

Tallahassee MOAA Times

Tallahassee Chapter of the Military Officers' Association of America

November 2011

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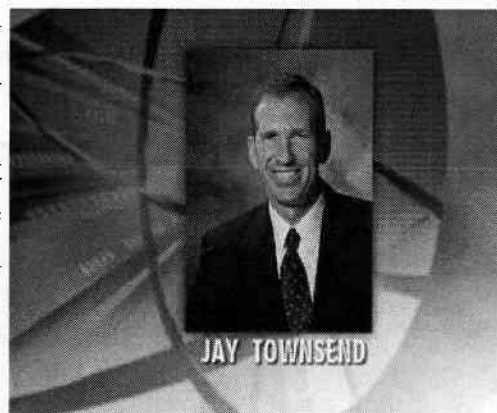
Jay Townsend: City Assistant Manager Development & Transportation

A native of Idaho, Townsend earned an Associate of Arts Degree from New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell, N.M., in 1988, a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History from University of Idaho in 1990 and a Masters in Public Administration from Harvard University in 2000. He spent nine years in the United States Army and worked as an organizational management consultant.

Jay Townsend is the Assistant City Manager for the Transportation and Development Services.

The Transportation and Development Services Area consists of the Departments of Planning, Growth Management, Public Works, StarMetro, and Aviation. He oversees each department within this service area and provides overall

management direction and policy guidance to department directors. These departments provide a linkage for critical infrastructure and transportation issues to the Tallahassee-Leon County Comprehensive Plan and to the day-to-day development process.



Please welcome Jay Townsend as our guest speaker this month on November 30.

Military Officers Association of America
Tallahassee Chapter
PO Box 4038
Tallahassee FL 32315

November 10, 2011

Dear Chapter Members,

I hope to see you all at our November 30 meeting. Jay Townsend will be our guest speaker. Jay will have a short presentation about some of the initiatives going on in our city. I think it will be a great opportunity to hear some good news about Tallahassee.

I was very encouraged to see a great turnout at our meetings this summer. So, here's a special offer. I run into so many military officers around this town that don't know about our chapter. For this month's meeting, bring a potential new member as a guest, and you'll be registered in a drawing that night for a \$25 gift card to Bonefish Grill.

Sincerely,
Terance Keenan

News Briefs

- FHP offers 'priority placement' for Florida National Guard veterans — In a collaborative effort between the Florida National Guard and the Florida Highway Patrol, FHP is offering "priority placement" to any service member interested in starting a career as a State Trooper. The next class will begin in March 2012 and FHP has allocated 150 seats for the Florida National Guard. The unemployment rate among members of the Florida National Guard is more than 16 percent. The average unemployment rate among civilians in Florida is about 10 percent.
- Panetta, Dempsey on Budget/Benefit Cuts — On Thursday Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta and JCS Chairman General Martin Dempsey, USA, were star witnesses before the House Armed Services Committee. The hearing, billed as a first look at Defense leaders' plans to cut \$350 billion from the DOD budget over ten years per the Budget Control Act, proved pretty short on details, but did give the witnesses an opportunity to make a few important points. The idea of military retirement reform was discussed at length, and both Panetta and Dempsey assured Committee members that they would seek to "grandfather" currently serving personnel if reform took place. They further emphasized that the Department is not supporting any specific plans at this point.
- MOAA Named "Top Lobbyist" – Fifth Straight Year — The Hill, the largest-circulation newspaper on Capitol Hill, has published its annual list of "Top Lobbyists" and, once again, President Vice Admiral Norb Ryan's (USN-Ret.) MOAA Government Relations team is the only military or veterans group on the 2011 list.

DINNER RESERVATIONS

Please email your reservation to terancekeenan@TallaHome.com.

You can also mail to Tal-MOAA, P.O. Box 4038, Tallahassee, FL 32315-4038

November 30 2011, at 1830 hours, Killlearn Country Club, dinner served at 1915

Please make firm reservations by the Monday before meeting. This helps ensure quality of food.

Reservations: I request _____ reservations

Entrée selection: _____ Sirloin _____ Chicken

Dinner **\$16.00 Each** _____

Memorial fund **Donation** _____

Junior ROTC support **Donation** _____

Scholarship Foundation (make check out to Tal-MOAA Foundation) **Donation** _____

News Briefs Continued

- **Hearing Exposes VA-DoD Coordination Shortfalls** — On Thursday, CDR Rene Campos, (USN-Ret.), deputy director of MOAA Government Relations, testified at a House Veterans Affairs Health Subcommittee hearing on DoD and VA implementation of the Federal Recovery Coordination Program (FRCP). The hearing dovetailed with an earlier (May) hearing at which Government Accountability Office (GAO) witnesses highlighted significant coordination problems between DoD and VA programs. Visibly frustrated, Chairwoman Ann Marie Buerkle (R-NY) expressed disbelief when Pentagon and VA witnesses told the Committee they are collaborating to resolve program discrepancies. "I feel like I'm in a parallel universe," she said. Buerkle said she believes the GAO findings reflect the reality that the agencies are operating separate and overlapping programs, causing unnecessary and unacceptable confusion, and creating another 'burdensome bureaucratic maze' for wounded warriors and families to deal with.
- **Why OMB Shouldn't Drive Health Policy** — One perplexing part of the Administration's proposal to raise TRICARE pharmacy costs would change retail copays to a percentage of DoD's cost for the drug rather than the current flat-dollar copay. For FY2013, the proposed copay would be 15% of the drug cost, and that would rise to 30% in a few years. MOAA did some additional research to see what the percentage-of-cost methodology would mean for some specific medications – and found some disturbing things. Among the most expensive medications are those for treatment of cancer, hemophilia and multiple sclerosis. Astonishingly, a 15% copay for those medications would amount to about \$2,000; \$5,000; and \$6,600, respectively. Do your own calculations for a 30% copay.

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Tal-MOAA is an independent, non-profit
organization, established in 1966 and chartered by
the national organization in 1967. Membership is
open to active duty, retired, former officers and
warrant officers of the seven uniformed services
and widows and widowers of any individual who
would have been eligible as set forth above.

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COMING EVENTS AND MISCELLANIA

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Military Officers Association of America, Tallahassee, although affiliated with The Military Officers Association of America, Tallahassee Chapter (Tal-MOAA), is a separate organization. Annual dues are \$12, payable in January. Many members of the Auxiliary are also Associate members of Tal-MOAA.

Meetings of the Ladies Auxiliary are held on the second Wednesday of each month at the Killlearn Country Club at noon. Deadline for all reservations is noon the Monday before the meeting.

The "Friendship Luncheon" for members and friends is held each February, September and December. Guests, family and prospective members are welcome at any meeting.

Our Newsletter is printed by Minuteman Press.
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