

PRESIDENT COL CAROL ZIERES USA RET



COL ZIERES

Our February Luncheon was packed with an abundance of activity—first opening with our Color guard from Robinson High School JROTC—followed by a special awards ceremony. Past President, LTC Jim Griffin and Editor-in-chief, Navy Captain Don Dvornik, came forward to receive the MOAA National 5-Star Chapter of Excellence award for calendar year 2016. Also, I'd like to extend my congratulations to the following officers who were awarded the Florida Council Leadership Award, presented to the Tampa Chapter by COL Len Friedlander at the Florida Council's Leadership Forum Banquet on January 12th: COL Bill Schneider, LTC Jim Griffin, Chaplain Richard Helveston, and CW2 Tom South. As I mentioned before, we have several other individuals whom I'd like to see receive this award next year. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication by many to maintain a large chapter of over 450 members and all have fulfilled their duties with pride and without compensation.

We were privileged to honor two Senior National Representatives at our luncheon: BG Muhammad Malik from Pakistan and COL Lonel Vlasie from Romania. It is always a pleasure to have our coalition partners join us at our luncheons. We also welcomed into our chapter two new members: LTC Richard Ray, USAF (Ret) and CDR Kennett Bright, USN (Ret)! Last month, I mentioned the first goal of the chapter for 2018 was to focus on NEW MEMBERS, RETENTION, and ATTENDANCE at our monthly luncheons. The second goal is to add a MEMBER'S SPOTLIGHT COLUMN to our Retrospect Newsletter to highlight any special achievements of Tampa Chapter members or introduce new members to the chapter. March is WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH and I am pleased to recognize MOAA Life Member LTC Ruth Van Dyke, USA (Ret) for her selection as the 2018 U.S Army Women's Foundation Special Recognition award for the historical fiction series she has written about women in the Army. She has co-authored two books on military women's history and is working on publishing yet another book very soon. Ruth will be honored at the Army Women's Foundation Hall of Fame at the Rayburn House Office Building Foyer in Washington, DC on March 12th. Congratulations to LTC Van Dyke! You can read more details regarding her background in the Member's Spotlight Column on page 4 of this newsletter.

The highlight of the February luncheon by far was our guest speaker, Attorney Gavriel Mairone, who took center stage and gave us a jaw-dropping presentation on his law firm's project in bringing litigation against European Banks that laundered money with Iran to finance terrorism. Gavi presented a very clear and extensive slide presentation of the complexity and enormity of these terrorist financial networks and the amount of funding that state sponsored terrorists receive is staggering.

The Tampa Chapter simultaneously participated in the base Retiree Appreciation Day hosted by the 6th Medical Group (MacDill AFB) and set up a table for both MOAA and OPERATION HELPING HAND. A special thank you to our two chapter members: LTC Bob Sawallesh and Lt Col Ed Geasa, who staffed the booth for the entire day answering questions about MOAA, handing out literature, and other promotional items. And, now is a good time to mention our annual Golf Tournament is coming soon – March 23rd. Sign up as a golfer or you might consider volunteering to help with registration. The proceeds from the golf tournament support our charity, OPERATION HELPING HAND. And as always.....

**“WE’VE GOT YOUR BACK – NEVER STOP SERVING—
TAKING CARE OF OUR TROOPS IS A LIFETIME COMMITMENT”**

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

INTEL OVERVIEW

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

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MARCH

- 01—**Purim** is a two day event beginning at sundown on the fourteenth day of Adar, the twelve month of the Jewish calendar. Children dress in costumes and people give gifts. Usually solemn synagogues are turned into festive arenas. Children shake noise makers called "Graggers".
- 02—**World Day of Prayer** is sponsored by "Church Women United", a Christian group of women that strives to work for justice and peace.
- 03—**National Anthem Day** The Star Spangled Banner was written by Francis Scott Key. Over 100 years later, the Star Spangled Banner became our national anthem.
- 11—**Daylight Saving Time** begins (turn clocks forward one hour).
- 15—**The Ides of March** is the first day of the Roman New Year. It also marks the first day of spring in the Roman calendar.
- 17—**Saint Patrick's Day** is in honor of the Patron Saint of Ireland, who brought Christianity to the Emerald Isles.
- 17—**Submarine Day** The U.S. Submarine Force was established on this date in 1900.
- 25—**Feast of the Annunciation** the incarnation of our saviour, Jesus Christ.
- 25—**Palm Sunday** commemorates Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.
- 30—**Good Friday** - A Christian Holy Day
- 30—**Passover** is the celebration of the freeing of the Jews from Egyptian rule around 3000 years ago. Passover begins at sundown



Upcoming Events

01 FEBRUARY BOARD
08 FEBRUARY LUNCHEON
15 FEBRUARY OPHH
01 MARCH BOARD
08 MARCH LUNCHEON
15 MARCH OPHH
05 APRIL BOARD
12 APRIL LUNCHEON
19 APRIL OPHH

**PUBLICATION DEADLINE
FOR THE MARCH 2018
ISSUE IS 18 MARCH**

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DR RIVERA

**“INTEL OVERVIEW” MARCH SPEAKER:
JUAN R. RIVERA, J.D.**

Juan R. Rivera retired as a Senior Operations Officer from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in late 2006, following a four-year assignment as CIA and Director of Central Intelligence (DN!) Representative to the United States Central Command (USCENTCOM) at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida. During this assignment, Mr. Rivera worked closely with the senior staff of USCENTCOM and other US government agencies. His duties included frequent travel to the Middle East, and close monitoring of military and terrorism-related developments, on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in particular.

