

# The Companion



November 2011

## Augusta Chapter Officers for 2011-2012 Elected and Appointed

Commander-	COL Susy Roper
Sr Vice CDR-	LT Rich Herdegen
Jr Vice CDR-	
Adjutant-	CDR Earl Richardson
Treasurer-	COL Steven Amster
Marshall-	COL Don Stephens
Surgeon-	BG Robert Cutting
Historian-Archivist	LTC Larry Russell
Chaplain-	FR Bill Williams
Judge Advocate-	MAJ Dewitt Dent
Public Affairs-	LTC Sam Booher
Publicity-	
Editor Companion-	LCDR Ron Freeman
Finance & Budget-	CDR Earl Richardson
Legislative Liaison-	LTC Sam Booher
National Security-	
Speakers Bureau-	
Homeland Security-	
Membership-	LTC Gary Engen
Program-	COL Richard Manion
Asst Program-	COL Harry Pund
Patriotic Education-	LTC Gary Engen
Law and Order-	LT Richard Herdegen
Ceremonies-	COL Don Stephens
ROTC-	COL Don Stephens
Massing of the Colors-	
Memorial Service-	
Youth Leadership Advisor-	MAJ Dewitt Dent
BSA Liaison-	COL Steve Amster
Chapter Activities-	CDR Earl Richardson
Independence Day-	LTC Dave Titus
YLC	LTC Gary Engen

## Message From Chapter Commander COL Suzy Roper

**Did you know** that many Americans do not know why we celebrate Veterans Day? You may be surprised to learn that many Americans mistakenly believe that Veterans Day is the day America sets aside to honor American military personnel who died in battle or as a

result of wounds sustained from combat. That's not quite true. Memorial Day is the day set aside to honor America's war dead.

**Did you know** Veterans Day, on the other hand, honors All American veterans, both living and dead? In fact, Veterans Day is largely intended to thank Living veterans for dedicated and loyal service to their country. November 11th of each year is the day that we ensure veterans know that we deeply appreciate the sacrifices they have made in their lives to keep our country free?

**Did you know** that many other countries honor their veterans on November 11<sup>th</sup> each year, too? They have other names and types of ceremonies that differ from those of the United States. Canada, Australia, and Great Britain refer to their veteran's holiday as Remembrance Day.

**Did you know** that of the 25 million living veterans, most (75 percent) served during a war or an official period of hostility?

**Did you know** the largest populations of female veterans live in California, Texas, Florida, Virginia and Georgia?

**Did you know** that the United States government has declared that the attributive (no apostrophe) rather than the possessive case is the official spelling for Veterans Day?

## God Bless America and ALL Veterans!

Proud to Have Served  
Privileged to live in the land of the FREE

## Chapter Meeting COL Suzy Roper

Please make arrangements to meet at Theresa's Mexican restaurant at Ft. Gordon for the chapter meeting. In case anyone does not know the location of Teresa's's, it is

the restaurant currently located inside the old Officer's Club building now called "The Courtyard", Bldg 36708 Brainard Ave (their tel # is 706 910-1044). See you there.

### **Steve Abbott Chief Ranger Sr Guest Speaker November Meeting**

Incident Management Steve Abbott Chief Ranger Sr., retired with the Georgia Forestry Commission after 30 yrs. of service. He worked in both Columbia/Richmond County his whole career with a main responsibility to protect our Natural Resource as a wildland firefighter. This task required him to travel from coast to coast fighting wildland fires. During this these years of traveling he started out working the incidents as a Fire Fighter Type II (ground pounded), Squad Boss, Crew Boss, Single Resource Boss, Strike Team Leader, Task Force Leader and worked his way up to a Division Supervisor and most recently a Type III Incident Commander. He is still involved on a Type II Team with the State of Georgia as a Divisions Supervisor. Married about ten years, Steve has a beautiful wife Susan Abbott, two sons and two daughters. Since retirement he's worked on one wildland fire assignment sponsored by US Fish and Wildlife and is a caregiver for his wonderful father-in-law.

### **National Security by LTC David Titus**

China Relaxes Standards to Attract and Keep Recruits,  
Know about our Possible Advisory.  
Associated Press by Christopher Bodeen

BEIJING - China's military is accepting recruits who are heavier and have more visible tattoos, conceding to rising prosperity and individuality among the nation's young.

