



THE RETROSPECT

AUGUST 2019

TAMPA CHAPTER — A FIVE STAR CHAPTER OF MOAA NATIONAL

VOL. 25, Number 8

SPECIAL INTEREST

PRESIDENT'S ARTICLE

Upcoming Events

OUR BOARD WILL MEET AT 1000 on:
+ 01 AUGUST
+ 08 SEPTEMBER
+ 12 OCTOBER

LUNCHEON MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 1130 AT SURF'S EDGE CLUB ON 08 AUGUST

MENU:

Garden Salad
Meat Lasagna
Garlic Green Beans
Alfredo Farfalle
Garlic Bread
Cannoli Cake

PUBLICATION DEADLINE FOR THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE IS 25 AUGUST 2019

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR AUGUST 2019 COL CAROL ZIERES, PRESIDENT, TAMPA CHAPTER



PRESIDENT COL ZIERES USA RETIRED

The July luncheon provided a prime opportunity to recognize all of the many volunteers who helped with the 42nd Annual Florida Council of Chapters convention hosted by the Tampa Chapter in Safety Harbor, Florida last month. With all the outstanding efforts that contributed to the success of this event, I could not be prouder of the Tampa Chapter! If you haven't yet had an opportunity, I encourage you to go online and visit the chapter's website: www.moaatampa.org and view the superb photographs that have been posted from the 2019 convention. The photos speak for themselves as testimony that everyone in attendance had a great time. You may wish to mark your Smart Phone calendar now for next year's FCOC convention at the Palm Beach Gardens Marriott; those dates are 29-31 May 2020.

We were privileged to have CAPT Steve Swift, USNR (Ret) as our July luncheon guest speaker. Having been a member of MOAA for over 15 years, Steve is no stranger to the Tampa Chapter and a big supporter to our signature Charity, Operation Helping Hand. He is a world renowned Triathlete and Run Coach for the Brandon Running Association and helped raise \$6,000 in charitable funds from the annual SHAMROCK Classic Run (10K/5K/1 mile Fun-Run) donating the proceeds to Operation Helping Hand! A 1987 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA) in Annapolis, MD and now retired after a 30 year military career, CAPT Swift gave us a very informative Power Point presentation on some facts, figures, and statistics on his Alma Mater, the USNA, where he continues to serve as a volunteer USNA Blue & Gold Officer and area coordinator for the Greater Tampa Bay area, including director of communications for the USNA Tampa Bay Alumni Chapter. Everyone remained on the edge of their seats as he shared some of his coaching philosophy regarding the importance of staying fit during the retirement years; 30 minutes of moderate exercise, 3 times per week! He talked about the opportunities at the Naval Academy that is always looking for a few good men and women. A big shift has occurred in the student enrollment in that 25 percent of the student population now consists of women midshipmen. He emphasized how "We" as retired officers and members of MOAA can be influential in the recruiting process. On that note, I'm pleased to announce the Tampa Chapter's newest member, Colonel Patty Horan, USAF (Ret) joined the chapter on July 11th. We were also delighted to have one new coalition member join us for lunch, COL Richard Pleijsan, from The Netherlands was invited to the podium to introduce himself, sharing some personal insight on his home country as well as his first impressions of living in the Tampa Bay area. I hope you had a chance to contact your legislative officials regarding the pending House Defense Bill which includes the 3.1 percent pay raise and the Widow's Tax Repeal, all of which is detailed in the electronic MOAA Newsletter that MOAA National publishes on a weekly basis. To get on the mailing list, you must subscribe to the newsletter by visiting the www.MOAA.org website and "opt-in" at the email preference center so you can stay up to date on MOAA's legislative efforts and congressional votes affecting you and your benefits.



CAPT DVORNIK

is electronically published monthly by members of the Tampa Chapter of the Military Officers' Association of America (MOAA), P.O. Box 6383,

MacDill Air Force Base, FL 33608-0383 and is viewed on line at <http://www.moaatampa.org/>.

The Tampa Chapter MOAA, Inc. 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.

