



Lawton-Fort Sill Chapter

Superpower for the Soldier

www.LawtonFortSillAUSA.org

Quarterly Newsletter

AUSA Chapter 43601 - Spring 2009

New Chapter Programs and Membership Campaign

Your Association of the US Army (AUSA) chapter is on the move. On 3 February 2009, the first-ever AUSA Soldier/Family Council met, bringing together nine government and civilian caregiver and charity organizations supporting Soldiers and their Families in Southwest Oklahoma. This council promises to stimulate collaboration and create synergy for solving Soldiers' physical, mental or financial problems. See the article "AUSA Soldier/Family Council Holds 1st Meeting" in this newsletter; and for a more in-depth look at the council's purpose and vision for the future, see "AUSA Soldier/Family Council--Service that Truly Matters" in the "Special Features" section of our new website at www.LawtonFortSillAUSA.org.

Our website is another program with promise. Thanks to our volunteer IT expert and designer, Neal Hubbard, the new website is *spectacular*. It includes information on how to join AUSA and our chapter online, a list of the members of the Executive Committee and our Military Liaisons, an archive of the newsletters, and much more.

But, again, as part of our mission, our website supports Soldiers and includes a "Help Links" section with an initial list of online resources to help Soldiers/Families. We have plans to expand that list and develop additional IT capabilities on the website to support Soldiers. I invite you to visit our website and give us feedback.

Major General Pete Vangjel, Commanding General of the Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill, recently appointed four military liaisons to our chapter. We welcome COL Pete Baker, Commander of the 214th Fires Brigade; COL John Fant, Commander of the 428th Field Artillery Brigade; CSM Joe Smith, CSM of the Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill; and CSM Jeffrey Powell, CSM of the Fort Sill Garrison, as our new liaisons.

As of 1 April, we are kicking off our membership campaign with energy-looking for "re-ups" and new individual and corporate members. Although our name, "Lawton-Fort Sill AUSA Chapter," implies we serve only our city, in fact, we are dedicated to serving Soldiers in all of Southwest Oklahoma--active, retired, National Guard and Reserve. See the article "AUSA Chapter Membership Drive Kicks Off 1 April" in this newsletter to see the benefits of becoming a member-serving Soldiers who serve us and supporting the US



GEN(R) Sullivan, President of AUSA in Arlington, Virginia, will speak at the Lawton-Fort Sill AUSA Chapter's 22 April luncheon at the Patriot Club. Call 355-0581 for reservations.

Army as America's world-class land force--and how to join online. Or, call Jim Cunningham at 580-248-3300 to join as an individual or Gene Love at 580-581-1300 for a corporate membership.

Last, and certainly not least, your chapter is bringing in General (Retired) Gordon Sullivan as the guest speaker for our luncheon on 22 April. General Sullivan is not only national President of AUSA, but also a former Chief of Staff of the Army and, among other accomplishments, the co-author of the 1966 Random House book *Hope is Not a Method*. He leads AUSA in Arlington, VA, watching the new administration's changes that affect Soldiers and the Army. The luncheon starts at 1130 at the Patriot Club on Fort Sill and costs \$15. For reservations, call Jack Donohue at 580-355-0581 by 19 April.

As part of our chapter's energy, watch for our ad campaign, which started 8 April--television, newspaper and radio. We have pledged to be a *Superpower for Soldiers* in Southwest Oklahoma, and we are on the move to keep that pledge.

Anthony Williams
LFS Chapter, President

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Tor Littau, left. AUSA Website Committee, takes notes and Nate Slate, center, Chairman of the AUSA Soldier/Family Council, listens as Jim Elliott, right, of the Veterans Administration explains VA programs for wounded Soldiers or those with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during the 26 March Council meeting.

AUSA Soldier/Family Council Holds 1st Meeting

On 3 February, the Lawton-Fort Sill AUSA Chapter convened its first-ever AUSA Soldier/Family Council. The charter council was made up of representatives of caregivers, charitable organizations, and military and civilian support providers helping to take care of Soldiers/Families in Southwest Oklahoma. These Soldiers are disabled veterans, recently discharged wounded veterans, and active duty and retirees from all components of the Army who are facing physical, mental and financial challenges.

