



THE MILITARY COALITION

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MINUTES OF January 8, 2015 MEETING

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

1. The monthly TMC meeting was called to order by Co-Chairman Brown. All member organization representatives were present except: AMVETS, AAAA, CWO, EANGUS, MCRA, NGAUS, VFW.
 - a. Pledge of Allegiance: Co-Chairman Brown
 - b. Introductions: MOAA introduced two guests from DAV who gave a presentation on fully developed appeals claims. FRA introduced Ben Young.
 - c. Presentations: none
 - d. Minutes approved for December 4, 2014 meeting.
 - e. The Treasurer's report approved.
2. Co-Chair Discussion Items: Co-Chair Brown (AFSA) announced that OMB will release the president's budget request on time. That means it will come out around the same time as the MCRMC report.

Secretary of Defense nominee Ash Carter's confirmation hearings have been delayed until February.
3. Coordinator Announcements: All committee goals have been received and updated on the TMC site except for the MilCon/MWR committee. Co-chair Holleman (TREA) said that she would send a finalized copy of the committee's goals after the meeting.
4. Committee Co-Chairs briefed on key issues since the last TMC meeting. Highlights are noted below.

a. Awards. Co-chair Hauck (NMFA) announced that the committee is looking for members.

b. Guard and Reserve. Co-chair Madison (TREA) announced that there will be no committee meeting in January.

The USCG is funded only until the end of February. The committee will monitor this situation.

Some associations have been getting requests from USAA regarding state legislation in Kentucky about the drawdown of reserve forces. TMC will not take a position on the proposed legislation but individual associations are free to.

Co-chair McElligott (COAUSPHS) thanked everyone for their coordination on TMC's [forced arbitration letter](#).

c. MilCon/MWR. Co-Chair Holleman (TREA) announced that the next committee meeting will be January 21 at TREA at 10 AM.

d. MilPersonnel/Compensation/Commissaries. Brooke Goldberg (NMFA) announced that overseas commissaries are having stocking issues. She will be sending a press release by NMFA on the matter after the meeting.

Co-Chair Grugin (AFSA) announced that the next committee meeting will be January 9 at NMFA at 10 AM.

e. Retired Affairs. Co-Chair Davis (FRA) announced that the next committee meeting will be February 4 at 10 AM at FRA.

f. Survivor Benefits. Co-Chair Moakler (NMFA) announced that she is hopeful that Rep. Tammy Duckworth (D-III) will once again introduce legislation in the 114th Congress to expand eligibility of the Fry Scholarship.

g. Taxes, Social Security. Co-Chair Odom (MOAA) announced that a tax extenders package was passed last month that lasted until the end of the 2014 tax season.

h. Veterans. Co-Chair Norton (MOAA) provided a wrap up of legislative issues in the 113th. The committee acknowledged DAV's work on securing advanced appropriations. Housing allowance stipends of GI Bill beneficiaries will not be subject to the 1% BAH reduction included in the FY 15 NDAA. The Clay Hunt SAV Act was reintroduced in Congress.

The next committee meeting will be February 4 at 1:30 PM at MOAA.

i. Health Care. Co-Chair Washington (FRA) announced that the next committee meeting will be January 29 at 8:30 AM at FRA.

j. Membership and Nominations. No report.

k. **Website.** The website redesign is moving forward and a test version has been unveiled to the Communications Working Group.

5. Old Business. None.

6. New Business. An audit committee was appointed consisting of Rick Jones (NAUS), Chairman, with Deirdre Holleman (TREA), and Paul Arcari (NMFA) as part of the team. . Its tasking is to meet with the Treasurer and examine the TMC revenues and expenditures for 2014. The goal is to present the results of the Audit at the March 2015 TMC meeting.

John Davis (FRA) announced that Rep. Walter Jones (R-N.C.) will reintroduce legislation that would authorize a surviving spouse to retain the deceased retiree's full final month retirement check if it is electronically deposited in a joint account.

Jack du Teil (USAWOA) provided a copy of his article about a [Military Times article](#) on DoD's preparation for a political battle over military pay.

7. Good of the Order. Rick Jones (NAUS) encouraged members to read [Tom Philpott's recent article](#) on Rep. Joe Heck (R-Nevada).

a. Appreciation was extended to FRA for hosting today's meeting. The next TMC meeting will be **10:00 AM, February 5, 2014 at FRA.**

8. Adjournment: 10:40 AM this date.

Respectfully,
Jamie Naughton, Coordinator