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May 2017



Huntsville Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America

# The Sentinel

Huntsvillemoaa.org



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR



Fellow Members –

Memorial Day will soon be here. Time for the usual days off, BBQ, perhaps a family beach trip. But don't forget why it is called "Memorial" day. Many people paid the ultimate price for the freedoms we enjoy now. Visit any Veterans cemetery (one is near Monnetvallo, AL) to pay your respects. Your Huntsville MOAA Chapter will be placing a wreath (29 May) at the local Maple Hill cemetery to honor its military. Always try to live your life in a manner that would honor their sacrifice.

Are you enjoying the low MOAA dues membership costs? The main reason our dues have stayed so low (\$10/year) for so long is due to the income we receive from Sentinel newsletter ads! We lost a large (USAA) and a couple of smaller sponsors over the last 2 years and need to immediately reverse this trend / replace those sponsors. I am requesting that our members to do 2 things to help in this effort. First, if you work for a company or you frequent a company/vendor, talk to them about advertising in our newsletter. If they ask for information, contact Bruce Robinson or Rick West (their numbers and emails are in the Sentinel) and they can provide it. If you provide a point of contact, they will take it from there. Second, respond to the advertisers. Let them know that you are there because of their ad in our newsletter and because of recommendations from members. This is key to them renewing the ad. Know also that we are working to get vendors to include in the ad specific discounts for Vets or for MOAA members.

Our Summer Social Event (at the Summit) coming up 17 June (Saturday) – Mexican theme! Also, a trip is planned to Nashville to observe the upcoming total solar eclipse on 21 August (a Monday)! We need about 56 people to reserve the bus that will take us on the trip. So far about half that have signed up.

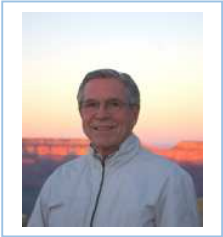
Be sure to attend our monthly member meetings, the last Wednesday of each month at the Summit. You can have lunch starting at 11 (please RSVP), with the meeting at 11:30. It lasts just over an hour with always interesting speakers. In May, we have a presentation about electrical grid protection. You can check out website for more information and updates: <http://huntsvillemoaa.org>

Gerald Maxwell

**Get Involved!**

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



## Legislative Corner

### Lt Col Gerald W. (Jerry) Haynes, USAF-Ret



**Take  
Action**

→ <http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/>

Well, you might find some of the fireworks that occur when our service chiefs get fed up with the pace of our congress. (Be sure your elected representatives hear from you regularly.) Here, from National MOAA is a prime example of what I mean by ‘fireworks’:

- **Service Chiefs Call Out Congress for “Professional Malpractice”**



As most of you know, for eight straight years, Congress has failed to pass a defense appropriations bill on time, forcing the armed services in wartime to operate for months at the start of every fiscal year under restrained spending authority called a continuing resolution (CR). CRs freeze defense spending at prior-year levels, block the start of new programs, delay expiration of old programs, and drive up procurement costs by billions of dollars by dismantling the efficiency of multiyear weapon contracts. For the current fiscal year, budget handcuffs on the military are tighter than at any time since the government shutdown of 2013. More than six months into FY 2017, the military continues to operate under a CR, in this case the second desperate budget patch lawmakers have applied since October.

As usual, Republicans and Democrats are paralyzed by partisanship. Republicans want only defense budgets to get relief from spending

*Continued on page 9*

#### 2017-2018 GOVERNING BOARD

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President: Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR, 256-606-5282, [gerald.c.maxwell@nasa.gov](mailto:gerald.c.maxwell@nasa.gov)

1st Vice President: CAPT Richard C. West, USN-Ret, 256-776-6901, [rickw675@att.net](mailto:rickw675@att.net)

2nd Vice President: Lt Col Charles T. Clements, USAF-Ret, 256-450-3610, [charles.clements@mda.mil](mailto:charles.clements@mda.mil)

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Army Representative: COL James D. Treadway, USA-Ret, 256-859-1484, [jtreadway51@mchsi.com](mailto:jtreadway51@mchsi.com)

Navy Representative: CW4 Louis J. Kubik, USMC-Ret, 256-859-3054, [lkubik@mediacombb.net](mailto:lkubik@mediacombb.net)

Air Force Representative: Col Edward L. Uher, USAF-Ret, 256-882-6824, [biged992K@aol.com](mailto:biged992K@aol.com)

Immediate Past President: Lt Col Charles T. Clements, USAF-Ret, 256-450-3610, [charles.clements@mda.mil](mailto:charles.clements@mda.mil)

Second Past President: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-450-3191, [brobinso@mitre.org](mailto:brobinso@mitre.org)

##### STANDING COMMITTEES

Membership: CDR Christine Downing, USN-Ret, 256-828-9740, [cdowning@bellsouth.net](mailto:cdowning@bellsouth.net)

