



NEWS AND VIEWS OF CUMBERLAND VALLEY CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



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** National 4-Star Chapter 2008 **

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Harold Cooney

Here we are, another year gone by!! I hope those holiday plans are coming together and they include joining us on December 9th for our Holiday Musicales!! You are probably looking for pictures from the November 18 dinner and my summary of our speaker's comments. As you recall, due to the Veterans Day activities, we moved the November meeting to the 18th. That pushed us very close to the publishing deadline for the December Newsletter. So, by the time you read this column, we will have had a great November meeting with many of you attending with your guests. Our speaker, **Major General John Gronski, Commander, 28th Infantry Division Pennsylvania National Guard**, will have provided us an outstanding update on the great things the Division and your Pennsylvania Army National Guard soldiers are doing at home and abroad. I hope you were there to enjoy them. Our membership is growing. My thanks to those of you who have reached out to your friends and brought in new members.

In lieu of pictures, we've included two very pertinent articles for your information. The first is the **Great Decisions schedule for 2016**. The second is an update on the **Pennsylvania Military Community Enhancement Commission (PMCEC)**, appointed to assist the Governor in the enhancement of the military value of and advocacy for all installations, organizations and defense related stakeholders in the Commonwealth.

Elections 2016-2017: December is elections month and we'll be electing Chapter Officers and Board of Directors members at the December Meeting. The proposed slate below shows the current candidates yet still has some openings. This is just not that hard and I hope you will seriously consider joining the leadership of the Chapter as we move into 2016. I will send out a separate email once the slate is finalized. Please contact me ASAP if you are interested in filling one of the vacant slots on the slate:

Chapter Officers

- President: Col Michael Zang, USA (Ret)
- Vice President: **Vacant**

Board of Directors

- LtCol Dick Parady, USAF (Ret)
- LTC James Simms, USA (Ret)
- Mrs. Jane Mitchell
- **Vacant** (vice COL Bert Lennon, USA (Ret))

Chairs and Committees: We're still looking for volunteers to fill the **Legislative Affairs** and **Newsletter Editor** chairs. Please contact me if you are interested.

Our December 9 Holiday Musicales will be at the Letort View Community Center. Please make every effort to attend and celebrate the season.

CV-MOAA UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec 9, Dinner and Christmas Musicale at Letort View Community Center

Jan 13, Luncheon at Carlisle Country Club

Feb 10, Luncheon at Carlisle Country Club

Mar 9, Luncheon at Carlisle Country Club

April 13, Dinner at the Carlisle Country Club

GREAT DECISIONS PROGRAM

By Michael Zang

This coming year, the 2016 Great Decisions foreign policy programs will again be held at the Army Heritage and Education Center in the large meeting room. We will continue to meet on Fridays from 1 to 3 pm. The dates are January 15, 22, and 29, February 5, 12, and 19, and March 11 and 18. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. Finally, feel free to pass this message on to anyone you believe may be interested in joining us for one or more of the programs.

The 2016 Great Decisions program topics are:

- Middle East
- The Rise of ISIS
- The Future of Kurdistan
- Migration
- The Koreas
- The United Nations
- Climate Change
- Cuba and the U.S.

I have received notification from the Foreign Policy Association that the 2016 Great Decisions briefing book is available for pre-order. This book features impartial, thought-provoking analyses on eight issues of concern to U.S. policy makers today. Each article is written by carefully selected experts, offers questions and tools for discussion, as well as policy options for U.S. officials.

The price is \$25 plus shipping per book. This is an increase over the 2015 price. However, since I purchase in bulk the price is reduced to \$22 per book (which includes shipping). You may email me with your order and follow it up with a check to confirm it. All checks should be made payable to **Michael Zang** and mailed to me at 205 Widders Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055. I will accept orders through WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2015.

PROGRAM NOTES

By Michael Zang

Our December event is our annual **December Christmas Musicale** dinner at the Letort View Community Center on Wednesday, December 9, 2015. These early festivities help us get in the mood with great food, good friends, and merry music.

The Messiah Brass Collective will provide the musical portion of our program. This is a group of 2 trumpets, a trombone, a tuba and a French horn. The group operates under the Messiah College Department of Music. Its membership is composed entirely of music majors. They will be playing a program of pieces including traditional Christmas tunes both sacred and secular, and even pieces and themes from our favorite Christmas movies. They will do a few sing-along pieces as well. Please join us for the Musicale and kick off your Holiday Season.

The speaker for January's luncheon meeting is **LTC Reed Anderson**. He is a member of the Army War College Class of 2016. He will discuss the issue of deterrence and security assurance in the Baltics. His follow-on assignment is in Tunisia as the Chief of the Office of Defense Cooperation in the United States Embassy. I look forward to speaking with you at both events.

