



The RETROSPECT

TAMPA CHAPTER – A FIVE STAR CHAPTER OF MOAA NATIONAL



JUNE 2021 VOLUME 27, NUMBER 6

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: COL CHARLES DALCOURT USA RET

GREETINGS!



To our MOAA Tampa Chapter members and all those reading our newsletter this month, hello and welcome to June! This year is an incredible year of healing, hope, and haughty expectations. Our Chapter has enjoyed a myriad of successes to date and look forward to running a very good race through year's end. Think about these truths for a moment. We have continued to meet monthly, in-person and via Zoom, for both our board meetings and luncheons. We have managed to launch and advance several initiatives this year that impact

our communities. Even more, we have enjoyed an increase in our ranks...growth of our Team.

That said, I would like to extend another welcome to our new members. Talented, insightful, and noted leaders from across Tampa, we are pleased you joined our Chapter, and we are excited that you are getting engaged early on. I also thank our members that have volunteered to fill vacancies in various committees and working groups. Our Legislative Affairs, Communications, and Outreach committees all received boosts in number and capability. We now have dedicated Liaisons to our local Senior and Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps programs, the Veterans Treatment Court – 13th Judicial Circuit Court, and to the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital. In all, we are very thankful for the members/volunteers that enable the Chapter to accomplish its specified objectives and overall, the mission we stand for.

Next, I thank all who have continued to answer the calls to action from our legislative team. There are several issues that demand our attention. Whether lobbying to end hunger amongst young military families, backing bills that will improve education benefits for

veterans and caregivers, monitoring the VA's efforts to correct denials of compensation to Blue Water veterans exposed to Agent Orange, or promoting legislation to expand TRICARE eligibility to young adult dependents up to age 26, MOAA is committed to protecting the rights of both currently serving and former servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

As you continue reading through the newsletter, you will enjoy learning about LTC Doug Andrews (USA Retired) – his service and experiences. Doug is our Chapter's Honored Member for the month of June. He is an incredibly humble warrior that has served this Chapter with distinction. Congratulations and thank you!

In closing, I ask that you continue to advocate for the legislation MOAA supports, stay connected via our website and newsletter, and save the date – 10 December 2021 – for our Winter Gala. Again, thank you for your support and confidence.

All the best,

Charles Dalcourt

UPCOMING EVENTS

3 June
10:00 AM
Board of Directors Meeting

10 June
11:30 AM Chapter Luncheon
Columbia Restaurant Siboney Room
[\(See page 6\)](#)

3 July
12:00-4:00
OHH Backyard BBQ
[\(See page 5\)](#)

10 December
6:00PM-10:00PM
Winter Gala Save the Date
[\(See page 2\)](#)

WANT TO PLACE AN AD
[\(See page 6\)](#)

REMINDER:

SUBMISSION DEADLINE
FOR THE JULY ISSUE IS

20 JUNE 2021

Please submit articles in a Word Document and photos in JPEG

NOTICE: if you have a change of address, please notify our membership team–Bill Schneider at 813 977-2572 geowilly@aol.com or Tom South 813 975-5025 tsouth1811@gmail.com

LEGISLATIVE LOWDOWN



BY LTC REGINALD WILLIAMS, USA RET

As MOAA concludes the Advocacy In Action (AiA) by engaging Congressional Members virtually, servicemembers, veterans, retirees and dependents benefits remain the priority effort. MOAA continues to advocate for the two dozen topic areas outlined for the executive branch of government in January. Let's get right to it!

MOAA's Advocacy in Action Starts Strong, but We Still Need Your Help

MOAA is not sitting on its laurels during these trying times – we are out there across the nation making sure Congress hears our concerns and represents our interests through legislation being drafted as we speak.

We are off to a great start, filling appointments with legislators to share our three advocacy topics during this year's [Advocacy in Action](#) campaign. Our council and chapters had completed 54 meetings with legislators and staff members as of May 11, and have helped by providing nearly 7,200 letters encouraging support.

Given the magnitude of what lies before us – making sure all 535 congressional offices are contacted – there is still more work to do. Thankfully, we have members who are willing to stand up for those who need our support on these three points:

1. Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Reform
2. Parity for TRICARE Young Adults
3. Basic Needs Allowance

These three advocacy topics help currently serving servicemembers and their families, as well as retirees, veterans, and their families. Our campaign is ran through the month of May with plenty more to accomplish.

In the article in that previous link, there are two key points to share. First, contact your local chapter to ensure they were able to meet with your representative and both senators. If not, please ensure they have plans to do so.

Second, take action on your own through MOAA's Take Action Center and send your elected officials a MOAA-suggested message today:

[Urge Your Elected Officials to Support Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Reform Legislation.](#)

Comprehensive toxic exposure reform is needed to ensure we avoid the problems faced by

Vietnam veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange.

[Urge Your Elected Officials to Fix the TRICARE Young Adult Coverage Gap.](#) Military kids face many challenges, including frequent moves and separations from their servicemember parent(s). They deserve the same health care protections afforded to families on commercial health plans. The Health Care Fairness for Military Families Act would expand TRICARE eligibility to young adult dependents up to age 26, bringing TRICARE in line with commercial plan requirements.

[Ask Your Lawmakers to Support the Military Hunger Prevention Act.](#) Food insecurity among junior servicemembers is not a new concern, but like many ongoing problems, it's been made worse by the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Military Hunger Prevention Act would establish a Basic Needs Allowance (BNA) for these servicemembers, helping them overcome financial difficulties and allowing them to concentrate on their duties.

With everything going on in our world, we must continue to watch out for those who are serving now, or have ever served, to make sure their needs are being met. We appreciate your service and commitment to Never Stop Serving.

100 Days in: MOAA's Priorities for the Biden Administration as Major Decisions Loom

Hours after the Biden administration officially began, MOAA [outlined its to-do list](#) for the executive branch, complete with requests for action on nearly two dozen specific topics.

(cont'd p. 2)

(cont'd from p.1) The new administration passed 100 days in office in April. It's a traditional benchmark, but given the delays surrounding the full White House budget release, it's too early to understand fully the level of importance the administration will put on key MOAA concerns. The budget proposal offers great insight into these priorities, and while the president's discretionary request addresses some of these topics, it doesn't get into enough specifics.

MOAA plans to keep the pressure on to ensure its priorities presented to the White House are well-represented in the final budget as well as this year's National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). These include ongoing efforts for a full pay raise and preventing any moves toward TRICARE fee increases, as well as continued efforts to reverse plans that would cut military medical billets.

While MOAA awaits progress on these major issues, there has been movement on some other requests made in the Jan. 20 letter:

- **VA debt collection:** The president signed an executive order Jan. 22 to delay VA debt collections. The department announced in March it would cancel any debts for copayments or other fees incurred from April 6, 2020, through Sept. 30, 2021, and would refund any payments already made for debts from that period.
- **Military Lending Act protection:** About a week into the new administration, the Consumer Finance Protection Board (CFPB) announced plans to restart supervisory exams on lenders, ensuring compliance with the Military Lending Act. MOAA supported this change, which

reversed a 2019 policy and provides more protection for military family finances.

Veterans and stimulus checks: MOAA sought coordination between the Department of the Treasury and the VA to ensure veterans who aren't required to file federal taxes still received their Economic Impact Payments. In March, the IRS announced it was receiving required data from the VA and planned to send out these checks by mid-April; on April 14, it announced 320,000 stimulus payments worth a combined \$450 million had been issued.

Other items on MOAA's to-do list for the White House have not been addressed via specific legislation, but they've been part of the new administration's own priority rollout. One example: New VA Secretary Denis McDonough echoed MOAA's concerns about the need to expand GI Bill protections, ensure families of veterans who die of COVID-linked causes receive all their earned benefits, and support science-based methods to expand the list of conditions with presumptive links to toxic exposure.

Still other matters have yet to receive the attention they deserve, but they have not fallen off of MOAA's radar. The administration can show its commitment to those who wear and have worn the uniform, and to their families, by addressing inequities in reserve-component benefits, supporting programs that raise the quality of life for military families, and addressing the proposed changes to Arlington National Cemetery eligibility – moves supported by an advisory council whose members have been released as part of a DoD-wide reform effort.

As the administration makes its priorities clear via budget materials and other actions, MOAA will continue its bipartisan work with executive and legislative officials to protect your earned benefits. Remember to contact your legislators on these and other issues by using our [Take Action Center](#).

Reserve Retirement Pay: Have you Struggled to Get Your Retirement Pay and Navigate the Paperwork?

We've heard from retirees from the National Guard and Reserve that setting up and receiving retirement pay is a confusing process plagued by bureaucracy and delays. Our Reserve and National Guard retirees deserve better.

MOAA wants to push for solutions to improve the process, but we also need your help.

Have you experienced problems establishing payments? Did you have to wait months without confirmation/communication that your claim was received? Did you encounter problems because your retirement pay and health care coverage began at different times?

Tell MOAA about your experience by emailing MOAA at editor@moaa.org. Please include "Reserve Retirement" in the subject line and include your rank, service branch, and when you separated in the message.

