



THE RETROSPECT



FEBRUARY 2018

TAMPA CHAPTER—A FIVE STAR CHAPTER OF MOAA NATIONAL

VOLUME 24, NUMBER 2

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

USF NAMED THE BEST PUBLIC UNIVERSITY FOR VETERANS

SCHOLARSHIPS

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FEBRUARY SPEAKER: GAVRIEL MAIRONE (INTRODUCED BY JEFF LUCAS, SEE PAGE 4)



MAIRONE

Gavriel Mairone is the founder of MM~LAW LLC, a law firm dedicated exclusively to advancing private human rights law by representation of victims of terrorism, crimes against humanity genocide, torture and human trafficking in private, mass-tort lawsuits to impose accountability upon the financiers, profiteers and aiders and abettors of the perpetrators of such crimes. MM~LAW particularly focuses on confronting the international financial and support infrastructure aiding and abetting the various terrorist organizations connected with global jihad.

In 2016 Gavi won Trial Lawyer of the Year by The Public Justice Foundation for his work as part of the team handling Linde v. Arab Bank. This was a mass tort consolidation case with 117 plaintiffs who were injured in suicide bombings and attacks in Israel, 40 wrongful death cases, along with 440 family members of those injured or killed. The plaintiffs claimed that Arab Bank knowingly provided financial support to terrorist leaders and the families of terrorist operatives, including suicide bombers. This case marks the first time that a financial institution has been brought to trial – and held liable – under the Alien Tort Claims Act. Also in 2016, Gavi was selected as one of the 100 top trial lawyers by The National Trial Lawyers.

Gavi Mairone has over 30–years legal experience specializing in international taxation and business planning and specializing over the last decade in international human rights and humanitarian law, counterterrorism and transitional law. Gavi volunteers as a delegate to the United Nations Human Rights Council as well as serving on the International Human Rights Committee of the American Bar Association and the Subcommittees on Humanitarian Law and Human Rights and Corporate Responsibility. He is also a member of the American Association for Justice, the American Society of International Law, the International Bar Association and the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists. Gavi also serves as member of the International and Legal Team of the Kurdish Regional Government Group for the Recognition of the Kurdish Genocide in London.

Education: LL.M. Taxation, New York University Graduate School of Law; Juris Doctor Summa Cum Laude, Illinois Institute of Technology Chicago Kent College of Law, B.A. Philosophy, Hebrew University and Spertus College of Judaica. Military: Special Forces\Airborne, and Counterterrorism Ops, Israel Defense Force. Gavriel Mairone is an expert in international money laundering and terrorist financing and a pioneer in the development of legal remedies available to victims of violations of international human rights law.

Gavi and MM~LAW currently represent over 10,000 victims of terrorism from 26 countries in complex lawsuits in the United States and in the European Union.

MM~LAW have settled lawsuits with gross settlements exceeding \$1.25 billion and, in addition, are in the process of enforcing judgments exceeding \$8 billion against Iran and Sudan. Gavi was co-author of the Compensation for Victims of State Sponsors of Terrorism Act (enacted on December 18, 2015), which established a fund with initial funding of over \$1 billion, which will be distributed to clients holding judgments against Iran, Sudan, Syria, Cuba and North Korea.

<https://mtmp.com/speaker/gavriel-mairone/>

FEBRUARY

February was added to the Roman calendar in 713 BC. The length of the month changed over time and, at one time, it had as few as 23 days. When Julius Caesar remade the Roman calendar, the month was assigned 28 days during normal years and 29 days during leap years which occurred every four years.

2 February 1901-ARMY NURSING CORPS (female) became a permanent corps of the Medical Department under the Army Reorganization Act (31 Stat. 753) passed by the Congress. Nurses were appointed in the Regular Army for a three-year period, although nurses were not actually commissioned as officers in the Regular Army until forty-six years later.

3 February 1870 - The 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, guaranteeing the right of citizens to vote, regardless of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

3 February 1913 - The 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, granting Congress the authority to collect income taxes.

14 February - Celebrated as (Saint) Valentine's Day around the world, now one of the most widely observed unofficial holidays in which romantic greeting cards and gifts are exchanged.

23 February 1795—Birthday of the Navy Supply Corps.



Upcoming Events

- 01 FEBRUARY BOARD
- 08 FEBRUARY LUNCHEON
- 15 FEBRUARY OPHH
- 01 MARCH BOARD
- 08 MARCH LUNCHEON
- 15 MARCH OPHH
- 05 APRIL BOARD
- 12 APRIL LUNCHEON
- 19 APRIL OPHH

PUBLICATION DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH 2018 ISSUE IS 18 FEBRUARY



OPERATION HELPING HAND UPDATE
By LTC Jim Griffin USA Ret



LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
by LTC Chris Hart, USA (Ret.)

The OPERATION HELPING HAND DINNER

for FEBRUARY will be held on 15 FEBRUARY AT 6:00 PM at the JAMES A. HALEY VA HOSPITAL in the SCI DINING FACILITY (HERO’S CAFÉ). We hope that you all can join us and continue to volunteer your time to support the active duty wounded and injured folks who will be honored. Please plan to meet these WARRIORS and their families. You will be a better person- I guarantee it!