PENNSYLVANIA BRAC INITIATIVE

MOAA members are aware that DOD has been pushing for Congress to initiate another **Base Realignment and Closure** (BRAC) round to reduce infrastructure in light of the ongoing budget and force structure reductions.

The Pennsylvania Military Community Protection Commission (PMCPCC) was established by Executive Order 2012-12 on September 17, 2012. Effective December 22, 2014, Act 161 codified and renamed the Commission to the **Pennsylvania Military Community Enhancement Commission** (PMCEC). The purpose of the Commission is to assist the Governor in the enhancement of the military value of and advocacy for all installations, organizations and defense related stakeholders in the Commonwealth. The Commission provides recommendations, policies, plans and processes along with implementing instructions to achieve this goal.

The Commission elected **Lieutenant Governor, Mike Stack** as Chairperson of the **PMCEC**. There are four members of the Pennsylvania Military Installations and Base Development Caucus (MIBDC) as members of the Commission. These individuals were appointed by their respective caucuses. Currently, **Senators Alloway and Blake** and **Representatives Readshaw and Miccarelli** represent the MIBDC. Other members of the Commission representing specific areas are:

- **William Fallon**, ADM USN (Ret) - Senior Military Representative
- **Joseph Spielbauer**, COL USA, (Ret) - Executive Director
- **John Gray** - Economic Development
- **Nancy Lescavage**, RADM USN (Ret) - The Navy Yard
- **Ron Nelson**, MGen USMC (Ret) - Naval Support Activity Philadelphia

- **John Wiercinski**, Geisinger Health System - Tobyhanna Army Depot
- **George Schwartz**, BG USA - Pennsylvania National Guard
- **Phyllis Campbell**, SES (Ret) - Defense Logistics Agency Distribution, New Cumberland
- **George Connolly**, CAPT USN (Ret) - Naval Support Activity, Mechanicsburg
- **Neal Delisanti**, COL USA (Ret) - AWC, Carlisle Barracks
- **Mike Ross**, President, Franklin County Area Development Corporation - Letterkenny Army Depot
- **Chip Holsworth**, Col, USAF, (Ret) - 911th Reserve Airlift Wing
- **Bill Pentecost**, LTC, USAR -316th Sustainment Command

In order to focus efforts associated with each of the installations/organizations six local defense groups have been established. These local defense groups are:

- **Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation** (The Navy Yard & Naval Support Activity Philadelphia)
- **Blue Ribbon Task Force of the Northeast PA** (Tobyhanna Army Depot Alliance)
- **Lebanon County Commissioners** (The Pennsylvania National Guard)
- **Cumberland York Area Local Defense Group** (Naval Activity Mechanicsburg Carlisle Barracks/USA War College Defense Logistics Agency Distribution, New Cumberland)
- **Team Letterkenny**, Franklin County Area Development Corporation (Letterkenny Army Depot)
- **Western Pennsylvania Military Affairs Council** (911th Reserve Airlift Wing, 316th Sustainment Command)

The primary objectives of these local defense groups are to:

1. Be an active organization that meets several times per year.
2. Identify opportunities to enhance the military and economic value of our resident military installations
3. Speak with one voice in articulating local interests, recommendations and opportunities
4. Coordinate efforts to enhance the military installation/organization, its military and civilian members, and their family members.
5. Conduct and implement the results of studies to enhance the benefits of installations/organizations to our Nation and to our Commonwealth.
6. To actively engage our Congressional Delegation and our State Legislature to assist in the enhancement of the military stationed in Pennsylvania.

Should you be interested in becoming involved with your local defense group you are encouraged to do so by providing your contact information to **Peter Witmer** at <pwitmer@pa.gov>.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Our current Chapter membership stands at 215 members. Just a friendly reminder to those affected that December is the time for renewing your 2016 Chapter dues. If your last dues payment expires this year, you will receive an email (or hard copy) dues statement in late November from our Membership Chair, **Glenn Mitchell**. If you have questions, contact him at 323-0012 or email mitchellmd@aol.com. He'll be glad to check the files for you. Right after Thanksgiving, please check your email spam folder to be sure your dues notice doesn't end up there!

And, as always, there is a handy-dandy reminder about local Chapter dues at the bottom of the dinner RSVP sheet at the end of the newsletter if you know you are due.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

As the month of November began, several pieces of legislation that may be of interest to military veterans living in the Commonwealth were reported in and out of the Pennsylvania House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee.

On November 5th **Representative Mark Rozzi** submitted HB 1687 which proposes legislation that would create the **Veteran's Entrepreneurial Training and Support Act**.

This program, working in consultation with the Department of Military and Veteran Affairs, would be tasked with providing small business and entrepreneurial focused services to veterans and reservists. The overall goal of the program is to assist veterans and reservists in obtaining the necessary skills to create, manage and operate a small business.