"AS ALWAYS, WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK"

"-NEVER STOP SERVING -"

"TAKING CARE OF OUR TROOPS IS A LIFETIME COMMITMENT"



COL. Stephen P. Snelson

AUGUST SPEAKER: COLONEL STEPHEN P. SNELSON

Colonel Stephen P. Snelson is the Commander, 6th Air Mobility Wing, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. He is responsible for the wing's worldwide combat air refueling and airlift missions and provides installation support to Headquarters U.S. Central Command, Headquarters U.S. Special Operations Command and 31 other Joint mission partners. As the Commander, he is responsible for the security and well-being of the base's 19,900 employees and their families, along with \$2.8 billion in base property and capital assets.

Colonel Snelson was commissioned in May 1997 as a Distinguished Graduate of the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York. He served in various flying and staff positions at the squadron, wing, major command, and joint levels including Chief of Special Operations and Executive Officer to the Commander, Air Mobility Command. He has flown operational missions worldwide including combat missions in support of Operations ALLIED FORCE, SOUTHERN WATCH, ENDURING FREEDOM, IRAQI FREEDOM, and NEW DAWN.

Prior to his current position, Colonel Snelson was the Vice Commander, 62d Airlift Wing, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington.

EDUCATION

1997 Bachelor of Science Degree in Aerospace Engineering, Syracuse University, Syracuse, N.Y.

- 2003 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
- 2008 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence
- 2009 Master of Aeronautical Science, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University
- 2009 Intermediate Service School, CSAF POLAD Fellowship, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
- 2010 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., by correspondence
- 2014 Masters of Strategic Science, Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pa.

ASSIGNMENTS

- October 1997 - October 1998, Student, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas
- October 1998 - February 2002, C-17 Instructor Pilot, 15th Airlift Squadron, Charleston AFB, S.C.
- February 2002 - January 2005, Evaluator Pilot, Flight Commander, Chief of Special Operations, Special Operations Planner, 16th Airlift Squadron, Charleston AFB, S.C.
- January 2005 - November 2005, Operations Planner, C-17 Program Integration Office, Hickam AFB, Hawaii
- November 2005 - July 2006, Evaluator Pilot, Chief of Standardization and Evaluation, 535th Airlift Squadron, Hickam AFB, Hawaii
- July 2006 - July 2007, Action Officer, COMPACAF Action Group, Hickam AFB, Hawaii
- July 2007 - May 2008, Aide-de-Camp, COMPACAF, Hickam AFB, Hawaii
- May 2008 - May 2009, Foreign Policy Fellow, Office of the Political Advisor to the CSAF, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
- May 2009 - June 2011, Political-Military Planner, Strategic Plans and Policy, Joint Staff, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
- June 2011 - June 2013, Commander, 305th Operations Support Squadron, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.
- June 2013 - June 2014, Student, Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pa.
- June 2014 - July 2016, Executive Officer to the Commander, Air Mobility Command, Scott AFB, Ill.
- July 2016 - June 2018, Vice Commander, 62d Airlift Wing, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.
- June 2018 - Present, Commander, 6th Air Mobility Wing, MacDill AFB, Fla.

SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

May 2009 - June 2011, Political-Military Planner, Strategic Plans and Policy, Joint Staff, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command Pilot
 Flight hours: More than 3,000
 Aircraft flown: T-37, T-1, KC-135, KC-10 and C-17

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

- Legion of Merit
- Defense Meritorious Service Medal
- Meritorious Service Medal
- Air Medal
- Aerial Achievement Medal
- Air Force Commendation Medal
- Army Commendation Medal
- Joint Service Achievement Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

- Second Lieutenant June 12, 1997
- First Lieutenant June 12, 1999
- Captain June 12, 2001
- Major April 1, 2007
- Lieutenant Colonel Dec. 1, 2010
- Colonel May 1, 2016

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome aboard to Melissa Marison, owner of Operations Made Easy LLC. She now has the task of putting the RETROSPECT together each month and this is her debut issue. She follows in the able footsteps of Dick and Shirley Helveston. Our President on behalf of the Board of Directors has signed a contract for Melissa to provide monthly services to layout and post the RETROSPECT to our Tampa Chapter website. Melissa is a great supporter of the military and it has been a pleasure working with her on this issue. She has been our web master and has done great work for Operation Helping Hand. We are indeed fortunate to have her talented professional services.



