

Volume 62, Issue 6
June 2023



Huntsville Chapter
Military Officers Association of America

The Sentinel

Huntsvillemoaa.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CAPT Richard C. West, USN (Ret.)

Greetings all!

Welcome to another fine edition of our Award-Winning Sentinel newsletter!

May's membership meeting was a good one with a great turnout! Many thanks to COL Gray for stepping in at the last minute as guest speaker. She ably answered the many questions regarding Fox AHC!

Just a reminder – no membership meetings in June or July. Our next meeting will be in August. Our guest speaker will be **U.S. Representative Dale Strong**. Even this far ahead, Rep. Strong's schedule is packed. We are going to move the August membership meeting to Monday, August 21st at the Summit Club, starting at the usual 1030. Please clear/mark this date on your calendars – I will be calling for RSVPs early - starting in July. This should be a very informative meeting!

On the evening of May 16th, it was my honor to present scholarship awards to several very deserving young adults who were either in college or heading that way. Several of the awardees were family members of our chapter members and the rest were area JROTC students. Based on the success of last year's fund drive, we were able to award **8 scholarships totaling \$15,000!** My deepest thanks to those of you who made this happen. We are raising the bar even higher this year and I will be emailing all of you soon for assistance.

Golf Tournament! We still need help with the Golf Committee, and we need it now. If you can spare a few hours a week and help us make this year's Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament the best ever, please let Bruce or I know or join us at our next meeting on **June 16th, at 1200** at The Links on Redstone. Come a little early and have some lunch with us at the Weeden Grill.

Thanks for all you all do and enjoy June!

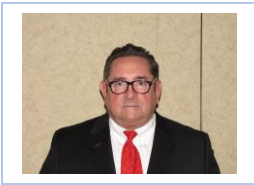
Rick

There are no member meetings in June & July – enjoy your summer!

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Note: National MOAA and the Huntsville Chapter are non-partisan organizations



Legislative Corner

Lt Col Charles Clements, USAF-Ret

**Take
Action**

→ <http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/>



“All politics is local.”

The 2023 Alabama legislation session will begin day 21 the week of 15 May and is scheduled to end on or about 14 June—each week contains only two days of the legislative session. In the past month numerous Bills have been passed by the senate and house, but there have been few Bills signed or vetoed by Governor Ivy. Next month I hope to have the Governor’s reaction to the Bills. In the meantime, I will focus on the National news.

A proposal in a December 2022 Congressional Budget Office (CBO) report suggesting the reduction or elimination of VA disability payments for veterans with higher incomes received significant attention on social media in recent weeks – enough that it was raised, and rebuked, during VA Secretary Denis McDonough’s press conference March 23.

As MOAA outlined shortly after the report was released, the CBO options include potential cuts to military spending, veterans’ benefits, and TRICARE. The report, filed at the start of each new Congress for the past 12 years, provides lawmakers with options to reduce the deficit through spending cuts and ways to increase revenue. The nonpartisan CBO has no say in political objectives and is simply fulfilling its mandated mission via these reports. While the notion of means-testing VA disability pay is concerning, no legislation to that effect has been offered in either chamber or has the proposal been a part of any administration budget plans.

A new economic impact study released Monday found that the defense industry accounted for an annual economic impact of \$50.3 billion, providing 264,780 jobs across Alabama with an annual payroll of \$19.3 billion. Alabama consistently ranks among the top ten states in defense spending, which consisted of nearly 7% of the state’s gross domestic product in 2019, the third highest rate in the country. Its annual economic impact of \$50.3 billion makes up 21.8% of the entire Alabama economy.

The debt limit... Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen jolted the political world with a [letter](#) last Monday notifying Congress that the U.S. could default on its debt by June 1, weeks earlier than most expected. “We have learned from past debt limit impasses that waiting until the last minute to suspend or increase the debt limit can cause serious harm to business and consumer confidence, raise short-term borrowing costs for taxpayers, and negatively impact the credit rating of the United States,” she wrote.

Continued on page 9

2023-2024 GOVERNING BOARD

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STANDING COMMITTEES

Membership (Acting): MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-426-0525, brobins01976@gmail.com

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Personal Affairs: Lt Col Gerald Haynes, USAF-Ret, 256-882-7857, jerry15@hiwaay.net

Public Affairs (Publicity): Vacant

Chapter Historian: Vacant

Surviving Spouse Liaison: Vacant

Chapter Hospitality: Mrs. Carrie Hightower, 256-882-3992

Constitution and By-Laws: CAPT Richard C. West, USN-Ret, 256-776-6901, rickw675@att.net

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LIFE MEMBERSHIP TRUST

COL John Fairlamb, USA-Ret, 256-539-0161, fairlambjrf@comcast.net (June 2023)

MAJ Monte C. Washburn, USA-Ret, 256-301-5457, monte@washburns.org (June 2024)

Lt Col Gerald Haynes, USAF-Ret, 256-882-7857, jerry15@hiwaay.net (July 2025)



PX / Commissary
Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR



Main Exchange

Plan for the Alabama Tax Free weekend! This year it is July 21–23. Books priced \$30 or less, clothing priced \$100 or less, computers, computer software, and school computer supplies priced \$750 or less, and school supplies priced \$50 or less. Alabama tax-free weekends apply to state sales tax. Your Exchange is ALWAYS tax free – so the Exchange often deducts the normal outside tax rate from your Exchange purchase for the eligible items.

