma City. In 1979 he transferred to Pearl Harbor where he became the operations officer for a squadron of warships.

Gordon's later assignments included executive officer on the Charleston-based frigate USS Alywin and mine plans officer for the Commander, Mine Warfare Force.

He deployed twice to the Persian Gulf, first to sweep for Iranian-laid mines. The second time he was in charge of the Navy's mine countermeasures effort in the region. When he retired in 1990, he was the Navy's subject-matter expert on laying and sweeping mines in the Persian Gulf.

Upon retirement, Gordon directed the Combined Federal Campaign, the military's input into the Trident United Way. He also served as vice president and later president of MOAA Charleston.

The base closures ax fell on Charleston in 1993. Gordon worked hard on the Chamber of Commerce's In Defense of Charleston campaign to save the base and shipyard. He was especially interested in keeping the Mine Warfare Command open in Charleston, but to no avail.

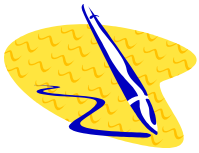
That meant it was time for a new career. Gordon earned a master's degree in teaching from Charleston Southern University. Soon he was teaching honors-level courses in geography, history and government at Middleton and West Ashley high schools. He later became an adjunct professor with the City Colleges of Chicago, teaching in the evenings at the Navy base. He retired from teaching in 2008.

Gordon says his worst tour in the Navy came when he had to quit flight school. "After two years, it was a let-down."

Everything else was simply a challenge to be met. "I always felt challenged," he said. "I was the trouble shooter."



Gordon in 1987



President's Pen

July and August have flown past, and it will be nice to get back in the rhythm with our monthly luncheons and evening meetings. Dave and Dot have done an outstanding job arranging speakers and various locations for our meetings. September, October, November and December will be no exception. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us and bring your friends and neighbors!!

September will be at The Charleston Club and will feature interesting information on Space A travel. In October we will have our regional Veterans' Affairs representative to review benefits and how to apply for those you qualify to receive. Both of these speakers will provide information that could prove beneficial for our future travels and our need for services.

November will be our annual trip to Red's and will be an opportunity for social gathering and just enjoying each other's company. Several members who are working during the day should have an opportunity to join us for our evening of fun and food. There will be no speaker and the evening will be some plain old fun!!

Membership continues to decline, so as you meet new neighbors, or just old neighbors who were officers in the service, or have retired and are not members, please ask them to consider joining the Charleston Chapter and also MOAA National. Just make sure they do not forget to note their Charleston Chapter membership.

Also, the State Conference in Myrtle Beach is just around the corner. If you are interested in attending, please visit the grandstrandmoaa.com website and sign up for the event. There will be MOAA National representatives as well as very informative speakers each morning and plenty of time in the afternoon and evenings for meeting new people and enjoying the Myrtle Beach attractions.

Ernie

Personal Affairs

Here are a few things we, as intelligent individuals, can do to make it easier for our survivors to cope with our loss.

Create a retired pay file that includes the information for DFAS (Defense Finance & Accounting Service).

Create an annuities file; a personal document file; an income tax file; a property tax file; an insurance policy file; a list of all credit cards & charge accounts; a list of all business associates and friends. Spend time with your spouse discussing a plan for funeral services. Visit a funeral home to pre-arrange your services.

Who do we notify in the event of a death? Well, DFAS for one beside the Social Security Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, any fraternal group that you have membership with, e.g. MOAA, FRA, NCOA, VFW, AL, etc..

The above information is not all-inclusive and should be used with other estate planning tools to lessen trauma to your loved ones.

Until next time, Cheers

Lcdr. W.J. Mehard, USN Ret. Chapter Director of Personal Affairs

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars for these upcoming chapter events:

Friday, Sep 23rd - Chapter Luncheon, CAFB Club

Friday, Oct 14th - Chapter Board Meeting, 12:15

Friday, Oct 28th - Chapter Luncheon, TBA

Friday, Nov 11th - Chapter Board Meeting, 12:15

Friday, Nov 18th - Red's Ice House

Friday, Dec 9th - Chapter Board Meeting, 12:15

Friday, Dec 16th - Dec Luncheon, Carraba's

MORE RESCUERS SHOW UP TO HELP OUR KITTY

More Chapter members have pitched in to help our scholarship fund. Their tax deductible contributions are helping keep our account at a level where we can continue to support our current student.



Contributions were gratefully received from CDR Harry L. Huggins, CDR Doris Pearce, LCDR Clyde E. Wilson Jr, and Verbia Quattlebaum.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO HELP. Make your check out to Future Military Officers Scholarship Fund and send it to us. You will be helping one of our own local students go to college and get a commission.

Mail your contribution to:

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Which way is the wind blowing?

I don't see any way Congress can reduce fiscal spending without cutting programs, entitlements, personnel, and changing tax code. The debt is just too large. No one is going to be very happy, but it has to be done. That said ... what can **we** ... **you** do to guide where and how much will be cut?

Beat To Quarters ... This Is Not A Drill:

Contact our elected representatives and offer your "solution/ideas" how they might go about solving the debt and program funding problem. Take the time to write/email members of the Dirty Dozen committee and lend them the benefit of your council. Steer clear of emotional arguments. Chicken Little never accomplished his/her agenda. Lay out serious, well thought out, and logical problem solutions. Ask them how you can be of service. Get involved.

