

## Next Dinner Social

Our next event will be October 24th at the Coast International Inn where we will hear from the serving Lieutenant Governor, Kevin Meyer.



Please save the date and join us!

- Speaker: Kevin Meyer, LtGov, SOA
- Topic: Government activity
- Date: October 24, 2019
- Time: 6:00 p.m.
- Location: Coast International Inn

## 2020 Pay Raises

### *Military Retiree & VA Pay Increases*

• Military retirees, those who receive disability or other benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs, federal retirees and social security recipients will see a 1.6% increase in their monthly checks for 2020.

• **VA Disability Increase:** Disabled veterans will also get a bump. The average VA disability check will go up about \$2 per month for those with a 10 percent rating, and \$49 for those rated at 100 percent.

## MOAA National News

### *Hotel Deals in the Pacific Northwest*

*By Maryann Hammers*

From Olympic National Park to Portland, Ore., the Pacific Northwest beckons modern trailblazers. Check out these discounts on accommodations for your visit.



**Lake Quinault Lodge** in Olympic National Park's temperate rainforest is a 91-room grand and rustic lodge built in 1926 boasting a majestic fireplace and Roosevelt Dining Room. It's located two hours from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, three hours from Seattle, and three-and-half hours from Portland, and is the perfect setting for bicycling, hiking, paddle boating, or kayaking. At this writing, the rate for veterans and active duty military members starts at \$254 for a room in the historic Main Lodge (regular rate is \$299). Use promo code MILITARY. Call (888) 896-3818.

**Sonesta ES Suites** in Vancouver, Wash., offers oversized suites with up to two bedrooms, fully equipped kitchens, a free daily breakfast buffet, free Wi-Fi, a fitness center, a seasonal pool, and free parking. The hotel is located in a scenic region near the Willamette and Columbia Rivers, 10 minutes from Portland International Airport, and within easy driving distance of downtown Portland, Mount St. Helens, and Pearson Air Museum. The hotel's Military & Veterans Discount offers an ongoing 10% discount to military personnel and veterans. Call (360) 253-4800.

**Woodlark**, a trendy boutique hotel in downtown Portland, combines two historic buildings — the historic Cornelius Hotel and the 1912 Woodlark Building. The 150-room hotel is surrounded by local eateries and artsy shops, just blocks from Pioneer Courthouse Square and the Willamette River, and is an easy drive to wine country in the Willamette Valley, hiking trails in Forest Park, and the Oregon Coast. Amenities include free Wi-Fi, complimentary bicycles, a 24-hour fitness center, and a climbing wall. At this writing, the military rate for a standard king room starts at \$215, compared to the regular rate of \$271. Be prepared to show ID. (Tip: Before booking, check out the hotel's online special offers. You may find an even better price than the military rate.) Call (503) 548-2559.

*(Deals are available as of Oct. 10, 2019, and may be subject to change.)*

For other vacation ideas, you can visit MOAAvacations.com, where MOAA offers cruise and tour specials, shore excursions and travel insurance.

**DOD**  
*Defense News*

**The US has ramped up its air campaign in Afghanistan to highest level in nine years (Military Times):** As peace negotiations between the Taliban and U.S. unraveled, the U.S. dramatically ramped up its air campaign against militants in Afghanistan.

**North Korea warns U.S., Europeans against raising its missile tests at U.N. (Reuters):** North Korea warned the United States, Britain, France and Germany on Monday that raising the issue of Pyongyang's missile tests at the United Nations Security Council would "further urge our desire to defend our sovereignty."

**Games to Grunts program offers free video game downloads to active-duty troops, veterans (Stars & Stripes):** Games to Grunts is offering digital download codes for several titles, including the most recent additions to the fighting-game franchise titans Tekken 7 and SoulCalibur 6.

**Academy brings VR pilot training to cadets (Air Force Times):** Cadets at the Air Force Academy are now the latest aspiring aviators to use a cutting-edge virtual reality system to learn how to fly.

**Major al-Qaida leader killed in joint US-Afghan raid (Military Times):** Afghanistan's intelligence agency says a

September joint Afghan-U.S. raid in Musa Qala district of Helmand province, Afghanistan, bagged a major al-Qaida leader.

**Chinese warship visit to Japan part of growing military charm offensive (USNI News):** China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy is embarking on a regional charm offensive this autumn by sending a pair of ships on friendly visits – including a rare port call in Japan – as part of an ongoing effort using the military to further diplomatic missions.



**VA refunds \$400 million in mistaken home loan fees (Military Times):** Veterans Affairs officials have paid out more than \$400 million in refunds of home loan funding fees in the wake of an inspector general's report that tens of thousands of veterans were improperly tagged with extra costs when applying for the loans.

**Military spouses: Check out these hundreds of thousands of temporary job opportunities nationwide (Military Times):** Hundreds of thousands of temporary workers are being hired for the 2020 census, and officials want military spouses to know about the opportunities.

