



February/March 2019

The 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.

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

Website: <http://www.fortruckermoaa.org>
Email: moaa@fortruckermoaa.org

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING & DINNER
FEBRUARY 16, 2019
1800 HOURS AT THE LANDING

WE HAVEN'T SEEN SOME OF YOU FOR QUITE SOME TIME; WON'T YOU JOIN US AND CELEBRATE THE CHRISTMAS SEASON? WE'D LIKE TO SEE YOU AGAIN!

GUEST SPEAKER

John Eidsmoe

LTC (Retired), US Air Force

Formerly of Alabama State Defense Force & Mississippi State Guard

Professor of Law & Government at Oak Brook College

Senior Staff Attorney for Alabama Supreme Court

Ordained Pastor for Free Lutheran Congregations

For more information on John Eidsmoe, see page 8.

Social: 1800— in the Legends Room (upstairs)
Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance: 1845
Dinner: 1900
Fruit salad in lettuce cup
Chicken Kiev
Broccoli
Mashed potatoes
Rolls & butter
Cheese cake w/assorted toppings
Cost: \$22 per person

PLEASE—Cash or personal checks only!

Please make your Reservations by noon
Wednesday, February 13th
to Mary Rutkowski at
(334) 347-4966.



Persons not canceling their reservation by noon on the Friday prior to the Dinner Meeting will be responsible to our Chapter Treasurer for full payment of the meals.

A Message from the President

Lisa Bailey

Happy New Year. Many thanks to you, the members of the Fort Rucker Chapter of MOAA, for your confidence in the current and incoming leadership team that serves the interests of all of you. Please don't hesitate to contact one of us if you have a particular idea for a project or would like to discuss things you feel would improve our chapter. All of our phone numbers and email addresses are found in this newsletter.

Kudos to COL (Ret) Frank Estes for organizing our silent auction held during the December membership meeting. Generous donations from chapter members and business contacts allowed the auction to raise \$920 for the MOAA Scholarship Fund.

The Alabama Council of Chapters has provided us with MOAA's key goals for 2019. These will be applicable for the FY 2020 Defense Bill.

- Prevent disproportional TRICARE fee increases.
- Sustain military pay comparability with the private sector.
- End financial penalties for military survivors.
- End concurrent receipt penalties for military

retirees.

- Achieve equity of benefits for Guard and Reserve members with their active duty counterparts.
- Strengthen DoD-VA collaboration and services to support wounded warriors and an expanding population of women veterans.
- Ensure timely access to service-earned VA benefits.
- Protect military and veteran family support programs and policies.



We support these goals. Please contact our legislators when appropriate to show your support.

In addition at the local level, the Alabama Council will storm our current State Legislators with support for two pieces of legislation. One proposal is to support state tax exemption for MOAA's activities and the other is for a Green Alert system, similar to the Amber Alert system, that can be used to help in finding missing veterans who may have mental health issues. Both are worthy of our support. If you are interested in helping contact the state legislators serving in your districts, please let me or our Legislative Affairs representative, CW5 (ret) Charlie Wigglesworth, know and we will set you up with the Council Legislative Affairs representative, LTC (ret) Lew Nyman. Information about the state council and activities can be found at www.alamoaa.org.

MOAA NEW OFFICERS—At a recent dinner meeting, LTC (Ret) Dave Jensen installed new officers for the Fort Rucker Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). LTC (Ret) Jensen is the President of the Alabama Council of MOAA Chapters, an association of all MOAA chapters in Alabama MOAA is a national organization and is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. It is an advocate of a strong national defense and represents the interests of military officers and their families at every stage of their careers. Shown in the accompanying photo, left-to-right is Carolyn Wooley (Secretary), LTC (Ret) Loel Ewart (Treasurer), CW5 (Ret) Ron Kaita (Vice-President), MAJ (Ret) Lisa Bailey (President), and LTC (Ret) Dave Jensen, conducting the ceremony.



