



# Coastal Carolina Military Officer's Association

In Memory of  
Editor:  
Maj Bill Culler USMC (Ret.)

## CLARION

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Coastal Carolina Chapter Web Page: [ccmoaa.org](http://ccmoaa.org)

### Inside this Issue

President  
Message

1

COLA

2

TRICARE  
Changes  
Coming!

3

Guest Speaker  
Jeff Futrell,  
Veterans Ser-  
vice Director  
for Craven  
County

4

Reservation  
form

5

Schedule of  
Events

6



### From the President CAPT MARIE SENZIG NC USN (RET.)



Greetings from Wisconsin! I was happy to award our Six scholarships this year to our

deserving scholars at this year's annual MOAA Scholarship Dinner. Our chapter also participated in the Vietnam Traveling Wall opening ceremony. I hope you took the opportunity to visit the Wall while it was in the area. It was a busy May with the Memorial Day Ceremony at the National Cemetery as well.

Thank You to 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President **John Murphy** and the entire Board for covering for me this summer while I am caring for my aging mother here in the North. I got a call from the Council and Chapters Director **COL Terri Coles at MOAA National**. She called to thank us for our Level of Excellence application but unfortunately we did not qualify for a 4 Star Award this year. She said we were on the cusp and would

take some time to give us some tips for next year. I would encourage more participation from our general membership in our quarterly dinners and other community events where our chapter is participating.

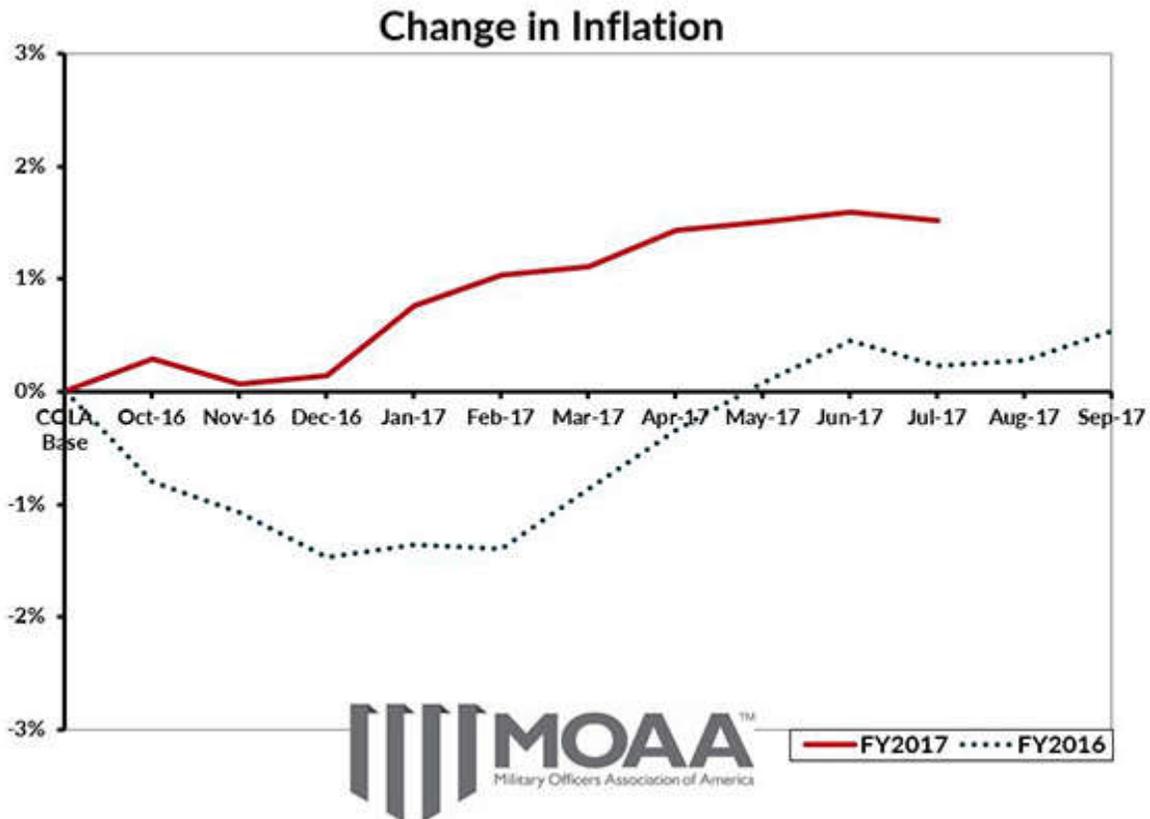
By the time you read this message the Purple Heart Dinner will have been celebrated. Thank You to Board Member **Iggi Husar** for co-chairing the area event.