Melissa Marison

CAPT DVORNIK
EDITOR

Each month we will have an interesting story from one of the services about changes in the training or in the ever evolving culture of today's military. This edition features an Army story "Field Artillery Back to Emphasizing 'Charts and Darts' "

If you have desired to be an Editor or you have it on your bucket list please contact me DSDvornik2@msn.com for details about the job. December 2019 will be my last RETROSPECT as Editor. Thanks in advance for your interest in this exciting volunteer activity. If I can do it, so can you.

Cheers, CAPT DONALD F. DVORNIK USN (Ret.)



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



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT: COL CAROL ZIERES USA RET
1ST VICE PRESIDENT: COL CHARLES J DALCOURT, USA RET
2ND VICE PRESIDENT: COL WILLIAM A SCHNEIDER USA RET
EDITOR, *THE RETROSPECT*: CAPT DONALD DVORNIK USN RET
PAST PRESIDENT: LTC JIM GRIFFIN USA RET
TREASURER: LTCOL KENNETH MARTIN USMCR RET
SECRETARY: CW2 THOMAS SOUTH USA RET;
SENIOR CHAPLAIN: (COL) BERNARD H LIEVING JR USA RET
SENIOR MEMBER: MAJ GEN JAMES JONES USAF RET

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

CHAIRMAN OF OPERATION HELPING HAND: LTC JIM GRIFFIN USA RET
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN: COL WILLIAM A SCHNEIDER USA RET
LEGISLATIVE LIAISON: COL CHARLES J DALCOURT, USA RET
CIVILIAN RECRUITING/LEGAL ASSIST.: FMR NAVY LTJG BILL MITCHELL
SICK CALL: CW3 BILL FARROW, USA RET
NATIONAL GUARD/RESERVE LIAISON: VACANT
SURVIVING SPOUSE LIAISON: RENÉE BRUNELLE
PUBLIC RELATIONS: MAJ DOLORES INCREMONA USAF RET;
ROTC/JROTC/BASE ENTRY : MAJ JOHN T MASSEY USAF RET;
RESERVATIONS: LT COL JEANNE RICHARD USAF RET
DATA BASE MANAGER: CW2 THOMAS SOUTH USA RET
SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRMAN: MAJ GEN JAMES JONES USAF RET
FLAG OFFICER LIAISON: MAJ GEN JAMES JONES USAF RET
SURF'S EDGE LIAISON: LT COL RICHARD SIEGMAN USAF RET



2 AUGUST
LT COL ADRIAN R BYERS USAF AD
LT KAROL CHORDAS USN RET
3 AUGUST
LT COL ROBERT BUCKLEY USAF RET
FMR USA MAJ JOHN CAMMACK
LT COL FRED FRESHCORN USAF RET
LT COL LORI THOMASON USAF RET
MAJ ELLSWORTH WILLIAMS USA RET
4 AUGUST
LCDR SCOTT J PRICE NOAA AD
CDR EDWARD SOCHA USN RET
5 AUGUST
LTC TOM MACKIEWICZ USA RET
6 AUGUST
MAJ GEN GEORGE NORWOOD USAF
CPT PEDRO OLIVAR-MONTANEZ USAR RET
LTC KEITH PARKER USA AD
7 AUGUST
MAJ NEIL COSENTINO USAF RET
8 AUGUST
LTC F DOUGLAS ANDREWS USA RET
AUXILIARY MEMBER ANNA DAVEY
9 AUGUST
CAPT MARTYN ALLEN USN
LTC LORRAINE BABEU USA RET
10 AUGUST
LTC VANCE JENNINGS PHD USA RET
CAPT DOUGLAS G KNAPP USN RET
12 AUGUST
CAPT DAVID DANIEL USN RET
CAPT WALTER MILLER USCG RET
AUXILIARY MEMBER MAXINE TERRY
13 AUGUST
LTCOL WILLIAM J LOHMAN USMCR RET
LCDR NICKOLAS J TOTH NOAA AD
14 AUGUST
MAJ DANIEL B KALSON USMC RET
FORMER CPT ROBERT T QUINN USA
15 AUGUST
COL LEWIS VANDYKE USA RET
16 AUGUST
COL EARNEST HANSLEY USA RET
17 AUGUST
LTC VICTOR LINDENMEYER USA RET
19 AUGUST
LTC EDWARD BRILL USA RET
20 AUGUST
LT COL JEANNE RICHARD USAF RET
21 AUGUST
COL SANDY PUFAL USA RET
COL WALTER TANNER USA RET
24 AUGUST
LTC JOE KOOLS PHD USA RET
MAJ SUSAN MURPHY USMCR
LTCOL CHRISTOPHER NICELY USAF RET
28 AUGUST
CAPT R PAUL KENNETT USN RET
31 AUGUST
MAJ STEPHEN HARTNETT USMC RET



