



THE RETROSPECT



APRIL 2018

TAMPA CHAPTER—A FIVE STAR CHAPTER OF MOAA NATIONAL

VOLUME 24, NUMBER 4

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

MILITARY WOMENS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



COL ZIERES

It was no April Fool's Day joke that we had two guest speakers show up simultaneously at our luncheon last month. Retired CIA officer, DR JUAN RIVERA, was announced in the March Retrospect to be our guest speaker, but instead the unannounced speaker, FBI Agent PAUL VITCHOCK, took center stage and walked us through a presentation on the deep" Dark Web" and the undercover operations that effectively expose organized crime activity. Despite the slight departure from our regularly scheduled speaker coupled with the unexpected change in the menu from our customary corn beef and cabbage to Mexican cuisine, the March luncheon was an enjoyable experience for all. I am pleased to welcome one new member this month, COL LEWIS VANDYKE, USA, (Retired) and to welcome back an old friend of MOAA, LTC VANCE JENNINGS, a WWII Veteran who served during the Battle of the Bulge was recognized for his attendance at our March luncheon. By the same token, I am saddened to say good-bye to a long-time leader in the MOAA, COL RONALD BUCHERT, USAF formerly of Tampa passed away on February 13th. Ron served three terms as President of the Tampa Chapter (1991-93) and served as both President and Vice President of the Florida Council of Chapters as well as served on the National Board of Directors for six years including Chairman of the Board's Council and Chapters Affairs. A true patriot who never stopped serving, Ron will be greatly missed—my sincere condolences to the Buchert family.

I'd like to devote some space in this column to address some decisions recently voted on by the board of directors that will impact the way we disseminate communications in this chapter. After a recent audit of chapter expenses as compared to income, it was revealed that the chapter is carrying a deficit of minus \$6,670 to produce the monthly RETROSPECT newsletter and the board approved the motion to fully digitize the RETROSPECT. For many years, Chaplain Dick and Shirley Helveston have been doing a herculean job in collating articles for the printing and mailing of over 400 copies of the RETROSPECT Newsletter each month. The cost including maintenance and toner for a leased copier is \$9600 a year. Up until this year, the chapter has heavily relied upon sponsorship ads to pay for the cost of the newsletter, but those funds have dried up. Requests for advertising were sent to four businesses this year and none were interested. Therefore, as of JULY 2018, chapter members will no longer be receiving a paper copy of the Retrospect in their mailboxes. ALL Chapter members with e-mail addresses will receive an e-mail delivery notification to click on the link for the current Retrospect. Another means of delivery is to visit the Chapter's website at www.moaatampa.org and click on the current Retrospect newsletter. For those who do not have a personal computer at home, smart phone, nor e-mail address, I apologize for the inconvenience this change may create. Public computers may be found in most every library and are free for those who are card carrying members. I remember when I purchased my first computer in 1995, my nephew helped me purchase, set-up, and establish my e-mail address with AOL. As technology has evolved, e-mail address service providers such as Hotmail, Yahoo or Gmail offer e-mail addresses free of charge.

The Membership Roster is the other publication that will no longer be printed in hard copy. The keeper of the roster, Tom South, and our new website manager, Nada Mishrik, are working on fully digitizing the 2018 membership roster to include individual e-mail addresses and this document will only be accessible to Tampa Chapter members on the chapter's website. For security, the roster will be password protected and updated monthly instead of being printed every two years.

AS ALWAYS, WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK – NEVER STOP SERVING
TAKING CARE OF OUR TROOPS IS A LIFETIME COMMITMENT

<http://arttesa.org/carol-lynn-zieres/>

IN THIS ISSUE

P 01 PRESIDENT'S ARTICLE

P 02 OPERATION HELPING HAND UPDATE

P 03 LTC VANDYKE

P 04 BULLETIN BOARD

P 04 CHAPLAIN

P 06 SERVICE NEWS

P 10 BIRTHDAYS

P 12 LUNCHEON



Upcoming Events

- 05 APRIL BOARD MTG
- 12 APRIL LUNCHEON
- 19 APRIL OPHH
- 03 MAY BOARD MEETING
- 10 MAY LUNCHEON
- 17 MAY OPHH
- 07 JUNE BOARD
- 14 JUNE LUNCHEON
- 21 JUNE OPHH

PUBLICATION DEADLINE FOR THE MAY ISSUE IS 18 APRIL

DATES IN APRIL 2018

01—**Easter** is observed on the first Sunday following the full moon after the vernal equinox. Considered Christianity's most important holy day, it celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Depending on which calendar a church follows, some will celebrate Easter earlier than others.

15—**National Tax Day** in the United States, Tax Day is a term for the day on which individual income tax returns are due to the federal government. Tax Day may also refer to April 15 for state tax returns. Federal income tax filing deadline is midnight on April 15th of every year with extensions occurring when the 15th lands on a Saturday, Sunday or a holiday. In those circumstances, the returns are due the first succeeding day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or a holiday.

22—**National Earth Day** is observed each year on April 22. National Earth Day is held to demonstrate support for environmental protection. Every year around the world, Earth Day organizers promote green campaigns to save the Earth.

26—**National Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day** is recognized on the fourth Thursday in April each year. This annual event is an educational program in the United States and Canada where parents take their children to work with them for one day.

