

President's Message by Ron Kaita

As you can see summer is just about done for this year. Leaves are dropping and the extreme heat is slowly changing to some nice outdoor outings. Talking about changes, our Chapter continues to thrive in these most trying of times. As other chapters struggle in the daily day-to-day business dealing and support to its members and community, we are still engaged and providing support to our Soldiers, families, and surrounding communities. During our last board meeting several proposals were discussed in changing some of the activities we hold as in lunch and dinner meetings, newsletters, elections, and recruiting activities. I cannot arbitrarily make these kinds of decisions without the consensus of our membership. Hence, during our October dinner

meeting, I will announce some of the proposals for an overall vote if we either continue business as usual or make some changes. Please come and enjoy a wonderful Oktoberfest dinner with all the trimmings and make your voices heard and count as we contemplate these proposals.

As usual, our chapter activities have mostly centered around supporting the US Army Warrant Officer Career College (USAWOCC) events. Our recruiting of Warrant Officer Candidates has been very good adding Basic Membership numbers for our Association with usually two or three recruiting events each month (169 for Aug/Sep). This will follow Thursday, 21 September 2023 with WOCS Class 23-25 (last for FY23) graduating 1000 hours at the post theater. If you have never been to one of their graduations, it's a grand event

and witness the appointment of the Army's newest Warrant Officer One (WO1).

As a shout out to our membership, I am still looking for someone to volunteer to become our next Chapter President. We will be in need as a minimum a new Chapter President and a new Chapter Vice President as elections for these two positions will be held in December's dinner meeting. If you had a chance to review our Treasurer's report on our chapter website, you will notice we are doing very well, so our funding for this year's Holiday Food Donation for junior Soldiers through Fort Novosel's Army Community Service (ACS) and our annual donation to MOAA Nation for student scholarships will be fully funded, which are some of the reasons we are awarded MOAA's 5-Star Level of Excellence streamer which I have been notified (**see President's Message page 2**)

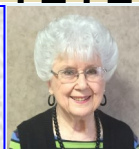
INSIDE THIS ISSUE	
President's Message	1-2
Schedule & Menu	1
Membership Report & Member Spotlight	2
ROWA & Legislative Reports	3
Financial Report & WO Awards	4
MOAA Luncheon Photos	5
MOAA Calendar, EBB, & Retiree Appreciation Day	6
Advertisers	4&7
Membership Form	8

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, SATURDAY OCTOBER 21, 2023, ST. MICHAEL'S ROOM, THE LANDING, FORT NOVOSSEL, AL

SCHEDULE & MENU
Social: 6:00pm.... Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance: 6:45pm.....Dinner: 7:00pm

- >Schnitzel w/Jaeger gravy
- >German red cabbage
- >German potato salad
- >Mixed green garden salad w/ assorted dressings
- >Brotchen
- >German chocolate cake
- >Sweet & unsweet tea, water, & coffee

Cost per meal: \$23.00/person



Please make **Reservations by noon Monday October 16th** to Mary Rutkowski at (334) 347-4966. Cancellations must be made by noon **Friday October 13th.**

+ + + + + + + +
Cash or personal checks only!
 Persons not canceling their reservation by noon on Friday prior to the Dinner Meeting will be responsible to our Chapter Treasurer for full payment of the reserved meals.

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. Ft. Rucker Chapter MOAA, P.O. Box 620075, Fort Novosel, Alabama 36362. Email: moaa@fortruckermoaa.org; Website: <http://www.fortruckermoaa.org>

Membership Report

by Othan Gilbert



Our current chapter membership count is 130.

I regret to inform you of the death of two of our chapter members.

COL Charles Webb died 7/19/23 and COL Earl Hyers died 8/11/23. COL Webb formerly lived in Enterprise but was living in a nursing home near Athens, GA. He is survived by his wife, Gloria, who lives in the same nursing home. COL Hyers lived in Ozark and was predeceased by his wife. Our condolences are extended to both families.

