



# THE RETROSPECT

SEPTEMBER 2018

TAMPA CHAPTER—A CHAPTER OF MOAA NATIONAL—A FIVE STAR CHAPTER 2002, 2004-2016

VOLUME 24, NUMBER 9

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**LEGISLATIVE LOWDOWN**

**OPERATION HELPING HAND**

**SPOTLIGHT**

**SERVICE NEWS**

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

**LUNCHEON MENU:**

Lentil Salad  
Curry Chicken  
Basmati Rice  
Cumin Green Beans  
Pita Bread  
Assorted Desserts

### Upcoming Events

OUR BOARD WILL MEET AT 1000 on:  
- 06 SEPT  
- 04 OCT  
- 01 NOV

LUNCHEON MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT 1130 AT SURF'S EDGE ON:  
— 13 SEPTEMBER  
— 11 OCTOBER  
— 08 NOVEMBER

PUBLICATION DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER ISSUE IS 25 SEPTEMBER



COL ZIERES  
PRESIDENT

The calendar tells me it's already September and autumn is fast approaching, but the Florida heat continues to be unrelenting. Thankfully, I had a brief reprieve from the humidity this past month as I was able to escape to the North Country (back to my roots) in Upstate New York.

Our August luncheon had an attendance of about 50 attendees. I suspect many of our regular attendees were on summer vacation, too. For those of you who missed the luncheon, we opened our program with the AVAST Honor Guard, the only amputee Honor Guard in the Nation, and we were honored to have MARIA CHOPA LOPEZ, Interim US ATTORNEY for the Middle District of Florida as guest speaker. She spoke to us about current issues that continue to plague our society such as the opioid crisis and drug interdiction of drug smugglers on our southern coast/borders. Ms Lopez hails from Mexico and after completing her baccalaureate degree at the University of Texas, she received a commission in the United States Army and began her legal career in the Staff Judge Advocate Corps where she earned her L.L.M and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. She held subsequent positions as federal prosecutor, appellate attorney, and civil litigator for the Department of Justice. Her law firm has continued to foster a partnership with the US COAST GUARD in trying narcotics cases that have made a tremendous impact internationally.

Other guests at the head table included three Senior Coalition Officers: Acting Chairman of the Coalition - COL ROBERT GEERDES (Netherlands), incoming Chairman - BRIGADIER GENERAL HENRIK LARSEN (Denmark), and COL ZSOLT HORNYAK (Hungary) also joined us for lunch.

The other highlight I attended this past month was the ground breaking ceremony for the construction of a new Bed Tower at the JAMES A. HALEY VETERAN'S HOSPITAL (JAHVAH). The theme of this project is "MISSION MODERNIZE." The JAHVAH Director, MR. JOE BATTLE, among other dignitaries addressed the audience. The new bed tower will feature 100 medical surgical single patient rooms and 40 intensive care unit beds as well as assorted support, education, and other service spaces. Construction is set to be completed over the next 3-4 years. The JAHVAH is one of the busiest VA hospitals in the nation, serving over 90K veterans every year.

MOAA and our charity, OPERATION HELPING HAND, play an important role in providing continuous support to our combat wounded veterans and their families at JAHVAH -- OUR VETERANS DESERVE AND HAVE EARNED THE BEST OF WHAT OUR COUNTRY HAS TO OFFER, which has inspired the Tampa chapter to choose the theme, "HELPING HANDS HELPING HEROES" for the 2019 Florida Council of Chapters Convention. This leads me to my next point: We are still in need of more volunteers for the convention committees; especially business ad solicitations for the convention magazine and registration reception check-in. The old adage applies, "Many hands make lighter work." If you have some extra time on your hands and desire to help, you can contact our Convention Chairman, COL LEWIS VANDYKE or CO-CHAIRMAN, LTC DOUG ANDREWS or simply show up at our 10 o'clock meeting on the second Thursday of every month at the Surf's Edge Club prior to our luncheon. Additional information is contained on the "WE NEED YOU" Leadership Committee Volunteer Form, which is provided in this newsletter.

Lastly, I'd like to mention that my communications team has prepared a letter that was sent to all of our chapter members that details how to access the chapter website for the RETROSPECT and provides the password to access the MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY. You should have received this letter shortly in your e-mail inbox or your mailbox, depending on your information source. Your board of directors constantly strive to bring you updated information using the most expeditious and cost effective means of dissemination.

### SEPTEMBER DATES

- 03 — Labor Day is a dedicated to honoring and remembering the achievements of the US worker.
- 09 — Grandparents Day—National Grandparents Day is an observance and not a public holiday in the US.
- 09 — Rosh Hashanah (Hebrew: ראש השנה the Jewish New Year.
- 11 — The Islamic New Year commemorates Muhammad's migration from Mecca to Medina.
- 19 — Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement, Hebrew: יום כיפור).
- 23 — Fall begins in the Northern Hemisphere when the Sun is perpendicular to the equator. This day has equal hours of day and night. The first day of Fall is also called the Autumnal Equinox.

