

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT COL CHARLES DALCOURT USA RET

GREETINGS!



Members of the MOAA Tampa Chapter, it is both a pleasure and privilege to write you this month. I pray that this message finds all of our members in the very best conditions possible. I also hope that you and your families have found solace amidst the disruptive days we are experiencing. I encourage all to remain positive about the future and to diligently continue pursuing endeavors that advance our organization's mission with even greater passion, zeal, and focus than before. Let those in service to this great Nation be proud that we, as alumni of the U.S. military and public service institutions, are using our experience and energy to advocate on their behalf. Remember, your voice is both powerful and piercing and our chorus connotes strength.

Thank You...

Well, we are off and running in 2021. The incessant efforts of individuals on our Team to drive collaboration and connectedness is truly a valued attribute of our organization. Our virtual presence, spawned in the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, has allowed our Chapter to remain connected socially and we look forward to improving our digital capabilities. Beyond the virtual meetings and luncheons we hold, many members have expressed appreciation for our newly implemented Buddy

Check program. Purposed to personally "check-in" with every member once a quarter to determine how they are doing, to share insights regarding the Chapter, and to receive feedback or suggestions for improvement, the Buddy Check initiative has proven beneficial in many ways.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I offer our sincere thanks to all who selflessly send emails, make phone calls, and write letters to other members of our Chapter.

I also want to thank our members that attended the Florida Council of Chapters' Leadership Seminar and the town hall meeting hosted by Representative Andrew Learned last month. Your attendance and support of these events signals interest, promotes camaraderie, and provides exposure for our Chapter. The insights gained in the forums are incredible and enable our ability to accomplish our mission. Thanks again!

Priorities and Goals:

On February 11th, as part of our monthly luncheon, we will have a special meeting wherein those present will vote on revisions to our Chapter bylaws, receive updates on key initiatives from our Chapter Secretary, and listen to new committee leads share their vision for achieving the objectives of their teams. I will also share details of the Chapter's priorities and goals for 2021. That said, I do offer the following for your consideration.

Strategically, our overarching goal is consistent and aligned with MOAA national – that is to ensure that our Nation keeps its commitments to currently serving, retired, and former members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors. In 2021, MOAA Tampa Chapter seeks to enhance our outreach to veteran and military segments of the local community that are transitioning from service, facing judicial action, are homeless, or are in a medical crisis. We desire to improve recruitment and increase our membership, expand our National Guard and Reserve liaison, enable the success of transitioning service members, and

champion legislation and policy changes impacting medical care for active, retired, and former service members.

Existentially, membership a top priority. Gaining and retaining members that are willing to contribute their talent, time, and resources towards the accomplishment of our mission is imperative. With a broad base of participating members, our chapter can leverage the diversity of thought, experiences, and resources available to impact both our community of members and those we serve beyond our local ranks. We can truly make a difference.

I will speak more about our other priorities at the luncheon. Please be sure to attend.

Member of the Month

I am pleased to announce our Honored Member of the Month for February 2021 is LtCol Richard "Dick" Seigman (USAF Retired). Jovial, witty, caring, and humble, Dick ignites a room and always brings a fresh perspective to our board meetings. His service as a former treasurer, founding member of Operation Helping Hand, and a volunteer at MacDill Air Force Base's 6th Medical Group, speaks to his selflessness, sacrificial nature, and tenacious desire to give back. We also extend our sincere gratitude to Mrs. Nicky Seigman for her exceptional support of our Chapter.

Please join us at our luncheon, in-person or virtually, on 11 February and help us thank Dick for his tremendous contributions to our Chapter. Also, please be sure to read Dick's biographical sketch later in this newsletter.

Wrapping up:

In closing, I offer that our Tampa Chapter is ready to tackle 2021. We have already begun. I appreciate your time and look forward to engagement in 2021. Thanks for your confidence and support.

All the best,

Charles Dalcourt

UPCOMING EVENTS

4 February 10:00 AM
Board of Directors Meeting

11 February 11:30 AM
Chapter Luncheon Meeting
Columbia Centennial Museum, Ybor City and ZOOM online - Buffet menu: 1905 salad, chicken and yellow rice, beef and fresh sauteed vegetables, green beans, Cuban bread with butter and chocolate cake. Cost \$30 either check or cash - Reservations ONLY with seating limited to 50

Call 813-676-4676
[see page 9 for details](#)

REMINDER: PUBLICATION DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH ISSUE IS 20 FEBRUARY 2021

NOTICE: if you have a change of address, please notify our membership team--Bill Schneider at 813 977-2572 geowillyl@aol.com or Tom South 813 975-5025 tsouth1811@gmail.com

LEGISLATIVE LOWDOWN

BY LTC REGINALD WILLIAMS,
USA RET

For more information, visit MOAA National's Legislative Action Center



As our new administration settles in, MOAA continues to message and advocate for our servicemembers, military families, retirees, and veteran's health-care and service-earned benefits and pursue our legislative agenda for 2021. The FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) was signed into law on January 1, 2021 after completing a veto-override process by Congress. The bill authorizes a Defense budget of \$731.6 billion. The MOAA supported measures covered in the NDAA are presented below.

FY 2021 NDAA Becomes Law After Veto Override

The passage maintains a streak of annual NDAA passage that dates to 1961. More importantly, it means a series of improvements to pay and benefits for servicemembers, retirees, veterans, and military families.

"While the last few steps of the process made the headlines, we can't forget the work done months ago by our members nationwide in pushing their elected officials to include critical reforms in this annual legislation," said MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret). "From protecting the health care benefits of retirees and those in uniform to securing long-deserved coverage for tens of thousands of Vietnam veterans to a host of other meaningful changes, this NDAA is a reflection of the efforts of many MOAA members and so many others throughout the year."

The enrolled legislation runs nearly 1,500 pages. MOAA previously outlined its contents and will be following up in the coming weeks with greater detail on the MOAA-supported measures it contains, to include:

- A 3% military pay raise, in line with the administration's request and with the Employment Cost Index (ECI), as well as a raise in Hazardous Duty Incentive Pay (HDIP) from \$250 to \$275 per month and expanded HDIP parity between those in the active and reserve components.
- A halt to military medical billet cuts and plans to reorganize (and reduce retiree access to) dozens of military treatment facilities (MTFs) for 180 days after the bill's passage. DoD must submit additional reporting and/or assurances to Congress before taking either action.
- The addition of bladder cancer, hypothyroidism and Parkinsonism to the list of conditions linked to Agent Orange exposure. Well-earned benefits will be available to 34,000 Vietnam veterans.
- A range of good news for military families, including greater access to child care, better spouse employment programs, expanded military housing protections, and long-sought improvements to the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) and TRICARE's Extended Health Care Option (ECHO).

The legislation does not include new TRICARE fees or copay increases; the TRICARE Select Group A enrollment fee, which took effect Jan. 1, was part of the FY 2017 NDAA.

MOAA already has begun its work with the 117th Congress to expand and improve upon this legislation in the coming months.

MOAA Outlines Early Recommendations for Biden Administration

Leading up to the 2020 presidential election, MOAA asked the candidates for their views on a range of topics in an effort to educate members before they cast their ballots. President-elect Joe Biden offered his perspective on these issues, prior to Inauguration Day, it's worth reviewing those statements.

While MOAA pursues its legislative agenda for 2021 and beyond, our Government Relations team will continue to communicate with key agency staffers and new officials coming into the administration, seeking support in areas of critical interest to military members past and present, their families, and survivors.(cont'd p.2)

Here are some of the President's statements to MOAA members last year, and a look at how they align with MOAA's advocacy mission.

On the Budget

His Words: Asked about the defense budget, then-candidate Biden said, "At a time when we're winding down our main combat efforts from the last two decades, we need to make smarter investments in our military. We can maintain a strong defense and protect our safety and security for less. The real question is not how much we invest — it's how we invest." He also pledged that his administration would "never balance the budget on the backs of military men and women and their families."

MOAA Recommends: The COVID-19 pandemic, and the government's response to it, will create new financial realities in the coming years. But any changes to military spending, notably in the provision of earned benefits, must be accompanied by a full, transparent accounting of how the moves will improve products and services for those involved, not just help the bottom line. MOAA urges the incoming administration to continue its outreach efforts to all veterans and military advocacy groups on these topics, fostering strong communication and allowing MOAA and other groups to express the concerns and challenges faced by its membership.

On Military Pay

His Words: "We need to ensure that our military pay raises keep pace with increased costs of living," then-candidate Biden said. "In my administration this will be a high priority. We must keep faith with the men and women who have dedicated their lives to serving their country."

MOAA Recommends: Pay raises for servicemembers have been at a 10-year peak, and at least in the near term, the Employment Cost Index (ECI) should dictate yearly increases near those levels. Ensuring the raises remain linked to ECI — learn more about that process here — is one of MOAA's prime advocacy efforts in Congress; the administration should support this effort, but also weigh in on ensuring the overall compensation package remains strong enough to maintain the all-volunteer force.

On Military Families

His Words: "Despite consistent pay increases in recent years, some military families are still struggling to make ends meet, and even report food insecurity, lack of quality child care, and poor financial health," then-candidate Biden told MOAA, adding that he would back legislation to "provide an additional allowance for military families living below the poverty line."

MOAA Recommends: The 13th Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation addressed some of these issues — and showed how far the DoD needs to go in facing down food insecurity in the ranks. The administration must work to keep this issue and others facing military families — then-candidate Biden proposed improvements to military child care and housing programs in response to MOAA's questions, for instance — from slipping off the national radar.

On Veteran Benefits

His Words: Then-candidate Biden told MOAA he "would commit to always providing high-quality care for veterans with service-connected disabilities" and "expand the list of presumptive conditions to ensure that no veteran who experienced a TBI or had exposure to burn pits or other environmental toxins goes without access to VA health care and benefits."

MOAA Recommends: MOAA has continued its efforts to ensure veterans receive quality health care they've earned, and that the VA provides timely benefits and services as science confirms connections between toxic exposure and medical conditions. While

the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) expands long-deserved benefits for tens of thousands of Vietnam veterans, the administration and incoming VA leadership must work to live up to another statement made to MOAA by then-candidate Biden: "We must never again have an Agent Orange-like crisis." Additionally, the pandemic-caused claims backlog must be addressed. The number of backlogged claims have doubled since the pandemic started, and while this is not VA's fault, the VA must use all available resources to help veterans get their claims accurately adjudicated.

On DoD Medical Benefits

His Words: "The Department of Defense should not begin any transition of beneficiaries and retirees until further review and data are gathered to ensure that the health care capacity and capabilities of the civilian infrastructure in nearby communities can support a transition," then-candidate Biden told MOAA. "In order to ensure continuity of care, individuals' needs should be assessed to make sure that any such transfer does not lower the quality of their health care. In light of the ongoing pandemic and the support that military medical personnel have been providing to communities across the country and overseas, I would also conduct an assessment to ensure that any reductions in medical personnel positions are still supportable."

MOAA Recommends: The above statements track with MOAA's ongoing efforts to protect the health care benefits of military retirees and family members in the face of proposed reductions in service at dozens of military treatment facilities (MTFs) and of 18,000 DoD medical billets. The FY 2021 NDAA put both of these measures on hold, but work remains to reinforce these benefits in the wake of COVID-19 and in the face of impending budget pressures. As with other issues outlined above, the administration can assist in these efforts by making them a priority in budget preparation and ensuring any changes to benefits are transparent and based on thorough study.

New Law Includes MOAA-Backed Protections for Your Military Health Care

After months of coordinated efforts, MOAA was pleased to see the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) conference report includes provisions halting congressionally directed military treatment facility (MTF) restructuring and DoD's plan to cut military medical billets. Both provisions also require DoD to conduct rigorous analysis and mitigation planning before downsizing or restructuring the military medical system.

