



Heart of Texas Chapter (TX-07)  
Military Officer Association of America  
P.O. Box 23964 Waco, TX 76702-3964

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Chapter Web Site: hotmoaa.org

President's Column

Greetings,

Sadly, our February 2021 dinner meeting had to be canceled due to the Deep Freeze of 2021! What a year: COVID-19 and the Deep Freeze. Here's hoping all are recovering from the freeze with a minimum of broken pipes and other damage! The program scheduled for that evening, Ken Ratajczak "An Evening with John Denver" will take place at the July dinner meeting; I am looking forward to that.

Our next dinner meeting will feature a presentation by Harold and RoseMary Rafuse concerning available fund raising events, including a request for your participation and your ideas. Our chapter has a long and distinguished history of granting financial awards annually to deserving students from Central Texas. Our award programs have received significant recognition by MOAA headquarters and in stories in the monthly MOAA magazine and in other local magazines. Our program on March 18<sup>th</sup> is entitled "Chapter Fund Raising in 2021 and Beyond". The program will include a brief history of our award programs, an overview of methodologies previously used to raise funds, a presentation of realities we face today, and a discussion of potential approaches we may pursue this year and in future years. Information on a survey to be distributed to all Chapter members later in March seeking ideas and suggestions also will be featured.

The COVID-19 pandemic is still with us, although things seem to be improving with increasing availability of preventive vaccines. I hope that all who are eligible so far and who wanted vaccinations got them; if not I recommend checking with the McLennan County Health District online at covidwaco.com, or by phone at (254) 750-1890 – they have been great at helping over the phone and more and more vaccine seems to be arriving. I also hear that HEB pharmacies and Ascension-Providence Hospital have

vaccines. And it appears that a dose of the available vaccine is better than none, especially for protecting against serious effects of illness even if the virus is contracted; such claim is being broadcast on news media for the new Johnson & Johnson's Janssen single-dose vaccine.

The new members of the local chapter's Board were greeted at the Board meeting held on February 23. It was stressed at the meeting that committees could use help from Board members as well as those who are not presently serving on the Board. There are specific committees needing help include fund raising, legislative affairs, and ROTC/JROTC/Young Marines. Jon Ker who is very busy as a legislative advisor and traditional head of the legislative affairs committee, told us of the threat of HB 196 to the 2007 Texas law that allows us to "stand our ground" in protecting our home and property; and by the way, reliable sources attribute the current shortage of small arms ammunition to hoarding by folks who understandably fear future difficulties in obtaining supplies. Also, the Newsletter produced by Vince Tobola and me is interested in any items of interest to the members.

Continue to stay safe. The next controversy to be resolved by our national leaders is why we need to continue to wear masks and maintain social distancing after we receive our immunization shots; it's a controversial subject and more enlightenment will be forthcoming soon, hopefully!

Respectfully,  
Bill Milnor

**MARCH SPECIAL DAY RECOGNITION**

**Birthdays:** Marcia Anderson, Bill Bauer, Roland Duty, Michael Flynn, Jim Gompper, George Holmes, Sheila Lednicki, Mike O'Brice, William Rogers, James Wilson and Al West.

**Anniversaries:** George and Christine Brinegar, Roland and Mary Duty, Matt and Patty Pirko, Tom and Lucia Roe, and James and Shirley Wilson.

**CONGRATUATIONS TO ALL**

## Upcoming Events and Information Items

### MARCH 18, THURSDAY DINNER MEETING AT RIDGEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB BANQUET ROOM

GUEST SPEAKER, HAROLD RAFUSE,  
PRESENTATION ON CHAPTER  
FUNDRAISING IN 2021 AND BEYOND,  
\*\*SOCIAL HOUR: 6:00 P.M. \*\*, \*\*CALL TO  
TABLES 6:35 P.M. \*, \*INTRO &  
ANNOUNCEMENTS 6:40 P.M. \*\*, \*\*DINNER  
6:55P.M.\*\* , \*\*DRAWING & PRESENTATION  
7:50 P.M.

**MENU:** Caesar salad with crisp romaine hearts, brioche croutons, grated Parmesan cheese and club made Caesar dressing, Chopped Steak, Tilapia, Chef's choice of starch, vegetable and two desserts, Fresh Rolls and Butter, Fresh Brewed Iced Tea or Hot Tea and Coffee. Please note dinner charge is \$33 per person, payable at registration table, cash or check made to HOT Chapter MOAA. Please call Vince Tobola, 254-709-5795 or e-mail vtobola@aol.com, NLT

Tuesday, 16 March, Noon for sign-ups.