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**OPERATION HELPING HAND UPDATE**

Submitted by Chairman, LTC JIM GRIFFIN USA RET

The OPERATION HELPING HAND DINNER for SEPTEMBER will be held on 20 SEPTEMBER at 6:00 pm at the JAMES A HALEY VA HOSPITAL IN THE SCI DINING FACILITY (HERO'S CAFÉ). I hope that you will be able to join us and bring a friend and continue to volunteer to support us with your time and donations for our active duty wounded and injured and their families who will be honored. Please come and plan to meet these WARRIORS and their families. You will be a better person-I guarantee it!

Our special thanks to the CELESTAR CORP AND GREG CELESTAN for their continued support. Also to the fantastic folks at BONEFISH GRILL for a wonderful dinner. We are truly honored to have the support of these great COMPANIES.

THE SEPTEMBER SPONSOR will be the great folks at DTCC and the caterer will be EDIBLES BY ETHEL who wanted to get in one more dinner for us before she retires.

As always, a special thanks to our tireless volunteers 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 by way of checks, or on our website (OPERATIONHELPINGHANDTAMPA.COM) 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!**

*(See more photos on the next page)*



{Board is continued on page 3}



CAPT DVORNIK  
EDITOR

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(Board, continued from page 2)

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**SEPTEMBER SPEAKER:  
JOE D BATTLE**

Joe D. Battle was appointed Medical Center Director of the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital and Clinics in Tampa, Florida effective July 26, 2015.

Previously, Mr. Battle served as the director of the VA Medical Center in Jackson, Mississippi and prior to that, he served as the Associate Director of the VA Medical Centers in Orlando, Florida, and Dayton, Ohio. Mr. Battle began his VA career in 1983 as a general engineer at the VA Medical Center in Dublin, Georgia and also worked at the VA Medical Center in Indianapolis, Indiana as the Assistant Chief and later as the Chief of Engineering.

In 2018, Mr. Battle received the Excellence in Clinical Simulation Training, Education and Research Executive Leadership Award, as well as the University of South Florida Partnership Award for Student Success. He is a 2003 graduate of Leadership VA (LVA), the 2002 class of the Executive Career Field Training Program and the Healthcare Leadership Institute. He completed the UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School Senior Executive Strategic Leadership course in 2012. He is a certified mentor and has mentored Executive Career Field candidates and members, and Leadership Development Candidates.

Mr. Battle currently serves on the National Leadership Council, Capital and Logistics Sub-committee. He recently served on the Veterans Integrated Services Network (VISN) 16 Executive Leadership Board, was the Lead Director for the VISN 16 Central Southern Planning Market. Previously his work included VA's Office of Information and Technology Region 3 Governance Board, and Chaired the VISN 8 Information and Data Management Committee, Capital Asset Management Committee and Finance Committee. He has served on several national committees and task forces.

Mr. Battle is a current member of the American College of Healthcare Executives and the LVA Alumni Association. He is a 1981 graduate of the University of Alabama and married with two adult children.

<https://www.tampa.va.gov/about/leadership.asp>

**MORE OPERATION HELPING HAND PHOTOS**





**(COL) BERNARD H LIEVING JR USA RET  
SENIOR CHAPLAIN, TAMPA CHAPTER OF THE  
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF  
AMERICA**

- 01 SEPTEMBER  
CW3 LAWRENCE CRUZ USAF RET  
MAJ GEN JAMES JONES USAF RET
- 05 SEPTEMBER  
LTCOL MARTHA M CAMERON USAF RET  
LCDR JASON GOULAS USN AD
- 06 SEPTEMBER  
COL JAMES SWENSON USA RET
- 07 SEPTEMBER  
FORMER NAVY LT ROGER KUEZ  
LT COL PETER VANVLECK USAF RET
- 08 SEPTEMBER  
CAPT DANIEL LEBLANC USCG AD
- 09 SEPTEMBER  
LT COL HENRY REIMERS USAF RET  
LT COL RICHARD SIEGMAN USAF RET
- 10 SEPTEMBER  
BGEN JOHN BRICKLEY USMC RET  
COL ROBERT LARSEN USA RET  
LTC FRANK PHELAN USA RET
- 12 SEPTEMBER  
FMR ARMY 1LT A MICHAEL GIBSON
- 14 SEPTEMBER  
CW4 RONALD LUPIEN USA RET
- 15 SEPTEMBER  
LT RONALD JARABAK USN RET
- 16 SEPTEMBER  
CW3 CARLOS ALERTA USA RET  
COL RAYMOND NORMAN USAF RET
- 17 SEPTEMBER  
CDR ARTHUR GALPIN USN RET
- 18 SEPTEMBER  
FMR ARMY 1LT WILLIAM HARRIS
- 19 SEPTEMBER  
MAJ JOHN T MASSEY USAF RET
- 22 SEPTEMBER  
CAPT STANLEY GRAY USMC RET
- 23 SEPTEMBER  
ENS JAKE BLAAUBOER NOAA AD  
LTC ROBERT SAWALLESH USA RET
- 24 SEPTEMBER  
MAJ SCOTT MACKSAM USA RET
- 25 SEPTEMBER  
LTC IRA J WARD USA RET
- 28 SEPTEMBER  
COL WALTER MCKNIGHT USAF RET  
FORMER ARMY CPT LAWRENCE RIVERA
- 29 SEPTEMBER  
LTC JEFFREY STEPHENS USA RET
- 30 SEPTEMBER  
RADM WILLIAM MERLIN USCG RET

During September 2018 there are important dates for both Muslims and Jews. The 11th marks the beginning of the Islamic New Year, the first day of Muharram, the 1st month of the lunar Islamic calendar. Since the Islamic calendar is 11 or 12 days shorter than the Gregorian calendar, the New Year does not fall on the same day of our calendar every year.