The William M. (Mac) Thornberry NDAA for FY 2021, H.R. 6395, includes two key provisions addressing military medical downsizing.

Section 717 prohibits DoD from cutting medical billets for 180 days following enactment of the legislation. It also requires DoD to conduct a review of the medical manpower requirements for all national defense strategy scenarios, including with respect to both the homeland defense mission and pandemic influenza.

(DoD is also required to submit a report on TRICARE network adequacy and transition plans for beneficiary care related to medical billet cuts. That report, required by the FY 2020 NDAA, still has not been released to the public.)

Section 718 adds rigorous requirements to DoD's MTF restructuring implementation plans related to access and quality of care available in the civilian provider network, and requires DoD to certify to the congressional defense committees that beneficiaries affected by MTF restructuring will have access to civilian care through the TRICARE program. This provision also prohibits DoD from moving forward with MTF restructuring for 180 days following submission of implementation plans and certification of civilian care availability.

Winning a Long Fight

MOAA kicked off its campaign by urging House and Senate Armed Services Committee staff and leadership to halt military medical downsizing in light of potential lessons learned from the whole-of-government response to COVID-19. Our Virtual Storming the Hill event, held in May, leveraged our grassroots advocates in our councils and chapters network to reinforce that message via 253 virtual meetings and more than 19,000 letters covering all members of Congress.

Those efforts gained traction when Reps. Bill Posey (R-Fla.) and Kathy Castor (D-Fla.) circulated a congressional letter urging House Armed Services Committee Chairman Rep. Adam Smith (D-Wash.) and Ranking Member Rep. Mac Thornberry (R-Texas) to ensure the FY 2021 NDAA included language to stop planned cuts to military medical capacity. We greatly appreciate the support from Congressman Posey and Congresswoman Castor, and all those who signed the letter, to help protect the military health care benefit.

We made tangible progress toward our goal when the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) released its mark of the FY 2021 NDAA in July and it included two provisions addressing our concerns.

The Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) did not follow suit, so MOAA regrouped and kicked off the Summer Storm to generate awareness and support in the Senate for the House provisions. An updated issue paper highlighted Government Accountability Office (GAO) report findings of shortfalls with DoD's plan for restructuring MTFs. MOAA members once again stepped up to support our efforts, sending thousands of communications to lawmakers requesting support for House provisions.

Although we are gratified to have achieved our goal, our work on military medical downsizing is not done.

MOAA has always supported Congressionally directed reforms aimed at improving medical readiness, even if those reforms require downsizing or closing MTFs that do not effectively support the readiness mission. It is critically important to ensure the last 20 years of combat casualty care advances are sustained and uniformed medical personnel have the right case mix and volume. MOAA supports these changes as long as beneficiaries can still access high quality care from civilian providers in the local community.

That said, MOAA will not support cuts to military medicine that are primarily cost-driven and has been vocal in expressing concerns about DoD's plan to reduce medical billets. We will continue to raise awareness about the potential negative impacts on readiness, medical provider recruiting and retention, and beneficiary access to care, and urge rigorous analysis and congressional oversight of this process.

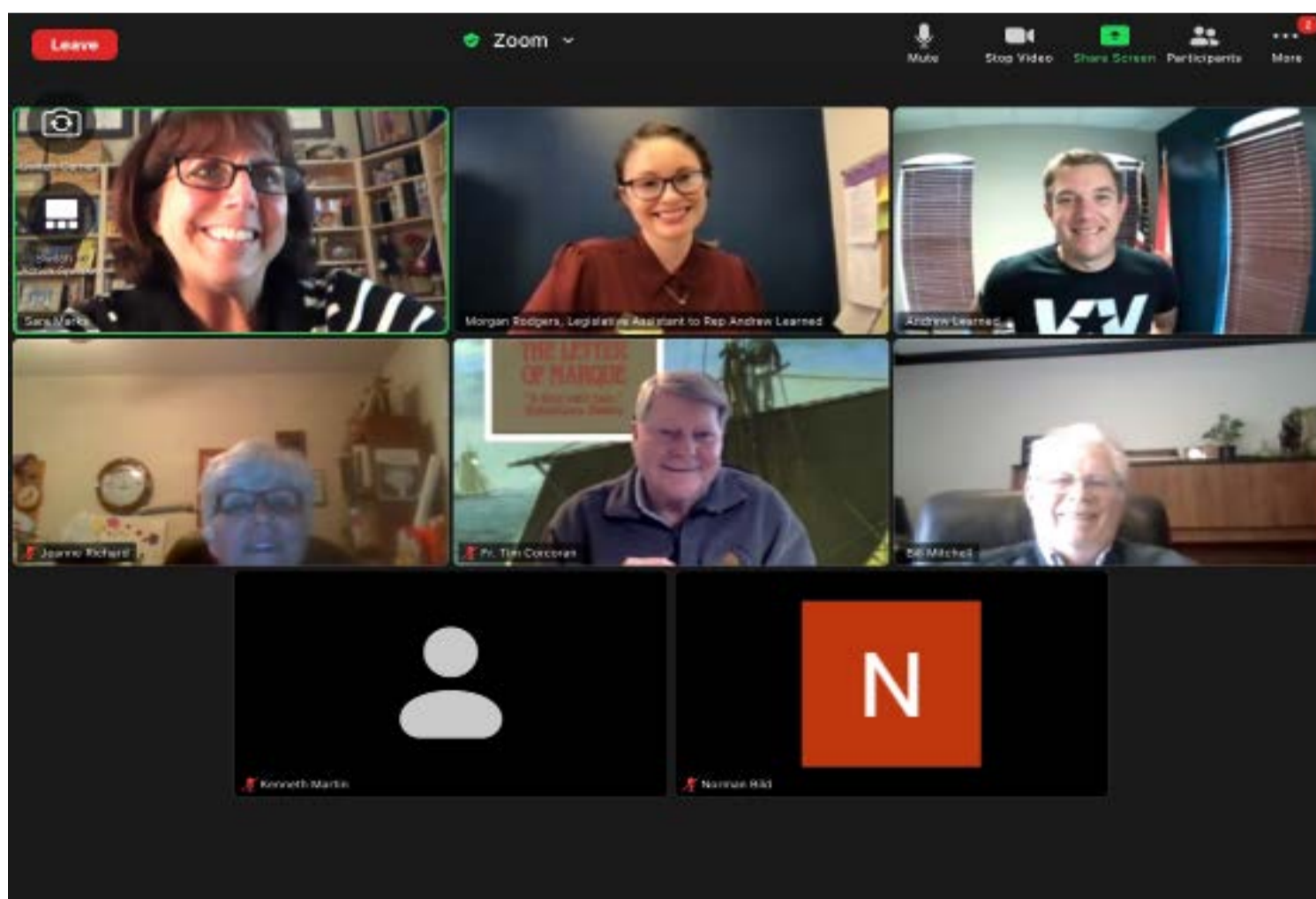
MOAA's advocacy on these issues has reached many members of Congress and raised awareness about beneficiary concerns. We look forward to building on this foundation as we pursue a robust engagement strategy on Military Health System reforms with the 117th Congress.

Thank you all and please remember to take action! [MOAA Take Action Center](#)

Sources:

- 1) www.moaa.org, article by Kevin Lilley, January 01, 2021
- 2) www.moaa.org, article by Kevin Lilley, January 13, 2021
- 3) www.moaa.org, article by Karen Ruedisueli, January 13, 2021

Zoom Call with Rep Andrew Learned 8 January
submitted by Bill Mitchell



Representative Andrew Learned, a rising star in Florida politics, conducted a town-hall meeting exclusively for this Chapter on January 8th. At the meeting he discussed upcoming legislation, Florida's COVID-19 vaccination process, and Florida's reputation as the most Veteran-friendly state. This year, Representative Learned will be sponsoring the creation of the Purple Star Schools Program in our state. This will provide our schools with additional training and resources allowing them to better

serve military-connected students and families as they transition to new schools and communities.

If anybody has questions for him, please contact him at Andrew.learned@myflorida-house.gov or by calling 815-657-7781.

THE TAMPA CHAPTER OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (MOAA)

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS



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MOAA MISSION STATEMENT

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is a nonprofit veterans' association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and ensuring our nation keeps its commitments to currently serving, retired, and former members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors. Membership is open to those who hold or have ever held a warrant or commission in any component of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, or MOAA and their surviving spouses.

Tampa Chapter



5 Star MOAA Chapter
2002, 2004-2017, 2019



2020 Recipient of the
5 Star Col. Marvin J. Harris
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Outstanding Public Service Award

Military Officers Association of America

TAMPA CHAPTER MISSION:

To maintain a strong national defense and to ensure our nation keeps its commitments to currently serving, retired, and former members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors.

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Lt Gen Dana T. Atkins, USAF (Ret)
President and CEO

January 20, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

On behalf of the more than 350,000 members of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), I congratulate you on your election victory. MOAA, as the largest military service organization and fourth largest veterans service organization, is proud to represent officers from all uniformed services, past and present, to advocate for the interests of all servicemembers.

MOAA looks forward to working with the Biden-Harris Administration to continue supporting our national defense and those who serve and have served. In these challenging times, we urge the administration to commit to transparency and collaboration with military and veterans service organizations. MOAA stands ready to support efforts to assist servicemembers, veterans, their families, and survivors whenever you ask.

In addition to urging a collaborative relationship, I write to share areas of immediate concern where the administration can quickly exert influence through executive actions. We hope that you will encourage your departments and agencies to implement the following changes.

Department of Defense

- **Full Pay Raise** – Include a full servicemember pay raise in the President’s FY 2022 Budget request in line with the Employment Cost Index ([2.7% for FY 2022](#)).
- **No TRICARE Fee Increases** – Include no proposals for TRICARE fee increases in the administration budget request. Such fees unfairly shift health care costs to military beneficiaries.
- **Reconsider Medical Billet Cuts** – These plans to eliminate approximately 18% of medical billets could have negative impacts on medical readiness and beneficiary access to care.
- **30-Day Reserve Component Orders** – Require the use of federal orders in increments over 30 days for members of the reserve component activated to help with future COVID-19 support or vaccination efforts.
- **Military Installation Modernization** – Direct DoD to include military installation family housing, child care facilities, barracks, and facility buildings as part of the designated strategic support area that requires modernization, and to explore predictive maintenance sensors that detect moisture and mold problems that have cost taxpayers billions in construction and health care.

- **Plan the Future of Our National Cemetery** – Direct DoD to designate a location for the next national cemetery that affords full military honors once Arlington National Cemetery reaches capacity, and grandfather those currently eligible.
- **Improve Dependent GI Bill Transfer Process** – Review the service obligation process and inter-department communication for GI Bill transfers to dependents. [Administrative errors](#) are leading to dependents being required, unfairly, to pay back GI Bill payments.

Department of Veterans Affairs

- **Address Agent Orange Presumptives** – Add hypertension to the list of Agent Orange-connected diseases. It has met the same scientific standard as bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, and Parkinsonism, all of which were added via the FY 2021 NDAA.
- **Restore the 48-Hour Review Period** – the VA's decision to rescind this review will lead to more errors in claims, clog the appeals process, and ultimately harm veterans. Multiple veterans service organizations, including MOAA, [have joined in this effort](#).
- **Support Death Certificate Review of Veterans Who Pass from COVID-19** – The survivors of veterans with underlying service-connected conditions who died from COVID-19 are at risk of their Dependency and Indemnity Compensation being denied. The VA policy for COVID-19 deaths should be updated to require an additional medical screening if any service-connected disabilities are not listed as principal or contributory causes of death.
- **Waive Dependent Debt for GI Bill Administrative Errors** – Direct the VA to waive dependent GI Bill debts stemming from [administrative errors](#) that led to servicemembers failing to complete obligated service.
- **Delay VA Debt Collection** – All such collection by the VA should stop until the pandemic is over.
- **Reinstate Public Facing Disability Benefits Questionnaires (DBQs)** – The removal of these documents limits a veteran's ability to independently submit a doctor's medical evidence in a format consistent with VA requirements. Provide a public portal for access to the DBQ forms.
- **Pause VA Contract Exam Changes** – MOAA seeks this delay to address whether these changes would negatively affect exam quality and timeliness. The GAO and VA's Office of the Inspector General have expressed similar concerns.