In keeping with a drive for better-educated recruits, the military is also opening up to university students willing to take time off to serve, offering them an additional 6,000 yuan (\$944) annually to subsidize their educational costs and guaranteeing that their university places will be there for them when they return to campus.

The changes announced by the Defense Ministry on Wednesday took effect during the People's Liberation Army's current winter recruitment drive. **The People's Liberation Army is the world's largest, with 2.3 million people in uniform.**

The ministry said would-be recruits will no longer be rejected for having face or neck tattoos as long as the body art doesn't exceed 3/4 inch.

The changes also allow for body weight up to 25 percent greater or 15 percent lower than the military's standard, in contrast to the former limits of 20 percent greater and 10 percent lower.

Prohibitions on ear piercings will also be eliminated, as long as the holes are not too obvious.

The reforms reflect how China's educated youths are becoming increasingly selective about jobs at the same time as the military rapidly modernizes. As in the West, increased food consumption and more sedentary lifestyles

are producing recruits who are less fit and more choosy about the physical activities they engage in.

With China's enormous population and huge amounts of excess rural labor, the army in the past could afford to be highly selective in whom it admitted, requiring recruits to meet strict standards for height and weight and automatically tossing out those with less than perfect vision or other slight physical defects.

While China's growing economy offers numerous alternatives, military pay and benefits have been improving in line with double-digit annual percentage increases in the defense budget. The armed forces also retain a privileged position in communist society, and a military background can lead to careers in security, local government, and other areas, so serving remains a relatively attractive choice.

### **Iranian nuclear question**

Experts interviewed by LIGNET believe Iran would most likely respond to a US or Israeli airstrike on its nuclear sites by encouraging its terrorist proxies to commit terrorist acts and fire missiles against Israel. The experts generally agreed that other more aggressive steps are possible but unlikely and probably would prove effective if taken.



Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad visits the Natanz uranium enrichment facility in 2008 where Iran is enriching uranium in defiance of UN and IAEA resolutions. Natanz would be a primary target for a US or Israeli airstrike. (Photo by the Office of the Presidency of the Islamic Republic of Iran via Getty Images)

### **Homeland Security By LTC Wayman Johnson**

(Homegrown terrorist pose a unique threat by Senior National Security Producer Suzanne Kelly)

"The arrest this week of four Georgia men charged with plotting to attack government officials with explosives and a biotoxin raises the question of just how big of a threat are homegrown terrorists in the U.S.?"

While security experts obviously can't put a ranking on a would-be terrorist, there are some reasons why the homegrown variety pose a unique challenge to law enforcement.

"Homegrown terror groups tend to be small and tight-knit, which makes detection and infiltration a law enforcement challenge," said CNN National Security Analyst Fran Townsend. "These groups vary widely as to their grievance and motivation, but all use violent means to get attention."

The most deadly domestic terror attack in the United States remains the bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City in April of 1995. Timothy McVeigh, who headed a small group of individuals, planted the truck bomb that killed 168 people.

Dr. Anthony Lemieux, a visiting professor at Emory University in Atlanta and an investigator with the National Center for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START), says there are plenty of cases of homegrown terror within the United States.

"It's interesting because on the one hand, you've got relatively small clusters, but for instance - Timothy McVeigh was one guy with a couple of assists and caused massive damage, so with the right kind of explosives, a team of four people can be quite lethal and quite dangerous," said Lemieux.

And that's part of what makes homegrown terrorists so difficult for law enforcement to detect. Though there are, according to Lemieux, common grievances that bring these individuals together.

Lemieux and his colleagues have researched terrorist motivations, and found that many grievances shared among particular groups within the United States tend to be anti-government, anti-tax or some may share white supremacist views. They also typically share common targets.

"They will go after civilians particularly, or people related to the justice system," said Lemieux. Another unique problem in investigating these would-be terrorists, according to experts like Lemieux and Townsend, is that having extreme views and sharing them isn't against the law - making it difficult for law enforcement to infiltrate smaller groups and determine whether they are just disgruntled, or an actual threat." MOWW encouragement of "See Something; Say Something" can help detect terrorist plots.

**BSA Liaison News  
COL Steven Amster**

COL Steven Amster was awarded the Boy Scout Leader's Training Award for completing a combination of training, tenure, and performance requirements.