You can save even more by signing up for the Exchange STAR card! The first day you use it – ALL your purchases (including clearance items) are 10% off on your bill (with occasionally 15% off)! Start your list of purchases now.

Your Exchange always has a variety of televisions on sale many in the store and many more available on-line at: <http://shopmyexchange.com>

The end of June and into July your Exchange usually has exercise clothing, outdoor furniture and grills on sale! Bike, toys, appliances, and gun safes also! The next week usually brings home cleaning supplies, luggage, kitchen supplies, linens, TV’s, potable charging batteries, pool toys, fans, and Midea appliances.

Download the Exchange Extra app for your smart phone – ads, specials, coupons, and the super daily special!

Shopette

Stop in every month to see the wine and spirit specials! Plus, check out the Spirits of the Month shelves. New and not so new spirits—most on sale! Use your STAR card for 5 cents off at the gas pumps.

Possible tent sale for July 4th or earlier – keep an eye out.

While there check out the movies at the Red Box machine outside – you can reserve your movies using the Red Box app - offering specials and opportunities to buy your movies, stream movies, or pick them up anytime that day.

Commissary

CLICK2GO is one tap away for savings and convenient online shopping. Schedule free curbside pickup from your desktop or mobile devices while shopping online. Download the My Military Savings app on your smart phone to keep up with all the new savings, recipes, and other shopping tips. Check out the military lifestyle podcast Off Duty Happy Hour, where all things military lifestyle are discussed and so much more [Off Duty Happy Hour • A podcast on Spotify for Podcasters](#).

Continued on page 9

Need Addresses

We have lost track of the above members. If you know their whereabouts, please have them contact Bruce Robinson at 256-426-0525 to update their addresses.

None this month

Concerns

This month the following people were reported as being ill or recuperating and need our support and prayers:

Mrs. Loretta McKinney

Persons to contact are:

Army Representative:
LTC Nicholas M. Mikus
256-604-7767
nicholasmikus@comcast.net

Navy/USMC Representative:
COL Raymond G. Regner
256-851-5903
raymond.regner@gmail.com

Air/Space Force Representative:
Col Edward L. Uher
256-882-6824
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Fox Army Health Center
MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret



- Face masks are now optional at Fox. A mask is still required if
 - You feel ill
 - You have recently tested positive for COVID-19 or flu
 - You are a recent close contact to someone with COVID-19
- Fox will begin new clinic & pharmacy hours: 0730 - 1600 on 05 June 2023.
- Fox Army Health Center is looking for volunteers to take part in a Patient Experience Working Group. Talk to us about your experiences and help with real feedback and ideas.

Who can participate?

Any FAHC beneficiary—Active Duty, spouse, retired—who would like to contribute.

Is there training required?

Yes, one hour HIPAA training will be provided.

How often does the group meet?

Meetings are quarterly.

How do I get started?

No need to RSVP. Just come to the FAHC café (Pharmacy entrance) on July 25 at 1000. Someone will be there to escort you to the meeting.

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When it comes to your to-do list, put your future first.

Together, let's create an investment strategy that works for you. Contact us for a complimentary portfolio review.



Dale C Kuehl, AAMS™
Financial Advisor

2045 Cecil Ashburn Drive S E
Suite 103
Huntsville, AL 35802
256-881-1583

FAP-1966G-A



Surviving Spouse's Luncheon

Mrs. Carrie Hightower
256-882-3992

The luncheon we held last month had a great turnout.
This month's luncheon will be on Thursday, June 15th, at
Carrabba's Italian Grill, 2821 Memorial Parkway SW, Huntsville.
Phone 256-288-1333. We will gather at 11 AM.
Everyone will be called.

Surviving Spouse Corner: 9 Ways to Get Through Hard Times

From celebrating joyous occasions like Mother's Day and graduations and welcoming warmer weather and spring flowers to enduring the sometimes-melancholy days of spring showers and the remembrances of the fallen at Memorial Day, the month of May can sometimes feel like an emotional roller coaster.

It might help to have some strategies for handling lows. Consider these tips:

- Seek out the friendship and companionship of others. Do something you enjoy with a friend or family member.
- Take a walk and enjoy being outside on a nice day.
- Give your time to a worthy cause. Support those less fortunate or visit someone who is lonely.
- Learn something new. Try a new craft or hobby.
- Listen to music. Maybe try a genre or artist you have not listened to before.
- Label and organize your photos. Relive the happy memories by documenting the stories behind your photos.
- Write a letter. A handwritten note or card is always welcomed.
- Attend a patriotic event. Watch a Memorial Day parade or help place flags at a local cemetery.
- Make new friends by participating in your local MOAA chapter or the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter.



Chaplain's Corner
Col Dave McKinney, USAF-Ret

Genesis 1.1-7

1. In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth,
2. the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of
the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.
3. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4. And
God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from
the darkness. 5. God called the light Day, and the darkness he
called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the
first day.6. And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the
waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." 7. So, God
made the dome and separated the waters that were under the
dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so.



As my wife and I prepare for her upcoming cancer treatment, the
word chaos keeps coming to mind. Chaos can mean the void as
we see in Genesis, but it also can mean utter disarray or
confusion. Multiple surgeries, scans, blood tests, upcoming
chemotherapy, and all that we need to know to be prepared make
life chaotic for us. And boy are we confused! But we are working
through this chaos with the help of the doctor's staff, family,
friends, and our church family. With their help we are getting
some kind of order back into our lives. I say some kind of order,
as once the chemotherapy side effects kick in, we both know
chaos will show its ugly head again. But with the same help of our
support team, we know we will get some semblance of support
back.

