

MOAA



VOICE

Military Officers Association of America
Redwood Empire Chapter

Post Office Box 2801
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 38, NUMBER 7

“Serving Those Who Serve America”

JULY 2008



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Since the publication of the June issue of the MOAA VOICE, there has been lots of activity in which the chapter was involved. The memorial service and burial of Sp Gathercore, a Ranger, killed while serving in Afghanistan; the Support The Troops Rally in Santa Rosa; the annual chapter picnic at Ursuline High School; the Welcome Home Barbeque for returning Iraq veterans hosted by the Vietnam Veteran's of America; and the special Veteran's Recognition ceremony hosted by the Exchange Bank. Coming up on July 2nd, at 2:00 p.m., the dedication of the Veterans Memorial Monument honoring Sonoma County men and women who gave their lives in battle. This monument, over four years from conception to fruition, is located on the Santa Rosa city hall grounds, corner of Santa Rosa Avenue and Sonoma Avenue. And then there's the regular chapter meeting on July 24th at Safari West, which last year, was a great success and the MOAA DAY ON THE U.S.S. HORNET. More details on all of the above can be found in this issue of the MOAA VOICE. Check the VOICE "Dates to Remember" for other activities in which you may be interested.

CALLING ALL MEMBERS, AUXILIARY AND SPOUSES. I'm still looking for a few good men and women to assist in the operation of this chapter. You are not too old, too tired, too sick, too busy, or too anything else, to actively participate in the functions of the chapter. We need eager individuals to actively serve as chapter officers, board members, committee members, and telephone callers. If you're willing to serve, give me a call. I'll guarantee you, we can find something that you can do to help fellow chapter members and the chapter in general.

There are still about 30 chapter members delinquent in payment of 2008 dues. This number includes Sonoma Main and the four sub-chapters. Please don't confuse the payment of dues to MOAA National with that of chapter dues. Chapter dues (\$20.) are payable to the Chapter Treasurer. If you're not sure whether or not you paid your dues, give me a call, I can tell you (542-4076). Send your check in now, the chapter needs your continued support.

COL Pete Peterka, President

MOAA DAY ON U.S.S. HORNET

Area 2 CALMOAA has graciously invited our chapter members to join Area 2 chapters (Marin, San Francisco, et al.), for a day on the U.S.S. Hornet, berthed in Alameda. The event, which takes place on August 8th, includes a docent-led tour of the ship, a catered lunch on the hangar deck, and a presentation by Christopher (Chris) Michel, founder of "Military.com", the largest military and veteran membership organization (10,000,000 members). There are two options as far as transportation goes charter bus or car-pool. If you're interested, contact Pete Peterka as soon as possible. Cost: \$25 per person if you drive or \$40 per person if you opt to ride on the bus. Seats on the bus will be assigned as checks are received. Don't delay.

FIFTH ANNUAL "SUPPORT THE TROOPS RALLY" A HUGE SUCCESS

The fifth annual "Support The Troops" rally took place this past June 14th, at Courthouse Square in Santa Rosa. A crowd of between 5 and 6 hundred Sonoma County residents attended the rally which included demonstrations of military equipment, informational booths from all the military services, MOMS (Mothers of Military Servicemembers), music, food, children's activities, speeches, and veterans organizations. The Redwood Empire Chapter staffed an informational booth, met and talked with prospective members, and, in fact, made a few prospective contacts. A few chapter members were present to staff the booth and also as members of the audience. Would have been nice to see more support from the chapter for such a worthwhile cause.

MOAA BOARD MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Tuesday, July 1, 2008, 0930 hours - Santa Rosa Vet's Bldg Conference Room.

NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Saturday, July 5th, 2008, 0930 hours - Santa Rosa Vet's Bldg Conference Room.

Chapter members are always welcome at these meetings.

**CHECK
INSIDE**



The mark with the ? in a square is to get your attention. Check the Address label above your name it indicates when your membership dues expires according to our records. After the word "Expires" will be the **month and year**. We value your membership, please continue you membership in our Chapter. Send in your check today if you are delinquent.