The FEBRUARY DINNER WILL BE SPONSORED BY DTCC, a very dynamic company that had a CHILI COOK OFF to raise the money to sponsor this dinner. The total employee support commitment to OPERATION HELPING HAND is why we have only the deepest respect and admiration for these folks. When you meet some of their volunteers serving the dinners, please say-THANKS!

We again thank CAE USA for their continued support for the JANUARY DINNER. A great company and a great sponsor-THANKS!

Also, a special thanks to BONEFISH GRILL for a fantastic dinner- they will be back again!

Our tireless volunteer base which enables us to consistently provide 96.5% of all the monies donated to go to our wounded 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 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!**



Victor Prato '15, a former member of the Princeton football team and the University ROTC program, was recently awarded the Purple Heart after suffering injuries as leader of his platoon in Kandahar, Afghanistan, where a suicide bomber struck his convoy during a routine patrol on November 13, 2017.

From the AP story: President Donald Trump paid a holiday visit Thursday to wounded service members at Walter Reed National Medical Center, hailing them as “some of the bravest people anywhere in the world.”

During his visit, the president awarded the Purple Heart to 1st Lt. Victor Prato of the 127th Airborne Engineer Battalion, who was injured last month while deployed in Afghanistan.

Prato, 25, of Somers, New York, suffered multiple soft tissue injuries following a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device blast, according to the White House.

TAKE ACTION UNTIL IT’S DONE!

As I write this article, Congress continues to be deadlocked in partisan disagreements on the way forward for keeping our government open. Both sides are in a stalemate—Spending Hawks, Defense Hawks and Centrist alike, are not making any headway. In mid-January, the lawmakers warned that the chances of a government shutdown were greater than at any time since the 16 day closure in October 2013. Without a new funding bill, another short-term Continuing Resolution is the only game in town—this would be the fourth in a row for this fiscal year! In previous testimony, Army Chief of Staff, General Miley called the failure to pass on-time funding measures is tantamount to “dereliction of duty” by Congress. If you agree, ACT NOW by contacting your Congressional representatives in the US House and Senate.

This is a summary of three major issues requiring your immediate attention: end the cycle of Continuing Resolution funding.

FULLY FUND THE DOD FOR FY18

“Just pass the budget, give us some certainty. Another continuing resolution that would keep spending at current levels is not an effective way for us to manage the money and to do the things we need to do to regain our readiness and prepare.” Marine Corps Commandant General Robert Neller stated in recent testimony before Congress. On this point, I fully agree, and encourage you — every Tampa Chapter member — to fully support the position taken by MOAA’s Florida COC President, LTC Marc Oliveri, and Legislative Chair Lt Col Bob Bienvenue, that “Everything else should be on “the back burner” until this is done!”

PREVENT STEEP TRICARE FEE HIKES

The FY 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) negotiations are ongoing. The Senate’s budget calls for LARGE increases across the board. These fee increases are a direct result of the repeal of the 2017 NDAA grandfathering clause which was intended to keep fees where they currently are for beneficiaries in Service prior to January 1, 2018.

REPEAL SEQUESTRATION

Unless current law is changed, Sequestration will return next year and automatically trigger deep cuts in the DoD. These severe cuts will exhaust our resources and capabilities, while exacting a toll on our Military and their Families in incalculable ways.

Contact Members of Congress Today and Until It’s Done!

Sources: MOAA.org, JAN 2018 Military Officer; MOAA FL Council, www.moaafl.org, JAN 12, 2018 Leadership Forum



COPTER CONVENTION

Heavy rains soak the flightline at Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton, CA, Jan. 9, 2018. Marine Corps photo by Pfc. Drake Nickels

<https://www.defense.gov/Photos/Photo-Gallery/igphoto/2001865509/source/>

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PRESIDENT COL CAROL ZIERES USA RET

COL ZIERES

The Tampa Chapter's January luncheon began with the installation of the new board of directors for 2018. We were privileged to have MG EDWARD DORMAN (Director of Logistics and Engineering, U.S. Central Command, J-4) install our board at the Surf's Edge Club. Twenty-one officers raised their right hand as MG DORMAN administered the oath of office via SKYPE technology from his command post in Saudi Arabia. This is the first time the Tampa chapter has used such virtual technology to bring a guest speaker in to our luncheon from the other side of the world, interacting with us on the overhead screen in "real-time." After congratulating the new board and committee members, MG Dorman then gave us a dynamic briefing sharing new innovations and best practices used in logistics management in the USCENTCOM region such as the use of "LOG-WERX," a framework that attempts to match supply with demand for joint logistics requirements, bringing together industry, academia and government to work with coalition partners in the CENTCOM AOR that comprises 18 countries. MG Dorman repeatedly used the phrase, "innovation operating at the speed of war," to heighten our awareness of the rapid technologies necessary to combat new emerging threats.