New Officers sworn in by Dave Jensen

Legislative Report

by Charlie Wigglesworth

Greetings from your new Legislative Affairs Officer for the Fort Rucker MOAA Chapter. I will endeavor to highlight those issues that MOAA is working on to ensure that our benefits are protected. The following issues are being worked by MOAA Legislative team. It is important that each of us contact our elected representative to let them know these important issues require their attention and that we care about the issues.

[Do Not Raise TRICARE Fees](#)

TRICARE fees and cost shares are once again in the crosshairs. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) recently published [their annual list of budget strategies](#) with options for policymakers to consider as they begin the budgeting process for next year. They will be looking to increase revenue any way they can get it. This is an ongoing issue. As the Executive Director of the Warrant Officer Assn, I worked with MOAA to fight back this issue in 2011 when DOD was working to raise the cost we pay by a one time 15 percent and the every year after that by the whatever the medical rate of inflation was. MOAA was successful is winning then but the fight is never over.

[Military pay and benefits matter](#)

Sustain military pay increases comparable to the

growth in civilian sector wages and salaries. The employment cost index (ECI) was 3.1 percent in 2018, and our active duty servicemembers deserve the full pay raise in the FY2020 NDAA.



[Protect Coast Guard pay during the shutdown](#)

During the government shutdown, members of the Coast Guard continue to safeguard our waterways and intercept attempts to smuggle drugs and contraband into the country, all without pay.

[VA Notes](#)

On the VA side of the house, a report in the Journal of Am American Medical Association (JAMA) shows VA significantly reduced wait times for Veteran patients in primary care and three specialty care services between 2014 and 2017. This is good news for all veterans. The VA often gets bad press but overall they work hard to take care of all veterans. I find that when I show up for an appointment, they will be someone complaining that the process is not fast enough. I try to remember that I am retired and the service the VA is providing me is free (most of the time). I was being seen at the Fort Rucker VA will no issues for the past 7 years but I now have to be patient as I am on a wait list (waiting for the VA to hire new provider).

What is VA Blue Button, and how can it help me manage my health care? VA Blue Button is a feature of the health management portal within My HealthVet. It lets you view, print, save, download, and share information from your VA medical record and personal health record. With this tool, you can better manage your health needs and communicate with your health care team. *(VA Blue Button continued on page4)* *(visit www.va.gov for more information on the VA Blue Button program)*

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Membership Report

by *Othan Gilbert*

I am pleased to report a new chapter member: **CW4 Fred Latremore**, who lives in Newton. He has been to some of our recent dinners. He is a most welcome addition to our chapter. I am sad to report the death of one of our chapter members: **CW3 Thomas Tolbert**. Our condolences are extended to his family.

Next time you meet one of your officer friends, ask them if they are a member of MOAA. If they are, see if you can convince them to join the chapter. Unfortunately, nationally, only about 15% of all national members are members of local chapters. A chapter membership form can be found on our chapter web site. Remember, membership with MOAA National is a prerequisite for chapter membership.

The national MOAA website is moaa.org and our chapter website is

fortruckermoaa.org. You might want to check the chapter website from time-to-time as photos from our dinners, minutes from our board meetings, and chapter finance reports are posted there. The phone number for MOAA National is 800-234-6622.



If you have not been to a chapter dinner recently, may I suggest that you attend our next dinner on Saturday, 16 February 2019. Lt. Col (USAF ret) John Eidsmoe will be our speaker. He is a pastor and an attorney and has written several books. He was our speaker at a meeting a couple of years ago and was outstanding. You will enjoy listening to him. He lives in the Montgomery area,

Othan Gilbert
Membership Chair



MOAA Gives Back - The Fort Rucker Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America recently donated \$400 to the Holiday Food Assistance Program for the Fort Rucker military community. This program is administered by the Army Community Service at Fort Rucker. Pictured are Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Loel Ewart, representing the chapter, and Ms. Jo Close who is an Army Emergency Relief Officer.

21 Dec 2018.

(VA Blue Button continued from page 3)

With VA Blue Button, you can:

- ✦ Download a customized Blue Button report with information from your VA medical records, personal health record, and in some cases your military service record
- ✦ Download a Health Summary that includes specific information from your VA medical record (like your known allergies, medications, and recent lab results)
- ✦ Build your own personal health record that includes information like your self-entered medical history, emergency contacts, and medicines
- ✦ Monitor your vital signs and track your diet and exercise with our online journals

Share a digital copy of the personal health information you entered yourself with your VA health care team through Secure Messaging.

