



THE DEFENDER

A monthly publication of the Northwest Florida Military Officers Association
www.nwfmooa.org

Vol. 17 No. 6 Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services JUNE 2011

Breakfast Meeting & Discussion

When: Wed. 1 June 2011
Time: Open: 0700; Bkst: 0715;
 Meeting: 0800-0900

Place: Eglin AFB Club
Program: Okaloosa County Sheriff Larry Ashley

Eglin Club Breakfast

Please:

- Make a reservation
- Wear a name tag
- Bring proper change.
 \$7.00 for Club Members
 \$9.00 for Non-Members

Reservation deadline is Friday at noon prior to the meeting. Call Dan Cobbs at 685-9415 or send an email to: clavalle@bridgeway.org if you are attending.

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Twelfth Amendment

The Electors shall meet in their respective states and vote by ballot for President and Vice-President, one of whom, at least, shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves; they shall name in their ballots the person voted for as President, and in distinct ballots the person voted for as Vice-President, and they shall make distinct lists of all persons voted for as President, and of all persons voted for as Vice-President, and of the number of votes for each, which lists they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of the government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate.

There's a New Sheriff in Town

By Dan Cobbs

This month we have the pleasure of having Okaloosa County Sheriff Larry Ashley as our guest speaker. Sheriff Ashley's topics will include: law enforcement legislative issues, budget concerns and consolidation solutions, and transparency at the Sheriff's Office.

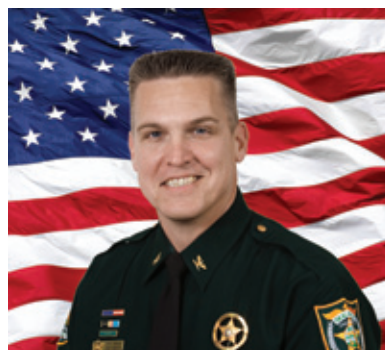
Sheriff Larry Ashley was elected to office November 2, 2010, after rising through the ranks from road patrol to Chief Deputy.

He was born February 23, 1966, in Long Beach, CA, the son of a Navy machinist. After living in various areas around the world during childhood, he graduated from Geneva High School in Geneva, AL, and headed to the University of Southern Mississippi where he earned an undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice in 1989. He graduated from the Florida State Law Enforcement Academy at Okaloosa-Walton Community College in 1990 and the Police K-9 Patrol/Detector School in 1991 before

going on to pursue and obtain a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Troy State University in 1998.

He began his law enforcement career at the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office

in 1990 in the Uniformed Patrol Division. Over the next fourteen years Ashley also served in the K-9/Street Crimes Division, Investigations Division, and as Captain of Field Services. He was promoted to Major and Director of Criminal Investigations in 2004, Major and



Sheriff Larry Ashley

Director of Support Services Division in 2007, Major and Director of Field Services Division in 2008, Major and Director of Finance and Administration in 2009, and Chief Deputy of Sheriff's Office Operations in 2009.

During those years of service in virtually all aspects of the agency, Sheriff Ashley also continued his education and specialized training, graduating from the FBI National Academy in Quantico Virginia in 2005. He attended

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President's Corner

SEMPER PARATUS

By Ken Wright

Many thanks to Colonel Sal Nodjomian, commander of the 96th Air Base Wing, Air Armament Center, Air Force Materiel Command, Eglin AFB, FL, for taking the time to share the state of Eglin AFB at our last meeting. It continues to be quite evident by Colonel Nodjomian that Eglin AFB and the surrounding installations are in the crosshairs of today's fight on terrorism and the growth of the military in our area looks very good. In regards to another subject, the Board of Directors has analyzed the financial condition of our organization and needs in the future and approved a rate increase in the membership dues in the future. The decision to raise the dues was based on meeting our goals, which are: (1) To promote the social welfare of the community, (2) To conduct programs for charitable, scientific, or educational purposes, (3) To sponsor or participate in activities of a patriotic nature, and (4) To provide social and recreational activities for its members. The specifics will be addressed at the next meeting and we look forward to your input. I also want to take this time to invite all members of our organization to remain after the General Meeting to participate and share your views on the future of our organization. Big BRAVO ZULU for the Symposium on "What Your Family Should Know" which Gayle Norgaard put together at the Eglin Club. It had a great turnout and great information. More of these types of symposia will be given in the future. If you have ideas and wish to help, give the leadership a call. Remember, our strength is our membership and with your help we will continue to make a difference in our country, our fellow military comrade's lives, and our local community.

Thanks and God Bless.