The other highlight of our luncheon was the opportunity to introduce the new Chairman of the Coalition (CC-J5, USCENTCOM), BG HANS ILIS-ALM from Sweden. It is always a pleasure to have members of the coalition attend our luncheons as we give them an opportunity to tell us something about themselves and we always learn some new and interesting facts about their country.

I'd like to transition my thoughts here and talk about the Florida Council of Chapters Leadership Forum that I attended in Orlando this past weekend. Some great information came out of that Forum that I'd like to briefly share in this column but first I'm pleased to announce that during the awards dinner, our chapter received the LOE AWARD of EXCELLENCE for 2016! As you know, it takes a lot of hard work and dedication of many folks to continue to meet the standards for a Five-Star Chapter—a MOAA National award. I'm very proud of the Tampa Chapter and you should be too! The key-note speaker for the awards dinner was LTG DANA ATKINS, President and CEO of MOAA National. He delivered an overall "State of the Union Address" of MOAA articulating six strategic pillars as part of the overarching strategic plan for the association. They are: Advocacy, Membership and Member Services, Engagement, Councils and Chapters, Financial, and Organizational Capacity. The bottom line is MOAA is a business dealing with expenses over revenue. Of the 355,000 members in the MOAA National database, Florida is the largest Council with 44 chapters. That translates into "WE ARE ONE POWERFUL VOICE!" Many of the Florida chapters shared best practices in member recruiting and retention and how the "branding" of MOAA is being used in their specific chapter's 501c3 charity that is making a difference in their communities. There is no greater example of this than our charity, OPERATION HELPING HAND, that continues to make a huge impact on the lives of hundreds of combat injured Veterans and their families rotating through the JAH VA Hospital.

I encourage you to read the Top 10 Goals for 2018 in the January edition of the Military Officer's Magazine. I articulated 10 chapter Goals to the Tampa Board of Directors at our January board meeting and I'd like to mention Goal Number One that we can all start working on right now: Attend our next luncheon and Invite a friend (Commissioned Officer or Warrant) to come with you and SIGN HIM OR HER UP as a NEW MEMBER of the MOAA Tampa Chapter! I also encourage you to carpool with other chapter members from your neighborhood to the SURF's EDGE CLUB to attend the MOAA luncheons and suggest your riders' alternate drivers each month or share the cost of fuel. While you're on MacDill AFB, take advantage of the amenities the base has to offer such as the commissary, base exchange, pharmacy refill clinic, MWR, etc., and on February 8th, don't forget to stop in and visit the booths at RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY in the lobby of the 6th MEDICAL GROUP CLINIC (from 0900 hrs until 1400 hrs). Both MOAA and OPERATION HELPING HAND will have a table set up along with many other retirement activities (Health Fair, VA Benefits, Legal Assistance, etc) that may be of interest to you. And as always... "WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK – NEVER STOP SERVING"

THE RETROSPECTCAPT DVORNIK
EDITOR

THE RETROSPECT—is published monthly by the Tampa Chapter of the Military Officers' Association of America (MOAA), P.O. Box 6383, MacDill Air Force Base, FL 33608-0383. The Tampa Chapter is a 501-C-19 tax exempt veterans organization not associated with the Department of Defense. The views expressed in individually signed articles do not necessarily reflect Chapter policy.

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.

See more at: <http://www.moaa.org/Benefits/#sthash.4oZgWYl.dpuf>
Volume 24, Number 2—FEBRUARY 2018



TAMPA CHAPTER BULLETIN BOARD

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

(no photo) **LTC EDWARD BRILL USA RET**



LTC MICHAEL NEWCOMB USA AD



1LT VICTOR PRATO USA AD (President Trump gave a Purple Heart to him on TV while he was at Walter Reed, photo, page 2)

(no photo) **FORMER USAF MAJ LINDA PUGSLEY**



COL MATTHEW RUEDI USA AD



LTC LLOYD SHARPER USA RET



LTC CHRISTOPHER STRUNK AD



FORMER LCDR CHARLIE TOUCHTON USN

—Submitted by Col William Schneider, Membership Chairman



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chaplain (COL) Bernard H. Lieving, Jr., USA Ret

Most of you reading this “Chaplain’s Corner” remember the television images of the Island Lady, the 72-foot wooden hulled T-boat, burning after it caught fire shuttling passengers to a Tropical Breeze casino boat in the Gulf of Mexico. You saw its passengers jumping from the boat into the cold Gulf waters in order to save their lives.

The image that most sticks in my mind is the one taken the next morning. It showed the ship burned to the water line with the hull barely visible. The most striking feature was not the remaining hull. Standing out from the rest of the picture was Old Glory blowing in the Gulf breeze atop a metal pole at one end of the hull. It survived the fire.

I thought of other images of the flag under which we have served: Marines raising the flag over Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima, a defining image of the Pacific War; The iconic picture of New York City firefighters raising the flag at Ground Zero after the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center and Pentagon service members hanging the flag from the Pentagon roof down the side of the building after the attack there. Do you remember the image of the flag planted on the moon as a symbol of the pride in human accomplishment?