Programs: COL James D. Treadway, USA-Ret, 256-859-1484, [jtreadway51@mchsi.com](mailto:jtreadway51@mchsi.com)

Legislative Affairs: Lt Col Gerald Haynes, USAF-Ret, 256-882-7857, [jerry15@hiwaay.net](mailto:jerry15@hiwaay.net)

Personal Affairs: COL Bill Stevenson, USA-Ret, 256-424-1334, [mrbill5779@comcast.net](mailto:mrbill5779@comcast.net)

Public Affairs (Publicity): Mrs. Jan Camp, 256-464-8622, [janetecamp@aol.com](mailto:janetecamp@aol.com)

Chapter Historian: Vacant

Auxiliary Liaison: Mrs. Jan Camp, 256-464-8622, [janetecamp@aol.com](mailto:janetecamp@aol.com)

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

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

Chapter Chaplain: CH (LTC) Bert E. Wiggers, AUS-Ret, 256-617-0055, [chbwjg@gmail.com](mailto:chbwjg@gmail.com)

Commissary & Post Exchange: Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR, 256-606-5282, [gerald.c.maxwell@nasa.gov](mailto:gerald.c.maxwell@nasa.gov)

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ROTC: Lt Col Charles T. Clements, USAF-Ret, 256-450-3610, [charles.clements@mda.mil](mailto:charles.clements@mda.mil)

TOPS: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-450-3191, [brobinso@mitre.org](mailto:brobinso@mitre.org)

The SENTINEL Editor: MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret, 256-450-3191, [brobinso@mitre.org](mailto:brobinso@mitre.org)

##### LIFE MEMBERSHIP TRUST

COL John Fairlamb, USA-Ret, 256-539-0161, [fairlambjrf@comcast.net](mailto:fairlambjrf@comcast.net) (June 2017)

MAJ Monte C. Washburn, USA-Ret, 256-301-5457, [monte.washburn@heartlandis.com](mailto:monte.washburn@heartlandis.com) (July 2018)

LTC John C. Franks, USA-Ret, 703-489-2701, [john.franks@ingenuityinc.net](mailto:john.franks@ingenuityinc.net) (July 2016)



**PX / Commissary**  
**Col Gerald C. Maxwell, USAFR**



**Main Exchange**

Your main Exchange has grills just in time for your weekend family and neighborhood plans. Large, small and all the BBQ accessories you will need. Plus, outdoor tables, chairs, dining items. Riding and regular mowers, lawn turf builders, weed killers, pruners – enough to keep you busy all season!

Check out the exercise equipment, clothing, barbells, sports equipment, bicycles, helmets, and exercise recording devices to track your progress. Stop in and save!

The Exchange also started their plant sale! Vegetables, ferns, decorative – you name it!

And, all the Easter items are now on clearance!

As always shop early for best selection.

**Shopette**

Your Shopette continues to offer wide selection of local brews! If you have a local favorite, stop in and speak to the Manager on duty about getting your favorite beer stocked. Upcoming events in May at your Shopette:

- Mother’s Day baskets available for purchase
- Purchase a minimum of \$25 (excluding fuel) and use your Star Card as payment, enter your name for a \$50 Exchange gift card. Drawing will be held 12 May.
- Pre-Memorial Day Sales event. Inside event 18-20 May. Vendors on site 1000-1700 each day.
- Knob Creek bottle etching event 25 May. Have your bottle personalized with a custom message. Hours 1200-1700.

*Continued on page 6*

**Need Addresses**

**None at this time**

We have lost track of the above member. If you know their whereabouts, please have them contact Chris Downing at 256-828-9740 to update their addresses.

**Concerns**

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

**CW4 Aniceto Bagley, USA**  
**MAJ Ray Weinberg, USA**  
**MAJ Hal Meeker, USA**

Persons to contact are:

Army Representative:  
**COL James D. Treadway**  
256-859-1484  
[jtreadway51@mchsi.com](mailto:jtreadway51@mchsi.com)

Navy/USMC Representative:  
**CW4 Louis J. Kubik**  
256-859-3054  
[lkubik@mediacombb.net](mailto:lkubik@mediacombb.net)

Air Force Representative:  
**Col Edward L. Uher**  
256-882-6824,  
[biged992K@aol.com](mailto:biged992K@aol.com)

Personal Affairs Officer  
**COL William Stevenson**  
256-424-1334  
[Mrbill5779@comcast.net](mailto:Mrbill5779@comcast.net)