In previous assignments, Mr. Rivera worked largely in Central and South America, the Caribbean and Mexico, as a clandestine operative in support of CIA's field operations in the region. He also served several tours of duty in CIA Headquarters.

Mr. Rivera has vast experience in field investigations, intelligence operations, undercover operations, money laundering, counter-intelligence, counter-narcotics, counter-terrorism, and in joint operations with law enforcement, both foreign and domestic.

Since his retirement, Mr. Rivera has taught at the University of South Florida and Eckerd College in Tampa. He also has written and published several books, in English and Spanish. Currently, he is the President of the Central Intelligence Retiree Association (CIRA) for the region.

Mr. Rivera served in the U.S. Army as an infantryman during the Vietnam War. He was wounded twice in separate combat actions in the war. For nearly a year he was a patient at various military hospitals, in the U.S. and abroad. He was honorably retired, on a medical discharge, in 1971. His military and combat-related awards include: Bronze Star Medal with letter "V" device; Purple Heart; Air Medal; Army Commendation Medal with letter "V" device; National Defense Service Medal; Vietnam Service Medal with 2 bronze service stars; Combat Infantryman Badge 1st Award; Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon with device (1960); Expert Badge with Rifle Bar; Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation.

Mr. Rivera has earned the following higher education degrees and Professional Certificates: Juris Doctor (J.D.), Law, Seton Hall University, School of Law, New Jersey; Bachelors of Arts (B.A.), Latin American Studies, Montclair State University, New Jersey; Associate of Applied Science (AA.S), Administration of Justice, Summa Cum Laude, Northern Virginia Community College; Associate of Applied Science (AA.S.), Security Management, Summa CUII; Laude, Northern Virginia Community College; Professional Certificate, Administration of Justice, Northern Virginia Community College; Professional Certificate, Security Management, Northern Virginia Community College. Associate of Applied Science (AA.S.), Security Management, Summa CUII; Laude, Northern Virginia Community College; Professional Certificate, Administration of Justice, Northern Virginia Community College; Professional Certificate, Security Management, Northern Virginia Community College.

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CAPT DVORNIK
EDITOR**THE RETROSPECT**

THE RETROSPECT—is published monthly by the Tampa Chapter of the Military Officers' Association of America (MOAA), P.O. Box 6383, MacDill Air Force Base, FL 33608-0383. The Tampa Chapter is a 501-C-19 tax exempt veterans organization not associated with the Department of Defense. The views expressed in individually signed articles do not necessarily reflect Chapter policy.

OUR EDITORIAL POLICY—MOAA National, the Florida Council and the Tampa Chapter are nonpartisan organizations. Our membership is open to all active duty, retired, former and reserve officers. Our luncheon meetings are held at 1130 hours every second Thursday of each month at the Surf's Edge Club on MacDill AFB. Our Military Officers Wives Club (MOWC) meets at the same time and place and is open to all officer wives whose husbands are Tampa Chapter members or are widows of a military officer. NEW MEMBERS will only have their names and photo published.

ON THE WEB

Tampa Chapter (<http://moaatampa.org/>) **FL COUNCIL** (www.moaafl.org/) **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.



LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
by LTC Chris Hart, USA (Ret.)



OPERATION HELPING HAND UPDATE
By LTC Jim Griffin USA Ret



Photo of new member, 2LT Victor Prato AD taken at the last OPHH dinner

The OPERATION HELPING DINNER FOR MARCH WILL BE HELD ON 15 MARCH at 6:00 pm at the JAMES A HALEY VA HOSPITAL IN THE SCI DINING FACILITY (HERO'S CAFÉ).

We hope that you will be able to join us and continue to volunteer your time to support the active duty wounded and injured folks who will be honored. Please plan to meet these WARRIORS and their families. You will be a better person—I guarantee it! This month's sponsor is HANDS OF HOPE. We are truly honored to have this fantastic organization to not only sponsor a dinner, but serve as a tremendous supporter of OPERATION HELPING HAND throughout the year.

March's caterer is also a continued strong supporter! LUPTON'S, a long-time supporter, will again provide plenty of great food for an excellent dinner. RALPH and JEFF LUPTON also cater the food for the VA PARADE every year.

The FEBRUARY DINNER, SPONORED BY DTCC and CATERED BY MISSION BBQ was a truly excellent affair. Thank you both your support and providing an excellent evening for the wounded and injured. THANKS!