Why do we know we will get some semblance of order back into
our lives? We see it in Genesis 1 where we see God creating

Continued on page 14

Memorials

If you would like to send a memorial
contribution to the Huntsville
Chapter MOAA, please send the
following information along with
your check to: Memorials,
HCMOAA, P.O. Box 1301,
Huntsville, AL 35807

In memory of:

By:

Membership Statistics

Total Members: 308
Regular Members: 259
Surviving Spouses: 49

New this month: 2
Deaths this month: 0
Renewals: 0

**Welcome New Members to
Huntsville Chapter MOAA**

COL John Vanderbleek, USA
MAJ Albert Lang, USA

Recruiting

You are our best recruiter. If you
have a friend, colleague or co-
worker who is eligible to join
MOAA, or who already belongs to
MOAA National – bring him/her to
a Chapter meeting. You would be
doing both them and the Chapter a
favor.

Legislative – continued from page 2

The statutory debt limit was technically breached in January, but the Treasury Department has used “extradentary measures” to buy Congress and the president more time to act. The pressure to raise the debt ceiling is due to prior government spending, but the ritual of raising the limit brings the nation’s fiscal woes into clarity and serves as a leverage point to reign in future budgets. Last month, House Republicans passed legislation that would increase the debt limit in exchange for a broad set of future spending cuts. That bill won’t become law, but it puts additional pressure on Biden Administration officials to negotiate, something they have been loath to do. (In the Senate, 43 Republicans signed a letter over the weekend also calling for spending cuts and budget reform as a starting point for debt talks.). The legislative schedules rarely change, but they might for something like a final vote on the debt limit.

Immigration realities... As difficult as the situation at the Southwest border is now, it will be worse by the end of the week... In fiscal year 2022, U.S. authorities conducted 2.378 million enforcement encounters; Fiscal Year 2023 is on pace to exceed that number considerably. Now, an important enforcement tool—Covid era-authority under Title 42 that allowed law enforcement to turn back immigrants without an asylum hearing—is set to expire on Thursday, potentially creating a crushing wave of thousands trying to get across the border during the days that follow. The Biden Administration is moving 1,500 troops to the border to prepare for this invasion.

“Mark up” of the defense bill... The House and Senate Armed Services committees are ramping up work ahead of their consideration of the annual National Defense Authorization Act, an important bill that authorizes programs and policies at the Department of Defense. For now, the big question: What will be the top line authorization level? The Biden Administration’s budget called for \$842 billion in Pentagon spending and \$44 billion on defense activities in other departments, which together represents a \$28 billion increase over last year, but some Republicans want to see the federal government tighten its belt moving forward, identifying a return to Fiscal Year 2022 spending levels as a suitable baseline. However, in a time of inflationary pressure and growing concerns about China and North Korea in the Indo Pacific region, others believe the defense budget—which represents about half of all discretionary spending—should be immune to those cuts. Carving out that much of the budget from cuts would then require very significant reductions elsewhere. The NDAA represents a rare example of enduring bipartisanship on Capitol Hill; Congress has approved the bill for 62 consecutive years.

The April 2023 Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), released May 10, was 297.730, 2.0% above the FY 2023 baseline of 291.901. The next CPI-W release is set for June 13. The CPI-W figures from the end of this fiscal year (July, August, and September 2023) will be compared to the FY 2023 COLA baseline to calculate the 2024 COLA. 🏠

PX/Commissary – continued from page 3

Salads continue to have supply issues with most of the shelves empty. Check out the specials for you commissary BBQ in the meat isle along with all the extras to make your BBQ the best at [Military Family Coupons | Discounts | Commissary Coupons | My Military Savings](#)

Head over to <https://marsmilitary.com> for coupons, recipes, and a chance to win two Six Flags tickets.

Check out the center of the store for bulk item sales! Big box selection without the big price tag. 🏠



HCMOAA Treasurer's Report April 2023

Submitted by Lt Col Charles T. Clements, USAF (Ret.)

1. The April 2023 Treasurer's Report is presented herein.

2. Monthly Summary:

	Operating Funds	Savings
Starting Balance	\$18,783.23	\$ 4,526.55
Income	\$ 1,090.00	\$ 0.56
Expenses	\$ 1,010.88	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$18,862.35	\$ 4,527.11

3. Notable income: April’s membership luncheon, member dues, payment for the Christmas Social and petty cash.

4. Notable expenses: Payment of the March’s Membership Luncheon, office supplies and petty cash.

5. Chapter Saving account activity was limited to interest.

6. Certificate of Deposit (CD) was purchased in the amount of \$12,000 from Wells Fargo on 20 October 2022. The CD is for 7 months at an interest rate of 2.5%. Interest to date is \$148.70. The date of maturity is 20 May. The Treasurer will likely establish another CD in late May.

7. The Chapter Operating Funds contains \$3,091.68 in reserved funds donated by various VSOs in support of the RAD Luncheon for the Retirees. This is money unused from previous donations and will be applied to a future RAD luncheon or similar event.

Scholarship Fund Donations

The Chapter has an active scholarship program. In conjunction with the RSA Military & Civilians’ Club, we issue scholarships each year to deserving area students. **Please consider donating.** Contact Rick West, at rickw675@att.net or 256.776.6901 for details.

