



Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)

Brass Bulletin Newsletter

“One Powerful Voice”

Portland, Oregon
Chapter

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P.O. Box 68959
Portland, OR 97268

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www.MOAAPortland.org

October 2011

The President's Forum

by Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)

The Fall Season is upon us, and there is a lot going on! Your chapter officers, board of directors, and committee chairs are off and running to make this 2011-2012 program year the best ever for the chapter.

I want to thank **CAPT Jim Main, USNR (Ret)** for stepping up to the position as Treasurer! And thanks goes to our departing Treasurer--former **Captain Jim Cole, USAF**--for all his efforts! But, I now need your help in finding individuals to fill the *two Navy Representatives* and the *Women in Service Representative* positions on the Chapter Board of Directors.

Annual dues are the only way that this chapter funds its programs! In reviewing the chapter budget at the last board of directors meeting, we discussed the fact that roughly half of our members are still receiving *paper* copies of their chapter newsletters. Out of the \$25 annual dues paid by regular members, \$10 of that goes towards printing/mailing the 9 newsletters. So, I am appealing to all of you who can to receive your newsletter via email. Just email me at maryjmayer@yahoo.com or call me on my cell phone at **310-897-1902** if you want an *electronic* copy of the newsletter.

Congratulations to the U.S. Navy in celebrating its 236th birthday on 12 October 2011! Please enjoy the Columbus Day Holiday, and I hope to see all of you at the October chapter dinner meeting!

***Congratulations to the
MOAA Portland Chapter President,
Colonel Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret),
on her recent gubernatorial appointment
to the Oregon Department of Veterans'
Affairs (ODVA) Advisory Committee!***

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, 4 October 2011
Social: 1700. Dinner: 1830
Gray Gables Estate
3009 SE Chestnut Street
Milwaukie, Oregon 97267
Phone: 503-654-0470

PROGRAM:

Mr. Thomas W. ("Tom") Jenkins, former IBM Executive, will speak on "Utilization of Lighter than Air Vehicles (Blimps)." (*See his short biography on page 2.*)

MENU:

Stuffed Pork Loin
Potatoes Au Gratin
Sautéed Green Beans
Northwest Salad
Assorted Desserts
Rolls & Butter
Coffee, Tea, Decaf, or Iced Tea

COST:

\$26.00 per person (includes 20% gratuity)
*Please make checks payable to **PDX-MOAA**.*

RESERVATIONS:

To make your reservations, please contact **Lt Col Boyd C. Yaden, USAF (Ret)** at **503-650-9506** or b.yaden@comcast.net or online at our chapter website **NLT 1200 on Thursday, 29 September 2011**. **No late reservations**, and **please call** if you must cancel as we have to pay for no-shows.

DIRECTIONS: From **I-205**, take McLoughlin Blvd (99E) North (4.1 miles) to Chestnut Street; turn right on Chestnut (just past the U-Haul Store); Gray Gables is located on the left hand side of the street. From **Portland**, take McLoughlin Blvd (South) to Chestnut Street; turn left onto Chestnut Street; Gray Gables is on the left. An open **No-Host Bar** is available, and a parking attendant is on duty.

***SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF OUR
OCTOBER DINNER GUEST
SPEAKER***

Mr. Thomas W. (“Tom”) Jenkins came to his interest in Lighter Than Air (LTA) aircraft, or blimps, through the experience of his father prior to and during World War II. His dad was a Naval Officer who was seeking a more attractive career path, so he lit upon this new technology, entering into LTA pilot training in the lead into the war.

Tom's interest was sparked, and he became an avid historian of the role played by LTA technology in both sea and ground warfare. He has delved into the subject through Navy Archives, and has assembled and given his presentation numerous times throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Tom and his wife, Mary, are long term Oregonians and live in Lake Oswego. He is a retired IBM executive, and you may recall that IBM stands for "I've been moved." Tom is active in civic affairs through membership in the Rotary Club and the Royal Rosarians, where he is a life member.

