

MOAA Houston Area Chapter

Newsletter to Members

September 2020 issue



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Other news of interest:

- New Military ID Card for Retirees and Family Members
- Threats to Military Healthcare
- TRICARE Telemedicine Confusion

Chapter Membership Application

President's Message

As we enter the month of September, hopefully the transition into Fall and cooler weather will happen sooner than later! The month of August turned out to be a disappointment for the chapter. We had planned a visit to the Lone Star Flight Museum for August 29th, with the CEO of the museum Lt Gen Owens, USAF (Ret.) scheduled to speak to the chapter about the mission of the museum, as well as some of the recent success and future projects of the museum. However, the dual threat of COVID-19 and the potential of Hurricane Laura affecting the Houston area seemed to dampen enthusiasm for the event and we were unable to draw the head count required to make the event a success.

It has been a year full of disruptions and uncertainty trying to schedule and execute MOAA HA Chapter events, but turning to the Fall, I am hoping we can resume a more normal ops tempo. Based on the success of our July chapter meeting which took place over Zoom, we are planning the same type of virtual event for our September 26th meeting.

Our featured guest speaker for September's chapter meeting is from the recently established Army Futures Command (AFC), which was established in 2018 and is headquartered in Austin, Texas. Futures command is a

peer of FORSCOM, TRADOC, and Army Materiel Command. While the other Army commands focus on their readiness to "Fight tonight" when called upon by the nation, AFC is focused on improving future readiness for competition with near-peers (ex: Russia, China), who have updated their capabilities. This should be a very interesting session, so please plan to participate and have your questions ready. As soon as I receive the speaker's bio, I will send it out with more event details.

For the month of October, we plan to make another attempt at visiting the Lone Star Flight Museum for our chapter meeting. Based on his availability, we are hoping to hear from Lt Gen Owens, USAF (Ret.), the museum's CEO and then spend some time wandering the museum exhibits.

The Texas Council of Chapters (TCC) will meet via Zoom on Saturday, October 10th. Dan Gutierrez is our chapter representative to the TCC and will provide us an update from the meeting during the October chapter meeting. Also, kudos to Dan for his leadership and efforts behind the chapter earning MOAA's 5-Star Levels of Excellence Award for 2019. Please see the article below regarding our recognition.

I also would like to bring your attention to another important chapter activity looming on the end of year horizon: the election of MOAA HA Chapter officers for 2021. Andy Parsons heads our nominating committee and is coordinating the election ballot. Any paid-up member can nominate a candidate for position and you can even consider self-nominating yourself. Once we have a slate of nominees, the MOAA HA Board of Directors will review and approve the slate, and subsequently announce the slate in the November newsletter. Based on your responses, we will designate November or December member's meeting to hold the election. More details to follow in the October newsletter!

In closing, I ask that you please support our chapter events. I understand that this year has been extremely difficult, but hopefully the risk of the pandemic is easing and with our continued vigilance adhering to public health guidelines, we can begin to resume some normalcy in our day-to-lives.

Never stop serving!

Joseph C. Willoughby, Lt Col, USAF (Ret.)
President, MOAA HA Chapter

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Happy 73rd Birthday!
United States Air Force
Established September 18, 1947



U.S. AIR FORCE
Aim High ... Fly-Fight-Win

MOAA Houston Area Chapter Luncheon
Saturday, October 31st, 1200-1330
Lone Star Flight Museum
11551 Aerospace Ave., Houston, TX 77034
Tel: (346) 708-2517



SAVE THE DATE!

SEPTEMBER CHAPTER EVENTS

MOAA Houston Area Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, September 22nd, Noon
Rudi Lechner's Restaurant

MOAA Houston Area Chapter Meeting Saturday,
September 26th Noon
Mission Brief on US Army Futures Command
Meeting via Zoom



OCTOBER CHAPTER EVENTS

MOAA Houston Area Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, October 27th, 1200-1300
Rudi Lechner's Restaurant

MOAA Houston Area Chapter Contact Information
<http://www.moahahoustonarea.com/>
713-569-6700

Guest Speaker: Lt Gen Doug Owens, USAF (Ret.),
CEO, Lone Star Flight Museum

Luncheon Price: \$15.00 Per Person; Includes hot lunch,
speaker's event, and museum admission.

To participate in any of these chapter events, please
RSVP to joe.willoughby@gmail.com

Chapter Receives 5-Star Levels of Excellence Award Designation

By: Daniel M. Gutierrez, Major, USA (Ret.)

As announced in to the chapter newsletter for August, I am happy to confirm a MOAA Levels of Excellence (LOE) Award designation of 5 stars for the chapter's activities in calendar year 2019. The LOE Awards is one of MOAA's most prestigious awards earned by self-nominating councils and chapters. The award is a lookback on the 2019 calendar year programs, initiatives and successful experiences shared by council and chapter leaders. The Houston Area Chapter was one of six chapters recognized out of the 19 Texas chapters.