Our tireless volunteer base which enables us to consistently provide 96.5% of all the monies donated to go to our wounded and injured and their families. The strong support of our local business community and their commitment to sponsor our dinner events, golf tournament, and provide generous donations throughout the year along with the individual support we receive from numerous donors every month insure that the support of our mission will not be interrupted for as long as our assistance is required.

**OUR TREMENDOUS GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS
MAKE ALL OF THIS POSSIBLE!**

DOUBLE DUTY

Tampa MOAA had "double duty" on February 8th when the Tampa MOAA Luncheon and Retiree Activity Day were on the same day. Pictured below are volunteers (L to R) LTC ROBERT SAWALLESH USA RET, LTC JIM GRIFFIN USA RET, LT COL EDWIN H GEASA USAFR RET, COL CAROL ZIERES USA RET (PRES TAMPA CHAPTER), HONORARY MEMBER STUART DWORK, LT COL EDWIN H GEASA USAFR RET, and CW2 THOMAS SOUTH USA RET (Chapter photographer)




 TAMPA CHAPTER BULLETIN BOARD

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**CDR KENNETH BRIGHT USN RET**

No spouse

**LTC RICHARD RAY USAF RET**

Spouse: COLLEEN

—Submitted by Col William Schneider, Membership Chairman

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

LT COL THOMAS ALLEN USAF RET

3301 Bayshore Blvd., Unit 1104, Tampa, FL 33629-8844

COL JAMES SWENSON USA RET, 8803 Kwy West Cir,

Tampa, FL 33626-2977

LT COL JOANNE TAUBER, 13714 Chestersall Dr., Tampa, FL

33624-2501

—submitted by CW3 Bill Farrow, Sick Call Chairman

TAPS

COL RON BUCHERT, USAF RET, died on 7 Feb 2018. A memorial service will be held at the Pasadena Community Church, 227 – 70th Street South, St Petersburg.

COL. CLIFFORD L. US ARMY (RET.) passed away January 8, 2018. A visitation will be held Saturday, February 24, 2018 at 10 am with a service to follow at 11 am at Blount and Curry Funeral Home Carrollwood Chapel, 3207 W. Bearss Ave. Tampa, FL 33618. Interment at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA is at a future date.

FORMER ARMY CPT JOHN RICKERSON, died on 26 Jan 2018 and buried at the Florida National Cemetery on 7 Feb 2018.

—submitted by MAJ Dick Tinsley, Personal Affairs Chairman

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Women's History Month is an annual declared month that highlights the contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society. It is celebrated during March in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia, corresponding with International Women's Day on March 8, and during October in Canada, corresponding with the celebration of Persons Day on October 18.

<https://www.bing.com/search?>



Ruth completed the Army Training with Industry Program, with General Dynamics, transferred to the newly established Acquisition Corps and was assigned to the Army Materiel Command. In 1994, Ruth returned to the Chemical Corps, was assigned to the Army Staff in the Pentagon and culminated her career at Ft. Shafter, Hawaii, with US Army Pacific.

After retirement, Ruth went to Ft. Leonard Wood MO, with her husband, who was a Battalion commander and in addition to teaching Army Family Team building and fulfilling her responsibilities as a commanders wife, she accepted a course development position at the newly established Chemical School, Ft. Leonard Wood, MO. A year later, Ruth transferred to the Battelle Memorial Institute D.C. office to assist in the preparation of DoD Chem/Bio Defense budget submission documents and taught various courses as part of a Homeland Security Mobile Training Team. Upon her husband retiring from active duty and moving to Tampa, Ruth evaluated Combatant Commands ability to accomplish their mission in a WMD environment. In 2007, Ruth became the first Joint Staff Liaison Officer to US Special Operations Command to assist with their Combatting Weapons of Mass Destruction mission at MacDill AFB, until her retirement in 2014.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chaplain (COL) Bernard H Lieving, Jr., USA Ret

During the summer of 1958 I was working as a summer-hire laborer at the local coal-fired electric power plant in West Virginia. One day we were visited by one of our Congressmen, Ken Hechler, who proceeded to sign and distribute to those interested a copy of his book, *The Bridge at Remagen*. The book tells the story of the 9th Armored Division capturing the Ludendorff Bridge crossing the Rhine River and it sparked my interest in the history of World War II.

The capture on 5 March 1945, following a failed attempt by the defending Germans to destroy the bridge, gave the advancing Americans ready access to cross the Rhine into Germany. During the ten day period before the bridge finally collapsed, the Americans had moved 25,000 troops, 6 Army Divisions with tanks and artillery across the bridge allowing them to envelope the industrial area of the Ruhr much more quickly than had been planned. General Eisenhower changed his battle plans as a result of the event at Remagen. The book was the basis for a fictionalized 1969 movie starring George Segal, Robert Vaughn, Ben Gazzara and E.G. Marshall.