Sources: 1) www.moaa.org, article by Dan Merry, May 12, 2021
2) www.moaa.org, article by Kevin Lilley, May 05, 2021
3) www.moaa.org, article by MOAA Staff, May 19, 2021

SAVE THE DATE

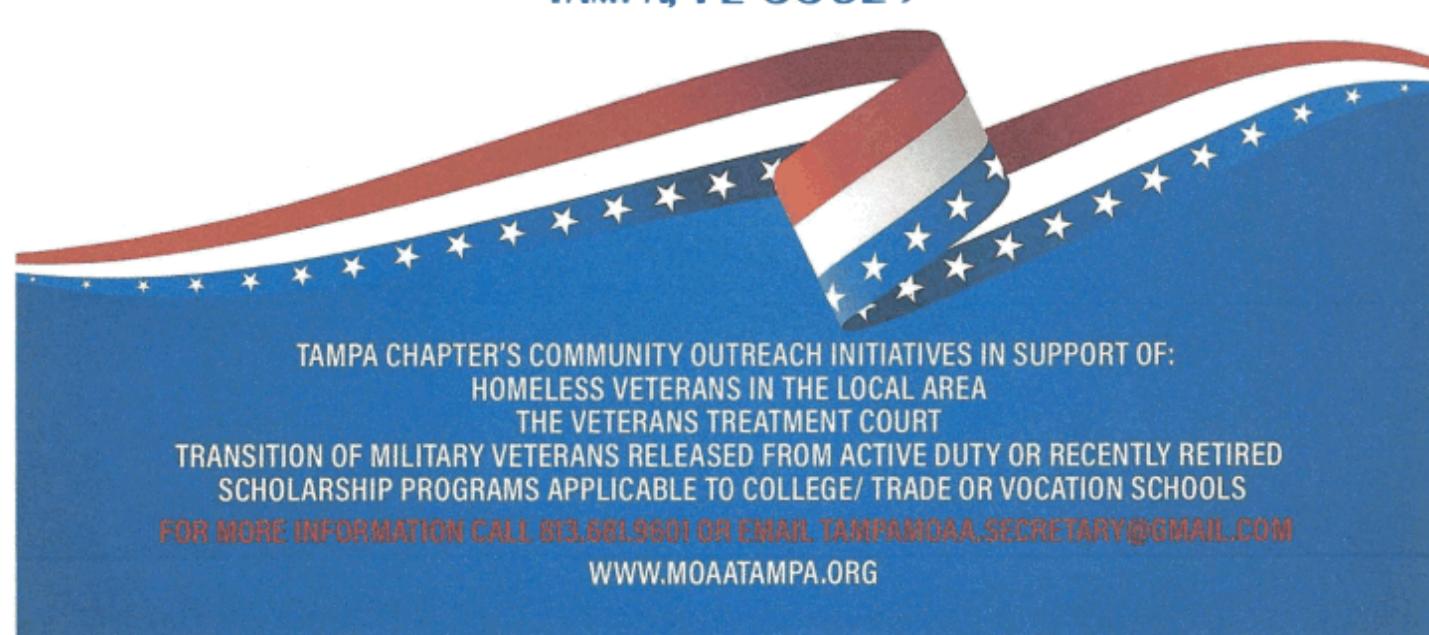
THE TAMPA CHAPTER OF THE
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



INAUGURAL FUNDRAISER

WINTER GALA

FRIDAY DECEMBER 10, 2021
6:00PM - 10:00PM
Private Country Club
1601 S MacDill Ave
Tampa, FL 33629



TAMPA CHAPTER'S COMMUNITY OUTREACH INITIATIVES IN SUPPORT OF:
HOMELESS VETERANS IN THE LOCAL AREA
THE VETERANS TREATMENT COURT
TRANSITION OF MILITARY VETERANS RELEASED FROM ACTIVE DUTY OR RECENTLY RETIRED
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS APPLICABLE TO COLLEGE/ TRADE OR VOCATION SCHOOLS
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 813.681.9601 OR EMAIL TAMPAMOAA.SECRETARY@GMAIL.COM
WWW.MOAAATAMPA.ORG

THE TAMPA CHAPTER OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (MOAA)



2021 OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT: COL CHARLES DALCOURT USA RET

1ST VP: VACANT

2ND VP: COL BILL SCHNEIDER USA RET

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: COL CAROL ZIERES USA RET

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MOAA MISSION STATEMENT

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is a nonprofit veterans' association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and ensuring our nation keeps its commitments to currently serving, retired, and former members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors. Membership is open to those who hold or have ever held a warrant or commission in any component of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, or MOAA and their surviving spouses.

Tampa Chapter



5 Star MOAA Chapter
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2020 Recipient of the
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Chairman of the Joint Chief's
Outstanding Public Service Award

Military Officers Association of America

TAMPA CHAPTER MISSION:

To maintain a strong national defense and to ensure our nation keeps its commitments to currently serving, retired, and former members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors.

GENERAL CONTACT INFO:

The Tampa Chapter of the
Military Officers Association of America
Post Office Box 6383
MacDill AF Tampa, FL 33608-0383
E-Mail: TampaMOAA.Secretary@gmail.com



June Luncheon Guest Speakers:

Corinne Depietto & Alberto Sabat

U.S. Customs and Border Protection



Chief of Staff **Corinne DePietto** joined U.S. Customs and Border Protection in 2008 after working in the health and automobile insurance industry for twelve years. She has been a member of the Passenger Enforcement Rover Team, Passenger Analysis Unit, Anti-Terrorism Contraband Enforcement Team and a first line supervisor for airport and seaport operations. CoS DePietto has served a temporary duty assignment

to Nogales, Arizona for the Alliance to Combat Transnational Threats and worked for two years in Vancouver, British Columbia Canada at our Preclearance installation. She has also worked at the Sanford and Orlando, Florida ports of entry.

While CoS DePietto has not served in the military, she did have the opportunity to live on the Naval Air Station in Bermuda (which was known as Kinley Airforce Base until 1970) while her dad worked as a Navy Air Traffic Controller. She has friends all over the country and in several countries around the world whom she met while attending Roger B. Chaffee Elementary and High Schools on the Navy Base.

She earned a bachelor's degree in Kinesiology from the University of Michigan.

Acting Assistant Area Port Director **Alberto Sabat** has been serving U.S. Customs and Border Protection in this role since April, 2021. In this capacity he provides leadership and direction to our tactical and enforcement units include the Anti-

Terrorism Contraband Enforcement Team, Passenger Analysis Unit, Tactical Terrorist Response Team and Advanced Targeting Unit/Sea Operations. (AAPD Sabat is a legacy U.S. Customs and Border Protection professional, having joined the Immigration and Naturalization Service in 1993, prior to the creation of the Department of Homeland Security in 2002 and the merger of U.S. Customs and INS in 2003.

Alberto Sabat has held several positions with INS and CBP including Field Training Officer, Passenger Analysis Unit Team Lead, Supervisory Anti-Terrorism Contraband Enforcement Team, Trade and Operations and Chief of Tactical Operations leading to his current role. He has worked in several United States ports of entry including San Juan, Puerto Rico, San Francisco, California, and the Key West, Miami Seaport, Sanford, Orlando and Tampa ports of entry in Florida.

Prior to his CBP career, (AAPD Sabat served in the U.S. Army from 1983 until 1992 and served in several capacities including Platoon Leader, Artillery/Infantry Battalion Communications Staff Officer, Company Commander, and Signal Officers Basic and Advanced Course Instructor. His deployments include Operations Just Cause and Desert Storm.

He earned a bachelor's degree in Secondary Education from the University of Puerto Rico.

When asked about his Airborne experience he replied, "I've jumped out of a whole mess of perfectly good aircraft."

Notes from the Editor: CAPT Sara Marks, NC, USN (Ret)



So many things to look forward to this month! Happy 246th Birthday to the US Army! Make sure to look at the photos of our members who sent in pictures of their time in the Army with added captions to provide some interesting details. Happy Father's Day to all of our fathers. You are such an integral part of all of our lives, and such

an important part of our families and society at large. I still remember my Dad sharing so many things with my siblings and me hoping that the day he wouldn't be with us that we could still draw on his wisdom from all the memories that we made together. And Dad, I have so many fond memories of you. Love you Dad, and to all who are missing their fathers.

The month of May proved even busier than April. We had two of our MOAA Chapter representatives, Bill Schneider and me, who participated in honoring our JROTC Award winners at Plant City and Freedom High Schools during ceremonies held in their auditoriums. At our May luncheon we honored two recipients with a MOAA Tampa Scholarship Award. Eight of our chapter members attended the Florida Council of Chapters Convention in Sarasota, and to our delight, our chapter was awarded the five-star Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Award for our newsletter and website! Also make sure to read about the MOAA Tampa Chapter's "Thriving After Military Service" inaugural Transitioning Veteran Event held 20 May. It was a resounding success, especially due to the hard work of Paul McAneny, Geoff Harrington, Reggie Williams, and Charles Dalcourt's vision of filling a void in transition information. Their imagination, energy and hard work made it an amazing event. Tremendous credit goes to all the presenters at the event, including two of our own chapter members Matt Mularoni and Paula Stewart.

Our Member of the Month, voted by the chapter's board of directors, recognizes "excellence of service" of individuals in the MOAA Tampa chapter. Our honorary June, Member of the Month, is LTC Doug Andrews, US

Army (Ret) for his patriotism and outstanding service in support of the MOAA Tampa Chapter. He's been a long standing member of our chapter, so take the time to read his bio in our newsletter. Doug, thank you for your selfless service to MOAA and to our community. I feel so honored to know you.

I'm also pleased that our Chapter Member Spotlight for May, COL Lewis Vandyke, USA (Ret) is highlighted this month. How can we forget the fabulous job you did for the Florida Council of Chapters convention when we hosted it in 2019! Your energy and superb organizational skills were invaluable.

I want to continue to thank Bob Sawallesh for his support in sharing news articles and for taking photos at our monthly luncheons. I so appreciate his assistance as well as his friendship. Chapter Members, this is your newsletter so please share your stories, including such topics as military history, individual biographies, the role of military spouses, special events of interest to members, any vignettes of military or veterans service, holiday, commemorative or celebratory themes, etc. It's important that you tell and share your story with us!

And it's wonderful to end my notes with the excitement of the CDC's updated guidance on masks. Make sure to read the article about this updated guidance. It's exciting that our Nation's vaccination rate is so high and those who are fully vaccinated don't need to wear masks while protecting those, for whatever reason, are not yet vaccinated. As always let us continue to pray for our Nation, and the whole world as we pray for all affected by this pandemic and an end to this pandemic. Let us never forget. - NEVER STOP SERVING!

Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret)

THE RETROSPECT is published monthly by the Tampa Chapter of the Military Officer's Association of America (MOAA), P.O. Box 6383, MacDill Air Force Base, FL 33608-0383. The Tampa Chapter is a 501-C19 tax exempt veterans organization not associated with the Department of Defense and is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA).

MOAA National, the Florida Council of Chapters, and the Tampa Chapter are non-partisan organizations. The views expressed in individually signed articles and the

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OUR EDITORIAL POLICY:

MOAA National, the Florida Council of Chapters, and the Tampa Chapter are nonpartisan organizations. Our chapter membership is open to all Military officers (Commissioned and warrant), including Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve, former officers, and spouses/ surviving spouses of military officers.