At the same time, we are pleased to welcome five new chapter members. CPT Jerry Ogles lives in Enterprise with his wife Debbie,

COL Leslie Templin lives in Enterprise with her husband Roy, COL Whitney Gardner lives in Ozark with his wife Melissa, COL Thomas Day lives in Dothan with his wife Susan, and CW5 Jeffrey Kimm lives in Enterprise with his wife Paulette. COL Gardner is still on active duty and serves as the Chief of Staff at Fort Novosel. All are very welcome.

There are many MOAA National members in this area that are not, for various reasons, members of our chapter. It is apparent that we need to get some of our younger members to join our chapter. The best recruiter is you. If you are reading this column, then you know how much MOAA has meant to the military community (including enlisted). Please be a strong advocate of MOAA and see if you

can get your friends to join MOAA on the national and local level.

The national MOAA website is moaa.org. The phone number for MOAA National is 800-234-6622. If you would like to purchase a MOAA National life membership, it is better to do so by calling them directly and speaking with someone. If you do that (vs doing so over the web), they will give you a 10% discount, give you credit for your current premium membership (if applicable) and arrange payments over an extended period.

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

(President's Message from page 1) that we will be awarded it again in the coming months ahead. Thank you all for everyone's contributions to make our chapter one of the best (Above the Best)!

Our next chapter dinner meeting will be at the Landing on 21 October 2023, at 1800 hours with dinner served at 1900 hours. We will have the pleasure of hosting Mrs. Tammy Doerer and her husband Bob. Tammy is Enterprise's Tourism Director and as our guest speaker she's sure to announce the many offerings in our local areas during this special time of year.

As always, please take care of yourselves, your families, as well as prayers and well-wishes for our men and women who are deployed keeping us safe and secure. I wish all Chapter MOAA members, their families, retirees, and all veterans to always remember to live our lives by MOAA's motto...Never Stop Serving.

MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Mary Rutkowski—91 years ago, Mary Hofer was born in Binghamton, New York, but she grew up and graduated from high school in Sidney, New York, in 1949. There she met her future husband, Joe Rutkowski, whom she married in 1950 after he enlisted in the US Army. Joe later went to OCS, got commissioned to serve as an Infantry Officer (before there was a separate Aviation branch) and then served as an aviator. Joe retired as a Colonel (O6) after serving for 37 years. An interesting item is that he formed the first Chinook company in the Army at Fort Benning under the 11th Air Assault Division. For his service he was awarded the Silver Star. After his retirement, he was on our chapter's board for many years and then served as President of our chapter 2005-2006. Mary and Joe were married for 60+ years before he died in 2011.

Mary has lived in Enterprise since 1983 when Joe retired. While living in Japan for 3 years, Mary became fascinated with the beauty of Japanese maple trees. Over the years she has acquired 44 Japanese maple trees of many varieties for her yard. She has been an integral part of the Retired Officers Wives Club on post since 1983. In addition, she has played an extremely vital role for our chapter since 1985 serving as our "hostess" which includes booking our dinners and luncheons at The Landing, choosing the menus, taking and accepting reservations, buying decorations, arranging tables just prior to the meals, creating name signs, choosing seating arrangements. We always find Mary sitting at the front table with the Treasurer to coordinate payment, making sure those that have made reservations are accounted for and coordinating the selling and drawing of the raffle tickets for the MOAA Scholarship fund. You can depend on Mary to arrive 2 hours before our meetings. She is ever faithful.

Two children were born to Mary and Joe. Their son is a retired Warrant Officer Aviator and their daughter's husband is also a retired Warrant Officer Aviator. Mary's family is deeply entrenched in the history of Army Aviation.





Retired Officer Wives Association (ROWA)

by Mary Jane Collins

Greetings to all in September. From the beginning of January we have traveled from cool days to sunshine, plenty of rain, and bountiful warm temperatures with beautiful skies of blue and white bounding like creampuff and marshmallows, along with multiple images of nature.

