



AIRWAYS

Fort Rucker MOAA



The Airways is the bimonthly newsletter of the Fort Rucker Chapter of MOAA which is an Affiliate of Military Officer Association of America (MOAA). MOAA and its Affiliates are nonpartisan.

General Membership Meeting

19 August 2017

Fort Rucker MOAA
P.O. Box 620075
Ft. Rucker, AL 36362-0075

Website <http://www.FortRuckerMOAA.org>

Email: moaa@fortruckermoaa.org

Social: 1800
Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance
Officers Reports: 1845
Dinner: 1900

Menu:

The menu is Chicken Picata, Tossed Salad with dressing, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls and Butter, Dessert is Oreo Pie, Tea and Coffee.

Cost \$22 per person. (Please checks or cash, no credit cards)

Please make your Reservations by noon, August 16th to Mary Rutkowski at: (334) 347-4966

Persons not canceling their reservation(s) not later than noon on the Thursday prior to the Dinner Meeting will be responsible to our Chapter Treasurer for full payment of the meal(s).

A Message from the Chapter President Charlie Wigglesworth



FORT RUCKER CLOSES!! AVIATION TRAINING MOVE TO WHITING FIELD FLORDIA.

No, Fort Rucker has not closed, but it could happen. The last round of BRAC moves took organizations from Fort Rucker. We can't wait till the 11th hour to ensure that we stay the Home of Army Aviation. We must engage our leaders in Congress often to ensure that they know the importance of keeping Fort Rucker open and viable.

If you ask the young Aviators where they would rather live, the Wiregrass area or Milton, Florida just a few miles from the beautiful beaches of Florida, I believe we all know what that answer will be.

Fort Rucker trains about 4000 students a year and NAS Whiting Field about 1500. Both have facilities that are similar. When two organizations have similar missions, the question is asked in the halls of the Pentagon and Congress, can we do the training at just one location? This has already happen in several cases in past BRACs.

I remember that when I joined the Army in 1971, Fort Monroe, Virginia was the home of TRADOC Headquarters. I visited the post many times (my wife is from Hampton) and felt confident that Fort Monroe would never close. Why would I believe otherwise? Fort Monroe was built between 1819-1834. It was closed on 15 September 2011(See the article on page 10). Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana is another example of a successful base closure. Opened in 1908 and on the BRAC list in 1991. I did all my human resource training there but today is a thriving part of Lawrence, Indiana.

So stay engaged with our leaders in Congress or we could be on the list for closure.

Our next dinner meeting is 19 August 2017. Social hour begins at 1800. We have a great speaker lined up. See you there☺



U.S. Army Warrant Officer Association
Above The Best Silver Chapter
Fort Rucker, Alabama 36362



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<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Above-The-Best-Silver-Chapter-US-Army-Warrant-Officers-Association/186782234787925>

Legislative Report Submitted by Charlie Block



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

As you know from reading the newspaper and listening to the broadcast news, things are in turmoil in Washington. On the brighter side, it appears that both the Defense and Veterans Affairs budgets will do very well compared to the last several years. Both the House and the Senate have indicated they want to plus up over and above what the President added in his budget submission. Another bit of good news is that there does not appear to be any changes in TRICARE or TRICARE for Life in the 2018 budget (this could change in the Senate). Another positive is that the active duty troops will see a pay raise comparable to the private sector. This has not been the case under the last administration. Again, much of this depends on Sequestration, which we all hope will be repealed. One of the worst bills that ever happened to Defense in my view. Something good for the retirees also. The Cost Of Living Allowance (COLA) is also certainly to be an improvement over previous years. At the last reading it was 1.6% and based on previous years could go up some more in the last quarter used to calculate the index. All in all a good news report. Now all we have to do is hope the politicians quit bickering and start thinking about what is best for this country.