TREASURER'S REPORT

by *Loel Ewart*



Date (as of): Monday; January 14, 2019

Net Worth of the Fort Rucker Chapter of MOAA as of 01/14/2019 is, **\$28,013.85**. These funds are in the Army Aviation Center Federal Credit Union (AACFCU).

Activities Since Last Report: (12/10/18) **Starting balance of; \$29,270.11**

DEPOSITS	ACTION	
12/10/18	MOAA Dues (Membership)	\$48.00
12/17/18	MOAA (Christmas Dinner Receipts-\$1154; Auction-\$920 Ticket Sales-\$126)	2,200.00
12/31/18	Money Market interest	8.20
01/08/19	MOAA Dues (Membership)	<u>84.00</u>
Deposits Total		\$2,340.20

CHECKS:

EXPENDITURES:

1833	12/15/18ALCOC (Chapter dues)	\$86.50
1834	12/15/18Mary Rutkowski (Christmas decorations)	159.71
1835	12/15/18Dale Moates (Christmas music)	200.00
1836	12/18/18IMWRF (Dec Dinner cost)	1,188.25
1837	12/21/18U.S. Treasury Army Gift Fund (Ft. Rucker Food)	400.00
1838	12/28/18MOAA National (Scholarship Fund)	1,500.00
1839	01/08/19U.S. Postal Service (1 yr. box rent)	<u>62.00</u>
Expenditures Total		\$3,596.46
Net Decrease		<u>\$1,256.26</u>

01/14/19 **Current Total Balance of; \$28,013.85**

A ACFCU checking,	\$3,872.36
AACFCU Savings,	\$5.41
AACFCU Money Market	\$24,136.08
Reserve Total: (Minus Reserve);	-\$24,136.08
Life Membership,	\$10,610.00
MOAA reserve,	\$13,526.08
Minus Savings: \$5.41	-\$5.41

******Usable Funds as January 14, 2019 (Minus reserve/savings) \$3,872.36**

Other News * No outstanding bills. Scholarship Fund=\$00.00

Note: Scholarship donation to National; composed of auction \$920, plus \$532 in account, plus \$48 from general fund. (total \$1500)

Loel A. Ewart, Treasurer



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Retired Officer Wives Association (RWOA)

by Mary Jane Collins



Happy New Year Greetings,

We have crossed the threshold of 2019 and entered into the future of how we write our history. May there be fresh insight, new beginnings, and successful endeavors awaiting us. This year Alabama will celebrate her 200th statehood anniversary. That history includes a lengthy timeframe of Ft. Rucker from which many have trained and served our nation throughout the world. Please consider writing your stories and submit to an Alabama library.

ROWA's history here began in 1973 and continues today. The December Christmas meeting was enjoyed at The Landing in our "Sweet Home Alabama" with our traditional ornament exchange. During the holidays ROWA members also attended the MOAA dinner and enjoyed the evening with music played by Dale Moates. In January, ROWA met at the Munson Heights Community Center which was built on the historical site that was in past years the Commanding General's quarters. With the theme of a "Blessed and Grateful Nation" a catered luncheon was enjoyed, decorated in festive colors and blooming house plants. Guest speaker, Ms. Joni Wood, shared a video with Alabama life stories. National and state traditions including foods for the New Year were also shared. Noted also: FRCSO scholarship application for military

family, DA, DoD students is available. Contact: scholarshipsfrsc@gmail.com

Our next meeting is in February which offers Valentines and Marti Gras. Interestingly, the first Marti Gras in the United States was celebrated in Mobile, Alabama, not New Orleans.

Please note our meeting dates. We hope they will be a part of your history!