Our luncheon meetings are held 1130 hours every second Thursday of each month at the Colombia Restaurant Sibodney Room in Ybor City and available to attend via Zoom.

ON THE WEB:

Tampa Chapter <http://moaatampa.org>

Communications directed to specific board members may be made by accessing their contact information listed under "ABOUT MOAA TAMPA CHAPTER" and "LEADERSHIP."

A password protected MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY is posted on the website under the "MEMBERSHIP" category. FL COUNCIL of CHAPTERS: www.moafl.org

MOAA NATIONAL: www.moaa.org

OPERATION HELPING HAND: www.operationhelpinghandtampa.com

TAKE ACTION: <http://www.moaa.org/Content/Take-Action/Top-Issues/Top-Issues.aspx>

As a member of MOAA, you are entitled to exclusive member benefits and discounts. Find out more about our member-only services and offers or explore the topics that most interest you.

UPDATE OPERATION HELPING HAND



LTC JIM GRIFFIN
Chairman, OPHH

"As long as we are needed, Operation Helping Hand will be there..."



I hope this update finds you and your families well. I also hope that all of you have had the opportunity to get your shots or are planning to very soon. With the relaxed masking policy, it appears that things are beginning to get back to normal. That being said, hopefully with DIRECTOR JOE BATTLE back in TAMPA we will begin conversations on resuming our monthly dinners at the JAMES A HALEY VA. I should have an update of this later this month.

You are all invited to attend the "BOBBY A'S BBQ" on JULY 3 from 1200-4:00 next to HANKS on DALE

MABRY AVE. This is a fund raiser for OPERATION HELPING HAND and has been a major fundraiser over the past few years. As always, the food prepared by our resident, honorary chapter member, MR. BOB AHERN, is always beyond magnificent! HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

All of the vital programs of service to our wounded and injured and their families are continuing without interruption. We continue to maintain a close relationship with the social workers who are doing a wonderful job in representing their respective patients and their families.

OPERATION HELPING HAND will need your continued support to allow us to continue our vital program of service to our wounded and injured and their families. This support can be through donations by checks or by using our website (OPERATIONHELPINGHANDTAMPA.COM).

STAY SAFE, HEALTHY AND RESILIENT!

OUR TREMENDOUS GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS MAKE ALL OF THIS POSSIBLE!

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INDEPENDENCE DAY
AT
BOBBY A'S
•BACKYARD•
BBQ

JULY 3RD 2021, 12PM-4PM

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JUNE CHAPTER MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

COL Lewis VanDyke, US Army (Ret)



Lewis VanDyke had over thirty five years of extensive experience with the Department of Defense both on active duty and as a civilian in a variety of positions related to Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). He provided Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear Defense (CBRND) and consequence management support to Combatant Commands, Army North, service schools, and other government agencies through involvement in training, education, and exercises to include Homeland Defense and Defense Support to Civil Authorities (DSCA). His involvement included strategic and operational planning, exercise scenario development and execution, and assessment and evaluation of exercises at federal, state, and local levels.

Military assignments included serving as the Brigade Chemical Officer in both Germany and Korea; Commander, 41st Field Artillery Battery; Chemical Surety Officer on Johnston Island; 25th Infantry Division Chemical Officer; Chief, WMD Domestic Preparedness Branch in Deputy Chief of Staff Operations providing Defense Support to Civil Authorities and implementation of the Department of Defense support for the Nunn-Lugar-Domenici Legislation which involved planning for and development of training and equipping first responders for and response to terrorism; Commander, 82nd Chemical Battalion; Mission Commander for Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) Inspection Team escorting international inspectors to various declared locations throughout the United States, Acting Director of the Chemical/Biological Directorate in Defense Threat Reduction Agency having responsibility for Science & Technology development and financial execution and management of the Chemical Biological Defense Program (CBDP) Program Objective Memorandum. He completed his military career serving as Training Inspections Team Chief with the Department of the Army Inspector General (DAIG) conducting inspections throughout the world to include Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

He continued serving his country by assisting the J8, Joint Requirements Office for CBRND in support of Combatant Commands and service schools through involvement in planning and executing training, education, and exercises in defense against weapons of mass destruction.

He retired in 2017 and continues involvement in various activities with MOAA, his church, and home owners association. He and his wife Ruth live in Tampa, Florida.



JUNE LUNCHEON MEETING

EVENT: Chapter Monthly Luncheon Meeting

DATE: Thursday, 10 June **TIME:** 1130 hours

LOCATION: Columbia Restaurant, Siboney Room 2117 E 7th Ave, Ybor City

PLEASE NOTE the change of location.

RESERVATIONS: Call 813-676-4676 and follow prompts.

Reservations must be made by NOON Friday, 4 June. Reservations are limited to 60.

CANCELLATIONS must be made by NOON Monday, 7 June by calling 813-676-4676.

REMEMBER a reservation made is a reservation paid.

COST: Event cost \$30 payable by check or with cash. **MASKS:** Masks are optional.

MENU: Arroz con Pollo; Sea Bass "A la Rusa"; Seasonal Fresh Vegetables; Black Beans; Plátanos Maduros; 1905 Salad; Cuban Bread; Dessert; Coffee, Iced Tea; Soft Drinks.

PARKING: Across the street from the Columbia Restaurant and behind the Columbia Restaurant

DRESS CODE: Business Casual (slacks/shirts with collars).

Special entertainment at 1145: Flamenco Show

Luncheon reminders are sent via email. If you are not receiving the reminders, please call 813-948-7539 or send an email to

lutzgranny89@gmail.com to be added to the distribution list.

Or by Zoom:

One Tap Mobile: US: [+13126266799,,98144698442#,,*995165#](https://tel:+13126266799,,98144698442#,,*995165#) or [+16465588656,,98144698442#,,*995165#](https://tel:+16465588656,,98144698442#,,*995165#)



Meeting URL:	https://triple-strand-global-solutions.zoom.us/j/98144698442?pwd=MkU1WIJDMMWFjeGljY0VQQTY5b3NwZz09&from=addon
Meeting ID:	981 4469 8442
Passcode:	995165

BULLETIN BOARD

CARING FOR OUR "SHUT-IN" MEMBERS

Our Chapter wants to become aware of members who are hospitalized, home-bound, in care facilities or just plain sick and has provided a way for you to inform us. Please contact CDR Geoff Harrington USNR Ret at (813) 926-7988 so that he may call or send cards to let them know they are missed.

Alternatively, you may send an e-mail to:

TampaMOAA.Secretary@gmail.com

CDR Geoff Harrington USNR, Ret, Sick Call Chairman

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IMPORTANT DATES IN JUNE 2021

PTSD Awareness Month

6 June D-Day

12 June Women Veterans Day

14 June Army Birthday

14 June U.S. Flag Day

13-19 June National Flag week

20 June Father's Day

23 June Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday

27 June PTSD Awareness Day

Use Smile.Amazon.com (not Amazon.com) and let Amazon contribute to The MOAA Foundation. Why The MOAA Foundation – because it provides assistance to over 100,000 military and veteran families and their survivor each year! All you do is go to smile.amazon.com, enter your Amazon email address or your mobile phone number and your password, select The MOAA Foundation as your charity, and place your order as usual. Not a different password to remember!

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If you want to see more about the Foundation, go to the MOAA site, www.MOAA.org (at the home page, go to the bottom and select the Site Map to find the MOAA Foundation).

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Coalition Corner

Submitted by: BGEN Henrik Larsen



Dear MOAA Members,

I trust you are all doing well enjoying the very nice weather. The situation related to COVID here at MacDill AFB is slowly but steadily returning to normal. I expect most things to be back at 100% relatively soon. Among other things there is no longer a requirement to wear face masks in or outside the facilities. It is indeed very nice being able to actually see the faces of all colleagues again. Especially very nice to see the faces of all the incoming SNRs for the first time.

Happy to announce that the International Coalition has added a new nation as Brigadier General Al-Jumai from Yemen who joined the Coalition two weeks ago. I am looking forward to introducing new SNRs in person at the MOAA Luncheons again in the very near future. Almost all international personnel here at MacDill to include spouses have received the COVID

vaccine. We are good to reengage in social activities as authorized by current restrictions where applicable.

All the best,

BGEN Henrik Larsen
Danish Senior National Representative to US CENTCOM
Chairman of the Coalition



May Luncheon Photos



CHAPTER MEMBER OF THE MONTH LTC DOUG ANDREWS US ARMY (RET)

Doug was born in Tampa and attended public schools graduating from Chamberlain High School in Tampa. He has a BA in Business Administration, an MA in Human Resources Development, and a Doctorate in Business Administration. He is also a graduate of the US Army Command & General Staff College. During his working career he and his wife Valerie owned a chain of school supply stores. After 20 years in the school supply business, a company asked to buy the stores. The offer was accepted, Doug was then offered a position as a manufacturer's representative for a firm based in Dallas. He began as southeast region representative calling on military exchanges in the Southeast United States as well as Cuba, Puerto Rico, Panama, and the US Virgin Islands. His last position with the company was Director of Government Sales.

Doug also had a parallel career in the US Army. He enlisted in 1968 and served 31 years in the Florida Army National Guard and 9 years in the US Army Reserve. Doug served in several branches to include Infantry, Field Artillery and Air Defense with commands through battalion level. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in 2008 with 40 years of service. Doug is an active member of the Tampa MOAA chapter.

Doug joined The Rotary Club of New Tampa in 1996 and served as Rotary District 6890 Governor in 2007-2008. He also served as Rotary District 6890 Foundation Chair from 2010 to 2016 where he oversaw projects around the world ranging from a few thousand dollars to over one million dollars. He is an active member of The Rotary Club of Lutz, which he and Valerie chartered in 2015. Doug serves on many Rotary and community non-profit boards. Doug and Valerie met in Tampa in 1967 and were married in London, England in 1968. They have one daughter and 6 grandchildren. Their hobbies are photography and travel. They enjoy spending time with their 2 dogs. Doug and Valerie have been active members of Idlewild Baptist Church since 1991. Doug serves as a deacon, Valerie volunteers with children's Sunday school. They have visited 60 countries and have participated in church mission trips to Guatemala, Bolivia and the Amazon.