Charlie Block
Legislative Chair



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Terry & Terri Lynn Sorrells

Membership Report Submitted by Othan Gilbert



Currently our active chapter membership numbers 176. Unfortunately, one of our chapter members, MAJ (Ret) Wayne Murray, recently died. Wayne was the husband of our chapter Vice-President, MAJ (Ret) Lisa Bailey. Our condolences are extended to Lisa during this difficult period of transition.


I want to report on an area of our chapter activities that I am not sure many of you know about. One of our board members, CW5 (Ret) Ron Kaita, is the Ambassador for MOAA National to the Warrant Officer College located here at Fort Rucker. He has unofficial contact with troops undergoing training to become a warrant officer during certain designated social events. As a result, he has had tremendous success offering free basic memberships to trainees who soon shortly thereafter become warrant officers. In addition, he represents MOAA National at Warrant Officer graduations to present two awards (on behalf of National): one for the outstanding honor student and one for the outstanding leader of each class. Each awardee gets \$100 plus 3 years premium membership with National. Several of us on the board assist Ron with the graduation presentations from time-to-time but he does the hard work in preparing award certificates and taking them to the graduation ceremonies. In addition, COL (Ret) Stan Smith (one of our chapter members) also assists Ron in these activities. Thanks, Ron, for your hard work representing MOAA National and recruiting new members.

If you know anyone who is a MOAA National member but not a member of our chapter, why not recruit them for the chapter? Dues are a modest \$12 per year. Any board member can help you with this or go to our website and download our chapter application form. If they are not MOAA National Chapter members, then that membership can also be arranged. The phone number for MOAA National is 800-234-6622.

Remember the national MOAA web site is moaa.org; our chapter web site is fortruckermoaa.org.

Othan Gilbert
Membership Chair

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Treasurer's Report Submitted by Loel Ewart



This report is for the period of 06/12/17 through 07/10/17

06/12/17 <u>Starting balance</u>	<u>\$28,425.45</u>
Total Deposits	<u>\$992.92</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$851.12</u>
Account Net Increase	<u>\$141.80</u>
07/10/17 Current Balance of;	<u>\$28,567.25</u>
Minus reserves;	<u>(-\$24,019.13)</u>
Minus savings;	<u>\$5.41</u>
<u>Check book operating Funds;</u>	<u>\$4,542.71</u>

The Chapter is in good shape financially, and within budget. Income will build during the year. Our reserves of \$24,019.13 are for any unforeseen expenses. We are maintaining a dual reserve for the Life Trust Fund for future payouts, and for our general fund (rainy day unknowns/future years operations), shown as one reserve balance. The Chapter has no outstanding bills.

You can see a monthly, detailed report, of our account activities and financial status, as of 07/10/17, on our web site; (www.fortruckeremoaa.org). Each month follows the same format to allow our members to monitor all transactions and approvals.

Our checking, money market and savings accounts are with the Army Aviation Center Federal Credit Union

The treasurer's records are available for review/inspection by any member, with reasonable prior notice.

Note: It is highly recommended you pay by cash or check for the dinners. : We are still having serious problems with the club card system not accepting individuals Credit cards, used for our dinners.

NOTE: If you have reserved for the dinner and do not attend, and have not canceled three days before ,then you are responsible for payment of the dinners.

I sincerely hope to see all of you at our next dinner. It is planned to be a great evening with an excellent meal and speaker.

Loel Ewart

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Retired Officer Wives Association (ROWA) Submitted by Mary Jane Collins



Midsummer greetings, everyone. Those days of azure blue skies, sudden showers, garden fresh vegetables, homemade peach ice cream, and porch swings compose a melody of contentment and peace, a time to be at ease for a while and enjoy shade trees, picnics, and family gatherings with cherished memories.

Before these summer months, ROWA closed another term in May with the installation of new officers. Installing the officers was Dr. Jennifer Marsden. President Sam Newton, Vice President Grace Bryant, Secretary Barbara Laumeyer, Treasurer Dot Bedsole. Donations were approved for the Wounded Warrior Cabin and the Fort Rucker Community Spouses Club Scholarship Program. Spring plants served as door prizes and table decorations. With closing remarks, outgoing President Grace Bryant adjourned the meeting.