The Council's main purpose is to coordinate and integrate Soldier/Family activities and programs locally and share information on national support agencies for maximum synergy and to identify and fill gaps in support coverage. Synergy was in action at this inaugural meeting: Marie Detty Counseling Center volunteered office space for the nonprofit Operation Homefront Oklahoma that recently was established. Among other things, Operation Homefront Oklahoma helps wounded servicemen with their finances between the time they leave service until Veterans

Administration (VA) benefits kick in.

The meeting was held at 1100 hours in the conference room of Northrup Grumman Corporation's Lawton, Oklahoma, office on Gore Boulevard with eight representatives of nine organizations attending. The organizations represented at the charter meeting of the AUSA Soldier/Family Council were the American Red Cross, Fort Sill Family Life Consultants, Christian Family Counseling Center, Lawton-Fort Sill AUSA Chapter, Operation Homefront Oklahoma, Military Officers of America Association (MOAA) and Marie Detty. Since that time, the Council has met a second time on 26 March and included two more agencies: VA and Fort Sill's Moral, Welfare and Recreation (MWR), bringing the number of agencies represented on the Council to 11. The council will meet every other month.

For more information about the Lawton-Fort Sill AUSA Council, see the article "AUSA Soldier/Family Council--Service that Truly Matters" on the "Special Features" section of our Chapter website at www.LawtonFortSillAUSA.org.

AUSA Chapter Membership Drive Kicks Off 1 April

Benefits to Joining the Lawton-Fort Sill AUSA Chapter. When you join, you are a member of both the local chapter and national AUSA in Arlington, Virginia, that for almost 60 years has served as an advocate for Soldier/Family benefits and issues at the national level and for the continued development of the Army as the land-force foundation of America's strong national defense. As a chapter member, you help-

- Serve Soldiers/Families of Southwest Oklahoma and the Fires Center of Excellence at Fort Sill by recognizing deserving Soldiers and supporting the Fort Sill ceremonial Half Section and Soldier/Family programs and activities.

- Support the AUSA Soldier/Family Council of caregivers and military/civilian organizations helping Soldiers and their Families in SW Oklahoma by coordinating/integrating activities for maximum synergy and identifying/filling gaps in coverage to solve physical, mental or financial challenges.

- Support the AUSA Speaker's Bureau, which provides organizations in SW Oklahoma guest speakers on issues/developments affecting Soldiers/Families and related topics.

- Attend informative local AUSA chapter luncheons--including the upcoming 22 April luncheon at the Patriot Club, Fort Sill, with national AUSA President GEN (Ret) Gordon R. Sullivan as guest speaker-annual AUSA Golf Tournament and other events and the semiannual national AUSA conferences.

- Receive the monthly *Army* magazine, quarterly *Lawton-Fort Sill AUSA Chapter Newsletter*, annual *Army Green Book* (Army unit/equipment anthology), Army legislative and family program updates, car rental and hotel discounts, insurance, and much, much more.



The Lawton-Fort Sill AUSA Chapter helps support Fort Sill's ceremonial Half-Section.

How to Become a Member of the AUSA Team. When you join the national AUSA, you become a member of the Lawton-Fort Sill Chapter (no additional fees or form). You can join online (secure) or just download the form to mail it in.

USA is open to everyone-military of all ranks, active and retired, National Guard and Reserve, US and allies, and civilians. You can become an Individual, Corporate (local businesses), Sustaining (defense industry) or Lifetime member of AUSA:

1. Go to www.AUSA.org
2. Click on "Become an AUSA Member" on the menu on the left.
3. Type in "Lawton-Fort Sill" on the form as your chapter.
4. Include your email address so you can receive the chapter's quarterly newsletter and AUSA's legislative and Soldier/Family program updates.



