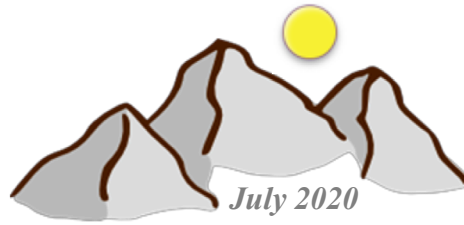


THE CATAWBA VALLEY OFFICERS DISPATCH



MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, CATAWBA VALLEY CHAPTER

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President: LTC Cliff Davenport

President's Comments: MOAA recently announced that our chapter has won a Five-Star Communications Award in both the newsletter and website categories. Those are really nice honors for our chapter, and a tribute to our hard-working newsletter editor and Webmaster. We've also submitted our nomination for an MOAA Level of Excellence Award. Results will be announced in just a few weeks. No matter what the outcome, the nomination itself highlights many facets of our chapter's activity, especially community outreach. Despite being a small chapter, we were able to provide significant support to a number of military-related entities in our six-county domain. I'd like to thank the Board of Directors for their successful efforts in managing this benevolent activity, and also the individual chapter members who contributed in terms of their physical participation and/or monetary donations to support charitable activity that helps service members and their families.

No doubt you're all aware that our chapter purchases MOAA Award medals and certificates each year, which we then distribute to nineteen JROTC units in our chapter's six-county area. Each unit's Senior Instructor determines who is their most outstanding cadet, and then presents the MOAA medal at a springtime ceremony. Just a cursory look at today's chaotic and deteriorating global society makes it clear how important it is for us to support the JROTC units. The military officers and NCOs heading those units are grooming the next generation of military and civilian leaders who will carry our nation safely into the future. Indeed, those enlightened and energized cadets will surely strengthen the threadbare and frayed fabric of society as it evolves. My sincere thanks to Lt Col Jane Harmon (USMC, Ret.) who kindly handles all the logistics to obtain and distribute the nineteen MOAA Award medals every year.

I'm sure we're all pleased to see that the impressive work of the U.S. Public Health Service and the National Guard continues to shine through all the divisive misinformation and verbal lambasting on news channels and social media. USPHS officials and medics have been fighting an epic battle, on the scale of a World War when you consider the scope of the pandemic and the number of casualties. Meanwhile, the National Guard has been engaged in multiple "conflicts," simultaneously fighting terrorists overseas, combating the pandemic, and quelling civil unrest. Yes, the dedicated professionals in the Public Health Service and the National Guard have prevailed in the most demanding of circumstances. And, the successful MOAA President to POTUS push that got the Guard's federally paid activation orders extended past ninety days was yet another MOAA victory!

There's no doubt that we're all growing very weary of social distancing and all the measures taken to prevent the spread of the dreaded Coronavirus. Those precautionary measures have definitely impacted our chapter on several levels, including social events, board meetings and community activity. Based on the average age of our chapter members and the extra measures needed to protect so-called "elderly persons," we've had to temporarily shift some of our chapter activity to the virtual mode. I'm open to any other novel ideas from chapter members as to how we can bridge things until the pandemic is conquered. Meanwhile, I hope that our chapter members and families keep their guard up to protect against the Coronavirus. I'm certainly looking forward to seeing you all at our next general membership dinner, hopefully in September. Please stay safe!

Posse Comitatus Act: This is a U.S. Federal law enacted by President Rutherford B. Hayes in 1878. The act limits the power of the federal government in using federal military troops against the U.S. civilian population. The act originally applied to only the Army, but the Air Force was added in 1956. Also, the Navy and Marine Corps have implemented their own regulations that mirror the Posse Comitatus Act. The Act was amended in 2008 to limit Presidential power to only situations of insurrection, rebellion, or uncontrollable lawlessness. Normally, only the National Guard forces of individual states and territories are called into play in the event of civil disorder—without being federalized. In fact, Governors and Adjutants General of individual states maintain agreements with other states for lateral Guard support to help deal with large-scale civil disorder or calamities, rather than having Guard forces from several states federalized under U.S. Title 10, or bringing federal forces on scene at the direction of the President. Alternatively, Guard members can be called into service under U.S. Title 32, in which Guard troops remain under state control but receive federal pay. Whether state or federal, the use of military forces against domestic civilians is a last resort measure that obviously has undesirable side effects, such as: damaging long-cultivated civilian-military relations and degrading unit moral!