Early RSVP's are welcome and appreciated.

After this time, please contact Vince Tobola as soon as possible if plans change on attending and we will work to accommodate you at the dinner meeting. NOTE: Winter dress code will be in effect, gentlemen, coat and tie and ladies attire as desired.

### DINNER MEETING HEALTH PRECAUTIONS

- Masks shall be worn inside at all times and all locations except when sitting at the tables.
- Drinks will be available at the bar.
- Buffet line and dessert table will have Club staff serving food items.
- Only one table at a time for food service. Tables will have six chairs versus eight.
- Please be aware of your personal conditions since fever is one of most likely symptoms of coronavirus and we all need to take proper care to protect others.

### MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2021

Ridgewood Country Club (RCC) is at 7301 Fish Pond Road.

- 15 April 2021, Dinner meeting with guest speakers, Texas A&M Cavalry, the Corps of Cadets & the Calvary.
- 20 May 2021, Dinner meeting with guest speaker, Bill Easley, Israel Trip presentation.
- 4 June 2021, Tentative, Annual fundraiser golf tournament, Friday afternoon at Cottonwood Creek Golf Course, Waco.
- 15 July 2021, Dinner meeting with entertainment by Ken Ratajczak, performing music by John Denver and friends.

### CELEBRATE VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

The nation observes National Vietnam War Veterans Day on March 29. Enacted in 2017, Public Law 115-15 encourages the flying of the U.S. flag to mark the occasion.

It was on March 29, 1973 that the last U.S. combat troops were withdrawn from Vietnam and the last prisoners of war held in North Vietnam arrived on American soil. It is also the date President Richard Nixon chose for the first Vietnam Veterans Day in 1974.

### TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER APPROVED 100 YEARS AGO

The creation of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was approved by Congress 100 years ago this month. Now known as the Tomb of the Unknowns, the monument represents the service and sacrifice of America's war dead. The U.S. treats even unidentified remains the same as any that were returned to the family.

On March 4, 1921, Congress approved the burial of a U.S. serviceman who was killed in WWI at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The memorial was created to service as a reminder of the nation's war dead to the people of the United States. On Nov. 11, 1921, the unknown warrior was transported by horse-drawn caisson to Arlington National Cemetery and interred in the tomb. In Aug. 1956, President Eisenhower approved the selection and interment of unknowns from WWII and the Korean War. They were interred in May 30, 1958. On Memorial Day 1984, the Vietnam War unknown was interred. However, he was later identified and a vacant crypt represents all missing troops of the Vietnam War.

## **MEMBERSHIP CORNER!!**

### **Goal Set – Help Needed!**

**The Membership Committee of the HOT Chapter of MOAA has established a GOAL of having 121 members (or more) by the end of 2021. We need YOUR help in accomplishing the goal.**

With the recent approval of our revised Chapter Bylaws, we now have five categories of membership – **Regular, Surviving Spouses, Associate, Future Officer** and **Honorary**. An abbreviated explanation for each is: Regular member (commissioned and warrant officers who served or are serving their country); Surviving Spouses (spouses of deceased military officers and warrant officers); Associates (spouses of regular members who pay dues); Future Officers (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> third year students at United States military academies, and in ROTC accredited four year schools of higher learning); and, Honorary members (individuals nominated by regular, surviving spouse and associate members for their service to the nation, state, local community, and the Chapter). All members are approved by the Board of Directors.

The newly revised Chapter Bylaws also recognized the IRS requirements that 75% or more of our Chapter's membership must be Regular members, while the combined total of Surviving Spouses, Associates and Future Officers members can't exceed 22.5% and Honorary members 2.5%. When we reach the goal of 121 members and the Regular member represent 75% of the membership (or 91 Regular members), Surviving Spouses, Associates and Future Officers can total 27 (or 22.5%) and we can have 3 Honorary members (or 2.5%). As of 1 March, we have 67 Regular members who have paid their 2021 dues; a total of 10 Surviving Spouses, Associates and Future Offices members; and 0 Honorary members. We can get to 82 Regular members rather quickly if 15, who were members in 2020, will pay their 2021 dues. We could also raise our number of Surviving Spouses, Associates and Future Offices members from 10 to 25 and stay within the 22.5% limit - if 15 spouses of existing regular members who have elected not to pay dues, would agree to do so. Upon paying dues, they would become Associate members. Since the first of this year, we have two new Regular members.