Reservations the Friday prior: Mary 334 347 4966

February 12—Silver Wings Divots with Sweet Friends and Sweethearts invited

March 12—Bowden Terrace with Alabama History Mystery Guest

April 9—The Landing Spring Fashion Show with Southern Belles and Sweet Tea



(L to R) Esse Muskopf, Donna Davila, Regina Eldridge, Mary Jane Collins, Martha Boyle, & Dot Bedsole



(Front L to R) Mary Apel, Carol Lee Dawson, Sandy Hefner
(Back L to R) Mary Rutkowski, Machele Gayler, Donna Davila, Martha Boyle, Mary Jane Collins

WOA Above the Best Silver Chapter

P.O. Box 620951
Fort Rucker, AL 36362

Chapter Contacts

email:
frucker.woa@gmail.com

facebook:
[AboveTheBestSilverChapterUSAWOA](https://www.facebook.com/AboveTheBestSilverChapterUSAWOA)



WOA Above the Best Silver Chapter

Chapter calendar
Memorabilia
Community Events

<https://sites.google.com/site/fruckerwoa/>



To our Google
Site

VA to implement appeals modernization in February: Act will simplify process for

how Veterans make claims appeals -

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) announced that the Federal Register will publish on Jan. 18 regulations accompanying the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017 (AMA), which will help Veterans experience a more transparent claims decision-review process. (1/17/19)

Chaplain's Corner

by Dennis Newton



Well taking the role of Chaplain after following such a gifted pastor like Ben McKee is rather overwhelming. We need to thank him for all the care and love he has poured over the Fort Rucker MOAA community. Many of you are the better for the time he spent with you during crisis and so I note our corporate debt.

But who is Chaplain (COL) Dennis Newton? I know only some of you have met me although if you have been around Fort Rucker you may have seen me at a ceremony giving the Invocation or visiting the staff. I retired in 2014 after 35 years working in the Religious Support areas of the Army. I joined in 1972 as a Chaplain Assistant where I was in Germany (73-76) at Camp King, Oberursel (Transportation Command). I did my College and Seminary at San Diego State (BA History) and Bible Institute of Los Angeles—Talbot Seminary (M.Div- 4 years) and received a Direct Commission to the Reserves in 1980. I spent my summers in Training at

- Fort Monmouth, NJ,
- Fort Sam Houston, TX and
- Fort Carson, CO.

Then in 1985 I went on Active Duty with the:

- 101st AB Div in the 2-502nd IN BN. My Brigade lost 248 Soldiers in a transportation air crash at Gander, Newfoundland, Canada on Dec 12, 1985. I was immersed in the worst loss of life in transport for the military since WWII.

Other jobs and locations:

- First Tank, Camp Casey, Korea for the Olympics 1988,
- Fort Campbell – DIVARTY Chaplain (Desert Storm with Chaplain Sonny Moore at the AVN Brigade) – 20th Engineer BN at Fort Campbell, 86th EVAC Hospital at Fort Campbell and -Mogadishu, Somalia,
- Chaplain Resource Manager at Fort Campbell,
- Instructor and Developer- Chaplain Officer Basic Course, Fort Monmouth, NJ,
- Security and Operations Officer, US Army Europe Chaplain's Office,
- Resource Manager, US Army Europe Chaplain's Office,
- Regimental Chaplain 11 ACR, Fort Irwin, CA,
- Deputy Garrison Chaplain, Fort Campbell,
- Installation Chaplain, Fort Irwin, CA,
- Installation Chaplain, Fort Rucker, Al.

So I've been a PVT, PV2, PFC, Specialist 4&5, a 2LT, 1LT, CPT, MAJ, LTC, and COL. Lots of different ranks. I'm a Mustang who remembers where I came from. I see everything with Enlisted eyes when I visited the troops. How do things we do effect the troops.

There has been a restricting of the Chaplain's functions. I'm not sure at this time we have it all clearly formalized. Some of the HR duties are on others. I'm still maintaining the MOAA website since it is rather technical, and I have been coding for years.

As I took this role it came with a caveat that I would be gone most of this year. I'm preparing to do another great Thru Hike. I did a 2159-mile hike of the Appalachian Trail in 2015. It took 6 months with the Warrior Expeditions. This time I'm hiking the Pacific Crest Trail starting on March 18 and I expect this to journey of 2660 miles to take at least 6 months. If you want to know more you can find my journal at www.trailjournals.com/TPilgrim. I'm known on the trail as Trail Pilgrim and I am a trail chaplain walking along side the hikers.