Next on the agenda is the Craven County Veterans Stand Down. If you are interested in assisting please contact **COL Malcolm Roberts** as he will be representing our chapter. Our annual Pig Pickin' will occur in September as well. The RSVP form may be found at the end of this newsletter. Please participate in our upcoming events. I will be back in town toward the end of September.

Enjoy the rest of the summer!

## COLA

**NOTE: Military retire COLA is calculated based on the CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), not the overall CPI. Monthly changes in the index may differ from national figures reported elsewhere.**



The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change over time in the prices paid by urban consumers from around the country for a market basket of consumer goods and services. The market basket includes the prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' dentists' services, drugs, and other things people buy for day-to-day living. Prices are collected from about 50,000 housing units and approximately 23,000 retail establishments - department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index. Prices of most goods and services are obtained by personal visits or telephone calls of the Bureau of Labor and Statistics' (BLS) trained representatives.

Collectively, the CPI is also used to adjust annuities for other federal retirees, survivors, and Social Security recipients.

Learn more at the BLS FAQ web page.

Related content - Retired Pay vs Active Duty Pay Adjustments

## TRICARE Changes Coming

The 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) brought sweeping health care reforms, many of which will take effect in just a few months. MOAA is working closely with TRICARE program officials to learn what new processes and responsibilities these changes will bring for TRICARE beneficiaries and when they will occur.

The new TRICARE Select option, which replaces TRICARE Standard and Extra, begins Jan. 1, 2018 -- just 6 short months from now. TRICARE Select is the self-managed preferred provider organization (PPO) option. It provides freedom of choice of providers, with reduced/fixed fee beneficiary out-of-pocket costs for care in the network. TRICARE Prime, TRICARE Reserve Select, TRICARE Retired Reserve, and TRICARE Young Adult and TRICARE for Life will remain as is.

Under the new model, beneficiaries must make an active, annual choice of health plan for themselves and/or their family. Because 2018 is the first year of the plan, there will be a grace period, and beneficiaries will be automatically renewed in their existing TRICARE option as of Dec. 31, 2017. This means beneficiaries currently in TRICARE Standard or Extra will be converted automatically into TRICARE Select.

Active duty family members newly entitled to TRICARE will be automatically enrolled in TRICARE Prime if they live in a Prime Service Area (generally around a military treatment facility). If not, they will be enrolled in TRICARE Select. Two populations may be at risk of losing coverage: Active duty members who retire and do not elect to enroll in an option. MOAA is advocating for a seamless enrollment default option for this population, as well as increased transition education services.

Retiree beneficiaries who fail to pay their enrollment fees. Officials have stated that eligible beneficiaries will never lose their benefit, as they will always be eligible for care at military hospitals. However, this would most likely be on a space-available basis.

Enrollment Details

Year 1 (2018): Auto renewal (Jan. 1, 2018) and

grace period: Can change TRICARE Prime or Select at any time in 2018

Year 2 (2019) and beyond: Can elect TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select coverage (enroll, disenroll, or change) only during annual open season (1 Nov - 20 Dec) or if the beneficiary has a qualifying life event:

- Marriage, divorce, or annulment
- Birth or adoption of a child
- Placement of a child by a court in a member's home
- Change in sponsor status
- Loss of eligibility (due to age, Medicare, etc.)
- Move to a new ZIP code
- Loss/gain of other health insurance
- Death of a sponsor, spouse, or child
- Change in eligibility status of any single family member in another family ( e.g. joint service member)