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

- **Restart Military Lending Act Supervisory Compliance Exams** – Monitoring compliance is necessary for this act to work the way it was intended.

Department of Education

- **Support Defrauded Students** – Rescind the 2019 borrower defense rules that limit the ability for defrauded students to get their tuition reimbursed.
- **Fix Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)** – Simplify the PSLF process for those who have met the public service requirement to have student debts repaid. Servicemembers who

have served on active duty since the creation of the program need to have their service recognized.

Department of Labor

- **Track Military Spouse Unemployment Rates** – Require the Bureau of Labor Statistics to create methods to better quantify this issue at the heart of financial security for many military families.
- **Improve Military Spouse Licensure** – Require the Department of Labor to prioritize state-level technical assistance training to educate occupational licensing boards on current military spouse licensure laws and compacts.
- **End Forced Arbitration** – Support rulemaking to end forced arbitration for Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act disputes.

Department of Homeland Security

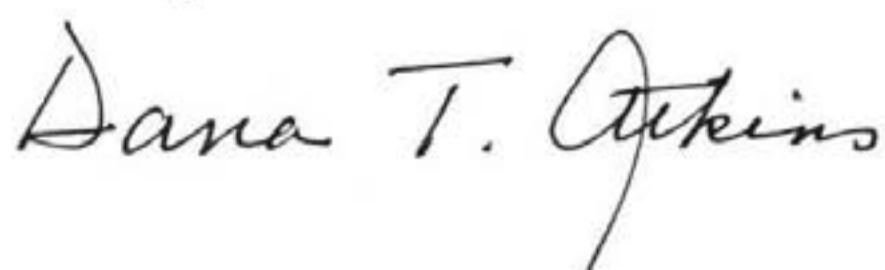
- **Preserve Parole in Place (PIP)** – Allow PIP to continue for the families of military members and veterans, and direct the United States Customs and Immigration Services (USCIS) to process applications for those in removal proceedings and adjudicate all PIP applications within 60 days.
- **Support Servicemember and Veteran Naturalization** – Ensure servicemembers have access to expedited paths to citizenship by:
 - Rescinding DoD memos requiring O-6 certification of honorable military service.
 - Restoring Basic Training Naturalization through a USCIS directive.
 - Directing USCIS to expedite processing of all servicemember and veteran applications.
 - Directing USCIS to provide resources to assist qualified members of the armed forces to navigate the application and naturalization process (as outlined in Public Law 115-91, Section 530).

Department of Treasury

- **Coordinate Stimulus Payments with the VA** – Simplify and expedite the process for veterans who aren't required to file income taxes to receive future payments. Veterans with service-connected disabilities and survivors receiving Dependency and Indemnity Compensation [faced uncertainty](#) about the status of past payments; this experience was frustrating to many because the VA had all the information required for an accurate payment. Fixing this process will ensure our most vulnerable receive support quickly.

In closing, I want to personally thank you for your persistent leadership to care for nation's veterans and their families.

Sincerely,



February Luncheon Guest Speaker: Andrew Warren

State Attorney of Florida's 13th Judicial Circuit



Andrew Warren was elected as State Attorney of Florida's 13th Judicial Circuit, Hillsborough County, in November 2016 and re-elected in November 2020. Warren leads an office of approximately 130 prosecutors and 300 total employees whose mission is to build a safer community while promoting justice and fairness for everyone in the criminal justice system.

Since taking office on January 3, 2017, Warren has been reforming our local criminal justice system.

He has been tough on violent criminals, fraudsters, and repeat offenders who threaten the safety of our neighborhoods. He has utilized innovative reforms and created successful diversion programs to hold low-level offenders accountable while steering them away from the downward spiral of the system, including civil citation programs for juveniles and adults. Warren has focused on treatment, prevention, and rehabilitation for offenders with substance abuse and mental illness in order to reduce recidivism rather than further the revolving door of the criminal justice system. He has

minimized poverty traps that criminalize people because they are poor. He created a Conviction Review Unit to address wrongful convictions and has embraced data-driven approaches that improve safety, cut crime, and save taxpayer dollars. Additionally, Warren has emphasized transparency and civic engagement to build trust with the community that he serves.

Warren previously served as a federal prosecutor with the United States Department of Justice. After initially prosecuting street crime in Washington, DC, he spent the majority of his career with the Justice Department prosecuting complex financial fraud all across the country—crimes that victimized retirees, investors, and taxpayers. Among other high-profile cases, he successfully prosecuted Robert Allen Stanford and other executives at Stanford Financial Group for orchestrating one of the largest frauds in history, a \$7 billion Ponzi scheme. As a prosecutor, Warren earned multiple accolades from the Justice Department and federal law enforcement agencies, including the 2013 Attorney General Award for Trial Litigation. He has lectured and served on panels across the United States and abroad regarding criminal justice, and he was an instructor at the Justice Department's national training center.

Warren studied economics and political science at Brandeis University before receiving his law degree from Columbia University. Following law school, he clerked in federal district court in San Francisco and then practiced complex criminal and civil litigation with an international law firm in New York and Washington, DC. Born and raised in Gainesville, Florida, Warren returned home to the Sunshine State to continue his public service. He lives in Tampa with his wife and two daughters.

Notes from the Editor: CAPT Sara Marks, NC, USN (Ret)



So many exciting events have happened at the local, state and national level this past month and anticipated in February. Since March 2020, we held our first in person luncheon last month at the Columbia Centennial Museum. We had 30 people attending, to include the Freedom High School Honor Guard and 5 people

via Zoom. COL Finkbeiner was an excellent and engaging speaker and was accompanied by her wingman CMSgt Weary. Answers to the questions provided to her prior to the luncheon are in the Medical Corner. We are excited to have Andrew Warren, our newly re-elected State Attorney of Florida's 13th Judicial Circuit, Hillsborough County as our guest speaker for our February luncheon.

Since implementing our Chapter Buddy Check initiative in December, one of the benefits for me was meeting Duane and Deborah Williams. We had a lovely chat that led to Duane offering to write about his family and his wife's family's service to our great nation. The photos of their family in uniform are priceless. As Editor, I was thrilled and honored that they shared their story and their family story of serving in the Armed Forces. Take time to read about these great patriots.

Our Member of the Month, voted by the chapter's board of directors, recognizes "excellence of service" of individuals in the MOAA Tampa chapter. Our honorary February, Member of the Month, is Lt Col Dick Siegman, USAF (Ret) for his patriotism and outstanding service in support of MOAA Tampa Chapter and currently serving on our board of directors, for the second time. I first met Dick when he oriented me to my volunteer position at the 6th Medical Group. Dick, ever since then you have constantly amazed and inspired me with your positive attitude and "let's get it done" spirit. I think I understand how you accomplished so much in your active duty career flying the globe, and love the energy you bring to our chapter. Member Spot-light for this month is LTC Bob Sawallesh, USA (Ret). Thank you for your service while in the Army as a Medical Service Corps Officer that included your service in Vietnam and Desert Shield and Desert Storm. A founding member of Operation Helping Hand and many other endeavors since retirement from the Army, Bob, you've never stopped serving. Read their stories and the articles they took the time to submit for this newsletter. I know you'll be inspired by their

stories and informed by their articles.

Technology has been to our advantage in this difficult time. Our President Charles Dalcourt was able to Zoom in while working in Nigeria for our January Chapter Board Meeting. BG Larsen, Chairman of Coalition, was able to Zoom in for the January luncheon and update everyone on the status of the Coalition Forces at MacDill AFB; Bill Mitchell set up a Zoom meeting with one of our Florida State Representatives, Andrew Learned that gave our chapter members a chance to ask questions about Veterans issues and share our concerns; and then many of our Chapter Board Members were able to Zoom in to the January Florida Council of Chapters meeting. It's that time of year for Tampa MOAA Chapter Scholarship applications, due April 15th. Information and how to apply are provided in our newsletter and our website.

In honor of Black History Month, take time to read articles highlighting facts about African-American military service and the 93rd Division in WWI. Thirty years ago Desert Storm, blessedly a short lived war, was ending. Click on the link in the article and listen Lee Greenwood's "I'm proud to be an American" and read one airman's personal account of his experiences in Desert Storm.

I always look forward to members contributing to your newsletter with stories including such topics as military history, individual biographies, the role of military spouses, special events of interest to members; any vignettes of military or veterans service, holiday, commemorative or celebratory themes, etc. Tell and share your story with us!

For February, we celebrate Valentine's Day, may everyone experience truth and love, and President's Day, may we honor all our former presidents, and extend prayers to our new President and our nation as we move forward. And always, our prayers continue to go out to our first responders and medical personnel, and to everyone in our country and all over the world as we learn to navigate our lives with this terrible virus. It's a daunting task to vaccinate everyone in our entire nation, but as a nation we will pull together and defeat this virus. Please continue to stay healthy and safe. I pray that next year we will all reflect on the pandemic that ended. - NEVER STOP SERVING!

Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret)

THE RETROSPECT is published monthly by the Tampa Chapter of the Military Officer's Association of America (MOAA), P.O. Box 6383, MacDill Air Force Base, FL 33608-0383. The Tampa Chapter

is a 501-C19 tax exempt veterans organization not associated with the Department of Defense and is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA).

MOAA National, the Florida Council of Chapters, and the Tampa Chapter are non-partisan organizations. The views expressed in individually signed articles and the advertisements that appear in this publication/website do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA or this affiliate. Articles in the newsletter/website are the opinions solely of the individual authors and do not necessarily express the policy or opinions of the newsletter's editor or publisher, nor do they reflect an endorsement by the Tampa Chapter or the National organization of the Military Officers Association of America, unless so indicated. The views expressed in individually signed articles do not necessarily reflect Chapter policy.

OUR EDITORIAL POLICY:

MOAA National, the Florida Council of Chapters, and the Tampa Chapter are nonpartisan organizations. Our chapter membership is open to all Military officers (Commissioned and warrant), including Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve, former officers, and spouses/surviving spouses of military officers.

Our luncheon meetings are held 1130 hours every second Thursday of each month at the Columbia Centennial Museum in Ybor City and available to attend via Zoom.

ON THE WEB:

Tampa Chapter <http://moaatampa.org>

Communications directed to specific board members may be made by accessing their contact information listed under "ABOUT MOAA TAMPA CHAPTER" and "LEADERSHIP."

A password protected MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY is posted on the website under the "MEMBERSHIP" category. FL COUNCIL of CHAPTERS: www.moaafl.org

MOAA NATIONAL: www.moaa.org

OPERATION HELPING HAND: www.operationhelpinghandtampa.com

TAKE ACTION: <http://www.moaa.org/Content/Take-Action/Top-Issues/Top-Issues.aspx>

As a member of MOAA, you are entitled to exclusive member benefits and discounts. Find out more about our member-only services and offers or explore the topics that most interest you.

Chapter Member Spot-Light LTC Robert (Bob) Sawallesh, USA (Ret)



Bob Sawallesh has been a member of Tampa MOAA since 1992. He was on the Tampa MOAA Board for a number of years. He has 26 years of active duty which includes three years enlisted in the US Marine Corps. As a Marine he participated in the Operation in Lebanon in 1958.

In Vietnam, with the US Army 9th Infantry Division, he was awarded the Bronze Star and the Combat Medical Badge. He served in the XVIII Airborne Corps Headquarters at Fort Bragg. Bob graduated from the Canadian Airborne School in Edmonton, Canada. He was a Medical Service Corps (MSC) Officer, and his specialty was Medical Intelligence. He was a Medical Intelligence Officer in the Defense Intelligence Agency and the Pentagon.