AREA CODES ARE (813) UNLESS ENUMERATED

PRESIDENT: COL Carol Zieres USA RET
(727) 793-0568 CELL (727) 366-1045
carolzieres@yahoo.com

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN OF OPERATION HELPING HAND:

LTC Jim Griffin USA RET 785-0552
tigerpaw65@verizon.net

1ST VP/ EVENT RESERVATIONS:

Maj Scotty Cleland USAF RET 988-4552
tgscland@gmail.com

2ND VP/ EDITOR OF THE RETROSPECT:

CAPT Don Dvornik USN RET
(727) 441-2051 dsdvornik2@msn.com

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

MAJ Dolores Incremona USAF RET
839-6960 AFOCEANLADY@verizon.net

MEMBERSHIP AND SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRMAN:

COL William Schneider USA RET
977-2572 Cell 300-3202 GeoWillyl@aol.com

SEC/DATA BASE MGR/PHOTOGRAPHER:

CW2 Tom South USA RET 975-5025
tsouth1811@gmail.com

TREASURER:

LTCOL Kenneth Martin USMCR RET
831-4426 martinkb@verizon.net

DEPUTY TREASURER:

CPT Wiley Hazel USA RET 979-1739
wileyandedna@gmail.com

CLUB LIAISON OFFICER

Lt Col Dick Siegman, USAF, RET
681-9601 dicknick2@msn.com

LEGAL ADVISOR:

Former LT William Mitchell USN 963-5098
Cell: 679-1217 mitchlaw@askmitch.net

SR CHAPLAIN:

CHAP (Col) Bernard Lieving, Jr. USA RET
390-8692 bliivingjr@aol.com

JR CHAPLAIN

CDR Richard Helveston CHC USNR RET
(863) 510-5048 Cell (863) 602-3684
rhelveston@tampabay.rr.com

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS:

LTC Chris Hart III USA RET 765-5832
c3ihart@gmail.com

ID CARD/BASE ENTRY:

Maj John Massey USAF RET 886-1938
johnmoaa@aol.com

PERSONAL AFFAIRS:

Maj Dick Tinsley USMC RET 886-2169
rtinsley1@aol.com

SICK CALL CHAIRMAN:

CW3 Bill Farrow USA RET 884-7823
SAF1929@aol.com

FLAG OFFICER LIAISON:

Maj Gen James Jones USAF RET 975-9156
jamesj987@aol.com

USPHS/RESERVE/NG LIAISON:

LTC Robert Sawallesh USA RET 654-3900
pentagonmaverick@aol.com

JR ROTC/ROTC:

Lt Col Ken Martin USMCR RET 831-4426
martinkb@verizon.net

SENIOR FORMER OFFICERS LIASON/ASSISTANT JR**ROTC/ ROTC:**

FORMER 1LT James G. Kalemeris USAF
933-5493 CELL: 924-5132
jkalemeris@tampabay.rr.com

WEBMASTER:

CAPT Nada Mishrik USAF RET
ngmgolf@gmail.com

GOLF TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR:

Robert Ahern 789-5732

PRESIDENT OF MOWC:

Kathy Kennett 792-7140



Dr. Moez Limayem



Moez Limayem joined the USF Muma College of Business in 2012, coming from the Sam M. Walton College of Business at the University of Arkansas. At the University of South Florida, Limayem has been charged with enhancing the college's profile and increasing its resources, building program demand, and strengthening relationships with varied stakeholders, including alumni and business leaders.

The results from his first four years on the job are impressive: the college has received three multi-million dollar naming gifts, and its programs have risen in national rankings. Pam and Les Muma's 2014 gift of \$25 million was the single largest gift in USF's history, and will help the college join the top echelon of business schools across the nation. In 2015, in honor of more than \$22 million in gifts to support the university, which includes a \$10 million gift to the USF Muma College of Business and its accounting programs, the University of South Florida School of Accountancy was named for longtime supporter Lynn Pip-penger. In addition, the 2015 Collier Student Success Center naming recognized a \$10.85 million gift from the longtime supporters of the Muma College of Business: Barron Gift Collier III and his wife, Dana. The donation will improve a unit of the business school that focuses on student success and career preparedness programs.

As an administrator, Limayem spurred the development of a new doctoral program targeting seasoned C-suite executives and a professional development program targeting the business school's younger students. Additionally, he has expanded the student success initiatives programs, including the Corporate Mentor Program and the Muma Leadership Program.

The recipient of numerous professional awards, Limayem has published dozens of articles, many of which focus on the intersection of technology with the consumer, academic and business worlds. He is also the coauthor of a scholarly book, "Understanding The Use of Technology-Based Self Service: The Consumers' Point of View." His most recent publication is "Building an Informing Business School: A Case Study of USF's Muma College of Business."

Limayem worked in the private sector as a systems analyst and computing consultant before receiving his MBA and PhD in business administration from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Since 1992, he has served as an international expert in IT for UNESCO. He has taught at universities across the globe: the University of Minnesota, Laval University in Canada, City University of Hong Kong, and Lausanne University in Switzerland, as well as the University of Arkansas.

<http://www.usf.edu/business/contacts/limayem-moez.aspx>



SOFT LAND-ING—A para-trooper assigned to the 173rd Airborne Bri-gade performs a parachute land-ing fall upon contact with the ground in north-ern Italy, March 1, 2018.

Army photo by Lt. Col. John Hall

CAPT DVORNIK
EDITOR**THE RETROSPECT**

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OUR EDITORIAL POLICY—MOAA National, the Florida Council and the Tampa Chapter are nonpartisan organizations. Our membership is open to all active duty, retired, former and reserve officers. Our luncheon meetings are held at 1130 hours every second Thursday of each month at the Surf's Edge Club on MacDill AFB. Our Military Officers Wives Club (MOWC) meets at the same time and place and is open to all officer wives whose husbands are Tampa Chapter members or are widows of a military officer. NEW MEMBERS will only have their names and photo published.

ON THE WEB: Tampa Chapter (<http://moaatampa.org/>) FL COUNCIL (www.moaafl.org/) 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.



LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

by LTC Chris Hart, USA (Ret.)

MOAA's leadership is "Storming the Hill" the week of 16-20 April 2018. More than 150 chapter leaders from around the country will be joining the Washington team to walk the halls of Congress to advocate for the entire military community. We can't all travel to D.C.—however, there are three ways we can support MOAA's efforts:

1. Send a MOAA-suggested message to your legislators.
2. Pick up the phone to call your legislators.
3. Spread the word on social media.

