



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

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WE WILL HAVE A BRIEF "ZOOM" OCTOBER MEETING INSTEAD OF A SIT-DOWN DINNER.
WE ARE PLANNING FOR A DECEMBER CHRISTMAS DINNER AT A LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED. WE WILL NOTIFY OUR MEMBERS IN TIME TO PREPARE FOR THAT DINNER MEETING.

2020 Officers & Directors

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President's Message by Lisa Bailey



5 Star Level of Excellence Award:

Each year, councils and chapters may request to be recognized for one of two Levels of Excellence awards:

- > The very, very best councils or chapters receive a five-star award; and
- > above-average councils or chapters receive a four-star award.

Your Chapter Board is proud to announce that our submission for 2019 activities resulted in another 5 Star Levels of Excellence Award for our Fort Rucker Chapter. Our thanks to you for making this happen!



Zoom!

We have been so long without a chapter meeting and I know I'm not the only one missing your smiling faces! Rather than cancel our 17 October meeting, we have decided to try a short Zoom meeting, just to touch base and see how everyone is doing. Fort Rucker is not yet ready to be able to host our dinner event, so we are going to try this and hope that our annual membership meeting in December will finally be in person.

There's no doubt in my mind that many of you have been participating in some kind of online group meeting during the pandemic and the social distancing we are maintaining. There are several platforms used by work groups, churches, schools and other organizations. The Board has used Zoom for a couple of our meetings and we have found it to be secure and user friendly.

If you have never used Zoom and you wish to participate, can download the application to your desktop or laptop or iPad or iPhone. The application is free to you to use as a meeting participant and is readily available at your particular platform store. I went to zoom.us to get all the latest information and check it out. From this website you can download the application or join a meeting if you have the meeting ID, which comes on the email invitation, and a password if the invitation has one. If you have the zoom application installed on your device, you **(see PRESIDENT'S REPORT, Page 3)**

Legislative Report by Charlie Wigglesworth



If your life hasn't had any changes is the last few months, just wait a few minutes and it will. 2020 is a year full of changes as we continue to do our part to combat the COVID 19 virus. Now for news on the legislative front from MOAA.

1. DoD has authorized the use of expired identification cards through **June 30, 2021**, extending a deadline that had been set to expire Sept. 30.
2. Hackers have tapped into personal information of more than 46,000 veterans kept by the Department of Veterans Affairs, gaining access to data such as Social Security numbers, VA officials said. Unauthorized persons accessed a VA Financial Services Center online application in an attempt to steal payments from VA to private physicians who treat veterans in the community, according to the department.
3. As lawmakers return for the final push of the 116th Congress, passage of the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) is high on MOAA's priority list. A key provision in the NDAA will positively impact tens of thousands of veterans exposed to Agent Orange, adding three scientifically linked medical conditions to the list of Agent Orange "presumptive" but only if it's included in the final legislation.
4. Members of the general public are allowed to visit graves at Arlington National Cemetery from 8 a.m. to noon as of Sept. 9, part of a relaxing of coronavirus-related regulations that had limited access to family pass holders. Face coverings are mandatory for all visitors and social distancing is "expected. Sites such as the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Arlington House, and the Welcome Center remain closed to visitors. Family pass holders can continue to access the grounds from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to visit a loved one's grave. Restrictions on funeral attendance remain in place, with less than 50 gatherers permitted.
5. Military Health System (MHS) reform, directed by Congress via the FY 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), touches almost every element of the system. While MOAA has most recently been fighting for increased reporting requirements and congressional oversight of military treatment facility (MTF) restructuring and medical billet cuts, we have also been monitoring potential changes to TRICARE since discussions on the next generation of TRICARE contracts, known as T-5, began last year. There is still time to influence T-5. The draft request for proposal (RFP) was just released, *(continued in right column)*

(continued from left column) and T-5 requirements are still being shaped. The current TRICARE T-2017 contracts run through Dec. 31, 2022.

The key takeaway: While we appreciate congressionally-directed TRICARE reforms are intended to improve access and quality of care, as well as the Defense Health Agency's ability to address contractor performance issues, they must be carefully coordinated with other MHS reforms and consider the impact on TRICARE program costs. Otherwise, beneficiaries could face inadequate TRICARE network availability in some areas, pressures for higher out-of-pocket costs, and a rocky transition to the new contractors.

For more information of any of the above topics, log on the MOAA Website.

Membership Report

by Othan Gilbert



Our chapter membership count is currently 148. I regret to inform you of the death of one of our chapter members. LCDR Larry Walker died 16 June 2020. He and his wife, Julia, lived in Enterprise. Our condolences are extended to his family.

The national MOAA website is moaa.org and our chapter website is fortrucker-moaa.org. Please check the chapter website from time-to-time as photos from our past dinners, minutes from our board meetings, and chapter finance reports are posted there. The phone number for MOAA National is 800-234-6622.