Bob also served in South Korea and three years in Saudi Arabia on active duty. Following military retirement, he was a contractor in Saudi Arabia for two years which included Desert Shield and Desert Storm. As a civilian military advisor in Saudi Arabia, he inspected POW Camps.

As an MSC Officer, Bob is very proud of his expert marksmanship badges. He was an expert with the M-14 rifle and the 45-caliber pistol. With the pistol he maxed the score with 30 bulls-eyes in row.

He is exceptionally proud to be a founding member of Operation Helping Hand in which he is still very active. Bob has been a volunteer at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital for 23 years and he has over 6,000 hours of volunteer service.

Bob is co-chair of the Operation Traffic Signal. The OTS mission is to have modern traffic signals, pedestrian crosswalks with signals, modern streetlights and turning lanes installed and constructed at the main entrance to the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital. Just click on https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=sawallesh.



Bob Sawallesh, right, was very active in the Battle for Military Retiree Health Care. He is pictured with Colonel Bud Day, USAF, Retired, left, on the day in 2003 when 1,000 Military Retirees and Military Widows marched on the US Supreme Court and the US Capitol. Col Day took the Battle for Military Retiree Health Care all the way to the US Supreme Court. Colonel Day is a recipient of the Medal of Honor and he was POW in Vietnam for over five years. He died in 2013.



Years ago, Bob Sawallesh was one of the leaders with the Military Retiree and Veterans' Coalition. This billboard was fairly close to the MacDill AFB main gate, and it drew a lot of TV and press coverage.

UPDATE OPERATION HELPING HAND



LTC JIM GRIFFIN
Chairman, OPHH

"As long as we are needed, Operation Helping Hand will be there..."



I am not one of those folks who makes New Year's resolutions. I probably should start trying it, but I find that life tends to get in the way of the best-laid plans and you simply go about your business and make each day count as best you can. When the new 2021 began, I found myself hoping that this year is more normal than 2020 in terms of all of the organizations of which I am proud to be a member. With everything happening in our country—no matter the side you are on—organizations such as CABA, KIWANIS, TAMPA CHAPTER, MOAA, AND OPERATION HELPING HAND can bring everyone together and heal a lot of wounds. It doesn't matter what color you are, it doesn't matter what religion you are. It's a singleness of purpose and nothing brings people

together like being a member of a strong, dynamic organization.

This past year presented us with both challenges and successes that we never could have imagined. We had no understanding of just how significant the impacts of the pandemic would be—and continue to be. We are waiting for some updates from the JAMES A HALEY VA on the month we can once again honor the wounded and injured and their families at our monthly dinner. Hopefully with the new vaccine available to all, the sooner we are vaccinated, we will be safe to carry on with all of our functions.

We were proud to add Mr. KAROL CHORDAS to our EXECUTIVE COUNCIL this month. His knowledge and experience will be an outstand-

ing addition to the council.

The final touches were added to this year's golf brochure and we are looking for a fantastic golf tournament on MARCH 26 at BAY PALMS GOLF COURSE, MACDILL AFB.

OPERATION HELPING HAND will need your continued support to allow us to continue our vital program of service to our wounded and injured and their families. This support can be through donations by checks or by using our website (OPERATIONHELPINGHANDTAMPA.COM)

STAY SAFE, HEALTHY AND RESILIENT! HAVE A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR!

OUR TREMENDOUS GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS MAKE ALL OF THIS POSSIBLE!

MARCH 19, 2021 DEADLINE

REGISTER ONLINE AT
OperationHelpingHandTampa.com

BOB SILAH MEMORIAL
TAMPA CHAPTER
MOAA
OPERATION HELPING HAND, INC.

PRESENTED BY
CertiPath
to benefit
OPERATION HELPING HAND
Friday, March 26, 2021
at BAY PALMS GOLF COURSE, MACDILL AFB

Capt. Bob Silah, USN (Ret.)
Founder, Operation Helping Hand

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
8:00am REGISTRATION, LUNCH, PUTTING CONTEST AND RANGE BALLS
9:00am BALL DROP ON GREEN FROM ELEVATED PLATFORM WINNER ANNOUNCED AT DINNER
10:00am FIRST CALL TO START
12:30pm SHOTS/STAFF
3:30pm AWARDS & PRIZES

REGISTER ONLINE AT
OperationHelpingHandTampa.com

FORMAT
Four-person scramble. Registration, lunch, a putting contest and a ball drop on green begin at 8:00am. Awards are presented to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Event includes a "largest drive" contest and "closest to pin" chances. Shotgun start at 12:30. Awards, with prizes, begin at 3:30pm.

The TOURNAMENT'S PURPOSE
It is to raise funds to support a devoted volunteer staff dedicated to providing support for US military active duty personnel injured in Iraq and Afghanistan and are being cared for in Tampa, Florida at the James A. Haley VA Hospital and their families. Operation Helping Hand is a 501(c)(3) member of the Tampa Chapter of Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), sponsored by military retired officers and volunteers who donate their time and care, and do not receive any compensation.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!
PLATINUM SPONSOR: **CertiPath** (Eight player spots with all benefits, recognized in the retrospect and on the Operation Helping Hand website. Server on site throughout the week of the event.)
LUNCH SPONSOR: **HANK'S**
SILVER SPONSOR: **HEALTHY ENTREPRENEUR** (DRINK, SOFT DRINKS, WATER) Sponsors logo on golf cars. 2 player spots with all benefits, recognized in the retrospect and on the Operation Helping Hand website.
HOLE SPONSOR: Corporate signs on sponsor hole.
PUTTING-CONTEST SPONSOR: **Over Club**
LONGEST DRIVE CONTEST SPONSOR: **MEV'S AND LADY'S**
CLOSEST TO THE PIN SPONSOR: **MEV'S AND LADY'S**
HOLE IN ONE SPONSOR(S): **Over Club**

HOLE SPONSORS: (\$150)
PIN FLAG SPONSOR: (\$250)
HOLE SPONSOR WITH PIN FLAG: (\$250)
PLAYER PARTICIPATION: (\$250 / \$500 per FOUR SOME) (pre-paid two players)
BALLS FOR BALL DROP: \$10 / BALL, winner wins 50% of proceeds to a maximum of \$1,000.
DRINKS AND WATER: (BOTTLED WATER) IS ELIGIBLE TO PURCHASE AS MANY BALLS AS THEY WANT FOR THIS EVENT.
CAN BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE.
GREENSIES AND CART RISE PUTTING CONTEST AND ONE BUCKET OF BALLS, BEER, SOFT DRINKS, WATER, PATROL LUNCH AWARDS.
SUPER PACKAGE: Corporate 3x4 flags, 1 phone, additional tickets may be purchased at \$25.00.
PLAYER DEADLINE: MARCH 19, 2021

REGISTER ONLINE
OperationHelpingHandTampa.com

For more information, contact:
Jim Griffin at 813.785.0552 OR Tigerpaw65@verizon.net
or Robert Ahern at 813.789.5732 OR Bobahern1063@msn.com

Paradise Golf
An Over Club Company

THE CHARITY TOURNAMENT BENEFITS:
OPERATION HELPING HAND, INC.
PO BOX 27626 • TAMPA, FL 33688-0262
OPERATIONHELPINGHANDTAMPA.COM

FEBRUARY LUNCHEON MEETING

February 11th 1130 hours. Members who cannot attend in person will be able to join via ZOOM. Refer to reminder emails for those details.

Luncheon Location: Columbia Centennial Museum in Ybor City. Corner of 21st Street and 7th Avenue. Parking is behind the Museum building. Additional Columbia parking is available: 2 lots behind the Columbia and 1 lot in front of the Columbia. Columbia will provide signage the day of the luncheon restricting parking in the Museum lot to luncheon attendees.

Masks will be required at all times except when eating.

Dress code: Business casual (coat with tie optional required for the men)

Cost is \$30.00 payable by check or cash.

Seating is limited to 50. **Reservations are REQUIRED and MUST be made NLT noon Friday, 5 February.** Call 813-676-4676 and follow the prompts; be sure to leave your phone number. CANCELLATIONS must be made by NOON Monday, 8 February by calling 813-676-4676. Please remember that

a reservation made is a reservation paid.

Buffet menu: 1905 salad, chicken and yellow rice, beef and fresh sauteed vegetables, green beans, Cuban bread with butter and chocolate cake. There will be no substitutes. There will be no Chef's Salad or Fruit Plate options. There will be no bar service. (*the menu may vary but updates will be provided via emails and the newsletter as needed.)

The Museum will open for those with reservations at 1100 hours. The Luncheon Meeting will begin at 1130 hours

Only one table can proceed to the buffet line at a time. Servers will be behind shields and will dish up food for attendees - the plated food will be offered at the end of the buffet line.

Luncheon reminders are sent via email. If you are not receiving the reminders, please call 813-948-7539 or send an email to lutzgranny89@gmail.com to be added to the distribution list.

NOTICE: CHAPTER DUES FOR 2021 ARE DUE NO LATER THAN JANUARY 1, 2021. YOU WILL RECEIVE A DUES RENEWAL FORM IN THE MAIL. THE DUES WILL REMAIN AT \$25.00.

BULLETIN BOARD

CARING FOR OUR "SHUT-IN" MEMBERS

Our Chapter wants to become aware of members who are hospitalized, homebound, in care facilities or just plain sick and has provided a way for you to inform us. Please contact CDR Geoff Harrington USNR Ret at (813) 926-7988 so that he may call or send cards to let them know they are missed.

Alternatively, you may send an e-mail to:

TampaMOAA.Secretary@gmail.com

CDR Geoff Harrington USNR, Ret, Sick Call Chairman

IMPORTANT DATES IN FEBRUARY 2021

Black History Month:

The month of February is a federally recognized commemoration for the contributions and achievements of African American figures in U.S. History. Every year, we remember trailblazers in science, math, arts and culture, politics, religion, and the military—encouraging us to celebrate the influence of African American key figures while overcoming adversity.

Read more: <https://militarybenefits.info/black-history-month/#ixzz6k948DTZc>

2 Feb Groundhog Day

3 Feb Four Chaplains Day:

Four Chaplains Day is one such day of public observation. Each year on February 3rd, this day of remembrance is celebrated across the country. It honors four military chaplains who sacrificed their own lives to save the lives of their fellow service members during WWII.

Read more: <https://militarybenefits.info/four-chaplains-day/#ixzz6k93AVBTV>

4 Feb USO Birthday:

February 4th is the official birthday of the organization known as United Service Organizations or USO. The USO has been a fixture in military life for more than seven decades. Founded in 1941, the agency is a private, not-for-profit organization working in cooperation with the Department of Defense.

Read more: <https://militarybenefits.info/uso-birthday/#ixzz6k93UZ84a>

12 Feb Chinese New Year

Week of Feb 14 National Salute to Veteran Patients:

The National Salute To Veteran Patients happens the week of February 14th and pays tribute to just under 100,000 patients a day that receive medical treatment in VA medical facilities as well as the nine million U.S. veterans who get care every year.

Read more: <https://militarybenefits.info/salute-veteran-patients/#ixzz6k94rVsO7>

14 February Valentine's Day

15 February President's Day

19 February Coast Guard Reserve Birthday

January Luncheon Photos



January Luncheon Photos



COALITION CORNER

Submitted by: BGEN Henrik Larsen



Dear MOAA Members

Having spent a couple of weeks in Denmark over the holidays it is good to be back in Florida. Some of you might argue that January was a very cold month, but trust me - for some of us it is still a heat wave when the temperatures are in the fifties. I believe we can all agree that Florida is a very nice place to be this time of the year.

The Coalition at US Central Command is still doing good and as always striving to maintain and further enhance the cooperation and coordination between US and our respective nations. As always

the situation in the CENTCOM Area of Responsibility remains very dynamic. If I was asked to come up with just one word describing this part of the world it would be Complexity. Whenever one tries to outline all the factors and actors involved when depicting the context in that specific region you will for sure end up with a very long list.