No, these Cavalry troopers aren't headed downtown...



Retired Army personnel must now wear the new “Soldier for Life” patch on the left shoulder sleeve of the service uniform, in place of their last unit of assignment patch.



Da Vinci's armored and wheeled battle tank

Military Innovator: Mention of Leonardo Da Vinci conjures up images of his serene Mona Lisa portrait. But, Da Vinci was both an artist and an engineer. Based on volatile events during the latter portion of medieval times, he designed lethal war machines that dramatically advanced war-fighting capabilities in his era. Some of his practical innovations are still in play to this day. He designed an apparatus for cannons that allows just the barrel to be aimed horizontally and vertically, rather than moving the supporting carriage to aim the barrel. He was the first to incorporate breech loading on cannons rather than muzzle loading at the end of the barrel. Then he developed a multiple barrel gun that was the precursor to the machine gun, or perhaps more accurately, the Gatling gun. Another example (pictured to the left) was his armored car with guns protruding; it was obviously the first form of the army tank that revolutionized warfare in the early 1900s. Although Da Vinci may not have realized the military application, he visualized and portrayed the concept of manned flight. We can forgive Leonardo's oversight, even Icarus failed to foresee the military application of manned flight.

The Doctor is In: USPHS Captain (Dr.) Arvo Ederma and daughter Karin have moved back to Catawba Valley and rejoined our chapter! Arvo is a high-spirited officer, and his biography is absolutely astounding!

Former USAF Pilots RTB: In a strange twist of fate, the Air Force's pilot shortage situation seems to be self-correcting. The COVID-19 pandemic has hampered the military pilot training program; at the same time, the pandemic has devastated the commercial airline industry. Thus, many pilots who left the Air Force's "Wild Blue Yonder" to fly the airline industry's "Friendly Skies" are unexpectedly returning to base (R-T-B in pilot lingo). That is, they're applying to reenter the Air Force and fill the vacant cockpit seats that newly trained pilots would have filled. Thus, the Air Force's acute pilot shortage situation is healing itself, at low cost!

Farewell to Fake Bugles: Unlike back in the day, the military branches no longer have large numbers of musicians and bands. Therefore, they're frequently unable to provide a bugler to play taps at military burials. Thus, an audio recording is often the only way to "sound taps" during a burial, even when there's an actual military burial detail present. Obviously, that's a less than optimum solution. So, that's why Bugles Across America was founded. That nationwide organization includes all-volunteer buglers who make themselves available to play taps at burial ceremonies, and they provide this wonderful service at no cost. Learn more about this organization and procedures for requesting their service by visiting: www.buglesacrossamerica.org. Also, a link to their website has been added to the "Useful Links" page of our chapter website.

Memorial Bricks at Monument: The Exchange Club of Mooresville-Lake Norman has opened up Phase II of their program to offer personalized commemorative bricks at Liberty Park in Mooresville. The bricks for the new Veterans Promenade should be related to military; that is, honoring a veteran, service branch, etc. The bricks have varying sizes and configurations, the simplest being a 4 x 8 brick with four lines of 20-character copy at the cost of \$75. Larger size bricks and arrays are available, and logos can be added. Members living in the Lake Norman area can learn how to "Buy a Brick" by visiting website: www.mooresvillelkexchange.org

FBI Fights Scammers: These days, we all need to guard against increasingly aggressive con artists and scammers. The FBI's website is an excellent resource to learn how these crooks are targeting us. Go to website www.fbi.gov; then click on the "More" button that's on the upper left; then scroll down and click on "Scams & Safety." There you'll find "Common Fraud Schemes," and how to report fraud and scams, even anonymously!

New Army Service Dress: Soldiers will begin wearing the new Army Green service dress uniform late this summer. The uniform resembles the Army's iconic WWII green service dress uniform. It will wear years longer than the current dress blue uniform. The lengthy seven-year implementation schedule is designed to minimize uniform cost to the taxpayers and to the soldiers, who receive a recurring clothing allowance. The new uniform will soon be available in AAFES stores. By the way, retired officers may wear the uniform in effect at the time of their retirement or the current active duty uniform, but not a combination of both.

