



# THE CABLE

March 2012

The San Francisco Chapter,  
An affiliate of the  
Military Officers Association of America

Happy St. Patrick's Day, March 17<sup>th</sup>  
Celebrate by wearing the Green!

## 2012 meeting schedule

May 19

July 21

September 15

November 17

United Irish Cultural Center

2700-45th Avenue

San Francisco CA 94116

Chapter Tel.: (650) 355-3298

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## Chapter Officers

Pres.-LTC Ed Meshinsky

VP-LCDR Steve Barber

Secretary.-**VACANT**

Treas.-CAPT Tom Swartz

Sgt-at-Arms-**VACANT**

Editor "The Cable"

CWO Wilchie Crump

Honorary Chairman

CDR Bob Lando

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## "QUICK BITES!"

*Annual Chapter dues of \$20, for those who renew annually, are due this month! Lifetime membership is only \$100. Please mail or hand-deliver to any Board Officer.*

*Thank you!*

*Kathy Hughan, the wife of our Guest Speaker, was the winner of the January 50-50 raffle. If you bring a guest, they might win the raffle too!*

**General Meeting & Luncheon:** Saturday, March 24, 2012 at the United Irish Cultural Center, 2700 – 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue, San Francisco 94116. (Across from the SF Zoo). Please call (650) 355-3298 if you have questions or need a ride to the meeting.

**Schedule:** 11:30AM doors open; 12noon business meeting and luncheon; 1:00PM speaker program.

**Menu:** Corned Beef & Cabbage or Chicken Breast Cordon Bleu

**Reservations:** please mail your menu choices and checks payable to SF Chapter, MOAA to P.O. Box 406, Pacifica, CA 94044. Cost \$25.00 per person. Reservations received after 12noon on March 21st will be charged \$5.00 per person add-on, payable at the door. We welcome your guests!

**"The Coast Guard Mission at SFO":** Our speaker this month is Captain Eric Langenbacher, the Commanding Officer of the U.S Coast Guard Air Station at the San Francisco International Airport known as "SFO". Capt. Langenbacher is a native of northern Minnesota and a 1990 graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, with a degree in Civil Engineering. Originally assigned as a deck officer, Capt. Langenbacher quickly satisfied his true interests in flying by becoming a naval aviator when he earned his wings in 1993. Following assignments included primarily flying missions in helicopters, which were involved in search and rescue and enforcement of fisheries laws and treaties, in such places as the northern Pacific Ocean and the Bering Sea. Later tours took him to several engineering posts where he was responsible for the maintenance and project design of the Coast Guard's primary helicopters. Along the way he also earned two Masters Degrees, one in Business Administration from Embry Riddle University and the other in Engineering from Purdue University. Prior to coming to San Francisco in 2010, Capt. Langenbacher was the Deputy Group Commander, Coast Guard Group/Air Station Port Angeles. (continued on reverse)

Capt. Langenbacher's talk will focus on the mission and operations of the San Francisco Coast Guard Air Station, whose helicopters we often see over the Bay and flying near to Ocean Beach. His visual presentation will also present some interesting historical events that have occurred in the field of military aviation.

**Attention Members!!!:** President Obama and the Department of Defense are considering major cuts in the defense budget. The plan reportedly focuses on personnel accounts to achieve the bulk of the savings, to include retirement and health care benefits, especially in higher health care fees. Your help is needed at this critical time.

The February 2012 issue of the *Military Officer Magazine* contained four letters to the four key congressional leaders with the greatest influence on personnel/benefits issues. Included in the same issue were four additional letters for your spouse to sign. If you and your spouse have not done so already, please sign these letters, seal (with tape, no staples please), stamp and mail today!

Every letter is important and needed. Adding a personal PS to the letter will add credence.

A few stamps are a small price to help save our benefits.

Considering our national debt crisis, it would be folly not to expect some cuts and fee increases.

However, we need to urge our congressional leaders to minimize the impacts on Veterans and families who have already paid a significant price in the service of our country. **PLEASE ACT TODAY!**

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**New TRICARE Dental Program Contract:** TRICARE's Management Activity announced that it awarded its dental program contract to Metropolitan Life Insurance Company of Bridgewater, NJ. Dental care coverage under the new contract began February 1, 2012. Enrollees should have received a welcome packet and new enrollment cards. During a 12 month transition period, enrollees can access customer service at the same toll-free phone number they have been using. Contact information can be found at [www.tricare.mil/contactus](http://www.tricare.mil/contactus).

**New TRICARE Nursing Facilities Rules:** A new requirement means that skilled nursing facilities will have to obtain preauthorized care to provided Medicare-eligible TRICARE beneficiaries once Medicare benefits are exhausted and TRICARE becomes the primary health coverage.

Preauthorization is only required for skilled nursing facility care when medically necessary skilled nursing services extend beyond Medicare's 100-day limit and TRICARE becomes the primary payer for a beneficiary. Since medical documentation must be submitted, the preauthorization should be submitted by the skilled nursing facility and should not be the burden to the beneficiary or their family.

**January Meeting Report:** The 2012 Chapter Board of Officers was sworn in at this meeting.

Our speaker was Andrew Hughan, the Public Information Officer for the California Department of Fish and Game, who described and showed visuals of his experiences in Jalalabad, Afghanistan. Mr. Hughan was in Afghanistan on special assignment with the Department of the Army to recruit, train and equip locals on the art and science of western photo-journalism. It was a very interesting presentation, as he showed us of his experiences in dealing with a population, who were eager to learn, but who had been totally devoid of any prior knowledge of this craft and where for the most part the trainer and the trainee could not communicate with each due to language differences.

Unfortunately, only 19 chapter members attended in January. Please make every effort to get out to your Chapter luncheon meetings and bring your spouse, a friend, your dentist or your brother/sister-in-law. We miss your happy faces!

**March 11, Daylight Savings Time begins.  
It must be Spring, so move one hour forward!**