The CENTCOM area of responsibility currently counts 20 nations as shown on the map, which you will find on CENTCOM webpage at <https://www.centcom.mil>. Should you engage in counting the nations you must not forget Bahrain though it is a bit hard to see in this map.

As some of you are perfectly aware there are a number of US Combatant Commands based on geographically boundaries, but also Combatant Commands with a global reach - functional commands if you will. It has recently been directed to move Israel from US European Command to US Central Command. I am not aware of the exact timeframe, but expect that we will be welcoming a Senior National Representative from Israel relatively soon. The inclusion of Israel brings the total number of nations associated to the CENTCOM area of responsibility to 21.

This also indicates that the number of nations represented at US CENTCOM gets closer to 50. If we add our international colleagues at US SOCOM the number actually approaches 55. I believe that is a very unique situation at MacDill AFB with two Combatant Commands and 50 plus nations represented - all sharing the same values and desire to promote peace and stability in CENTCOM's area of responsibility and beyond.

It is my ambition to have the regional nations provide an insight on current topics related to their respective nations. How does it look when you look

out of the window in Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, Egypt or Bahrain just to mention a few nations belonging to the CENTCOM area of responsibility?



The US Central Command area of responsibility currently include 20 nations as depicted. This map is accessible at <https://www.centcom.mil>

All the best,
BGEN Henrik Larsen
Danish Senior National Representative to US CENTCOM
Chairman of the Coalition

Serving in the Military is a Family Business By Major Duane Williams, USA (Ret)

For the Whitman and Williams families, volunteering for service in the United States Armed Forces is relatively a "Family Business". Our families served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force in WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and Desert Shield/Desert Storm. It's so important to remember and honor all who have served. My wife and I are so proud of our service and our family history of service to our great nation.

My wife Deborah L. (Whitman) Williams, LTC, Military Intelligence (MI), US Army (Ret) has two older brothers that served before she joined the Army. She is the youngest child and the only female in her family that has served. Deborah joined the Army as an enlisted soldier. She served in the Military Police (MP) Corp and attained the rank of (E-5) Sergeant as a Reservist while in graduate school at the University of Pittsburgh (PITT). She signed up for the Reserve Officer Training Course (R.O.T.C.) program for two years while at PITT, and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, Military Intelligence (MI) in the Army upon graduation. After commissioning she was assigned to the MI Officer Basic Course (MIOBC) at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. Deborah was the first college graduate, and the first commissioned officer within her family.

Her oldest brother, Henry Clarke Henry Whitman, Jr., CMS, USAF (Ret) joined the Air Force and served three tours in Vietnam (UBon, Cam Rahn Bay & Korat), one tour in Pusan, South Korea and numerous other assignments abroad and within the Continental United States. Henry retired after 32 years of service as a Chief Master Sergeant (CMS), Aircraft Maintenance Superintendent.

Deborah's second brother, Malcolm Hitchcock Whitman also served in the USAF for two years and honorably discharged as an E-3 Airman after serving in England.

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Oldest Brother | Clark H. Whitman, Jr., CMS, USAF, (Ret)
Southeast Asia, Three Tours,
A1C, UBon, SSGT, Cam Rahn Bay & TSGT, Korat
SMGT, Pusan, South Korea
CMS, Aircraft Maint. Superintendent |
| Younger Brother | Malcolm H. Whitman, E-3/Airman, USAF
Bentwaters AFB, England |
| Youngest Sister | Deborah L. (Whitman) Williams, LTC, U.S. Army
Military Intelligence (MI) |



*Clark H. Whitman, Jr., SMSGT, USAF, (Ret.)
Deborah L. Whitman, 2LT, MI, U.S. Army*



Clark H. Whitman, Jr., CMS, USAF, (Ret)



Duane Williams, E1/Seaman Recruit, USN



*Duane Williams, MAJ, MI, U.S. Army
Deborah L. (Whitman) Williams, MAJ, MI, U.S. Army*



Rosetta Carter (Fox) Baldwin, SGT, USA, WWII



George Elbert Williams, PVT, DVR, USA, WWII



John R. Douglas, PVT 2, USA, WWII

Serving in the Military is a Family Business (cont'd)

By Major Duane Williams, USA (Ret)

The Williams family and history of military service is a little more extensive and started with service in WWI.

As the oldest in the family, I joined the US Navy as an E1/Seaman in August 1969, attending Boot Camp in Great Lakes Illinois and served as an Interior Communications Fireman (ICFN) on the USS Grant County LST-1174, Little Creek Amphibious Base, VA until 1973. Then I joined the naval reserves until 1978, and the US Army Reserves (USAR) in 1979 as an E-5/Sgt in an Air Defense Artillery Battery, Suffolk, VA. I signed up for the R.O.T.C. program for two years at the College of William and Mary, and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, MI in the Army upon graduation. After commissioning I was assigned to MIOBC at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. I was the first college graduate and the first commissioned officer in my family. Deborah and I met at Fort Huachuca and later married. We are the second married military couple in the Williams family since my great uncle Willie and great aunt Rosetta Baldwin.

My family had numerous relatives who served in WWI, WWII, South East Asia (Vietnam) and supported operations during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. My great-great grandfather served in the Army during WWI; a great-aunt in the Woman's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC), a great uncle, two uncles and his father all served in the Army during WWII. A cousin served in the US Marine Corps and a brother who was a Navy corpsman during Vietnam.

Great-Great Grandfather Deceased	Willis Sol Williams, PVT 2, MP, US Army, WWI European Theater of Operations (ETO)
Great Aunt Deceased	Rosetta Carter (Fox) Baldwin, SGT, USA, WWII Woman's Army Auxiliary Corps, (WAAC)
Great Uncle Deceased	Willie Baldwin, SSG, USA, WWII Unit Unknown European Theater of Operations (ETO)
Father Deceased	George Elbert Williams, PVT, DVR, USA, WWII 4011th QM Trucking Co. (Red Ball Express) European Theater of Operations (ETO)
Uncle	Harry C. Williams, PFC, Engr, USA, WWII Co. B., 1697th Engineer Combat Battalion European Theater of Operations (ETO)
Uncle Deceased	John R. Douglas, PVT 2, USA, WWII Unit Unknown Father of John Wayne Douglas, PO1, USN
Uncle Deceased	James Wade Owsley, USAF, 7 Years Rank & Unit Unknown
Cousin Deceased	Sol Williams, PFC, US Army Combat Engineer, Vietnam
Cousin Deceased	Kirk Anthony Williams, US Army Rank & Unit Unknown
Cousin	Eugene Williams, MGSgt, USMC, (Ret) Various Assignments CONUS & Abroad
Cousin	John Wayne Douglas, PO1, USN, (Ret) John F. Kennedy (CV-67), Aviation Mechanic NAS Miramar, V-13 Son of John R. Douglas, PVT 2, USA
Duane Williams	USN & USNR / 6 years USS Grant County, LST-1174, Little Creek, VA SGT, ADA, USAR / 2 years Air Defense Artillery, Suffolk, VA Cadet, Army R.O.T.C. / 2 years 2LT, Air Defense Artillery, Suffolk, VA College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA Son of George Elbert Williams, PVT, DVR, USA, WWII, (Red Ball Express)
Brother Deceased	Hoyt Williams, HM2, USN USN & USMC Corpsman, South Vietnam



Eugene Williams, MGSgt, USMC, (Ret)



Hoyt Williams, HM2, USN (left) and Unknown Marine SGT



John Wayne Douglas, PO1, USN, (Ret)



Eugene Williams, MGSgt, USMC, (Ret)



Deborah L. (Whitman) Williams, MAJ, MI, U.S. Army
Duane Williams, MAJ, MI, U.S. Army



Hoyt Williams, HM2, USN

CHAPTER MEMBER OF THE MONTH LT. COL RICHARD “DICK” SIEGMAN, USAF (RET)

I was born in Portland, Oregon where I lived until mid 1940 when my Dad transferred to Astoria, Oregon as Lead Baker in



the Largest Bakery in NW Oregon. We lived there throughout WWII while my grandfather was a federal meat inspector at Pearl Harbor. In 1945 we moved to Grants Pass, Oregon where my folks bought a bakery and I finished high school, lettering in wrestling and band. I then attended Oregon State College (now University) and pledged Chi Phi Fraternity. With the Korean Police action slowing down, I left and joined the Air Force. I was accepted into the Aviation Cadet program and completed Basic Training at Parks AB, California. I went to Pre-Cadets at Goodfellow AFB, Texas awaiting assignment. After several months I was assigned

Preflight Training at Lakeland AFB, Texas, then to Primary Training at Bainbridge AB, Georgia flying PA-18 and T-6 Aircraft. Next it was on to Basic Flight Training at Laredo AFB, Texas flying T-28 and T-33 (Jet) and received my Commission and Silver Wings.

My next assignment was Nellis AFB, Las Vegas, Nevada. I began Fighter Pilot Training in the F-86F, the only operational aircraft that could break the sound barrier, which I did, before I could vote or legally drink at age 21. Completing fighter training, it was on to Itazuke AB, Japan and K-8 Kunsan AB, Korea where we flew Combat Missions up the entire west coast of Korea, just short of China. I was then assigned as project officer for the 8th FBW Gunnery Team where we won the Far Eastern Air Force Gunnery Meet. Back to Nellis AFB Nevada for the World Wide Gunnery Meet, we finished 3rd out of 7 teams. Upon finishing by tour in Japan and Korea I was assigned to Cannon AFB, New Mexico flying the F100D with a Nuclear Delivery Mission. After just a year at this assignment 40 Pilots were pulled from flying jobs to desk jobs, mine was to Supply Officer school at McGuire AFB, New Jersey. After several different supply officer schools and positions, I was assigned to VR-6, a Navy Flying Unit on an Air Force Base to convert all Navy assets into Federal Stock Numbers which I did for 2 years. Then it was back overseas to Everux AB, France. First as a Supply Officer, then back into the cockpit as an Air Craft Commander flying C-130A Turbo-prop 4 engine transports flying all over Europe, Africa, Middle East, and all the way to India where we spent several 45 day rotations when China invaded India's territory.

When France kicked all US Forces and NATO out it was a mass exit of C-130 Aircraft to Lockbourn AFB, Ohio where we had 90 day rotations back to France and England again flying to all the places we did when we were stationed in France including 2 trips to Moscow USSR. Additionally, we picked up 45 day rotations to Panama, Howard AFB where we flew to all countries in Central and South America. During this time I was upgraded to an Instructor Pilot and Evaluation Pilot and along came additional duties as an Instructor with the RTU (Replacement Training Unit) which was to tactically train recently graduated C-130 pilots, most that had been in desk jobs and were pulled back into flying for duty in South East Asia. To my knowledge all the pilots that I trained survived. Without any notice 4 of the most experienced Instructor Pilots, myself included, were transferred to Shaw AFB, South Carolina

as a cadre for “BIAS- Hunter,” a highly modified C-130 aircraft designed to locate (via IR) enemy positions at night and direct and illuminate ground targets for fighter aircraft, both AF and Navy, to attack and destroy the enemy. We completed the assignment in record time and were just weeks away from deployment to “Nam”. Without warning the whole program was shut down and the C-130's transferred to a reserve unit in Texas. All of the internal IR and Photo Interpreters stations along the special ground avoidance radar and special radios were removed, and all of the special trained flying and ground personnel were sent to the seven seas. I was transferred to Charleston AFB, South Carolina to fly the C-141 Transport Aircraft where it seemed I flew to and over every point on earth. After a little over 2 years and over 1000 hours, I again transferred Rickenbacker AFB (formerly Lockbourn) flying C-123K Tactical Transports again on all kinds of missions including ferrying air craft to Southeast Asia, South America and Europe. We picked up airborne spray missions using the same airplanes that were used in Vietnam and known as “Ranch Hands” used to spray “Agent Orange”. This, although, much later in life ended my flying career and promotion to full Colonel as the Agent Orange caused my diabetes and heart problems. Upon my grounding, I retired as a Lt. Col. with 26 1/2 years of flying service.