On November 9th, **Representative Lynda Culver** submitted HR 581 which proposes a resolution urging the President of the United States and Congress to support S. 1991, known as the **Permanent VA Choice Card Act**. This legislation eliminates the three-year pilot date; thereby, making the Choice Program and the Choice Card of the Department of Veterans Affairs permanent.

On November 10th, HR 527, sponsored by **Representative Stephen Barrar**, was reported out of committee. This is a resolution that urges Congress and the President of the United States to enact H.R.1769, the **Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015**. This act applies to many veterans who have come into contact with various toxic chemicals during the Vietnam War, various neurotoxins during the Gulf War, and chemical weapons and burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan during Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and New Dawn.

OUR MILITARY SERVING

Daughter of Lance and Laurel Betros:

2LT Rosemary Betros, USA, 84th Engr Bn,
Schofield Barracks, HI

Grandson of Don and Lois Bliss:

2LT Kyle Bliss, USA, 82nd Abn Div, Ft. Bragg, NC

Family of Dick and Sharon Blouch:

SPC Emily Blouch, Intelligence Analyst, Weisbaden, GE
SPC Matthew Blouch, Cryptologic Linguist AIT,
Monterrey, CA
PFC Zachary Blouch, 2d Bn, 112th Inf, PA ANG

Family of Bill and Peggy Burns:

COL Mark E. Burns, USAF, NATO-The Hague, Netherlands
CPT Phillip Mauro, USA, 1st AD, Ft. Bliss, TX

Great Nephew of Lois Cole:

JC Whistler, USMC, CA

Son of Jerry and Karen Comello:

LTC Anthony Comello, USSOCOM, MacDill AFB, FL

Granddaughter of Mike Daley:

2LT Brianna Burnstad, USA, Ft. Riley, KS

Son and daughter of Jeffrey and Lori Elliott and

Grandchildren of Ron and Jenny Elliott:

2LT Christian Elliott, USA, Law School, Temple University
2LT Elizabeth Elliott, USA, MSC Basic, Ft Sam Houston, TX

Daughter-in-law of Chip and Dee Fenton:

COL Anne Marie Fenton, USAF, Stuttgart, GE

Son of Fred and Donna Gellert:

SGT F. John Gellert, III, USA, Trp F/2-2 CAV, Vilseck, GE

All family of Bob and Mary Lee Gerard:

LTC Charles Carlton, USA, Ft. Belvoir
CPT Sean Snook, USA, SF Afghanistan
CPT Kyra Snook, USA, 82nd Abn, Ft Bragg, NC
CPT Andrew Maisano, USA, 101st Abn, Ft Campbell, KY
1LT Megan Maisano, USA, 101st Abn, Ft Campbell, KY
2LT Robert Snook, USA, Ft Rucker, AL

Son of Keith and Marilyn Gillespie:

CPT Stephen Gillespie, USA, Student, NPS, Monterey, CA

Grandson of Jack and Pat Hoefling:

1LT Jack Ambridge, USAF Special Ops

Son of Charlotte Kinney:

SSG Jeffrey Geer, USA, 921st Contracting Battalion (CBN),
Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, AL

Family of Dutch Kissinger:

Lt Col Andrew Kissinger, USAFR, IP, 559th Flight Trng Sqdn
Capt Niki Kissinger, USAF, NASA, Los Angeles AFS, CA

Family of Patti Leggett:

CAPT M.A. Yukish, USNR,
ENS Miles Ennis McGee, USN, NAS Pensacola, FL
ENS Ryan P. McGee, USN

Grandson of Dick and Maxine Littlefield:

Capt Richard O. Littlefield, USMC, Parris Island, SC

Nephew of Julie and John Manta:

1LT Christopher Manta, USA, Ft Bragg, NC

Son of Ira and Susan Naiditch:

CPT Aaron Naiditch, USA, Ft. Campbell, KY

Nephew and great-nephews of Mike Pasquarett:

MG James F. Pasquarette, USA, CG, US Army Japan/I Corps
(Fwd)
1LT Jay Pasquarette, USA, Ft. Benning, GA
PFC Drew Pasquarette, 3rd Inf Regt, Washington, DC

Son of Bob & Judie Read:

COL Mark Read, Professor, USMA, West Point, NY

Grandson of Bill and Pat Solomon:

CPT Michael Leach, MI Adv. Crs., Ft. Huachuca, AZ

Family of Bill and Ann Whitesel:

MAJ William Whitesel, USA, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Capt Thomas Whitesel, USMC, Beaufort, SC
LT Connor Whitesel, USN, Quantico, VA
MAJ Andrew Pfeiffer, USA, Ft. Belvoir, VA

Son of Allan and Mary Ellen Williams:

COL Douglas Williams, 193d Spec Ops Grp, PANG

Daughter of David and Trish Willmann:

LT Megan Willmann, USCG, CO, Pacific Regional Fisheries
Training Center, Alameda, CA

Son and nephew of Mike and Karen Zang:

CPT Patrick Zang, C Trp 2/13 Cav, 4th Bde, 1AD Ft. Bliss, TX
CPT David Sieger, 2/3^d CR, Ft Hood, TX



Our purpose is to encourage and facilitate camaraderie among active, retired, and former officers of the uniformed services, their spouses and survivors; to provide information to, useful services for, and to protect the interests of, members and their dependents and survivors; to promote the aims of the national MOAA; and to serve the community and the nation.

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LTC (R) Charlotte Kinney

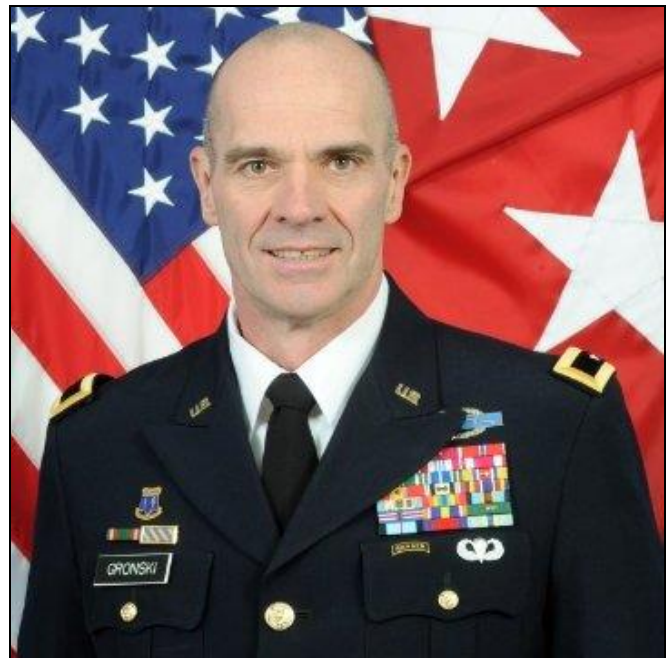
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The CV Chapter of MOAA publishes the *Cumberland Valley Chapter News and Views*. Its content does not reflect the official position of DoD, any branch of the US Armed Forces, NOAA, USPHS, nor MOAA National.



Our November guest speaker, MG John Gronski, Commanding General, 28th Infantry Division, Pennsylvania Army National Guard.

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WHO SUPPORT US!**



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Please contact COL (R) Sam Stouffer,
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**THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
CUMBERLAND VALLEY CHAPTER**



**RESERVATIONS FORM
December Dinner
Letort View Community Center
December 9, 2015**

PLEASE RESPOND BY Friday, December 4, 2015

Remember, it is very important that you send your reservations in before the cutoff date of Friday, December 4, 2015. If an unexpected event surfaces and you must cancel, please contact Jane Mitchell at 323-0012 or by e-mail at jhmitchell2002@aol.com. Refunds for cancellations received after 4 p.m. **December 4** cannot be guaranteed. Also, please see the note at the bottom of this sheet if you have been notified that your dues need to be paid.

The dinner at the *Letort View Community Center* will begin with a social time at 6:15 p.m. We will assemble at 7:00 p.m. for dinner, followed by a short business meeting and our entertainment The Messiah Brass Collective. This is a group of 2 trumpets, a trombone, a tuba and a French horn. They will be playing a program of pieces including traditional Christmas tunes both sacred and secular, and even pieces and themes from our favorite Christmas movies.

Menu:

A. Surf and Turf (Delmonico & Crabcake), mashed potatoes and dill carrots.

B. Stuffed Chicken Breast topped with supreme sauce, mashed potatoes and dill carrots.

Cost: \$36.00 per person, which includes salad, dessert, beverages, tax and gratuity. A cash bar will be available. (For a special dietary meal, please indicate below.)

*****CLIP AND RETURN SHEET*****

NAME: _____ **Number to attend:** _____

Name of Spouse/Guest(s) if applicable _____

Menu choices: A _____; B _____; **Special Dietary Meal** _____

Check for dinner to CV-MOAA (@\$36): \$_____ enclosed.

Mail to: CV-MOAA, P.O. BOX 278, CARLISLE, PA 17013.

Regular Member dues are being accepted for one year (\$12), three years (\$30), and five years (\$48), and for Associates dues of \$6, \$15, or \$24 for equal periods. In November of each year, those members whose dues will expire will be notified, but payment is welcome any time!

Separate check for dues enclosed: \$_____ for _____ years. Member _____ Associate _____



Cumberland Valley Chapter
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