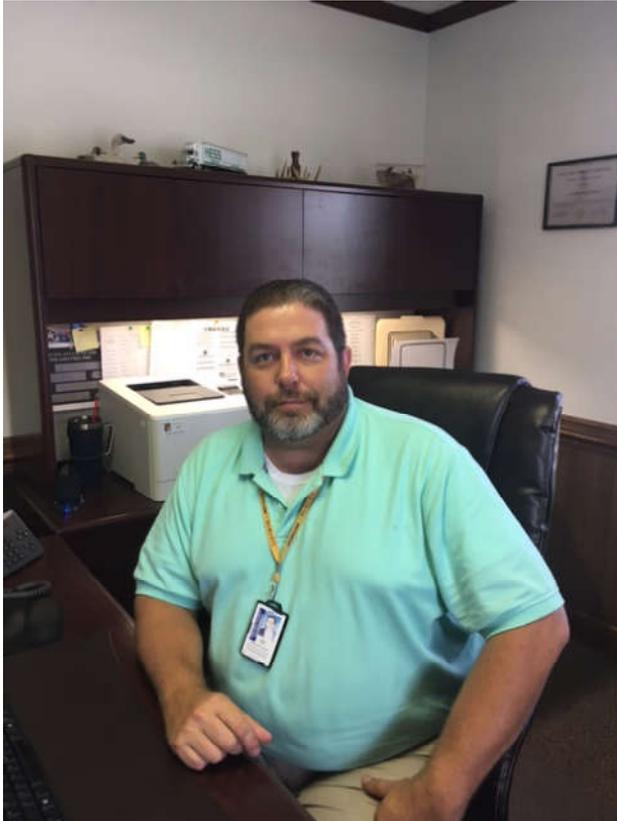
All qualifying life events require a Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) update. If beneficiaries request a change in coverage, it must occur within 90 days of the life event. Beneficiary cost shares will be based on the sponsor's "date initially entered into service" (DIEMS). Per the 2017 NDAA, those who have entered into service prior to Jan. 1, 2018, are grandfathered into existing cost shares - unless the 2018 NDAA incorporates provisions from the administration's budget proposal to repeal grandfathering (see "TRICARE Fees to Get a Big Raise").

As many of these changes show, beneficiaries will be expected to take more responsibility for their health care. MOAA will continue to work closely with DoD to ensure program changes will be beneficiary-centered and clearly communicated to all stakeholders.

What is the most important thing you can do right now? Make sure your DEERS information is updated for both you and your family. Here's how to update DEERS.

There will be much more to come over the next few months.

**Guest Speaker**  
**Jeff Futrell (Veteran Services Director, Craven County)**



**Jeff Futrell** is the Veteran Services Director for Craven County. He was hired in May of 2016 to serve the more than 20,000 veterans and dependents of this county. Jeff served 8 years in the US Navy as a Parachute Rigger.

Previously, Jeff was the Regional Training Officer for the North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs where he was responsible to train county and state personnel in veteran programs.

He has served as the District Veterans Service Officer and as the Director of Veteran Services for Northampton County. He has over 10 years of experience assisting veterans and their families in receiving much deserved benefits.

Jeff and his team at the Craven County Veteran Services Center are excited to be serving the many veterans of this county and continue to grow and expand benefits to those who have served.

As a veteran himself, Jeff knows what it takes to navigate the federal benefits system and more importantly, he knows and understands the needs of the veterans of Craven County.

## September's Pig Pickin'



You are cordially invited to our **September BBQ** Dinner at the  
 Moore's Barbeque, New Bern, NC  
**Thursday, 21, September 2017.**  
**Attire for this event:** Causal

Social Hour (No alcohol permitted) at 1730

Dinner Served at 1830

### Buffet Dinner Menu

BBQ Pork, Fried Chicken, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Hush Puppies, Banana Pudding & Tea/  
 Soda

Cost is \$15.00 per person. All Taxes & Gratuities Included;  
**Reservations for this event are requested by Friday, 15 September.**

Contact **COL Iggi Husar** with cancellations NLT 48 hours prior to 21 September 2017  
**(252) 676-0088**

[iggihusar@outlook.com](mailto:iggihusar@outlook.com)

**Program(s) Jeff Futrell (Veteran Services Director, Craven County)**

Name(s) of members and guests \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed for \_\_\_\_\_ (\$15.00 per person). Make checks payable to CC/MOA.

**Mail to: COL Iggi Husar**  
**305 Wilson Creek Dr.**  
**Trent Woods Dr. 28562**

**Coastal Carolina Military Officers  
Association  
P.O. Box 373  
Havelock, NC 28532**



*A 4 Star Level of Excellence  
Chapter for 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016*

September 2017

Clarion

Page 6

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR 2017

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Uniform</u>
September 8, 2017	TBD	Craven County Veterans Stand Down National Guard Armory, New Bern, NC	Chapter Shirt
September 21, 2017	1730	Pig Pickin—Moore’s BBQ, New Bern, NC	Casual
December 15, 2017	1200	Toys for Tots Luncheon Taberna Golf and Country Club	Festive