***MINUTES FROM THE
SEPTEMBER DINNER MEETING
by Lt Col Boyd C. Yaden, USAF (Ret)***

On **6 Sept**, there were **38** members and guests who came out for dinner at The Monarch Hotel in Clackamas, Oregon. During the social hour, raffle tickets were sold for a good bottle of wine or a book, *Oregon Veterans*; the proceeds were for the MOAA Portland Chapter Scholarship Fund. After the social time, Chapter President--**Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**--called the meeting to order at **1830**. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, the National Anthem was sung [led by **Mrs. Jan Brink**], and **Chaplain**

(LTC) **Grant McAllister, USA (Ret)** gave the invocation.

Chapter President's Comments: President Mayer opened the meeting by welcoming the members to the first MOAA Portland Chapter Meeting for the 2011-2012 Program Year and reminding them that, in a few days, the country would be celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the September 11, 2011 attacks—a series of four coordinated suicide attacks by al-Qaeda upon the United States. She indicated that the guest speaker for the evening, **LTC Lance E. Englet, USA**, would be sharing his experiences with the “**Oregon Emergency Response System.**” **President Mayer** then discussed the following: (1) She congratulated the MOAA Portland Chapter for winning the “**Five Star Level of Excellence Award from MOAA National for Exceptional Performance in 2010**”. She gave thanks to her fantastic team of officers, board members, and committee chairs for all their hard work and dedication over the last year! From 27-29 October 2011, she will be attending the MOAA Annual Meeting and receiving the chapter's 5-Star banner at the Levels of Excellence Awards Dinner in San Antonio, TX. (2) She then introduced the chapter officers, board of directors, and committee chairs--and announced that **CAPT Jim Main USNR (Ret)** has stepped up to become Chapter Treasurer. (3) She then announced that the chapter nominated **Mrs. Edie Rieken** for the **2011 Auxiliary Liaison Excellence Award** on 24 August 2011. So, we should keep our fingers crossed that Edie will be selected for this prestigious award. (4) It was announced that the **MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters Biennial Convention** will be held at the Oregon Garden Resort, 895 W. Main Street, Silverton, OR on **Saturday, 8 October 2011** from **0830** to **2100**. Registration forms were found in the June 2011 chapter newsletter and can be found on the tables this evening. Also, the **MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters Quarterly Meeting** will be held on **Sunday, 9 October 2011** at the Oregon Garden Resort in Silverton, OR. Time is to be determined. (5) The Military Order of the World Wars, Portland Chapter has invited the MOAA Portland Chapter to participate in the 48th Annual Presentation of “**Massing of the Colors and Service of Remembrance**” to be conducted on Sunday, 30 October 2011 at 1400 at the Oregon National Guard Kliever Armory. This service honors all veterans, both living and dead, and those who are currently serving our great nation. The MOAA Portland Chapter is participating and will have four chapter members

carrying our flags; First Vice President **MAJ John Sampson, USA (Ret)** is heading this effort. He needs the chapter's help in ensuring that there are more folks in the audience; so the attendees were asked to please bring their family, relatives, colleagues, and friends! (6) It is necessary to fill **three** positions on the Board of Directors: Two Navy Reps and one Women in Service Rep. (7) **Donation Basket:** Our chapter membership dues pay for only the most essential projects that the chapter does annually. To be able to do more projects this year, we have placed a donation basket on the registration table in the hopes that chapter members will donate any amount of money they can to help further our chapter outreach to the local military community.

Membership Committee Report: **MAJ John Sampson, USA (Ret)** conducted the quarterly Membership Appreciation Drawing for a free dinner, and the winner was **Barbara Korsmo-Anderson**. He reported on the New Member Reception at The Bomber Restaurant in Milwaukie, Oregon on August 26, 2011. Unfortunately, because of bad traffic and schedule conflicts, some people were unable to make it; however, there were 10 prospects attending, and 10 Chapter members were there. Seven prospects committed to join, and, after some follow-up phone calls, 7 more committed to join. The Bomber Restaurant provided excellent food and beverages.