MENDOCINO SUB-CHAPTER

The next luncheon meeting of the Mendocino County Subchapter, RECMOAA, will be held at 11:30 am, July 19th, 2008, at the Hill House Inn Restaurant, Palette Drive, Mendocino Village. Hostess Jamie Buckner has arranged the following menu choices, for \$20.- all inclusive:

Small Green Salad, with choice of dressing, and either:

Meat Loaf with mashed potatoes and seasonal veggies, or:

Sea Bass, with seasonal veggies and mashed potatoes, or:

Caesar Salad with herbed chicken breast, or:

Pasta Primavera, and:

Bread and Butter, Coffee or Tea, hot or iced, and Sorbet Desert

In accordance with the wishes of the last meeting's attendees, there will be no Guest Speaker, so all attendees are encouraged to make this a real social get together, and share your military or more recent experiences, including photographs, of your activities. Since many of us do not otherwise meet or socialize, the luncheon attendees thought we ought to try this meeting format for a while. Please make a reservation and menu choice with either: Mrs. Myrna Hurst, Tel: 707-468-0146, email: myrna@pacific.net , or: Ben Booth, Tel: 707-964-2174, or email: booth@mcn.org . We always enjoy it when you bring new, visiting or prospective members or those we haven't seen recently. See you there!

Sincerely, LTC Ben Booth, Commander

SONOMA VALLEY SUB-CHAPTER

Our next meeting will be Thursday, July 10, 2008, at Little Switzerland.

Laurell and I attended the main Chapter meeting at Oakmont golf course clubhouse on May 22 primarily for the announcements of our Chapter's scholarship awards to four outstanding young high school graduating seniors. Laurell and I had both served on the scholarship committee. The speaker that day was Frank Haeg, Chairman of the Luther Burbank Home & Gardens Board. We were both so impressed that I

contacted Frank and asked him to make a presentation to our group as well, and he graciously agreed to do so. Frank gave a really interesting and informative talk about the facility, some history, and ongoing programs available there including docent-led tours.

Some of our members are no doubt aware that Phil and Bernice Fairlie are in process of moving to Lakeport. Some health issues caused them to decide to move up there nearer to where their daughter and her family are, as I understand it from talking with Phil. I contacted Dan Christensen, the leader of the subchapter in Lake County, and he knows they are coming and said the subchapter will help out as necessary to make transportation available to these two long-time and loyal members of our organization. Dan had already talked with Phil by phone. I told Phil that we all wish them well at their new place, and that we will miss them. Phil asked that I tell our members that if any of us get up that way to please give them a call. they will be listed in the phone book.

As always, luncheon will be served at about 1200, but by all means come early and enjoy a libation and some camaraderie. Spouses are welcome, and of course we are always ready to welcome prospective members as well.

LTC Dennis Meredith, Commander

LAKE SUB-CHAPTER

No Report

LT Genevieve Snow

HUMBOLDT/DEL NORTE SUB-CHAPTER

Minutes of 21 June 2008

The meeting was held in the Galley of the Humboldt Coast Guard Station. President Howard Gardner opened the meeting. He led the "Pledge of Allegiance," and in the absence of vacationing Chaplain Bill Odonnell, gave an opening prayer. With Floyd Stokes, also on holiday, there was no treasurer's report and no raffle.

Eureka Chief of Police Garr Nielsen spoke on law enforcement changes since he took on the

job. The situation between police and public had been adversarial and disconnected. He has been working toward a more modern attitude. The changes are incremental; they cannot be done overnight. One problem was in not holding the best officers who could easily find better paying jobs in other agencies. The City Council has corrected the situation—for now. Maintaining the force in a time of declining budgets remains a problem, but there are several new hires—and new hopes. The city has offered incentives to officers who buy homes in the sometimes troublesome west side of the city. Training in law and arrest procedures is under way, and collaboration with other agencies has improved. Chief Nielsen believes in the “broken window theory,” of fixing little problems before they become big problems. He has eliminate mail-in crime reports. “All victims are entitled to meet a cop.” The newly established Police Foundation, to augment training and equipment, now has \$100,000.

Chief Nielsen answered questions about the homeless, transients, and gangs. He said he felt honored to be part of the community.

Life member Don Mahler, an Air Force veteran transferred to the Humboldt/Del Norte chapter from Santa Rosa.