The Scholarship Fund operates on a calendar year basis. Remember that the fund is fully tax deductible - 501(c)(3). **100% of all donations go toward scholarships.**

Note: The below amounts reflect only donations directly to the fund. Golf Tournament monies are tracked separately and presented to the membership following the tournament.

Scholarship Fund Donations Received During May 2023

None

Total received for May:	\$0.00
Total received CY23:	\$0.00





Huntsville Chapter
 Military Officers Association of America
 P.O. Box 1301 - Huntsville, AL 35807
www.huntsvillemoaa.org



Membership Application or Renewal
 Yes - I'd like to add my voice to the Huntsville Chapter!

<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> One Year \$10*	If New, how did you hear about us? <input type="checkbox"/> MOAA National <input type="checkbox"/> Local event <input type="checkbox"/> Letter / e-mail from HCMOAA <input type="checkbox"/> HCMOAA website <input type="checkbox"/> Friend / acquaintance <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please explain _____)
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal**	<input type="checkbox"/> Two Years \$20	
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership***	<input type="checkbox"/> Three Years \$30	

*New members joining after September 1st will have their membership paid through following calendar year
 **If renewing just update any address or phone changes, verify e-mail address, and sign the form
 ***Interested in a Chapter Life Membership? Contact us for pricing (age-based)

_____	_____	_____
First Name	MI	Last Name
_____	_____	_____
Preferred Name	Birth Date	Spouse's Name
_____	_____	_____
Grade	Branch of Service	Period(s) of Active Duty (i.e. 1965-1990)

Membership in our MOAA Chapter is not the same as MOAA National membership. At a minimum, FREE "Basic" MOAA National membership is required. If you are not already a National member, we will add you as a Basic member. Again, it's FREE and provides several valuable benefits. Please contact us for more information.

_____ **MOAA National Membership Number**

<input type="checkbox"/> Active	<input type="checkbox"/> Retired	<input type="checkbox"/> NG	<input type="checkbox"/> Former Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> Reserve	<input type="checkbox"/> Surviving Spouse
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mailing Address	City	State	Zip		
_____	_____	_____	_____		
Phone Number	E-mail Address	Signature			
_____	_____	_____			

Governing Board Vacancies

The Chapter has several vacancies on the Governing Board that we are looking to fill with volunteers from the membership. They include:

Surviving Spouse Liaison – responsible for keeping the surviving spouses of the Chapter informed & look out for their welfare – you do not have to be a surviving spouse to serve

Membership Chair – responsible for recruiting and retention of Chapter members – this is a key position

Webmaster – responsible for all aspects of the Chapter website – ideally this would be a member's child or grandchild who is website savvy – this is a key position

Publicity – responsible for advertising Chapter events – primarily the golf tournament



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History of Father's Day

The nation's first Father's Day was celebrated on June 19, 1910, in the state of Washington. However, it was not until 1972—58 years after President Woodrow Wilson made Mother's Day official—that the day honoring fathers became a nationwide holiday in the United States. Father's Day 2023 will occur on Sunday, June 18.

Mother's Day: Inspiration for Father's Day

The "Mother's Day" we celebrate today has its origins in the peace-and-reconciliation campaigns of the post-Civil War era. During the 1860s, at the urging of activist Ann Reeves Jarvis, one divided West Virginia town celebrated "Mother's Work Days" that brought together the mothers of Confederate and Union soldiers.

However, Mother's Day did not become a commercial holiday until 1908, when—inspired by Jarvis's daughter, Anna Jarvis, who wanted to honor her own mother by making Mother's Day a national holiday—the John Wanamaker department store in Philadelphia sponsored a service dedicated to mothers in its auditorium.

Thanks in large part to this association with retailers, who saw great potential for profit in the holiday, Mother's Day caught on right away. In 1909, 45 states observed the day, and in 1914, President Woodrow Wilson approved a resolution that made the second Sunday in May a holiday in honor of "that tender, gentle army, the mothers of America."

Origins of Father's Day

The campaign to celebrate the nation's fathers did not meet with the same enthusiasm—perhaps because, as one florist explained, "fathers haven't the same sentimental appeal that mothers have."

On July 5, 1908, a West Virginia church sponsored the nation's first event explicitly in honor of fathers, a Sunday sermon in memory of the 362 men who had died in the previous December's explosions at the Fairmont Coal Company mines in Monongah, but it was a one-time commemoration and not an annual holiday.

The next year, a Spokane, Washington, woman named Sonora Smart Dodd, one of six children raised by a widower, tried to establish an official equivalent to Mother's Day for male parents. She went to local churches, the YMCA, shopkeepers and government officials to drum up support for her idea, and she was successful: Washington State celebrated the nation's first statewide Father's Day on June 19, 1910.

Slowly, the holiday spread. In 1916, President Wilson honored the day by using telegraph signals to unfurl a flag in Spokane when he pressed a button in Washington, D.C. In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge urged state governments to observe Father's Day.

Today, the day honoring fathers is celebrated in the United States on the third Sunday of June: Father's Day 2021 occurs on June 20.

In other countries—especially in Europe and Latin America—fathers are honored on St. Joseph's Day, a traditional Catholic holiday that falls on March 19.

