



THE MILITARY COALITION

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MINUTES OF March 6, 2014 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, AAAA, EANGUS, and VFW.
 - a. Pledge of Allegiance: Co-Chairman Hayden
 - b. Introductions: MOPH introduced National Commander Rob Siebels.
 - c. Presentations: none
 - d. Minutes approved for January 9, 2014 meeting.
 - e. The Audit Committee's report was approved. Treasurer's report approved.
2. Co-Chair Discussion Items: Co-Chair Hayden (MOAA) said that the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission met with TMC Co-chairs on March 5. The Commission is hoping to have an interim report released in late March – early April. Hayden also provided an initial look at the annual loss of purchasing power with the FY 2015 budget proposal. Committee Co-Chairs have been sent TMC testimony for review; it will be sent to the full TMC later next week.

Co-Chair Davis (FRA) asked people to look at Tom Philpott's [recent article](#) with Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel on planned commissary cuts. FRA will be undergoing building renovations in May. There will be a disruption of the normal meeting location during this period.
3. Coordinator Announcements: No report.
4. Committee Co-Chairs briefed on key issues since the last TMC meeting. Highlights are noted below.
 - a. **Awards.** No report.

b. **Guard and Reserve.** The next committee meeting will be March 13 at 10:00 AM at TREA.

c. **MilCon/MWR.** No report.

d. **MilPersonnel/Compensation/Commissaries.** Co-Chair Moakler (NMFA) discussed compensation changes in the FY 2015 budget: 1% active duty pay raise, BAH reductions to cover 95% of housing costs, and commissary reductions.

e. **Retired Affairs.** Co-Chair Hayden (MOAA) said that COLA cuts were repealed for current servicemembers and retirees, but entrants after Jan 1, 2014 will be subject to a COLA-1% point cut.

Co-Chair Davis (FRA) announced that the next committee meeting will be April 18 at 9:30 AM at FRA.

f. **Survivor Benefits.** Co-Chair Moakler (NMFA) said that under new TRICARE proposals, survivors of active duty deaths and medically retired personnel would be subject to active duty TRICARE premiums. There is a proposal to extend from one year to three years the amount of time beneficiaries of death gratuities have to roll over the payout into an IRA.

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

h. **Veterans.** Co-Chair Norton (MOAA) discussed the failure of S. 1982. Action should now be focused on S. 944. On March 4, the VA budget proposal was released; it included a 3% increase in the VA health care budget. In testimony before a joint House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee meeting, 6 of the 8 presenters were TMC members. Senators Heller and Casey will be dropping legislation soon to address the VA claims backlog.

i. **Health Care.** Co-Chair Washington (FRA) provided information on TRICARE changes in the budget proposal.

The next committee meeting will be March 27 at 8:30 AM at FRA.

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

k. **Website.** No report.

5. Old Business. No report.

6. New Business. Senator Gillibrand's MST bill failed by a vote of 55-45.

7. Good of the Order. A certificate of appreciation was presented to Jerry Farrell from COA. Bob Washington has accepted a position at JWV as director of operations. Interested candidates to fill his position at FRA should email [John Davis](mailto:John.Davis@fva.gov). Kate O'Gorman announced IAVA's storming

efforts will take place the last week of March. There will be a panel on mental health on March 24 at noon. There will also be a press event on March 27. Details to follow.

a. Appreciation was extended to FRA for hosting today's meeting. The next TMC meeting will be **10:00 AM, April 3, 2014** at FRA.

8. Adjournment: 3:12 PM this date.

Respectfully,
Jamie Naughton, Coordinator