President Gardner said that Mel Hull is in the hospital at Fortuna with breathing problems.

The next meeting will be 16 August. The meeting adjourned.

Donald W. Nicol, Secretary.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

General Comments:

TriCare and Express Scripts For those of you authorized to obtain prescriptions through TriCare, base pharmacies and such you might consider Express Scripts if you haven't already done so. You can refill Rx's on line a lot faster than you can drive to the local base and in my case it is getting a lot more expensive to drive over there - and no waiting in line, etc.

CPI Increases. With the fuel prices moving up to around \$5.00 a gallon, does anyone want to bet that our CPI increase will be more than 5.0%?

Federal Issues:

FY2009 Defense Authorization Bill (H.R. 5658). In last month's issue, we published a list of some of the major items included in the FY 2009 Defense Authorization Bill. At this time, it is still too early to forecast the outcome. However, for starters, let's continue to beat the drum to stop penalizing the care providers who treat us. (See below.)

Medicare/Tricare Physician Reimbursement Rates

While we battle to keep our benefits, our health care providers are facing a major battle of their own. On July 1, doctors who care for the millions of active duty and retired military personnel and their families will be hit by a staggering 10 percent Medicare cut. Since the military health care program for these veterans and active duty service members is tied directly to Medicare, these cuts threaten their access to health care.

Therefore your urgent support is imperative. Call or e-mail Representative Thompson or Woolsey, Senator Feinstein and Senator Boxer urging them to stop these cuts. **Use the Patients Grassroots Hotline at (888) 434-6200.**

The New GI Bill. The new GI Bill will reimburse veterans' tuition for schooling up to the highest state college cost, pay a housing allowance based on the location of the school, and provide up to \$1,000 annually for books. Under certain conditions, it would provide extra money toward attending a private university. Veterans will have up to 15 years after separation to use the benefits.

Servicemembers who have completed six years of service and agree to serve an additional four years will be able to transfer part or all of the benefits to their spouses immediately. Once they complete 10 years' service they can transfer them to children. Those already retired will not qualify for the transferability option, however, it will apply to those who have served at least 90 days since 9/11/01 and have been separated or retired.

Activated National Guard and Reserve troops will be able to earn GI Bill benefits for each tour of 90 days or more they serve up to full benefits for 36 months of aggregate active service.

State Issues:

State TRICARE Incentives: This is a critical issue for those residing in this Chapter area as it would provide incentives to doctors who accept TRICARE patients in Sonoma, Mendocino, Solano Counties and who receive lower reimbursements based on being classified as “rural” counties. Something needs to be done to this can reduce the exodus of doctors from the program. We are still waiting to see if CALMOAA will give any guidance on how we should proceed to get this initiative into the “mill”.

Property Tax Exemption (AB 2568): This bill would, beginning with the 2009–10 fiscal year, fully exempt from property taxation the principal residence of a disabled veteran, the veteran's spouse, and the unmarried surviving spouse of a disabled veteran and a veteran who died while on active duty as a result of a service-connected disease or injury. *This bill died in the Assembly Committee on Appropriations.*

SB 1752 California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program. The California National Guard urgently needs your help. The Governor put a tuition benefit proposal into the state budget this year that would provide free tuition for California National Guard soldiers and airmen. California is currently the only state out of the 54 states and territories that have a National Guard that offers no state tuition benefit for its soldiers and airmen. The budget proposal will probably go before the Budget Conference Committee and may not pass. There is money for condoms for prisoners and tuition breaks for illegal aliens, but no money for our brothers and sisters that put their lives on the line to protect our freedom and our state!!
Bummer!

Fly the flag with pride on our Independence Day!
BGEN Keith Kerr and LCOL Vern McNamee Legislative Affairs Co-Chairmen

TRICARE University

Those seeking a better understanding of the TRICARE benefit, can now take a free on-line public course from TRICARE University. The course, covering a wide range of topics such as eligibility, medical benefits, TRICARE programs, pharmacy, dental, on-line resources, and TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS), can be taken anywhere at any time. The public on-line course is designed in modules that allow beneficiaries to learn about TRICARE benefits in any order of interest and at their own pace. To learn and understand the benefit, log on to www.tricare.mil/tricareu and click "online training" to select the TRICARE Public course. TRS is an additional selection under the public course.