We moved to Florida upon my retirement and I found a job flying for the State of Florida as Fire Pilot with the Division of Forestry. I was station in Gainesville Florida and Lakeland Florida and Retired after 18 1/2 year doing what I LOVED—Flying!

I joined MOAA (then Known as TROA) served as Treasurer for the Tampa Chapter for 7 years along with being a Founding member of Operation Helping Hand and Chief Financial Officer/Treasure for close to 4 years. I have served and am serving on the Board of Directors twice.

I have Volunteered with the 6th Medical Group for over 16 years the final 5 years as Volunteer Coordinator where I was selected as Volunteer Coordinator of the Year for 6th AMWg 3 times.

At age 87 I have lived a fulfilling life and am now enjoying life to the fullest.

How We Help and Why You Should Join!



The TAMPA CHAPTER-MOAA, one of the largest and recognized as one of the top chapters in the Nation, has a very basic and focused approach for all officers on Active duty, Reserve, National Guard, and retired officers-WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK!

Some of the local community outreach our Tampa MOAA chapter members are involved with include: Veterans Treatment Court, Operation Helping Hand, funding local MOAA Scholarships, Transition support from military life, coordinating with our MacDill AFB Coalition partners with chapter activities, our Chapter Buddy Check initiative, and supporting the local ROTC/JROTC.

NEVER STOP SERVING!

**MOAA
Tampa Chapter Join Form**

Name _____

Rank _____ Service _____

Status _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Phone_(_____) _____ - _____ cell (_____) _____

Date of Birth Month _____ Day _____

Spouse _____

Emergency contact: Name _____

Phone _____

MOAA National Member Number _____

Tampa Chapter annual dues: \$25.00 (There is no dues requirement for active duty personnel or surviving spouse)

MOAA National annual dues: \$48.00. You can join National MOAA at their website: moaa.org

MOAA National Lifetime dues: Based on age.

Range: \$851-\$0

You can bring the completed form to any event or you can mail it with the \$25.00 check made out to:

“MOAA Tampa Chapter”, to:

Bill Schneider

15888 Sanctuary Dr.

Tampa, FL 33647

Surviving Spouse Corner: The 4 Facets of Grief

By Ruth E. Field, MSW, LCSW and Renée Brunelle, Surviving Spouse Advisory Council member

Often one's grief journey has many variations or facets. After a loss, there are so many things that need to be completed and people demanding your attention, it's easy to forget about taking care of yourself. However, when the final tasks honoring our loved ones are completed, we need to focus on healing ourselves.

When I came upon Ruth E. Field's book *The 4 Facets of Grief*, it helped put into words several of the tough experiences I encountered during my grieving process. The framework is flexible; there is no specific order to the facets so you can read about and work with whatever interests you and seems relevant. Here are some highlights from *The 4 Facets of Grief*:

Facet 1: Accepting (the Unacceptable) ~ having to recognize what has happened and is true. This does not mean approving, liking, endorsing or embracing the situation. Accepting can help you find some clarity in the haze of the decision-making process under the circumstances. MOAA Publications are a great place to find helpful information.

Facet 2: Adapting to a New Reality ~ modifying your previous life and transitioning to something new. This adjustment can be very challenging especially when resisting the inevitable change that is happening. Of course, nothing will be exactly the same when a loved one passes, but there are often aspects that can remain. Figuring out what needs to change and what doesn't is part of Adapting.

Facet 3: Meaning Making ~ creating an opportunity for personal growth and lifestyle changes. Examples include focusing more on religious or spiritual education, increasing family interaction, or even philanthropic causes.

Remember you are still here and finding new activities to bring some positive energy to your life can be fulfilling.

Facet 4: Replenishing ~ It is common to become depleted by people, events, and even your own emotions during grief. Being a bit selfish (in a healthy sense) by taking care of yourself first is key. Identifying what activities you find fulfilling can assist in the healing process. Even thinking about a new or old pursuit could revitalize you.

Each of the facets joins together to create a new beginning.

1. Accepting brings you face to face with reality.
2. Adapting to new circumstances inspires fresh ideas.
3. Meaning making ponders the significance and implications of the loss.
4. Replenishing ensures continued healthy self care.

Each person's journey is unique like a precious gemstone. When you use new skills like those in Ruth Field's framework, you become like a jeweler cutting a rough stone and polishing it into a beautifully faceted one. Then you can let the light in again.

Remember, try not to resist asking for help. Your MOAA Surviving Spouse Liaison can be of assistance. There are also local resources to explore by simply asking your funeral director for a list. All are happy to provide additional support.

Co-Author: Ruth E. Field, MSW, LCSW can be reached at ruthfield@griefhelp-er.com for more information on her book and tips on the grief process.

FBI and Online Website Romance Scams

by Robert F. Sawallesh, US Army, Retired

Recently I was briefly discussing dating online websites with a relative who is a military widow. I sent her information from the FBI. I subscribe to FBI reports which can be very interesting and informative.



The FBI Reports...

<https://www.fbi.gov/scams-and-safety/common-scams-and-crimes/romance-scams>

Romance scams occur when a criminal adopts a fake online identity to gain a victim's affection and trust. The scammer then uses the illusion of a romantic or close relationship to manipulate and/or steal from the victim.

The criminals who carry out romance scams are experts at what they do and will seem genuine, caring, and believable. Con artists are present on most dating and social media sites.

The scammer's intention is to establish a relationship as quickly as possible, endear himself to the victim, and gain trust. Scammers may propose marriage and make plans to meet in person, but that will never happen. Eventually, they will ask for money.

Scam artists often say they are in the building and construction industry and are engaged in projects outside the U.S. That makes it easier to avoid meeting in person—and more plausible when they ask for money for a medical emergency or unexpected legal fee.

If someone you meet online needs your bank account information to deposit money, they are most likely using your account to carry out other theft and fraud schemes.

Tips for Avoiding Romance Scams

Be careful what you post and make public online. Scammers can use details shared on social media and dating sites to better understand and target you.

Research the person's photo and profile using online searches to see if the image, name, or details have been used elsewhere.

Go slowly and ask lots of questions.

Beware if the individual seems too perfect or quickly asks you to leave a dating service or social media site to communicate directly.

Beware if the individual attempts to isolate you from friends and family or requests inappropriate photos or financial information that could later be used to extort you.

Beware if the individual promises to meet in person but then always comes up with an excuse why he or she can't. If you haven't met the person after a few months, for whatever reason, you have good reason to be suspicious.

Never send money to anyone you have only communicated with online or by phone.

MOAA Scholarship Application

To: MOAA Tampa Chapter members

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that the MOAA Tampa Chapter will award college scholarships of up to \$2,000.00 each to high school seniors who are planning to attend college during the academic year 2021-2022.

Applicants must be a dependent or grandchild of a MOAA Chapter member who has been in good standing for at least one year prior to the date of application.

The application form and further requirements can be found at the chapter website: www.moaatampa.org. Completed applications and documentation must be submitted by April 15, to:

Colonel (Ret) William A. Schneider
15888 Sanctuary Drive
Tampa, FL 33647

Scholarship winners will be announced on May 1.

If you have any questions, please contact Colonel Schneider at 813 977 2572 or via email at geowillyl@aol.com.

Sincerely,
MOAA Tampa Chapter Scholarship Committee.

Military Officers Association of America, Tampa Chapter

Eligibility Requirements

Required attachments

1. Be a dependent or grandchild of a MOAA Tampa Chapter member who has been in good standing for a minimum of one year prior to the date of application.
2. Have a GPA of 3.0 or higher.
3. Complete the scholarship application.
4. Attend the May 13, 2021 luncheon and Awards Ceremony. Attendance is required by the recipient or immediate family member in order to receive the award.

Required attachments

1. Proof of the Military affiliation of the sponsor. (Military ID or DD form 214)
2. Transcript reflecting 3.0 or higher GPA.
3. Two Letters of Reference from persons other than relatives. (teachers, work supervisors, clergy, coaches, etc.)
4. An acceptance letter from an accredited college, community college or university with student ID number included.
5. A letter written by the student, in which he or she explains his or her goals and academic achievements, extra-curricular activities and community volunteer experiences.
6. A completed Scholarship Application Form.
7. A color photo head shot or student senior picture.

The selection committee reserves the right to limit scholarship awards to one per sponsor.

Submit application and attached documents not later than midnight April 15, 2021 to:

Colonel (Ret) William A. Schneider
15888 Sanctuary Drive
Tampa, FL 33647

MOAA Scholarship Application

Date of application _____

Sponsor name _____

Date sponsor joined chapter _____

Student name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Graduating school _____

College accepted _____

Academic awards _____

School Activities _____

Community Activities _____

Completed application and supporting documents must be submitted to the committee no later than April 15, 2021.

Medical Corner

Responses to Questions Sent to the 6th Medical Group Commander

Submitted by: CAPT Sara Marks, NC, USN (Ret)

MOAA TAMPA CHAPTER 12 November 2020 Luncheon/14 January 2021 Luncheon

Questions for Colonel Finkbeiner:

1. Please provide the latest on the proposed budget cuts for military medical personnel and how it will affect retiree (and their dependent's) healthcare at military medical facilities in Tampa? I've seen recent news that the cuts have been delayed to protect the healthcare promises made to all military members who served a full career. Discuss.
ANSWER: At this time the proposed budget cuts for military medical personnel are on hold until 2022 due to COVID-19. We are also on stand by for the final decision regarding the proposed NDAA 703 changes, which will implement the closure of Sabal Park and reduce the MacDill Clinic to AD only. Despite these proposed changes we plan to continue to keep our pharmacy services robust.

2: You, with your senior staff with you, had a meeting with the retirees to discuss their health care issues at the MDG. I had attended one. I thought that was one of the best things the MDG did for the retirees asking for their opinions in health care. I was of the opinion that this kind of communication will continue under your command. I have not heard of anything since then. My question is, are you going to restart such meetings?
ANSWER: Yes! Once it is safe to do so. We do not want to put any of our retirees at risk with the ongoing pandemic.

3: We have incredible talents in MOAA. I would like to see a program where MOAA members can volunteer to give a talk, participate in useful activities with the young medics or any such activities. What say you? I will be willing to discuss this with you in more details.
ANSWER: Yes! We would love to utilize our MOAA members for officer mentorship opportunities. This type of program will require collaboration with JA and a legal review.

4: MOAA members have risk factors for COVID-19 and our Chapter will have gatherings at different venues. Do you have any suggestions how we can further protect MOAA members in an abundance of caution (beyond CDC recommendations)

ANSWER: Our recommendation would be to maximize the use of virtual gatherings wherever feasible, AND get the COVID-19 vaccine.

5: Your career in Medicine and Nuclear Surety is impressive! During the GWOT, Nuclear Surety became lax to the point of high-profile incidents and leaders were relieved for cause. Previous guest speaker, COL Snelson briefed MOAA on upcoming nuclear surety inspections at MacDill. What corrective actions helped restore lost confidence and trust at the local and strategic levels to ensure triad readiness?
ANSWER: MacDill has been passing with flying colors in regards to our nuclear mission, especially with the recent satisfactory rating we received on the last NORI. We do not, however, want to lose our momentum, so we work tirelessly to brief and teach our medics on the MDG's capabilities to support the nuclear mission despite an ongoing pandemic.

6: Do you have a timeframe for volunteers being able to return to the Pharmacy
ANSWER: Yes, volunteers are welcome to return now at their own personnel risk. The MDG is cautious with the number of volunteers we allow to help mitigate risk as best we can.