LTC Gary Brink USA (Ret)--standing in for **CAPT Larry Roberts USNR (Ret)**--then gave the **Scholarship Committee Report**. All were urged to purchase raffle tickets (one ticket for \$3, two tickets for \$5, and five tickets for \$10) to support the MOAA Portland Chapter Scholarship. The goal is \$5,000 per year for 5 years to reach the \$25,000 needed for the endowment, and we need to receive donations of approximately

\$3,000 by the end of the year to meet our goal of \$15,000 by the third year.

After a served dinner, **President Mayer** introduced the guest speaker, **LTC Lance E. Englet, USA**, the former Commander of the 102 Civil Support Team and Professor of Military Science at the University of Oregon, who spoke to us on the "**Oregon Emergency Response System.**" See picture below.



The presentation was a fascinating, detailed one about the structure and workings of the Civil Support Teams. He showed the areas of responsibility in the country and discussed their purpose and various missions. He ended up with a discussion about how ROTC works at the University of Oregon and the strong acceptance of the cadets and staff by the students and educators at the school. He further emphasized the importance of training tomorrow's leaders. At the conclusion of the speech, **Col Mayer** presented **LTC Englet** with a gift for speaking.

Committee Reports then continued. For the **Legislative Committee** remarks, **LTC Bill Kroger, USA (Ret)**--reporting for **CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)**--commented on the critical budget issues coming up before congress and encouraged all to go on to the MOAA website and make use of the email to contact their congressmen and senators. **Communications Committee:** **LTC Bill Kroger USA (Ret)** reported that the Chapter web site will be updated by tomorrow. He sent out a news release on tonight's meeting. He encouraged members to receive the newsletter by email to save the chapter the cost of mailing. **Mrs. Edie Rieken**, the Chapter Auxiliary Liaison, announced their next luncheon will be at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 18 October 2011 at Albertina's.

Wives are cordially invited! The **Employer Support to the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Outreach** Committee Chair, **Lt Col Boyd Yaden, USAF (Ret)**, announced that the committee would be meeting by the end of September.

In the “**For the Good of the Order**” portion of the meeting, **LTC Gary Brink, USA (Ret)** selected the winner for the wine or the *Oregon Veterans* book. **Mrs. Edie Rieken** was the winner and selected the wine. Finally, **LTC Bill Kroger, USA (Ret)** entertained the membership with three jokes!

The next dinner meeting will be on Tuesday, 4 October 2010 at the Gray Gables Estate. The guest speaker will be **Mr. Tom Jenkins**, a former IBM executive, who will be speaking on “**Utilization of Lighter than Air Vehicles (Blimps).**” Reservations must be made by 12:00 noon on Wednesday, 29 September 2011 to Lt Col Boyd Yaden, USAF (Ret), our Chapter Secretary

In her closing remarks, **President Mayer** thanked our guest speaker, **LTC Lance E. Englet, USA; Mrs. Edie Rieken** for the flowers on the tables (those with birthdays closest to today’s date were given the flowers at each table); all members who attended; and The Monarch Hotel staff for the excellent dinner and service. The next *Brass Bulletin Newsletter* is the October edition; inputs are due 10 September 2011. Chapter members will receive their newsletters via mail and email o/a 13 or 14 September 2011. Newsletters are posted on the chapter website. **Col Mayer** then reminded all about POW/MIA Recognition Day on Saturday, 17 September 2011. And, as ever, she asked each of us to remember our sisters and brothers in arms who are serving abroad in harm’s way and say a prayer for their safe return. And pray for their families back home as well. The meeting was adjourned at **2047**.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

By MAJ John Sampson, USA (Ret)

The MOAA Portland Chapter would like to welcome the following new members:

LTC Chip Larouche, USA (Ret)
MAJ Setsy Larouche, USA (Ret)

I would like to thank the following MOAA Portland Chapter officers and board members for attending our Membership Social at the Bomber Restaurant Museum on Friday, 26 August 2011:

Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)
COL John Hill, USA (Ret)
Mrs. Edie Rieken
CAPT Jim Main, USNR (Ret)
Maj Jim Simpson, USMC (Ret)
Mrs. Terri Simpson
LTC Gary Brink, USA (Ret)
Capt Jim Cole, USAF (former)
Mrs. Eloise Cole

Attendees were given a short history and tour of the museum by the founder’s daughter and current owner, **Mrs. Punky Scott**. After a light buffet dinner and refreshments, Chapter President **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)** welcomed the attendees, and **COL John Hill, USA (Ret)** gave an excellent overview of the activities undertaken by the Portland Chapter.