The celebration/observance of the Islamic New Year varies from nation to nation, dependent to some degree on the most prevalent Islamic sect, and yet most often includes fasting and prayer and often making resolutions to become a better person in the coming year.

The Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah, begins at sundown on September 9th and is one of the most important Jewish holidays. It is a time of worship, carrying out of traditions and the preparation of special foods. The blowing of the shofar, the ram's horn, is an important element of the celebration.

Rosh Hashanah is followed at sundown on the 18th with the beginning of Yom Kippur, The Day of Atonement, the holiest day of the year in Judaism. [2] It is a time of fasting and intensive prayer for communal and personal atonement for sins committed during the past year.

For Christians, while there are no specific special observances during the month, it can be a time to imitate our Islamic and Jewish brothers and sisters, as we strive to live out our faith in closer relationship to God and to be better persons in our relationships with others.



**LABOR DAY**

Labor Day in the United States is a public holiday celebrated on the first Monday in September. It honors the American labor movement and the contributions that workers have made to the strength, prosperity, laws and well-being of the country. It is the Monday of the long weekend known as Labor Day Weekend and it is considered the unofficial end of summer in the United States. It is recognized as a federal holiday. Beginning in the late 19th century, as the trade union and labor movements grew,

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**BRINGING HOME SERVICEMEMBERS  
LOST IN ACTION**

By Don Vaughan—a freelance writer based in NC



Recovering, identifying, and returning home American servicemembers lost in action around the world is a difficult mission. But the rate of identifications, as well as the number of previously missing persons accounted for, has increased in recent years as a result of new Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) policies and improved technology.

To date in FY 2017, DPAA, formerly the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, has made 114 identifications and accounted for 93, reports Maj. Jessie Romero, public affairs officer, DPAA, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. In FY 2016, DPAA identified 164 U.S. servicemembers and civilians and accounted for 160.

“The increase is due to a variety of new programs implemented by the agency, coupled with scientific advances,” Romero confirms. “Specifically, the program for disinterring and identifying service[members] previously considered unidentifiable - buried as unknowns in national cemeteries - has been the key factor in the increase. Scientific advances in the DPAA Laboratory and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory have made it possible to identify remains that could not be identified five years ago.”

Other contributing factors include:

development and implementation of an overarching strategy, a five-year campaign plan, and annual operations plans; a dedicated medical examiner assigned to DPAA; establishment of a strategic partnering effort to more efficiently and effectively research, conduct analysis, and recover the missing; and improved relationships and information sharing with host-nation personnel.

Ongoing is the recovery and identification of American personnel killed during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. According to Romero, an estimated 1,553 servicemembers have yet to be accounted for and their remains might still be among the unknowns interred in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu or entombed aboard USS Arizona. From July to November 2015, DPAA disinterred 388 sets of remains from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, killed while serving on USS Oklahoma. To date, Romero notes, 70 of those sailors and Marines have been identified and accounted for.

“The USS Oklahoma case is a significant project within the DPAA Laboratory, with dedicated personnel and a project leader,” Romero says. “However, it is one of many laboratory projects. The DPAA Laboratory does not prioritize by conflict, service, or any other extraneous factors. We need to

identify all remains that enter the laboratory.”

Locating and recovering remains of the missing is still the greatest challenge facing DPAA, Romero says. “The failures to find the recent Malaysian Airlines aircraft or even Amelia Earhart are poignant reminders of how difficult it can be to find someone who has disappeared,” he says. “Laboratory challenges include the need to test small fragments of bone, poor survival of DNA after many decades in the field, and missing antemortem information, such as lack of DNA family reference samples.”

Adding to the difficulty is the fact that many of the missing were lost behind enemy lines and what became enemy territory during the Cold War. “Significant time lapsed before it was possible to search these areas,” Romero explains. “Some service personnel were lost at high altitudes, in sparsely populated areas, or over water.”

Currently, 82,524 U.S. personnel/Americans still are unaccounted for from World War II to operations in Iraq, Romero reports. An estimated 34,000 are believed recoverable.

<http://www.moaa.org/Content/Publications-and-Media/Features-and-Columns/MOAA-Features/Defense-POWMIA-Accounting-Agency-Identification-Rate-Increases.aspx#DebtCalc>

**NOTE: The above article is included in place of “Legislative Affairs due to the fact that we no longer have a member designated to cover “Legislative Affairs.”**

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**JAMES A. HALEY VETERANS' HOSPITAL'S GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY FOR THE NEW BED TOWER CONSTRUCTION WAS HELD ON JULY 31 AT 10 A.M. IN FRONT OF THE HOSPITAL'S MAIN ENTRANCE.**  
 Attendees included congressional representatives and other dignitaries.  
 Photos by LTC Robert Sawallesh USA RET



**OUR NEW BED TOWER:**

Welcome to the webpage where we will share information and updates about all things Bed Tower! This three-year project will provide the state-of-the art private inpatient rooms that our Veterans deserve.