I remember the flag waving over tents in Vietnam landing zones and in the Saudi Arabian wilderness during Desert Storm. I am sure you remember such images, perhaps from World War II, certainly from the Korean War and every conflict since then in which we have been engaged as a nation. It may have been flying over your ship or from a pole at your air field or over the MASH serving you and your fellow service members.

Regardless of the image you remember, every time we face the flag with hand over heart at our meetings and say the Pledge of Allegiance, we are honoring the valued history of our democracy and affirming our loyalty, fidelity, and dedication not only to the flag; it is also to “the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.” May the way we live our lives reflect such commitment!

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

LT COL THOMAS ALLEN USAF RET

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FORMER ARMY CPT JOHN RICKERSON, 18320 Dollybrook Lane, Lutz, FL 33549-5858

—submitted by CW3 Bill Farrow, Sick Call Chairman



CREW COLORS

Navy Capt. Joseph Olson, the commanding officer of USS AMERICA (CV 66), addresses the crew on the ship’s flight deck in the Pacific Ocean, Jan. 6, 2018. The America is operating in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

Navy photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Vance Hand

LUCAS BIOGRAPHICAL RESUME



Married 30 years to Dr. Joanna Lucas with two children Rachel 16 years old and Joseph 15 years old, Mr. Lucas resides in Pinellas County. Jeff Lucas began practicing at the Public Defender’s Office handling all criminal matters from petit theft to homicide. Jeff Lucas is a Managing Partner of Lucas Magazine; his practice now focuses on civil litigation.

A former Army Officer, he is one of the key individuals who organized Sand Soldiers of America to assist military and their families as they transitioned back to civilian life. Jeff Lucas wanted to have a broader reach in assisting others in his community, and has organized along with his Partner Jim Magazine, the Lucas Magazine Community Foundation. Jeff Lucas serves as President on the Board of Directors for the foundation. The Foundation focuses on awareness, education, honor and recognition events supporting First Responders, Veterans, Children and Single Parents. His commitment is evident as he is a member, sponsor, philanthropist, and organizer in the community where he lives and works. The following is a list of his avid community and charity involvement:

Memberships: West Pasco Bar Association, Florida Justice Administration, Eagles, West Pasco Chamber Member, Greater Pasco Chamber of Commerce, Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce, The Greater Wesley Chapel Chamber of Commerce, Greater Hernando County Chamber of Commerce, Trustee for the Pasco County Law Library, Dayspring Academy (serves as attorney), Past Director, Sand Soldiers of America, BNI Eagles, President, Lucas Magazine Community Foundation

Sponsorships: Former Cotee River Bikefest, Former Chasco Fiesta, Former Main Street NPR, Joshua House, Fisher House, Sand Soldiers of America, Lucas Magazine Community Foundation, Diva Hope, Rap House, Area schools, Salvation Army, Relay for Life, 4 Kida Charities, Volunteer Way, Metropolitan Ministries, Helping Hands, The Rope Center, Hope Youth Ranch, Kiwanis of Weeki Wachee, Chicks-N-The Wind, First Responders Pasco, Hernando and Pinellas, Veterans Alternative Resource Center, Homebound Heroes, Women’s 360.

LUNCHEON PHOTOS
—submitted by Linda Howard



Presentation of the wooden coin box (accepted by COL Rudy and LTC Strunk, Centcom CCJ4 Operations, on behalf of MG Ed Dorman)



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/>

HALEY TAKES PATIENT SAFETY AWARD FOR EIGHTH YEAR



James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital has received VA's top patient safety award for the eighth consecutive year.

The Cornerstone Award is presented by the VA National Center for Patient Safety (NCPS), an organization dedicated to the nationwide reduction and prevention of inadvertent harm to patients as a result of their care. The award was initiated in 2008 to recognize VA leaders in patient safety and was presented to JAHVH at the Gold Level, the highest level in the program.

Two of the most important criteria for the award is staff reported close calls and adverse events, and the Root Cause Analysis process the hospital uses when such events are reported.

“The Root Cause Analysis is a formal analysis into a patient safety event that caused or could have potentially caused harm,” said JAHVH Patient Safety Manager Laura Smith. “We take subject matter experts and stakeholders, and we look at the systems and process issues that led to a serious or potentially serious adverse event—what happened, why it happened and how we can prevent an adverse event from happening again in our facility.”

NCPS looks at the Root Cause Analysis process to ensure that suggested actions to prevent future episode are strong and more likely to sustain patient safety in the future.

“Each RCA had to have at least one Intermediate or Strong Action with management concurrence,” Smith said. “Rewriting a policy or re-training would be considered a weak action because although good things to do, are not likely to lead to lasting safety improvements. A stronger action would be standardizing a process or doing an engineering control. All of our Root Cause Analyses were excellent quality.”

NCPS also takes into account the number of reports filed in a year, with the goal of ensuring that staff feel comfortable reporting such events. The majority of the JAHVH reports were “close calls,” Smith said, where a staff member caught a possible mistake before it caused any harm.