Congratulations to the MOAA Tampa Chapter on Winning the Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Award!!!

MOAA's annual contest identifying those councils and chapters that do an outstanding job communicating with their members in Print/E-Newsletter and Website categories for 2020 was announced this May.

MOAA renamed the award in 2011 after Colonel Marvin J. Harris, USAF (Ret), Director of Public Relations from 1996 until 2011. Colonel Harris delivered effective communications to both military and civilian audiences.

The very best councils or chapters receive a five-star award. Above-average councils or chapters receive a four-star award. MOAA awarded 210 five-star awards and seven four-star awards to 139 affiliates for 2020.

Twenty four Florida chapters and the Florida Council of Chapters won 48 awards that were presented by the General Dana Atkins, President and CEO of MOAA National at the Florida Council of Chapters Convention held May 14-16, 2021 in Sarasota, Florida. The MOAA Tampa Chapter was awarded a five-star award for both their E-Newsletter and Website. A special thank you goes to Gayle Hill, our publisher for The Retrospect.



General Atkins, President/CEO MOAA, COL Charles Dalcourt, President MOAA Tampa, CDR Geoff Harrington, Secretary MOAA Tampa, CAPT Sara Marks, Editor, The Retrospect, MOAA Tampa, COL Carol Zieres, Immediate Past President and Past Editor, The Retrospect, MOAA Tampa, and COL Michael Borders, President, MOAA Florida Council of Chapters. (Pictured left to right).



COL Carol Zieres, COL Bill Schneider, LTC Jeanne Richard, CDR Geoff Harrington, COL Charles Dalcourt, CAPT Sara Marks, and LTC Reggie Williams (Pictured left to right).



Renee Brunelle, member of MOAA's Surviving Spouse Advisory Council and Surviving Spouse Liaison for MOAA Tampa presenting at a Surviving Spouse session at the Florida Council of Chapters Convention.

HISTORY OF ARMY BIRTHDAY

The U.S. Army is 246 years old, and counting. That's a LOT of birthday candles! The annual celebration marks the date in history in 1775 when the Continental Army was formed by the Second Continental Congress and commanded under General George Washington to fight against Britain.

Of course, the U.S. Army wasn't always the strongest military in the world as it is today. The original 'army' was formed from volunteer soldiers, amateur troops, and minutemen, who just had the passion and dedication to defend their land against the British. Actually, military forces existed in the United States before the country even formally existed. Independent colonial armies commanded inexperienced militia.

The Revolutionary War started in America on April 19, 1775, with exchanges of musketry between Massachusetts militiamen and British regulars at Lexington and Concord. As soldiers were alerted in Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire, they responded to the alarm, and a state of war was in the air between the British government and the four colonies. Called the Army of Observation, a force of New Englanders surrounded Boston and had the British troops who occupied it under siege, but they needed help. Delegates representatives of all 13 colonies were approached and requested to join them in the battle for American liberty.

When the Continental Army delegates assembled on May 10 in Philadelphia, they learned that British forts at Ticonderoga and Crown Point on Lake Champlain in New York were captured by armed men led by Benedict Arnold and Ethan Allen. The situation quickly turned into a crisis, as the delegates realized that the military coup would need to be addressed if the desired reconciliation was to happen. The next step was taken by the Congress, which eventually transformed the small rebellion into a full war for independence. The establishment of the Continental Army resulted in the U.S. Army that we know today.

There was a time when there were never more than 48,000 Continental soldiers. Today, the United States Army boasts over one million soldiers on duty, with an additional 800,000 Reserve- and National Guard members.

The resilience of the U.S. Army and its history is a testimony to how integral the military is in peacekeeping. Gratitude is expressed tremendously on the Army's Birthday with events and ceremonies.

BY THE NUMBERS

1950 – the year when America first celebrated Armed Forces Day.

30 – the number of American presidents who served in the U.S. Army.

2 – the number of presidents who became five-star generals, Dwight Eisenhower and George Washington.

1 – the number of presidents awarded with the Medal of Honor — Theodore Roosevelt.

1,760 – the number of PlayStation 3s used to assemble a supercomputer for the Department of Defense.

30 million – the acres of land owned by The Department of Defense.

800 – the number of military installations overseas by the United States.

4.6 billion – the gallons of fuel used by the U.S. military annually.

95% – the percentage reduction in the ripping noise on soldiers' uniforms achieved by the U.S. Army by using a silent type of Velcro.

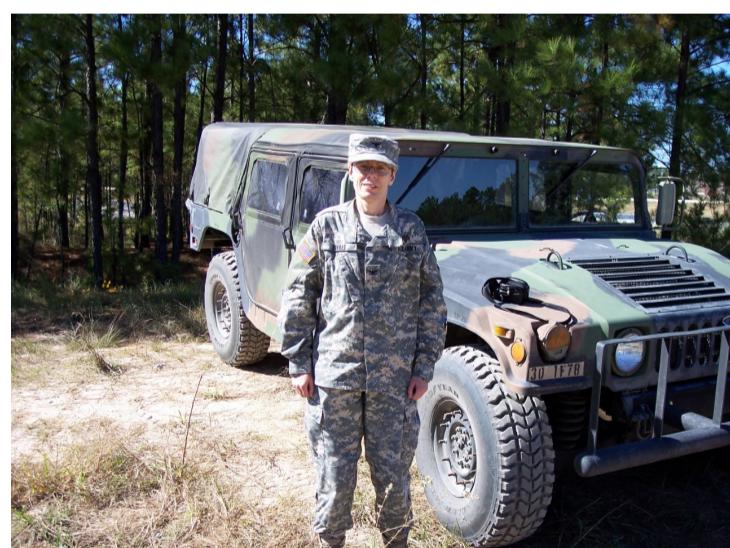
245 – the number of army birthdays celebrated by 2020.

Source: <https://nationaltoday.com/army-birthday/>



Lt. Robert F. Sawallesh, US Army, at a 9th Medical Bn, 9th Infantry Division award ceremony in Vietnam in 1967. He was awarded the Bronze Star and the Combat Medical Badge in Vietnam.

LTC(Ret) Eric M. Pless leading a US Embassy Latvia and Office of Defense Cooperation Humanitarian Assistance project in Eastern Europe on the Russian Border working alongside NATO partners and helping senior citizens improve quality of life. "Winning hearts and minds"



COL Carol Zieres standing next to HMMWV at Ft. Polk, LA



Colonel Carol Zieres' promotion ceremony at AR-MEDCOM (March 2006); WWII Veteran Cpl Harold Zieres pins the new rank of Colonel on his youngest daughter's uniform.



Doug Andrews, LTC (Ret), US Army.



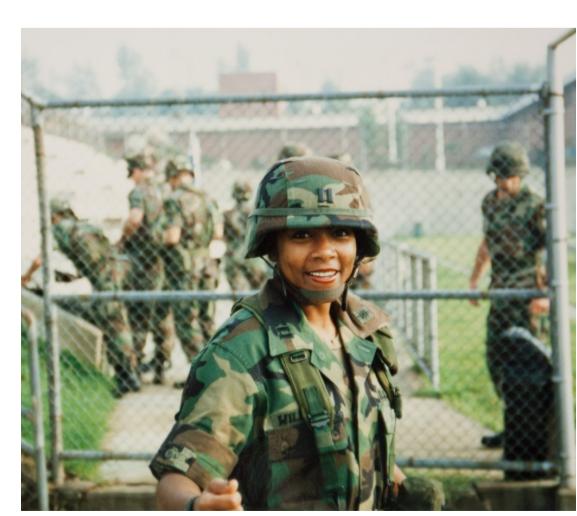
Major Mularoni in Kandahar, Afghanistan in July 2010



Colonel Charles Dalcourt at LTC Mularoni's retirement ceremony MacDill AFB, Florida in July 2018



Company Commanders in Seoul, Korea: Duane Williams MAJ, US Army (Ret.) and Deborah L. Williams LTC, US Army (Ret.)





The MOAA Junior ROTC (JROTC)/ROTC Awards Program

submitted by Ken Martin, LTC USMC (Ret)

The MOAA Junior ROTC (JROTC)/ROTC awards program recognizes an outstanding cadet or midshipman who has demonstrated exceptional potential for military leadership (exceptional academic achievement in the case of the Marine Corps JROTC [MCJROTC] program.) All military services officially have approved the medal for presentation.

The presentation of an MOAA ROTC/JROTC medal and certificate is an excellent way for chapters to gain exposure in their community and, at the same time, foster a positive military recognition among the youth of the community. Accordingly, it has always been the desire of national MOAA that the medals are awarded by a local chapter and not the national organization.

The typical award consists of a red, white, and blue ribbon 13/8 inches wide with a bronze disc pendant 15/8 inches in diameter and a matching service ribbon and a certificate of presentation.

Our chapter sponsors and presents the MOAA JROTC medal and certificate to the following local high schools: Alonso, Armwood, Blake,

Chamberlin, Freedom, Gaither, H.B. Plant, Hillsborough, Jefferson, King, Leto, Middleton, Plant City, Robinson, Sickles, Strawberry Crest, Tampa Bay Technical, and Wharton.

Our chapter sponsors and presents the MOAA ROTC medal and certificate to the following college ROTC programs: University of Tampa Army ROTC, University of South Florida Army ROTC, University of South Florida Naval ROTC, and University of South Florida Air Force ROTC.

A chapter member usually volunteers and presents the award at the school's award ceremony. Our chapter also sponsors the high school award winners at our April luncheon.



MOAA TAMPA SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED AT THE MAY LUNCHEON



Bill and Georgia Schneider accepting the MOAA Tampa Scholarship for their granddaughter Elizabeth Franklin.



John Massey's granddaughter, Ava Powless receiving a scholarship award from the MOAA Tampa Chapter.





How We Help and Why You Should Join!

The TAMPA CHAPTER-MOAA, one of the largest and recognized as one of the top chapters in the Nation, has a very basic and focused approach for all officers on Active duty, Reserve, National Guard, and retired officers—WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK!