- This three-year project is the first of its kind in which the VA is partnering with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and marks an important part of our expansion as a hospital
- It will be located on the main campus adjacent to the Community Living Center (Haley's Cove)
- Features include:
  - Four floors, approximately 245,000 square feet with an additional 5,000 square feet to be renovated
  - 96 medical-surgical single patient rooms
  - 40 intensive care unit beds
  - Canteen, outdoor dining area and healing garden
  - Other assorted support spaces

**Parking and Traffic Updates**

- **Monday, July 23** - The Opal Lot will close due to demolition of trailer 72.
- **Monday, Aug. 13** - The Main Valet entrance road off 131st Ave. (GATE 3) will be closed for the duration of the three-year construction project. *Please use the entrance at Bruce B. Downs Blvd. and Richard A. Silver Way (GATE 2).*
- **Monday-Tuesday, July 30-31** – The Diamond Lot will close for the groundbreaking ceremony

[https://www.tampa.va.gov/Bed\\_Tower.asp](https://www.tampa.va.gov/Bed_Tower.asp)

**NEW BED TOWER  
 COMING IN 2021**



**SINGLE MARINES ENJOY NATURE, CAMARADERIE AT ZION NATIONAL PARK**

By Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Kerstin Roberts, Marine Corps Installations West - Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton



Marine Corps Sgt. Brehm Rhett, ground radio repairman, 1st Intelligence Battalion, I Marine Expeditionary Force-Information Group, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., admires the canyon walls during a hike at Zion National Park, Utah, Aug. 4, 2018. The Single Marine Program sponsors such excursions.

Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Bayle

SPRINGDALE, Utah, Aug. 10, 2018 — Surrounded by mountains, Zion National Park here presents a profound example of Mother Nature’s breathtaking beauty and, a group of Marines that traveled to the park from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California, as part of the Single Marine Program appreciated the chance to get away from it all.

The program’s goal is to enhance the quality of life for single Marines by offering a variety of different extracurricular activities to keep them physically, mentally and socially active.

“For \$40, we received transportation, tents, beds, food, water and Gatorade,” explained Marine Corps Sgt. Jennifer Mendez, intelligence specialist, 1st Law

Enforcement Battalion, I Marine Expeditionary Force-Information Group. “It was also nice that we could choose how to spend our time. We were not restricted to a schedule of events at specific times of the day.”

The trip to Zion National Park is one of many trips hosted by the program. During their trip to the park, Marines had the opportunity to hike trails, relax around a bonfire, throw a flying disc or simply mingle with other single Marines.

“Everyone who chose to take this opportunity had at least two things in common -- being interested in the outdoors and being in the military,” Mendez said. “Whether or not you were a lance corporal, a sergeant, in the Navy or the Marine Corps -- it didn’t matter. We all could relate on at least a small aspect of both of them.”

While attending trips, service members are able to get outside, challenge their physical fitness in unique ways, and bond with other service members who are interested in similar activities. The program offers a wide variety of excursions, including unique volunteer opportunities, tickets to various sporting events, as well as weekend getaways to places in, around and outside of California.

“SMP is looking to get Marines out of the barracks, out from in front of the TV, and give them opportunities that they wouldn’t normally have,” said Jessica Swinson, 22 and 24 Area SMP Recreational Centers manager. She added, “The goal for hiking at Zion National Park was to give Marines the opportunity to hang out with individuals that had common interests and to build friendships.”

<https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1599086/single-marines-enjoy-nature-camaraderie-at-zion-national-park/source/GovDelivery/>

**SENATE TO CONSIDER DEFENSE SPENDING APPROPRIATIONS**

By COL. MKE BARRON, USA (RET), Director of Currently Serving and Retired Affairs for MOAA's Government Relations Department.



COL BARRON

President Donald Trump signed the FY 2019 John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) into law Monday, Aug. 13, in a ceremony at Fort Drum, N.Y. Attention regarding defense policy and spending now turns to the completion of the defense appropriations legislation which will fund the policy directives and authorizations included in the FY 2019 NDAA.

The two defense bills directly complement each other in the congressional budget and spending process, as the FY 2019 NDAA must be funded through the appropriations process under a separate appropriations bill. That part of the process is still ongoing.

As we saw this year with the earliest signing of the NDAA in decades, the defense appropriations process also is moving forward at a much more rapid pace than normal. Congressional leadership has stated they aim to have the final legislation approved and signed into law by the president before the Oct. 1 start of the new fiscal year.

Members of the House, having finished their defense legislative work, are on August recess until Labor Day. The House defense appropriations legislation H.R. 6157, sponsored by Rep. Kay Granger (R-Texas), Chair of the House Appropriations Committee-Defense (HAC-D), was debated and then passed by the full House Thursday, June 28, by a vote of 359-49. The House bill approved \$674.6 billion in total discretionary defense spending.