Is your AUGUST birthday missing?
JUST SEND A NOTE TO:
CW2 THOMAS SOUTH USA RET
tsouth1811@gmail.com

BULLETIN BOARD

CARING FOR OUR "SHUT-IN" MEMBERS

Our Chapter wants to become aware of members who are hospitalized, homebound, in care facilities or just plain sick and has provided a way for you to inform us. Please contact CW3 Bill Farrow, USA (Ret) at (813) 884-7823 so that he may call or send cards to let them know they are missed.

Alternatively, you may send an **e-mail** to:

moaatampachapter@tampabay.rr.com

CW3 Bill Farrow, USA, Sick Call Chairman

HOW TO JOIN THE TAMPA CHAPTER:

Come to a luncheon (2nd Thursdays) at 11:15 at the Surf's Edge Club and ask for COL William A Schneider USA OR fill in, print and mail the form on our web:

<http://www.moaatampa.org/>

NOTE: to be eligible for membership in the Tampa Chapter, one must be a member of MOAA National or join National at the same time the Chapter is joined.



Celebrate the U.S. Coast Guard

Each August 4 the U.S. Coast Guard celebrates its birthday.

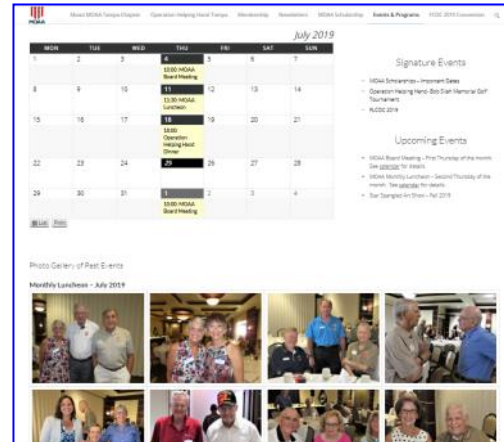
The Coast Guard is one of America's five armed forces and traces its founding to Aug. 4, 1790, when the first Congress authorized the construction of 10 vessels to enforce tariff and trade laws, prevent smuggling, and protect the collection of federal revenue. Responsibilities added over the years included humanitarian duties such as aiding mariners in distress.

The service received its present name in 1915 when the Revenue Cutter Service merged with the U.S. Life-Saving Service to form a single maritime service dedicated to the safety of life at sea and enforcing the nation's maritime laws.

The Coast Guard is a multi-mission, maritime, military service and the smallest of the five Armed Services. Its mission is to protect the public, the environment and U.S. economic interests in the nation's waterways, along the coast, on international waters, or in any maritime region as required to support national security.

Source:

<https://www.military.com/coast-guard-birthday>



HAVE YOU SEEN OUR UPDATED WEBSITE?

WWW.MOAATAMPA.ORG

We've recently shared the updates that have been completed on our MOAA Tampa Chapter Website. It is a comprehensive and valuable tool that you can use to make the most of your MOAA Membership. Some of the things you can find on our website include:

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

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

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

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

WWW.MOAATAMPA.ORG



LEGISLATIVE LOWDOWN



COL Charles
Dalcourt, USA RET
Legislative Affairs
Liaison

Greetings to all. Last week I visited the MOAA HQ in Arlington, VA. The visit served as an incredible opportunity to follow-up on discussions initiated during the MOAA Convention in June at Safety Harbor and to meet our MOAA teammates that “pull it all together” at the national level. Although we discussed several topics of interest, I want to share a few points that resonated consistently during our conversations.

In previous articles I have evoked, espoused, and encouraged your engagement on key issues and at pivotal times. The support we provide at the chapter level is essential to the success of the Association. Thank you for getting involved!

