



THE DEFENDER

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

Vol. 26 No. 06

Serving All Branches of The Uniformed Services

JUNE 2020

Lunch Meeting & Discussion

When: Thur, 4 Jun 2020

Meeting Canceled

Time: Gathering N/A, Lunch N/A
Program to follow

Place: Ft. Walton Bch. Yacht Club
180 Ferry Road, NE, FWB

Program: Meeting Canceled

Please:

- **MAKE A RESERVATION**
- Wear a name tag
- Bring proper change:
\$14.00 for everyone

Reservation deadline is Friday at noon prior to meeting. Go online at www.nwfmooa.org and select the link where it says "Click here to make reservations", or email Fred Westfall at nwfreservations@gmail.com, or call 850-609-8075 if you are attending.

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Answering Your Questions on Planned Cuts to Military Medicine

By MOAA Staff

The changes coming to military medicine as part of proposed reforms may involve 18,000 billet cuts and a reorganization of dozens of facilities affecting hundreds of thousands of beneficiaries.

MOAA's Virtual Storming the Hill 2020 seeks a provision in the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to officially stop these efforts to downsize military medical capacity. We believe all cuts should be reconsidered in light of lessons learned from the whole of government interagency response to the corona virus emergency.

Virtual Storming the Hill participants are contacting Congressional offices right now. Below, we address some FAQs we've received from our Stormers as they advocate for a stop to billet cuts and MTF downsizing.

Not finding what you're seeking? Email legis@moaa.org with your concerns.

Q: Could the cuts be stopped via the next NDAA?

A: That's our goal. MOAA wants a provision in the FY21 National Defense Authorization Act that officially stops military treatment facility (MTF) downsizing and medical billet reductions.

Our ask goes beyond delaying the military health system cuts and plants the seed for a re-evaluation of military medical readiness requirements based on an assessment of the national COVID-19 response and implications for DoD's future role in pandemic prevention and response. It's tempting to try and go further this year (e.g., pursuing a commission to conduct these assessments), but Congress is still consumed with immediate COVID-19 response efforts and relief packages.

Q: What kind of 'lessons learned' should DoD get from this pandemic and its response?

A: Our nation has implemented a whole of government interagency response to COVID-19. The "lessons learned" will

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THE 4 JUNE 2020 MEETING OF THE NWFMMA IS CANCELED

From the President's Pen

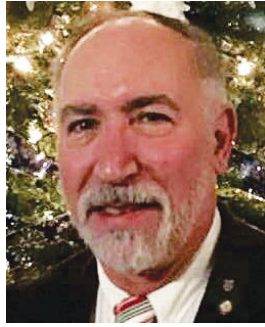
By Nick Marotta

Welcome to the June, 2020 issue of the Defender. On March 5, 2020, the Northwest Florida Military Officers Association held its last monthly meeting at the Fort Walton Beach Yacht Club.

The meeting scheduled for April 2, 2020 was canceled because of the threat of the COVID-19 Virus. We also canceled the May 7, 2020 meeting for the same reason, and now sadly, we are canceling the meeting scheduled for June 4, 2020. Trust me; I am looking forward to the July 2, 2020 meeting. Florida is slowly opening; let's hope we are able to have a July meeting, so keep your face masks handy!

On May 7, 2020, I convened a Board of Directors meeting via Zoom. As you may know, the May meeting is when the NWFMOA honors Junior ROTC High School students by awarding scholarships to worthy candidates, but since the May meeting was canceled, we decided to honor these students in June. However, since we canceled the June meeting, we have yet to determine another way to honor these most deserving (and now patient) students.

Also, at the May Board meeting, we decided to do a Scrubbing of Chapter Membership: In order to ensure the most accurate membership count available, Scott Berry recommended using Ancestry.com to see how many of our Life-members are still in the local area and active in our Chapter. Scott and Fred Westfall will first use the list to validate those live members we know are still viable and then split the remaining names and submit them to Ancestry.com. If for some reason, you are still getting The Defender and are no longer in the area, let me or any other Board member know.