Remember to patronize the nine sponsors of our newsletter. They help to support the chapter and deserve our consideration.

Hope everyone keeps safe during this difficult period

Important Dates for MOAA - Fort Rucker Chapter, Calendar Year 2019-2020



Board of Directors' Meeting	Newsletter Input Suspende	Bi-Monthly Dinner Meeting
12 Oct 2020		"ZOOM" Meeting. Dinner cancelled.
9 Nov 2020	18 Nov 2020	
14 Dec 2020		19 Dec 2020



Retired Officer Wives Association (ROWA) by Mary Jane Collins

Amazingly Fall is approaching with those buttermilk skies as we hope for better times. We have managed to adjust and carry on during an unprecedented encounter in our life time. Amazing as well are the blessings given and received among those who care for others and exemplify courage. May soon our America be peaceful and rioting ceased.

ROWA, as experienced military wives do, are managing with caution and innovations. Our ROWA scheduled luncheons of April and May were cancelled due to the C19 virus. In accordance with rules, gratefully we met to open the 20-21 term during September at Ingrid's Castile Café where we enjoyed the meal and special hospitality that Mrs. Ingrid gives, including a birthday prize.

The officers serving this term are President Esse Muskopf, Vice President Martha Boyle, Secretary Sharon Hunt, Treasurer Syndee Meacham. Until The Landing on post is available ROWA will continue to meet at Ingrid's for lunch on Tuesday each month. ROWA Liaison Mary Jane Collins reported on the plans of the Ft. Rucker Spouses Club for their new term which will be different due to the virus.

As we carry on let us remember that hope is powerful and strengthening with an inner light for a brighter future, for assurance of inner peace that reflects joy beyond challenge, for a purpose to live each day in confidence to find something good, and as author Ingersoll said, "We rise by lifting others." So does nature and flowers remind us of beauty among us through all times even in social distancing. God bless!

ROWA Meeting Dates 2020: October 13, November 10, December 8
Reservations Friday beforehand: Mary Rutkowski 334 347 4966.



(PRESIDENT'S REPORT from Page 1) can simply open the email invitation on that same device and click the link and it should get you right to the meeting.

Once there, you will be prompted to join with internet video which allows all of us to see you, and after admission to the meeting by the host, a prompt to use your sound microphone. The placement of the microphone varies by device type, but you should see a red microphone. If it has a slash line through it, you will be muted. If you want to unmute you can click the microphone.

Does this sound cumbersome? I know that when I try something new, especially as I get older, I am easily frustrated. No worries! If you download the application and want to try a test run before our chapter meeting, send me an email or call me | wmurray@me.com or 334-406-9475 and we can set it up.

We'll send out the email invitation to the same email we have on file for you with the chapter. If you don't have an email, contact me and we can figure out an alternative. One of our Board members calls in on my cell number and we have them on speaker for our meetings.

Officer Elections:

We are seeking help on the Board and there are vacancies in some of our positions. If you are interested in further service by filling a position, please contact me by email or by phone and I will put you in touch with our nominating committee. Thank you in advance.

Things to Do:

At the end of this month, there will be a tribute to Army Aviation and all veterans called Dothan Remembers. This will be the third annual event of its kind and will consist of rides in a Huey helicopter and other fun activities. Information is available on the flyer below—The President of the organization, LTC (ret) John Holladay assisted by the Secretary Dy'adra Medlen provided a program to our chapter in October 2017.

Come Support Our Veterans

Ride in a Huey Helicopter

Live Music

Explore Rich Army Aviation History

Tickets available at the event—\$50

Saturday, Sept 26
9 am—6 pm

Sunday, Sept 27
12:30—5 pm

Behind Flowers Hospital
(corner of John D Odum Road & Luds Way)

Dothan Remembers
... A Tribute to Army Aviation and Our Veterans

Friends of Army Aviation is proud to return to Dothan for our 3rd Dothan Remembers and 2020 membership drive. Come join us in celebrating Army Aviation and our Veterans.

We specialize in happy smiles so bring your family and friends and enjoy a great afternoon of fun. We will have live music from Echoes of the Past and Earmle's Food Truck will be there.

All minors (2-17 YOA) must have their parent/guardian's signed permission. Children < 16 must ride with parent/guardian and children < 10 cannot ride in outside seats or in the gunner seats.

Honoring James J. Aretz, Jr. Vietnam Veteran

COVID precautions will be in effect.
We will have masks if you forget to bring one.