June held the expectation of vacations from the Gulf beaches to cruising on the Caribbean, while some chose day excursion with friends. Wedding and reunions were also significant dates for June. July enters with sparkling skies of patriotic colors and celebrations of Independence Day, certainly a time to be thankful for our freedom and to realize the efforts to sustain that freedom. One of our founding Fathers acknowledged: "I always consider the settlement of America with reverence and wonder as the opening of a grand scene and design of Providence". How appropriate that the birthstone of July is the ruby which represents passion, confidence, and strength. How interesting also that Neil Armstrong of Apollo 11 made this statement in July: "Here men from the planet Earth first set foot on the Moon, July 1969 AD. We came in peace for all mankind." May God bless America and may peace prevail.

July was also a month of many farewells and welcomes for Fort Rucker. It was a month of planning for the ROWA Board as well. ROWA will reconvene with lunch at the Landing on September 12, at 1030. Please consider joining us and mark your calendars for the continued luncheons held at The Landing 10:30 AM on the second Tuesday. October 10 is a Fashion Show. November 14 Thankful Nation/Veterans Guest. December 12 Holiday Ornament Exchange. Reservations should be made by the Friday noon beforehand with Mary Rukowski at 334-347-4966. May the remaining summertime hold many "cool" blessing for you all.



Joan V. Newman *Financial Advisor*

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PUMP BOYS AND DINETTES <i>A Broadway Musical Celebrating Friendships</i>	Jan 31, 2017	Enterprise High School
MJ LIVE <i>A Michael Jackson Tribute Concert</i>	Mar 9, 2017	Enterprise High School
PINEY WOODS ARTS FESTIVAL <i>A Juried Arts & Crafts Show</i>	Mar 18 & 19 2017	Enterprise State Community College



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August Meeting Speaking Engagement



Our August meeting speaker is Andrea Jones.

Andrea Jones is the Chief of the Nutrition Care Clinic at Lyster Army Health Clinic. Ms. Jones is originally from Enterprise where she currently resides with her husband, Jason Jones, and their 4 children, Roman (10), Noah (8), Emma (4), and Kade(1). She has worked as a Registered Dietitian for the past 13 years. Ms. Jones graduated Summa Cum Laude from Auburn University twice earning both her Bachelor and Master of Science Degrees in Clinical Nutrition. Ms. Jones also completed a Dietetic Internship at UAB in Birmingham, Alabama. She has a broad range of experience working in the field of Dietetics to include Weight Loss, Diabetes, Renal Disease and Dialysis, Geriatric Nutrition, Pediatrics, Heart Disease, and Sports Nutrition. Her favorite thing about her job is having the ability to enable others to live happier, healthier lives through exercise and nutrition modification.

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Chaplain's Corner **Submitted by Ben McKee**



Chaplain's Corner

Today, those whom I converse with seem to have their minds on the cares of this world and how circumstances have affected them. Some have real world problems like the loss of a loved one, serious health issues, unfair treatment by others, or an undue financial hardship. Some dwell on the world situation, illegal immigration, Congressional inaction, North Korea, Iran, Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Russia, China, and a thousand other fears or concerns that rob them of the Joy of Life that Christ intends us to have. While all of these are legitimate concerns, Christians are not to dwell on our misfortunes and life occurrences. Jesus said in **John 14: 27**, *"Peace I leave with you, My Peace I give to you, not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nether let it be afraid."*