These are actions all of us should be able to accomplish, even if it is one or two of them. To get involved, I encourage you to read page 95 in the March 2018 edition of your MILITARY OFFICER magazine.

There is another "call for action" in the March edition—and you can't miss it—it's the blue inserts! If you agree with MOAA's position on "Military Pay Raises" and "Medical Retirees," complete the letters with your signature, add your return address and mail them today to the House and Senate leaders. It's that easy, but, if you have other views on these or other vital topics, please don't hesitate to speak up. I'm confident that the members of Congress will be glad to hear from you in whatever form or detail you would prefer to communicate with them.

We are 350,000 strong! Together, MOAA members are one powerful voice, speaking out on behalf of America's troops, veterans, military family members and military survivors.

NEVER STOP SERVING

Source: MOAA, March 2018 MILITARY OFFICER; moaa.org.



OPERATION HELPING HAND UPDATE

by LTC Jim Griffin USA Ret, Chairman

THE OPERATION HELPING HAND DINNER FOR APRIL WILL BE HELD ON 19 APRIL AT 6:00 PM AT THE JAMES A HALEY VA HOSPITAL IN THE SCI DINING FACILITY (HERO'S CAFÉ).

I hope that you will be able to join us and bring a friend and continue to volunteer to support us with your time and donations for our active duty wounded and injured and their families who will be honored. Please come and plan to meet these WARRIORS and their families. You will be a better person—I guarantee it!

This month's sponsors will be our own TAMPA CHAPTER, MOAA and CENTURY BUICK. We are honored to have both of these organizations who have always been dedicated sponsors of OPERATION HELPING HAND.

GREG AND LINDA ELLIOT OF THE BRUNCHERY will be providing their always delicious dinner for us. I must also say that GREG is a big supporter of our BOB SILAH MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT.

Special thanks to our dinner sponsor for MARCH—HANDS OF HOPE and the always fantastic RALPH LUPTON an excellent dinner for a very large crowd. THANKS!

Also thanks to the DR. GIL ORTIZ COUNCIL OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS for their generous donation.

As always a special thanks to our tireless volunteers which enables us to consistently provide 96.5% of all of the monies donated to go to our wounded and injured and their families. The strong support of our local business community and their commitment to sponsor our dinner events, golf tournament, and provide generous donations throughout the year, along with the individual support we receive from numerous donors every month by way of checks, or on our website (OPERATIONHELPINGHANDTAMPA.COM) insure that the support of our mission will not be interrupted for as long as our assistance is required.

OUR TREMENDOUS GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS MAKE ALL OF THIS POSSIBLE!



Pictured left to right:
BG (RET) Anne McDonald, President AWF, Yvonne Doll, next to her, LTC Ruth VanDyke, receiving her induction award into the Military Women's Hall of Fame in Washington, DC on March 12th and, finally CSM (Ret) Cynthia Prichett



TAMPA CHAPTER BULLETIN BOARD

WELCOME NEW MEMBER



COL LEWIS VANDYKE USA RET,
Spouse: LTC RUTH VANDYKE USA RET

—Submitted by Col William Schneider, Membership Chairman

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS



LT COL THOMAS ALLEN USAF RET
3301 Bayshore Blvd., Unit 1104, Tampa, FL
33629-8844

**CHAPLAIN (COL) BERNARD LIEVING
USA RET** (surgery soon)
2204 S Church Ave, Tampa, FL 33629-6304

LT COL JOANNE TAUBER, 13714 Chester-
sall Dr., Tampa, FL 33624-2501

—submitted by CW3 Bill Farrow, Sick Call Chairman

TAPS

COL RONALD BUCHERT USAF RET who died on 7 Feb 2018
and whose service was held on 17 March at Pasadena Community
Church in St Petersburg, FL. Please remember Shirley in your prayers.



CURRENT LICENSURE: RN Florida

LT COL JEANNE RICHARD USAF RET, has been involved in many research projects:

7/1/2009-12/31/2014—Lead Clinical research associate (CRA), Abbott Laboratories/ABBVIE, Phase 1 (Regionally based Tampa FL); **12/2/2008-6/2/2009**—Senior CRA, Research Pharmaceutical Services (RPS) on assignment to Abbott, assigned to Phase 1 Abbott Clinical Trials Regionally based Tampa FL; **10/2007-12/2008**—REGIONAL CRA RPS based in Tampa FL Clinical Research Trials Phase 1-4 Clinical Trials; **11/2003-10/2007**—REGIONAL CRA KFORCE Tampa FL Clinical Research Site Manager; Clinical Research Trials Phase 1-4 Clinical Trials; **11/2003—10/2007** Clinical Research Site Manager, Phase 1-4 Clinical Trials; **1/2005—10/2007** SE Team Monitoring Process Trainer – 50% KFORCE Tampa FL; **1/1999 – 11/2003** Lead CRA Clinimetrics Research Associates, Regionally based Tampa, FL; **3/1997—1/1999** CRA Clinimetrics Research Associates Regionally based Tampa, FL; **2/1994 – 1/1997:** Clinical Study Coordinator Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa, FL

MILITARY EXPERIENCE

4/1991 – 10/1998 Individual Mobilization Augmentee (IMA) to Director of Education, 6th Medical Group MacDill AFB, Tampa
1/1991 – 4/1991 Mobilization to AD: 379 Strat Hospital Wurtsmith AFB, MI in support of Desert Storm
3/1986 – 1/1991 IMA 6th Medical Group MacDill AFB FL; USAF Hospital Moody AFB GA; USAF Hospital KI Sawyer AFB MI

11/1981 – 11/1985 AD USAF Medical Center Wright Patterson AFB OH Charge Nurse, Pediatric Nursing Unit

8/1968 – 8/1971 AD USAF Hospital Elmendorf AFB, Alaska Charge Nurse Pediatric Unit