Along the same lines, our alignment in thought and effort has proven to be a powerful aid in lending both credibility and substance to MOAA’s work. We must rally together and get behind the vital issues impacting all whom MOAA represents.

Then, we must provide feedback. Sharing the results, impact, and consequences of MOAA’s efforts with our national team, from a grassroots level helps, helps in the refinement of ongoing efforts as well as informing strategies when planning new initiatives.

Engagement

Your voices, the chapter choir, sound off in such a way that Washington shakes...legislators and their staffs listen to the mass cries of constituents. Whether our teammates are discussing key elements of an issue with influential stakeholders, walking into meetings with individual decision-makers, or testifying before congressional committees, they need the melodious sounds of support from across the nation heralding their entrance to the event.

Alignment

Take a moment and imagine hearing several loud, boisterous voices screaming different things yet all at the same time. A cacophony of voices wreaks havoc in the same way that an unsynchronized operation yields unnecessary risks or worst, loss of life. Our power resides in our ability to speak with one voice and in a manner that is aligned or parallel with the main effort. Let’s stay focused on the key issues that have traction and are at the forefront of MOAA’s legislative advocacy agenda for 2019 (<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2018-news-articles/advocacy/2019Goals/>).

Feedback

As much as our advocacy and engagement has a direct bearing on Washington’s response to challenges presented them, the feedback we provide through the chapter’s leadership to the national office has a commensurate amount of weight. Objective comments, critiques, and criticisms of the resultant effects of legislation facilitates follow-up with and accountability of congressional leaders. Internally, it helps shape future MOAA initiatives and refine MOAA’s organizational objectives.

Way Ahead

Our colleagues at the national level are consistently engaged in battles. Our engagement, alignment, and feedback fuels their efforts and creates the foundation from which they fight. Please routinely view MOAA’s website and peruse MOAA’s Take Action Center (<https://www.moaa.org/content/take-action/Take-Action-Landing/>). We need to remain diligent and continue to voice our concerns regarding TRICARE fees, the Widow’s Tax, military medical cuts, and the Coast Guard Authorization Bill.

Again, your assistance has provided much needed support for several critical initiatives which MOAA fights. Please continue to write, email, and call our leaders in both the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives about the significant issues MOAA seeks to resolve in manners favorable to our Brothers and Sisters in arms.

OPERATION HELPING HAND UPDATE

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



**LTC JIM GRIFFIN,
CHAIRMAN, OPHH**

A very special thank you to BOOZ ALLEN HAMILTON for their SPONSORSHIP and the large group that they provided to support the dinner. BAH has been a long time sponsor of our dinners and the annual BOB SILAH MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT. MISSION BBQ provided a spectacular dinner! BLUE BELL ICE CREAM AND MIKE'S PIES served to complete an excellent evening. In fact, MIKE'S PIES provided us with a real treat

with his special "BROWNIES" that were excellent!

Our AUGUST DINNER will be held at the JAMES A HALEY VA HOSPITAL in the HERO'S CAFÉ at 6:00 pm.

On a sad note, the OPERATION HELPING HAND FAMILY lost one our most treasured and dedicated supporters. Mr. BOB RANS passed away last month. He served as the official photographer for the ASTON GARDENS VETERANS. We have indeed lost a true member of the GREATEST GENERATION and he will be missed and never forgotten.

As always, a special thanks to our tireless volunteers which enables us to consistently provide 96.5% of all 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 in the way of checks, or on our website (www.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!**

VISITING FAMILY MEMBERS

Since the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital has had a marked increase in the number of wounded and injured active duty members referred for treatment. Their Spinal Cord Injury and Comprehensive Rehabilitation Units have treated some of the most severely injured service members who have been in combat in these operations. The average stay for the injured is 45 days. Many of the families travel from all over the country and must provide for themselves while staying here in the Tampa Bay area.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER CHAPLAIN (COL) BERNARD H LIEVING JR USA RET

"This is the day the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it!" is a familiar line from Psalm 118. Eugene Peterson paraphrased it in this way:

"God acted - let's celebrate and be festive!" Right now, as you read these words, embrace this day! You are alive! Yesterday is done and gone; do not let today's possibilities be stolen from you by the ghosts of yesterday. Do not allow the potential of today to be overcome by the "to do" list of tomorrow.