Paul Snowden,  
Tim Kinnison, COL., USAF (Ret.)  
Gary Brotherton

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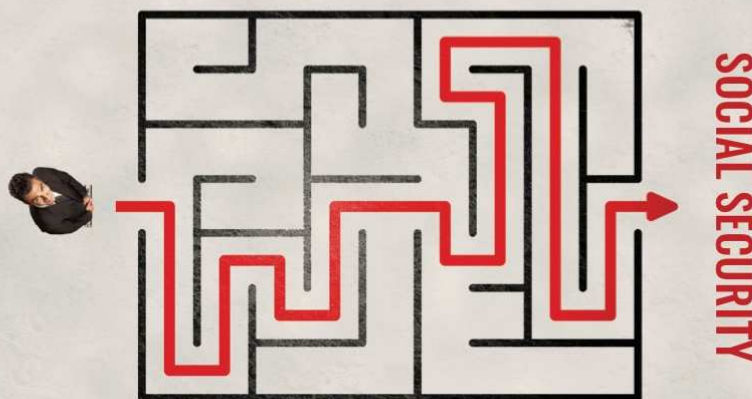
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**Fox Army Health Center**  
**MAJ Bruce T. Robinson, USA-Ret**



### **Department of Defense Formulary Change**

Effective immediately, Nexium has been removed from the Department of Defense (DoD) Formulary and is now considered a NON-FORMULARY item, which means Fox Army Health Center to include Express Scripts Mail Order, will no longer stock Nexium on their general formulary. Nexium is used to treat symptoms of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) and other conditions involving excessive stomach acid such as Zollinger-Ellison syndrome. Fox Army Health Center will still stock three other alternatives: Omeprazole (Prilosec), Aciphex (Rabeprazole), and Protonix (Pantoprazole). Please obtain a new prescription from your healthcare provider to be switched to one of these alternatives. For questions relating to this change, please contact the Fox Army Health Center Public Affairs Officer, 256-842-8818.

### **Improvements to the TRICARE Dental Program**

Beginning on May 1, 2017, United Concordia Companies, Inc. (United Concordia) will manage the TRICARE Dental Program (TDP). Beneficiaries don't need to take any actions to continue their coverage.

The TDP is a voluntary dental benefit for eligible active duty family members, National Guard and Reserve members and their families. Several improvements to the TDP include:

- The annual maximum TDP will pay will increase from \$1,300 to \$1,500
- The TDP will consider sealants a free and preventive treatment, and no longer include a 20 percent cost share
- The auto-enrollment age for family members will lower from age four to one
- For most beneficiaries, the monthly premium rate will decrease

The [Active Duty Dental Program](#) and [TRICARE Retiree Dental Program](#) will not change.

The TDP will continue to provide access to a network of civilian dentists around the world. Your access to quality care will not change. However, some dentists currently in the TDP network may leave, while new ones will join. So, those currently enrolled may need to find a new dental provider. To find participating dentists please visit: <https://www.uccitdp.com/find-a-dentist/>. You may nominate dentists to participate by clicking on [“Nominate Your Dentist”](#) on the page linked above and completing a simple form.

For more information regarding the TDP, please visit the [TRICARE website](#) or [www.uccitdp.com](http://www.uccitdp.com).



## Surviving Spouse's Luncheon

**Mrs. Carrie Hightower**  
**256-882-3992**

The surviving spouse's organization met for lunch on April 14<sup>th</sup> at the Red Lobster restaurant. The food was great, the conversation lively and was accompanied by much laughter. Those attending included Betty Ford, Liz Townsend, Margo Chabot, Linda Lind, Margot Snyder, Maryann Woodard, Carol Russell and Jan Camp.

We gather together again on May 12<sup>th</sup> at Madison's Main Street Café. Carol Russell will call all members as a reminder. Please plan to join us for another relaxed and entertaining luncheon.

*PX – continued from page 3*

### Commissary

The Commissary continues its plant sale! Ferns, figs, and blueberry plants! Remaining Easter items now on sale – many half off!

Check out Cinco de Mayo specials at the front of the store! Chips, tacos, queso, salsa, sauce, tortillas, Rotel, Velveeta, shuck corn (6 for \$1.98), and much more. For your BBQ, they have a wide variety of sauces! Jack Daniels, Stubbs, Sweet Baby Rays, Rufus Teague, Famous Dave's, J. Lee's, G. Hughes, Annie's, and much more.

As Memorial Day nears, it's grilling time. Your Commissary has large bags of Kingsford charcoal, as well as assorted wood chips for smoking. They always have plenty of pork butts, ribs, chicken and steaks for the grill master in your family. Finish the feast with some fresh corn on the cob and Bush's Grilling Beans. And don't forget the banana pudding.

For those beach trips, don't get sunburned. You can select from Coppertone, Banana Boat, Hawaiian Tropic. Plus, you will want to load up on snacks, they have Kashi, Keebler, Kellogg's, Club crackers, and Cheez-It's – all with coupons! 🍷





**Chaplain's Corner**  
**CH (LTC) Bert Wiggers, AUS-Ret**

**A Sentinel Standing on Guard of Our Hearts**

'Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:6-7, KJV).