“The staff-reported adverse events and close calls represent the foundation of a robust and effective patient safety reporting system,” Smith said. “Each patient safety report is an opportunity for learning and improvement. We encourage people to report these events so that problems can be defined, solutions identified, improvements made, and the hospital is safer because of that.”

“The Patient Safety Program is a team sport,” Smith said. “Although there is a small number of staff in the program, the entire facility is working together, and the entire facility should share in our Cornerstone Award.”

The program is far from static, as well. Smith explained that a new patient safety reporting system is about to come online in the new year.

The Joint Patient Safety Reporting System is the same system used by the Department of Defense for reporting patient safety issues or adverse events. Staff members will be able to enter incident reports into a standardized electronic template versus the individual systems in place here and at other facilities.

Smith said the new system will generate better patient safety reports both locally and at the national level. Using the information from both VA and DOD will allow national leaders to see common themes and triggers of potential safety issues among the reports, and be able to put out corrective actions. The new system is scheduled to go into use sometime in January.

https://www.tampa.va.gov/features/Patient_Safety_Award.asp

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS.

- 01 COL RONALD BUCHERT USAF RET
- 01 LTCOL BEN EDWARDS USMC AD
- 02 MAJ JAMES C CLIFFORD USA RET
- 02 CDR DARYL DAVIS USN RET
- 02 LT COL BILLIE M DOWNER USAF RET
- 03 LTCOL BLAISE MILLER USMC RET
- 04 1LT GLORIA DUGGAN USAF AD
- 04 MG MICHAEL JONES USA RET
- 06 LTC RICHARD LYONS USA RET
- 06 LT BRYON RIOS USCG AD
- 08 LT COL ADRIAN BYERS USAF AD
- 08 COL RONALD ESTEP USA RET
- 09 CAPT MONTGOMERY HINKSON MC USN RET
- 13 MAJ QUIANA WRIGHT USA AD
- 14 RADM JON BAYLESS USN RET
- 15 CW4 MICHAEL L HODSON USA RET
- 15 CW04 THEODORE RUSHNAK USCG RET
- 16 MAJ CATHERINE GIBSON USAF RET
- 19 MAJ ALBERT GREER USA
- 21 LTC KIMBERLY MOROS USA AD
- 21 LTC DAVID NILSEN USA RET
- 22 LT JEANNE COHEN NC USA RET
- 22 COL CHET R JUSTICE USAF RET
- 22 LCDR STEPHEN MILLER USN RET
- 23 CW4 HENRY KUHN USAR RET
- 24 COL ALFRED RODRIGUEZ USAF RET
- 25 CPT BARRY J SPEARE USA RET
- 25 LTC PAULA STEWART USA RET
- 26 LT COL LYNN GRINNELL USAF RET
- 27 LT COL STEPHENIE MEHNER USAFR AD

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canterburytower.org

PHOTOS FROM OPERATION HELPING HAND CHRISTMAS DINNER

By LTC Bob Sawallesh, USA RET



DOWNED C-2A GREYHOUND LOCATED IN PHILIPPINE SEA

By Commander, U.S. Seventh Fleet Public Affairs Office



Official U.S. Navy file photo of a C-2A Greyhound assigned the "Providers" of Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VRC) 30 landing on the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76).

YOKOSUKA, Japan (NNS)—U.S. Navy's Supervisor of Salvage and Diving (SUPSALV) deployed the team to Japan in December to embark a contracted salvage vessel and proceed to the crash site at sea. Once on station, highly skilled operators searched for the aircraft's emergency relocation pinger with a U.S. Navy-owned towed pinger locator (TPL-25) system. The TPL uses passive sensors to "listen" for the pinger's frequency.

Initially delayed by poor weather conditions, the team deployed the TPL to optimal search depths of 3,000 feet above the ocean floor Dec. 29. After marking the aircraft's location, the search team returned to port.

The C-2A rests at a depth of about 18,500 feet, making the salvage phase of this operation the deepest recovery attempt of an aircraft to date. In the coming weeks, the team will return to the site with a side-scan-sonar (SSS) and remote operated vehicle (ROV) to map the debris field and attach heavy lines for lifting the aircraft to the surface. Despite very challenging conditions, every effort will be made to recover the aircraft and our fallen Sailors.

Assigned to Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VRC 30) forward deployed to Japan, the C-2A aircraft was carrying 11 crew and passengers when it crashed. Eight personnel were recovered immediately by U.S. Navy Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC 12). For the



MOODY MONSTER

Snow covers an HC-130J Combat King II aircraft on the flight line of Moody Air Force Base, Ga., Jan. 3, 2018. An extreme winter storm brought the first snow the base has seen since 2010.

<https://www.defense.gov/Photos/Photo-Gallery/igphoto/2001862985/source/GovDelivery/>
Air Force photo by Andrea Jenkins

next three days, Ronald Reagan led combined search and rescue for three Sailors with the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF), covering nearly 1,000 square nautical miles before ending the search.

http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=103948

USF NAMED THE BEST PUBLIC UNIVERSITY IN THE NATION FOR VETERANS

Submitted by LTC Robert Sawallesh USA RET



Prestigious honor from Military Times marks the third consecutive year USF ranks in the top two in the country.