Some of the local community outreach our Tampa MOAA chapter members are involved with include: Veterans Treatment Court, Operation Helping Hand, funding local MOAA Scholarships, Transition support from military life, coordinating with our MacDill AFB Coalition partners with chapter activities, our Chapter Buddy Check initiative, and supporting the local ROTC/JROTC.

NEVER STOP SERVING!

Tampa Chapter Join Form

Name _____

Rank _____ Service _____ Status _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ @ _____

Phone (_____) - _____ Cell (_____) - _____

Date of Birth – Month _____ Day _____

Spouse _____

Emergency Contact: Name _____

Phone _____

MOAA National Member Number _____

Tampa Chapter Annual Dues: \$25.00

(There is no dues requirement for active-duty personnel or a surviving spouse; you MUST be a member of National MOAA)

MOAA National Annual Dues: (Premium Level – \$48.00; Basic Level – No Cost for 1 year)

You can join National MOAA at their website: <https://www.moaa.org/content/join-moaa/why-join-moaa/>

MOAA National Lifetime Dues: Lifetime dues are based on the member's age. The cost ranges from \$0 to \$851 and there is no cost (free) for age 100+.

You can bring the completed form to any event or you can mail it with the \$25.00 check made out to: “MOAA Tampa Chapter”, to: **Bill Schneider**, 15888 Sanctuary Drive, Tampa, FL 33647

** The chapter has my permission to list my name and rank as a new member in our chapter newsletter. Yes _____ No _____

Please email questions to: TampaMOAA.Membership@gmail.com

Surviving Spouse Corner: Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter

Submitted By Renee Brunelle



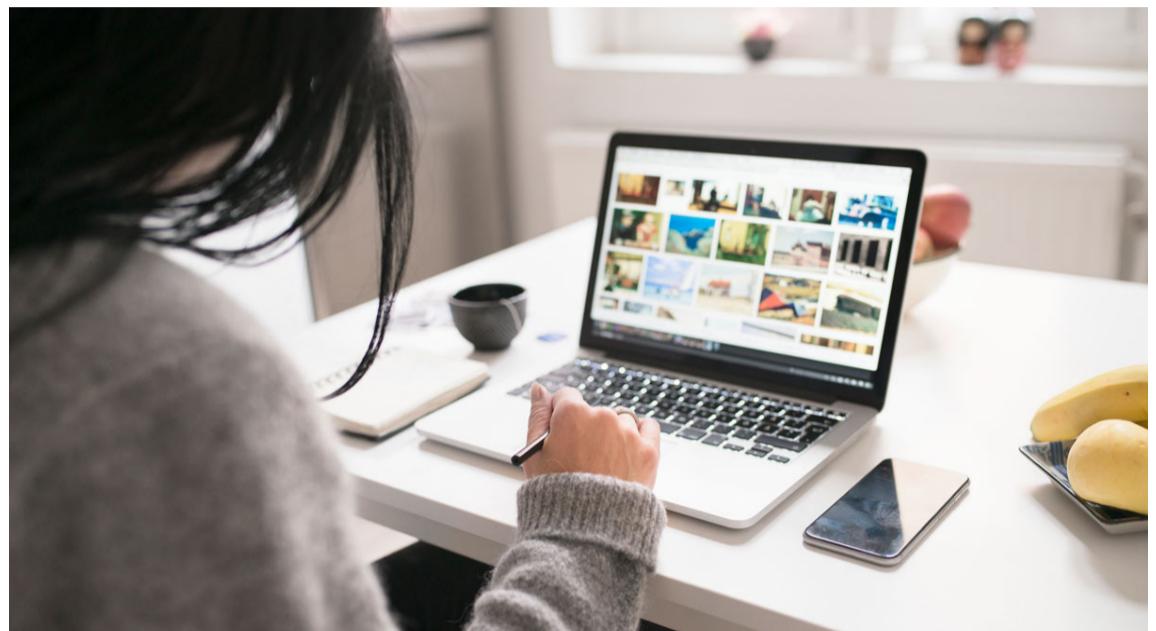
MOAA's Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter is an affinity group whose members can share information and ideas in a virtual environment with others seeking to work together adjusting to a new "normal."

The Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter meets quarterly through a teleconference. Eventually, we hope to have all 50 states represented in our membership. There are no dues, and this chapter is intended to be an enhancement to, not take the place of, geographic chapters. Several weeks in advance of each meeting, an email is sent to members alerting them to the date and time of the gathering; a follow-on email with instructions for joining the free telephone conference is sent several days prior to each meeting. The call is kept to about one hour, and topics for discussion have included SBP-DIC offset updates, financial discussions, and information from MOAA national as well as other items of interest. Plans currently are underway for a cruise in fall 2020.

We recognize everyone has busy lives; therefore, members participate to the extent they are able. While the chapter is geared toward surviving spouses and

surviving spouse liaisons, any MOAA spouse is welcome for membership. MOAA's mantra "Never Stop Serving" is espoused to make a difference locally, statewide, and nationally.

For additional information or to join MOAA's Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter, email mssvc02@gmail.com. An online application also is available.



MOAA Tampa Chapter's "Thriving After Military Service" Transitioning Veteran Event

Submitted by Col Paul (PJ) McAneny, USAF (Ret)

On Thursday, May 20th, the Tampa MOAA Chapter hosted its inaugural event for transitioning military members and their families. The popular event was titled "Thriving After Military Service" and, rather than the typical transition events which are focused on, job skills, resume writing, networking, etc., the MOAA event addressed leading fulfilling lives following your military service. The theme of the morning portion of this unique seminar was "a focus on the family" with speakers from TRICARE and the Veterans Administration as well as local Financial Advisors and Attorneys. The afternoon was dedicated to "a focus on the community" with representatives and volunteers from organizations such as MOAA's own Tampa Chapter, Association of the US Army-SunCoast Chapter, Hillsborough County Veterans Treatment Court, 1st US Volunteer Cavalry Regiment – Rough Riders, Tampa Sports Authority, EoS Fitness, and the South Tampa Chamber of Commerce. Attendees included a variety of ranks (officer and enlisted) from all four services. One enthusiastic attendee stated, "Extremely valuable! I'm in the middle of my transition now and this was the only venue I've seen that covered these topics."



A residual benefit of conducting the "Thriving After Military Service" seminar was that it served as a productive marketing and recruiting event for our local chapter. The MOAA-Tampa Transition Seminar will be held quarterly with the next event tentatively scheduled for Thursday, August 19th.



MEDICAL CORNER

The CDC's mask guidelines are scientifically sound — if you actually read them

Submitted by CAPT Sara Marks, NC USN (Ret)

After a year of public health guidance to wear masks whenever we are out in public, taking them off after being vaccinated may feel ... weird. The trauma of the pandemic has etched a new set of social norms deep within many minds. And central to those norms is mask-wearing.

So it's understandable that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's surprise announcement last week that it had changed its masking guidelines for fully vaccinated people feels like whiplash. The CDC now says those who are fully vaccinated (or two weeks after their final dose of the vaccine) can "resume activities without wearing masks or physically distancing" in places that allow it. (The CDC also stresses extra caution, and a consultation with a physician, for those vaccinated who have weakened immune systems or are on immune-system-suppressing drugs.)

There are a lot of fair arguments circulating that these guidelines were issued prematurely and lacking some nuance. And it's hard to know how unvaccinated people, and those who never intend to be vaccinated, will respond, particularly as local communities and businesses grow laxer when it comes to enforcing masking. The guidelines also neglect the reality that the absolute risk for Covid-19 infections among the vaccinated is dependent on the level of Covid-19 spread in a community. Plus, there's still uncertainty about what to do about children under the age of 12, who currently cannot be vaccinated.

These arguments are worthy of discussion. But they also can distract us from something important at the core of the CDC's guidelines: There's good science to indicate that, in an ideal world where everyone does follow these guidelines, fully vaccinated people really can feel comfortable taking their masks off. These vaccines are really good. They prevent disease, infection, and transmission the majority of the time. And the best thing an individual can do to help end the pandemic is to get vaccinated.

"The return to normal activities is safe for vaccinated people, there is no debate about this fact," Jeffrey Duchin, a physician with the Infectious Diseases Society of America, told reporters in a news briefing on Thursday. "However, the announcement led to widespread confusion and frustration because it was unexpected and needed context."

Before we get to the confusion, let's talk about why scientists and the CDC are so confident that most fully vaccinated people can go maskless.

The vaccines are really freaking good

There's been a lot of news coverage on the very rare instances where vaccines fail, leading to sickness, hospitalization, or death. But these events are very rare. Even the news that eight players on the Yankees tested positive for Covid-19 after being vaccinated isn't cause for alarm on closer inspection.

As of April 26, the CDC reported that of the around 95 million Americans who had been fully vaccinated, there were 9,245 reported cases of breakthrough infections — when people test positive after being fully vaccinated. That's .01 percent of vaccinated people — or a rate of one in 10,000.

Of those, 835 led to hospitalizations and 132 led to deaths. Since the start of May, the CDC is only tracking breakthrough infections that lead to hospitalization and death, and they find that overall, just .001 percent of those vaccinated were hospitalized for Covid-19. That's one hospitalization for every hundred thousand vaccinations. "When you start to talk about vaccinating millions of people, even things that occur relatively infrequently will start to pop up," Natalie Dean, a biostatistician at the University of Florida, told Vox in an April interview.

The infrequency of these events is very encouraging, as is the fact that the vaccines approved for use in the US all appear to be effective against the most concerning Covid-19 variants. And more and more research is showing that vaccination doesn't just mean you're less likely to get sick, but you're also less likely to be infected in the first place. Even if you are infected, you're less likely to pass it on to others.

Here are some examples from studies:

A study from the CDC of 3,950 health care workers found that the mRNA vaccines (Moderna and Pfizer/BioNTech) were 90 percent effective at preventing any infection.

In Israel, a real-world study of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine found it was 94 percent effective at preventing any infection.

A UK study tracked 23,000 health care workers who underwent testing for SARS-CoV-2 every two weeks. Those who got the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine were 85 percent less likely to be infected with the virus seven days after their second dose.