Visit MOAA Nationals Legislative Affairs Action website and email/print and mail their suggested position papers on subjects of urgent interest to military retirees and veterans. Their suggested messages can be annotated to more closely reflect your position and/or be personalized. Send one from your spouse while you're at it. Mention that you are a member of the Charleston Chapter of MOAA.

Come to our monthly meetings, be vocal, and ... how about helping us recruit more members for our chapter.

Another Successful ROTC/JROTC Awards Year

In May, the Charleston Chapter of MOAA completed another successful year of ROTC/JROTC award presentations. We delivered MOAA ROTC medals and cash awards to cadets at 24 schools of our membership area. Recognition for outstanding performance was conducted through several different settings, from parade field reviews, to dinner occasions, to school assemblies. It could not have been successful without presenters volunteering from our organization to make these awards. The following presenters took part in these ceremonies, and we acknowledge their outstanding response as they gave of their time and dedication to this important part of our chapter's purpose:

COL Nick Anderson	COL Butch Fuller	CDR John Nolan
BG Ernie Brockman	MAJ Terry Joyce	CAPT Earl Pinckney
LTC Harvey Dick	CDR Don Lovelace	COL Steve Rowe
COL Jim Easley	CAPT Fred Massey	COL Rudy Smart
CDR Dave Farley	CW3 Jim Natividad	COL Al Smith

MOAA MIXED BOWLING LEAGUE

We have completed another fun-filled season and are taking a break until we start a new season in September, 2011.

WE NEED BOWLERS!

(Regular and substitutes are needed; both men and women).

We bowl on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m.

The only thing needed to join us is a desire to enjoy the sport and the camaraderie of good folks.

For further information or to sign up for our next season, please contact:

Norm Wolff 216 6433 or junowolff@bellsouth.net

2011-2012 OFFICERS and BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT	BG Ernest D. Brockman, USA (thru 2012)	875-4465	ebrockman@sc.rr.com
1st VP PROGRAMS	CDR David E. Farley, USN (thru 2012)	881-9452	defarley@bellsouth.net
2nd VP MEMBERSHIP	COL Allan T. Smith, USAF (thru 2012)	572-2011	alandmarty@comcast.net
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TREASURER	LTCOL. Ed Knowles, USAF (thru 2012)	553-5299	r66837.comcast.net
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DIR PERSONAL AFFAIRS	LCDR William J. Mehard, USN (thru 2013)	554-8391	mehardw@bellsouth.net
DIR. LEGISLATIVE	CDR Gordon Hobgood, USN (thru 2014)		oxxo@aol.com
DIR. T.O.P.S/PUBLICITY	MAJOR Terry Joyce, USAF (thru 2013)	871-6360	wjoyce@sc.rr.com
ASST AWARDS DIR	COL Steve Rowe, USA (thru 2013)	303-7438	srowe@carolinaone.com
RECRUITING CHAIR	COL Beverly R. Brockman USA (thru 2013)	875-4465	bbrockman@sc.rr.com

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EDITOR	COL Josiah (Butch) Fuller, USA	821-0169	ButchFuller@aol.com
CHAPLAIN	CAPT Henry Lovelady, USN	553-9581	capthentryl@comcast.net
SCHOLARSHIP	COL Rudy Smart, USAF	824-1263	rsmart1@gmail.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.

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Charleston Chapter MOAA Membership Application Renewal Change of Address (circle one).
Chapter Dues: \$10.00 a year for Regular membership. Auxiliary membership \$5.00 per year. Multiple year dues are encouraged in order to reduce paperwork. Make check payable to "Charleston MOAA". Mail to: Charleston MOAA, P.O. Box 70421, Charleston SC 29415-0421.

Last Name _____ First Name _____ MI _____

DOB _____ Rank _____ Service _____ Spouse's Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

If you are a member of National MOAA, please provide your membership number _____

Your status (circle one) Retired Active Duty Reserve National Guard Former Officer Auxiliary

Dues for Year (s) _____ Signature _____

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Total Membership: 425
Auxiliary Members: 93
Honorary Members: 27
Receiving E-Mail Newsletters: 99

Dues Questions

Questions concerning your status
should be directed to:
Al Smith, Membership VP. 572-2011
alandmarty@comcast.net

BE THE NEXT IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!!

Did you know that this newsletter is on line *and* in living color? Check out our website at www.chasmoaa.org. You will need the latest version of Adobe Reader which is available on our site, and it's free. If you choose to access the newsletter from the web on a regular monthly basis instead of the U.S. Post Office "snail mail", you will:

- Be notified as soon as the newsletter is on the web.
- Receive your copy 5 to 7 days earlier.
- Help the environment by reducing paper waste and diminishing the number of trees needed to make paper.
- Help your Chapter to reduce the price tag involved in the cost of postage (postage rates will go up again!!) and printing!

I hope this sounds like something you would like to do to help your chapter. If so, let Al Smith know at alandmarty@comcast.net.

If you select this option you will receive a personal e-mail in October and December of each year showing you your annual dues expiration date..

OK members, which one of you wants to become number 100 receiving the newsletter by e-mail?

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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WELCOME ABOARD!

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