We would like encourage our members to attend the Military Order of the World Wars, Portland Chapter’s Massing of the Colors and Service of Remembrance on Sunday, October 30, 2011 at 2 pm at the Oregon National Guard Kliever Armory, 10000 NE 33rd Drive, Portland, OR. I would like to thank **Capt Jim Patrick, USMC (Ret)** and **Col Rick Gano, USAF (Ret)** for their willingness to participate with me in this important event. We still need a Navy member who can get into his or her uniform to help with our chapter color guard.

And, finally, congratulations to **Barbara Korsmo-Anderson** who won the free membership dinner at our September chapter meeting!

AUXILIARY CORNER by Mrs. Edie Rieken, Liaison to the Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee

Once again, Auxiliary members will enjoy getting together for lunch at Albertina's on **18 October** at **1:00 p.m.** It doesn't take long to get acquainted by sharing past experiences as military wives, and even window shopping in their gift shop, or checking out good used items in the thrift shop. Please call me at **(503) 254-5029** to make a reservation by the 14th. Wives of Chapter members are always welcome, and we may have two new Auxiliary members joining us. And don't forget to bring those old cell phones with you!

Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret), our MOAA Portland Chapter's first woman President who always attends our Auxiliary luncheons, has been appointed to the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA) Advisory Committee by Governor Kitzhaber. Our congratulations, Mary!

The (national) Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee urges us to contact our local congressional representatives regarding The Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA). This is payable to military survivors whose Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuities are *reduced* because they also receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). The House version was to change this, allowing modest annual increases. Unfortunately, this provision was **not** included in the Senate version. Also, while you have their ear, two other issues are of great importance to MOAA and all surviving military spouses:

MOAA for years has pushed to have the offset between SBP and DIC repealed. Make sure your representatives know the importance of ending this offset. Then, and this is crucial, unless Congress acts,

Medicare and TRICARE payments to physicians **will be cut 29.4 percent next January 1.** If this passes, it will have a devastating impact on access to health care for TRICARE and Medicare beneficiaries.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)

The Long Knives are Back: As this is drafted, Congress has been back in session for 3 days, the President has addressed the nation about his third "focus on jobs" plan, which appears to be remarkably similar to the prior two failed plans, the Super Committee seeking "required" expenditure reductions has been in session for three days, and the economy is moving at a snail's pace while continuing to decelerate.

As MOAA describes the scene in Congress, it is "kicking off a three month frenzy to find \$1.2 trillion in budget cuts" over a ten year period. Of course, no future Congress needs be constrained in its spending by a predecessor Congress, so this is largely a gesture to the populace that has meaning for only a year or so, before the 2013 convening of the next Congress. Hopefully, the budget cutting focus will be persistent for more than a year, but the constant impetus of Congress is to spend more and more.

The Super Committee is under a very tight deadline of slightly more than 2 months, November 23rd, to make a proposal to the two houses of Congress. That proposal must be voted and passed by the House and Senate by December 21st. Otherwise, supposedly, massive cuts will be made 50/50 between domestic and DEFENSE programs.

MOAA has been warning about the massive battle on the horizon since the beginning of the year. They believe, as do I, that basically everything is on the table and nothing is safe! We have been through this before, and it can, and most likely will be, ugly.

Some of the areas under discussion include troop levels, weapons systems, military and federal civilian retirement, active duty pay, COLAs, health care and on and on. The House Armed Services Committee is preparing an analysis of the impact of further cuts in defense spending on the readiness of our military, but I do not spy any expertise on the Super Committee regarding defense spending. If we wish to defend our turf, communicate actively with your legislators.