Friends of Army Aviation is a 501(c)3 organization. Be sure to check our website OR Facebook for additional information.
www.FriendsOfArmyAviation.org

Plan to Use Retired Soldiers as Volunteer Casualty Assistance Officers (CAO) Moves Forward

Washington—When the Army Chief of Staff’s Retired Soldier Council met in April 2019, BG Robert W. Bennett, the AG stated that his staff would undertake a comprehensive review of the proposal from the Ft. Stewart Retiree Council to use Retired Soldiers as volunteer “limited duty” CAOs to assist the next of kin of other Retired Soldiers. Despite the impact of the novel coronavirus on Army operations, the Army G-1’s Retirement Services Officer (RSO), US Army Human Resources Command (HRC), and US Army Installation Management Command (IMCOM) are developing plans to test this proposal.

In February’s *Army Echoes*, Army RSO requested that Retired Soldiers interested in volunteering for CAO duty and a pilot program to test this concept to send an email with their name and contact information. Over 540 Retired Soldiers volunteered for the pilot program.

HRC, IMCOM, and the Army G-1 have begun developing plans for the pilot, including training, operating procedures, and communications about the pilot to the retired community in the pilot areas. The dates and location for conducting the pilot should be announced this summer. (Extracted from: “Army Echoes,” Jun-Sep 2020)

TREASURER’S REPORT by LTC (Ret) Loel Ewart



Monday, September 14, 2020

Net Worth of the Fort Rucker Chapter of MOAA as of 09/14/2020 is, **\$30,071.69**. These funds are in one checking account, one savings account and one Money Market Account in the AllIn Federal Credit Union (AllIn FCU).

Activities Since Last Report:		(08/10/20) Starting balance of;	\$30,103.60
DEPOSITS	ACTION		
06/30/20	Money Market Interest (August)		\$12.39
		Deposits Total	\$12.39
CHECKS:	EXPENDITURES:		
1886 08/08/20	Othan Gilbert (Meeting Area rent.)		\$10.00
1887 09/14/20	Othan Gilbert (stamps for mailing NL)		\$34.30
		Expenditures Total	\$44.30
		Net Decrease	\$31.91
(08/10 /20) Current Total Balance of;			\$30,071.69
	All In checking	\$5,739.92	
	All In Savings	\$5.41	
	All In Money Market	\$24,326.36	
Reserve Total: (Minus Reserve);			-\$24,326.36
	Life Membership	\$9,560.00	
	MOAA reserve	\$14,766.36	
	Minus Savings:	\$5.41	-\$5.41
*Usable Funds as September 14, 2020 (Minus reserve/savings)			\$5,739.92
Other News* No outstanding bills. Scholarship Fund= \$235.00			

Have You Done Your Retired Pay Account Checkup?

It’s important to regularly review and update your retired pay account. Keeping your account current will ensure that DFAS can get in touch with you if there is information you need to know about your retired pay. (1) Is your mailing address current? (2) Do you have a current email address in myPay? (3) Are your allotments correct? (4) Have there been changes in your family (married, lose of spouse, had a child, etc.)? (5) Is your Arrears of Pay beneficiary correct? (6) Is your Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) coverage and beneficiary(ies) correct?

So, pick a date! It doesn’t matter if it’s your retirement anniversary ate, your birthday, or the first of the year. Set a yearly reminder to look over your information to make sure your account is up to date. Taken from *Army Echoes*, June-Sep 2020

Did you know that a CAO can assist your next of kin when you die?

By Mark E. Overberg, Director, Army Retirement Services

Army regulations state that Casualty Assistance Centers (CACs) “will provide assistance to the next of kin of a Retired Soldier who dies. When contacted concerning a deceased Retired Soldier, the CAC will communicate with the next of kin to determine the extent of assistance needed. When Families of deceased Retired Soldiers request assistance, CACs will assign a Casualty Assistance Officer.” To find the closest CAC, visit <https://www.hrc.army.mil/content/Casualty%20Assistance%20Centers%20Locator>. Taken from *Army Echoes*, Jun-Sep2020

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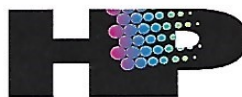
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Ft. Rucker, AL 36362-0075

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MOAA Membership Application
Fort Rucker Chapter

Fort Rucker Chapter
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
PO Box 620075
Fort Rucker, AL 36362-0075

Enclosed is my check, in accordance with the schedule below, for membership in the Fort Rucker Chapter of the *Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)*.

Individual joining: 1 Dec – 28 Feb \$12.00; 1 Mar – 31 May \$9.00; 1 Jun – 31 August \$6.00; Membership 1 Sep – 30 Nov \$3.00.

NAME: _____ RANK: _____
 BRANCH OF SERVICE: _____ ADDRESS: _____
 CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
 DATE OF BIRTH: _____ PHONE: _____
 SPOUSE'S NAME: _____
 E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

NATIONAL MOAA MEMBERSHIP #__ National Life Member? _____

Membership in the National MOAA is required for membership in our local Chapter. If you are a member of National and do not know your membership number so indicate and we will obtain it from National.

Make checks payable to Fort Rucker Chapter MOAA Thank you for your support!

Webaddress: www.FortRuckerMOAA.org