There are three things we must remember when we pray. First, we must remember the love of God; He seeks and wants only the best for us. Second, we must remember the wisdom of God; He alone knows what is best for us. Third, we must remember the power of God; He only can bring to pass that which is best for us. He who prays with a perfect belief and trust in the love the wisdom and the power of God will find God's grace.

The result of believing prayer is that the peace of God will stand like a sentinel on guard upon our hearts. The word the Apostle Paul used (*phrourein*) is the military word for "standing on guard." That peace of God, says the Apostle, "passes understanding." This means that the peace of God is so precious that a human's mind, with all its skill and all its knowledge and all its understanding can never contrive it or find it or produce it. It is entirely beyond humans' ability to obtain it by him or her work. This peace can never be of human's contriving; it is only of God's giving. The way to peace is to take ourselves and all who we hold dear and to place them and ourselves trustingly in the hand of God.



**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO HUNTSVILLE CHAPTER MOAA**

**CW4 Michael McIntosh, USA**  
**COL John Olshefski, USA**  
**Capt Melissa Lacey, USAF**

**Scholarships**

The Chapter has instituted an active scholarship program. In conjunction with the Redstone Women's Club, we will issue one or more scholarships each year to a deserving student.

Please consider donating to our program. Contact Richard West for details.



**Officer Vacancy**

Our Chapter Secretary had to resign due to commitments to his day job. If anyone is interested in serving, please contact any board member.

**Treasurer's Report**

**CAPT Richard West, USN**

For the Month of March 2017

Beginning Balance	\$8208.08
Credits	985.00
Debits	914.48

Ending Balance                      \$8278.60



**Membership Meeting**  
**31 May 2017**  
**11 AM – Summit Club**

**Guest Speaker: Mr. Greg Allison**

Gregory H. Allison is the chairman of the Alabama Power Grid Defense Committee and Chaired the Power Grid Defense Conference at the Huntsville Marriott, 20-21 September. He has been active in the aerospace community as an electrical engineer, systems engineer, system safety engineer, project/program manager, team lead, and an avid space activist for 39 years.

The U.S. electrical power grid includes energy generation, energy transmission, and energy end-users in factories, cities, towns and homes. Energy generation includes coal, gas and oil-fired plants, nuclear plants, hydroelectric power at dams, and wind and solar "farms". Transmission includes the long-distance wires of transmission towers, the power transformers where power is drawn off, and the wires within local utilities to the end users.

This grid is vulnerable to cyber-attacks from state and individual actors on the computer systems that control the energy generation and transmission. It is also vulnerable to electromagnetic pulse (EMP) coming naturally from the Sun or artificially from detonation of nuclear weapons at an altitude of about 250 miles above the Earth. An EMP induces a high-voltage surge in wiring, overcoming normal surge arresters and burning out whatever systems they may be attached to such as power transformers, household electrical systems, computers, water pumps, water heaters, automobile computers, gasoline pumps, etc.

Our utilities are also vulnerable to physical attack, such as rifle attack on power transformer stations. This has already taken place.

Without power, it is much harder to produce or deliver food, medicines or consumer goods, operate emergency services, or communicate. Banking and telephones may be shut down, stores may run out of food within a week, and medicines will be depleted within one week to a month. First responders such as ambulances, police and fire trucks may stop unless they are protected against EMP.

It is possible to "harden" the electrical grid, home electrical systems, cars and trucks so EMP will not affect them as much. The military has hardened many of its war-fighting and communications systems, but the civilian world has done very little. The utilities companies say it is the duty of the federal government to pay to harden electric systems, while the government says it is the business of the electric utilities, which are private businesses, to harden their own systems. In the meantime, citizen groups in some states are taking it upon themselves to get their grids hardened. These include Texas, Virginia, Maine, Florida, New York, Oklahoma, Alaska and Alabama.

This should be a great talk – hope to see you there!

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**Menu:** Baked chicken, BBQ Pork, Macaroni & cheese, Green beans, Banana pudding and assorted beverages

**Cost:** \$15 for Chapter members and their guests – pay at the door – cash or check only

**RSVP:** CDR Christine Downing, 256-828-9740, [csgiving@bellsouth.net](mailto:csgiving@bellsouth.net), NLT 27 May 2017



controls imposed by the Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA). Democrats want relief from the BCA for domestic programs, too. So far, claims of deteriorating readiness across the military aren't enough to stir an old-fashioned from this generation of lawmakers.