So, what does this have to do with this month's Chaplain's Corner? Maybe nothing! And yet, this history note reminds us that over the next two months we will be remembering many of the events that happened 73 years ago leading ultimately to end of the war in Europe with the surrender of the German forces starting on 2 May until the final unconditional surrender of all forces on 7 May. It is time to say again "thank you" to the World War II veterans we know and with whom we come in contact. We may not have many more chances to do so as they are dying at the rate of about 1,000 per day.

LUNCHEON PHOTOS
—submitted by CW2 Thomas South RET



FEBRUARY
LUNCHEON
PHOTOS



FCOC CONVENTION

Submitted by President Zieres



“The Lee Coast Chapter is hosting the 2018 FCOC Convention at the Sanibel Harbor Marriott Resort and Spa June 1 to June 3, 2018. The room rate is \$139 per night to include free parking, no resort fee and no taxes if you register through FCOC. The same rate applies 3 days prior & 3 days after the convention. A special event is being planned for the first day, a cruise of Sanibel Harbor aboard the 70-foot yacht, “Sanibel Princess.” A buffet dinner and cash bar will be offered aboard and attendance will be limited to convention attendees.”

Get additional information & make your reservations at: <http://www.moaafl.org/Convention/>

HALEY TAKES PATIENT SAFETY AWARD FOR EIGHTH YEAR

Submitted by LTC Robert Sawallesh USA RET



James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital has received VA's top patient safety award for the eighth consecutive year. The Cornerstone Award is presented by the VA National Center for Patient Safety (NCPS), an organization dedicated to the nationwide reduction and prevention of inadvertent harm to patients as a result of their care. The award was initiated in 2008 to recognize VA leaders in patient safety and was presented to JAHVH at the Gold Level, the highest level in the program.

Two of the most important criteria for the award is staff reported close calls and adverse events, and the Root Cause Analysis process the hospital uses when such events are reported.

“The Root Cause Analysis is a formal analysis into a patient safety event that caused or could have potentially caused harm,” said JAHVH Patient Safety Manager Laura Smith. “We take subject matter experts and stakeholders, and we look at the systems and process issues that led to a serious or potentially serious adverse event—what happened, why it happened and how we can prevent an adverse event from happening again in our facility.”

NCPS looks at the Root Cause Analysis process to ensure that suggested actions to prevent future episode are strong and more likely to sustain patient safety in the future.

“Each RCA had to have at least one Intermediate or Strong Action with management concurrence,” Smith said. “Rewriting a policy or re-training would be considered a weak action because although good things to do, are not likely to lead to lasting safety improvements. A stronger action would be standardizing a process or doing an engineering control. All of our Root Cause Analyses were excellent quality.”

NCPS also takes into account the number of reports filed in a year, with the goal of ensuring that staff feel comfortable reporting such events. The majority of the JAHVH reports were “close calls,” Smith said, where a staff member caught a possible mistake before it caused any harm.

“The staff-reported adverse events and close calls represent the foundation of a robust and effective patient safety reporting system,” Smith said. “Each patient safety report is an opportunity for learning and improvement. We encourage people to report these events so that problems can be defined, solutions identified, improvements made, and the hospital is safer because of that.”

“The Patient Safety Program is a team sport,” Smith said. “Although there is a small number of staff in the program, the entire facility is working together, and the entire facility should share in our Cornerstone Award.”

The program is far from static, as well. Smith explained that a new patient safety reporting system is about to come online in the new year.

The Joint Patient Safety Reporting System is the same system used by the Department of Defense for reporting patient safety issues or adverse events. Staff members will be able to enter incident reports into a standardized electronic template versus the individual systems in place here and at other facilities.

Smith said the new system will generate better patient safety reports both locally and at the national level. Using the information from both VA and DOD will allow national leaders to see common themes and triggers of potential safety issues among the reports, and be able to put out corrective actions. The new system is scheduled to go into use sometime in January.

https://www.tampa.va.gov/features/Patient_Safety_Award.asp

KNOWN MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 01 FMR USAF CAPT ERIC HENSEN
- 01 LTC ROBERT TUCKER USAR RET
- 01 COL CAROL ZIERES USA RET PRES TPA CHAP
- 03 CW4 GERALD STACY USA RET
- 05 LTC JAMES ROY JR USAR RET
- 07 FORMER ARMY 1LT ROBERT WILDE
- 09 COL MILT STEADMAN USAF RET
- 10 LT COL ROBERT WADSWORTH USAF RET
- 11 COL MICHAEL W BIHR USA RET
- 11 LT COL DONALD CARTER USAF RET
- 13 COL RICHARD HUGHES USA RET
- 13 LCDR BRYAN M SMITH USN RET
- 14 FORMER ARMY CPT PATRICK CRANE
- 14 LTC CHRISTOPHER STRUNK AD
- 16 CAPT WILLIAM PRAY USN RET
- 17 LCDR ROBERT GULLY USN RET
- 17 FORMER USAF MAJ LINDA PUGSLEY
- 18 MAJ FREDERICK J HEYER USAF RET
- 20 COL DARIUS V BAKUNAS USAF RET
- 26 LTC ALEX M ESPINOSA USA AD
- 27 CDR FRANK HARRINGTON USN RET