<http://news.usf.edu/article/templates/?a=8164&z=220>

TAMPA, Fla. (Nov. 20, 2017) – The University of South Florida is the top four-year public university in the country for student veterans, according to rankings released on Monday by Military Times magazine. Among all public and private institutions, Military Times named USF the second best school nationally.

USF consistently ranks near the top of the publication's annual list, including first overall last year.

"We are once again honored to be recognized by Military Times," Larry Braue, director of the Office of Veteran Success at USF, said. "At USF, we believe our comprehensive and innovative approach to supporting student veterans as they transition out of the military truly leads to academic success."

Military Times evaluated institutions in five categories: university culture, academic outcomes/quality, student support, academic policies and cost/financial aid. Evaluations were also based on a comprehensive 150-question survey submitted by each school, as well as the analysis of public educational data from three different federal agencies, responses of veterans about what is important to them and the editorial judgment of the magazine.

In releasing its rankings, Military Times highlights USF's expansion of veteran-centered programs, including a course designed specifically to help student veterans find a job after graduation. The class brings in business leaders from a variety of industries and offers veterans opportunities to improve their resumes and job interview skills.

The publication also notes USF's recent growth in its student veteran population. The university currently enrolls 1,838 student veterans, compared to 1,774 in fall 2016. "We are focused on and providing the Tampa Bay Region with a talented, qualified and experienced workforce," Braue added.

USF's recent finishes on the Military Times annual list:

2018: #2

2017: #1

2016: #2

2015: #5

2014: #5

2013: #4

<http://news.usf.edu/ARTICLE/TEMPLATES/?a=8164&z=220>

TASK FORCE DARBY AIDS BOYS IN CAMEROON

By Army Staff Sgt. Christina Turnipseed U.S. Army Africa



Army Sgt. Adrian Cordova, a mail clerk, carries food donated by American soldiers and civilians at the Saare Jabbama youth rehabilitation center in Garoua, Cameroon, Dec. 23, 2017.

Army photo by Staff Sgt. Christina Turnipseed

GAROUA, Cameroon, Jan. 8, 2018 — In Task Force Darby's efforts to support the Cameroon military's fight against the violent extremist organization Boko Haram, other humanitarian opportunities often present themselves.

One such opportunity was a civil affairs-led team made up of soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment; the 806th Adjutant General Detachment; Civil Affairs Team 4032 and other service members. This team provided food, soccer balls and moral support to the boys of Saare Jabbama, a youth rehabilitation center for boys ages 8 to 18.

According to Army Capt. Scott Wyly, commander of Civil Affairs Team 4032, many of the boys living at the center either can't find jobs, can't find their parents or are homeless. The reasons why several soldiers and service members volunteered to deliver food, soccer balls and nets also vary.

"The civil affairs team has had a strong relationship with the center for the last couple years and visits the center on a monthly basis. Private donors from the United States frequently send donations for the [civil affairs] team to give to the children at Saare Jabbama," Wyly said.

The motive for some of the participating troops to volunteer for the humanitarian mission was a love for giving.

"Giving to the boys' home was the best feeling for me," said Army Sgt. Adrian Cordova, a mail clerk with the 806th Adjutant General Detachment.

"It was great to be able to see the excitement and smiles on their faces when we arrived. Playing soccer with the boys was an even greater feeling," he said.

Army Sgt. John Marshall, also a mail clerk with the 806th Adjutant General Detachment, said he also enjoyed giving.

"I wanted to give back to other families and children that are less fortunate than I am. I feel really blessed to be able to help others in their time of need," Marshall said. "I know what it's like to hit rock bottom. So for me, it is a blessing to give back." Army Spc. Ryan Worwood, with the 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, said he took part out of a general love for children.

"I've always wanted to do this since I got here," he said. "I love little kids a lot. So, it was no surprise to my family that I volunteered."

<https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1410147/task-force-darby-aids-boys-in-cameroon/source/GovDelivery/>

FUNERAL DETAILS ENHANCE MARINE'S COMMITMENT TO SERVICE

By Marine Corps Sgt. Ian Ferro, Marine Forces Reserve



Staff Sgt. Brian P. Spittler, a team chief with 4th Civil Affairs Group, Force Headquarters Group, Marine Forces Reserve, plays his bugle at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Dec. 27, 2017. The Marines provided military funeral honors at the ceremony of Master Sgt. Catherine G. Murray who was the first female Marine to join the Fleet Marine Corps Reserve.

SILVER SPRING, MD, Jan. 4, 2018 — Sorrow, sadness and grief are among the most common feelings associated with funeral services. But for Marines, a service honoring the life of a fellow leatherneck may also invoke feelings of pride, commitment and honor.

Military funeral honors are the final ceremonial demonstration of gratitude to those who, in times of war and peace, have faithfully defended their nation.

Traditionally, participation in a funeral detail gives a great deal of pride and honor to any Marine. The Marine Corps Reserve undertakes the solemn duty of supporting funeral honors for the vast majority of Marine Corps veterans. In 2016, Marine Corps Reserve units and personnel performed more than 19,000 military funeral honors, representing 91 percent of all funeral honors rendered by the Marine Corps that year.

Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Brian P. Spittler stands out for his devotion and dedication to giving his fellow Marines one final salute. Spittler, a team chief with Marine Forces Reserve's 4th Civil Affairs Group in New Orleans, has participated in nearly 200 funeral details during the past seven years.

"Funeral ceremonies mean a lot to me, to the family and to the community," Spittler said. "It is an emotional experience and it never really gets old to me."

Part of his motivation and incentive to perform to the very best of his ability is driven by the fact that quite often, the families of the Marines being honored don't have a lot of involvement with the Marine Corps or the military, he said. Sometimes, the families have never had the opportunity to see a military ceremony before. With Marine Corps Reserve units located across the country, Reserve Marines are uniquely positioned to interact with veteran families. The funeral ceremony is an opportunity to develop the relationship between the Marine Corps, families and the community. Spittler said he wants to make it meaningful and give the families a good impression.

"It feels good to know that you are doing something good for those families," he said. "I am definitely proud to be a part of it, but at the same time I am humbled and I am there to serve the Marine and their family. For me that means a lot."

Spittler explains that Marines are committed to paying tribute to

their fallen brothers- and sisters-in-arms. "I am proud to be a part of the ceremony in which we are finally laying a Marine to rest," he said.

Military funeral honors can include, but are not limited to, a military chaplain to address family members and friends of the fallen service member, an American flag draped over the casket, and a funeral detail serving as honor guards to execute the ceremony. Traditionally, the funeral detail will act as pallbearers, fold the flag, present it to the next of kin, fire a three-volley salute and play taps, while rendering a last salute of respect to the deceased.

Spittler was a lance corporal when he participated in his first funeral detail in 2010. "I was 'voluntold' for it," he said. "They needed a Marine for the detail, and I just so happened to have my dress blue uniform on hand, so my sergeant told me: 'Hey Marine, get ready, you will be in a funeral detail.' All I could say was 'Aye aye, sergeant!'"

During his first funeral detail, Spittler was one of the riflemen to execute the three-shot volley. At first, the duty didn't hold any special significance for him and he wasn't interested in participating in future funeral details.

"I was away from the ceremony and I couldn't really see the family or what was going on," he said. But Spittler continued to be assigned to funeral ceremonies. His disinterest in the ceremonies endured until he was assigned to be one of the Marines who would fold the flag. For the very first time, he would be up and close to the ceremony, the family and the fallen Marine. That day, Spittler said, his view and opinions on funeral details drastically changed.

"It was the first time I folded the flag in front of the family," he said. "I was so moved by that experience that when they asked for someone to participate in a detail, I volunteered for it; and I did it again, and again and again."

From that point forward, the young Marine became increasingly involved in funeral details. He recalls that as a corporal, being in charge of certain aspects of funeral details and having to meet such a high level of proficiency and discipline allowed him to exercise and hone his leadership skills.

Spittler said he values the numerous encounters he's had with Marine veterans. "I have met Marines of all generations," he said. "Before I started doing these funerals, I had only worked with Marines within my generation. But when I started doing these funerals, I started working with a lot of other organizations, such as the American Legion and the American Veterans Organizations. I have even met veterans from Korea, Vietnam and World War II—of which there aren't many left."

Spittler explains that throughout his career as a Reserve Marine, he has always been ready and willing to help his command. Participating in funeral details and other volunteer-based programs, such as Toys for Tots, is the best way he has found to do it.

Sometimes, Reserve Marines have the opportunity to participate in Marine Corps events and ceremonies outside their scheduled drill periods. Marines can earn points towards retirement when they are involved in official events requested by their command. Their actions are also noted and considered favorably by their command for promotions and awards.

Spittler is now a staff sergeant with a bright and promising future in the Marine Corps. The motivated Marine continues to volunteer his time participating in Marine Corps events and ceremonies and mentoring junior Marines to do the same.

MOAA TAMPA CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

(please print and send to MGEN (Ret) James G. Jones Scholarship Committee Chairman,
15824 Sanctuary Drive, Tampa, FL 33647-1075)

Date of Application: _____

Sponsor's Name: _____ Relationship to Student: _____

Date sponsor joined Tampa chapter: _____ National MOAA Member #: _____

Student Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City State Zip: _____ - _____
City State Zip Plus four

Student Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Student Date of Birth: _____ Student Gender: _____

Graduating School: _____

College Accepted: _____

Academic Awards & Honors (Name & Year Received):

School Activities (Clubs, bands, athletics, etc. – Name & Year):

Other Extracurricular Activities, Community Related Activities (scouting, volunteering, work, etc. – Name & Year):

TAMPA CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIPS

By MGEN James Jones USAF RET

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that the Military Officers Association of America (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 2018-2019 school year.

Applicants must be a dependent or grandchild of an active or retired military officer who has been a member in good standing of the MOAA Tampa Chapter and National MOAA for at least one year prior to the date of application for the scholarship. Further requirements are enclosed with this letter and may also be found at the MOAA website www.moaatampa.org.