The Senate, after a short recess, returned to session this past week to continue work on their version of the defense appropriations legislation, sponsored by Sen. Richard Shelby (R-Ala.), Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Shelby also serves as the chair of the Senate Defense Appropriations Committee.

The legislation, similar to other Senate appropriations bills this year, has been packaged into a combined “minibus” \$856.9 billion spending package (H.R. 6157), which now includes labor, health and human services, and education and related agencies (S. 3158) as well as defense (S. 3159)—the two largest annual appropriations bills. The defense portion of Senate bill accounts for \$674.9 billion.

Introducing the legislation on the Senate floor this past week, Shelby stated, “The package before the Senate makes essential investments to accelerate the rebuilding of America's military and provides our men and women in uniform with the largest pay increase they have seen in nearly a decade.”

He also said, “The fiscal year 2018 defense appropriations bill enacted earlier this year contained the largest increase in military spending in 15 years. ... The bill now before the Senate provides an additional \$16 billion above the fiscal year 2018 level. ... This funding sustains U.S. force structure and improves military readiness.”

[https://www.moaa.org/Content/Publications-and-Media/News-Articles/2018-News-Articles/Advocacy/Senate-to-Consider-Defense-Spending-Appropriations.aspx?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=TMNsend&utm\\_con](https://www.moaa.org/Content/Publications-and-Media/News-Articles/2018-News-Articles/Advocacy/Senate-to-Consider-Defense-Spending-Appropriations.aspx?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=TMNsend&utm_con)



**DEPLOYED BROTHERS REUNITE AT REENLISTMENT CEREMONY**

By Air Force Staff Sgt. Dana J. Cable, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing



Air Force Capt. Stephen Cagle, 386th Expeditionary Medical Group deputy chief medical officer, left, stands with his brother, Air Force Staff Sgt. Christopher Cagle, 407th Expeditionary Communications Squadron cyber transport supervisor, after administering the oath of enlistment to him at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, July 21, 2018. Both brothers are deployed to separate locations and this is the first time they have seen each other in over a year. The Cagle brothers are natives of Ratcliff, Ark.

Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Dana J. Cable

**SOUTHWEST ASIA, Aug. 10, 2018** — Air Force Staff Sgt. Christopher Cagle reunited with his older brother, Air Force Capt. (Dr.) Stephen Cagle, 386th Expeditionary Medical Group deputy chief medical officer, at his July 21 reenlistment ceremony here.

“Having my brother be here and reenlist me really makes it special, and it just adds to it that we are both in a deployed location,” Christopher said.

Christopher and Stephen said they grew up as Air Force “brats,” with their dad retiring after 24 years of service.

“My dad is going to love this, Christopher said. “He told me to make sure I got pictures.”

This is the first time the brothers have seen each other in over a year, and it will be at least another six months until they will be reunited again. Christopher is deployed from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona, and Stephen is deployed from Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. Both claim Ratcliff, Arkansas, as their hometown.

Both brothers said they plan to retire from the Air Force. “I’m really enjoying the Air Force,” Christopher said. “By reenlisting for another four years, I get to keep learning and developing my skills. I do information technology at home for fun, so the fact that I get to do it as a job is amazing.”

Stephen shared similar sentiments about loving his job.

“I enjoy my job, I like being able to see everything full-spectrum,” Stephen said. “At Scott AFB, I take care of patients, deliver babies, give vasectomies, colonoscopies. And staying in the Air Force allows me to do that, and maintain those skills.”

Christopher said he always knew he wanted his brother to reenlist him; they just never knew when it was going to happen with their schedules.

“I’ve never actually delivered the oath of enlistment to someone,” Stephen said. “And for the first opportunity to reenlist someone and it’s my brother, that’s pretty cool. I’d love to do the next one, too.”

<https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1598545/face-of-defense-deployed-brothers-reunite-at-reenlistment-ceremony/source/GovDelivery/>



**MIDAIR MEETUP**

A KC-135 Stratotanker refuels an F-15E Strike Eagle over the southeastern U.S., Aug. 8, 2018.

Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Tiffany A. Emery



**TAKING QUESTIONS**

Defense Secretary James N. Mattis and Marine Corps Gen. Joe Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, brief reporters at the Pentagon, Aug. 28, 2018.

DoD photo by Lisa Ferdinando

<https://dod.defense.gov/Photos/Photo-Gallery/igphoto/2001959294/>



**TATOO TEAM**

The U.S. Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team performs at Edinburgh Castle in Edinburgh, Scotland, Aug. 13, 2018, during the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Michael S. Murphy

<https://dod.defense.gov/Photos/Photo-Gallery/igphoto/2001956839/>



Marine Corps Sgt. Nicholas Harris joins lumber while building a school roof during Pacific Angel 18-4 in Vavuniya, Sri Lanka, Aug. 14, 2018.

Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Heather Redman

<https://dod.defense.gov/Photos/Photo-Gallery/igphoto/2001956278/>

## PROPOSED SPACE FORCE TO PROTECT, EXPAND U.S. COSMIC CAPABILITIES

By Jim Garamone, DoD News, Defense Media Activity



An Atlas V rocket carrying a Space Based Infrared System Geosynchronous Earth Orbit satellite for an Air Force mission lifts off from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla., Jan. 19, 2018.  
Photo courtesy of United Launch Alliance

WASHINGTON, Aug. 10, 2018 — The proposal to form the U.S. Space Force is rooted in protecting America's advantages in space and in ensuring such advantages continue, Deputy Defense Secretary Patrick M. Shanahan said during a roundtable discussion with Pentagon reporters yesterday.

Shanahan and Air Force Gen. Paul J. Selva, the vice chairman of the

Joint Chiefs of Staff, spoke following Vice President Mike Pence's announcement of the proposal to establish the U.S. Space Force, which would be America's sixth armed service.

Space is now a combat domain, the leaders said. Russia and China have demonstrated capabilities to destroy, hack or jam satellites. The U.S. Space Force would concentrate expertise to protect those assets.

Shanahan and Selva emphasized that military operations worldwide depend on space. Squad operations in Afghanistan all the way through command and control of America's nuclear deterrent depend on assets in space.

Space is an integral part of the National Defense Strategy and the DoD proposal for the way forward keeps that firmly in mind, the deputy secretary said. "You know the first principle of change management is do no harm," Shanahan said.

The plan calls for DoD to stand up a unified combatant U.S. Space Command under the direction of a four-star officer. Initially, that command would be patterned on U.S. Special Operations Command -- where all the services contribute people and resources to accomplish the worldwide mission. And like SOCOM, the new Space Command would set the parameters for training and employment of the service assets.

Officials said that about 80 percent of space qualified personnel reside in the Air Force, but all services have personnel with space expertise. Selva said there are roughly 18,000 people in the services with a space qualifier badge. There are also a number of civilian personnel in the department with this expertise and thousands of contractors who could be drawn into the new command.

Another important aspect of the proposal should help speed development and acquisition of space assets. There are currently around 140 military satellites. What assets replace those satellites? Who maneuvers those satellites in time of tension? How does the department build in defenses or harden its space assets to prevent tampering or jamming? These are all questions that would be on the command's plate.

Establishing the U.S. Space Force will require congressional action, and Shanahan and Selva said that even as the U.S. Space Command is standing up, another group of Pentagon officials will be drawing up proposed legislation to establish the sixth armed service.

A separate service will require a separate department under DoD like the Department of the Air Force. It will require a secretary, personnel systems, a promotion system, legal help, recruiting and more.

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

## DPAA PROVIDES UPDATE ON IDENTIFYING SERVICE MEMBERS MISSING FROM KOREAN WAR

By Thomas Budzyna, DoD News, Defense Media Activity



WASHINGTON—The Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency provided an update today on the status of identifying the remains transferred in July to the United States from North Korea.

An honorable carry ceremony July 27 at Osan Air Base, South Korea, transferred 55 boxes of remains believed to be of Americans missing in the Korean War. The boxes were received Aug. 1 in an honorable carry ceremony in Hawaii. "We are guardedly optimistic the 1 August repatriation is the first tangible action of others, with which we will be able to account for more of our missing from the Korean War," the director of DPAA, Kelly McKeague, said at today's White House media briefing.

The August repatriation and homecoming was a "poignant manifestation" of the commitment secured by President Donald J. Trump and the pledge by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un at their June summit in Singapore, he said. McKeague highlighted the return of a dog tag of Army medic Master Sgt. Charles H. McDaniel. "It was a sole personal effect returned by the North Koreans," he said, adding that the return of the remains is the first step toward talks to resume joint field recovery operations. The dog tag was returned to McDaniel's sons.

Joint recovery operations in North Korea were suspended in 2005 due to security concerns by then-President George W. Bush.

McKeague described the recovery effort as a humanitarian endeavor and said he is encouraged that the June summit and North Korea's reaffirmation to resume recovery operations may lead to further cooperation. He said the contacts are being treated as military-to-military contacts.

The time it will take to match the remains to a service member will be DNA-intensive and take months or years, DPAA lab director John Byrd said.

"At no time did we expect there to be one body, one box. Nor did the North Koreans try to pitch it that way to us when we were in Osan," Byrd said, citing as an example the return of remains over five years the 1990s.

"Out of those 208 boxes over those five years, we estimated, after DNA sampling, 400 individuals. Now from that, 200 were Americans," he said. Initial inspections indicate the recently returned remains are in moderate to poor condition and do not contain any remains of animals, Byrd said.