Continued on page 15



28 Birthdays in June

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| CPT Rene E Lemieux, USA | Mrs. Helen J Kolankiewicz |
| LTC Stephen D Rice, USA | MAJ Michael V Tallman, USA |
| LTC Johnnie L Bone Jr, USA | LTC Roderic Spencer, USA |
| CDR Rudolph M Ohme, USN | COL Michael A Roddy, USA |
| Mrs. Florence L Garman | MAJ John F Wilson Jr, USA |
| CW3 Lewis F Spencer Jr, USA | LTC James L Fairchild, USA |
| Capt Kenneth E Shepard, USAF | Mrs. Lois J Wendt |
| COL Tom L Albertson, USA | COL John A Olshefski, USA |
| CDR Robert P Rolf, USN | CWO Richard C Demming, USA |
| LTC James M Ivy IV, USA | LTC Johanna L Mora, USA |
| MAJ Sherrill T Chaffin, USA | Col Bernard S Morgan Jr, USAF |
| Mrs. Freddia K Scott | LTC William L Brigadier, USA |
| Mrs. Nora Taylor | CW4 William W Wright, USA |
| LTC Gary R Young, USA | CAPT Ronald L Stowe, USN |

If we missed your birthday, it's because we don't have it on file. Please e-mail your birth date to MAJ Bruce Robinson at brobinso1976@gmail.com so it can be included in future newsletters. Thank you.

Chaplain's Corner – continued from page 8

order out of the void, or chaos, one step at a time, each step building on the previous step.

It seems like our country is in total chaos right now, especially if you follow the news. But do not be dismayed. Just like God formed this beautiful world of ours out of chaos, He is helping my wife and I to build some semblance of order in our life with cancer, and He is bringing order into our country, one step at a time. And, just as our support team is helping us bring order into our lives, we all have an active part in helping bring order in our country.

If you would like to share prayer requests or contact me. I can be reached at MOAChaplain@gmail.com or call/text (334) 467-6860.

Blessings, Dave





Our deepest sympathy and prayers are extended to the families and friends of:

TAPS

None this Month

Gone but not forgotten for their dedicated support and service to our Country.

We will miss these outstanding Leaders and Patriots.



Father's Day – continued from page 13


Father's Day: Controversy and Commercialism

Many men, however, continued to disdain the day. As one historian writes, they “scoffed at the holiday’s sentimental attempts to domesticate manliness with flowers and gift-giving, or they derided the proliferation of such holidays as a commercial gimmick to sell more products—often paid for by the father himself.”

During the 1920s and 1930s, a movement arose to scrap Mother’s Day and Father’s Day altogether in favor of a single holiday, Parents’ Day. Every year on Mother’s Day, pro-Parents’ Day groups rallied in New York City’s Central Park—a public reminder, said Parents’ Day activist and radio performer Robert Spere, “that both parents should be loved and respected together.”

Paradoxically, however, the Great Depression derailed this effort to combine and de-commercialize the holidays. Struggling retailers and advertisers redoubled their efforts to make Father’s Day a “second Christmas” for men, promoting goods such as neckties, hats, socks, pipes and tobacco, golf clubs and other sporting goods, and greeting cards.

When World War II began, advertisers began to argue that celebrating Father’s Day was a way to honor American troops and support the war effort. By the end of the war, Father’s Day may not have been a federal holiday, but it was a national institution.

In 1972, in the middle of a hard-fought presidential re-election campaign, Richard Nixon signed a proclamation making Father’s Day a federal holiday at last. Today, economists estimate that Americans spend more than \$1 billion each year on Father’s Day gifts.  (History Channel)

Space Command

Did the Air Force officials responsible for finalizing the permanent home of Space Command get sucked into a deep space black hole, never to be seen or heard from again? Close observers of the basing process—now in its 53rd month—will be forgiven for thinking so. In reality, we know at least Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall is safely on Earth: he recently made proof-of-life appearances on Capitol Hill.

Kendall's recent testimony before the House Armed Services Committee is noteworthy. The powerful panel—now chaired by Alabama's Mike Rogers—may be the biggest thing standing between President Joe Biden and a reversal of the Air Force's prior selection of Redstone Arsenal as the "preferred location" for Space Command.

To be clear, a multitude of factors—substantive, political, and pragmatic—are likely now in play, and Rogers' perch atop the committee is on the minds of Department of Defense officials. Legislative Affairs 101: Don't get crossways with the chairman that oversees your work. Especially now, Rogers matters—a lot.

But this whole process should have ended two years ago when the Air Force concluded an eight-month evaluation of 66 communities across 26 states and scored the top contenders against 21 objective factors. In January 2021, the Air Force announced that it had "conducted ... visits to assess which of six ... locations would be best suited to host" SPACECOM HQ "based on factors related to mission, infrastructure capacity, community support, and costs to the Department of Defense. Huntsville compared favorably across more of these factors than any other community..."

Had the final decision then been made solely on what the Air Force thought was in the best long-term interest of the warfighter, crews would be moving red dirt behind Gate 9 at Redstone right now.

That didn't happen. Instead, the Congressional delegation from Colorado, a blue state with a proud Air Force heritage, objected to the decision to send the 1,450-person headquarters to Alabama, a red state with a big Army presence. The theory of Colorado's case: the Air Force wanted the permanent headquarters in Colorado, but then-President Donald Trump intervened to deliver the HQ as a political gift to Alabama.

But the evidence doesn't back up that allegation. The Air Force's selection process was based on sound methodology and objective data. A detailed assessment of environmental impacts at Redstone came up clean. An extensive investigation into the evaluation process by the Department of Defense's Inspector General found that "the process Air Force officials used to select Huntsville . . . as the preferred permanent location for" SPACECOM HQ "complied with law and policy, and was reasonable in identifying Huntsville as the preferred permanent location."