Ken Wright

MEMBERSHIP By Gayle Norgaard



Gayle Norgaard

Mark your calendar for **May 21st** to join the fun at the **Military Appreciation Day in Crestview**. There will be entertainment, food, and fun for all located at Spanish Trail from 1100-1600. Our chapter is having a table to promote membership. This is a great opportunity to tell people about our local chapter.

A thank you goes out to John Grossi, Nannette Abney, Frank Glunn, and James McGlamery for stepping forward to staff our table.

Notice to all: Keep inviting potential members to our first Wednesday Breakfast Meeting, but remember to make reservations. The club needs to have an accurate number to be able to prepare for the breakfast.

Go Ambassadors, Go!!! Let's continue to recruit new members!!!!!!!

Let Your Fingers Do The Walking

Wounded Warriors, Veterans, Service Members and their families can now connect to the National Resource Directory on their mobile device. Enter NRD.gov in the browser for access to thousands of resources! [Source: Veterans Corner with Michael Isam 26 Apr 2011]

DFAS myPay System Update

The online pay account management system operated by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service for all U.S. military personnel and many federal civilian employees, myPay, will launch enhancements Saturday, 30 APR. The customer suggested enhancements are designed to make the site easier and more convenient. The new upgrade will reduce the number of steps required to login to myPay and make the virtual keyboard, an unusual security feature designed to protect usernames and passwords, optional. [Source: Mil.com article 25 Apr 2011]

PUBLIC RECORD

IN MEMORIAM: Gerry Metzner, spouse of Col Alexander Metzner, Jr, USAF, (Ret), 4/18/2011.

Greetings!

You'll see a new look to our publication this month. The board decided to change printing and mailing companies. Hopefully this will be transparent to you although you should see better resolution in the pictures and crisper type in the hard copy edition. And hopefully I caught all the bugs during the transition. I'd appreciate any feedback you have to offer. While you're at it, throw in an article that your fellow chapter members would enjoy reading or benefit from. Thanks in advance.



Scott Berry

I noticed in several official publications recently a huge plug for using the TRICARE mail-in pharmacy. Officials have sung hymns of praise about this option. I have only one experience and it was so negative I never want to go back. My dentist reinforced this by calling the system a "warehouse." But I have graduate level statistics so I know a sample size of one is insufficient to draw any reasonable inferences. If there are some of you who have had success in using this system, please drop me a line. I'd be interested to hear your thoughts.

We are again looking for a new secretary. Having occupied this position in the past, I can attest to how rewarding it is. It puts you at the center of chapter activities. If any of you are interested in volunteering for this position, please notify me or a board member. I can give you insight into the exact responsibilities and time required. We desperately need to have this position filled as soon as possible. Give it some thought. It's a great way to help your chapter.

Berry "OUT"

Military Wisdom

The only time you have too much fuel is when you're on fire.

-Unknown Author-

Department of Veterans Affairs processors have decided more than 28,000 claims in the first six weeks of processing disability compensation applications from Vietnam veterans with diseases related to exposure to the herbicide Agent Orange.

"With new technology and ongoing improvements, we are quickly removing roadblocks to processing benefits," Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki said. "We are also conducting significant outreach to Vietnam veterans to encourage them to submit their completed application for this long-awaited benefit."

VA officials published a final regulation Aug. 31 that makes veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam and who have been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, ischemic heart disease or a B-cell, also known as hairy-cell, leukemia eligible for health care and disability compensation benefits. With the expiration Oct. 30 of the required 60-day congressional review, VA representatives now are able to process these claims.

Vietnam veterans covered under the new policy are encouraged to file their claims through a new VA Web portal at www.fasttrack.va.gov. Vietnam veterans are the first users of this convenient automated claims processing system.

If treated for these diseases outside of VA's health system, it is important for veterans to gather medical evidence from their non-VA physicians. VA officials have made it easy for physicians to supply the clinical findings needed to approve the claim through the new Web portal. These medical forms are also available at www.vba.va.gov/disabilityexams.

The portal guides veterans through Web-based menus to capture information and medical evidence required for faster claims decisions. While the new system currently is limited to these three disabilities, usage will expand soon to include claims for other conditions.

VA statisticians have begun collecting data that recaps the progress in processing claims for new Agent Orange benefits at www.vba.va.gov/VBA/agentorange/reportcard/index.html. (Courtesy of VA)



Don't Be In Deep Stuff (DBIDS)

All issued/reissued ID cards must be “registered” in the Defense Biometrics ID system (DBIDS) located at the Security Forces Visitor Control Centers and Bldg 210, Room 165 (DBIDS/Retiree Activity Office).