Be of good spirit and know that MOAA is only as strong as your participation. It takes us all to maintain our benefits and entitlements in the strange world. Support your board- stay informed and let your voice be heard so our National Leaders will know you're are watching. And thanks again to Ben for all his labors on your behalf.

John Eidsmoe

2648 Pine Acres, Pike Road, AL 36064


(334) 270-1789

John Eidsmoe is a retired Air Force Lt. Colonel, a retired Alabama State Defense Force Colonel, and a Colonel in the Mississippi State Guard. He is a Professor of Law at the Oak Brook College of Law and Government Policy, and in his various teaching assignments his students have giving him the Outstanding Professor Award or Prof of the Year Award five times. He has served as Senior Staff Attorney at the Alabama Supreme Court and is currently Senior Counsel & Resident Scholar for the Foundation for Moral Law. He is an ordained pastor with the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations and serves on the Board of Lutherans for Life and on the Board of the Plymouth Rock Foundation, and is a constitutional attorney who has defended home schools, Christian schools, the right of students to study the Bible in public schools, and the right of public officials to display the Ten Commandments. He has authored 14 books including *Historical & Theological Foundations of Law* and *Christianity & the Constitution*, and numerous audio and video lecture series including the *Institute on the Constitution* and *Here I Stand: Biblical Worldview for a New Millennium*. He holds 7 academic degrees in law, theology and political science, as well as graduating from the Air Command & Staff College and the Air War College. He is a Third Degree Black Belt with the American Taekwondo Foundation, a Fifth Degree Black Belt with the Gospel Martial Arts Union, and a Fifth Degree Black Belt with Black Belts of the Faith International, as well as a knight commander and chaplain with the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem. Colonel Eidsmoe is an avid horseman and skier, and tries to get 8 hours of sleep every week. He and his wife Marlene have been married since 1970, have three children (David, Kirsten, and Justin), and live in rural Pike Road, Alabama.

From the *Retiree Newsletter*

- ◆ **Retiree and Annuitant Pay Dates:** Retiree and annuitant payments will be made as scheduled on February 1, 2019.
- ◆ **Retiree and Annuitant 1099-Rs:** 1099-Rs are available now on [myPay](#). 1099-Rs should arrive in the mail by January 28.
- ◆ **2019 Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA):** Based on the increase in the Consumer Price Index, there will be a 2.8 percent Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for most retired pay and Survivor Benefit Plan annuities, and the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA), effective Dec. 1, 2018. With the COLA applied, the maximum amount of SSIA payable will be \$318. Retirees will see the change in their Dec. 31, 2018 payment and annuitants in their Jan. 2, 2019 payment.

◆ **R&A Pay is Expanding Communication through Emailed SmartDocs:** As part of our commitment to continually improving our customer service, R&A Pay is expanding the use of emailed SmartDocs as a way to communicate about changes to your account and actions that may be needed. Email notifications will speed up the time it takes to notify you about your account. If you don't yet have an email address in *myPay*, please add one now so you can receive these email notifications. For more information, please see the Retiree Newsletter.

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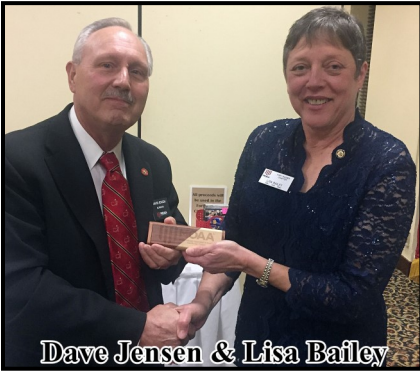


Sammy Judah sjcircleins@troycable.net

TEL. (334) 774-7177
FAX (334) 774-0907

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PICTURES FROM DECEMBER 15th MOAA MEETING & DINNER



