



THE MILITARY COALITION

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MINUTES OF OCTOBER 3, 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: NGAUS and IAVA. MOPH had an excused absence.
 - a. Pledge of Allegiance: Co-Chairman Hayden
 - b. Introductions: Mike Hayden introduced Cathy Lewis, MOAA's new Deputy Director of Government Relations. Kathy Moakler introduced Brooke Goldberg, NMFA's new spouse programs person, and Tom Green introduced Ken Hopper, MCRA's new president.
 - c. Presentations: none
 - d. Minutes approved for September 5, 2013 meeting, as amended by FRA.
 - e. Treasurer's report was suspended until the next meeting.

2. Co-Chair Discussion Items: Co-Chair Hayden (MOAA) discussed the current state of the government shutdown. With that taking top priority, the NDAA will likely be tabled until late October-early November. Legislation was passed that protects active duty military pay and special incentive pay. NOAA and PHS pay was not protected. Retired pay and SBP annuities will continue during the shutdown.

The next deadline is the debt ceiling. With the deadline for raising the debt ceiling in approximately two weeks, the likelihood of rolling government funding into the debt ceiling debate will increase.

Co-Chair Hayden thanked Kathy and Marshall for their work on the TMC Awards. If you

haven't paid for your association's attendees, please reach out to Mike Blum at MCL: mblum@MCLeague.org.

Committee chairs should start to finalize their goals for 2014, as they will be voted on at the December meeting.

Today served as Co-Chair Barnes' (FRA) last TMC meeting. A reception honoring his service is tentatively scheduled on December 5 at [Joe Theisman's](#) (1800 Diagonal Rd Alexandria, VA 22314). RSVPs will be sent out soon.

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) thanked everyone for attending the TMC Awards. Co-Chair Hanson asked people to start submitting names for next year's program.

b. **Guard and Reserve.** Co-Chair Madison (TREA) referenced an op-ed in the *Colorado Spring Gazette* that was distributed at the meeting. Co-Chair Hanson (ROA) briefed on a few funding bills for G/R that are currently before the House, but said that the Senate is unlikely to accept piecemeal funding during a government shutdown. Co-Chair Hanson also said that he has a meeting scheduled with Senator Tester's office to discuss reserve retirement reform.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for October 10 at 10:00 at TREA.

c. **MilCon/MWR.** Co-Chair Holleman (TREA) solicited requests for a co-chair.

d. **MilPersonnel/Compensation/Commissaries.** Co-Chair Moakler (NMFA) talked about the Defense State Liaison's Office (DSLO) and its efforts to work on state issues. She encouraged members to visit <http://www.usa4militaryfamilies.dod.mil/>. During the shutdown, CONUS commissaries will remain closed. AAFES will remain open. Many closures will be base-specific (family support, MTF access, etc.), so it's important to check with the local installation to see what services are affected.

e. **Retired Affairs.** Co-Chair Hayden (MOAA) reminded people that retired pay and SBP annuities will continue to be paid during a government shutdown. MOAA will be hosting the Military Compensation and Modernization Commission on October 11. He will ask when the Commission plans to hold public meetings, and when TMC can provide consolidated inputs.

f. **Survivor Benefits.** No report.

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

h. **Veterans.** Co-Chair Brown (AFSA) distributed a veterans' field guide regarding the shutdown. A bill to continue funding for the VA (H. J. Res. 72) failed to pass. The committee

received a briefing from Vets First on the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. TMC does not take a position on joining, but individual associations can support if they choose. The committee also received a VHA briefing regarding an outreach program for the Affordable Care Act.

i. **Health Care.** Co-Chair Washington (FRA) announced a number of changes that took effect October 1: TMA was replaced by the larger Defense Health Agency (DHA); TRICARE PSAs were reduced (legislation allowing beneficiaries to elect a one-time election to remain in TRICARE Prime is still pending before Congress); TRICARE Prime fees increased. TRICARE Retired Reserve (TRR) premiums will decrease on January 1, and, as a result of the Affordable Care Act, may become an affordable option for gray-area retirees.

The Committee is looking at MTF care during a government shutdown.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for October 31 at 8:30 at FRA.

j. **Membership and Nominations.** Co-Chair Rosenbleeth (JWV) noted that elections will be held at next month's meeting for TMC positions. Currently nominated to serve through 2014 is Mike Hayden (MOAA) to serve as Co-Chair, Mike Blum (MCL) to serve as Treasurer, Jamie Naughton (MOAA) to serve as Coordinator. John Davis (FRA) and Morgan Brown (AFSA) have been nominated to and serve the rest of Joe Barnes' term through 2014.

Nominations from the floor will be accepted from the floor at the TMC meeting, following the TMC Board meeting, on November 7.

k. **Website.** Sample TMC letters to every member of Congress regarding concerns over sequestration were posted to the website.

5. Old Business. Discussion was had on the harmful effects of sequestration as suggested by AUSN, and efforts by MOAA, FRA, and NMFA to engage members were highlighted.

6. New Business. None.

7. Good of the Order. Many associations are having their national conferences in the next several weeks. Morgan Brown (AFSA) noted new Maryland laws regarding cells and seat belts.

a. Appreciation was extended to FRA for hosting today's meeting. The next TMC meeting will be 10:00, **November 7, 2013** at AFA.

8. Adjournment: 11:05 AM this date.

Respectfully,
Jamie Naughton, Coordinator