3/1967 – 8/1968 AD 4510th USAF Hospital Luke AFB AZ Staff Nurse Pediatric Unit

PROMOTIONS: 2nd Lt 3/1967; 1st Lt 6/1968; Capt 6/1969; Maj 5/1988; LtCol 6/1992

EDUCATION **6/1981** BSN Intercollegiate Center for Nursing Education and Eastern Washington University, Cheney WA
8/1966 RN Diploma, St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing Duluth, MN

MILITARY EDUCATION: **3/1967**—Officer Basic Military Training; **11/1981**—Military Indoctrination for Medical Service Officers **10/1986**—Squadron Officer School; **1987**—Nursing Management Course; 1/1993—Air Command and Staff College

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES Pasco County Public Schools (Double Branch Elementary School and Dr. Jong Long Middle School); Pasco County, Land O Lakes Library (Friends of the Library; Teach Kumihimo Braiding 4th Thursday monthly)



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chaplain Richard Helveston, USNR Ret

Most of us are not risk takers. Routine, security and functioning within our comfort zones are our most treasured habits but have you noticed that God often calls us into the unknown and the uncomfortable? I suspect it is because our character is more important to God than our comfort. We grow best when we are principally depending on God. The critical question then may be: When faced with something hard or even scary, what will we do? What will we risk?

There is an incredible account in Genesis 12 about Abram who was called by God into the unknown and unfamiliar. Catch this key verse, "Abram went, as the Lord had told him." Abram said yes to God and, as a result, he models for us a faith that we may emulate!

By the way, God did not give Abram a lot of information. He just said, "Go . . . and I will lead you!" Abram did what God asked him to do. That is faith! Being willing to risk by obeying God.

Faith is believing even when you don't see (Hebrews 11:1). Faith is obeying even when you don't understand (Hebrews 11:8). Faith is believing and obeying no matter what the costs and no matter what the risks. It is not an easy way to live, but it is the only way to fully experience God's ultimate purpose and blessing in our lives.

Make no mistake about it, from Abraham to Paul—everyone who pursued God and lived for Him—lived a life of incredible adventure. And that is why we need to be so passionate about faith and obedience.

LUNCHEON PHOTOS
—submitted by CW2 Thomas South RET



FCOC CONVENTION

Submitted by President Zieres



“The Lee Coast Chapter is hosting the 2018 FCOC Convention at the Sanibel Harbor Marriott Resort and Spa June 1 to June 3, 2018

The room rate is \$139 per night to include free parking, no resort fee and no taxes if you register through FCOC. The same rate applies 3 days prior & 3 days after the convention. A special event is being planned for the first day, a cruise of Sanibel Harbor aboard the 70-foot yacht, “Sanibel Princess.” A buffet dinner and cash bar will be offered aboard and attendance will be limited to convention attendees.”

Get additional information & make your reservations at: <http://www.moaaf.org/Convention/>

FBI CHAPLAINS: BRINGING THE LIGHT IN THE DARKEST HOURS

submitted by LTC Robert Sawallesh USA RET



The FBI has deployed chaplains to crime scenes to provide support to employees since 1991. An FBI special agent (left) speaks to two FBI chaplains at Ground Zero in New York in 2001.

FBI special agents and other Bureau professionals who respond to the bloody, chaotic scenes of mass casualties do so to help and to find answers: Who did it? How? Why? And there are times when they can't help but ask another question, one that does not have an easy answer. “Sometimes the common question when facing such scenes is, ‘Why, God?’ ” said Gary Morefield, pastor of the GV Christian Center in Henderson, NV, just outside Las Vegas.

Morefield is one of about 130 FBI chaplains, part of a robust crisis intervention program that provides psychological first aid to FBI employees. The program also includes mental health professionals and specially trained peers. Like

other chaplains, those who work for the FBI are ordained clergy. Although some may lead a church, synagogue, or mosque, FBI chaplains provide spiritual support and guidance to a broader population in the Bureau. They are accessible to anyone, regardless of faith. “Some people just feel better talking to a chaplain instead of a licensed clinician or a peer,” said Special Agent Paul Bertrand, a regional employee assistance program manager.

The FBI added volunteer chaplains to its roster in 1991, on the heels of a seminar that examined critical incidents involving the FBI. Seminar participants said FBI employees involved in shootings and who work gruesome scenes needed additional support beyond that provided by mental health professionals.

FBI chaplains are protected by workplace rules and have security clearances but are unpaid. Many are chaplains for other organizations or lead their own congregations. They do not proselytize during their work with the FBI.

Chaplains can help answer the deeper questions in the hearts of those who witness tragedy, differently from other trained professionals. “Generally, my first response is, ‘I don't know why this happened. I wish I knew. We may never know the answer,’ ” said Morefield, who is the FBI Las Vegas chaplain and who was on scene after the October 2017 Route 91 Harvest Music Festival shooting. “If I'm working with a person of faith, I would tell them, ‘I do know that God is here with us and hurting with you.’ ”

Chaplains provide spiritual guidance when employees are facing personal tragedy or other difficulties. But they also deploy to mass casualty events along with special agents and other professionals. Their primary job during these events is to be present and available to anyone who needs them, on a strictly voluntary basis. “The ministry of our presence is one of the most important things we can provide,” said FBI Houston Chaplain Naomi Paget, who deployed to mass casualty scenes in San Bernardino, CA; Aurora, CO and Newtown, CR, as well as to New York City in the aftermath of 9/11. “People are looking for reassurance and comfort so they know they are not going through this all by themselves.”

Those small acts of kindness remind the responders to take care of themselves and that there is someone to talk to, said Chaplain Robert Hicks, assigned to the FBI's Orlando Resident Agency. Hicks deployed to the Pulse Nightclub shooting in Orlando and other scenes. “It also reminds them of their humanity,” Hicks said.

Chaplains say they do most of their counseling months after a crime scene is cleared. Most agents and professionals at a crime scene have learned to compartmentalize so they can focus on their work. They don't have the time for distractions like speculating about the inhumanity of violence or good vs. evil. “While you are working, it's clinical,” a special agent from Kansas City said. “You look past the sights, the sounds, the smells, and you get the job done. But your mental bucket tends to fill up, and you need to process that.”