"Now there is pretty solid data that mRNA vaccines reduce the chance of any infection by 80, 90 percent," A. Marm Kilpatrick, an infectious disease researcher at the University of California Santa Cruz, says.

The pandemic grew so painfully out of control in part because people could pass on the virus before they realized they were sick. Being fully vaccinated

means your chance of passing on the virus is greatly reduced.

"If you go into a place where there's unvaccinated people, you're protecting them because you're vaccinated," says Monica Gandhi, a physician and medical professor at the University of California San Francisco.

This protection has been seen in real-world studies, too: A CDC study of nursing homes in Chicago found no transmission among vaccinated residents, despite there being a few breakthrough infections among staff and residents (most of these breakthrough infections were asymptomatic).

One criticism of the CDC's change in guidelines is that it could have waited longer for more real-world data on the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine. It's true that there's less real-world data on the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine. But the CDC writes that "early evidence suggests that the J&J/Janssen vaccine might provide protection against asymptomatic infection."



"We don't know as much about the issue of prevention of transmission in asymptomatic cases in the J&J vaccine," Duchin says. But "everything we know [indicates that it] does provide a very high degree of protection not only against infection, but against severe infection leading to hospitalization and death. I think we should be reassured that regardless of which vaccine, you're getting a very high level of protection."

Even if you do get infected after being vaccinated, the vaccines will likely make you less contagious than you would have been.

Recently, a 5,000-patient study out of Israel compared cases of breakthrough infections (after vaccination) with infections that occurred among the unvaccinated. Simply put: The study found that those who had breakthrough infections also had smaller quantities of virus than people who weren't vaccinated. This study did not include information on symptom severity. But lower viral loads have been correlated with lower disease severity; they also lower the risk of transmission to other people.

In debates over the CDC's guidelines, Gandhi says these study results should continue to be highlighted. "It's pretty amazing," she says.

The guidelines make sense in an idealized world. Do they make sense in the real world?

The CDC's new guidelines are based in good science, showing the vaccines work to protect the vaccinated, and also everyone else around them. If everyone were to follow the guidelines to the letter — with unvaccinated people continuing to wear masks and vaccinated people relaxing masking if they choose to — "then the transmission of the virus is going to be just astronomically reduced," Kilpatrick says, and the US could quickly end its epidemic.

But in the real world, there are unvaccinated people who choose not to wear masks. And because there's generally no official way to verify a vaccinated person's status, an unvaccinated person could get away with being unmasked.

It is possible that these unmasked, unvaccinated people could still seed some breakthrough infections among the vaccinated, and among themselves.

"As with any declaration, how people interpret this for their own individual circumstances will be hard to predict and hard to control," Abraar Karan, a physician at Brigham and Women's Hospital/Harvard Medical School, writes in an email. "The CDC could have been clearer that while individuals could theoretically stop masking, there are reasons why community masking is still important."

One reason is that the risk of breakthrough infections depends on how much virus is circulating in a community. "If we're in India, right now, there's no way I take off the mask if I were fully vaccinated, because the case rates are so high," Gandhi says.

The more cases, the more chances there are for a vaccinated person to be exposed and get sick themselves. Gandhi says she wishes the CDC guidelines came with goals for community transmission and vaccination rates. Instead of saying everyone who is vaccinated can go maskless in places that allow it, the agency could have said they can go maskless when their community hits certain case-rate and vaccination-rate milestones. (con't P. 14)

(Medical Corner con'td from P. 13) Gandhi also thinks the CDC should recognize that the Johnson & Johnson vaccine may be most effective after four weeks. So perhaps people who received that vaccine should think of themselves as "fully vaccinated" after four weeks, not two.

Kilpatrick adds that it's still going to be the case that a small, poorly ventilated room crowded with people singing poses more risk for the maskless than a place with more breathing room. It's still the case that some people, due to their individual health and demographic characteristics, might want to remain more cautious.

There are a lot of people for whom the new guidelines may not apply — including the immunocompromised — who may, after consultation with their health care providers, decide to keep wearing masks in public. "Millions of people fit this bill," Jeanne Marrazzo, a physician with the Infectious Diseases Society of America, told reporters Thursday.

The CDC's new guidelines are highly simplified. But they are also not wrong. And again, they were issued because "these vaccines are astounding," Gandhi says. They're the most powerful pathway to return life to normal.

Source: <https://www.vox.com/science-and-health/>

D-Day - Invasion, Facts & Significance

Submitted by: CAPT Sara Marks, NC, USN (Ret)

During World War II (1939-1945), the Battle of Normandy, which lasted from June 1944 to August 1944, resulted in the Allied liberation of Western Europe from Nazi Germany's control. Codenamed Operation Overlord, the battle began on June 6, 1944, also known as D-Day, when some 156,000 American, British and Canadian forces landed on five beaches along a 50-mile stretch of the heavily fortified coast of France's Normandy region. The invasion was one of the largest amphibious military assaults in history and required extensive planning. Prior to D-Day, the Allies conducted a large-scale deception campaign designed to mislead the Germans about the intended invasion target. By late August 1944, all of northern France had been liberated, and by the following spring the Allies had defeated the Germans. The Normandy landings have been called the beginning of the end of war in Europe.

Preparing for D-Day

After World War II began, Germany invaded and occupied northwestern France beginning in May 1940. The Americans entered the war in December 1941, and by 1942 they and the British (who had been evacuated from the beaches of Dunkirk in May 1940 after being cut off by the Germans in the Battle of France) were considering the possibility of a major Allied invasion across the English Channel. The following year, Allied plans for a cross-Channel invasion began to ramp up. In November 1943, [/[topics/world-war-ii/adolf-hitler](#)]Adolf Hitler (1889-1945), who was aware of the threat of an invasion along France's northern coast, put [[topics/world-war-ii/erwin-rommel-erwin](#)]Erwin Rommel (1891-1944) in charge of spearheading defense operations in the region, even though the Germans did not know exactly where the Allies would strike. Hitler charged Rommel with finishing the Atlantic Wall, a 2,400-mile fortification of bunkers, landmines and beach and water obstacles.

In January 1944, General Dwight Eisenhower (1890-1969) was appointed commander of Operation Overlord. In the months and weeks before D-Day, the Allies carried out a massive deception operation intended to make the Germans think the main invasion target was Pas-de-Calais (the narrowest point between Britain and France) rather than Normandy. In addition, they led the Germans to believe that Norway and other locations were also potential invasion targets. Many tactics were used to carry out the deception, including fake equipment; a phantom army commanded by George Patton and supposedly based in England, across from Pas-de-Calais; double agents; and fraudulent radio transmissions.

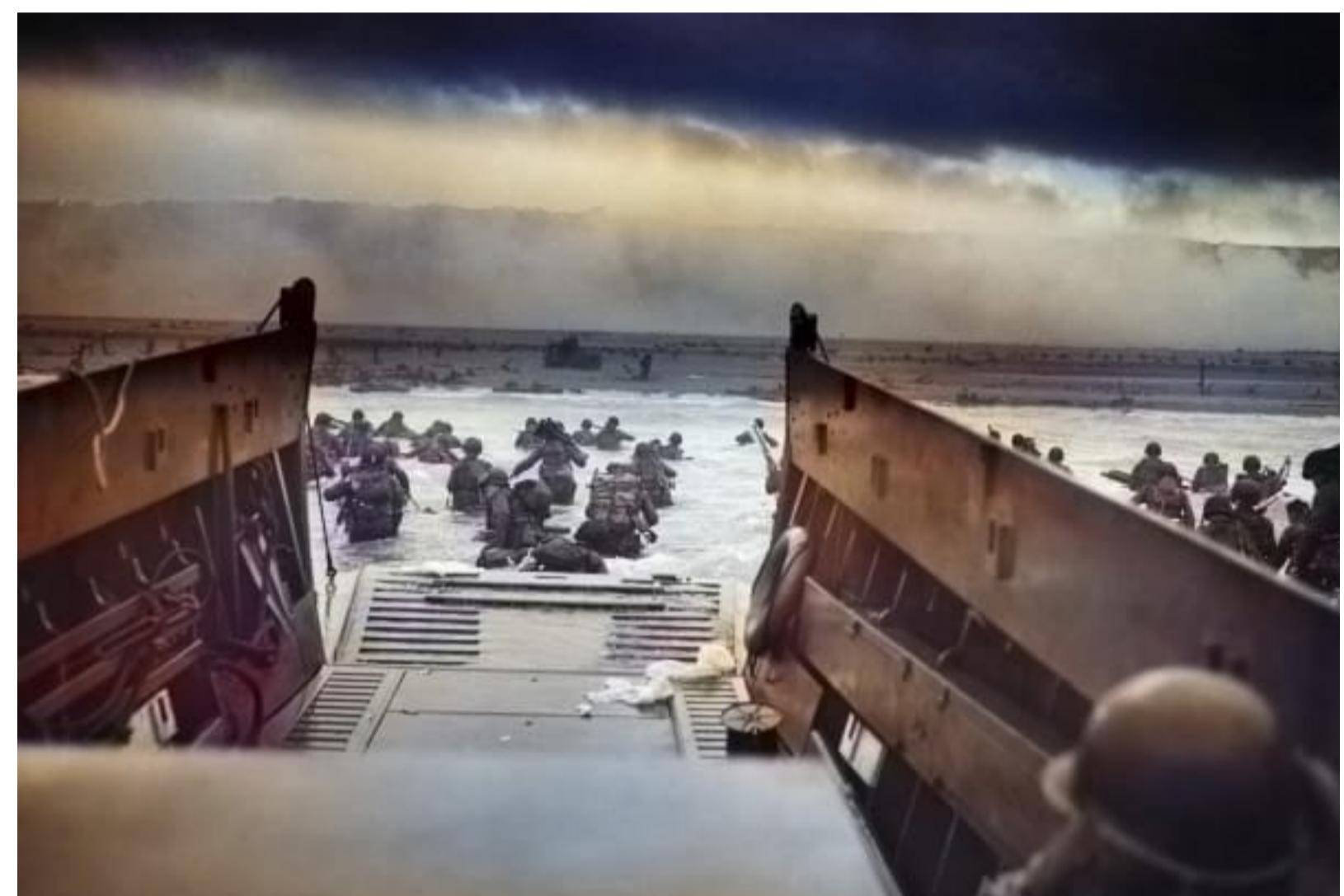
A Weather Delay: June 5, 1944

Eisenhower selected June 5, 1944, as the date for the invasion; however, bad weather on the days leading up to the operation caused it to be delayed for 24 hours. On the morning of June 5, after his meteorologist predicted improved conditions for the following day, Eisenhower gave the go-ahead for Operation Overlord. He told the troops: "You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you."

