

# THE MILITARY COALITION

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## MINUTES OF 7 February 2013 MEETING

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

1. The monthly TMC meeting was called to order by Co-Chairman Strobridge. All member organization representatives were present except: REA, AAAA, IAVA, WWP, and EANGUS.

a. Pledge of Allegiance: Co-Chairman Strobridge

b. Introductions: Chris Del Beccaro, MLA to Rep. Denham; Robert Certain (MCA).

c. Presentations: None

2. Co-Chair Discussion Items:

a. The Minutes for the 10 January 2013 meeting, previously provided electronically, were approved.

b. The Treasurer's report was approved.

Co-Chair Strobridge: The Administration is proposing a 1% pay increase for active duty personnel in lieu of the 1.8% comparability-based raise required by current law. The Administration budget proposal also is likely to include further TRICARE fee increase proposals. The budget won't be delivered until at least sometime in March because of the uncertainty over sequestration and CR funding levels. MOAA is drafting TMC testimony, but final draft will have to await the budget submission.

Co-Chair Barnes: TMC will meet with SASC staff next Friday at 1500 at ROA.

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) told the group to consider nominating legislators who championed our issues at the end of 2012.

b. **Guard and Reserve.** Co-Chair Madison (TREA) welcomed Marshall back. There is some uncertainty about Rep. Walz's status on the Veterans Affairs committee. G&R Caucus breakfast is 14 March 2013 from 8-10 am. Next committee meeting is Thursday at TREA 10:00 am.

c. **MilCon/MWR.** Co-Chair Campos (MOAA) asked Morgan Brown to provide a report on the Exchange advisory council meeting.

d. **MilPersonnel/Compensation/Commissaries.** Co-chair Moakler (NMFA) said the Brookings Institute did a report on military compensation. Co-Chair Barnes (FRA) said there is a press release out on the DECA audit.

e. **Retired Affairs.** Co-Chair Davis (FRA) said HR 303 and 333 (concurrent receipt bills) were introduced. Hopefully Sen. Reid will introduce similar legislation. Next committee meeting is February 19, at 1400 at FRA.

f. **Survivor Benefits.** Co-Chair Moakler (NMFA) said the revised goals are available. Sen. Nelson's staff got some attention in discussing possible offsets TMC can't endorse.

g. **Veterans.** Co-Chair Brown (AFSA) advised that Gordon Mansfield (former VA deputy and acting secretary) passed away. DOD is holding a press conference announcing some backtracking on pursuing the joint DoD-VA electronic health record. HR 357, 241, 288 and 250 were introduced.

h. **Taxes, Social Security.** Phil Odom (MOAA) said the committee is looking at Sen Baucus's S.140 on the Work Opportunity Tax Credit.

i. **Health Care.** Co-Chair Washington (FRA) said TMA will meet with association leaders the second week in March. Restrictions on Prime Service Areas will come in October. The next committee meeting is 28 February.

j. **Membership and Nominations.** Co-chair Rosenbleeth (JWV) had no report.

k. **Website.** Jamie Naughton (MOAA) said he has all the committees' goals on the Web site. Please let him know ASAP if your organization wants to order congressional handbooks.

5. Old Business. None.

6. New Business. None.

7. Good of the Order. Kudos to Joe Barnes on his letter to the Washington Post. JWV reception is 13 February. NGAUS reception will be the same day.

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

8. Adjournment: 11:05 AM this date.

Respectfully,

Ed Dockery, Coordinator