Finally, the Government Accountability Office found "that the Air Force's revised selection process included an assessment of costs, benefits, and capabilities of the final six locations, after which it was determined that Redstone Arsenal was the preferred location," noting that "the Air Force took some steps to ensure the revised process assessed candidate locations without a predetermined solution in mind. For example, the Air Force designed evaluation factors to ensure candidate locations received due consideration, and clearly documented analysis in the Nomination and Evaluation Phases."

Less recognized in the GAO report's fine print is that the watchdog agency actually did find bias in the process—bias in favor of Colorado. An 11th hour attempt to inject Colorado's facility back into the mix despite its relatively poor ranking was based on "unsubstantiated information." Those last-minute deals were scuttled.

The process now seems stalled. In November, Space Command Commanding General James H.

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Dickinson said a final decision was coming “soon,” but it didn’t. In March, Kendall announced an unplanned round of “additional analysis.” To my ear, that sounds like bureaucratic purgatory where anything could happen behind closed doors. It’s been radio silence since. And that brings us back to the House hearing where Kendall appeared as a witness running into a buzzsaw. Chairman Rogers wasted no time, raising the issue in his opening statement:

“We are beyond the point of frustration with the continued delay in announcing the final decision on SPACECOM basing. Twenty-seven months ago, the Air Force made the right decision to go with Huntsville, Alabama. Twelve months ago, the GAO and the DOD inspector general affirmed that decision. There is only one state still protesting, and that state came in fifth in that competition. The political games must end. Your continued hand-wringing is delaying SPACECOM’s full operational capability and undermining our ability to defend this nation. You need to end this charade and make that announcement soon.”

Dale Strong, the freshman Representative from Huntsville that sought and won a seat on the committee for moments like this, prosecuted the witness with a string of questions that created a compelling record for his colleagues. Strong’s questions demonstrated that, despite the Colorado delegation’s rhetoric, the competition between Alabama and Colorado wasn’t even close. Alabama was first in every phase; Colorado was no better than fourth. Rogers, Strong and others are right to be frustrated.

Moving forward, some believe that President Joe Biden might simply reverse course to stick it to his predecessor and potential presidential opponent. I doubt it. Washington operates in ways more opaque than that. More likely, the threat lies in pretextual justifications for tweaking the criteria in subtle ways that would eventually alter the outcome. Here are three possibilities to watch for, and why they should fail.

Argument 1: Officials might raise a “readiness” concern, claiming that moving people and equipment to Redstone and constructing new buildings on the arsenal would delay full operational capability of the command. Defense: In March of 2022, Dickinson testified in the Senate that “we are in the process right now of building the infrastructure that we need to do the mission that I have been given . . . and we are moving in that direction. I would say we are a couple [to] three years away from full operational capability. . . no matter where we are located,” meaning that moving to Redstone was not materially different in terms of readiness than any other location. Moreover, recent history shows that the biggest impediment to the Air Force achieving full operations has been the Air Force’s own “hand-wringing,” as Rogers put it.

Argument 2: Force requirements have changed, and a smaller force means additional options to renovate existing buildings in Colorado rather than build new ones in Alabama. Defense: Any effort to artificially resize the Command must be closely scrutinized, as you’ll be hard pressed to find many examples of government agencies voluntarily downsizing their workforces. On top of that, space is a growth industry, becoming more contested each day. It’s not credible to suggest that our future fighting force in space is stronger with one-third less people.

Argument 3: Abortion politics make Alabama an unsuitable location. Defense: Senate procedure, and the Department’s personnel policies have intersected in unhelpful ways, and this a real concern according to former and current military officials to whom I’ve spoken. Regardless of the underlying issues, military leaders should not allow fleeting political scuffles to interfere with long-term basing decisions. They must do whatever makes the military as lethal as possible in the long run.

One final point from Strong’s questioning. As he correctly notes, Colorado’s delegation did not call on Biden to “do what’s best for national security.” Instead, they simply said “reverse the decision” and “suspend any action” to locate the headquarters. Those are not principled positions based on facts, because facts do not support their desired outcome. III (by Stephen Boyd)

Getting a New Prescription - Check TRICARE Formulary Search Tool

You're at a medical appointment and you're getting a new prescription. Before your provider sends an electronic prescription or gives you a paper prescription, it may be helpful for you and your provider to look up the drug with the [TRICARE Formulary Search Tool](#).

"The TRICARE Formulary Search Tool makes it easy to learn about your prescription," said Melanie Richardson, a pharmacist in the Pharmacy Operations Division at the Defense Health Agency. "You can see if your prescription is covered, where you can fill it, and if your provider needs to request pre-authorization. The tool updates in real time, so information is almost always current."

While you can use the tool any time you'd like, using it with your provider can be helpful if your provider wants to prescribe a drug you've never taken before. Here are some tips on how to use the search tool before you get a new prescription.

How to Use the TRICARE Formulary Search Tool

The TRICARE pharmacy contractor, Express Scripts, hosts the TRICARE Formulary Search Tool. You don't need to log in to your Express Scripts account to use the tool, so you can use it on a computer or smartphone. Just go to www.express-scripts.com/tform to start a search.

For general information about a drug:

- Type the drug name and strength in the medication search box.
- Beneath the search box, choose your sex and age from the dropdown menus.
- Click "Search" to see information about the drug.