Nick Marotta

How does one update their contact information? If you go to the chapter website at [HTTP://NWFMoa.org](http://NWFMoa.org) you will see on the left side of the home page a line labeled 'Update Your Information' (5th item under the word HOME) click on this line and you will be directed to a page to update your information. As a word of assurance, this information is NOT shared with anyone outside of the Chapter or MOAA organization.

In addition, if you know of a chapter member who may be out of touch with the organization, a phone call will never hurt, and please urge them or help them to update their contact information.

In other news, once again the NWFMOA was awarded a 2020 MOAA Foundation Community Outreach Grant in the amount of \$3,575. This is the third year in a row MOAA has awarded a grant to NWFMOA. This year MOAA gave out only 23 grants. The original intent of this year's grant was a pancake breakfast to active duty familiarity, retirees and veterans tentatively scheduled for May 17. However, because of the COVID-19 situation, this event will be rescheduled for later this year.

LOCAL BASE UPDATES

If you shop at Hurlburt Field, unless you are mission essential, you probably cannot enter Hurlburt.

If you shop at Eglin AFB, you can get access to the base. However, the hours at the Commissary are limited by your status, retired, dependent, or active duty. You have to wear a mask to shop or enter any facility on Eglin AFB. The Barber shop is open!!

You can still obtain and refill medical prescriptions at the Eglin Satellite Pharmacy. You can renew by phone or on-line and your doctor can still send prescriptions to the pharmacy. You must activate all electronic prescriptions by calling (850) 883-9856 and leave a voice mail. The refill number is 850 883-8444. You can also talk to a person at the pharmacy at (850) 883-8000 or (850) 883-8075. You cannot enter the satellite pharmacy; all pickups will be at the drive through.

PUBLIC RECORD

New Members:

None

In Memorium

None

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EDITORIAL POLICY

The Defender is a monthly publication of the Northwest Florida Military Officers Association. The purpose of this publication is to communicate with, inform, and educate chapter members. The national MOAA, this local chapter, and this publication are totally nonpartisan.

Answering Your Questions (cont.)

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go across the entire government and the civilian medical and emergency response systems.

For DoD, MOAA believes the lessons learned are likely to focus on the level of uniformed medical reserve capacity needed to effectively surge military medical resources to areas of need while still delivering essential medical care to military beneficiaries who rely on uniformed medical providers for their care. The lessons learned also should address DoD's role in medical research and development and pandemic prevention efforts.

Q: My MTF is on the list of facilities being downsized. What should I do?

A: Chances are your elected officials are aware of these efforts and the potential impact on military hospitals and clinics in their district/state, but it can't hurt to make sure they understand your MTF is impacted. If your MTF is on the list, be sure to add a personal perspective to your discussion by talking about how the proposed changes could impact your family.

Q: My MTF isn't on that list. Will these reforms still affect me? How?

A: While the Section 703 report listed 48 MTFs slated for potential downsizing and infrastructure reductions, MOAA has almost no visibility on details related to the 18,000 medical billet cuts – we do not know which medical specialties or MTFs will be impacted. It is fair to say all MTF patients should be concerned about how billet cuts may impact them.

Because DoD's plan is to shift care to the civilian medical system, you may want to share what you know about limitations to civilian medical care in your local area that could impact your ability to find care if you are impacted by billet cuts. For example:

- Do you live in a fast-growing area where medical systems are having a hard time keeping up with demand?
- Many rural hospitals are struggling. Has your local civilian hospital been downsized or closed?

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President's Pen (cont.)

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The best way to get information regarding Eglin AFB and Hurlburt Field is through their respective web sites.

<https://www.eglin.af.mil/>

<https://www.hurlburt.af.mil/>

VA UPDATES

If you are in need of healthcare or other needs from the Department of Veterans Affairs, go to <http://va.gov>. The VA Health Care facilities at Pensacola, Eglin AFB, and Panama City are open with available appointments. Face masks are required; some were available at the facilities.