EXCHANGE BANK HONORS VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II AND KOREA

For the second year in a row the Exchange Bank is honoring veterans at their 4th of July celebration luncheon for the bank employees. The officers and managers of the bank host and cook the lunch for all the banks' employees. The affair has as its theme, Independence Day, and at the same time will recognize and honor a small number of veterans for their service. Last year, coincidentally, it was all male veterans, however this year they have chosen to honor veterans of WWII and Korea, with special attention to female

MOAA Voice

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veterans of these two wars.

“WALL THAT HEALS” COMES TO SANTA ROSA”

The replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall is coming to Santa Rosa, through the efforts of the UNITED VETERANS COUNCIL, DAV Chapter 48, Santa Rosa Memorial Park, and select veteran's groups. The Moving Wall arrives in Santa Rosa on August 27th and will be assembled that day. Opening Ceremony on the next day, August 28th and will be on display until the Closing Ceremony on Sunday, August 31st. Volunteers are needed to provide Visitor Assistance (locate specific names); assist in ceremonies; docent for group/school tours; overnight security; set-up/breakdown; parking / traffic. If you're willing to serve in any area, please call Pete Peterka 542-4076/484-4803.

FREE HANDBOOKS FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL

Military Handbooks of Arlington, VA has announced the release of its latest 2008 FREE handbooks for military personnel. These handbooks, written specifically for military service members, include a variety of information about pay, benefits, education, etc.

2008 Military Handbooks - Now Available
 2008 BASE INSTALLATION DIRECTORY (New)
 2008 U.S.MILITARY RETIRED HANDBOOK
 2008 GETTING UNCLE SAM TO PAY FOR YOUR COLLEGE DEGREE
 2008 BENEFITS FOR VETERANS AND DEPENDENTS HANDBOOK
 2008 U.S. MILITARY HANDBOOK

To reserve your FREE copies of any of these handbooks, visit
<http://www.militaryhandbooks.com>.

WELCOME HOME BARBEQUE FOR IRAQI AND AFGHANISTAN VETERANS A HUGE SUCCESS

Thanks to the efforts of Chapter 223 VIETNAM

VETERANS OF AMERICA, a welcome home barbeque was held on Sunday, June 22d, at the Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building, with great success. Several hundred veterans, families and friends gathered to show support to those recent returnees, as well as former returnees and their families. BGEN Gary Vedvig and LTC Christopher Bingham, both RECMOAA members, spoke during the ceremonies and congratulated returning veterans and families. One family, that of COL Joe Piasta, another RECMOAA member, was present to receive congratulations for the service of one of their sons, CAPT. Edward Piasta, who recently returned from Iraq, and his sister, 1LT Teresa Piasta, Chemical Corps, still serving in Iraq on the Brigade Staff of the 41st Task Force Brigade, at Camp Delta, forward of the Tigres River. Our prayers go out for the safety of Lt. Piasta.

DELINQUENT MEMBERS

Chapter records reflect that there are still a number of members who have not paid their 2008 dues. Some members are of the opinion that when they pay their dues to MOAA National, that covers their chapter dues also...NOT SO! Chapter dues, in the amount of \$20 per year, are due and payable to the chapter. Some delinquencies are due to just forgetting to send in the check. If you don't know whether or not you've paid, give Pete Peterka a call 542-4076 or cell phone 484-4803. As of 31 May there were 13 from Sonoma Main; 8 from Humboldt/Del Norte; 2 from Lake County; 5 from Mendocino; and 2 from Sonoma Valley. The chapter needs your continued support, so please send in your check now to Treasurer, RECMOAA, PO Box 2801, Santa Rosa, CA 95405-2801.

Military Humor

"If you see a bomb technician running, follow him." - USAF Ammo Troop

Discussion Group

The Discussion Group will skip meetings in July. See you in August.

COL Mal Rivkins, 996-3783

CHANGES TO 2008 ROSTER

Listed below are recent changes. We recommend that you mark the changes by the names in your roster, then clip and save these changes in the back pages of your roster for references. If you did not receive a copy, contact your Secretary Bob Safreno and he will send you one.