7: What is the distribution plan for the COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available; especially retirees over 65 and those under 65.
ANSWER: This depends on FDA approval. At this time the vaccine is approved under Emergency Use Authorization, which means receiving the vaccine is a voluntary choice. The medical group has been ordered by DHA/DoD to follow a very specific schema for vaccine distribution, meaning we are currently only allowed to administer vaccines to healthcare workers, first responders, mission essential and deployers. As we work our way through the schema and more vaccine supply becomes available we will widen our aperture to our high risk populations and 65 and older. We are excited to move forward with vaccinating our retirees and thankful for your enthusiasm and interest in receiving the vaccine.

8. When can the volunteers come in for the COVID-19 vaccine shots? The VA has already scheduled theirs for the first and FU shots.
ANSWER: As we move forward in the schema, we will be reaching out to our patients to schedule for

vaccination. We encourage our high risk and 65 and older retirees to not wait on the MDG to receive their vaccine, as we are receiving a limited supply. If you are able to schedule with the VA or Local County, please do so.

9. Are the vaccine shots mandatory for Active Duty personnel?
ANSWER: At this time the vaccine is approved under Emergency Use Authorization, meaning receiving the vaccine is a voluntary choice, this includes Active Duty.

10. What are the military's plan for vaccinating the entire armed force healthcare beneficiaries against COVID 19 and what is the projected time schedule?
ANSWER: We will be following our vaccine schema issued by the DOD to vaccinate the force. At this time we do not have a projected time schedule, as the vaccine is voluntary and we have limited supply.

11. Can military veterans/retirees go to the 6th Med Gp or an affiliated satellite clinic and get a COVID vaccine or are we required to use TRICARE and get vaccinated at a local pharmacy?
ANSWER: At this time we are not vaccinating retirees/veterans. As we move through the DOD vaccine schema and more supply becomes, we will be contacting our retirees and veterans to offer the vaccine and schedule them for an appointment.

12. Is there an age priority for military veterans getting the vaccine at military MTFs or do we follow the Governor's priority?
ANSWER: Based on our DOD schema, we will begin with high risk patients and those 65 and older once supply becomes available.

13. What are the number of COVID cases/deaths in the US military?
ANSWER: Across the Air Force, 44,000 total force cases with 55 deaths. These numbers include AD, ANG, Reserve, Civilian, Dependents, and Contractors.

Thank you for the opportunity to come speak with your organization. On behalf of Chief Weary and myself, thank you for your service, support and continued interest in the 6th Medical Group.
 - Col Finkbeiner

MacDill Air Force Base gets its own coronavirus vaccine allotment

submitted by Lt Col Dick Siegman, USAF (Ret)



TAMPA — The 6th Air Refueling Wing at MacDill Air Force Base has received an initial shipment of COVID-19 vaccine for distribution in accordance with U.S. Department of Defense guidelines, said a spokesman.

“We will soon begin administering our supply to those employees within Phase 1- Tier 1, which includes medical personnel, security forces and the fire department,” said Lt. Christopher Thibeaux-Moore in a statement.

Those on active duty, reservists and select Department of Defense civilians and contract employees, along with military healthcare beneficiaries including family members and veterans, are authorized for the immunizations, according to a Facebook post by the base medical group. Getting the vaccination is voluntary, according to local base officials and the defense agency.

The wing has 19,906 service members, 2,867 civilian workers and 34,600 family members on base, according to its latest economic impact study in 2017.

“When formally licensed by the FDA, the DOD may require a vaccine for military personnel or personnel in specific fields, as is the case for the influenza vaccine,” according to the department's website.

The department's distribution plan generally prioritizes healthcare workers and high-risk populations, followed by those working in “critical national capabilities and other essential workers.” At MacDill, senior national staff and U.S. Special Operations Command personnel follow medical personnel and first-responders, according to the medical group's Facebook post. Next will be personnel preparing to deploy outside the U.S., including authorized civilian and contract employees, as well as Department of Defense beneficiaries over 75, before moving on to other groups.

Those with questions about vaccines can call 813-827-1918 or send an email to usaf.macdill.6-mdg.mbx.immunizations1@mail.mil
 Source: Tampa Bay Times by Ileana Najarro

10 facts about African-American military service

Submitted by: CAPT Sara Marks, NC, USN (Ret)

In honor of Black History Month, the below statistics bring to life the breadth and depth of African-American military service since World War I. Sources for the statistics include the 2016 American Community Survey, Statista, the Congressional Research Service, the National WWII Museum and the U.S. Army.

2.1 million: Black military veterans nationwide

30.2: Percent of active-duty enlisted women in 2016 who were African-American

17.1: Percent of active-duty enlisted men in 2016 who were African-American

20,000+: Black Marine Corps recruits who received training at Montford Point camp in North Carolina during World War II

21: African-Americans who received the Medal of Honor for actions during the Vietnam War

7,243: Deaths of active-duty black servicemembers in Vietnam

3,075: Deaths of active-duty black servicemembers in the Korean War

901,896: African-Americans who served during World War II

24: Percent of the 500,000 U.S. military personnel deployed to the Middle East during the Persian Gulf War who were African-American

350,000+: Blacks who served in American Expeditionary Forces units on the Western Front in World War I
Source: www.legion.org



Cpl. Anton Anderson drags a simulated casualty during a beach ambush scenario as part of a leadership evaluation at Marine Corps Base Hawaii. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Zachary Orr)

African American History Month: Highlighting the 93rd Division in World War I

By Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Michelle Gonzalez | National Guard Bureau
Submitted by: CAPT Sara Marks, NC, USN (Ret)

ARLINGTON, Va. — Each February, during African American History Month, the nation remembers the important contributions African-Americans have made throughout U.S. history.

The National Guard's history is also replete with examples of African-Americans who served with distinction. A notable example existed within the three National Guard regiments that fought in World War I under the U.S. Army's 93rd Division: the 369th, 370th and 372nd Infantry Regiments.

Although organized as an all-black division for the war, these regiments did not fight as one. Instead, each was assigned to French divisions, as the French were requesting the immediate use of American divisions to reinforce the French army. Each of the regiments took part in major combat operations and received battlefield accolades for their service with the French army.

The 369th 'Harlem Hellfighters'

African American Soldiers
Probably one of the most famous American units to emerge from World War I was the 369th Infantry, or "Harlem Hellfighters."



Organized in the summer of 1916 as a result of state legislation authorizing the formation of a black National Guard regiment, the 15th Infantry, New York National Guard was called into federal service in July 1917 and ordered to France. After three attempts in crossing the Atlantic, the 15th landed in France in December 1917 and discovered it had been re-designated as the 369th Infantry Regiment. After being attached to the French army for training, it was assigned to the 161st Infantry Division of the French army.

The regiment took part in major operations in the Champagne-Marne, Meuse-Argonne, Champagne

and Alsace campaigns — campaigns where front lines were retaken or German attacks were thwarted.

Overall, the regiment spent 191 days on the front-line trenches. For its actions, the 369th was cited 11 times for bravery and was decorated with the French Croix de Guerre with Silver Star for service during the Meuse-Argonne campaign.

In addition to having the unique distinction of receiving three nicknames: "Harlem Hellfighters," "Men of Bronze," and the "Black Watch," the 369th's regimental band was well known throughout Europe for its concerts and is credited with introducing American jazz to Europe.

Since World War I, the 369th underwent several reorganizations and is known today as New York National Guard's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 369th Sustainment Brigade.

The 370th "Black Devils"

African American Soldiers
Although redesignated as the 370th Infantry Regiment during World War I, the unit's history begins nearly 20 years before entry into the war. Initially organized in 1895 as the 9th Battalion Infantry, the all-black National Guard unit was redesignated as the 8th Illinois Infantry in 1898. After federal service in the Spanish-American war, the unit was called again in 1916 for service on the Mexican Border.

As the 370th assigned to the 93rd Division in 1917, the regiment arrived in France in April 1918 and after being attached to a number of French divisions for training and seasoning, was assigned to the French 59th Division which took part in the Oise-Aisne offensive where the Germans abandoned their defensive lines.

The 370th had the distinction of being the only Black regiment completely staffed with black officers. For its actions during the war, members received 21 Distinguished Service Crosses, one Distinguished Service Medal and 68 Croix de Guerre.

After World War I, the regiment reorganized and is known today as the Illinois National Guard's

178th Infantry.

The 372nd Infantry

National Guard units from Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, Ohio, Tennessee and the District of Columbia that had been organized in the 1880s made up the 372nd Infantry Regiment, which was organized in 1917.



Upon its arrival to France, the 372nd was similarly attached to French army divisions for training before being assigned to a division — the well-known French 157th "Red Hand" Infantry Division — and took part in the Meuse-Argonne, Lorraine and Alsace campaigns.

Members of the regiment had the distinguished record of never surrendering or retreating and their participation in the Meuse-Argonne advance was decisive in ending the war after members of the 372nd were credited with taking nearly 600 prisoners, securing large quantities of engineering supplies and artillery ammunition.

For its actions during the Meuse-Argonne, the regiment was awarded the Croix de Guerre with Palm.

Although the regiment was deactivated after World War II, the 372nd is perpetuated by the Ohio National Guard's 237th Support Battalion and the District of Columbia's 372nd Military Police Battalion.

Source: www.nationalguard.mil

Despite COVID-19 Restrictions, Service Members Play Important Role in Inauguration

Jan. 19, 2021 | BY C. Todd Lopez , DOD News
Submitted by: CAPT Sara Marks, NC, USN (Ret)

While the COVID-19 pandemic has curtailed much of the military-influenced pomp and circumstance that typically surrounds a presidential inauguration, service members will still play an important role during the event, said the commander of Joint Task Force — National Capital Region, which orchestrates the military’s involvement.

During a teleconference Tuesday afternoon, Army Maj. Gen. Omar Jones, who also serves as the commander of the U.S. Army Military District of Washington, outlined the roles service members will play during the inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden.

First, he said, will be to provide security support to civilian law enforcement personnel.

“All security support from the DOD [Defense Department], to the inauguration, to civil law enforcement organizations is being provided by Title 32 forces ... all through the National Guard,” Jones said. Title 32 service members are National Guard personnel who are operating in support of state governors. Active duty service members operate under Title 10.

“There are no Title 10 forces that are conducting security operations in support of civilian law enforcement for the inauguration,” Jones said.

Active-duty service members from all branches of the service do have a role in the inauguration, however. They will perform traditional ceremonial roles as well as provide consequence management support, Jones said.

“Consequence management is something we do all the time, and we absolutely do for national special security events ... bottom line is that America’s military is ... always ready across the components, always ready across the joint force,” Jones said.

Consequence management involves U.S. military personnel being ready to provide support to civilian authorities if requested by them to do so and if that request is approved by the secretary of defense.

Jones said there are soldiers and Marines stationed within the National Capital Region ready to provide that support. There are also Navy airborne search and rescue crews and Army and Air Force helicopters, as well.

“Those are the kind of capabilities we have available ... again, if directed to provide Title 10 consequence management support,” Jones said.

A service member in a colonial uniform stands behind a flag. The most visible role the U.S. military will play is in providing ceremonial support to the inauguration, Jones said. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, however, there will be no inaugural parade this year, and so the military’s role has been reduced.

For previous inaugurations, Jones said, some 5,500 personnel have been brought into Washington from around the world to participate in the inauguration. This year only about 2,000 personnel will participate — and most of those are from the local area.

“We have tried as much as we can ... to take from local forces,” Jones said. “It hasn’t been 100%, but it’s been pretty darn close because we are, as you can imagine, very conscious of the pandemic, very conscious of the increased risk both to our force but also to the American public by folks having to travel. So, as much as possible, we’ve tried to resource all the Title 10 regular military requirements from members of the DOD team here in the National Capital Region.”