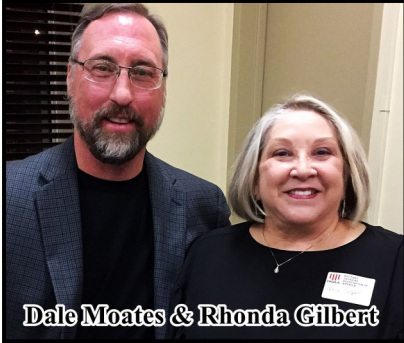
Dave Jensen & Lisa Bailey



Ben McKee & Charlie Wigglesworth



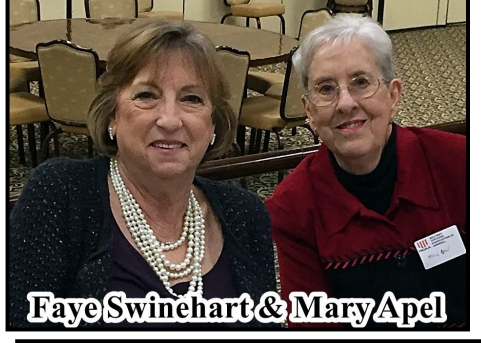
Charolotte & Cecil Simmons



Dale Moates & Rhonda Gilbert



Dee Gilbert & Sissie Jensen



Faye Swinehart & Mary Apel



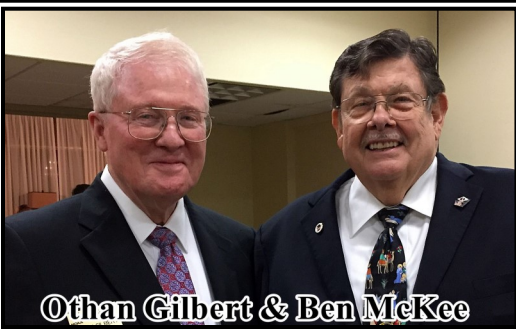
Lisa Bailey & Fred Latremore



Lark & Ron Kaita



Karen Morales & Rhonda Gilbert



Othan Gilbert & Ben McKee



Sissie & Dave Jensen



Mark & Susie Taylor



Ray & Mary Jane Collins & John Newton



Dick Kenyon & Carolyn Woolley

THANK YOU!
To contributors and winning bidders in our Silent Auction. We were able to raise \$920 for our MOAA Ft. Rucker Chapter's Scholarship Fund.

Important Dates for MOAA - Fort Rucker Chapter Calendar Year 2018/2019



Board of Directors' Meeting	Newsletter Input Suspense	Bimonthly Dinner Meeting
14 Jan 2019	16 Jan 2019	
11 Feb 2019		16 Feb 2019
11 Mar 2019	20 Mar 2019	
8 Apr 2019		13 Apr 2019
13 May 2019	15 May 2019	
10 Jun 2019		15 Jun 2019
8 Jul 2019	17 Jul 2019	
12 Aug 2019		17 Aug 2019
9 Sep 2019	18 Sep 2019	
7 Oct 2019		19 Oct 2019
4 Nov 2019	13 Nov 2019	
9 Dec 2019		14 Dec 2019

More Christmas Dinner Pictures:



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AN EVENING WITH RICKY SKAGGS & KENTUCKY THUNDER	Oct 25, 2018 7:30 pm	Enterprise High School
ORLANDO TRANSIT AUTHORITY <i>A Chicago Tribute</i>	Nov 8, 2018 7:00 pm	Elba High School
ENSEMBLE MÉLANGE <i>Romantic, Jazz, Latin, Broadway, Classical</i>	Jan 17, 2019 7:00 pm	Enterprise High School
THE CAB CALLOWAY ORCHESTRA <i>Big Band Swing Jazz</i>	Feb 14, 2019 7:00 pm	Enterprise High School
PINEY WOODS ARTS FESTIVAL <i>A Juried Arts & Crafts Show</i>	Apr 13 & 14 2019	Enterprise State Community College



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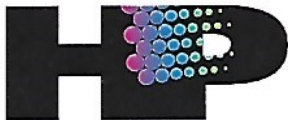
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Return Service Requested

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: _____

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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!

Web address: www.FortRuckerMOAA.org