(If we missed yours, please respond to moaatampachapter@tampabay.rr.com with name & DOB)

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SOLDIER TAKES AIM TOWARD DOD WARRIOR GAMES AND BEYOND

By MaryTherese Griffin, U.S. Army Warrior Care and Transition

ARLINGTON, VA, Feb. 10, 2018 —Have you ever wanted something so badly that you would do just about anything to obtain it? Army Staff Sgt. Ross Alewine, assigned to the Warrior Transition Battalion at Fort Belvoir, VA, has endured multiple surgeries following injuries he suffered over multiple deployments. As a result, the 29-year-old Infantryman soon will be medically retired and leave his beloved Army for civilian life.

With retirement imminent, Alewine said, he is working to win the title “Ultimate Champion” in June at the 2018 Department of Defense Warrior Games hosted by the U.S. Air Force Academy. Alewine is training six days a week for four hours a day, hoping to earn a spot on Team Army for the 2018 DoD Warrior Games at the Army trials in March at Fort Bliss, TX.

To get there, he said, he has one stop to make and another pretty big personal goal. “I want to make Team Army and compete at the DoD Warrior Games for several reasons,” he said. “The two that stand out and mean the most are that I can show other soldiers who have injuries they can still be a competitor and, most importantly, is to lead by example, challenging myself. One day I want to be able to look back on this and teach my kids a valuable life lesson—sometimes life gets hard and knocks you down, but you always have to get up and give it your all, no matter what.”

To be named Ultimate Champion, Alewine must compete and perform well in all of the Warrior Games events: track, field, air rifle and pistol, archery, sitting volleyball, wheelchair basketball and swimming.

“Becoming an Ultimate Champion is to push myself to the limit and see what I have left in the tank,” Alewine said. “It is not easy by any means. All the mental and physical work it takes to transition from one event to another is very challenging, but a challenge I take with a smile on my face. I truly just love competing and cheering my fellow brothers and sisters on.”

That is the kind of support Alewine has found at the Fort Belvoir Warrior Transition Battalion. He likes to stress that the battalion is not focused on developing athletes, but is focused on doing what’s best for each individual’s recovery. “The WTB has a very balanced approach to everything,” Alewine said. “They want you to be as active as possible within the limits of your physical condition, and they teach you how to do so. For me, I tried to return to duty when I first got here and they supported me 100 percent. But now, since I’m transitioning to veteran status, they help me focus on my life after the Army.”

Alewine said he plans to start classes in the fall at Greenville Tech in Greenville, South Carolina. Even with a traumatic brain injury, he added, he believes he has the tools to press on. “I have worked with my TBI clinic to figure out new ways to learn,” he said. “With my TBI, educational learning can be a challenge, but I am confident that I will have at least a 3.5 GPA and graduate with a bachelor’s degree in business within three years.”

As Alewine continues to train for Army trials and a chance to compete at the Warrior Games, he is preparing himself for his future after the Army and beyond the Games.



Army Staff Sgt. Ross Alewine trains at the Fort Belvoir, Va., archery range preparing for the 2018 Army trials and a chance to compete in the 2018 Department of Defense Warrior Games.

Army photo by Annette Gomes

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/1618121fcf2eeb94>



CORONADO, Calif. (Feb. 6, 2018) Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL students participate in Surf Passage at Naval Amphibious Base Coronado. Surf Passage is one of many physically demanding evolutions that are a part of the first phase of SEAL training. Navy SEALs are the maritime component of U.S. Special Forces and are trained to conduct a variety of operations from the sea, air and land.

(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Lynn F. Andrews/Released)

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PARATROOPER MAKES FIRST JUMP IN MORE THAN 30 YEARS

By Brian Sean Kimmons Army News Service

VICENZA, Italy—It is uncertain what the record is for the time between Army parachute jumps, but Lt. Col. John Hall may hold it at 30 years and six months.

When Hall parachuted from a military aircraft last month, it was the first time he had done so in over thirty years.

Hall, a 53-year-old school teacher at Kearsley High School in Flint, MI is serving a one-year tour of duty in Vicenza, Italy, as the public affairs officer for the storied 173rd Airborne Brigade, the contingency response force for U.S. Army Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

“I first worked with the 173rd Airborne when I was put on active duty with the Michigan National Guard in 2014 and sent to the Baltic Countries of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve and in support of Latvia, our State Partnership Nation,” Hall said

“The 173rd Airborne Public Affairs leaders and I developed a close working relationship, so last summer when they needed an experienced public affairs officer to lead their team, I was selected and put on orders.”

The 173rd Brigade commander sent word to Hall that he would be expected to jump from aircraft as a part of his duties.