DBIDS is an enhanced security system that uses biometrics to monitor entry control points to installations. It uses photographs and fingerprints as the source of identification.

Tech Sgt. Josh Rule, 96th Security Forces NCOIC for DBIDS, said the new system will verify that identification cards are valid.

“It’s another security enhancement,” Sergeant Rule said.

Anyone requiring access to the base must register their ID card in DBIDS. Eligible cards are those with a barcode: DOD common access cards, Guard/Reserve cards, retiree, and dependent cards. Identification cards without a barcode, such as contractor badges, will require a new card plus registration. Anyone over the age of 16 must be registered.

Sergeant Rule said gate guards will use hand-held scanners at base entry points to read ID barcodes. The scanners, similar to those used to check inventory at grocery stores, provide personal information which allows for verification of the person’s identity.

Full implementation of the DBIDS system is expected later this year. Members who have not yet registered their ID cards will not be turned away but reminded that DBIDS is mandatory.

“I expect the system to run smoothly once everyone is registered in DBIDS,” Sergeant Rule said. “Gate guards can still verify manually by looking for a hologram and expiration date on an ID card until that time.”

Four DBIDS stations are being set up in Bldg. 210, Room 165, for ID holders to update their cards. There will be a station at both the West and East Gate visitor’s centers. (Source: Eglin AFB Retiree Activities Office web site)

May Meeting Mementos



Col Nodjomian presents the NWFMOA Scholarship Award for 2011 to Cadet Lt Col Nathan Shaw with his parents, Frank and Katherine Shaw, looking on



Col Nodjomian makes “State of Eglin” presentation to breakfast attendees



1st VP Dan Cobbs presents chapter challenge coin to Col Nodjomian

During the annual MOAA “Storming The Hill” effort last month, Don Freese, president of the Florida Council of Chapters, visited the office of Rep. Gus Bilirakis (FL-09). Don asked how MOAA could help him in his legislative efforts. The Representative responded with a request for our membership to support his recently introduced bill, HR 1570, Reserve/Guard Tax Credit. H.R. 1570 provides businesses with a tax credit of up to \$2,000 per year for each employee who is absent from work for the purpose of performing qualified active duty services.

This is a very beneficial bill for National Guardsmen and Reservists who have been fighting alongside AD members since August 2, 1990 Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

The bill was introduced on 15 April 2011, “Tax Day,” and as of this writing it has no co-sponsors. Please let Rep. Jeff Miller or Rep Steve Southerland know he should sign on as a co-sponsor if he has not already done so.



Bill Van Hoesen

The national health care plan has brought changes to civilian dependent health care — and soon will for military dependents covered under TRICARE. Dependent children of federal civilian workers without their own employer-sponsored health insurance now are allowed to remain on their parents’ health insurance policy until age 26 and without premium increases by some insurance carriers. On Jan. 1, the Federal Employees Health Benefits plan offered the option to federal civilian employees, civilian leaders, and members of Congress and their staff.

Military parents had several options — a short-term health insurance plan or the TRICARE Continued Health Care Benefit Program (CHCBP) — to provide health insurance for young adult children. As unmarried children lost TRICARE coverage at age 21 (23 if a full-time student) and did not have employer-sponsored health insurance, some parents purchased short-term health insurance plans in their children’s names and sometimes paid the premiums, too. These plans typically are catastrophic coverage plans with relatively low premiums but a high deductible (often up to \$2,000 a year). Using these plans for typical medical visits in most cases would be impractical, but it would be beneficial if the young adult incurred a serious illness or accident. CHCBP plans extended TRICARE coverage beyond the age limits, but coverage is expensive — at a cost of \$988 each quarter.

Soon, military parents will have another option for insuring their adult children until age 26. The TRICARE Young Adult Program is slated to be available by late spring 2011. Coverage will operate like TRICARE Standard, but it will include a monthly premium to cover the costs of health insurance based on the program-wide cost of the care. DoD has not published the premium amount per child, but costs are predicted to be similar to the short-term health insurance plan but with much better coverage. Premiums also are expected to be lower than those associated with the CHCPB.

Coverage will be retroactive to Jan. 1, 2011. If young adults needed medical care after the first of this year and already have lost or will soon lose their TRICARE coverage, remind them to save their receipts. Their costs might be covered at least partially by TRICARE Young Adult Program.

To learn more, visit www.tricare.mil/tya.



June 19th

Retirees will receive same respect, courtesy

In the mid-90s, then-Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Ronald Fogleman reinforced the practice and belief that retirees receive the same respect and courtesy shown to active-duty airmen.