To filter results by drug strength, form, route, or type:

- Click the "Advanced medication search" link.
- Type the drug name and choose your sex and age from the dropdown menus.
- Click "Next" to see a list of results.
- Use the dropdown menus at the top to filter the results.
- Click "Select" next to the drug you'd like to learn more about.

Information You Can Find

Once you've looked up your drug, you can find detailed information, including:

- General information about the drug, including what it's used for, possible side effects, FAQs, and an image of the drug
- The formulary status of the drug

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- Coverage details and limitations
- Whether you can fill your prescription at military pharmacies, through home delivery, or at retail network pharmacies
- Copayments


Remember, copayments apply if you aren't an active duty service member, as outlined in the *TRICARE Pharmacy Program Overview Fact Sheet*. Copayments also vary based on where you get your prescription filled and if the drug is generic, brand name, or non-formulary.

Pre-Authorization (or Prior Authorization) and Medical Necessity

Depending on the drug you search for, you may see a link that says, "Coverage rules apply." This often means your provider needs to request pre-authorization or submit proof of medical necessity to Express Scripts. This is often the case for brand-name drugs that have generic equivalents and non-formulary drugs. It can also apply if the drug has age limits. Click "Coverage rules apply" for more information and provider forms.

Other Drug Options

There may be times when you'll want to see if there are drugs similar to the one you need but with lower out-of-pocket costs or different coverage rules. After you look up a drug, click "Other drug options" beneath the drug's name to check for similar drugs. And if the drug is available as both a generic drug and a brand-name drug, you can toggle between "generic" and "brand-name" tabs to compare costs and coverage for each.

Using the TRICARE Formulary Search Tool helps you make the best decisions about filling your prescriptions. Check out TRICARE Pharmacy Program to learn more about your pharmacy benefit. 



Chapter Happenings – May



MG Tom O'Connor, Chapter President Rick West, RSAMCC President Cherie Cain, and the 2023 HCMOAA Scholarship Award winners (2 winners not pictured)



(L to R) Chapter members RADM Rich Landolt, President Rick West, and 1st VP Ed Banville participate in the 2023 Memorial Day wreath laying ceremony at the Veterans Memorial



COL Wendy Gray, Commander of FOX Army Health Center, addresses the membership at the May meeting



COL Gray thanked by Chapter President Rick West for speaking at the May meeting

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Scams

Overview

Criminals are increasingly using generative artificial intelligence to craft sophisticated scams. To protect yourself from AI scams, tap into your intuition: if something feels off, it probably is. It's also smart to double down on the foundational security practices that can shield against all scams, whether or not they're AI-assisted.

Advancements in artificial intelligence, or AI, have been making headlines — and changing the landscape of identity security.

Though you're probably hearing more about it recently, AI is nothing new. Over the last decade, predictive artificial intelligence has been used to sort through massive amounts of data and create predictions and suggestions.

In recent years, though, generative AI — or artificial intelligence that gives computers the ability to produce original content, audio, and imagery — has hit the mainstream, and scammers are taking note.

With software like ChatGPT and Bard, it's now possible for fraudsters to create better, more convincing scams.

AI has so many useful applications — but with the convenience comes security concerns. Let's take a closer look at the risks, and how to safeguard against them.

Common AI-assisted scams

It didn't take long for bad actors to take advantage of recent AI breakthroughs. For example, in March 2023, the [Federal Trade Commission](#) (FTC) reported a startling new twist to phone scams. Fraudsters can now use generative AI software to clone a person's voice, which can be used to make highly convincing imposter schemes. The scammer may call their target pretending to be a family member in distress. The victim thinks they're sending money to help their relative in an emergency — but it's all a ruse, and the scammer pockets the funds.

In another increasingly common AI scam, bad actors use AI software to quickly craft more convincing phishing emails and text messages. That these AI programs can sound and read more and more like real people is one of the biggest dangers of artificial intelligence.

Historically, scammers have been vulnerable to human errors, such as misspelled words and flawed grammar. But because AI is a learning technology, all of those red flags that we're used to seeing in scams can now be hidden by the machine. AI can learn to create such sophisticated messages that people may not know the difference between what is legitimate and not.

So, if AI is helping fraudsters make better and more convincing scams, how do we fight back? Combat AI scams by tapping into your intuition. We still have the power of scrutiny and skepticism on our side.

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Avoiding an AI scam, or any scam


The best way to avoid a scam is to question everything that seems off. Scrutinize any message you get that's asking for data or asking for anything in general. For example, if a loved one calls and asks you for personal information or money out of the blue, take a moment and ask yourself if this seems normal. Ask them questions about the situation and, if it feels off, call or FaceTime the person back to make sure it's them.

When it comes to phishing texts, emails, and messages sent via social media, the same fundamental security tips you've relied on for years will work against AI scammers too:

- **Never click on a suspicious link or unsolicited file.** [Phishing](#) messages may be more believable than ever thanks to AI, but the bottom line stays the same: If you weren't expecting a link or document, don't click on it. If it came from someone you know, ask them about it (using the email or phone number you usually use to communicate with them) before responding.
- **Pay attention to the sites you visit.** Remember that scammers can plant [authentic-looking ads](#) on search engines and social media. If you click on a new-to-you site, [check that it's secure](#), and never enter personal or financial information on an unsecured website.
- **Practice good [password hygiene](#).** "Create strong passwords that are difficult to guess, change those every few months, and utilize [multi-factor authentication](#) to protect your data," says Kaplan. And whatever you do, don't use the same password more than once. This will help keep your private data safe and minimize your risk of [account takeover](#).
- **Keep your phone and computer software up to date.** Regular device updates can be a minor inconvenience, but they have a major payoff. Built-in antivirus software relies on regular updates to stay effective; keeping your devices current can help ward off malware attacks.