**Navy exercises sprawl across western Pacific (The Associated Press):** The U.S. 7th Fleet said Sunday the ships and aircraft from the Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group and the Boxer Amphibious Ready Group staged joint "high-end warfighting exercises" in the South China Sea.

**Estonian foreign minister makes a case for NATO (USNI News):** The foreign minister of one of the smallest nations in Europe said NATO only works when all the territories in the alliance are sacred and every member is committed "to die for your neighbor" if it is attacked.

**U.S. carried out secret cyber strike on Iran in wake of Saudi oil attack, officials say (Reuters):** The United States carried out a secret cyber operation against Iran in the wake of the Sept. 14 attacks on Saudi Arabia's oil facilities, which Washington and Riyadh blame on Tehran, two U.S. officials have told Reuters.

**WWII aviator who crashed in mountains of Papua New Guinea to be buried with full military honors (Air Force Times):** A WWII Army Air Corps aviator will be buried at Arlington this week with full military honors — thanks to the dogged efforts of a Philadelphia businessman who made multiple treks to the jungles of Papua New Guinea.

**DoD Systems**  
*Sniper Rifles*

The M40 rifle is a bolt-action sniper rifle used by the United States Marine Corps.

It has had four variants: the M40, M40A1, M40A3, and M40A5. The M40 was introduced in 1966. The changeover to the A1 model was completed in the 1970s, the A3 in the 2000s, and the A5 in 2009. Each M40 is built from a Remington 700 bolt-action rifle, and is modified by USMC armorers at Marine Corps Base Quantico, using components from a number of suppliers. New M40A5s are being built, and A1s are upgraded to A3s and A5s as they rotate into the armory for service and repair. The rifles have had many sub-variations in telescopic sights, and smaller user modifications. The M40A5 incorporates a detachable magazine and a threaded barrel to allow for the use of a sound suppressor or other muzzle device.



*USMC M40 Sniper Rifle*

The original M40 was a military type-classified version of the Remington 700; it was factory-made, and had a one-piece wooden stock. The M40A1 and A3 switched to fiberglass stocks made by McMillan, with new scopes. The trigger pull on both models (M40A1/A3) is 3 to 5 lb (1.4–2.3 kg). The Marine Corps plans to replace the M40 with the Mk 13 Mod 7.

The United States Special Operations Command uses the AICS as the Mk 13 Mod 5 rifle chambered in .300 Winchester Magnum. The Mk 13 Mod 5 utilizes the "long-action" bolt of the Remington 700/M24 receiver and has a

precision barrel that can be fitted with the suppressor of the Mk 11. It has a 3-sided Modular Accessory Rail System (MARS) for mounting optics on top and Picatinny rail accessories on each side, and a folding bipod. The Mk 13 is to be gradually replaced by the Modular Sniper Rifle in US Army use.



*US Navy Mk 13 MOD 5 SWS*

U.S. Army M2010 Enhanced Sniper Rifle. The M2010 Enhanced Sniper Rifle (ESR) is a sniper rifle developed by PEO Soldier for the United States Army. The M2010 system differs from the prior M24 Sniper Weapon System in that it fires .300 Winchester Magnum (7.62×67mm) ammunition to provide approximately 50 percent additional effective range relative to the M24's 7.62×51mm NATO. This chambering to dimensionally larger cartridges is possible because the M24 Sniper Weapon System was designed to use the "long action" bolt version of the Remington 700 receiver for cartridges up to 3.34 inches (84.84 mm) in overall length.

The U.S. Army developed the system so that the additional effective range would help snipers in engagements in mountainous and desert terrain in which the War in Afghanistan was being fought. The general penalties for using bigger, more powerful magnum rifle ammunition (vice smaller standard rifle cartridges) are increases in recoil, jump,

flash, weight, and barrel wear.



*The M2010 Enhanced Sniper Rifle*

### 2019/20 Calendar of Events

- Oct 24: Dinner Social (Meeting)
- Nov 10: Marine Corps Birthday
- Dec 5: Christmas Social
- Jan (2020): Dinner Social (Meeting)
- Feb ##: ASYMCA Salute to the Military
- Mar 26: Dinner Social (Meeting)
- April ##: JROTC Awards
- April ##: MOAA Storming the Hill
- April 23 Dinner Social (Meeting)
- May 28: End of Season Social (Meeting)
- Jun 14: Army Birthday
- Aug 4: Coast Guard Birthday
- Sep 18: Air Force Birthday
- Oct 13: Navy Birthday

### Contact Information

Please share this newsletter! Contact information provided below:

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- Annual chapter dues: \$25; on or about January of each year, on-line payment may be made at:

<https://chapterdues.moaa.org/MemberShip.aspx> or a check payable to Captain Cook Chapter. Thank you for your support!

- Chapter site: [www.MOAA-AK.COM](http://www.MOAA-AK.COM)

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