Today it grieves me to see so many people who are unhappy in their circumstances, whether warranted or unwarranted, and who seem unable to cope with the hand that life has dealt them. Even sometimes I get down and wonder why things are as they are and catch myself not content with my own situation. The Apostle Paul wrote in **Philippians 4: 11**, *"Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound."* Paul lets us know that he has "learned" (didn't come naturally or by accident) to be content even when he is abased (reduced in esteem, prestige, rank or even physically unable to function) as well as when he abounds (when he is copiously supplied and healthy). How do we "learn" to be content? Most of the time I can count my blessings and this changes my whole attitude. We can always look around and discover more people in greater distress than ourselves. At that point, the desire comes to mind to help those less fortunate than we, and by doing so we feel, useful, joyful, even exhilarated by helping and seeing others work through their problems. Jesus told his disciples and followers in John 15: 10-11, that if they would keep His Commandments and abide in His Love and love one another, that His Joy would remain in them and they would be full of Joy. Someone said, There are 30 "one another's in the Bible—ranging from loving one another to caring for one another. We can regain that Peace and Joy Jesus and the Apostle Paul spoke about by living out the "One another's" of the Bible.

**Important Dates for MOAA – Fort Rucker Chapter
Calendar Year 2017**



Board of Directors' Meeting	Newsletter Input Suspense	Bi-Monthly Dinner Meeting
8 May	17 May	
12 Jun		17 Jun
10 Jul	19 Jul	
14 Aug		19 Aug
11 Sep	20 Sep	
2 Oct		21 Oct
13 Nov	8 Nov	
4 Dec		16 Dec

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BRAC Success Story By Gina Harkins, senior staff writer



The Defense Department considers Fort Monroe, Va., to be a BRAC success story. It closed in 2011 and within about a year, more than half of its buildings were transformed into things like marinas, residences, or hotels.

If Congress is serious about cutting wasteful spending, it must allow the military to close bases it no longer needs, scores of defense experts wrote in a letter to lawmakers.

Forty-five members of more than two dozen think-tank organizations sent a letter calling on members of the House and Senate armed services committees to approve a new round of base realignment and closure (BRAC). The letter - which was signed by representatives from Concerned Veterans for America, the Project on Government Oversight, and American Enterprise Institute - represented a bipartisan consensus from across the think tank community on the need to reduce excess military infrastructure.

"The military has been forced to allocate resources away from the training and equipping of our soldiers, and toward maintaining unneeded and unwanted infrastructure," [the letter](#) states. "Congress should grant our military the authority to eliminate waste, and ensure that vital defense resources flow to where they are most needed."

Military leaders have pushed for a new round of BRAC, which they say will help them invest in new equipment or construction projects they'll need to be successful in the future.

Earlier this month, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis called BRAC "one of the most successful and significant efficiency programs we have." Planning another round of BRAC in 2021 could generate \$2 billion or more annually, Mattis added.

"Over a five-year period, that savings would be enough to buy 300 Apache attack helicopters or 120 Super Hornets," the defense secretary said.

Even if Congress reverses Obama administration-era personnel cuts, the letter from the think tanks states, Pentagon still will be saddled with more overhead than it needs well into the 2020s. Congress has blocked base closures in the past in an effort to help the communities, they argue.

"Local communities ... have been denied access to property that could be put to productive use," they wrote.

The experts acknowledge two major concerns typically expressed about BRAC: the impact it could have on the local community and the costs associated with shuttering military bases. But communities tend to recover from base closures quickly, they said, and most of the lost civilian defense jobs eventually are replaced. And while BRAC costs money up front, data shows that savings begin almost immediately.

"BRAC has proven to be a fair and efficient process for making the difficult but necessary decisions related to the configuration of our military's infrastructure," the letter states. "In the absence of a BRAC, defense communities are hurting."

The idea to close military bases as early as 2021 not only has the bipartisan support of think tanks, but from lawmakers as well. Sen. John McCain, the Republican chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and Rep. Adam Smith, Democratic ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee, have expressed support for the move.

MOAA continues to pay close attention to the possibility of another round of BRAC.

"If one is approved, we will work with our chapters and councils in the affected states to ensure the cascading effects on our retirees, families, and veterans are being addressed," says Col. Dan Merry, USAF (Ret), MOAA's vice president of Government Relations. "And we will have time to watch this develop, given the lengthy lead time and notification requirements."



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