Evaluation includes both objective and subjective criteria. Chapters must fulfill certain administrative requirements as properly maintaining membership rolls, having up to date officer and committee appointments and participating in state council activities. Subjective criteria includes grassroots advocacy, recruiting and retention, community engagement, demonstrate support of national and state advocacy goals and service to its members. The chapter rated high on all criteria.

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Patriot Day Observed Annually on September 11th



We will never forget!

Patriot Day honors and remembers those who were injured or killed during the terrorist attacks on the U.S. on 9/11/2001. 2,977 people were killed in New York City, Washington, DC and outside of Shanksville, PA in separate attacks using four hijacked airliners. The attacks were orchestrated by al Qaeda.

It is one of the deadliest terrorist attacks in world history and one of the most devastating attacks on the United States since the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

WE NEED YOU TO REMAIN A MOAA HA MEMBER!



Debating whether to renew your chapter membership?

Talking to a potential new member?

Benefits to belonging to a chapter:

- **Camaraderie and Connections:** When you attend chapter functions, actively serve on a committee, or take a prominent leadership role, you forge lasting ties with other MOAA members.

- **Community Involvement:** Membership provides opportunities to contribute to your community in a variety of ways, from providing scholarships to local students, to supporting causes that support wounded warriors and their families.
- **Legislative Advocacy:** We advocate for the entire military community—all ranks. Members play a critical role in advancing legislation in both Austin and Washington, D.C. This grassroots advocacy is key to MOAA achieving its legislative goals.

Chapter dues reminders will be emailed/sent out in November to those members needing renewal. We are on a calendar year for our chapter dues.

Annual renewal is \$30 for one year, \$20 for each additional year paid with renewal.
Surviving Spouse \$15 initial membership; \$10 annual renewal.

Membership Application on the last page!

MOAA HA Chaplain's Column

By: Kerry B. Magee, MOAA Chaplain and Past President

"Anxiety is the greatest evil that can befall a soul except sin. God commands you to pray, but He forbids you to worry." — St. Francis de Sales

During these times, a tsunami of worry and anxiety seems to have engulfed our country because of the pandemic, workplace uncertainty, and highly partisan politics. For some of us, the guidance above sounds like foolishness; and shunning anxiety is next to impossible.

So, what is St. Francis saying to us?

In times of crisis and darkness, our temptation is to be frozen in fear, allowing worry to grip our minds and hearts in a powerful vise. The longer we embrace worry, the more our inner selves spin out of control and our souls begin to drown.

1. **Do what you can.** Since most people would rather complain about what others are not doing, this prevents them from taking action personally. Most people, in brutal honesty, do not do what they can.
2. **Be at peace with what you cannot control.** This is not to say that you ignore what others are (or are not) doing. Rather, you make peace with the very real fact that there are things completely out of your control.

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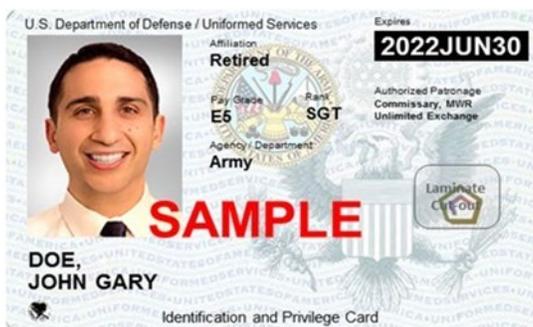
MOAA HA Financial Report (August 1-31, 2020)

by: Frank Tricomi, COL, USA (Ret.), Treasurer

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Starting Balance (8/01/20) | \$3,216.30 |
| Revenue | 0.00 |
| Gross Operating Income | \$3,216.30 |
| Expenses | |
| Total August Expenses | (\$ 0.00) |
| Operating Income | \$3,216.30 |
| Total ROTC Withhold | (\$1,961.71) |
| Avail. Operating Income (8/31/20) | \$1,254.59 |

First Time in 3 Decades Military Families and Retirees Are Getting New IDs

Beginning July 31, 2020, the Next Generation USID Card will be issued to eligible individuals at select DoD ID card facilities. It will be similar to the common access card used by military personnel and DoD personnel, without the chip. The change applies to well over 5 million people with ID cards who are non-CAC holders, with the largest populations affected being military retirees, and dependents of active duty and retirees. But unless your ID card is about to expire, there's no need to rush to get the new card, especially during this era of pandemic when officials don't want ID card offices flooded with people.



You have plenty of time — the transition to the Next Generation Uniformed Services Identification Card is expected to be completed in January 2026. In the meantime, the old cards will continue to work.

And the new-card capability isn't yet available at all Real-Time Automated Personnel Identification Card System sites, known as RAPIDS sites, because not all sites have the new equipment that is required to produce them. About 20 sites can currently issue the new cards, but Sorrento said all RAPIDS sites worldwide will have the new equipment by the end of the year.