Completed applications and documentation must be submitted by **1 April 2018 to:**

MGEN (Ret) James G. Jones Scholarship Committee Chairman, 15824 Sanctuary Drive, Tampa, FL 33647-1075

Scholarship award winners will be announced **May 1, 2018**. Awards will be presented Thursday, June 14, 2018, at MacDill Air Force Base at 11:30 a.m. during the MOAA Luncheon & Awards Ceremony. Recipients, or an immediate family member, must attend in order to receive the scholarship award.

BLACK SEA SKIES

The guided-missile destroyer USS Carney operates in the Black Sea, Jan. 7, 2018, while patrolling to support regional allies and partners and U.S. national security interests in Europe.

Navy photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class James R. Turner

<https://www.defense.gov/Photos/Photo-Gallery/igphoto/2001863717/source/GovDelivery/>



RESERVIST'S MILITARY, CIVILIAN JOB RESPONSIBILITIES MATCH

By Air Force Senior Airman Tara Abrahams, 940th Air Refueling Wing



Air Force Maj. Francis J. Tobias, director of equal opportunity for the Air Force Reserve's 940th Air Refueling Wing, explains a teambuilding activity to airmen at Beale Air Force Base, Calif., Dec. 3, 2017.

Air Force photo by Senior Airman Tara R. Abrahams

BEALE AIR FORCE BASE, CA, Jan. 5, 2018—For many reservists, work life does not end when they take off the uniform. Air Force Maj. Francis J. Tobias is one of these airmen. Aside from a change of setting and suit and tie, his profession remains the same. "I do the exact same job; I just change clothes," he said.

In uniform, Tobias serves as the director of equal opportunity for the 940th Air Refueling Wing

here. In his civilian position, he is the vice president of human resources for the California Dental Association. This wasn't always the case though.

It took years of patience before Tobias was able to put his two careers together. It started when he joined ROTC as a freshman with an undeclared major. Shortly into his first year, his detachment commander told him he needed to pick a major to stay in the program.

Tobias was handed a list of majors and began reading through it. It was full of technical studies and a few foreign languages, but none of them was sparking his interest. He continued reading until he reached the last subject on the page: personnel. "What's personnel?" he asked. The commander told him it was the study of human resources management. Tobias thought it may be interesting, but in the end, he said, he chose it because it had the least amount of units needed to graduate. But after his first course, he knew he made the right decision. "I took HR 101 and fell in love with it," he said.

His passion for helping people fit perfectly with the supportive nature of the career field. "Whatever I do is to help someone else, and that's what I love about it," he explained.

When it came time to commission, the demand for personnel officers had decreased. Tobias followed the needs of the Air Force to a logistics position.

On the civilian side, he continued with what he studied, holding various human resources jobs and growing into more advanced

positions. Now that he's the California Dental Association's vice president of human resources, he and his team provide services to 28,000 dentists across the state.

Human resources services, like equal opportunity in the military, help to develop leadership skills and keep the work environment running efficiently. Both provide training, raise awareness and remove any and all unprofessional, discriminatory and harassing behavior. HR also offers assistance with hiring, recruiting, reviews and benefits.

About 10 years after entering the human resources career field, Tobias was presented a chance to become an Air Force Reserve personnel officer. He was thrilled.

"The opportunity to connect both my civilian and military careers in this way was both a blessing and a privilege," the major said. "I felt doing the same job would allow me to grow, both personally and professionally, and this growth would allow for me to be a better support for all those I would help."

Helping is what equal opportunity focuses on. Tobias and his team strive to enhance mission readiness and ensure all Beale reservists have positive work environments. Airmen are encouraged to reach out to his office and speak up about any difficulties they may be facing.

"We welcome all problems," he said. "We want [airmen] to feel if they have an issue, they have somewhere to go."

In addition to mediating problems, equal opportunity also gives briefings during wing commander's calls and organizes activities to foster healthy workplace communications.

"Without positive human relations, it is very detrimental and makes the mission difficult to complete," Tobias said. "If a member is facing discriminatory behavior, there's no way we can expect that airman to do their job, much less even want to be in the Air Force... If that [behavior] persists, the mission stops."

Workplace problems can arise in any environment and are often stressful, but rest assured there is always someone to lean on. In or out of uniform, Tobias and his passion for supporting others will help keep the mission running smoothly.

<https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1408801/face-of-defense-reservists-military-civilian-job-responsibilities-match/source/GovDelivery/>



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FREE LUNCH

You are wrong if you think there is no such thing as a free lunch. Bring a friend who is eligible to join our chapter to our monthly luncheon meeting. If he or she joins the chapter, you receive a free lunch. If they are not able to attend the luncheon, email Bill Schneider, geowillyl@aol.com. He will send you a join form for the new member to complete. Bring the completed form to the luncheon with the \$25.00 membership fee and your lunch is free.



America's wounded and injured active duty military have responded to their country's call. Since May 2004, our mission for the past fourteen years has been to respond to them and their families in all of their needs. We will continue with Tampa Chapter's help.

