



THE MILITARY COALITION

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MINUTES OF February 5, 2015 MEETING

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: AAAA and WWP.
 - a. Pledge of Allegiance: Co-Chairman Hayden
 - b. Introductions: AFA introduced Christine Copp, NMFA introduced Joyce Raezer, EANGUS introduced Brian Birch, MOAA introduced Trina Fitzgerald, IAVA introduced Elizabeth Welke
 - c. Presentations: none
 - d. Minutes approved for February 5, 2015 meeting.
 - e. The Treasurer's report approved.
2. Co-Chair Discussion Items: Co-Chair Hayden (MOAA) discussed a proposed TMC letter on MCRMC recommendations. The Rule of 5 was invoked and instead, a letter of supporting organizations was sent to Congress.

Co-Chair Brown (AFSA) announced that the House and Senate passed their respective budget resolutions. Both budgets use OCO funding to plus up defense spending and circumvent budget caps imposed by sequestration. HASC scheduled a markup the defense bill the week of April 22. The Senate is about two weeks behind.

Kathy Moakler (NMFA) received an award in recognition of her years of service to TMC.

Co-Chair Hayden allowed the audit committee to provide its report; Rick Jones (NAUS) presented. There was a motion to approve the audit committee's report. The motion passed and the report was accepted.
3. Coordinator Announcements: Congressional directories arrived. Please wait until after the meeting to collect. Make payments available to:

MOAA
201 North Washington St
Alexandria, VA 22314

Please note on the memo line: Congressional directories

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

a. Awards. Co-Chair Hauck (NMFA) asked associations to please submit nominees.

b. Guard and Reserve. Co-Chair Madison (TREA) discussed recent vets status legislation that has been introduced.

Co-Chair McElligott (COAUSPHS) met with staff of OSD(RA) and noted concerns that Reserve Affairs' power could wane with recent reorganizations.

The next committee meeting will be April 9 at 10:00 AM at TREA.

c. MilCon/MWR. No report.

d. MilPersonnel/Compensation/Commissaries. Co-Chair Grugin (AFSA) announced that proposed budgets cut \$300M from commissary funding, and is working to coordinate a TMC letter.

Karen Golden (MOAA) discussed recent legislation permitting military spouses to purchase handguns. TMC will not take a position, but individual organizations may support if they choose.

Brooke Goldberg (NMFA) discussed blackouts with USTRANSCOM movers. She said families must secure movers ASAP when planning moves.

e. Retired Affairs. Co-Chair Barron (MOAA) discussed an op-ed by some [senior enlisted advisors](#) cautioning to retirement benefits.

Co-Chair Davis provided updates on H.R. 454, H.R. 333, and S. 271. He also provided an update on the doc fix provisions contained in H.R. 2.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for April 21 at 10:00 AM at FRA.

f. Survivor Benefits. Co-Chair Moakler (NMFA) announced Rep. Wilson reintroduced legislation to repeal the SBP-DIC offset (H.R. 1594). A TMC letter for coordination was sent out. The committee is also asking TMC to endorse H.R. 1598 by Rep. Titus, offering benefits to same sex couples.

Co-Chair Holleman (TREA) discussed two bills, S. 241, which temporarily provides DIC for 6 months, and a bill sponsored by Rep. Kennedy that increases DIC. She is coordinating letters of support.

g. Taxes, Social Security. Co-Chair Saunders (TREA) is coordinating support for S. 671, a bill providing a 20% tax credit for employers of members of the Guard and Reserve. The committee is working to get a companion bill in the House.

h. Veterans. Co-Chair Brown (AFSA) announced that there is a joint Veterans Affairs committee meeting on May 20.

i. **Health Care.** Co-Chair Beasley (MOAA) announced that the committee received a briefing from UnitedHealth Care.

The next committee meeting will be April 30 at 8:30 AM at FRA.

j. **Membership and Nominations.** No report.

k. **Website.** The website redesign will be launched soon. Details to follow.

5. Old Business. None.

6. New Business. None.

7. Good of the Order. TREA will send an email for a reception to honor Kathy Moakler at a date TBD. USAWOA announced Robert Scott, president emeritus of the organization, recently passed away. COAUSPHS announced Jim Currie is recovering from surgery. FRA discussed legislation for blue water veterans, a request from Bob McDonnell to support the nominee for VA's director of IT, He also announced that FRA's board of directors will be in town April 16-18, and the organization will honor Sen. Kelly Ayotte with an award. USCGPOA congratulated NCOA's Jon Ostrowski for recently retiring from the USCG. GSW will have a congressional reception on May 20. VFW thanked the TMC veterans committee for working to change the 40 mile rule contained in the Choice Act.

For organizations that ordered congressional directories and did not pick them up, please contact Jamie Naughton.

a. Appreciation was extended to FRA for hosting today's meeting. The next TMC meeting will be **10:00 AM, May 7, 2015 at AFA.**

8. Adjournment: 11:30 AM this date.

Respectfully,
Jamie Naughton, Coordinator