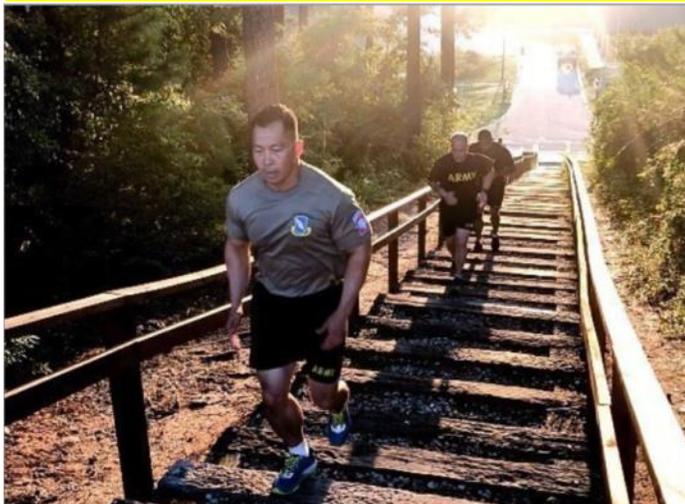
There are 7,700 Americans missing from the Korean War, McKeague said. The DPAA mission is to search for, find and account for missing Defense Department personnel from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, the Gulf War and other recent conflicts. More than 82,000 Americans remain missing from those conflicts, with 34,000 believed to be recoverable, according to DPAA.

"The fact that the United States of America vigorously pursues the fullest possible accounting of our missing reflects our values as a nation," McKeague said. "The sacred obligation, if not moral imperative, remains a high priority for the Department of Defense."

<https://dod.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1602465/dpaa-provides-update-on->

## VIETNAM NATIVE FINDS SUCCESS IN U.S. ARMY

By Army Spc. Alleea Oliver, 49th Public Affairs Detachment



Army Command Sgt. Maj. Thinh Huynh runs stairs during physical training at Fort Bragg, N.C., Aug. 1, 2018.

Army photo by Spc. Alleea Oliver

FORT BRAGG, N.C.—Full of fear and anxiety, a 10-year-old Vietnamese boy sailed across the South China Sea for 10 days, in 1986, with the expectation that a better life awaited him across the ocean. In his mind, the only way he could live a full and prosperous life was by coming to the United States.

“If it was not for America, I probably would be dead long ago,” said Army Command Sgt. Maj. Thinh Huynh, the senior enlisted advisor for the 1st Battalion, 504th Infantry Regiment here. “If I didn’t escape, my life wouldn’t be like this.”

Born in a small village in Southern Vietnam, Huynh and his siblings spent most of their youth in poverty, fighting for their daily survival. “We were so poor that we used to watch people eat,” he said. “We were barely eating. We would eat only two or three times a week.”

While recalling the struggles he faced growing up in post-war conditions, the infantryman relates to images of children suffering from chronic malnutrition. “When I see those TV commercials where they show the kids that have bloated bellies, to me, that was how I grew up in Vietnam at that time,” he said.

Huynh believes the Vietnam War, along with other wars, determined the outcome of his family’s future. Before the war, his family were rice farmers. After the war, they were forced to share their harvest with the communists, he said.

“Not only that, but they took away our home,” he said. It was then that his family decided to escape Vietnam in hopes of a better life.

Packed like sardines in a tiny fishing boat, Huynh and his family sailed across the South China Sea. “I looked at old slave-boat drawings and I would compare us to that,” he said.

“We were all packed in tight with no space to spare.” Being hungry, thirsty and tired for an extensive amount of time altered the other passengers’ character.

“When people think they are about to die, they will do just about anything to survive,” Huynh said. “This brought out some of the worst behavior from people that I ever witnessed.”

Huynh said he observed a lot of things that kids shouldn’t have seen. “I saw greed, fear and anger,” he said. “Some people were so greedy they would drink as much water as they

could while the rest of us had about a shot glass per day.”

After ten days of sharing the small space with 86 others, they arrived at a refugee camp on Pulau Bidong Island.

Huynh’s hope finally became his reality.

“One of the happiest days of my life was the day I escaped out of Vietnam,” he said. “I didn’t know if I was going to make it or not, but I was happy and very excited.” Huynh and his family lived in the camp for nearly two years before coming to the United States. He spent his time learning how to read and write, and studying America’s culture.

On Sept. 28, 1989, Huynh and his family moved from the refugee camp to a small town in Iowa. Being interested in the military throughout grade school, he chose to focus his first American homework project on the U.S. Army.

Huynh enlisted in 1996, at age 22, but waited to tell his loved ones because of his fear of disappointing his mother. “When I joined the Army, I didn’t tell my parents until two days before I went to basic,” he said. “My mom was really upset, because I was in college at the time,” Huynh added. “Nobody wanted their kid to escape out of Vietnam and go through all that just to join the military.”

In spite of their fears, he believed there wasn’t anything better than serving the country he now calls home. “Ever since I was in the refugee camp, I wanted to be a U.S soldier,” he said. “Every day I would say, ‘I need to be in the Army.’ So that’s what I did. I joined the Army. I don’t have any regrets.”

Twenty one years and six combat deployments later, the paratrooper says he’s gained resilience, honor and a profound love for the United States. Although he has led many soldiers, Huynh never predicted he would become a command sergeant major in the 82nd Airborne Division. “I never had the goal of being a command sergeant major,” he said. “My goals were to always take care of my soldiers. Now that I’m a command sergeant major of an airborne infantry battalion in the 82nd, I’m enjoying every minute of it. It is such an honor to be in a unit that is filled with so much history, pride, tradition and some of the best soldiers and leaders in the Army.”

According to his youngest sister, Thanh Huynh, he always possessed the qualities and had the desire to be a soldier. “The characteristics that helped him become a command sergeant major are leadership, loyalty, initiative and courageousness,” she said.