Later that day, more than 5,000 ships and landing craft carrying troops and supplies left England for the trip across the Channel to France, while more than 11,000 aircraft were mobilized to provide air cover and support for the invasion.

D-Day Landings: June 6, 1944

By dawn on June 6, thousands of paratroopers and glider troops were already on the ground behind enemy lines, securing bridges and exit roads. The amphibious invasions began at 6:30 a.m. The British and Canadians overcame light opposition to capture beaches codenamed Gold, Juno and Sword, as did the Americans at [[topics/us-states/utah](#)]Utah Beach. U.S. forces faced heavy resistance at Omaha Beach, where there were over 2,000



over 326,000 troops, more than 50,000 vehicles and some 100,000 tons of equipment had landed at Normandy.

For their part, the Germans suffered from confusion in the ranks and the absence of celebrated commander Rommel, who was away on leave. At first, Hitler, believing the invasion was a feint designed to distract the Germans from a coming attack north of the Seine River, refused to release nearby divisions to join the counterattack. Reinforcements had to be called from further afield, causing delays. He also hesitated in calling for armored divisions to help in the defense. Moreover, the Germans were hampered by effective Allied air support, which took out many key bridges and forced the Germans to take long detours, as well as efficient Allied naval support, which helped protect advancing Allied troops.

In the ensuing weeks, the Allies fought their way across the Normandy countryside in the face of determined German resistance, as well as a dense landscape of marshes and hedgerows. By the end of June, the Allies had seized the vital port of Cherbourg, landed approximately 850,000 men and 150,000 vehicles in Normandy, and were poised to continue their march across France.

Victory in Normandy

By the end of August 1944, the Allies had reached the Seine River, Paris was liberated and the Germans had been removed from northwestern France, effectively concluding the Battle of Normandy. The Allied forces then prepared to enter Germany, where they would meet up with Soviet troops moving in from the east.

The Normandy invasion began to turn the tide against the Nazis. A significant psychological blow, it also prevented Hitler from sending troops from France to build up his Eastern Front against the advancing Soviets. The following spring, on May 8, 1945, the Allies formally accepted the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany. Hitler had committed suicide a week earlier, on April 30.

Source: www.history.com

What Is Flag Day?

By Jennie Cohen

Submitted by CAPT Sara Marks, NC, USN (Ret)

What Is Flag Day?

Discover the history of the annual holiday and check out 13 surprising facts about the American flag and how to properly display it.

When the American Revolution broke out in 1775, the colonists weren't fighting united under a single flag. Instead, most regiments participating in the war for independence against the British fought under their own flags. In June of 1775, the Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia to create the Continental Army—a unified colonial fighting force—with the hopes of more organized battle against its colonial oppressors. This led to the creation of what was, essentially, the first "American" flag, the Continental Colors.

For some, this flag, which was comprised of 13 red and white alternating stripes and a Union Jack in the corner, was too similar to that of the British. George Washington soon realized that flying a flag that was even remotely close to the British flag was not a great confidence-builder for the revolutionary effort, so he turned his efforts towards creating a new symbol of freedom for the soon-to-be fledgling nation.

On June 14, 1777, the Second Continental Congress took a break from writing the Articles of Confederation and passed a resolution stating that "the flag of the United States be 13 stripes, alternate red and white," and that "the union be 13 stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

Over 100 years later, in 1916, President Woodrow Wilson marked the anniversary of that decree by officially establishing June 14 as Flag Day. As you celebrate the anniversary of the Stars and Stripes, here are some fast facts about "Old Glory."

1. Bernard Cigrand, a small-town Wisconsin teacher, originated the idea for an annual flag day, to be celebrated across the country every June 14, in 1885. That year, he led his school in the first formal observance of the holiday. Cigrand, who later changed careers and practiced dentistry in Illinois, continued to promote his concept and advocate respect for the flag throughout his life.
2. It is widely believed that Betsy Ross, who assisted the Revolutionary War effort by repairing uniforms and sewing tents, made and helped design the first American flag. However, there is no historical evidence that she contributed to Old Glory's creation. It was not until her grandson William Canby held an 1870 press conference to recount the story that the American public learned of her possible role.
3. The lyrics of "The Star-Spangled Banner," America's national anthem since 1931, are taken from a patriotic poem written by Francis Scott Key after he witnessed the Battle of Fort McHenry during the War of 1812. His words were set to the tune of "To Anacreon in Heaven," a popular British drinking song.
4. In the 1950s, when it seemed certain that Alaska would be admitted to the



Union, designers began retooling the American flag to add a 49th star to the existing 48. Meanwhile, a 17-year-old Ohio student named Bob Heft borrowed his mother's sewing machine, disassembled his family's 48-star flag and stitched on 50 stars in a proportional pattern. He handed in his creation to his history teacher for a class project, explaining that he expected Hawaii would soon achieve statehood as well.

Heft also sent the flag to his congressman, Walter Moeller, who presented it to President Eisenhower after both new states joined the Union. Eisenhower selected Heft's design, and on July 4, 1960, the president and the high school student stood together as the 50-star flag was raised for the first time. Heft's teacher promptly changed his grade from a B- to an A.

5. Unlike setting an intact flag on fire, flying one upside-down is not always intended as an act of protest. According to the Flag Code, it can also be an official distress signal.

6. The Flag Code stipulates that the Stars and Stripes should not be used as apparel, bedding or drapery.

7. The practice of draping coffins in the American flag is not reserved for military veterans and government officials. On the contrary, any burial may incorporate this tradition.

8. Etiquette calls for American flags to be illuminated by sunlight or another light source while on display.

9. During the Vietnam War era, some demonstrators burned American flags as an act of protest.

The Flag Protection Act of 1968 was enacted in response, making it illegal to burn or otherwise deface the Stars and Stripes. In two landmark decisions 20 years later, the Supreme Court ruled that the government couldn't curb individuals' First Amendment rights by prohibiting desecration of the U.S. flag. Respectful burning of damaged flags according to established protocol has always been acceptable.

10. When flags are taken down from their poles, care must be taken to keep them from touching the ground. In fact, the American flag should always be kept aloft, meaning that rugs and carpets featuring the Stars and Stripes are barred by the Flag Code.

11. When the flags of cities, states, localities or groups are flown on the same staff as the American flag, Old Glory should always be at the peak. When flags of two or more nations are displayed, they should be of equivalent size and flown from separate staffs of the same height.

12. The Flag Code strictly prohibits adding an insignia, drawing or other markings to the Stars and Stripes. Some American politicians have been known to defy this regulation by signing copies of the U.S. flag for their supporters.

Source: www.history.com

Biggest Navy Exercise in a Generation Will Include 25,000 Personnel Across 7 Time Zones

By Gina Harkins

Submitted by CAPT Sara Marks, NC, USN (Ret)

Forty-two ships and submarines representing 15 international partner nations maneuver into a close formation during Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Exercise 2014. (U.S. Navy/Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Shannon Renfroe) Tens of thousands of sailors and Marines will participate in the biggest U.S. naval exercise in a generation to test how the services will fight across vast distances as they prepare for possible conflict with China or Russia.

Aircraft carriers, submarines, planes, unmanned vessels, and about 25,000 personnel will participate in Large Scale Exercise 2021, which will begin in late summer. The massive exercise will span seven time zones with sailors and Marines in the U.S., Africa, Europe and the Pacific joining.

Live forces will participate in both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

"LSE is more than just training, it is leveraging the integrated fighting power of multiple naval forces to share sensors, weapons, and platforms across all domains in contested environments, globally," said Adm. Christopher Grady, commander of U.S. Fleet Forces, told Military.com in an email.

The exercise, he added, will be the first in a series "that will continue to push the envelope of what it means to be the superior maritime force."

The Navy and Marine Corps are working more closely after decades of missions focused on the Middle East. As competition for influence builds with China and Russia, the Department of the Navy is shifting its focus from a largely land-based fight against terror groups to deterring aggression. (con't P. 16)



(con'td from P. 15) Three dozen units will participate in physical portions of the large-scale exercise, while more than 50 will join the exercise remotely, said Lt. Cmdr. Tabitha Klingensmith, with U.S. Fleet Forces Command. Participating units will include personnel from all three Marine expeditionary forces and sailors from the Navy's Second, Third, Sixth, Seventh and Tenth fleets.

While the U.S. has held big naval exercises like Bold Alligator and Rim of the Pacific, Klingensmith said the training events are growing in scope and complexity. Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday has referred to the upcoming large-scale exercise as the biggest naval training event in a generation. That's because combining live and virtual participants "will expand the playing field beyond what has ever been achieved in live-only exercises," Klingensmith said.

"LSE 2021 will use technologies similar to what you see in virtual video gaming environments to expand the number of participants by linking commands and units around the globe virtually, thereby increasing the number of players, real and synthetic, to better replicate the realistic scale of scenarios the Navy and Marine Corps team is likely to face in the future," she added.

The sailors and Marines participating will test several concepts they're likely to encounter in a possible conflict with China. Scenarios will test the sailors and

Marines' ability to conduct distributed operations; expeditionary advanced-base operations; littoral operations in a contested environment; and command and control in a contested environment.

"We've been applying warfighting concepts like Distributed Maritime Operations ... to fleet battle problems at the strike group level to rapidly advance organizational learning," Grady said. "LSE 2021 is important because we will apply those lessons learned at-scale to further our employment of synchronized, integrated operations across all domains globally, to ensure we remain the superior maritime force in a high-end fight."