At a recent hearing, before the House Armed Services Committee, service chiefs of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps predicted readiness disasters if Congress fails to pass a \$578 billion defense money bill, or even a \$30 billion defense supplemental budget the White House requested in early March. With the current CR set to expire April 28 and Congress taking a two-week break for Easter and Passover, military leaders fear lawmakers will take the easy path again and vote for a third CR to cover the last five months of fiscal 2017. If that occurs, service chiefs warned, then by early summer training will stop across much of the military. New recruits won't be sent to boot camp. Most aircraft at stateside bases will be grounded. Ship repairs will stop. Only next-to-deploy ground units will see critical training continue. Most training center rotations and large-scale exercises will be suspended. Routine maintenance of equipment will be halted, and thousands of military families will see transfer orders put on hold. Rep. Susan Davis (D-Calif.) got a sense of the depth of frustration felt by the chiefs when she suggested CRs might be the “new normal” and asked if military leaders shouldn't find more effective ways to deal with that reality.

“I don't accept it as a new normal, Congresswoman,” snapped Gen. Mark A. Milley, Army chief of staff (see photo above). “Candidly, failure to pass a budget, in my view both as an American citizen and chief of staff of the United States Army, constitutes professional malpractice. I don't think we should accept it as the new normal. I think we should pass it and pass the supplemental with it. And get on with it.” “The world is a dangerous place,” Milley continued. “And it's becoming more dangerous - by the day!” he said, emphasizing each word for effect. “Pass the budget.” Other chiefs softened their tone but agreed with Milley it can't become normal to saddle the military with months of budget uncertainty every year.

Adm. John M. Richardson, chief of naval operations, said accepting CRs as normal would mean accepting the idea of giving potential adversaries a head start every year in the race to gain or sustain military dominance.

Gen. David L. Goldfein, Air Force chief of staff, said every service chief visits frontline fighting forces and can “give that speech” on why they are there, separated from family and putting their lives at risk. The hardest question to field, he said, is why Americans back home don't seem to be paying attention. “Are we serious about this or not? Is the risk, going forward, worth it or not? And I'm not sure, if we don't even pass a budget, that we can look them in the eye and tell them that what they're doing ... is on the minds of this Congress,” Goldfein said.

By early March, the House alone had passed a defense appropriations bill to cover the current year. The Senate defense appropriations subcommittee was still discussing with leadership how it should proceed. “No one is advocating for a full-year CR for the Department of Defense,” said a committee staff member. “It has never operated under one, and we do not intend to start doing that now. We want that to be very clear.” Details of the House-passed appropriations had been worked

## Social Media

The age of the computer and smartphone has changed the way people communicate and interact with one another. According to an article from Pew Research Center, around 7 in 10 Americans use social media to “connect with one another, engage with news content, share information, and entertain themselves.” And it is commonplace to see individuals walking down the street, sitting at a table, or, unfortunately, driving their cars while using a cellphone. Social media even gained added emphasis during this past election as a tool for candidates to connect directly with the American people. Some of the more common social media applications include:

**Facebook** — a social networking site that allows you to connect with friends, family, and peers; share messages, videos, and photos; and like and follow companies, causes, business, etcetera.

**Twitter** — a social networking site that enables users to send and receive communication in 140 characters or less.

**LinkedIn** — popular for professionals looking to network, connect with peers, and job search.

**Instagram** — used to take, edit, share, and view photos and videos.

**Snapchat** — similar to Instagram in that it’s photo and video focused, but the messages are available for only a short time.

**Pinterest** — used to create a personal catalog of websites, pictures, ideas, and how-to’s for later use.

To learn more or to get started using social media, visit

<http://www.gcflearnfree.org/topics/socialmedia/> and <http://www.socialmediaexaminer.com/getting-started/>.

MOAA has a presence on numerous social media sites. Learn more. As with just about anything, it is necessary to use social media responsibly. Be aware of and know how to edit public profile settings to ensure privacy, and remember it is a choice to do any or none at all.

## **Redstone Arsenal Community Women’s Club**

presents the

### **Merit Award and Community Assistance Grants Reception**



9 May 2017

5:00 – 7:00 PM

Summit Club

Refreshments will be provided

No cost to attend - No RSVP required

Dress: Business Casual

Our Chapter is a major sponsor – this is where we give away the money raised from the golf tournament

***Please attend and support the award and grant winners!***

BRING ADD IN AND GET 20% OFF ONE ITEM !!