We as Officers and Board members are here to help. Please feel free to contact myself or any other Board member. A complete list of members and contact information is available on the NWFMoa website and on the first page of the Defender!

Since there will not be a June meeting, the next meeting will tentatively scheduled to be July 2, 2020 at the Fort Walton Beach Yacht Club, noon.

Nick Marotta



***Got a Chapter question?
Change in personal info?
Comment?***

***Don't know who to ask?
Email: info@nwfmoe.org
We'll get an answer for you.***



Chaplain's Corner

By: Chaplain Thomas Azar

As America is closely monitoring and battling the corona virus pandemic I wonder what thoughts you might have as veterans of major wars. As a chaplain listening to God fearers and non-believers of all walks, I wanted to share a few thoughts I've gleaned. Hopefully those I heard from have begun acting so as to bring about responsive care in our local community.

The big resonating conclusion I continue to hear is—"one's daily life is not in our control." We have all experienced the ups and downs of personal, family and public life. It often comes when we least expect it. We have all looked war in the face as well as today's world wide viral suffering and death. No one can change the ebb and flow of the circle of life; no one is exempt.

There have been pandemics over the centuries that have taken the lives of millions. Viruses, like wars bring out the best and worst in humans. My response to others is to call upon our better angels. They move us to 1) use our gifts, talents and resources to assist those on the front line. Some are moved to pray, donate or go to the front line, shoulder to shoulder.

Human kindness and compassion are America's strong cardinal virtues. The world esteems our generosity. There are myriad food banks, churches, and outreach centers that need our help. Many have donated a chunk of their stimulus check to agencies helping the unemployed.

Believers don't know what the future holds, but we know Who holds the future so we pray for guidance as well as God's protection of those first responders and military members who are answering the call with diligence and unselfish minds and hearts. Look how many doctors, nurses, techs and religious leaders have already died attending to the sick and dying.

How then should we act? St Paul in his letter to the Galatians chapter 5 underscores how believers should demonstrate first and foremost 'love' for others regardless of their national origin, religion or race. This is the cornerstone guiding virtue upon which all subsequent virtues rest.

From love comes joy—internally, externally and consistently. One feels it mentally, emotionally physically and spiritually because God fills each of us with His love.

Peace is the result of joy because it is received from God who protects us and we are moved to play it forward towards our neighbors. Kindness and goodness overflow in our attitude and behavior towards others.

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Answering Your Questions (cont.)

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- Is there a new employer headed to your area that will bring increased demand for care?

Q: The Defense Health Agency assured us that all MTF restructuring is conditions-based and has asked for a delay in MHS reform implementation timing – why is this not enough?

A: The COVID-19 pandemic surely will yield many lessons learned for the entire medical system, including DoD. It would not make sense to simply pause billet reductions and MTF restructuring only to return to a pre-coronavirus reform strategy after the crisis has passed. The COVID-19 pandemic demands all plans to downsize military medical capacity be reconsidered.

Q: Didn't we get a halt to billet reductions in last year's NDAA?

A: Yes. Section 719 of the FY 2020 NDAA -- *Limitation on the Realignment or Reduction of Military Medical End Strength* -- halted billet reductions until DoD and the services demonstrate they have addressed all readiness and beneficiary care impacts via reviews, analyses, mitigation plans, and beneficiary outreach. This report is due in June, but DHA has requested an extension due to COVID-19. The report is still critical, but it will be incomplete without a larger analysis around the national response to COVID-19.

Q: Can't we rely on Reserve Component medical assets to respond to medical emergencies?

A: Yes and no. Activating these personnel works in a local emergency – a hurricane, for example. In a national emergency, DoD has to avoid pulling Reserve Component

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SUPPORT MOAA

Do what you can to support our national organization. To learn what's going on and to find out what you can do go to: <http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/> We all will benefit from your efforts.