The Navy and Marine Corps are finalizing details on the exercise, but Klingensmith said they plan to incorporate at least one unmanned platform -- the Autonomous Littoral Connector, a surface vessel that can provide logistics support from shore to ship.

That's traditionally a Navy mission, she said, but during the exercise it'll be under the command and control of the Marine Corps. The 2021 updates to Commandant Gen. David Berger's Force Design plans for the Marine Corps call for that service to -- in partnership with the Navy -- explore developing "littoral maneuver groups" to operate the future light amphibious warship.

Source: <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2021/05/21>

Retired Ranger to receive Medal of Honor for Korean battle

Submitted by: CAPT Sara Marks, NC, USN (Ret)

WASHINGTON -- A retired officer who led fellow Rangers and Korean Augmentation to the United States Army soldiers across frozen terrain under enemy fire to seize and defend Hill 205 in the vicinity of Unsan, Korea, will receive the Medal of Honor.

The White House announced Wednesday that retired Col. Ralph Puckett Jr. went above and beyond the call of duty as the Eighth Army Ranger Company's commanding officer during a multiday operation that started on Nov. 25, 1950.

Accompanied by his family, Puckett is slated to receive the highest military honor for valor in action during a White House ceremony on Friday.

As a recent graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, then-1st Lt. Puckett had limited infantry training and no combat experience when he was tasked to stand up and lead a provisional Ranger company at Camp Drake, Japan, in August 1950.

Hundreds of Soldiers volunteered for the unit, which allowed Puckett to select his Soldiers based on their weapons qualification scores, duty performance, athletic ability and personal desire to serve as an Army Ranger.

Days before Nov. 25, 1950, the 25th ID with the Eighth Army Ranger Company, under operational control of Task Force Dolvin, were pursuing North Korean forces as they retreated northward toward the Yalu River and the border of China.

On Nov. 24, Puckett and his company seized and occupied Hill 222, suffering several casualties. The following morning, after enduring a night of near zero degree temperatures and no sleep, Puckett received orders to secure Hill 205 and defend the critical position overlooking the Chongchon River.

Puckett led 57 Rangers and Korean soldiers toward the hill riding on the tops of Sherman tanks from the 89th Tank Battalion. A half-mile from Hill 205, the force encountered enemy mortar, machine-gun

and small-arms fire. The Rangers dismounted the tanks and prepared to attack.

Puckett took his company across 800 yards of frozen rice paddies under heavy enemy small-arms and mortar fire. At one point, Puckett crisscrossed the open expanse three times so his Rangers could locate and eliminate a concealed enemy machine-gun position.

After they reached the base of the hill, Puckett ordered his Rangers to fix bayonets and led them up the slope to secure the top. Six Rangers were wounded during their assault.

Once Hill 205 was secured, Puckett had his Rangers prepare their defenses against an enemy counterattack they knew would be coming. Losing his radio during the assault, Puckett and a handful of Soldiers returned to battalion headquarters to procure another radio, supplies and to coordinate supporting artillery indirect fires.

Shortly after Puckett arrived back at Hill 205 around 10 p.m., the Rangers came under heavy mortar and machine-gun fire as Chinese forces entered the Korean conflict against U.S. and U.N. forces. It would be the first of six battalion-sized attacks against Puckett's unit.



Puckett directed a strong defense against the aggressing force, all while calling in "danger close" artillery fire to keep them at bay. Though he sustained a wound to his right thigh from a grenade, Puckett refused to be evacuated.

Severely outnumbered nearly 10 to one, Puckett continued to direct his company and waves of artillery support through additional counterattacks. He would leave his foxhole during each counterattack to observe the enemy's movement, motivate his Rangers and call in artillery where needed the most.

As ammunition started to run low, the number of casualties on both sides continued to grow. After being wounded a second time, Puckett pushed through the pain to lead his force while the Chinese drew even closer to their location. He eventually ordered his unit to fix bayonets as they fought through another wave of the assault.

During the final counterattack in the early hours of Nov. 26, the battalion-sized Chinese force overran Hill 205. Heavy mortar fire inflicted heavy casualties upon the Eighth Army Ranger Company as Puckett commanded his Rangers to withdrawal to safety.

Severely wounded, Puckett ordered his Rangers to leave him behind to ensure their safety. Disobeying their commander's orders, two Rangers fought back against the Chinese force as they crested the hill and dragged Puckett down to safety.

Of the Rangers on the mission, 10 were either killed or missing with another 31 wounded. Puckett was initially awarded a Distinguished Service Cross for his heroic actions and devotion to duty that day.

He received a second Distinguished Service Cross for his actions in the Vietnam War and later retired from the Army in 1971.

Source: https://www.army.mil/article/246521/retired_ranger_to_receive_medal_of_honor_for_korean_battle



The Eighth Army Ranger Company relocated to then-Pusan, Korea, where they began what was expected to be seven weeks of specialized training at the Eighth Army Ranger Training Center. Soldiers who could not meet the standard were cut from the company and replaced with allied Korean soldiers, known as KATUSAs.

The needs of the Army reduced the company's training to five and a half weeks in early October 1950, and the company was activated and redesignated as the 8213th Army Unit. They were then attached to the 25th Infantry Division to help lead the unit's advance to the north.

Hill 205

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

CHAPLAIN (COL) BERNARD H LIEVING JR USA RET



I wonder how many of you who are married and are reading this article will celebrate your anniversary in June. It was, at one time, the mostly highly chosen month in which to be married and that continues today with reduced emphasis. One reason for this choice is that the month of June is named for Juno, the Roman goddess of marriage who took love matters and all feminine interests under her protection.

Regardless of the chosen wedding month, couples marrying exchange vows that in some fashion declare their commitment to enter into union with each other. In my own United Methodist Church's marriage service couples vow to love, comfort, honor and keep each other in sickness and in health and be faithful to each other for as long as they shall live.

In my required premarital counseling with couples I spend a great deal of time emphasizing "love," not as feeling but as doing; not primarily an emotion but an act of the will. There is no question that the feeling of love is beautiful and life-giving. However, to love in marriage is to think, speak, and act; to fulfill vows as Frederick Buechner says "not just when they feel like it, but even – for better or worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health – when they don't feel like it at all." Buechner would also say that doing love is not just for marriage – it is for all our relationships, even if others do not respond with love.

Regardless of the month in which you were married, I urge you make love something you do as you share these lessening, and yet still difficult pandemic days. Demonstrate kindness and patience; share each other's burdens, and again, if you do love, as Buechner said, "there will be someone to get through the night with, to wake into the new day beside." (Beyond Words, Harper, 2004)

Dear Dad: A Tribute to Military Fathers

Dear Dad,

Today is Father's Day. It's a day we are supposed to spoil our dads, or the men who raised us, and, well, show them how much they mean to us. I'd love to be able to do that, Dad. I'd love to be able to take you out and show you just how good my curve ball is getting since you showed me where to place my thumb, and then each finger. You were home from Afghanistan that weekend, remember? We had two whole weeks to work on it, and even though I've been practicing every night with Tommy's dad down the street, it was those two weeks with you that made the difference. I made Varsity, did Mom tell you? So, I have that to be thankful for, with about a million other little things. Dad, I'm so proud of you. Tommy's dad gets to be there for the small things, the games, the practices, and all that—and believe me, I wish you could be there too—but that's not the important stuff. You've taught me what it is to be a man, what it is to work hard for what I really want, what will help me in the long term, not just right now. Your advice to ignore the bullies and "knuckle down" in my studies was the right way to go. One of the kids who was picking on me is getting kicked out of school, and thanks to you, I'm on the Dean's List. You showed me what the real fights are that are worth fighting, and my future is definitely worth it. Dad, you've given me a role model that no amount of playing in the street can replace. When your buddies were pinned down on your last deployment, you helped carry them to safety.

Seeing you receive that award, I knew that your buddies couldn't be in better hands. As long as my dad was with them, they'd make it home from anything. I didn't mind giving up some time with you so you could do the right thing. The fights worth fighting, remember? See, I listen, even when you think I don't. Dad, I'd give anything to celebrate today with you. And Veteran's Day, and your birthday (and not just to laugh at you because of how many candles you have on your cake now), and Thanksgiving. I have so much to be thankful for because of you, and it sucks not being able to take you to see a Red Sox game, or out to that steak house that Mom always says is too expensive, but lets you go to anyway. You deserve that, and more. You deserve a break, to have someone fight the fight for you this time. Sometimes I feel like you've done your work, and it is time to come home, be with us. But then I remember how important your work is; what you do is brave, and I couldn't ask for more than that. America couldn't either. So, Dad, just know I love you. I know you can't be here today, and I hope it's steak and lobster day in the chow hall, so you at least get some sort of recognition. Because you are everything to me—my hero, my friend, my coach, and most importantly, my dad. Stay safe, and I'll see you soon with plenty of time off for both of us to hit a few baseballs out of the park. And maybe some steaks afterwards. Happy Father's Day, Dad. I love you. Love,
Your Son

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WWW.MOAAATAMPA.ORG and Facebook: MOAA Tampa Chapter

The MOAA Tampa website is a comprehensive and valuable tool that you can use to make the most of your MOAA Membership. Some of the things you can find on our website include:

Events Calendar: We have a new "Events" page where you will find an updated calendar, displaying our upcoming MOAA events, as well as events happening with Operation Helping Hand. Click on our [Events Page](#) to check it out!

Photo Gallery of Events: This is our photo gallery, where you will see all of the photos during our luncheons, special meetings, conventions and more! If you've had your picture taken at our events, you can likely find it by scrolling through our [Photo Gallery](#)!

Newsletters: Here you will find the latest volume of The Retrospect, our award winning Tampa Chapter Newsletter. You can also access archived versions of The Retrospect for reference and research. In addition, you can find archived versions of the Military Spouse Newsletter, which has been merged into The Retrospect starting in August 2019. Visit [The Retrospect](#) page to read on!

Member Directory: You can access an electronic version of our Member Directory on our website. The list is password protected for safety of our private information, but MOAA Tampa Chapter Members can be provided the pass-word to access. You can also download an Excel version of the list once permitted into the page. Check out the [Member Directory](#) now!

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