We have also been blessed to recognize the outstanding service members, along with their families, who have served well and left for more service. At the same time more outstanding service members, and their families are in to begin their duties. The children of these military families are blessed to be able to attend the state of the art Parker Elementary School.

It is also noted that MOAA is one of the largest members of the Coalition that lobbies for military support in active and retired members. September holds many festivals and holidays as well as bringing new friendships. Fort Novosel has now increased with another outstanding Museum which will be enjoyed in many ways.

As August brings the time frame for school, September brings Autumn which shines with vivid colors of nature's glory from deep red and

orange, purple, dark greens, gold, and browns. Walking in the splendid woods in Autumn with the vivid colors is a time to enjoy for many from young to adult.

After summer, the Ft. Novosel CSC began their monthly luncheons with vendors which meet at The Landing. It will also be a special time with the ROWA Members to begin another term to meet during September 2023 to May 2024. This year holds a special time to celebrate as we remember that 2023 celebrates the fiftieth year of the Retired Officers Wives Club on November 14, 2023.

We look forward to the memories shared and invite the members to join us for a time to remember.

Mary Jane Collins, 334-798-2701.



Legislative Report by Ray Collins

Several recent reports have centered on and expounded upon the critical issue of the insufficiency of the current military Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH).

To reiterate, for several years, the Department of Defense (DoD) has limited the service members BAH to 95 percent of the authorization for rank and time in service.

The reversal of this wrong has as recently as June 6 received sup-

port in the form of S -1823 the Senate version of the BAH

Restoration Act. The withholding of five percent of this specific service member's allotment has placed an additional strain on the service family's livelihood. It is estimated that this policy has saved DoD about one billion dollars. The question is how much has it cost in fewer volunteers, higher rates of one and done and lower morale. One recent survey reported that 52 percent of soldiers scored badly on questions that measure optimism and 48 per-

cent reported having little satisfaction or commitment to their job.

President Biden signed on June 9 an Executive Order designed to support military and veteran spouses, care givers, and survivors in finding and retaining employment.

The military spouses unemployment and under employment issue has spanned over a decade and has recently improved due to the efforts of DoD and several military service organizations but still remains in double figures.

2023 Officers & Directors

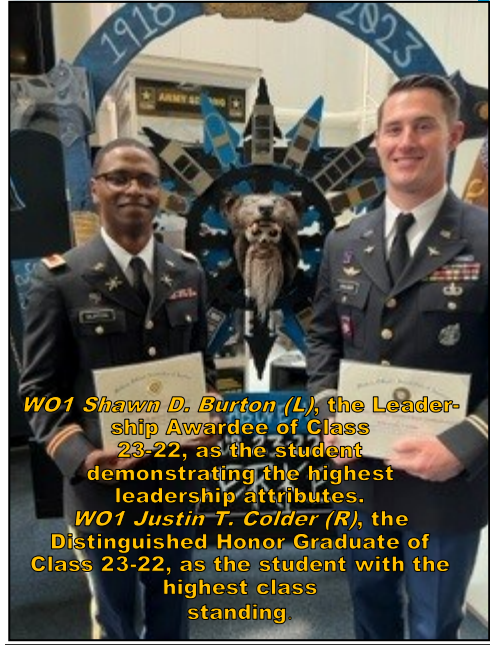
- PRESIDENT**—Ron Kaita, 334-677-6734, ronald.kaita@twc.com
- VP For PROGRAMS**—Randy Godfrey, 912-312-6446, argodfrey@gmail.com
- SECRETARY**—Carolyn Wooley, 334-400-4603, ckwooley@troycable.net
- TREASURER**—Loel Ewart, 334-774-0328, lewart@troycable.net
- MEMBERSHIP**—Othan Gilbert, 334-432-3433, ogilbert@troycable.net
- BANQUETS & ROWA REP**—Mary Rutkowski, 334-347-4966
- PUBLIC AFFAIRS**—Randy Godfrey, 334-312-6446, argodfrey@gmail.com
- LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS**—Ray Collins, 334-774-2101, hospitality@gmail.com
- CHAPLAIN/WEBMASTER**—Dennis Newton, 334-465-5079, drnewton@me.com
- SURVIVING SPOUSE AFFAIRS**—Faye Swinehart, 334-774-8817, jswinehart712@troycable.net
- ROTC/JROTC**—Ron Kaita, 334-677-6734, ronald.kaita@twc.com
- NEWSLETTER EDITOR**—Frank Estes, 334-797-9196, estesf@troycable.net
- RETIREE AFFAIRS**—Ray Collins, 334-774-2101, hospitality@gmail.com