BG Robert Cutting, his wife Frances, and COL Amster attended the 11th annual Fleur-de-Lis dinner of the Georgia-Carolina Council, BSA. This fundraiser honors military heroes who have been awarded the Medal of Honor. This year's featured speaker was Walter Joseph Marm, Jr., who received the medal for his gallantry in the 1965 Battle of Ia Drang in Vietnam. This battle was featured in the book *We Were Soldiers Once and Young* and a movie of a similar title.

**Treasurer's Report  
By Col Steven Amster**

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31 October 2011

Non-Profit Checking (Queensborough National Bank)	
Opening balance 10/01	\$2319.25
Deposits and other credits	+310.00
Meeting receipts	310.00
Checks -- cleared -	334.89
10/16 1018 Allegra Printing	64.89
10/16 1019 Darrin's Pantry (catering)	270.00
Checks - not cleared	+421.82
10/16 1016 (newsletter printing/postage)	56.69
10/16 1017 MOAA (2010 Xmas party)	365.13
Service charges & other debits	-0.00
Closing checking balance 10/31	\$2294.36
Closing balance including outstanding checks	\$1912.54
Cash Balance	
Opening balance 10/01	\$40.00
Changes	+0.00
Closing Balance 10/31	\$40.00
Opening Financial Asset Balance 10/01	\$2359.25
Net Change	-24.89
Closing Financial Asset Balance 10/31	\$2334.36

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Miss Harley Whittle, Silver Bluff High School Navy JROTC student, addresses the Companions and guests at the October Meeting on her impressions of the 2011 Charleston Youth Leadership Conference.

**Endowment Fund  
by LTC David Titus**

Our Chapter received a check for \$248.00 from the MOWW Youth Education Foundation. This was given to partially offset our expenses in conducting the 2010 Youth Leadership Conference in Augusta. Please keep the Endowment Fund in mind as you make your tax deductible donations for 2011. Make checks out to the Augusta Chapter MOWW ETF, c/o David Titus, 4850 Wrightsboro Road, Grovetown GA 30813.

**Recent donors were:**  
MAJ Bud and Julie Dent  
LTC Larry Russell  
COLs Mike and Susy Roper

**Legislative Affairs**  
**By LTC Sam Boohers**

**COLA Bill Passes**

On Wednesday afternoon the House passed S. 894, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2011. S. 894 passed the Senate on October 19. The bill was sent to the White House, and the President is expected to shortly sign it into law.

By accepting the Senate version of the bill, the House action ends any requirement for a joint committee to work out differences.

The cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), which takes effect on Dec. 1, 2011, will increase the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors by 3.6 percent. Additionally Social Security and Military Retired pay will also be increased due to previous actions.

**Medicare Part B**

The Department of Health and Human Services announced that Medicare Part B premiums for 2012 would be lower than previously predicted. The Part B deductible will decrease by \$22 and the monthly premium will only be \$99.90. Good news for all Medicare beneficiaries.

**Get Your Flu Shot**

TRICARE reminds everyone that the flu season is just starting and it is time to get your flu shots. As in years past, TRICARE offers free flu vaccine to eligible beneficiaries.

There are two forms of influenza vaccines distributed in the United States: a shot and a nasal spray. TRICARE covers both of the flu vaccine and are available without copayments or cost-shares to all TRICARE beneficiaries. The vaccine DOES NOT contain live virus so there is no chance of getting the flu from the shot. The vaccine contains a dead virus and can be given to all patients age 6 months and older. This type of vaccine is safe for pregnant women or women who may become pregnant during the flu season, because it can be used in any trimester. Children between the ages of 6 months and 8 years receiving the flu vaccine for the first time should receive two doses, with at least four weeks in between shots. The nasal spray contains a live, weakened virus, and it can be given to healthy people between the ages of 2 and 49.

**Membership Committee**  
**By LTC Gary Engen**

**GREAT NEWS:** Once again an anonymous benefactor has agreed to pay \$20.00, half of the annual MOWW membership fee, toward any new Augusta Chapter member recruited during the remainder of 2011. Wow! Now all it takes is another \$20 and someone can enjoy the

camaraderie and benefits of being a part of the greatest veterans organization in the CSRA. So what are you waiting for? Do you not know anybody that is eligible to invite for membership? Is there somebody you associate with that you've been thinking about inviting? Well now is the time and you could even chip in \$20 yourself and tell that potential member that he (or she) can join us for a year for free! I ask each of you to recruit at least one new member between now and our January 2012 meeting. Just forward the membership info to your friendly Membership Committee Chairman (LTC Engen, 706 733-7682) and we'll take care of the rest. Try to identify younger officers recently released from active duty in all branches of the service and invite them to a meeting. We currently have 132 members in our chapter. Let's make a positive increase this year! **JUST DO IT!!**

The new chapter membership roster has been printed and was made available for members (at no cost) at the past monthly meeting. If you did not get one, they will be available at the November meeting at Teresa's Restaurant or contact our chapter Membership Committee Chairman, Gary Engen (706 733-7682), and he will send you one.