Ms Virginia Hatcher, left, of the Armed Services YMCA, and Dr. Jean Webb, Marie Detty Counseling Center, listen to presentations by members of other helping agencies during the March AUSA Soldier/Family Council meeting.

TRICARE Trains Civilian Providers

Civilian health care providers for Soldiers and their families can access a new TRICARE portal for training on military behavioral health. The portal offers courses to educate civilian primary care and mental health providers on combat-related military experiences.

The website can be accessed at <http://www.health.mil/civilian-providereducation>. In addition, a TRICARE fundamentals course is available at <http://tricare.mil/tricareu> and a wounded warrior toolkit at <http://www.tricare.mil/wii>. (Source: "AUSA Family Programs Up-Date, 13 Feb 09.")

Lawton-Fort Sill AUSA Chapter Activities

■ Chapter President Anthony Williams and AUSA Relevance Committee Member Dennis Meyer briefed Fort Sill sergeant majors on AUSA on 23 January. They also presented AUSA Certificates of Appreciation for the support of the 31st Air Defense Artillery (ADA) Brigade, 214th Fires Brigade and the NCO Academy. This was in addition to the certificate presented to the 32nd ADA Brigade presented earlier in the month.

■ Also on 23 January, President Williams and Dennis Meyer recognized the Fort Sill Soldier and NCO of the Year at a luncheon on Fort Sill. They presented \$500 in cash each to the Soldier and NCO of the Quarter. At the luncheon, President



Williams received the CG's Certificate of Appreciation for the chapter's continuing support of the Soldiers and NCOs of the Quarter and Year at Fort Sill.

■ President Williams and Hank Sabine, Rural Outreach, briefed the members of the Chamber of Commerce in Elgin,

Oklahoma, on the programs and initiatives of the Lawton-Fort Sill AUSA Chapter on 10 March.

■ The Lawton Constitution featured the Lawton-Fort Sill Chapter's new AUSA Soldier and Family Council on 27 March. The article "War puts strain on military caregivers" appeared on the front page.

■ The *Lawton Constitution* featured AUSA Soldier/Family Council member organization on 8 April: "Operation Homefront: Local office opens as efforts continue to aid military veterans, families."

■ Starting 8 April, 400 KSWO and Cable TV ads, 110 radio ads on KLAJ and My 107.3, four full-color ads in the Lawton Constitution and two in the Cannoneer began appearing to familiarize Southwest Oklahoma with the benefits and programs of the local AUSA Chapter in its membership drive. The ads will continue through 19 April.

■ The Lawton-Fort Sill Chapter launched its new website on 8 April, www.LawtonFortSillAUSA.org.

■ Since January 2009, the Chapter has awarded Soldiers and leaders four \$100 bonds, three \$50 bonds, eight free AUSA memberships and three plaques.



Other attendees of the AUSA Soldier/Family Council meeting 25 March were, left to right, Gina Griffiths, Operation Homefront Oklahoma; Herbert Morris, VA; and Lisa Jansen-Rees, Fort Sill Morale, Welfare and Recreation--all of whom gave presentations about their agencies' services during the meeting.

Two New DoD Programs Will Benefit Soldiers/Families

Homeowner's Assistance Program (HAP). The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act recently signed into law provides additional funding of \$555 million for a program to help military personnel forced to sell their homes in the midst of the current real estate crisis. In HAP, the Defense Secretary can acquire the title to a military person's property or reim-

burse the individual for losses after a private sale or foreclosure. Applicants may apply at one of three HAP field offices as designated on <http://hap.usace.army.mil/homepage.asp>. (Source: 23 March "AUSA Family Programs Up-Date.")

Travel Assistance for Families of Fallen Soldiers. The Pentagon will pay for families of fallen

Soldiers to travel to Dover, Delaware, to meet the remains of their loved ones. This is part of a policy change opening the ceremonies to media coverage if the families of the fallen consent. For more information, read the article at <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/nation/6320070.html>. (Source: 2 April "AUSA Family Programs Up-Date.")