Community Outreach

By Dave Parisot

NWFMOA Receives Third Annual MOAA Community Outreach Grant

On May 8th we were notified by email that NWFMOA was one of only 23 local MOAA chapters to be awarded a MOAA Community Outreach Grant for 2020. The grant amount is for \$3,750 to be used to provide a free pancake breakfast for local veterans. When we submitted the grant request this past February, our intent was to host this breakfast on May 16th, 2020, in conjunction with Armed Forces Day. However, the restaurant criteria for COVID-19 prevented that from happening. We will monitor the restaurant criteria in the future to set a new date, and will request support from our members to do seating, be servers, bus tables, and perhaps some help in the kitchen. More to come on the details.

Not only did the COVID-19 criteria delay our planned event, but it also delayed MOAA's grant selections this year. Their grant committee usually meets and announces the winners in March each year. This year the committee held a "virtual" meeting via the internet in May. We are most thankful for this grant from MOAA which allows our Chapter to aid our local community using grant funds.

This is the third consecutive year that NWFMOA has been awarded a MOAA Community Outreach Grant. In 2018 we received a grant of \$5,000 to assist with the annual Veterans Stand Down. Our 2019 grant of \$3,750 was used to purchase equipment for the new kitchen at One Hopeful Place in Fort Walton Beach. This kitchen will be used both for cooking food for the residents of One Hopeful Place and for teaching culinary skills to residents for jobs.



Answering Your Questions (cont.)

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medical personnel out of critical civilian medical positions in their local communities to send them elsewhere.

Q: I understand many active duty medical personnel (from 3,200-4,400, depending on the timeframe) have deployed to support communities hardest hit by COVID-19. Where did those providers come from?

A: DHA has stated it is rapidly shifting as many physicians, nurses, and other medical professionals as they can from administrative duties to direct patient care. In an unprecedented move, the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences graduated new doctors and nurses months early so they can contribute to the effort.

Certainly, some of these providers have been deployed from clinical positions at MTFs. The services have acknowledged that deploying active duty medical personnel has shifted some risk to servicemembers and military beneficiaries who rely on uniformed providers for their medical care. In a Military Times commentary, DHA acknowledged this shift from the primary mission carries risk, but also noted the MHS is uniquely suited to the COVID-19 mission.

Comedy Corner

1. What do you call a fish that doesn't have any eyes?
2. Why don't oysters share their pearls?
3. What kind of music do killer whales like?
4. Where do sheep go on vacation?

(answers on page 7)

Scholarship Fund

by Dave Parisot

Firstly, I sincerely hope each of you and your family members are safe and healthy. Who could have thought the impact that the COVID-19 (or Corona Virus) would have on our lives since early March. How I long to sit down for a meal with somebody!

With the May luncheon cancellation, we were hopeful we would be able to present this year's scholarships at our June luncheon meeting. Unfortunately, that meeting has also been cancelled; but, I will continue to work on a way to recognize and honor this year's scholarship winners. With the uncertainty of colleges and universities opening this fall with 'contact' classes, we have extended the use of our 2020 scholarships into the 2021 school year. Thus, our eight JROTC winners will be able to use their scholarships in either 2020 or 2021. We did not want them to have to relinquish their scholarships due to the uncertainty of COVID-19 class criteria.

We had no donations to the Scholarship Fund in May; if you are a current member of the Century Club who makes an annual donation, we will appreciate it if you will either mail your donation check to : NWFMOA Scholarship Fund, % Dave Parisot, 56 11th St., Shalimar, FL 32579; or, use our new 'donate by credit card' feature on the Scholarship Fund page of our website at www.NWFMOA.org Please see the "BG Frank Glunn Century Club" donor list below to see when you last donated. Of course, we are very much open to donations from those not currently in the Century Club. Thanks.

