



NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS  
3D QUARTER MEETING  
MOAA

BLOWING ROCK, NC

AUGUST 13, 2016

HARLEY ELLINGER 2D VP

LEGISLATIVE REPORT



POLITICALLY NEUTRAL

PARK YOUR SHIELD, MACE, PIKE, AND

SWORD

AT THE

DOOR



**“ELECTION YEAR”**

**2016**

**THIS WILL BE A VERY HARD YEAR**

**TO**

**STAY POLITICALLY NEUTRAL!**

**HOWEVER – TRY & TRY & TRY**

**“DO NOT”  
BLOW THEM  
OUT OF THE WATER  
WITH POLITICAL  
RHETORIC**



# FACTS VERSUS FEELINGS

- 1) Part of the Legislature uses facts, while the other part uses feelings or emotion to make decisions.
- 2) Determine your target audience.
- 3) Determine if the person is influenced by facts, or feelings and emotion. What will sway them to help us?

MODERN DRAFT ARMY

HOUSE BILL 1776

April 1, 1940

To

June 30, 1973

SLAVE LABOR

# MODERN VOLUNTEER ARMY

- Starts on July 1, 1973.
- No more draft.
- But, does not end draft registration.
- Gov. notifies public – will cost more money!
- Immediate increase in military salaries.
- Salaries must go up to aid enlistments.
- Result: **FEELS military costs too much!**

MODERN VOLUNTEER ARMY

PEOPLE

DOING THE

WORK







# STATUS OF CONGRESS

JULY 18, 2016

NONE OF THE 12  
APPROPRIATION BILLS  
HAVE BEEN PASSED.

2016

NATIONAL

ISSUES

July 18 - Sept. 5

# MOAA NATIONAL ISSUES

- Retain pay raise & force levels in House Bill.
- Drop Senate proposed housing allowance cuts. \$2,000 to \$20,000 annually.
- Prevent disproportional TRICARE fee increases.
- Eliminate the military “widows tax.

FACTS

VS

FEELINGS

# MILITARY PAY PER YEAR- ARMY

- E-1: \$18,804 + benefits
- E-5: \$26,772 to \$37,992 + benefits (12 yrs.)
- E-6: \$29,232 to \$45,276 + benefits (18 yrs.)
- E-8: \$48,612 to \$69,336 + benefits (30 yrs.)
- O-3: \$47,568 to \$77,376 + benefits (14 yrs.)
- O-5: \$62,700 to \$106,512 + benefits (22 yrs.)
- O-6: \$75,205 to \$133,140 + benefits (30 yrs.)
- O-8: \$119,352 to \$172,068 + benefits (34 yrs.)



# FORCE STRUCTURE

- SERVICE CHIEFS:- force levels have reached a tipping point.
- Not enough troops to complete mission.
- Troops woefully undertrained.
- Many combat tours and overseas assignments equals fatigue and loss of readiness.
- ie. – episode of US Navy and Iran.



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THE PRODUCTS OF  
SPRINGFIELD



THE FEDERAL ARMORIES



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# HOUSING ALLOWANCE

- Married military couples – one allowance only. Loss of \$10,000 to \$20,000 per year per person.
- Military people make enough money to pay for their own housing.
- NEXT:- pay for on base/post housing.
- Housing allowance always included in the military compensation package.





# TRICARE FEE INCREASES

- Health care costs are level or declining.
- TRICARE for LIFE costs declined 40% in the last five years.

NOTE: Superb pharmacy program by mail keeps seniors well and out of hospital.

Need well documented studies of health care costs for military personnel.

FIRST FIX: health care access, quality, & cost analysis before increase in fees.



# “Widows Tax”

- Survivor Benefit Plan – 55% of retiree’s pay.
- Death on Active Duty – SBP is automatic.
- Death caused by service, VA pays Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), but it is deducted from SBP which Congress saw was an inequity in 2007.

**NEVER RESOLVED!**

# SEC. OF DEF.- VETO DEFENSE BILL

## OBJECTS TO:

- 1) Increase in Force Levels – wants decrease.
- 2) 2.1% pay increase – wants 1.6% increase.
- 3) Small or no TRICARE fee increase – wants large increase.
- 4) Senate plan to allow more flexible moving of spouses and families – wants none.