In closing, the **Committee's requests to YOU are: IF** you were a 2020 Regular member and have not paid your 2021 dues – please do so; **IF** you are a spouse of a Regular members and would like to serve on the Board of Directors, or just want to help grow the membership of the Chapter, please pay dues (only 4 have thus far); and, **IF** you know of or come in contact with a commission officer or warrant officer, obtain how we can contact him/her, and let the Chairman of the Membership Committee, Jim Milam, know via email, [jimmilam@aol.com](mailto:jimmilam@aol.com), or by phone, 254-845-1310. **Together**, we can increase our Regular membership from 79 at the end of 2020 to 91 (a net gain of 12) or more by the end of 2021, and thus allowing for additional members in the other categories.

### **VA SECRETARY CONFIRMED**

In mid-February, the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs voted 87-7 to confirm Denis R. McDonough for the position of Secretary of Veterans Affairs. He will be the second non-veteran to lead VA. While McDonough has not served in the armed forces, he is a public servant with wide-ranging experience including as White House Chief of Staff for former President Obama.

### **HOUSE AND SENATE VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEES ANNOUNCED**

In early February, both the House and the Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs have announced all their committee members. The Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs will be chaired by Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT) with Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KS) as the ranking member. The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs will be chaired by Rep. Mark Takano (D-CA) with Rep. Mike Bost (R-IL) as the ranking member.

### **VETERANS RAPID RETRAINING BILL INTRODUCED IN HOUSE**

In early February, Rep. Mike Bost (R-IL) introduced H.R. 637. A few days prior, Sens. Tester (D-MT) and Moran (R-KS) introduced the senate version of this legislation. This important legislation would provide 12 months of retraining benefits to certain veterans who became unemployed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Veterans between the ages of 22 and 66 who are not eligible for other VA education benefits would qualify for retraining assistance in high-demand occupations.

## **MILITARY TEAMS ON COVID VACCINATION PROGRAM SUPPORT**

In mid-February, the Pentagon announced it will deploy about 3,600 additional military personnel to support COVID-19 vaccination sites around the country. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has authorized an additional 20 teams to support a Federal Emergency Management Agency request -- one that could ultimately require close to 19,000 service members to assist at vaccine sites.

Austin approved five teams on Feb. 4. The first is made up of soldiers from Fort Carson., Colorado, Kirby said. That team has deployed to California and will be "operational, we expect, by Monday supporting a mega-vaccination site in Los Angeles," he added.

The new total of 25 teams brings the troop strength supporting the FEMA effort to 4,700 personnel, Kirby said.

The 20 newly authorized teams will be made up of 10 type-one teams, each consisting of 222 personnel supporting mega-vaccination sites, he said, adding that the other 10 will be smaller type-two teams of 139 personnel supporting smaller vaccination sites.

The troops supporting FEMA will join the more than 26,000 National Guard members and 3,000 active-duty personnel who have been supporting COVID efforts over the last year, he added.

## **BOMBER VISIT TO INDIA SINCE 1945**

A B-1B bomber from Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., flew over the 13th edition of the Aero India trade show at Bengaluru on Feb. 3, escorted by an Indian Air Force Tejas fighter. The bomber landed and went on static display, marking the first time a U.S. bomber has landed in India since 1945.

The B-1B was joined by a C-5M Super Galaxy on the tarmac. The visit was meant to highlight growing ties between the U.S. and India.

## **HICKS #2 AT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

Kathleen H. Hicks on Feb. 9 reported to work as the highest-ranking woman in Pentagon history, starting as the deputy secretary of defense the day after being confirmed by the Senate. Hicks immediately met with Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III and received updates on DOD activities related to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a Pentagon statement.

## **MOAA'S LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

Here is a preview of MOAA's legislative priorities for the coming session, which we are already working to influence during the incoming administration's transition.

These objectives are broad and topical in nature. They are subject to refinement and interpretation depending on the latest legislation, as well as activities on the Hill or within the administration and its departments.

- Protect the value of the military health care benefit.
- Protect the military health system's pharmacy benefit, and achieve flexibility in TRICARE pharmacy copays.
- Address barriers to accessing care within the military health system, including TRICARE coverage gaps and mental health care access challenges.
- Protect family support programs, and ensure military-provided services (housing, PCS, child care) are affordable, readily available, and meet quality standards.
- Sustain pay raises for the troops and COLA raises for retirees.
- Ensure Coast Guard members are paid during a government shutdown.
- Sustain Veterans Health Administration (VHA) foundational missions and services.
- Achieve equity of benefits, protections, and administrative support for Guard and Reserve members consistent with their active-duty counterparts.
- Reform the presumptive process to support veterans claiming service-connected disabilities for toxic exposures.
- Achieve concurrent receipt of service-earned retirement pay and VA disability pay.
- Protect Arlington National Cemetery as an option for those currently eligible to receive full military honors through expansion of our national cemetery.
- Improve survivor benefits.