TREASURER’S REPORT by LTC (Ret) Loel Ewart



Net worth of the Fort Rucker Chapter of MOAA as of 09/11/2023 is **\$28,205.26**. These funds are in one checking account, one savings account, and one Money Market Account in the AllIn (FCU).

Activities Since Last Report:		08/14/2023 starting balance of:	\$27,882.24
DEPOSITS	ACTION:		
08/17/2023	NL Sponsors (Loose Brick Coffee, Brock & Stout LLC)		\$300.00
08/18/2023	August Luncheon		648.91
08/30/2023	MM Interest for August		<u>10.11</u>
	Deposit Total		\$959.02
CHECKS	EXPENDITURES:		
08/17/2023	1983 IMWRF (MOAA August Lunch)		\$636.00
	Expenditures Total		\$636.00
	Net Increase		\$323.02
	09/11/2023 Current Total Balance of:		\$28,205.26
	All In checking	\$6,548.78	
	All In Savings	\$5.45	
	All In Money Market	\$21,651.03	
	Reserve Total: (Minus Reserve):		-\$21,651.03
	Life Membership	\$7,460.00	
	MOAA reserve	\$14,191.03	
	Minus Savings:	\$5.45	-\$5.45
	*Usable Funds as of September 11, 2023 (Minus Reserve/Savings)		\$6,548/78
	News*	No outstanding bills. Scholarship Fund = \$177.00	



WO1 Shawn D. Burton (L), the Leadership Awardee of Class 23-22, as the student demonstrating the highest leadership attributes. WO1 Justin T. Colder (R), the Distinguished Honor Graduate of Class 23-22, as the student with the highest class standing.

Warrant Officer Awards



WO1 Jake M. Barnes—MOAA Distinguished Honor Graduate and Leadership Awardee, WOCS Class 23-24, Graduated 14 September 2023

Joan V. Newman, AAMS®
Financial Advisor

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

1032 Boll Weevil Circle Ste E
P.O. Box 311507
Enterprise, AL 36331-1507
Bus. 334-347-4656 TF. 888-347-4657
Fax 866-462-3521
joan.newman@edwardjones.com
www.edwardjones.com

24 - Hr Emergency Service
334-774-8050
334-687-4550

Alabama Licenses
HVAC # 00157
Refrigeration # 51409

HAGLER
HEATING & COOLING
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL..... WE GET IT DONE!

Clay Hagler, Owner
office@haglerac.com
clay@haglerac.com
186 North Union Ave • Ozark, AL 36360
www.haglerac.com

Eufaula Office: 334-687-4550
Ozark Office: 334-774-8050
Fax: 334-774-9186

Photos from August 17, 2023 Luncheon



(L-R) Sarah Kelsey, Tracy Robinson, & Ron Kaita.



Dee Gilbert, Barbara Ewart, & Carolyn Wooley



Dennis & Rose Bergstrazer



Charlie & Claudia Wigglesrth



John & Sam Newton



Lark Kaita & Dee Gilbert



Dick Kenyon & Frank Estes



Othan Gilbert, Fred Draper, & Dee Gilbert



Debbie & Randy Godfry



Carolyn Wooley & Fred Draper



Sherrie & Ricky Peak



COL Whitney Gardner U.S. ARMY



Loel Ewart, Mary Rutkowski, & Susanne Bailey



Ron & Lark Kaita



Sarah Kelsey & Tracy Robinson— Guest Speakers



Important Dates for MOAA Ft Rucker Chapter, 2023		
Board of Directors' Meeting	Newsletter Input Suspende	Bi-Monthly Meeting
10-16-2023		10-21-2023
11-13-2023	11-15-2023	
12-11-2023		12-16-2023

**PLEASE
support
our
sponsors!**

Early Bird Brief (EBB)

Want to stay up to date on what is going on in the Department of Defense?