All FBI employees who deploy to mass casualty scenes are debriefed. The intervention program includes psychological education for entire offices, small group work for employees who have shared similar experiences, and individual counseling.

Some employees need the kind of help best provided by mental health professionals. “We know there's a point at which people may need to talk to a mental health professional,” Paget said. “But if needed, the chaplain can offer to provide the spiritual aspect with faith, with values, with meaning.”

Chaplains work part-time but hold regular office hours when they are not deployed in the field, meeting with employees and practicing their ministry of presence. “It's a process, to allow them the ability to share,” Morefield said. “People will be struggling with this for a long time. This shooting here, it was just pure evil.”

https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/fbi-chaplains/layout_view

KNOWN APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 02 COL JAMES F ARTHUR JR USA RET
- 02 COL IRVIN LEE USAF RET
- 02 COL JOHN MCKENNEY USAF RET
- 03 COL DONALD J BARNES USAF RET
- 03 LTC GEORGE MARTIN USA RET
- 04 LTC TYKISE LARRY USA AD
- 05 MAJ MITCHELL SEABORN USA RET
- 07 CAPT MICHAEL CARRICATO USN RET
- 09 RADM JOSEPH MILLER USNR RET MD
- 10 LT COL BARBARA BROTHERTON USAF RET
- 10 CAPT ALAN JON NISSALKE USN RET
- 11 LT COL BRANDT COSGROVE USAF RET
- 11 MAJ DUANE WILLIAMS USA RET
- 13 COL DAVID S HEINTZ USA RET
- 14 LTC JANUS FRALEY USA AD
- 15 LTC KEN DONOVAN USA RET
- 15 LT COL DAVID GIBBS USAF RET
- 15 COL LEO LORENZO USA RET
- 16 LCDR RONALD HURST USN RET
- 17 CAPT DONALD DVORNIK USN RET
- 18 FORMER ARMY CPT JOSE MERCADO
- 18 COL SARLA SAUJANI MD USAF RET
- 20 COL TIM CONWAY USA RET
- 21 MAJ DAVID BOND USMC RET
- 22 CAPT DAVID DALLEMAND USAF AD
- 22 LTCOL JOHN INGRAHAM USA RET
- 24 BRIG GEN RAYMOND SHULSTAD USAF RET
- 26 CAPT JOHN KAMEN USN RET
- 27 FMR USAF CAPT JAMES CULP
- 27 MAJ LANCE ZELLERS USMC RET
- 28 LTJG DAVID COWAN NOAA AD

(If we missed yours, please respond to moaatampchapter@tampabay.rr.com with name & DOB)

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SOLDIER HELPS OTHERS MAINTAIN WELL-BEING, READINESS

By Army Staff Sgt. David Overson, Joint Multinational Readiness Center

HOHENFELS, Germany— Army Sgt. Isabel Giron is the consummate, professional, modern-day soldier, doing what she does best—helping other soldiers. A human resources specialist at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center here, Giron is responsible for providing support that affects soldiers’ overall welfare and well-being while assisting leaders with keeping soldiers combat-ready and effective.

Giron enlisted in the Army in 2013 from her hometown of Oklahoma City, OK, shortly after graduating from high school. “I wanted to be part of something bigger,” she said. “In high school I had a best friend who had enlisted in the Army, and he always told me how great it was. So when I had the opportunity, I took it. And I’m so glad I did.”

Giron is no different than many young soldiers in a sense. At the age of 19, she experienced a combat zone firsthand during a deployment to Afghanistan in 2014 while assigned to the now inactivated 159th Combat Aviation Brigade.

“Deploying to Afghanistan was quite the experience,” she said. “It was a great learning experience. I definitely got to learn more about my job and I learned a lot about my fellow soldiers.”

Now enjoying her time in the heart of the Bavarian countryside, 23-year-old Giron appreciates everything the Army has to offer.

“The best thing I like about the Army is traveling,” she said. “The Army will take you anywhere. Wherever you go, you will always find someone who you used to work with. Though large, the Army is a small world.”

After five years of Army service, Giron has earned the respect and admiration of her coworkers. “Sgt. Giron is a rock-star soldier and a fantastic noncommissioned officer,” said Army Staff Sgt. Keith Thomas, a human resources specialist who works with Giron. “She’s the go-to [noncommissioned officer] for many of the soldiers throughout [the Joint Multinational Readiness Center] and 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment.”

As it is for many soldiers, life can be challenging and difficult at times, but Giron said she always reminds herself why she continues serving—her family.

“My family has always been my motivation, and will continue to be,” she said. “I do this for them. When I feel like giving up, or I am having a hard day, I always think to myself, ‘You are making them proud; they are looking up to you.’”

Whether Giron makes a career of the Army remains to be seen. Nevertheless, her work exemplifies everything the Army stands for and her exceptional performance is recognized by all.

“Sgt. Giron truly exhibits and lives the NCO Creed,” Thomas said. “When I hear, ‘No one is more professional than...,’ Sgt. Giron is who comes to mind. It’s been a personal pleasure to have served with her.”

When not in uniform, you may see Giron hiking, drawing or longboarding. And though she is the first person in her family to serve in the military, one thing is certain—she’s as Army as they come.

“The Army is a great organization,” she said. “You get to serve your country and meet a lot of great people, and see a lot of new places.”



Army Sgt. Isabel Giron, a human resources specialist assigned to the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany, is responsible for providing support that affects soldiers’ overall welfare and well-being.

Army photo by Staff Sgt. David Overson

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<https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1458628/face-of-defense-soldier-helps-others-maintain-well-being-readiness/source/GovDelivery/>



FROSTY STEP—Marine Corps Lt. Col. Lawrence B. Green, Commander, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 2, jumps into freezing water as part of cold-water immersion training during Frozen Badger at Fort McCoy, WI., Feb. 14, 2018. Frozen Badger is a training exercise designed to improve Marines capabilities in extreme cold weather environments.