**CINDY AND CHAPLAIN (COL)
BERNARD H LIEVING JR USA RET**

This day is uniquely yours! You alone will make the choice to fill it with calm beauty and exciting adventures or ruin it with useless anxiety. There is nothing and there is no one who can take the joy of this day from you unless you allow it. Of course, you can remember, not dwell on, the past and you can plan, not be in angst, for the future. Live for today! Make today the day you count your blessings, be a neighbor to someone who needs you, and claim the good in your life.

A.A. Milne, author of the Winnie-the-Pooh books, wrote: "Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift. That's why we call it the Present." So, celebrate and be festive with your Present!



Field Artillery Back to Emphasizing 'Charts and Darts'

By Gary Sheftick, Army News Service July 16, 2019

https://www.army.mil/article/224630/field_artillery_back_to_emphasizing_charts_and_darts

FORT SILL, Okla. -- With the growing threat of cyberattacks, the U.S. Army Field Artillery School has placed a renewed emphasis on learning manual methods of fire direction and gunnery.

"Bringing back the charts is a big deal," said Staff Sgt. Chad Payne, an instructor for the 13J fire control specialist course. "If you don't understand the chart, you won't actually understand what the automated system is doing for you."

About a decade ago, the school began reducing its emphasis on teaching manual methods, said Col. Samuel Saine, assistant commandant. That's because improvements to the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System enabled AFATADS to be used effectively in all situations, he said, and it dramatically sped up the firing process.



Then electronic warfare in Crimea and Ukraine shut systems down there, and at the same time, cyberattacks began disabling automation systems at civilian firms. These attacks "woke some people up," Saine said.

Over the past year, the Field Artillery School commandant has made it a priority to reinsert manual or degraded operations back into the program of instruction for all courses, Saine said.

BASIC TO BRIGADE COMMAND

The renewed emphasis is not only in advanced individual training for new Soldiers, he said, but also in all of the officer courses from basic up to the pre-command course for colonels.

Now students begin AIT using maps to plot and they learn the math behind firing solutions.

"They'll do manual operations until we know they fully understand the basics," Payne said, explaining only then do students move on to the automated system.



This method provides students with a better appreciation of the concepts, he said, enabling them to "hit the ground running" at their first units.

They are also better prepared when electronic warfare takes the AFATADS system offline, he said, and degraded operations are now part of the scenario during AIT field exercises.

When systems go down, Soldiers are now trained on how to transition between the automated and manual methods, confirmed Pvt. Cynthia Antaya, a 13J student at the school.

EW can affect communications, automated systems and access to GPS. So 13J Soldiers break out their charts, pencils, plotting pins and protractors for degraded operations.

"It's going to be important to know your charts and darts and how to go manual and still be able to continue on with your job, even

Field Artillery Back to Emphasizing 'Charts and Darts' (continued) By Gary Sheftick, Army News Service July 16, 2019

CANNON CREWS

It's essential that artillery sections "never sway from our No. 1 task," Saine emphasized, "and that No. 1 task is to provide uninterrupted fires to the maneuver elements of our Army -- the infantry and armor."



Manual or degraded operations for firing howitzers are actually a 20-level task for the gunner and primarily only 10-level tasks are taught at AIT, said Staff Sgt. Rodrick Stone, an instructor for the 13B cannon crewmember course.

Some instructors, however, still demonstrate manual sighting for the students, Stone said.

"I believe it's very important that they learn both ways, because in the event that the digital goes down, you have to have a failsafe -- a backup plan," he said.

The Field Artillery School has helped work degraded operations into the program of instruction for the Advanced Leadership Course, Saine said. Since howitzer gunners are by doctrine sergeants, learning how to manually sight howitzers is emphasized in ALC, he said.

With degraded operations, the gunner switches to a panoramic telescopic sight, Stone said. Aiming poles and firing stakes are used. "We already have an additional primary aiming reference that's set up; he instantly sights in off of that," Stone said.

Then the traverse hand wheel is spun manually to raise or lower elevation of the howitzer tube, he explained.