The EBB is generally posted by 7 a.m. ET every weekday. You can subscribe to get it sent directly in your inbox. Go to the website shown below to sign up.

<https://www.defensenews.com/ebb>

49th ANNUAL FORT NOVOSEL **RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY**, 27 OCTOBER 2023

The Fort Novosel Commanding General, Retiree Council, and Retirement Services Office invite you to the 49th Annual Retiree Appreciation Day. Use the information below to schedule your itinerary before completing and mailing the pre-registration form to the right.

49th ANNUAL FORT NOVOSEL **RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY**, 27 OCTOBER 2023

The Fort Novosel Commanding General, Retiree Council, and Retirement Services Office invite you to the 49th Annual Retiree Appreciation Day. Use the following information to schedule your itinerary before mailing the pre-registration form.

HEALTH & INFORMATION FAIR (8:00 a.m. to 12:00 pm) – Held in Yano Hall, Building 6005, on Andrews Avenue near the Aviation Museum, from 8:00 a.m. until noon and hosted by the Commander, Lyster Army Health Clinic.

COMMAND GROUP – RETIREE LUNCHEON (12:00 p.m.) – Held at The Landing. Opening remarks and lunch will begin at 12:00 p.m. and will precede the guest speaker's presentation. Lunch is available **only to those who have registered and paid in advance**. Come socialize and be sure to get a ticket for the door prizes!

Menu: Authentic-style Schnitzel w/Jaeger Gravy, German Potato Salad, Green Beans, Rolls w/Butter, Apple Pie, Coffee, and Tea. COST IS \$16.00 PER PERSON AND MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE. A registration form to reserve your meal is in this newsletter.

RAD GENERAL SESSION (approx. 12:30 p.m., immediately following lunch) – Presentation by Mr. Mark Overberg, Director, Army Retirement Services, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1.

RETIREMENT CEREMONY (2:00 p.m.) – The Quarterly Retirement Ceremony will be held at 2:00 p.m. in the Aviation Museum (located at the corner of Andrews Ave and Novosel St). There will be reserved seating for Retirees and their guests.

Information on the Retiree Appreciation Day and Registration Form were extracted from Ft. Novosel Retiree Services Newsletter, Issue 1-23, Fall 2023 issue.



2023 FORT NOVOSEL RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY REGISTRATION FORM



(Complete and return with check/charge card information to the address below.)

Please return application by 20 October 2023. Make checks payable to MWRF or print credit card info below.

Mail to **Commander, USAACE, Attn: Retirement Services, 2218 6th Avenue, Fort Novosel, AL 36362-5105.**

Do not send cash! We must have reservations for meals. NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR.

NAME (LAST, FIRST, MI) _____ RANK _____

MAILING ADDRESS (P.O. BOX OR STREET, CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE)

STATUS: [] RETIREE [] SPOUSE [] WIDOW(ER)

SERVICE: [] ARMY [] AIR FORCE [] NAVY [] MARINE [] COAST GUARD

NAME of PERSON(S) ATTENDING WITH ME: _____

I/WE WILL BE ATTENDING THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES (Check all that apply):

[] Health Fair [] Command Group Luncheon [] General Session [] Retirement Ceremony

RESERVATIONS: Please place my meal reservation for the number of meals indicated:

Persons: _____ Friday Luncheon @ \$16.00 per person TOTAL COST OF MEALS \$ _____
(Make checks payable to: MWRF or provide credit card info below.)