Here is the complete list of **Gold Century Club** members (\$500 cumulative minimum donation since 2015) and **BG Frank Glunn Century Club** members (\$100 minimum donation) for the most previous 12 months of 2019 and 2020 along with our **Business Donors**. Your support is greatly appreciated. Remember, all of these donations are used to fund our scholarships to JROTC cadets. [Note: (R) means Renewal of membership.]

Gold Century Club: **Bill Ryan** (Feb 2016); **Ruth Cullen** (Oct 2016); **Dave Parisot** (Feb 2017); **Janet Taylor** (Mar 2017); **Chris Beam** (Mar 2017); **Bob Garcia** (July 2017); **Rod Gerdes** (Nov 2017); **Larry Bush** (Nov 2017); **Dr. Howard Fisher** (Nov 2017); **Eileen Arpke** (Feb 2018); **Fred Westfall** (Apr 2018); **Clyde Locke** (Apr 2018); WWII, Korea, and Vietnam Veteran **Sam Lombardo** (July 2018); **Dennis Phillips** (Aug 2018); **Karl Eschmann** (Oct 2018); **Carol Baker** (Jan 2019); **Ann Adelsperger** (Feb

2019); **Don Litke** (August 2019); **Fred Boyer** (August, 2019). **Keith Kulow** (Nov 2019); **Al Bills** (Nov. 2019); and **Kay Dent** (Nov. 2019) [Note: 22 total members]

BG Frank Glunn Century Club (past 12 months) (R=Renewal): April 2019: **Jake Bush**; and **Fred Westfall** (R); May 2019: **Chuck Merkel** (in honor of Sam Lombardo); **George Hanks**; June 2019: **Joy Houck** (R) (In memory of Major Stanley Houck); July 2019: **Larry Bush** (R) and **Don Litke** (R) (In memory of Kay Litke); August 2019: **Scott Berry** (R); **Janet Taylor** (R) (In honor of Bill Ryan); and **Fred Boyer** (R) (In honor of Paul L. High, Jr.); October 2019: **Bob Garcia** (R); **George Colton** (R); **Doug Hardin** (R) (In memory of Gen. Bill Kirk), and **Dick Solt**; November 2019: **Keith Kulow** (R); **Al Bills** (R); **Kay Dent** (R) (In memory of Troy Dent, Larry Ketter, and Mark Berg); **Larry Tashlik** (R); **Joe Stevens** (R); **Dennis Phillips** (R); and, **Kathy and Jake Bush** (R); **Karl Eschmann** (R) (In memory of B/Gen Bud Day and Mrs. Kay Litke); **Jim Tucker**; **Jean Dutton** (R); **Howard Fisher** (R); **Bob Gramm** (R). December 2019: **Doris Day** (R) (In memory of B/Gen Bud Day); **Pete Peterzen** (R); **Les Matheson** (R); **Christine Hallion** (R); **B/Gen Patrick Boab**; **Dr. Roger Riegenbach** (R) (In memory of Jan Riegenbach); January 2020: **Fred Westfall** (R); **Nick Marotta** (R); **Dave Parisot** (R) (In memory of Chong Parisot); **Janet (Ryan) Taylor** (R) (In honor of Maj. Bill Ryan); February 2020: **Rod Gerdes** (R); **Ginny Mills**. March 2020: **Joy Houck** (R) (In memory of Maj. Stanley Houck); April 2020: **Larry Bush** (R); **Carol Baker** (R) (In memory of Col. David Baker); **Mike Mitchell** (In memory of Frank Harrison)

2019/2020 Business Platinum Donor (\$750 minimum donation): October 2019: **Shalimar Cheers Pub** (\$1,000) (R).

2019/2020 Business Gold Donor (\$500 - \$749): December 2019: **Eglin Federal Credit Union** (R); **Merrill Lynch (Chris Beam & Tess Bass, Senior Financial Advisors)** (R); **Silver Slipper Casino Hotel** (Bay St. Louis, MS) (In-Kind).

