



THE MILITARY COALITION

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Treasurer: Mike Blum, MCL, 703-207-9588

MINUTES OF August 1, 2013 MEETING

Fleet Reserve Association. 125 N. West St. Alexandria, VA 22314

1. The monthly TMC meeting was called to order by Co-Chairman Hayden. All member organization representatives were present except: AMVETS, NCOA, and VVA.
 - a. Pledge of Allegiance: Co-Chairman Hayden
 - b. Introductions: none
 - c. Presentations: none
 - d. Minutes approved for July 11, 2013 meeting, with change to the Awards committee note to include FRA's submission of an award recipient.
 - e. Approval of Treasurer's report suspending until next meeting, financial statements included at meeting.
2. Co-Chair Discussion Items:

Co-Chair Hayden (MOAA) said talked about a new DoD report outlining various budget scenarios depending on congressional action. Due to congressional blocks on BRAC and health care increases, DoD has to look at cost savings in other arenas, to include changing military retirement, housing allowances, overseas pay allowances, and continuing to limit active duty pay raises. The Pentagon has reached out to some associations asking them to lobby Congress to campaign against the impacts of the sequester. Co-Chair Barnes (FRA) said that the CJCS and senior military advisors have been tasked with updating the military compensation system to reduce budgets by \$50b over 10 years.

Also discussed were the various MSA provisions in the House and Senate versions of the NDAA. Co-Chair Hayden encouraged individual associations to contact the Senate to articulate their position, but felt that TMC should not take a position.

Marshall Hanson (ROA) requested a vote that TMC not take a formal position on pending MSA amendments. The vote was approved with no nays.

3. Coordinator Announcements: None.

4. Committee Co-Chairs briefed on key issues since the last TMC meeting. Highlights are noted below.

a. Awards. Co-Chair Hanson (ROA), announced that the TMC Awards ceremony will be held October 1 at ROA.

b. Guard and Reserve. Co-Chair Madison (TREA) briefed on H.R. 975, but expressed concerns that the bill would be paid for by delaying military retiree COLAs. There is a TMC letter on the topic, pending committee coordination. Co-Chair Madison also briefed on the positive progress on legislation on veterans' status (H.R. 679 and S. 628). New legislation has been introduced to improve veterans' preference for veterans not activated under Title 10 orders. TMC will not take a position on H.R. 2785 and S. 1320 until the outcome of veterans' status.

Co-Chair Hanson (ROA) noted that there has yet to be a bill introduced to provide early retirement credit for Guard and Reservists activated between September 11, 2001 and January 28, 2008. Co-Chair Hanson stressed the importance of keeping this as a committee goal.

There will be no August committee meeting.

c. MilCon/MWR. No report.

d. Mil-Personnel/Compensation/Commissaries. Co-chair Moakler (NMFA) mentioned a letter from AFMC to SecDef Hagel on commissary cuts. She also mentioned an *Army Times* article regarding child abuse. Senators Manchin and McCain have written a letter to SecDef Hagel asking what the services are doing to remedy this.

The next committee meeting will be at 10:00 on August 7 at FRA.

e. Retired Affairs. Co-Chair Davis (FRA) said that a new bill on the "doc fix" has been introduced (H.R. 2810). Co-Chair Davis (FRA) said that Senator Harry Reid's SBP-DIC offset bill (S. 234) would be introduced as an amendment to the Senate NDAA. There were discussions on provisions on the Military Lending Act.

The next committee meeting will be at 9:30 on September 17 at FRA.

f. Survivor Benefits. Co-Chair Moakler (NMFA) thanked MOAA for its Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee's Storming the Hill effort on SBP-DIC repeal on July 17.

g. Veterans. Co-Chair Norton (MOAA) briefed the Coalition on a recent SVAC hearing, and noted a distributed article by Tom Philpott that gave highlights. Also noted were provisions in the SAC-P markup regarding Tuition Assistance and MyCAA accounts. Senator Durbin plans

to introduce a bill that would allow student veterans to pay off student loans under reduced interest rates.

There will be no August committee meeting.

h. **Taxes, Social Security.** No report.

i. **Health Care.** Co-Chair Washington (FRA) participated in a conference call with GAO regarding TRICARE access concerns. TMA will be giving a brief on implications of the Affordable Care Act August 6 at 1:00.

The next committee meeting will be at 8:30 on September 26 at FRA.

j. **Membership and Nominations.** Co-chair Rosenbleeth (JWV) said that there are no board positions up for election at the November meeting. The committee nominated Mike Hayden (MOAA) as TMC Co-Chair, Mike Blum (MCL) as TMC Treasurer, and Jamie Naughton (MOAA) as TMC Coordinator.

k. **Website.** Jamie Naughton (MOAA), posted letter to POTUS regarding promotion of the US Surgeon General from the career PHS ranks.

5. Old Business. none

6. New Business. Marshall Hanson (ROA) said that there has been discussion in the Senate on a Continuing Resolution for funding the government after October 1, and that a possible shutdown may occur.

7. Good of the Order. Herb Rosenbleeth (JWV) wanted TMC to recognize Korean War veterans on the 60th anniversary of the conflict, and also recognize Lt Gen Steve Olmstead for his service. Jack du Teil (USAWOA) thanked MOAA for attending a recent event.

a. Appreciation was extended to FRA for hosting today's meeting. The next TMC meeting will be 10:00, **September 5, 2013**, at FRA.

8. Adjournment: 11:20 AM this date.

Respectfully,
Jamie Naughton, Coordinator