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**Membership Statistics**

Total Members: 357  
Surviving Spouses: 68

New this month: 3  
Deaths this month: 1  
Renewals: 6

**Memorial Day Wreath Ceremony**

**Maple Hill Cemetery  
29 May 2017**



**Contact Charles Clements for more information**

**Help the Chapter Recruit  
New Members**

**Do you know someone who is eligible to be a Chapter member?**

**Bring him/her to the next membership meeting as your guest**

**If they join the Chapter, lunch is on us at the next meeting**

**You are the Chapter's best recruiters**

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Huntsville Chapter  
 Military Officers Association of America  
 P.O. Box 1301  
 Huntsville, Al 35807



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

\_\_\_\_\_ **New**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **One Year**     **\$10**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **Two Years**     **\$20**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **Three Years**     **\$30**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Renewal**  
 Interested in a Chapter Life Membership?  
 Contact us for pricing (based on your age)

\_\_\_\_\_ **First Name**     \_\_\_\_\_ **MI**     \_\_\_\_\_ **Last Name**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Preferred Name**     \_\_\_\_\_ **Birthday (mm/dd/yy)**     \_\_\_\_\_ **Spouse's Name**     \_\_\_\_\_ **Period(s) of Active Duty**  
 i.e. 1965 – 1990

\_\_\_\_\_ **Grade**     \_\_\_\_\_ **Branch of Service**     \_\_\_\_\_ **MOAA National Member #**

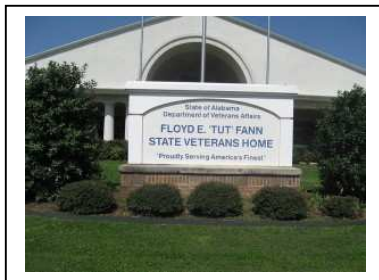
\_\_\_\_\_ **Active**     \_\_\_\_\_ **Retired**     \_\_\_\_\_ **NG**     \_\_\_\_\_ **Former Officer**     \_\_\_\_\_ **Reserve**     \_\_\_\_\_ **Surviving Spouse**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Mailing Address**     \_\_\_\_\_ **City**     \_\_\_\_\_ **State**     \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Phone Number**     \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail Address**

**The Annual Floyd E. "Tut" Fann Veterans Home BBQ**

**Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> – 11AM**



**Volunteers needed to help feed the vets a great BBQ meal**  
**Afterwards, a free lunch for you**  
**The Chapter has supported this great effort for many years**  
**Come on out and be a part of it!**

**32 Birthdays in April  
Happy Birthday!**



**TAPS**

Our deepest sympathy to the families of our departed friends

**CAPT James Newman, USN**

LCDR Edward King, USN	Mrs Hannelore Murphy
LTC James Carter, USA	Lt Col Louis Davis, USAF
LTC Hector New, USA	COL James Bizer, USA
Col William Gibson, USAF	CPT Arthur Werkheiser, USA
Col John Morrison, USAF	CW4 Jeffrey Sumners, USA
Mrs Mabel Byrd	COL Christopher Sargent, USA
COL Harold Hicks, USA	LTC Randall Withrow, USA
CDR Steven Middleton, USN	CWO4 Gary Sweet, USN
Mrs Jan Camp	LTC David Pray, USA
CAPT Lawrence Grimes, USN	LTC Allyn Griffiths, USA
COL James Allred, USA	MAJ Charles Drake, USMC
LTC Paul Hays, USA	MAJ Loran McKinley, USA
Lt Col Arthur Miller, USAF	COL James Treadway, USA
LTC Donnie Henley, USA	CH (LTC) James Johnson, USA
CW3 Kenneth Nurmi, USN	CW3 William Holtzclaw, USMC
LTC James Leary, USA	Mrs Nancy Wiggs

**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:

**Memorial Day**

Memorial Day is a federal holiday in the United States for remembering the people who died while serving in the country's armed forces. The holiday, which is currently observed every year on the last Monday of May, originated as Decoration Day after the American Civil War in 1868, when the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of Union veterans, established it as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the Union war dead with flowers. By the 20th century, competing Union and Confederate holiday traditions, celebrated on different days, had merged, and Memorial Day eventually extended to honor all Americans who died while in the military service. It marks the start of the unofficial summer vacation season, while Labor Day marks its end.

Many people visit cemeteries and memorials, particularly to honor those who have died in military service. Many volunteers place an American flag on each grave in national cemeteries.

On Memorial Day, the flag of the United States is raised briskly to the top of the staff and then solemnly lowered to the half-staff position, where it remains only until noon. It is then raised to full-staff for the remainder of the day.

Memorial Day is not to be confused with Veterans Day; Memorial Day is a day of remembering the men and women who died while serving, while Veterans Day celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans.