<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/4169788/frozen-badger-vmu-2-polar-plunge>



SEA REPLENISHMENT—Sailors assigned to the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Mustin heave a line during a replenishment-at-sea with USNS Rappahannock in the Philippine Sea, March 3, 2018. The USS Mustin is forward-deployed in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations to support security and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

Navy photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class William McCann

SUBMARINES USS HARTFORD, USS CONNECTICUT SURFACE TOGETHER IN THE ARCTIC CIRCLE

By Cmdr. Corey B. Barker, Ice Exercise 2018 Public Affairs

BEAUFORT SEA, Arctic Circle (NNS) -- Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Hartford (SSN 768) and Seawolf-class fast attack submarine, USS Connecticut (SSN 22) both surfaced in the Arctic Circle March 10 during the multinational maritime Ice Exercise (ICEX) 2018 in the Arctic Circle north of Alaska.

Both fast-attack submarines as well the UK Royal Navy submarine HMS Trenchant (S91), are participating in the biennial exercise in the Arctic to train and validate the warfighting capabilities of submarines in extreme cold-water conditions.

"From a military, geographic, and scientific perspective, the Arctic Ocean is truly unique, and remains one of the most challenging ocean environments on earth," said Rear Admiral James Pitts, commander, Undersea Warfighting Development Center (UWDC).

ICEX provides the U.S. Submarine Force and partners from the Royal Navy an opportunity to test combat and weapons systems, sonar systems, communications and navigation systems in a challenging operational environment. The unique acoustic undersea environment is further compounded by the presence of a contoured, reflective ice canopy when submerged.

According to Pitts, operating in the Arctic ice alters methods and practices by which submarines operate, communicate and navigate.

"We must constantly train together with our submarine units and partners to remain proficient in this hemisphere," Pitts said. "Having both submarines on the surface is clear demonstration of our proficiency in the Arctic."

In recent years, the Arctic has been used as a transit route for submarines. The most recent ICEX was conducted in 2016 with USS Hampton (SSN 767) and USS Hartford (SSN 768).

The first Arctic under-ice operations by submarines were done in 1947-49. On August 1, 1947, the diesel submarine USS Boarfish (SS-327), with Arctic Submarine Laboratory's founder Dr. Waldo Lyon onboard serving as an Ice Pilot, conducted the first under-ice transit of an ice floe in the Chukchi Sea.

In 1958, the nuclear-powered USS NAUTILUS made the first crossing of the Arctic Ocean beneath the pack ice. The first Arctic surfacing was done by USS Skate (SSN 578) in March 1959. USS Sargo was the first submarine to conduct a winter Bering Strait transit in 1960.

The units participating in the exercise are supported by a temporary ice camp on a moving ice floe approximately 150 miles off the coast of the northern slope of Alaska in international waters. The ice camp, administered by the Arctic Submarine Laboratory (ASL), is a remote Arctic drifting ice station, built on multi-year sea-ice especially for ICEX that is logistically supported with contract aircraft from Deadhorse, Alaska. The ice camp will be de-established once the exercise is over.

ASL is an operational fleet support detachment of the Undersea Warfighting Development Center (UWDC). ASL is also the Navy Program Manager for the Submarine Arctic Warfare Program.



FORMER SLAVE; 2-TIME OLYMPIAN BECOMES AN AIRMAN

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, TX—After enduring countless hardships and overcoming unimaginable obstacles, Air Force Airman 1st Class Guor Maker found his way out of war-torn South Sudan and into the U.S. nearly 20 years ago.

As one of roughly 20,000 children uprooted by the gruesome second Sudanese civil war, Maker's childhood was far from normal.

After losing 28 family members, including eight of his nine siblings, 8-year-old Maker set out on foot from South Sudan to live with his uncle.

"The country I came from was torn apart by war," said Maker, who is attending training here to become a dental assistant. "It was all I knew growing up, nothing else. I've seen people die in front of me, but I knew no matter what, I had to make it."

During his harrowing journey, he was captured and enslaved twice: once by Sudanese soldiers, and once by herders.

"When I was captured, I was forced to be a slave laborer," Maker said. "I would wash dishes or do anything else needed to get by. I slept in a small cell and rarely got to eat ... but not always."

Twice escaped from enslavement, he finally joined his uncle in Khartoum after three perilous years. However, Maker's journey to safety was far from over.

During a nighttime attack on his uncle's home, he was beaten unconscious by a soldier who smashed his jaw with a rifle. "My mouth was shut for two months and I could only consume liquids because my jaw was broken," Maker said. "We fled to Egypt after that, and the United Nations treated my injuries."

After two years of filling out paperwork at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in Egypt, Maker and his uncle's family were finally granted permission to enter the United States.

"I was very excited to come to the U.S.," he said. "Looking back at everything my family and I endured, it is a miracle that we made it out of there."

When Maker first arrived in the U.S. in 2001, he settled in Concord, NH. Not only did he want to survive, but he wanted to thrive. "I wanted to change my life, help my parents back in South Sudan, and give my future children a better childhood than the one I had," he said. "And the only way to do that was through education and determination."

Maker started with the basics—learning English by watching children's cartoons and spending plenty of time with other high school kids, listening to their conversations and absorbing all that he could.

"Within a short amount of time, I was able to communicate effectively with other students and teachers, order food, and really get by on my own," he said.

While learning English was a crucial step on his personal journey, Maker's high school career really took off when one of his teachers introduced him to running.

"Running was always just natural and easy for me," he said. "It was a great high school experience and it helped me meet a lot of friends, build confidence and it was genuinely fun."

After winning the National High School indoor two-mile title, Maker received a scholarship to compete at Iowa State University, where he allowed himself to dream of things that had never been done before.

"When I got to college in 2005, I remember hanging a piece of paper on my wall that said I was going to run in the Olympics in 2012 for South Sudan," he said. "I thought 'Why not me? Why can't I do it?'"