During the August recess, a number of our Oregon Representatives and Senators held town hall meetings. Kurt Schrader apparently had a full house for his meeting. Alternatively, one can and should visit www.MOAA.org regularly and seek out the action alerts and send prepared missives to your legislators. I will discuss one recommendation later in this report as a template.

Free Vaccines: Some good news to impart. TRICARE beneficiaries are now eligible for free vaccines! This includes the important Shingles vaccine for beneficiaries 60 and older, which previously was priced at \$150. You can see what vaccines are covered at the TRICARE web site, which I believe means going to ExpressScripts. Vaccines are administered at retail pharmacies, which means one needs to know if they have the vaccine in stock and if and when an individual is there to administer the shot. Our local West Linn Safeway pharmacy has been advertising availability of the Shingles vaccine and has several qualified individuals that can administer them. Also, the Safeway in Lake Oswego by Dick's Sporting Goods has an excellent program, including inoculations for foreign travel.

Physical Disability Board of Review: The PDBR reviews disability ratings of individuals medically separated from service between 9/11/01 and 12/31/09 to ascertain fairness, consistency and accuracy. There are an estimated 75,000 service members eligible for such review of an unfair prior review, but only 2,700 have applied to date. Eligibility entails those medically separated with a combined disability rating of 20% or lower, and not found eligible for retirement. Former reservists with fewer than 20 years of active duty are eligible to apply.

COLA Update: A COLA increase of 3.3% is baked in to the first 10 months of

the year through July. There is still 2 months of CPI data to be received, but an increase looks increasingly likely. More good news. Still, looking forward, there are various proposals on the table to change the Cola formula, reduce it by .5% to 1.0%, or freeze it. We will keep you informed.

Medicare Reimbursement Rate Reduction Threat: With all the rhetoric focused on spending and jobs, there is nothing heard on the prospective reduction in Medicare/TRICARE reimbursements to doctors and hospitals of 29.4% scheduled for implementation on January 1st. This would be a wonderful topic to take up with your legislators, as such a reduction would be an absolute disaster for beneficiaries.

Mark Your Calendar with These Dates: While the media will likely keep us aware, here are some key dates through the end of the year:

- * September/October - DOD needs to decide on how to trim the Defense budget by \$350 Billion over the next 10 years as agreed to in the August debt ceiling "compromise."
- * October 1: First day of fiscal 2012. Assuming that Congress has not passed the various Appropriations bills, they need to then pass a Continuing Resolution to keep the government in business. Probability of the need for a Continuing Resolution is virtually 100%. Probability of a Debt Ceiling like fight over the Continuing Resolution also virtually assured.
- * November 23: Deadline for the Super Committee to agree on an integrated proposal to reduce the federal deficit by \$1.5 Trillion over the next 10 years
- * December 23: Deadline for Congress to pass any proposal forwarded by the Super Committee in an up or down vote with no amendments.
- * January 1, 2012: If Congress does not approve the Super Committee, or if the Super Committee is unable to forward a proposal at all, or if some alternative approach is unsuccessful, an "automatic enforcement mechanism" will take effect that splits \$1.2 trillion of cuts 50/50 between Defense spending and non-defense accounts. Social Security and Medicare (plus federal civilian and military Retirement) spending are spared mandatory cuts.

Retiree Pay Date Changes, The Law of Unintended Consequences: Starting in October, as required by the Fiscal 2011 Defense Authorization Act, DFAS will, in months when the first day of the month falls on a weekend or holiday, monthly checks will now be paid on the preceding last business day. Thus, payments will be issued on 30 September instead of 3 October. Similarly, the January payments will be made on 30 December rather than 3 January. Getting paid earlier has some advantages. However, in 2011, this means a retiree will receive 13 checks or payments. This will, further, change tax liabilities, both federal and state. This change affects retired pay, Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay, Combat-Related Special Compensation, retiree allotments, garnishments, and court-ordered former spouse and child support payments. It does not affect survivor benefit plan annuity payments.