# THE MILITARY COALITION

JULY 14, 2016

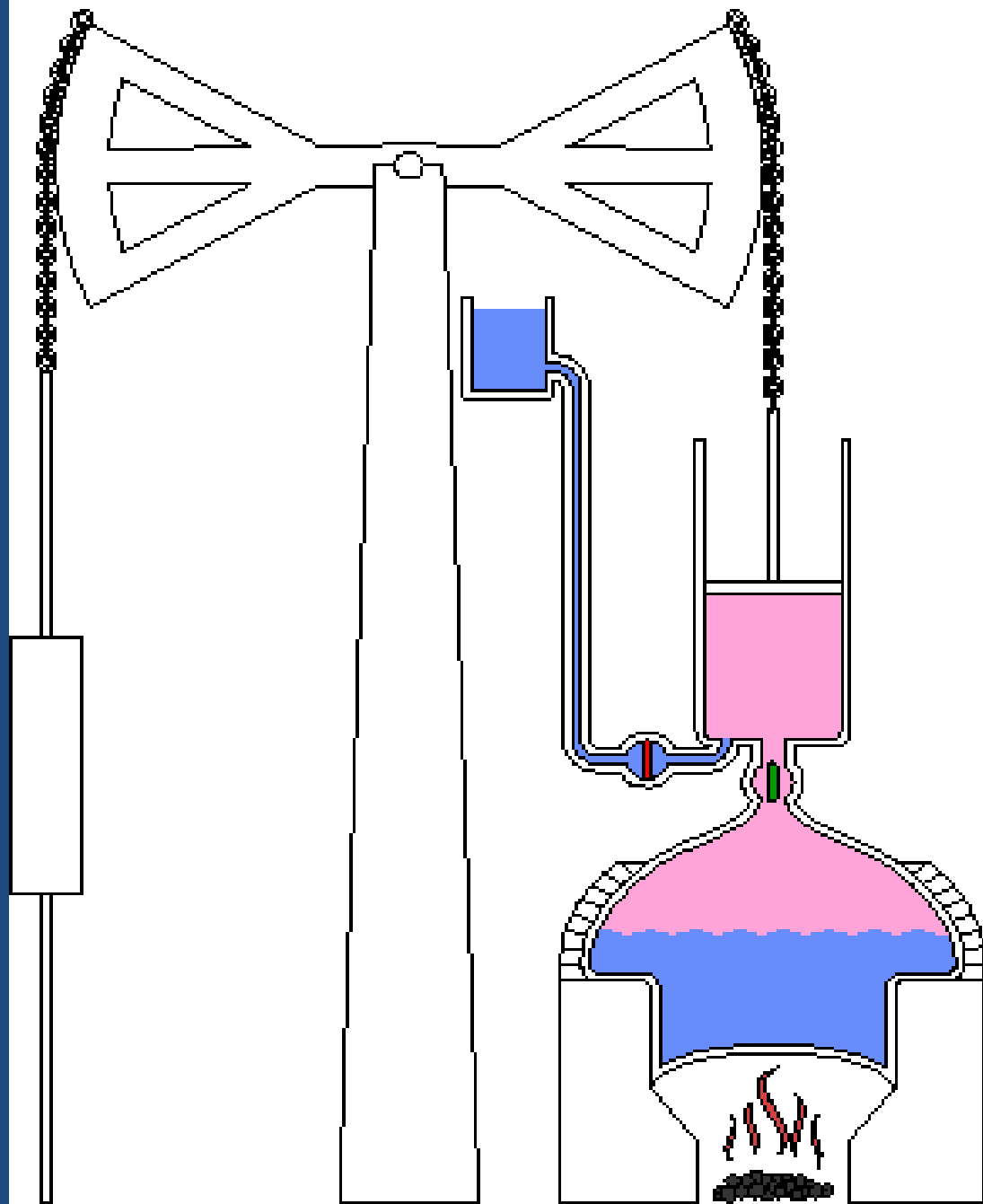
- Letter sent to Chairmen of the House and Senate Armed Service Committees.
- SUBJECTS: Force levels, Uniform benefits for all seven services, Mil. pay raise, Basic housing allowance as a part of military compensation, Military health care reform (10 concerns) and survivor benefits.
- TMC represents 28 organizations.

FRUSTRATION AT NAT. MOAA

SOME WITH LEGISLATIVE  
BRANCHES

MORE WITH

ADMINISTRATIVE BRANCH



# FRUSTRATION

- For every 10 military positions that are removed from the force structure, 9 are replaced by civilian workers: savings small.
- The loss of combat support and combat service personnel makes management difficult.
- Less military personnel makes overseas rotations more frequent.





JOHN DEERE

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NORTH CAROLINA

STATE ISSUES

2016

# “STORM THE HILL – RALEIGH”

MAY 11, 2016

- Opening ceremony.
- Ceremony for Vietnam Veterans now working in state government in Raleigh.
- Meetings with individual senators and representatives.
- Visit to the legislature, senate and house, for veteran recognition.

# NC LEGISLATIVE SESSION - 2016

- H5 – Military Veterans Special Plate – passed.
- H114 – Bailey/Patton – not considered.
- H256 – Handicapped Parking/Veterans Plate – passed.
- H842 – Medicaid Wavier Protections / Military Families – presentation to Secretary of State.
- H860 – Limit Soldiers Community College Tuition – has been heard in committee. No results.
- S105 – Act to required info. on Vet. Tax returns.

# TAX LEGISLATION - PASSED

- H3 – Income tax reduction and limitation at 5.5%. Limits any future income tax to 5.5%.
- **ULTIMATE GOAL:** eliminate the income tax and transfer taxing to sales tax so everyone pays taxes.
- **ULTIMATE GOAL:** stop transfer of wealth in society – the goal of an income tax.

NEW LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

OF

4<sup>TH</sup> BRANCH

COL (RET) JERI GRAHAM

H114



ALLIS-CHALMERS

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