"When I was coming in, degraded operations was the only thing that was going on," Stone said. "There was no digital systems at the time."

Now the threat of cyber warfare once again makes degraded operations of paramount importance, he said.

"We have more capacity and capability than they do," Saine said of the enemy, "so they're going to try to find creative ways to degrade and deny some of our systems."

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

The emphasis on degraded operations is not only happening in the schoolhouse, it's in the field as well, Saine said. Doctrine has been updated and so have performance standards.

Training Circular 3-09.8 for fire support was recently updated with increased performance standards for manual gunnery and degraded operations.

The chief of field artillery emphasizes degraded operations at fires conferences and at quarterly meetings with division artillery commanders, Saine said.

"It's not just a Fort Sill thing," Saine said. "He believes very strongly it needs to be informed by the operational force."

Preparing for EW is not only practical, he said, but it also creates a more well-rounded force.

"What we found along the way is that we actually were increasing the proficiency of our Soldiers and our leaders," Saine said, "because it helped them understand to a higher degree how everything worked together."



JULY LUNCHEON PHOTOS



JULY OPERATION HELPING HAND DINNER PHOTOS



Photos from Around the World



Army Sgt. Kurt Van De Graaff marches through a cloud of smoke as part of a ruck march event during the 2019 Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition at Camp Gruber in Braggs, Okla., July 18, 2019.



A B-2 Spirit is prepped for launch in a flight line dock at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., July 17, 2019. The base is celebrating the 30th anniversary of the inaugural flight of the B-2 in



An M1 Abrams tank crushes a car during a simulated battle at Bemowo Piskie Training Area, Poland, July 13, 2019.



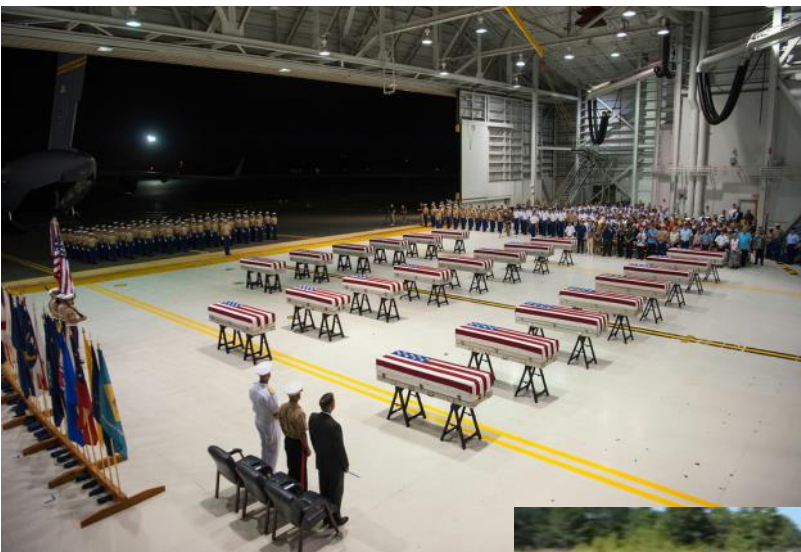
An MH-60S Sea Hawk helicopter assigned to the Indians of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 6 lands on the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68). Nimitz is currently underway conducting routine operations. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Olivia Banmally



Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Lawrence Threatt greets his family during the USS Fort McHenry's homecoming at Naval Station Mayport, Fla., July 18, 2019.



Marines stage three CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters while deployed for training in Brunswick, Maine, July 17, 2019.



Service members and guests participate in a repatriation ceremony for the remains of unidentified service members lost in the Battle of Tarawa during World War II at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, July 17, 2019. The remains were recently recovered from sites in the Tarawa Atoll and will now undergo the identification process.



Sailors assigned to the Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge (LHD 3) man the rails on the flight deck as they return home from deployment, July 18, 2019. Kearsarge was the flagship of the Kearsarge Amphibious Ready Group during the deployment. (U.S. Navy photo/Louis Thompson Staats IV)



The Army's Small Multipurpose Equipment Transport (SMET), a remote-controlled robotic mule is capable of carrying up to 1,000 pounds of ammunition, water and other combat necessities. (Screenshot from U.S. Army Video/Sgt. Thomas Scaggs)