How will AI impact the future of cybersecurity?

Though AI in the hands of a scammer is cause for concern, artificial intelligence can also be used to help people keep their identities safe. There are tools that use machine learning to show you which companies store your information — and help you send requests to delete it. By controlling what exists online, you can help prevent theft or misuse of your personal information.

While AI-generated content poses risks, it's important to remember that artificial intelligence can be a valuable tool when used appropriately. AI is, and will continue to be, instrumental in preventing identity theft from occurring.  (Allstate Identity Protection)



Huntsville Chapter Objectives

- Promote the aims of the national MOAA organization
- Further the legislative and other objectives of MOAA through grassroots activity
- Foster fraternal relationships among retired, active and former officers of the uniformed services
- Maintain liaison and a positive relationship with the Redstone Arsenal Garrison and other military commands in the Northern Alabama area
- Provide a social venue for members to meet periodically and enjoy fellowship with people of similar interests and backgrounds
- Promote and assist worthy community activities
- Provide useful services and information for members and their dependents and survivors
- Provide representation to the Alabama Council of Chapters of MOAA
- Provide representation to the Northern Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition
- Protect the rights and interests of service retirees and active-duty military members in matters of state legislation through the Alabama Council of Chapters

Benefits of Membership

We are the largest of the 13 chapters in Alabama and have over 320 members. We have been recognized by National MOAA for the last four years with Level of Excellence awards. We provide grassroots support for issues that affect us and are active in both the Redstone Arsenal and Madison County communities. Why should you join our chapter? This is what we do, and what's in it for you:

- Partnership with Redstone Arsenal agencies – Fox Army Health Clinic, Army Community Service, MWR, PX/Commissary, Military Retiree Council
- Membership in the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition (NAVFOC) – plugged in to the larger Veterans associations “big picture”
- Recognizing leadership – JROTC/ROTC awards and “gold bar” ceremonies
- Recognizing potential – Scholarship Awards program with the Redstone Arsenal Military and Civilians Club
- Community service/relations – annual Tut Fann Veterans Home BBQ, Memorial Day wreath laying ceremony, Veterans Day parade and events, Retiree Appreciation Day
- Camaraderie – Monthly meetings & breakfasts, parties, golf tournament
- Information – Monthly newsletter, web site, Personal Affairs, guest speakers
- Legislative action – grassroots activities, support for National MOAA agenda
- Venue for getting involved

Please visit our award-winning chapter website at <http://huntsvillemoaa.org> where you can find out more about chapter activities.

Attention Members

One of the best sources of income for the Chapter comes from advertisements like the ones in this newsletter. You are the best resource for identifying potential advertisers. The next time you go out to dinner, or to shop, or to get a haircut, or to get your car fixed – ask the business manager if they would consider advertising. Let them know that the newsletter reaches our 320+ members each month. All they can say is “no”.

If they are interested or desire more information, please let Bruce Robinson know, and he will follow up with them. His contact information is brobinso1976@gmail.com or 256-426-0525.

Important Dates in June

- 3 June - The Duke of Windsor married Wallis Warfield Simpson (1937)
- 4 June – Rome liberated by US 5th Army (1944)
- 4 June - A train wreck in Jessore, Bangladesh, killed 76 and injured over 500 (1972)
- 4 June – Chinese troops fire on unarmed protesters in Tiananmen Square in Beijing (1989)
- 5 June - Robert F Kennedy shot & mortally wounded (1968)
- 6 June - D-Day (1944)
- 6 June - California voters approved Proposition 13, severely limiting property tax rates (1978)
- 8 June – Apache leader Cochise died (1874)
- 8 June – Monthly Board Meeting – Java Café - 1100**
- 9 June - The British signed a 99-year lease for Hong Kong (1898)
- 10 June – Monthly Breakfast – City Café Diner – 0900**
- 10 June – Tut Fann BBQ – 1100**
- 11 June - Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines erupted (1991)
- 11 June - The Soviet military occupation of East Germany ended (1994)
- 12 June - The Philippines declared their independence from Spain (1898)
- 12 June - Civil rights leader Medgar Evers was assassinated (1963)
- 13 June - *The New York Times* began publishing the Pentagon Papers (1971)
- 14 June – Continental Army established (1775)
- 14 June - Warren G. Harding became the first President to broadcast a message over the radio (1922)
- 14 June - Univac 1, the world's first commercial electronic computer was unveiled (1951)
- 16 June – Golf Meeting – Links – 1200**
- 17 June – Watergate burglary (1972)
- 18 June – Battle of Waterloo (1815)
- 19 June - Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were executed (1953)
- 18 June – Father’s Day
- 20 June – First day of summer
- 22 June – Hitler invaded Russia (1941)
- 24 June – Berlin Blockade established (1948)
- 25 June – Custer’s last stand (1876)
- 25 June – Korean War began (1950)
- 26 June - The United Nations Charter was signed (1945)
- 28 June – World War I ended (1919)
- 28 June - Archduke Francis Ferdinand and his wife were assassinated at Sarajevo (1914)

