

## PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), the leading voice on compensation and benefit issues for the military community, is no longer a retiree only organization. This distinctive organization effectively presses ahead, representing servicemen men and women at all stages of their lives and careers. Our local military community has the opportunity to be part of this formidable force for positive change because MOAA is currently offering a great contest for new members and incentives for our local chapter.

The contest and local incentives are part of "Give Me 10!" a nationwide recruitment program. The Local Chapter currently has 574 members but hopes to add at least 50 new members as part of MOAA's national goal of recruiting at least 2,500 new members a year.

Tampa MOAA meets for lunch the second Thursday of each month at MacDill AFB. Guest speakers include leaders from the military and and civilian communities. A major social event is the annual Christmas Party.

The nationally award winning "Operation Helping Hand" is a special project of Tampa MOAA which helps the families of the active duty seriously wounded coming into the Tampa VA hospital.

## Selected Legislative Goals for 2010

### Active/Reserve Force/Family Issues

- Sustain defense budget of at least 4% of GDP to fund both people and weapons needs
- Increase active duty, G/R force sizes (end strength) to match mission
- Restore full military pay comparability with private sector (2.4% gap remains)
- Upgrade G/R retirement/compensation to reflect "operational reserve" demands
- Amend Post-9/11 GI Bill to allow job training, Guard AGR (Title 32) access and transferability to family members of USPHS/NOAA Corps
- Authorize currently serving families to use pre-tax health/dependent care programs
- Strengthen financial, legal, reemployment protections for mobilized G/R force
- Protect funding for commissary, dependent schools and other military benefits
- Improve access to affordable child care
- Provide incentives for employers/government contractors to hire military spouses
- Raise relocation payments to cover members' costs for government-directed moves

### Health Care Issues

- Ensure proper DoD and VA care for/outreach to wounded warriors and families
- Protect against benefit cuts/avoid disproportional cost-shifting to beneficiaries
- Upgrade TRICARE to attract more providers and improve beneficiary access
- Allow three years of active-duty-level health care for disability retirees/families

- Fix Medicare/TRICARE payment rate formula to promote provider participation
- Improve seamless transition between the Defense and VA health care/benefits systems
- Provide full funding for veterans enrolled in the VA health care system
- Authorize option to subsidize retention of reservists' civilian family health insurance
- Increase orthodontia payment cap under active duty dental plan

### **Retirement/Survivor Issues**

- Preserve full-inflation cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs)
- Eliminate the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) deduction from SBP
- Authorize full concurrent receipt of military retired pay and VA disability compensation
- Restore VA survivor annuities for qualifying widows who remarry after age 55
- Oppose military benefit changes that are inconsistent with service career sacrifices
- Expand permanent ID card eligibility for elderly / disabled beneficiaries
- Reform the Uniformed Services Former Spouse Protection Act (USFSPA)
- Authorize survivors to retain the deceased sponsor's full final-month retired pay
- Implement a more equitable military disability retirement system

### **Veterans and Other Issues**

- Improve quality, efficiency, and timeliness of VA claims-processing system
- Authorize pre-tax payment of health, dental and long-term care premiums
- Win congressional approval of Flag anti-desecration amendment
- Reduce Social Security penalties for certain civil service and state retirees/survivors
- Prevent disproportional Social Security/Medicare penalties for any population segment