IF PAYING BY CREDIT CARD, ENTER THE FOLLOWING INFO (Circle Type of Card and Please Print):

VISA MASTER CARD AMERICAN EXPRESS Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Name (as it appears on the card): _____

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE: _____

(CHECKS AND CARD CHARGES WILL NOT POST UNTIL AFTER THE EVENT CONCLUDES.)



STEVE & PAM SCHISLER
OWNER OPERATIONS

128 W. Court Square
Ozark, AL 36360
334.443.0434
loosebrickcoffee.wordpress.com

follow us on
Facebook & Instagram



Sorrells Funeral Home & Crematory

4550 Boll Weevil Circle
Enterprise, AL 36330
Phone 334-347-9598
Fax 334-393-7599
Email sfenterprise@gmail.com
www.sorrellsfuneralhomeenterprise.com



ENTERPRISE PET CREMATORY
Because Your Pet Loved You

4550 Boll Weevil Circle, Suite 2 East • Enterprise, AL 36330
334-347-0373
www.EnterprisePetCrematory.com

HOUSTON PRINTING COMPANY, INC.
"Printing Excellence Since 1912"



Danny Cosby
Owner

280 East Main Street • Post Office Box 5549 • Dothan, AL 36302
714-4767 Cell • (334) 792-6651 • (334) 792-0848 Fax
Toll Free 800-443-9088 • dannycosby@houstonprintingal.com

We're **All in 2 Finances**

Let us help you with yours.

All in CREDIT UNION www.allincu.com

Vicky Turner
Marketing Director

THE TERRACE
AT GROVE PARK



P. 334.792.7349
C. 334.791.3740 F. 334.792.7349
101 Tulip Lane
Dothan, AL 36305
VTURNER@5SSL.COM

LAW OFFICES OF
BROCK & STOUT, LLC

GARY W. STOUT
ATTORNEY AT LAW

2731 ROSS CLARK CIRCLE DOTHAN, AL 36301 (334) 671-5555
807 E. LEE STREET ENTERPRISE, AL 36330 (334) 393-4357

COFFEE COUNTY ARTS ALLIANCE
— Presents —

WE'LL MEET AGAIN A NEW AMERICAN MUSICAL	Sep 19, 2023 7:00 pm	Enterprise High School
THREE ON A STRING GOOD, CLEAN, HILARIOUS ENTERTAINMENT!	Nov 7, 2023 7:00 pm	Enterprise High School
MESSIAH A COMMUNITY CHORAL PRESENTATION	Dec 3, 2023 5:00 pm	First Baptist Church
THE LETTERMEN 50 YEARS OF MUSICAL MEMORIES	Jan 22, 2024 7:00 pm	Enterprise High School
DALLAS BRASS PATRIOTIC, ROMANTIC, DIXIELAND & POP	Feb 29, 2024 7:00 pm	Enterprise High School
PINEY WOODS ARTS FESTIVAL A Juried Arts & Crafts Show	Apr 20 & 21 2024	ESCC

Tickets & Information: 334.406.ARTS (2787)
www.CoffeeCountyArtsAlliance.com

The 2023-24 season is dedicated to the memory of Luella B. Henderson.



Circle Insurance Agency
863 Andrews Avenue
Ozark, Alabama 36360

Independent Insurance Agent

Sammy Judah sjcircleins@troycable.net TEL. (334) 774-7177
FAX (334) 774-0907

U.S. ARMY
WARRANT OFFICER ASSOCIATION
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
ABOVE THE BEST SILVER CHAPTER
FORT RUCKER, AL 36362

PAST OR PRESENT WARRANT OFFICER?

JOIN US IN OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS!
EVERY SECOND THURSDAY

FOLLOW US FOR MORE INFO →

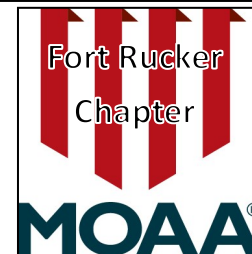


SCAN ME

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

Return Service Requested

MOAA Membership Application
Fort Rucker Chapter



Fort Rucker Chapter
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
PO Box 620075
Fort Novosel, 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