Heads-Up Regarding Money Market Accounts: This is not an investment advisory column. However, the *Wall Street Journal* this morning carried a piece saying that some 45% of Money Market Fund assets are invested in paper of international banks, including European banks. I cannot verify that statement, but, if true, it makes money market accounts more risky than one would expect. Of course, with such accounts typically yielding only .1% or less these days, why would anyone have substantial amounts of capital therein?

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

By CAPT Larry Roberts, USNR (Ret)

Thank you and congratulations! In less than 2 1/2 years, Chapter Members and Auxiliary Members have contributed over \$16,000--over half of the \$25,000 we have committed over a five year period. We are over 64% of the \$25,000 and well on the way! In these difficult economic times, such support for our students is outstanding and to be commended.

For the 2011-2012 school year, four students are receiving \$22,000 in financial assistance through the program. The Portland Chapter Designated Scholar is **Elizabeth A Henninger**, who is attending Southern Oregon University. She called me the other day, when I had spotty to nonexistent cell coverage (South Dakota) and we will talk shortly. I will provide to you some biographical information and hope to get her to attend a Chapter Meeting when she is in the Portland area. Elizabeth was awarded a \$5,000 interest free loan and a \$500 grant from the Scholarship Fund. Additionally, MOAA Scholarship Funds have been awarded to three other Portland area students, so the Chapter and MOAA is generously supporting our area youth.

IRA Tax-free Distributions, a Reminder: As we move toward the end of the year, please keep in mind the one year opportunity to distribute up to \$100,000 to an eligible charity--of which the Scholarship Fund is one--from either a regular or a Roth IRA without incurring taxable income. To accomplish this, one needs to be 70 1/2 years old at the time of the gift, have the IRA custodian transfer the funds directly (Vanguard makes the check out to the charitable organization and mails the check to me to mail to the recipient), and the transfer must be outright to a qualified charity, not to supporting organizations. If you need more information, phone 800-234-6622 or visit www.moaa.org/donateIRAin2011. Remember, this opportunity expires at the end of this year. Given budget pressures, it is unlikely to be extended, but anything is possible. Such distributions count against your Required Minimum Distributions. This is a great deal; give it some consideration.

Chapter Giving: Chapter contributions to the Scholarship Fund are steady, and should exceed the \$3,324 contributed in calendar year 2010. We have exceeded \$3,000 through the early part of September, with three months to go this year. Great job, and thanks for the continued support! It is unclear whether or not the Chapter Fund receives all the credit for member contributions. Therefore, if you have made a contribution this year, please email or call me with that information. There is no need to indicate the amount contributed. Contact information is Larry@RocketVentures.com or 503-722-1897. If you write a check to the fund, please make it out to **MOAA Portland Chapter Scholarship Fund**. Remember, it is exceedingly easy to make a contribution with your credit card on the MOAA web site, www.MOAA.org.

RETURN ADDRESS:

**PORTLAND CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA (MOAA)
P.O. BOX 68959
PORTLAND, OR 97268**

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**MOAA PORTLAND CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS
Mark your calendars!**

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| October 8, 2011 | MOAA Oregon State Council of Chapters Convention (Location: Silverton, OR) |
| October 30, 2011 | Massing of the Colors and Service of Remembrance (Time/Location: 1400 at Kliever Armory) |
| November 1, 2011 | Dinner Meeting with Guest Speaker (Location: Monarch Hotel) |
| <i>November 4, 2011</i> | <i>Board of Directors Meeting</i> |
| December 6, 2011 | Dinner Meeting with The John Bennett Trio (Location: Gray Gables Estate) |
| <i>January 2012</i> | <i>No Dinner Meeting Scheduled</i> |

NOTE 1: All monthly chapter meetings are held at the locations indicated.

NOTE 2: All Board of Directors Meetings are held at ***0930***—usually at the **Colwood Bar & Grill** at the **Colwood National Golf Course**--and ***are open to all members!*** Alternate locations will be indicated.

NOTE 3: All articles for the **November 2011 Brass Bulletin Newsletter** must be submitted to the editor, **Col Mary J. Mayer, USAF (Ret)**, at **maryjmayer@yahoo.com** by **8 October 2011**.