“Growing up, that’s all he ever wanted to be.” At a young age, he demonstrated selfless service by putting Thanh first in every situation. “When we would come across a river while going fishing, he would always make sure I got across safely by finding anything that would float because I can’t swim,” she said.

Huynh believes his experiences in Vietnam developed his appreciation for the freedoms he has as a U.S. citizen.

“I would never take America, or the freedom I have here, for granted,” he said. “I know what it’s like growing up without freedom [and] fearing for your life on a daily basis.”

Nearly 30 years ago, Huynh left Vietnam and found a place he could call home.

“I realized once I set foot in this country, that this was now my country,” he said. “I was born in Vietnam, but I escaped. America is now my country.”

<https://dod.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1599961/face-of-defense-vietnam-native-finds-success-in-us-army/source/GovDelivery/>

**DEPLOYED SOLDIER PRODUCES BEATS IN OFF-DUTY TIME**

By Army Spc. Jovi Prevot, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team



Army Spc. Marqueeze McGee, a motor transport operator assigned to the Mississippi Army National Guard's Alpha Company, 106th Brigade Support Battalion, finds time to work on his music while deployed to Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Aug. 4, 2018.

Mississippi Army National Guard photo by Spc. Jovi Prevot

**CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait**—Even with increased workloads and long hours, deployments are a great way to work on one's self. One soldier viewed his time on deployment as a chance to hone his craft.

Army Spc. Marqueeze McGee, a motor transport operator deployed here with the Mississippi Army National Guard's Alpha Company, 106th Brigade Support Battalion, is an amateur music producer with dreams of a

career in the music industry.

"I'm a military guy—an 88M [a motor transport operator]—I also produce beats," McGee said.

A native of Hollandale, Mississippi, McGee said he has been creating music since his early teens.

McGee's interest in music started in middle school. "I started taking it serious about two years ago," he said. For the Tougaloo College student, inspiration comes from various places. "Sometimes a melody, I hear in my head and I play it out on the keyboard and go from there," McGee said.

He has no formal musical training, but is still able to play melodies on his synthesizer. "I actually don't have any training. I play the piano by ear," McGee said. He works tirelessly on his off time to produce music. "I try to make at least five beats a day," McGee said. Though an artist himself, he said he is focused on his customer. "I try to think of the artist first," McGee said. "I don't even name my beats, I name them 'Untitled,' then a number. I don't want to influence their song, just inspire it."

But every artist has influences, and McGee is no different. "[Some of my] influences [are] Big K.R.I.T., he's a Mississippi guy," he said. "Atlanta artists and producers, some New York like Nas and Jay-Z, those type of guys. I am a big '90s fan."

Though just starting out on his professional career, McGee said he has sold more than a hundred beats and has a dream list of artists to one day work with. "My dream artists to work with are Starlito and Don Trip, they are based out of Tennessee," he said. "They are mostly underground, but I feel if I reach their level, I'll make a big accomplishment to myself and reach the goals I wanted."

This deployment has given McGee not only the time work on his music, but also the money to invest in new equipment.

"I am actually waiting on a new keyboard to get here right now," he said, noting that his current equipment is nearly worn out.

Once his deployment is complete, McGee will return to his home in Jackson, Mississippi, to complete his degree and continue to pursue his dream of a career in the music industry.

<https://dod.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1605126/face-of-defense-deployed-soldier-produces-beats-in-off-duty-time/source/GovDelivery/>

**WOUNDED WARRIORS 'CATCH A WAVE' AS PART OF RECOVERY**

By Marine Corps Cpl. Dylan Chagnon, Marine Corps Installations West



Recovering service members, veterans, volunteers and their loved ones surf during the 12th Annual Operation Amped Surf Camp at San Onofre Beach at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Aug. 18, 2018. Operation Amped holds a surf camp for wounded, ill or injured service members at San Onofre Beach once a year. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Noah Rudash

**MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, CA**—Wounded warriors, veterans, and their loved ones attended the 12th Annual Operation Amped Surf Camp here, Aug. 17-19.

Operation Amped is a nonprofit organization that promotes surfing therapy once a year to aid in the recovery of wounded, ill and injured veterans and active-duty service members, said Operation Amped co-founder Joseph Gabunilas who said, "...the program helps participants achieve positive changes in their lives.

"It's a good way to keep that negative stuff out of your mind, while catching a wave," said retired Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. David Simons, an Operation Amped participant. "Surfing has given me a goal, something to work toward and keep my focus straight." Ocean therapy "...is good for the mind," Simons added. "It's good for those that have difficult issues they're dealing with."

For three days each year, with the support of organizations such as Operation Amped, participants move closer to recovery one wave at a time. Volunteers and supporters donate surfboards, wetsuits, food, tents and tables. Most importantly, they donate their time.



Operation Amped, which began in September 2006, has helped thousands, said Gabunilas, who served in the Army. "This is my way of giving back," Gabunilas said. "I served 21 years, and this is another way I can give back to the brave men and women fighting for our country."

<https://dod.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1609177/wounded-warriors-catch-a-wave-as-part-of-recovery/source/GovDelivery/>



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