Page 10 – (Delete deceased) **KEMP, ROBERT M.** LCOL USA

Page 14 – (Delete deceased) **STARK, ROBERT W.** COL USMC

Page 14 – (Add) **STARK, MRS ROBERT W.** a *SHARON* 707-585-1394
601 NASON STREET, SANTA ROSA, CA 95404-3307

Page 19 – (Chg moved) **PEAKE, GLENN E.** LCOL USAF r *KAY* 707-442-6146 - 1909 MONUMENT ROAD, RIO DELL, CA 95562-1812

CHAPTER ANNUAL PICNIC A HOT SUCCESS

Despite the 100+ degree weather over many parts of Sonoma County, the annual chapter picnic at Ursuline High School went on almost without a hitch. The "almost" came frighteningly close to having to cancel the picnic at the last minute since we could not produce a copy of our liability insurance policy.. Fortunately, a last minute solution surfaced, and a breeze appeared making the venue very pleasant. Over 55 members and friends attended the barbeque and enjoyed excellent barbequed chicken, wonderful salads and cookies, and adequate quantities of Sonoma County, and other locales, fine wines. Our thanks go out to the members who cooked the chicken, the ladies of the Wives Club for their delicious salads and beans, and all members who furnished prizes for the raffle. THANKS TO ALL!

Donations Made in April and May 2008

Scholarship Fund

Don Confer
George Connors
Sally Keller
Jack Krout
Mary Tillman

Military Support Fund

Jim Butler
Sally Keller
Gary Meagher
Connie Miller
Owen Reeves

Debunking TRICARE Myths

Every day, MOAA's benefits experts help members understand their health care benefits. They've busted the top five TRICARE myths for you here.

Myth 1: If I have employer-sponsored health-care, I don't need Medicare Part B to use TRICARE after age 65.

To be eligible to use your TRICARE For Life (TFL) benefit after age 65 you must have a valid military ID card, be entitled to Medicare Part A, and have purchased Medicare Part B. If you're still employed, or your spouse is, and you are covered by employer sponsored healthcare after age 65, you can opt out of Medicare Part B without incurring a late enrollment penalty. However, you must purchase Medicare Part B in order to use your TFL benefit.

MOAA's Aging into Medicare guide can help you understand how these plans work so you can take full advantage of these important health care benefits. It's free for members!

Myth 2: Long Term Care (LTC) is covered by Medicare or TFL.

LTC, often confused with skilled nursing facility (SNF) care, is not a TRICARE-covered benefit. Although SNF care can include activities of daily living (ADLs), the intended end result of SNF care is recovery.

Myth 3: It is difficult to enroll in the Tricare Mail Order Pharmacy (TMOP).

The Member Choice Center provides an easy way to enroll and transfer your prescriptions by calling toll-free (877)363-1433.

Myth 4: As a Guard/Reserve retiree, my health care begins with TFL.

A Guard/Reserve retiree's entitlement to health care begins upon receipt of retired pay.

For more Guard and Reserve retiree information, read MOAA's publication [Military Entitlements](#):

Benefits for Guard & Reserve, which is free for members!

Myth 5: When I age into TFL so does my spouse.

Each person ages into TFL upon turning age 65.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

JUL: 1st Executive Committee Meeting
5th BOARD MEETING - Scholarship winners
15th Deadline for MOAA-VOICE Submissions

AUG: 2nd Executive Committee Meeting
15th Deadline for MOAA-VOICE Submissions
28th BBQ ?

SEP: 6th Executive Committee Meeting
15th Deadline for MOAA-VOICE Submissions
26th Friday, Lobster Feed, Santa Rosa
Veterans building
30th Executive Committee Meeting

OCT: 4th BOARD MEETING - Scholarship winners
15th Deadline for MOAA-VOICE Submissions
23rd Luncheon, Election of Officers for 2009

NOV: 1st Executive Committee Meeting
15th Deadline for MOAA-VOICE Submissions

DEC: 6th Executive Committee Meeting
14th Sunday, Holiday Social
15th Deadline for MOAA-VOICE Submissions



DECEASED MEMBERS



LCOL GLENN E. PEAKE, USAF
May 1, 2008

LCOL ROBERT M. KEMP, USA
May 16, 2008

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(A Sonoma County Main Chapter event; all members are more than welcome)