The new military retiree ID card has the same technology, and the same kind of lamination as the CAC has, making it much more durable. The new cards have enhanced security features to reduce the likelihood that the cards could be compromised, he said. If you need to replace your card, because it's expiring, for example, you should make an appointment at your RAPIDS site.

Threats to Military Health Care: MOAA's Health Care Advocacy Efforts

By: Dan Merry

As MOAA works to preserve the military health care benefit via Summer Storm 2020, two new distractions may obscure our message.

First, the service secretaries and chiefs penned a letter to Defense Secretary Mark Esper asking him to halt all transfers of military treatment facilities to the Defense Health Agency (DHA).

Second, Esper found himself at the center of an Aug. 16 report by Politico on proposals within DoD that would cut \$2.2 billion from DoD's health care budget. It is not clear if any of this amount was the result of previous Pentagon reviews. Esper tweeted that the story was "inaccurate" and that "he would not allow any reductions that would harm access to quality medical care." Regardless, any such proposals may be moot following a tweet from President Donald Trump stating the proposal "has been firmly and totally rejected by me."

Before outlining what these developments could mean moving forward, understand that we must not allow them to distract us or others from our core message: Planned changes to military medicine, including downsizing treatment facilities and removing thousands of medical billets, should be stopped until a more thorough, less flawed, analysis of what these moves will do for patient

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care can be conducted. Incorporating Sections 715 and 716 of the House version of the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act into the final NDAA is a necessary step in this process.

DHA and the Services On the surface, the service leaders' request would halt the restructuring of MTFs and any actions relative to Section 716 of the House NDAA. However, there is no indication Secretary Esper will budge from his current plan – follow the law, realign all MTFs under the DHA, and capitalize on any efficiencies by turning those funds over to support war-fighting operations and lethality. As such, we must continue to make clear our position of getting Sections 715 and 716 in the final version of the NDAA. It remains imperative to ensure DoD maintains a capability to meet its legal obligation to all beneficiaries.

Tweets, Reports, and Cuts Notwithstanding the president's tweet, plans to significantly reduce health care funding and send more beneficiaries out into community networks already are underway and disregard MOAA's concerns of ensuring access to quality care – concerns validated by the GAO in their report submitted in May.

Per the report, DoD's assessment of the availability of civilian primary care providers was incomplete and a product of inaccurate information. MOAA members have already told us they have experienced a lack of access to care in the civilian networks in some areas. We must secure legislation to increase DoD reporting requirements and congressional oversight of the processes that govern this service-earned health care benefit.

Sorting Out TRICARE Telemedicine Confusion

By: Shane Ostrom

Telemedicine has become a popular form of treatment. However, some have found their telemedicine appointment was not covered by their TRICARE plan as they understood it would be. Here is the rest of the story.

When it comes to coverage, there is a difference between a telemedicine appointment with both video and audio, and an audio-only appointment. Coverage of video-audio appointments is standard for TRICARE plans. However, the temporary audio-only appointment coverage was not approved until May 12. Due to the procedural restrictions on changing coverage policy

midstream, the coverage is not retroactive. Any audio-only appointments prior to May 12 are not covered.

Cost-shares and copayments are waived for all covered telemedicine services. As is always the case with health care coverage, the service must be medically necessary. Some points to remember:

Active duty members need a referral. TRICARE for Life (TFL) members should check Medicare and your doctor to ensure your visit will be covered by Medicare. If not, you will pay TRICARE deductibles and copays, as TFL will become the first payer. The service must be from a military or TRICARE network provider, or where Medicare is accepted for TFL.

Ask your TRICARE contractor and providers to ensure telemedicine participation and TRICARE acceptance. Do not assume anything.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

Military Officers Association of America, Houston Area

Membership is available to Officers who have held a Federal Warrant or Commission in any of the seven uniformed services of the United States or to the surviving spouse of such a person. Please use this form for application for membership, renewal, or changes to the current directory of members.

NAME: _____
(Please print) Last First Initial Rank
Branch _____ Status _____ MOAA Nat'l ID _____ *
Spouse's First Name: _____ Tel. For Directory _____
Home Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Dues: Regular Membership \$30 first year; annual renewal \$30

(Discount for multiple years if paid with renewal: \$20 for each addn'l year *pd w/renewal*)

Surviving Spouse \$15 first year; annual renewal \$10 (same discount for multiple years)

Make check payable to MOAA,HA and send to MOAA,HA

PO Box 1082 Houston TX 77251-1082

For more information, call COL Joe Willoughby, 713.569.6700

**If not a MOAA national member, another benefit of chapter membership is the opportunity to become a national MOAA member at the BASIC LEVEL for free! If you would like to do so, please indicate here:* YES No

Signature: _____