This year, service members will participate in a pass and review for the new president on the steps of the U.S. Capitol. There will also be a new element to the inauguration this year. Biden will lay a wreath at Arlington National Cemetery following the swearing in ceremony, Jones said.

Uniformed service members play musical instru-

ments.

“It’s an honor to have our new president honor both our fallen as well as our unknown who are memorialized at Arlington National Cemetery, and it’s humbling to be a part of that,” Jones said.

Service members will also escort Biden to the White House — which is a tradition more than 230



years old.

“[It’s] in keeping with the tradition that goes all the way back to our first inauguration of George Washington in 1789, when the military escorted George Washington from his swearing in to his residence in New York City,” Jones said. “Frankly, it’s an honor for the joint task force and for the U.S. military to be part of that and to sustain that tradition.”

As part of all the U.S. military support to the inauguration, Jones said, military personnel will practice necessary social distancing.

“You will see physical distancing among all the service members, [among] the formations for the presidential escorts you will see us wearing face coverings ... to protect the force, to protect our mission, consistent with the pandemic that all of us continue to be faced with,” Jones said. Source: www.legion.org

DesertStorm30: God Bless the U.S.A.

Submitted by: CAPT Sara Marks, NC, USN (Ret)

During Operation Desert Storm, there was an anthem that came to define the war: Lee Greenwood’s country song “God Bless the U.S.A.”

When Greenwood originally released the song in 1984, it was moderately successful. The song peaked at #7 on the Billboard Hot Country Songs chart July 28, 1984. However, the song took on a renewed life during Operation Desert Storm.

Greenwood played a one-hour special for the troops Feb. 3, 1991. That concert – from Walt Disney World – saluted the troops, and was broadcast to Navy ships at sea and military personnel in over 130 countries.

In an interview at the time, Greenwood said, “...we, here within the safety of our country’s shores, send this gift of entertainment to hopefully lighten the hearts and brighten the days for all of America’s sons and daughters, particularly those participating in Operating Desert Storm.”

A specific line in the song expressly calls out a thank you to those who served. In the chorus after Greenwood sings “And I’m proud to be an American, where at least I know I’m free,” he follows that with, “And I won’t forget the men who died, who gave that right to me.”

Greenwood said in an interview with The Boot, “I called my producer, and I said, ‘I have a need to do this.’ I’ve always wanted to write a song about America, and I said, ‘We just need to be more united.’”

Song lives on

Greenwood’s anthem lives on. Following the terrorist attacks on 9/11, the song again became a hit, uniting the country.



During 2020, Greenwood released a new version, working with the U.S. Air Force Band to inspire a new generation. Singers from the band in Washington, D.C., joined singers in Los Angeles, California, and Minneapolis, Minnesota. Greenwood joined from his home in Nashville, Tennessee.

Source: www.legion.org

DesertStorm30: First-hand account

Submitted by: CAPT Sara Marks, NC, USN (Ret)



#DESERTSTORM30: FIRST-HAND ACCOUNT

Editor's note: Gary Kunich originally wrote this first-hand account the morning after Desert Storm started, when he was a 21-year-old Air Force sergeant. This is edited from the original version.

AL MINHAD AIR BASE, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - It's 11:55 p.m., Jan. 16.

The clock continues ticking past the United Nations' deadline for Iraq to leave Kuwait.

While the world holds its breath in anticipation of war, F-16s sit silently on a quiet runway. Will these mighty, Fighting Falcons fly into combat tonight? If they do, when?

This silent base gives the appearance that most are asleep. But looks - and sounds - can be deceiving. From the flightline to a variety of offices, it's manned 24 hours a day. As airmen of all ranks work through the night, they talk about a variety of subjects, but all have the same thought on their mind. With hopes of a diplomatic solution to the Gulf crisis lost, there is only one other option.

The air is thick with tension.

12:30 a.m., Jan. 17

Airman 1st Class Larry Keller, a combat cameraman, nervously paces back and forth in his office, occasionally pausing to smoke a cigarette.

"I came here to cover war," he says. "This is my job and this is what I get paid to do."

It's not exactly false bravado. If war comes, it is his job to cover it with his camera. His eyes peer straight ahead, giving him the look of someone who's expecting something to happen at any minute - perhaps any second.

1:35 a.m.

Normal base operations continue. Tech. Sgt. Mark Abra, a maintenance expediter, drives his step van up and down the flightline. It's his job to get crew chiefs what they need to do their job. That becomes more critical as the night drags on.

Is tonight "the night"?

He answers the question no one asked.

"There's not much to be surprised about. Everyone knew it was coming."

The only question still left unanswered is when?

"Soon," he says. "Real soon."

Less than a half hour later, a security policeman drives by, stops for a moment to look at the jets, then continues on. Staff Sgt. Alvaro Soto is a law enforcement specialist who's been on the job since early in the evening.

"It's most likely something will happen at night," he says matter-of-factly. "There's a lot of anxiety right now. We may see six jets take off, but how many are coming back?"

2:01 a.m.

The crowd has grown considerably back in the hangar. Tech. Sgt. Phil Farthing comes from one of the back shops and walks toward the group.

"Something's happening tonight. The people on the front line ..."

He breaks off as the smile disappears from his face.

"I pray it ends soon."

Staff Sgt. Alan Hile holds a Styrofoam cup in his right hand. He savors a mouthful of black coffee and looks out on the flightline in silence. One can only imagine what's running through his mind.

A few feet away, Sgt. Jeff Wilson speaks up in a shaky voice.

"Everyone's antsy. They don't know where their nerves are at. But," he says in a more affirmative voice, "there ain't no way the Iraqis can stop us at night. They don't have the power."

2:25 a.m.

An F-16 takes off down the runway.

Within seconds, all that can be seen from the ground is its afterburner flame. Already far away, it's a mere blue dot surrounded by a world of black.

"Here we go," Hile whispers. He knocks back the rest of his coffee and repeats himself. "Here we go."

At that same moment at another part of the base, Sgt. Tony Radford checks his watch and writes in a blue notebook. As each jet takes off, he adds another entry.

"Never can tell if this stuff will come in handy or not," he tells no one in particular. "Maybe it'll help me write a book someday."

Still no official word.

The Maintenance Operations and Control Center is mum, saying nothing more than the mission is classified. The command post doesn't say much more. But by now, no official word needs to come down.

More than four months in the desert has come to a head.

3:15 a.m.

Jets continue to roar into the sky, one after another, startling most of the base awake. The streets are lined with people from the day shift, wearing sweat-pants, shorts, flip-flops and bath robes.

There's utter silence as their eyes follow each jet into the sky. A few mumble silent prayers and cross themselves.

Moments later it's official. This is no longer Desert Shield. Operation Desert Storm, a U.S.-led offensive on Iraqi forces, has begun. There is no turning back, no second-guessing. As the last aircraft soars into the sky, onlookers head back to their tents for sleep. For others, sleep will be long in coming.

5:50 a.m.

The darkness begins loosening its grip. The wait continues.

And then ... "They're all on their way back," a bleary-eyed Col. Bill Huddle announces.

A small smile cracks his face and he lets out a breath of air, but looks exhausted. He's been up all night. It will be hours before his day ends. He waits for the first jet to land so he can meet the pilot.

A couple hundred feet away in the life support portable trailer, Staff Sgt. Micah Burns also waits for the pilots. This will be their first stop after they return. All is quiet in the room except for a staticky radio newscast detailing the attack.

Finally, one by one, the pilots stream in. Burns shakes their hands and gives them a brotherly hug as they take off their gear.

Daylight is finally here.

As night shift workers shuffle home, their replacements arrive for their 12-hour shift. All is quiet as a young sergeant gazes upward. The morning silence is broken by more jets screaming into the air ...

Editor's note: Gary was part of the 388th Fighter Wing deployed from Hill Air Force Base, Utah. One pilot, Capt. Michael Chinburg, was killed in a training accident a week before the war. The rest of the unit returned home safely.

Source: www.legion.org

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

CHAPLAIN (COL) BERNARD H LIEVING JR USA RET

The 15th of February will be observed as a federal holiday in celebration of George Washington's birthday, even though his birth took place on the 22nd. In 1971 Congress moved the celebration date to the third Monday. In about one-third of the states in the U.S. the 15th will be called Presidents' Day to also honor the birth of Abraham Lincoln on the 12th.

There is, however, another special February day that, even though it is not a holiday, will get much more attention - VALENTINE'S DAY. While now February 14th is a card, flower, candy, kissy-kissy day, the dark history of this special day takes us back to the third century when Emperor Claudius II executed two Roman Catholic priests named Valentius, on different February 14ths. At the end of the 5th century the Catholic Church named February 14th St. Valentine's Day in honor of the martyrdom of the two priests.

It was during the Middle Ages that the day became associated with love when it was noted in France and England that February 14th was the beginning of birds' mating and nesting season. In the 14th century Geoffrey Chaucer, English poet, was the first to write of St. Valentine's Day as a romantic celebration. In his 1375 poem "Parliament of Fowls" he wrote (here in modern English): "For this was on Saint Valentine's Day when every bird comes to choose his mate." By the 15th century, the English were sending love letters on the 14th.

In 1913, Hallmark began its Valentine Day card distribution and this year Americans alone will send 190 million Valentines to loved ones. Clearly, Valentine's Day has become very commercial. However, its roots are spiritual. It is appropriate on the 14th (and every day) to give special thanks to God for those who love you and whose love you are happy to return. And, be sure to go beyond the giving of a card or cards and tell that special person that you love her/him.



Ebony Soldier by Col Charles Dalcourt USA (Ret)

As a stem is to an apple
my service is an umbilical to my nation.
Its awe, ascension, freedom, and pains I own.
It boasts beauty beyond the wars I fight, both at home and abroad,
and beckons me to protect it - my home, my land.
I bear the stripes, red and white, and gaze constantly at
the stars so carefully placed in the sea of blue.
I am inextricably linked, bonded, woven into the fabric of my nation.
I have a dream and it is coming true - one nation, under God, indivisible...
My service shall be as determined as the flow of ships from Ghoree.
My heart is branded, my title is soldier, my name is
Attucks, Davis, Wilson, Ellis,
Valrey, Clark, Weathersbee, Dias,
Turner, Bagby, Landry, Whaley.
From Revolution to recount, to reattack on Iraq
I have paved roads, washed dishes,
repelled the Chinese and cold-shouldered the communist.
My blood has drenched the landscape, quenched its thirst,
from Europe to Asia and Shiloh to Nairobi.
I have been stabbed by an enemy's bayonet and my countryman's hate,
yet serve and will continue to serve because
this land is our land and was made for you and me.
History is replete but not complete.
My aspirations lie in the future
where onyx warriors will salute
Old Glory - that of those like me and my Nation's red, white, and blue.

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WWW.MOAAATAMPA.ORG and Facebook: [MOAA Tampa Chapter](#)

The MOAA Tampa website is a comprehensive and valuable tool that you can use to make the most of your MOAA Membership. Some of the things you can find on our website include:

Events Calendar: We have a new "Events" page where you will find an updated calendar, displaying our upcoming MOAA events, as well as events happening with Operation Helping Hand. Click on our [Events Page](#) to check it out!

Photo Gallery of Events: This is our photo gallery, where you will see all of the photos during our luncheons, special meetings, conventions and more! If you've had your picture taken at our events, you can likely find it by scrolling through our [Photo Gallery!](#)

Newsletters: Here you will find the latest volume of The Retrospect, our award winning Tampa Chapter Newsletter. You can also access archived versions of The Retrospect for reference and research. In addition, you can find archived versions of the Military Spouse Newsletter, which has been merged into The Retrospect starting in August 2019. Visit [The Retrospect](#) page to read on!

Member Directory: You can access an electronic version of our Member Directory on our website. The list is password protected for safety of our private information, but MOAA Tampa Chapter Members can be provided the pass-word to access. You can also download an Excel version of the list once permitted into the page. Check out the [Member Directory](#) now!

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