Maker graduated with a bachelor's degree in chemistry and reached All-American status as a student athlete. Ready to start his new life, Maker planned to head to Flagstaff, AZ, to train for the 2012 Olympics. The same day he left for Arizona in 2011 was the day South Sudan officially gained its independence. "I drove the whole way celebrating and it was a very special day that I will always remember," Maker said.

Following his year of training, he qualified to run the marathon in the 2012 London Olympics. Even though South Sudan was officially an independent nation, it was not yet a member of the International Olympic Committee, and Maker was not yet a U.S. citizen.

"State senators from New Hampshire and Arizona presented my case to the Senate in Washington, D.C., so the International Olympic Committee allowed me to run in the Olympics without a country," he said. Even though his dream of running for South Sudan went unrealized in 2012, Maker accomplished a great deal as an unaffiliated Olympian.



Gour Maker, a trainee at basic military training, receives an "Airman's Coin" at the Coin Ceremony Feb. 1, 2018 outside the Pfingston Reception Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, TX. Maker was recognized by his wingmen as a selfless leader and motivator during his time at BMT.

"All of the people in South Sudan knew where I was from," he said. "I wanted to be the inspiration for the children to say, 'Hey, if Maker can do it, you know what, I can do it too.'"

After the 2012 Olympics, Maker was undeterred and set a new goal for himself and his country.

"I said to myself, 'In 2016, I'm going to bring South Sudan to the Olympics for the first time,'" he said. "I wanted to try to do more for my country and the 2012 Olympics only strengthened my conviction to accomplish my goal."

Maker's dream became a reality in Rio de Janeiro, when he was one of three athletes to represent South Sudan in the 2016 Olympics. He also served as South Sudan's flag bearer for the opening ceremony.

"Walking into that stadium, carrying the South Sudan flag was just indescribable," he said. "The people of South Sudan were in my mind the whole time I was running into the stadium with that flag and it meant so much to me."

While it was a truly incredible and improbable moment for Maker, his thoughts were filled with the people of his home country while he was running with that flag.

"Over 50 years of civil war and my country finally got independence," he said. "So many lives were lost for our freedom, it was just ringing in my head that we have done it, we have done it. On that day, everyone in South Sudan was at peace watching the Olympics for the first time." The 2016 Olympics were an enormous accomplishment for the former slave and South Sudan native that went far beyond his 82nd overall finish in the marathon.

"I couldn't have accomplished any of it without all the support I received from my family and the opportunity the United States gave me. It's the highlight of my athletic career so far and a moment I'll treasure forever," he said.

The next chapter in Maker's life began when he decided to join the Air Force to serve the country that gave him so many opportunities.

"All of the things I've accomplished have derived from the opportunities the U.S. has afforded me," he said. "When I first came to America, I didn't have hardly anything, but with the support and opportunity this country has given me, I've been able to completely change my life." The staff at basic military training had no idea who Maker was, but he quickly stood out to leaders at the 324th Training Squadron.

"I went out to the track and saw the instructors were putting their attention on one trainee in particular," said Air Force Maj. John Lippolis, director of operations for the 324th TRS. "I could see him running noticeably faster than everyone else and the instructors explained to me that we had a two-time Olympian at [basic military training]."

In addition to Maker's Olympian status, his unique personal story also stood out to Lippolis.

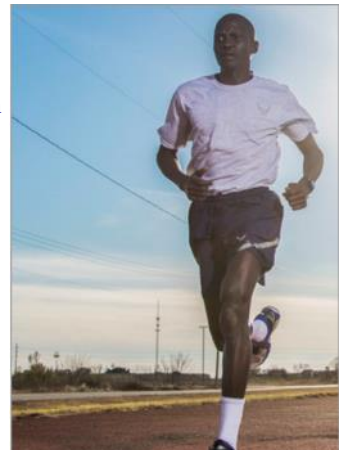
"I was just absolutely floored when I talked to him about what he went through to get to where he is today," he said. "Not only did he get survive, he wanted to better himself and he has accomplished so much. He has an amazing story and the drive he has displayed to succeed like that in the face of such adversity is truly inspiring."

Maker inspired not only Lippolis, but other members of his flight.

"All of his wingmen said the same things when I talked to them," Lippolis said. "They told me what an inspiration he was within the flight; that the flight rallied around him and he doesn't do anything he's supposed to do for himself until he helps out everybody else."

While Maker has accomplished a great deal in his lifetime, he's not done dreaming. After he completes his training here, he hopes to join the Air Force World Class Athlete Program, a program designed to allow elite athletes to train and compete in national events to make the Olympics. He also wants to make the 2020 Olympics, where he'll have the opportunity to represent his new home and the country that gave him so much. "Joining the greatest Air Force in the world has been an absolute miracle," Maker said. "I can't wait to see what this next chapter holds for me."

<https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1457512/face-of-defense-former-slave-2-time-olympian-becomes-airman/source/GovDelivery/>



Gour Maker, a trainee at basic military training, completes the one and a half mile run portion of the Air Force physical fitness test Jan. 30, 2018 at the 324th Training Squadron's physical training pad at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. Maker finished his run with a time of 7 minutes 31 seconds, earning the top fitness score for males in his graduating class.



BOSPHORUS STRAIT (Mar 3, 2018) The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Carney (DDG 64) transits the the Bosphorus Strait. Carney, forward-deployed to Rota, Spain, is on its fourth patrol in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations in support of regional allies and partners, and U.S. national security interests in Europe and Africa.

(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class James R. Turner/Released) http://www.navy.mil/view_image.asp?id=256670



EQUIPMENT RUN—Army Spc. Tyree Turnage, left, assigned to U.S. Southern Command, and Army Spc. Deiondra Fernandez, assigned to 549th Military Police Company, 385th Military Police Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, cross the finish line during an equipment run at Fort Stewart, GA., Mar. 2, 2018. The run was part of Basic Leader Course 04-18.