To Secretary, MOAA, Redwood Empire Chapter, P.O. Box 2801, Santa Rosa, CA 95405

LUNCHEON, THURSDAY July 24, 2008, 12pm

SAFARI WEST

3115 Porter Creek Road, Santa Rosa

Name: _____ **NO MENU CHOICES— LUNCH IS BUFFET STYLE**

Phone Number: _____

Enclosed is my check for	_____ persons	@ \$20.00 each	\$_____
Wild Animal Tour:	_____ adults	@ \$25.00 each	\$_____
	_____ children (under 12)	@ \$14.00 each	\$_____
		Total	\$_____

Please make name tags for:

_____ **Reservation must be received not later than July 14, 2008**

Enclosed is \$_____ for the Col. Brey Scholarship Fund And/or \$_____ for the Military Support Fund

Make check (s) payable to: **MOAA, Redwood Empire Chapter**

----- Check here if you will be able to bring a Raffle Prize.

Safari West Info—July 24, 12pm

Directions to Safari West:

Take 101 North to River Road/Mark West Spring Rd. Exit off of Highway 101 and travel East for 5.4 miles to Mark West Springs Resort. The road then changes to Porter Creek Road and SAFARI WEST will be on the left 1.4 miles past the resort.

Dress casually and the safari tour for \$25 will take approximately 90 minutes in open trucks to view wild animals ranging in the wilderness.

Dress casually and wear your pith helmet if you have one. For you Big Game Hunters, bring your sunscreen but leave your ammunition and guns behind.

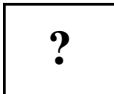


Secretary/Treasurer - MOAA, Redwood Empire Chapter
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MOAA WIVES CLUB

(Sonoma County Main - All members welcome)

Connie Miller, President 568-3811
Barbara Confer, V. President 763-8198
Tina Lewis, Secretary 539-5546
Shirley Reeves, Treasurer 539-7839
Terry Silva, Family Services 544-6445

The regular meeting will be at The Hunter on Wednesday, July 9. Your Telephone Committee will give you the menu choices. If they do not reach you, please make reservations with Susan Linch (538-3342) or Shirley Reeves (539-7839). Lunch is served promptly at noon and the price is still \$16.00, including tax and gratuity. The speaker will be our own Verna Kraut relating the adventures of dealing in exotic birds. This will be a good one! Don't miss it. We are presented with the opportunity of a day on the USS Hornet, including lunch and possibly transportation by bus. Please contact Col. Pete Peterka (572-4076 or email at petepeterka@earthlink.net) right away if you would like to participate.

Connie Miller, Publicity, 568-3811 conkrest@aol.com

Redwood Empire Chapter Officers and Directors for 2008

President:	COL Louis Peterka, USA	542-4076
Vice President:	CPT Tom Poulter, USA	576-0513
Secretary:	CPT Robert R. Safreno, USAR	795-3963
Treasurer:	LCOL Pete Rizzo, USA	539-3346
Past President:	LtCol Robert G. Reinking, USAFR	575-7873
Membership:	Vacant	
CAL-MOAA Director, Area 1:	LCOL Mort Jarvis, USAF	530-673-8402
Directors-at-large - Term 2007-2008		
	COL Tom Kelly, USAFR	542-3373
	Martina E. Lewis, AUX	539-5546
	LCOL Gary T. Meagher, AUS	544-4089
	LCDR Tim Morgan, USNR	C:695-9293
	LCOL Robert G. Reinking, USAFR	575-7873
	CWO-4 Robert J. Silva, USCG	544-6445
Directors-at-large - Term 2008-2009		
	CDR Don Confer, USN	763-8198
	CDR Leighton M. Royston, USN	578-4464
	COL Harold R. Warren, USMCR	763-6957
	LCOL Kevin Connolly, USAR	544-9338
Directors Representing Sub-Chapters:		
Humboldt/Del Norte:	LCDR Benjamin D. VanZandt, USNR	442-5898
Lake:	CAPT Daniel W. Christensen, USNR	263-3297
Mendocino:	Mrs. Myrna M. Hurst, AUX	468-0146
Sonoma Valley:	LCOL Dennis M. Meredith, USA	996-8819