

January 26, 2013

MEMORANDUM For: Chapter Officers and Council Officers

FROM: LTC Robert Garman, USA, Ret Council President

Welcome to the First Quarterly Meeting of the NC Council of Chapters for 2013. The National and State elections are over and there are many new faces in the respective "Halls of Government". The budget problems facing each government have not yet been solved. The National debt ceiling must be raised and the action to do so will no doubt require cuts in the spending plan. Where these cuts fall could affect every facet of our lives. National MOAA is working to ease the burden placed on the active & retired military but we all face the prospect of greater costs for health care along with reduced availability of services we take for granted today. In North Carolina, the tax code is being revised and we may find that our sales tax is greatly increased while the State Income Tax is reduced or eliminated. Those of us affected by the Bailey/Patton Settlement could find the cost of living in North Carolina for us is going up. Based on how the Congress and President handle the sequestration problem, DOD could be required to absorb \$41 billion in cuts before the end of October and \$450 billion more over the next 9 years. Needless to say, such cuts will devastate the military readiness of the nation and cause a great hardship on all military personnel, both active, reserve or retirees. Each of us must remain active in letting our legislators know how we feel about the military bearing the brunt of these cost savings.

Despite this gloomy outlook for our nation, we have a bright future here in the North Carolina State Council. We have a Convention at Sea starting on 13 February which will provide us the opportunity to get to know members from across the state. Those of you going on the cruise should have a great time. MOAA National will be represented by COL Brian Anderson, Deputy Director of Council and Chapter Affairs and MG Joe Lynch and his wife, Patricia. MG Lynch is the General Counsel for MOAA.

We have several new presidents within the State Council and I thank each of them for their dedication and service. Thanks to all of you for what you do for MOAA.

NEXT MEETING

2nd Qtr (April 26-27) Goldsboro, NC Eastern Carolina Chapter