TO BRING A GUEST TO OUR NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

**Happy Birthday**

Happy Birthday to all companions born during the Month of November:

MAJ Esli T. Pitts	01 NOV
MRS..Alfred J.(Nancy)Malette	02 NOV
MRS. Steve (Evelyn) Szablewski	02 NOV
MR. George Rosema	04 NOV
LTC John P. Clements	07 NOV
LTJG Justin W. Westfall	07 NOV
CW4 William F. Lang	08 NOV
CW3 John W. Lanting Sr.	09 NOV
COL Harry Pund III	11 NOV
COL Robert J. Kaminski	13 NOV
COL William E. Clark	15 NOV
LTC Jan Zimmerman	16 NOV
LTC Dennis A. Calamas	18 NOV
CAPT Jonathan P. Cutting	24 NOV
MR.. Steve Titus	28 NOV

This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave. ~Elmer Davis

**Chaplain's Corner  
Fr Bill Williams**

**MEETING SCHEDULE 2010-2011**

<u>Day, Date Time</u>	<u>Miscellaneous</u>
Sun, 20 Nov, 1330, Lunch 1230-1330	Staff Mtg Tues, 15 Nov
<b>Massing of Colors TBD</b>	
	Veterans Day, 11 Nov USMC Birthday, 10 Nov (1775)
16 Dec , MOWW/MOAA	<b>Christmas Party at Gordon Club</b>

**Safety Tips  
Things Your Burglar Won't Tell You**

Of course I look familiar. I was just here last week cleaning your carpets, painting your shutters or delivering your new refrigerator

Hey, thanks for letting me use the bathroom when I was working in your yard last week. While I was there, I unlatched the back window to make my return a little easier.

Love those flowers. That tells me you have taste. . . and taste means there are nice things inside. Those yard toys your kids leave out always make me wonder what type of gaming system they have.

Yes, I really do look for newspapers piled up on the driveway. And I might leave a pizza flyer in your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it.

If it snow while you are out of town, get a neighbor to create car and foot tracks into the house. Virgin drifts in the driveway are a dead giveaway.

If decorative glass is part of your front entrance, don't let your alarm company install the control pad where I can see if it's set. That makes it too easy.

A good security company alarms the window over the sink. And the windows on the second floor, which often access the master bedroom – and your jewelry. It's not a bad idea to put motion detectors up there too.

It's raining, you're fumbling with your umbrella, and you forget to lock your door – understandable. But understand this: I don't take a day off because of bad weather.

God of compassion,  
God of dignity and strength,  
Watch over the veterans of the United States  
In recognition of their loyal service to our nation.  
Bless them with wholeness and love.  
Shelter them.  
Heal their wounds,  
Comfort their hearts.  
Grant them peace.

**Thanksgiving Day**

November is the month we celebrate Thanksgiving. The tradition of the Pilgrims' first Thanksgiving is steeped in myth and legend. Few people realize that the Pilgrims did not celebrate Thanksgiving, though some of their descendants later made a "Forefather's Day" that usually occurred on December 21 or 22. Several Presidents, including George Washington, made one-time Thanksgiving holidays. In 1827, Mrs. Sarah Josepha Hale began lobbying Presidents for the instatement of Thanksgiving as a national holiday, but her lobbying was unsuccessful until 1863 when Abraham Lincoln finally made it a national holiday with his 1863 Thanksgiving Proclamation. Now Thanksgiving is the fourth Thursday of November. This was set by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1939 and was approved by Congress in 1941, who changed it from Abraham Lincoln's designation as the last Thursday in November, which could occasionally end up being the fifth Thursday and hence too close to Christmas for businesses.

**Link to the MOWW Augusta Chapter Website:**  
<http://www.augustamoww.com>

**Link To the MOWW National Website:**  
<http://militaryorder.net/>

**Link to the Region V Website:**  
<https://sites.google.com/site/mowwregionv/home>

**To contact the editor of the Companion:**  
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