2019/2020 Business Silver Donors (\$250 - \$499): November 2019: **Indian Bayou Golf & Country Club** (In-kind, R); December 2019: **Rocky Bayou Golf Course** (In-kind, R).

2019/2020 Business Bronze Donors (\$100 - \$249): April 2019: **Eye MD of Niceville** (R); November 2019: **Gator Lakes Golf Course** (In-kind, R); **Mary's Kitchen**

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Scholarship Fund (cont.)

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(FWB & Destin) (In-kind, R); **Buffalo's Reef Restaurant** (FWB) (In-kind, R); **Shalimar Cheers Pub** (In-kind, R); **Shalimar Pointe Golf Course** (In-kind, R); December 2019: Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen (FWB) (In-kind, R); **Tammy's Journeys** (FWB) (In-kind, R); **Painting With A Twist** (FWB) (In-kind, R); **Destin Party Boat Fishing** (In-kind, R); **Slick Mick's Deli & Grille** (FWB/Niceville/VPS) (in-kind, R); **Connect with Flowers** (Shalimar) (In-kind, R); **Lee Nissan** (FWB) (In-kind, R)

Please support our local businesses that have contributed to our scholarship program.

NWFMOA Scholarship Fund: "HELPING TO BUILD FUTURE MILITARY OFFICERS AND LEADERS."

Chaplain's Corner (cont.)

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Next we feel a growing faith and gentleness in the goodness of humanity and our purpose as world citizens who strive to speak and show empathy and care for our neighbors.

Yes these are spiritual and ethical building blocks that are not handed out at birth but qualities that one learns and experiences from an open mind and heart toward God in the most difficult times. As veterans we know that military engagements like the MERS, EBOLA and SARS viruses brought out the best and worst responses in all people. We have all had our mettle tested! (I've heard the language that describes these first responders today sounding like the same words used to describe our military engagements).

Even the harshest agnostic is pulled to spend time reflecting over the pandemic that is in our own backyard. What has s/he to hold onto? Material objects means nothing when it is our time to leave this world; nor will anything accumulated impact our final destination.

Our lives will definitely and tremendously change after this virus is under control just like 9/11. Hopefully we are all taking more time to get back to the basics of healthy human relationship and focus on what is really important—what makes a meaningful and valued life—"love God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength and love our neighbor as ourselves".

SCHOLARSHIP DONATION FORM

Please accept this gift of \$_____ to support the NWFMOA Scholarship Fund (Donations of \$100 or more will be recognized in the B/Gen Frank Glunn Century Club).

Donor Information (if not printed on check):

Name _____

Address _____

Gift is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

☐ This gift is a memorial in honor of: _____

☐ Please inform the following of this gift:

Name _____

Address _____

City, ST ZIP _____

Make payable to: **NWFMOA Scholarship Fund**, mail to David Parisot, President, 56th 11th St, Shalimar, FL 32579

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Comedy Corner Answers

1. A fsh
2. Because they're shellfish
3. Orca-stra music
4. To the Baa-hamas

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AN INVITATION TO YOU: The membership of NWFMOA extends a sincere invitation to join us in our social cultural, professional and service activities that extend for the local to national levels.

Today's Date _____

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Initial _____

Spouse _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State & Zip Code _____

Email Address _____

Rank _____ Service _____ MOAA Member Number _____

☐ Regular ☐ Reserve ☐ National Guard ☐ Active Duty ☐ Retired

This application is for:

☐ Life Member ☐ New Member ☐ Renewal ☐ Surviving Spouse ☐ Other _____

Make Checks payable to NWFMOA or to Northwest Florida Military Officers Assn. Inc. Check here if you do not want your ☐ name, ☐ phone number, or ☐ email address listed in the 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 is automatically an auxiliary life member**

Membership Application/ Renewal

**New Members joining this year
receive membership through
December 31 next year for \$25.00**

Membership Renewal
1 yr--\$25.00, 2 yr--\$48.00, 3 yr--\$65.00

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
76-80	195.00	-50	395.00

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