He did this by informing active-duty Airmen that retirees will be addressed by their retired grade, except for those retirees who are currently employed by Civil Service while on duty.

Air Force Instruction 36-3106 covers the Air Force's Retiree Activities Program. This instruction states that a retiree's grade will be placed on all official records, and people shall address retirees by their retired grade in official correspondence.

Currently, the AFI calls on all installation commanders to periodically forward guidance to their units and organization about continuing to show military respect to retirees. (Source: *Afterburner*, March 2011)

New Sheriff in Town (cont.)

Continued from page 1

the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Chief Executive Training as well as dozens of specialized law enforcement training courses and seminars.

Sheriff Ashley has earned numerous awards and commendations during his career, including being a nominee for Officer of the Year in 1994 and receiving the Florida Senate Medal of Excellence Award in 2009--the legislature's highest award for service to the people of Florida.

Sheriff Ashley enjoys serving the community as a youth sports coach and YMCA Board Member, Executive Board Member for the Okaloosa-Walton Homeless Coalition, and Vice-Chairman of the Finance Committee at the First Baptist Church of Fort Walton Beach. He says teaching 7th and 8th grade Sunday School is his most rewarding endeavor.

His primary goals as Okaloosa County Sheriff are to maintain the agency's recently acquired Accreditation status (which ensures the OCSO is practicing optimum law enforcement standards), to consolidate communications services, utilize technology to keep citizens better informed of agency operations, and increase physical fitness standards for deputies.

What to Expect in Next Year's Defense Bill

The House Armed Services Committee debated amendments until the wee hours before approving its version of the \$690-billion FY2012 National Defense Authorization Bill (H.R. 1540).

In the process, the Committee dropped a Military Personnel Subcommittee provision that would have frozen TRICARE fees for another year and replaced it with a provision that allows modest increases for FY12, but adds important protections against disproportional increases in the future.

The new provision would allow DoD to raise the TRICARE Prime enrollment fee by \$5 a month and raise retail pharmacy co-pays by \$2 or \$3, while eliminating the co-pay for generic drugs in the mail-order pharmacy program.

More important, it adds a statement that Congress recognizes that career military people pay the bulk of their premiums up-front and in-kind, through decades of service and sacrifice. In recognition of that, the Committee bill language specifies that the percentage fee increase in future years may not exceed the percentage increase in military retired pay.

In addition, the bill proposes increasing the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) payable to survivors whose Survivor Benefit Plan annuity is reduced because they also receive a survivor annuity from the VA for their sponsor's service-caused death.

The current \$70 monthly SSIA payment will rise to \$80 on Oct. 1 under existing law, and then grow to \$90 for FY13, \$150 for FY14, \$200 for FY15, \$275 for FY16, and \$310 for FY17. Under current law, the program will expire as of Oct 1, 2017.

Under the new Committee proposal, the allowance would increase to \$163 instead of \$90 for FY13, then jump to \$200 in FY14. It would offer significantly more modest increases for FY15-FY17, and extend token payments of \$9 to \$27 per month through FY21. The latter small amounts are intended as "placeholders" to establish Congress' intent to continue the program beyond FY17, while seeking additional funding sources in the meantime.

Another amendment approved by the Committee would delay implementation of the "don't ask, don't tell" repeal until the President, the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the four service chiefs all certify that repeal wouldn't hurt military readiness.

Continued on page 7

Next Year's Defense Bill (cont.)

Continued from page 6

Under current law only the President, SecDef, and CJCS must certify.

The final bill passed with a strong bi-partisan vote of 60-1. The next step will be for the full House of Representatives to take up the Committee's bill. The Senate Armed Services Committee will begin work on its version of the bill in mid-June. (Source: MOAA)

? Got a Chapter question?

Change in personal info?

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Don't know who to ask?

Email: info@nwfmoa.org

We'll get an answer for you.

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Check here if you do not want your name, phone number or email address listed in printed chapter directories. **Membership includes a subscription to The Defender for the dues period.** We are a charter member of MOAA and recommend that our members belong to the national organization. Our association is also a member of the Florida Council of Chapters, itself an affiliate of MOAA.
**The spouse of a deceased life member automatically becomes an auxiliary life member.

Membership Application/Renewal

New members joining this year receive membership through December 31, next year for \$20.00.

Membership Renewal
1 yr - \$20.00, 2 yr - \$38.00, 3 yr - \$50.00

Life Membership Dues**

Age	Dues	Age	Dues
101+	Free	71-75	240.00
96-100	50.00	66-70	275.00
91 - 95	75.00	61-65	295.00
86 - 90	110.00	56-60	335.00
81 - 85	150.00	51-55	360.00
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