# HCMOAA SUMMER PARTY

## A Mexican Fiesta

WHERE: The Summit Club  
WHEN: Saturday, 17 June 2017 from 6:00 - 9:30 PM  
PRICE: \$18.00 per person (gratuity included)

Reservations are required no later than 13 May 2017

**Mexican or Casual Dress**  
**(prizes for best costume)**

### MENU

Tacos with Beef Strips & Chicken  
Beef and Bean Burritos  
Mexican Style Rice  
Refried Beans  
Guacamole  
Sopapillas with Chocolate Sauce & Honey  
Coffee, Ice Tea

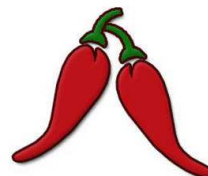


Cash Bar

Please reserve \_\_\_\_ spaces for me (us)  
Enclosed is a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$18.00 per person) payable to HCMOAA  
Please mail to: CDR Christine Downing, 116 Spring Tanner Rd, Hazel Green, AL  
35750

The people in my party will be:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_



*Legislative – continued from page 9*

out with senators with bipartisan support. The \$30 billion defense supplemental, however, might not enjoy the same level of bipartisan support.

Rep. John Garamendi (D-Calif.) noted at the House hearing that the supplemental includes \$5.1 billion to fund President Trump's new strategy for defeating the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), the terrorist organization still holding territory in Iraq and Syria. Garamendi pressed Milley for details. The Army chief declined to share publicly. "I guess you would expect us to approve a plan that's not been submitted," Garamendi complained. So far Congress doesn't know, he said, "where the money would be spent [or] how it would be spent."

Rep. Mac Thornberry (R-Texas), committee chairman, said frequent deployments have done more damage to readiness "than most of us realize, requiring more time and more money to repair than is generally expected." Responsibility for "the current state of affairs" can be shared with "both Congress and the Obama administration, with both Republicans and Democrats, with both military and civilian leadership." Defense budgets, he said, "got caught up in the partisan back-and-forth on other issues and has even been held hostage for other priorities. We need to get back to evaluating our defense needs on their own, without regard to any agreement or disagreement we may have on other issues."

Rep. Adam Smith (Wash.), the committee's ranking Democrat, said the services deserve timely funding bills. CRs, he said, are "a colossal waste of your time and also very expensive." But Smith told the chiefs he can't agree "that we can somehow pull defense out of the entire rest of the federal government ... as if all the other money we spend on government doesn't matter." Adopting a full-year CR would mean canceled training, costly maintenance delays, and supply shortages across the military. But deploying forces would still be well-trained and equipped and other units would still deploy if called, Goldfein said. The Air Force chief advised adversaries listening to testimony on budget challenges to still know, if they were to challenge the U.S. military, they will lose. "I'll give you just one example: If [Russian President Vladimir] Putin makes a bad choice, he will face the combined economic and military might of 28 nations, and the most powerful alliance we've ever been part of. And that spells his loss." ■■■

## Save the Date

**21 August 2017 (A Monday)**



There will be a total eclipse of the sun at about 2PM that day. The track of the eclipse is just north of Nashville. The Chapter plans to have a bus reserved to take members up to Nashville for lunch, and then to witness the eclipse. The last time there was a coast to coast eclipse in the US was 1918. This is a once in a lifetime event.

If you are interested in attending, contact any board member. The more that attend, the cheaper the cost of the bus. Hope to see you in Nashville!

## Chapter Happenings



Rick West and Bruce Robinson receive the MOAA 5-star Communications Award for best website and best newsletter



April Member Meeting – “Gold Bar” cadets



April Member Meeting - COL Caz Taylor, AMC G1, addressing the cadets



April Member Meeting – COL Caz Taylor receives a certificate from chapter president Gerald Maxwell



## Improvements to the TRICARE Dental Program

Beginning on May 1, 2017, United Concordia Companies, Inc. (United Concordia) will manage the TRICARE Dental Program (TDP). Beneficiaries don't need to take any actions to continue their coverage.

The TDP is a voluntary dental benefit for eligible active duty family members, National Guard and Reserve members and their families. Several improvements to the TDP include:

- The annual maximum TDP will pay will increase from \$1,300 to \$1,500
- The TDP will consider sealants a free and preventive treatment, and no longer include a 20 percent cost share
- The auto-enrollment age for family members will lower from age four to one
- For most beneficiaries, the monthly premium rate will decrease

The [Active Duty Dental Program](#) and [TRICARE Retiree Dental Program](#) will not change.

The TDP will continue to provide access to a network of civilian dentists around the world. Your access to quality care will not change. However, some dentists currently in the TDP network may leave, while new ones will join. So, those currently enrolled may need to find a new dental provider. To find participating dentists please visit: <https://www.uccitdp.com/find-a-dentist/>. You may nominate dentists to participate by clicking on "[Nominate Your Dentist](#)" on the page linked above and completing a simple form.

For more information regarding the TDP, please visit the [TRICARE website](#) or [www.uccitdp.com](http://www.uccitdp.com).