Kangaroo Court: The International Criminal Court (ICC) based in The Hague, NL has been endeavoring to investigate U.S. military actions in warzones and to potentially bring American soldiers to trial. The U.S. Secretary of State labeled the ICC as an ineffective "Kangaroo Court" that has had no success in prosecuting various war crimes throughout the world. The U.S. President's response was to implement financial and travel sanctions on ICC court members. The U.S. DoD maintains sole jurisdiction in matters of alleged criminal activity by soldiers and will never subject U.S. military personnel to any ICC investigations or proceedings.

Taboo Symbols: The VA is in the process of replacing grave headstones of German WWII soldiers who died in U.S. POW camps. The headstones contain Nazi swastikas and other symbols that have been deemed to be inappropriate and unacceptable. They're in the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio, TX and the Fort Douglas Post Cemetery in Salt Lake City, UT. Both of those cemeteries were under Army control in the 1940s but ownership was transferred to the Veterans Administration in later years.

- NEWS FROM THE BLUE FORCE TRACKER

ARMY: On August 1st, photos will be eliminated from officer promotion board folders. This is to eliminate unconscious bias based on a candidate's appearance. The Air Force and Coast Guard already eliminated photos.

NAVY: The Navy's Global Ocean Forecast System recently helped a stuck icebreaker in the Antarctic Ocean by assimilating ocean and ice observations from multiple sources to predict ice convergence and divergence.

MARINES: New Squad Binocular Night Vision Goggles were just fielded; this helmet-mounted system offers better depth perception, and the ability to recognize targets in extreme low light and bad weather scenarios.

AIR FORCE: The 5'4" to 6'5" pilot height standards have been eliminated; the medical and Ops community will now apply an anthropometric screening process to determine which aircraft a pilot candidate can safely fly.

2020 Calendar: *Board Meetings*: 22 Oct, and 17 Dec. *General Membership*: 24 Sep, and 3 Dec.

Benevolent Fund: Our designated charities are: MOAA American Patriot Scholarship Program (**MOAA-APS**), Purple Heart Homes (**PHH**) and Welcome Home Veterans (**WHV**). Donate by sending a charity-specific (any or all three) annotated check to Treasurer: CDR Dave Olson, 485 26th Ave NE (Unit A), Hickory, NC 28601.

Treasury: Our chapter has sufficient operating and reserve funds to cover anticipated 2020 operating expenses.

———— CHAPTER PRINCIPALS, DIRECTORS AND STAFF ————

Chapter President: LTC "Davy" Davenport

1st Vice President: *Vacant*

2nd Vice President: LTC James Cole

Treasurer: Commander Dave Olson

Secretary: Major Dennis McClish

Chaplain: Reverend (WO3) Robert Herron

Programs Chairman: *Vacant*!

1st Past President & Director: Colonel Gemeinhardt

Director: Colonel (Dr.) Don Gemeinhardt

Director: Captain Allen Stewart

Director: Colonel Joe Cansler

Legislative Liaison: Colonel (Dr.) Dana Tucker

Membership Chair: *Vacant*!

JROTC Coordinator: Lt Col G. Jane Harmon

Personal Affairs & TOPS: Lt Col Ted Hayes

Newsletter/Website: Colonel John Liburdi

About This MOAA Chapter: The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is a nonprofit veterans association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and ensuring our nation keeps its commitments to currently serving, retired, and former members of the uniformed services, including their families and survivors. MOAA and its affiliated chapters and councils are nonpartisan, without any political party affiliation, bias, or designation. Membership is open to those who hold or have ever held a warrant or commission in any component of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, U.S. Public Health Service or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The MOAA Catawba Valley Chapter covers six counties: Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Iredell and Lincoln. Our chapter is active in the community through its Benevolent Fund (explained above) and JROTC support. The chapter also engages in ad hoc charitable support and activity, with emphasis on homeless Veterans. A one-page membership application form is posted on the "Join Chapter" button on our chapter website homepage; the mailing address for the application is shown right on the form itself. **Please join our chapter!** Our chapter website is at: www.moaacvc.org

NOTE: *Our chapter's next General Membership meeting/dinner will be held as scheduled on September 24th if CDC guidance and State Government restrictions on restaurant operation are relaxed. Once we confirm that the Lake Hickory Country Club can accommodate us, a separate e-mail announcement and reservation slip for the event will be sent to all chapter members.*

Our Chapter website: www.moaacvc.org

MOAA Take Action: <http://takeaction.moaacvc.org>