“I was really excited and completely terrified at the same time. I graduated from 'Jump School' when I was 19 years old and last jumped when I was 22, so I knew what to do,” Hall said with a laugh.

The 173rd put Hall through a one-day airborne refresher course, he said. This training included parachute landing, actions in the aircraft and emergency procedures, followed by multiple jumps from a 34-foot tower in which his technique was assessed.

The next day, Hall reported to Aviano Air Base in northern Italy, donned his parachute with a couple of hundred other soldiers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade, climbed aboard an Air Force C-17 aircraft and, when 1,200 feet over the Juliet Drop Zone, exited the door and tested his training.

“The jet blast spun me in the air so when my 'chute deployed it was pretty twisted and did not have a full canopy,” Hall said. “I was surprised that I automatically reached up, pulled the 'risers' apart and worked the parachute fully open. Good training takes over and we automatically do the right thing. I then checked my position in the sky and prepared to land. It was all over in less than a minute. I took up a good parachute landing fall position and the landing was perfect.”



Army Lt. Col. John Hall, a paratrooper and public affairs officer assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 173rd Airborne Brigade, poses for a photo in Vicenza, Italy, Jan. 31 2018. Hall is a Michigan National Guard soldier currently on active-duty orders with the 173rd.

Army photo by Staff Sgt. Alexander C Henninger

Hall has served in the Army since graduating from Lakeville High School in the Flint area where he was an All-State wrestler, president of the school's student council and where he began dating his eventual wife, Laura.

“I enlisted as a combat medic when I was 19 years old and served in the 82nd Airborne Division in the mid-1980s, where we conducted frequent parachute operations as a part of our combat training,” Hall said. “After leaving the 82nd, I didn't think I would ever jump from a military aircraft ever again.”

Since leaving active duty with the 82nd, Hall has served in the Army Reserve, the Florida and Michigan National Guard, and has been called back to active duty—to include combat duty in Iraq—on multiple occasions, but he has not been assigned to a unit with an airborne mission until now.

He was initially commissioned as a cavalry officer following officer candidate school and served as a Scout Platoon Leader in E Troop, 153rd Cavalry Regiment in Ocala, Florida. His later assignments include company commander in the 1-125 Infantry in Flint, Michigan, as well as executive officer and commander of the 126th Press Camp Headquarters at Fort Custer, Michigan. It was in the 126th PCH that Hall served a combat tour in Baghdad.

Oddly enough, while serving as a press officer for Multinational Forces Iraq, Hall was serving in a combat zone at the same time as his daughter, Savannah, who had recently been commissioned as an officer through the University of Michigan ROTC program.

“My daughter, Savannah, grew up around the Army and has seen me in uniform since I was in the 82nd Airborne,” Hall said. “She decided when she went to college that she wanted to enroll in ROTC, serve in the army and be a paratrooper. It was indeed a proud moment when I pinned her 'Jump Wings' on her at Fort Benning, Georgia. And now my youngest daughter, Samantha, is shipping off to Army basic training later this spring. It remains to be seen if she, too, will become a paratrooper.”

Hall has been working in Vicenza, Italy, on the senior staff of the 173rd Airborne Brigade since August 2017. In this short time, he has supported airborne combat training in Latvia, Germany, Slovenia, a historic mission to Serbia, mountaineering training with the Italian Alpini Brigade, and next week will travel to Toulouse, France, to support 173rd Airborne combined engineering operations with French paratroopers.

“The operational tempo here at the 173rd Airborne is intense. We continually have combat training going on with our NATO allies throughout Europe,” Hall said. “Our command philosophy is that we are always ‘preparing our soldiers for the unforgiving crucible of ground combat.’”

A significant part of this, in the 173rd Airborne Brigade, is conducting airborne operations, so Hall will complete several more jumps from military aircraft in the coming months.

As far as teaching is concerned, Hall intends to return to the classroom teaching English, history and theater for the fall 2018 semester. It is certain that the dynamic training and real-world experiences contribute to his classes and his students' enthusiasm.

Until then, Hall is an Army paratrooper and he said he's proud of the soldiers with whom he works. Hall added, “It is truly an honor to be able to serve with the ‘Sky Soldiers’ of the 173rd Airborne Brigade. To be able to begin my military career with the 82nd Airborne Division and end it with the 173rd Airborne Brigade is remarkable. I am humbled every day by the discipline, determination and dedication of these young Americans forward stationed and always prepared to defend their country.”

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/16180d0d1833e964>

MARINE MUSCLE



Marines conduct physical training as part of a corporals course at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Feb. 2, 2018. The Marines are assigned to the 1st Marine Logistics Group.

Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Adam Dublinske <https://www.defense.gov/Photos/Photo-Gallery/igphoto/2001876293/source/GovDelivery/>

NAVY NURSE SERVES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

By Task Force 51/5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade



As a trauma and en route care nurse assigned to Expeditionary Resuscitative Surgical System 18, LT Moore provides critical care to patients during crisis response missions. Navy photo by LCDR Sandra Arnold

Navy LT Logan Moore joined the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps four years ago with the sole purpose of making a difference in others' lives. As a trauma and en route care nurse assigned to Expeditionary Resuscitative Surgical System 18, a subordinate unit of Naval Amphibious Forces, Task Force 51, 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, he provides critical care to patients during crisis response missions.

Challenged with employing medical support to missions in remote areas where a fixed medical facility is not available, Moore's skills were put to the test when he deployed aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Bataan last summer. His team helped save the lives of six service members following a mass casualty situation during what he described as the hallmark of his TF 51/5 experience.

"It was truly a sight to see," Moore said. "We were able to transport all six patients we received to the next level of care with their lives intact. Providing this additional capability allows the warfighters to do their job knowing there is a medical asset in close proximity ready to provide support. Our team has been tested and we have proven we can and will take care of casualties no matter the circumstances."

In addition to serving as a trauma and en route care nurse, Moore said he enjoys serving in a collateral role as the team's logistics officer, ensuring the safe and efficient transport of the team's members and medical gear.

Logistical support to operations is remarkably important for TF 51/5's diverse mission, he said, which spans across a broad swath of the U.S. Central Command area of operations and includes maneuver operations afloat and ashore in support of crisis response, humanitarian assistance and theater security cooperation.

"We have been a part of multiple operations, in multiple theaters, onboard a wide variety of different sea platforms," Moore said. "I feel like I am making a difference every time the team goes from one place to another to support a mission and that we arrive there safely with functioning and intact gear."

With TF 51/5 placing significant importance in maintaining readiness in preparation for crisis response operations, Moore says that this transregional response capable force, spanning three geographic combatant commanders' boundaries -- Africa, Europe and the Middle East—provides Centcom with an unmatched crisis response in the world's most austere environments.

"I chose my path based on wanting to help people in as direct a way as possible," he said. "Working in the health care field has allowed me to impact so many lives in a positive and meaningful way."

For the remainder of his deployment with TF 51/5, Moore said he intends to coordinate the team's final movements, improve expeditionary resuscitative surgical system processes and ensure a favorable turnover for his successor.

Moore, native of Klamath Falls, Oregon, is a 2013 graduate of Seattle University where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. He was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal during his previous assignment at Naval Hospital Jacksonville for being a part of a committee that educated hundreds of personnel about blood culture collection techniques. Moore's hobbies include hiking, sports, camping and river rafting. Upon completion of his deployment with TF 51/5, Moore will return to his parent command at the Walter Reed National Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

<https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1441240/face-of-defense-navy-nurse-serves-to-make-a-difference/source/GovDelivery/>

RAPTOR RESOLVE



Two Air Force F-22 Raptors fly over Syria, Feb. 2, 2018, while supporting Operation Inherent Resolve.

Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Colton Elliott

RETICENT REUNION



Air Force Staff Sgt. Lucas Nelson prepares to hug his daughter as he returns home to Hector International Airport in Fargo, N.D., Feb. 1, 2018, after a six-month deployment to southwest Asia. Nelson is assigned to the North Dakota Air National Guard's 119th Security Forces Squadron.

Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp <https://www.defense.gov/Photos/Photo-Gallery/igphoto/2001874134/source/GovDelivery/>

SCHEDULING A FUNERAL SERVICE AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY
 —submitted by LTC Robert Sawallesh USA RET



Upon the death of the veteran or veteran's spouse, the Primary Next of Kin or Person Authorized to Direct Disposition should contact a local funeral home to arrange for any desired services in the hometown. The PNOK, PADD or the funeral director should telephone the Arlington National Cemetery's customer service center at 1-877-907-8585 to arrange for the interment/inurnment service.

The process to schedule a burial at Arlington National Cemetery can be complex and we handle each family's request individually with the utmost care and professionalism. Each request is unique and the length of time it takes for scheduling is typically several weeks to several months and depends on many factors, including the family's ability to provide all documents to verify eligibility, any special requests, requests for full military honors (which can take longer to schedule than standard military honors because of additional military resources such as escorts and the caisson), requests for one of the chapels located on Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, etc.

When the family or funeral home makes the first call to the customer service center, they are given a case number for tracking purposes and are asked to fax or e-mail all required documents for review. The cemetery staff will need to establish and confirm the service member is eligible for burial at Arlington. We recommend that you have all of the required documentation together before you call the cemetery to schedule the service. Any documents requested by the cemetery staff can be e-mailed to arlingtoncemetery.isb@mail.mil and must include the case number provided by the customer service center. Please Note: Arlington National Cemetery will not respond to other inquiries via this email box.

The required documents are the DD214 (or service equivalent) to establish eligibility for the eligible service member, death certificate, and cremation certificate, if applicable. It is the family's responsibility to provide the service member's eligibility documents.

A service will not be scheduled until all required documents are received.