## **HOT CHAPTER BOARD MEETING**

The next Board meeting will be on Tuesday, March 23, 5 p.m., at Uncle Dan's BBQ, 1001 Lake Air Drive, which is located near the intersection with Valley Mills Drive and Lake Air Drive. Entrance is at rear of the building where the main parking lot is located.

## **MOAA VACATIONS**

As a member of MOAA, you can use MOAA VACATIONS to assist with planning travel trips. You can find this on the MOAA web site. Their official travel agency has the mission to provide the very best vacation experience for every member. In addition to the opportunity to enjoy the camaraderie of traveling with your fellow MOAA members from across the country we have also negotiated special value-added offers to enhance your next vacation.

## **7 TIPS TO SHOW UP LIKE A PRO**

Here are ways to master virtual meeting platforms.

1. Make sure you have the meeting link and password (if required) before the meeting starts.
2. Have a well-lit room and a plain background for your online meets – or at least a clean, uncluttered space.
3. Set your camera at eye level on the monitor you plan to use to avoid a distracting or unflattering angle.
4. When you talk, use a normal speaking volume and look into the camera. Try to avoid looking at yourself talking.
5. Tell the people in your house before you sign on to your virtual event. This can help avoid unintended interruptions.
6. Mute your microphone when you are not talking. But make sure to unmute before you begin speaking. It is no joke that “you are on mute” is one of the most uttered phrases of the pandemic.
7. Follow the dress code. If you have been in the same sweatshirt for two days, it is time to change into something even-appropriate. Rule of thumb: Wear what you’d wear if you were in person. At least from waist-up.

## **30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF DESERT STORM**

Feb. 28 marked the 30th anniversary of the end of offensive operations in Operation Desert Storm. Desert Storm was a sustained 43-day air campaign including four days of ground operations by the United States and its allies against Iraq between Jan. 17, 1991 and Feb. 28, 1991. In six weeks of fighting, the U.S.-led coalition defeated Iraq, which had initiated the conflict by invading Kuwait the previous August.

While it may seem like a long time ago — especially in the aftermath of the Iraq War of the

the 2000s — Desert Storm is worthy of study, as it was the last major regional conflict in which the U.S. military was involved. The role of airpower was particularly decisive. For the first time in history, airpower was used as the key force in the strategy and execution of a war. U.S. and allied airpower was the coalition’s key asymmetric advantage in accomplishing President George H.W. Bush’s declared objectives in a manageable time frame and with a minimum of friendly losses. Fewer than 150 Americans died in action. The conflict is instructive for military strategists and offers lessons for those planning contemporary military operations.

There are six key “takeaways” from Desert Storm. First, the United States accomplished its strategic objectives by aligning ends, ways, and means such that it projected force without projecting undue liability for U.S. forces. Next, the effects-based, systems approach applied in the design and execution of the air campaign (i.e., actions taken against enemy systems designed to achieve specific outcomes that contribute directly to desired military and political objectives) worked extraordinarily well, and remains relevant to the conflicts of today and tomorrow. Third, joint operations are best accomplished by using the right forces, in the right places, at the right times — “jointness” is not homogeneity and it is not synonymous with inter-service cooperation for its own sake. Fourth, wars are won or lost by people. Encouraging innovation was essential in Desert Storm. Fifth, preparation and foresight are crucial to future military success. And finally, the probability of success in future conflicts will rise if our armed services actually study and learn from both successes and failures, and apply course corrections as a result of those lessons.

Desert Storm established the character of modern warfare. It foretold of precision in the application of force and airpower. Given the role of the F-117 aircraft, stealth also emerged as a new baseline condition for successful combat in high-threat air operations. Desert Storm demonstrated the success of using desired effects as the focus of strategy in the planning and conduct of operations. Before, the U.S. military primarily used strategies of attrition and/or annihilation. It also set expectations for low casualties — on both sides of a conflict. And finally, the conflict introduced the prosecution of a joint air campaign integrating all service air operations under the functional command of a single airman as opposed to the separate service component commanders who provided the aircraft.



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