Army photo by Sgt. Joseph Truckley



CHARGE AHEAD—Marine Corps 1st Lt. Alex Gundy gives the order to take the last objective during a simulated raid while participating in 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit's realistic urban training at Twenty-Nine Palms, Calif., March 1, 2018. Gundy is the 3rd Platoon commander assigned to Kilo Company, Battalion Landing Team, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines.

Marine Corps Photo by Lance Cpl. A. J. Van Fredenberg

A MIRACLE? TRAFFIC SIGNALS ON THE WAY?

Submitted by LTC Robert F. Sawallesh USA RET

It has probably taken only about 46 years or less to have plans and construction initiated for traffic signals to be installed at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital's (JAHVAH) main entrance/exit in Tampa. The hospital was activated in 1972. Some of the most seriously active duty wounded / injured to ever survive a war are now treated at this Veterans' Hospital. Richard Silver Way, the main entrance/exit to this Veterans Hospital is now closed and under construction.

Adjacent to the Veterans' Hospital is the fairly new iQ Luxury Student Apartments with hundreds of University of South Florida students and across the hospital off Bruce B. Downs Blvd is the parking lot entrance/exit for the USF Shimberg Health Sciences Library. USF students run and skateboard across this intersection day and night.

More than 50,000 vehicles per weekday travel through this intersection. Not only are traffic signals needed but also turning lanes, crosswalks and modern street lights. Kudos to the staff at the JAHVAH and VISN 8 for getting the ball rolling on the improvements to this very critical intersection.

What does the JAHVAH, USF and Hillsborough County Government owe the 50,000+ drivers who drive through this intersection on a daily basis? How about posting on their web sites a construction timeline and who is paying for this traffic engineering modernization. And lastly, equally important, read what nearly 700 people say and agree about this intersection.



Richard Silver Way, Bruce B. Downs Blvd, iQ Luxury Student Apartments and USF Health Sciences Library intersection; 50,000+ vehicles pass through this intersection each day.



Construction plans on Richard Silver Way apparently call for two exiting lanes and one entrance lane to the James A. Haley Veteran's Hospital campus.

Photos submitted by LTC Robert F. Sawallesh USA RET

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<https://www.gopetition.com/petitions/remove-the-danger-highway-intersection-at-usf-and-tampa-veterans-hospital-campuses.html>

AIRCRAFT CARRIER USS CARL VINSON MAKES VIETNAM PORT CALL

By Jim Garamone DoD News, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON, March 5, 2018—The USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70) arrived in Danang, Vietnam, today, becoming the first aircraft carrier to dock in the country since the Vietnam War ended in 1975.

The guided missile cruiser USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN (CG—57) and destroyer USS WAYNE E. MEYER (DDG-108) are also making the port call.

The Vietnamese port was also the site of the first arrival of U.S. combat troops, when Marines landed there in 1965.

The three American ships with about 6,500 sailors and Marines aboard are conducting a port visit that demonstrates how far U.S.-Vietnamese relations have progressed. Vietnamese leaders agreed to the four-day port call during President Donald J. Trump's visit to the country last year.

"This visit marks a significant milestone in our bilateral relations and demonstrates the U.S. support for a strong, prosperous and independent Vietnam," Defense Department spokesman Army Col. Robert Manning III told Pentagon reporters this morning.

"The visit also builds on the positive momentum of the comprehensive partnership between the U.S. and Vietnam, and will not only serve to strengthen the bilateral defense relationship, but will also help enhance cultural and professional ties."

The sailors and Marines will participate in cultural exchanges with their Vietnamese counterparts, and some personnel will visit a center for victims of Agent Orange -- a defoliant that American planes sprayed on the jungle to remove cover.

"Our nations' relationship has reached new heights in the past few years, and USS Carl Vinson's port visit to Vietnam is a reflection of that," said Navy Adm. Scott Swift, the Commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet. "I am confident that engagements like this will further expand the comprehensive partnership between the United States and Vietnam."

The port call and U.S. operations in the South China Sea are routine, Manning said. "They demonstrate our commitment to regional prosperity and stability," he said.

The United States and Vietnam normalized relations in 1995. The first port visit to Vietnam following the war was by the cruiser USS VANDERGRIFT (FFG-48) in November 2003, which docked at Ho Chi Minh City on the Saigon River. In June 2012, then-Defense Secretary Leon Panetta visited the **USNS RICHARD E. BYRD (T-AKE-4)** in Cam Ranh Bay—the logistics hub of U.S. forces during the Vietnam War.

In October 2016, two U.S. ships -- the submarine tender USS FRANK CABLE (AS-40) and destroyer USS JOHN S. MCCAIN (DDG-56)—also visited Cam Ranh Bay.

The South China Sea is off the coast of Vietnam, and that body of water sees \$5 trillion in cargo pass through each year. A number of nations have competing territorial claims in the South China Sea region. Vietnam, China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Brunei, Thailand and Singapore have disputes in the area. China has been aggressive in asserting claims in the South China Sea area, and has built islands on reefs and militarized those facilities.

The United States takes no sides in the disputes, but insists that freedom of navigation for all is maintained."



The aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson arrives in Danang, Vietnam, for a scheduled port visit, March 5, 2018. The Carl Vinson Strike Group is in the western Pacific as part of a regularly scheduled deployment.

Navy photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Devin M. Monroe



Rear Adm. John Fuller (right), commander of Carl Vinson Strike Group, accepts a plaque from Vietnamese Rear Adm. Do Quoc Viet, commander, Navy Region 3 while aboard USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70), March 6, 2018.

<http://navylive.dodlive.mil/2018/03/15/carl-vinson-carrier-strike-group-celebrating-75-years-of-u-s-3rd-fleet-after-historic-vietnam-visit/>

<https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1458238/aircraft-carrier-uss-carl-vinson-makes-vietnam-port-call/source/GovDelivery/>



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