Families will be required to validate that an urn contains 100 percent of the decedent's remains received from the crematorium or funeral home before Arlington National Cemetery conducts the burial service.

<https://arlingtoncemetery.mil/#/>



FORMATION FLIGHT

Four U.S. Air Force F-16C Fighting Falcons and four Swedish air force JAS 39 Gripen fly in formation behind a U.S. Air Force KC-135 Stratotanker during aerial refueling training in Swedish airspace, Feb. 8, 2018.

Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Luke Milano
<https://www.defense.gov/Photos/Photo-Gallery/igphoto/2001877648/source/GovDelivery/>



SUPER SIGNAL

Navy Lt. Donnell Exum signals to an F/A-18F Super Hornet to launch from the USS Theodore Roosevelt in the Persian Gulf, Feb. 12, 2018. The aircraft carrier is supporting maritime security operations to reassure allies and partners and preserve the free flow of commerce. The Hornet is assigned to Strike Fighter Attack Squadron 22.

Navy photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Alex Corona
<https://www.defense.gov/Photos/Photo-Gallery/igphoto/2001878779/>



CG LIVE-FIRE EXERCISE

Coast Guard crew members prepare for a live-fire exercise during a Firearms Training and Evaluation-Pistol course at the Dexter Small Arms Firing Range at Coast Guard Base Honolulu .

<http://www.businessinsider.com/us-coast-guard-captivating-photos->



AFGHANISTAN OPERATION

<https://www.defense.gov/Photos/Photo-Gallery/igphoto/2001876854/source/>

MARRIED ARMY PARATROOPERS SERVE TOGETHER

By Army Spc. Charlton Pope, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team



Army Staff Sgts. Zachary and Michelle Evans pose together for a photo outside the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team headquarters building in Vicenza, Italy, after earning their Senior Parachutist Wings together, Feb. 23, 2018. This was the last jump they completed with the unit; it was also the last jump they both needed to obtain the

to Italy with the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, heading to the Brigade Support Battalion. While serving in Italy, they both attended Jumpmaster School, failing together the first time. They were able to attend again soon after; this time, Michelle passed, but Zach would have to attend one more time.

As they gained experience as jumpmasters, the couple neared the requirements for their Senior Parachutist Wings. Michelle had been setting up manifests for jumps and assigning jumpmaster duties. She worked out a way for them to get the last jump needed for their senior wings together. This was one of only two jumps they shared together. Their first jump together was at Fort Bragg as privates. Their last was on Jan. 19, 2018, where they pinned on their Senior Parachutist Wings.

Instructor Duty

The Evans' will next serve together at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, to be advanced individual training instructors. They are both looking forward to working in a new location and to teaching new soldiers. Zach says that he has always had a passion for instructing soldiers and passing down his knowledge. They are also excited about starting a family together. In September, they welcomed their first child, Elliot. They're very joyful about starting this new chapter in their life.

VICENZA, Italy, Feb. 13, 2018 — Army Staff Sgts. Zachary and Michelle Evans have spent almost their entire military careers together. They met while in-processing with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, NC in December 2010, after both had completed Airborne School. They were placed in the same company and platoon. Michelle jokes about Zach having to ask her out on a date three different times before she finally said yes. They have been practically inseparable since.

They deployed together to Afghanistan in 2012 with the 82nd Airborne in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, both earning a Combat Action Badge. The couple were married soon after returning from the deployment.

Both soldiers came into the Army as privates and have risen through the enlisted ranks together. While Zach beat Michelle to private first class, Michelle has beat him to every rank since; however, he has never been far behind her. This competitive spirit has kept them both striving to get to the next level and to be better than they were before.

Deployments to Afghanistan

In 2014, the couple were rotated back overseas for their second deployment together with the 82nd to Afghanistan.

During this deployment, Michelle won the Sgt. Audie Murphy Board.

After returning from the deployment, the couple were posted to the Brigade Support Battalion. While serving in Italy, they both attended Jumpmaster School, failing together the first time. They were able to attend again soon after; this time, Michelle passed, but Zach would have to attend one more time.

<https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1439794/face-of-defense-married-army-paratroopers-serve-together/source/GovDelivery/>



FLYING FETCH

Marine Corps Cpl. Hunter Gullick, a military police officer and dog handler, plays fetch with Shiva to build rapport with the military working dog at the Marine Corps Installations Pacific K-9 kennels at Kadena Air Base, Japan, Feb. 13, 2018.

Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Tayler P. Schwamb
<https://www.defense.gov/Photos/Photo-Gallery/igphoto/2001878491/>



CAISSON KISS

Army Spc. Colin Martin kisses Hank, an 11-year-old horse assigned to the Caisson Platoon of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, known as "The Old Guard," before conducting funeral training at Arlington National Cemetery, Va., Feb. 6, 2018.

Army photo by Elizabeth Fraser
<https://www.defense.gov/Photos/Photo-Gallery/igphoto/2001878109/source/GovDelivery/>



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