### ***Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser***

***When: Saturday, 13 May 2017***

***Where: Applebee's, 3028 Memorial Pkwy SW  
Next to Joe Davis Stadium***

***Time: 07:00 until 10:00***

***Cost: \$5 suggested donation***



**The Rocket City AGCRA**



## **Moving? Transfer your TRICARE Prime Enrollment**

Moving season is right around the corner. It is important to maintain your health care coverage when moving. Fortunately, with TRICARE the process is simple. If you have TRICARE Prime, you may transfer your enrollment by phone, online, or by mail. Follow these easy steps to make sure you have a smooth transition in your coverage:

### **Before Moving:**

- Fill prescriptions
- Take your current primary care manager's contact information with you
- If your family uses the Extended Health Care Option Program (ECHO), let your current regional contractor know. The contractor will coordinate the transfer of ECHO care to a new primary care manager.

The current contractor will also share your Exceptional Family Member Program information with the new contractor.

### **During the Move:**

If you need care while traveling, you can use urgent care without a referral. The [Urgent Care Pilot](#) program allows Prime members living in the U.S. two urgent care visits each [fiscal year](#) (Oct 1—Sept 30). The visits must be with a [TRICARE-authorized provider](#). The Urgent Care Pilot Program is not available to beneficiaries overseas. However, if you are enrolled overseas and traveling stateside, you don't need a referral and you aren't limited to two visits. If you aren't sure if you need urgent care, call the Nurse Advice Line at 1-800-TRICARE (1-800-874-2273) and dial option 1 to talk to a nurse. It is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

For emergencies, you do not need a referral. If you have an emergency call 911 or go to an [emergency room](#). For more information when traveling with TRICARE visit [www.tricare.mil/traveling](http://www.tricare.mil/traveling).

### **After Arriving at Your New Location:**

Once you arrive at your new duty station or location, update and verify your new address, phone number or other personal information in DEERS. You may:

- Visit <http://milconnect.dmdc.mil>, or
- Visit <http://www.tricare.mil/DEERS>, or
- Call 1-800-538-9552, or
- Mail updates to:

Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office  
Attention: COA  
400 Gigling Road  
Seaside, CA 93955-6771

To find a doctor, compare plans, manage prescriptions and book appointments visit the [TRICARE website](#). Follow the steps listed above to transfer your TRICARE Prime enrollment and have one less thing to worry about this moving season.

## **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 about 450 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 Community Women’s 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.

## HCMOAA Scholarship Fund

Our Chapter is currently classified as a 501(c)(19) tax-exempt tax-deductible organization under IRS code. Although this covers most of the Chapter's needs, a significant number of major donor and sponsor organizations are "off limits" due to their requirement for the non-profit organization to be 501(c)(3). These donors include most professional sport teams, large chains (including Dick's, Bass Pro, Cabela's, Target, Kroger, etc.) and even the Amazon Smile program. In our continuing effort to improve the Chapter's Fund, we are exploring 501(c)(3) status for the "Scholarship Fund". To assist in this application, the Chapter is looking for help from one of our current/former JAG members. If you are willing to help us in this worthwhile effort – or know of a lawyer who would be able to help us – please contact the Scholarship Fund Chairman, CAPT Rick West, USN (Ret.) at [rickw675@att.net](mailto:rckw675@att.net) or (256) 776-6901. Thanks!

## Important Dates in May

- 1 May – Francis Gary Powers shot down over Soviet Union (1960)
- 2 May – Osama Bin Laden killed (2011)
- 4 May – 4 students killed at Kent State University (1970)
- 5 May – Cinco de Mayo
- 5 May – Alan Shepard first American in space (1961)
- 6 May – Kentucky Derby
- 6 May – Hindenburg explodes - Lakehurst, NJ (1937)
- 7 May – *Lusitania* sunk by German submarine (1917)
- 9 May – RSA CWC Merit Awards – 1700 Summit Club
- 10 May – MRC All-Hands – 1530 One Stop Room 144
- 11 May – Monthly Board Meeting – 1100 Java Café**
- 11 May – Battle of "Hamburger Hill" in Vietnam (1969)
- 12 May – Berlin blockade ended (1949)
- 13 May – Monthly Breakfast – 0900 Royal Rose Diner**
- 14 May – Mother's Day
- 14 May – Lewis & Clark began their expedition (1804)
- 14 May – Smallpox vaccine developed (1796)
- 15 May – George Wallace shot (1972)
- 17 May – New York Stock Exchange established (1792)
- 18 May – Napoleon became Emperor of France (1804)
- 18 May – Mount St. Helens erupted (1980)
- 20 May – Armed Forces Day
- 21 May – Lindberg lands in Paris (1927)
- 21 May – American Red Cross founded (1881)
- 24 May – First telegraph message sent (1844)
- 27 May – Golden Gate bridge opens (1937)
- 29 May – Memorial Day
- 30 May – Lincoln Memorial dedicated (1922)
- 31 May – Johnstown flood killed 2300 people (1889)
- 31 May – Monthly Member Meeting – 1100 Summit Club – Mr. Greg Allison**

