



One Powerful Voice.

Middle Tennessee Chapter Military Officers Association of America



Web Site: mimoaa.org

March 2009

Editors: Doug, Gus and Paul

MOAA Monthly Luncheon

March 24, 2009
11:30 AM

Old Natchez Country Club
115 Gardengate Dr
Franklin TN 37069

Experiences of an 101st Airborne Aviator

LTC Jason Cummins

LTC Cummins has recently redeployed to Ft. Campbell following a successful tour of duty with the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade in Afghanistan, where he was the first BATT Ops Officer (not sure what that means?, then come to the meeting to find out!). He currently serves as the Brigade Executive Officer.

LTC Cummins is a graduate of the University of Kentucky and was commissioned from their Army ROTC program in 1993. As an Apache Helicopter Aviator he has had a variety of assignments, but along the way he has managed to complete his MBA degree at the University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School of Business, and teach at West Point for two years in the Department of Social Sciences.

LTC Cummins is scheduled to PCS in May of this year, and will become the Professor of Military Science, Army ROTC at the University of Kentucky.

This program promises to be quite enjoyable and possibly educational to boot! LTC Cummins has promised to bring a contingent of aviators and spouses down for the meeting, so lets make sure that we turn out in force to show our appreciation in return!

Officers

President

COL Doug Minton

1st Vice President

CAPT Dale Lewelling

Secretary

LCDR Gus Gustafson

Treasurer

LTC Michael Patenaude

Past President

CDR John Ohlinger

Directors

BG Jeremiah Brophy

LTC Wanda Graham

1st Lt John Manley

CAPT Dana McLendon

CAPT Charles Stewart

CAPT Dennis Witzenburg

DUES

Please look at your address label. If the top line doesn't read like this:
"Dues paid thru 1/1/2010"

Then your 2009 Chapter dues are due.

Member dues are \$15.00

Associate dues are \$5.00

Checks may be made out to MTC Chapter MOAA and mailed to MTC MOAA, P.O. Box 50252, Nashville, TN 37205-0252.

We currently carry 279 members on our rolls; and as of March 9th, 230 of those members have paid their dues for 2009. We appreciate their timeliness and encourage the remaining members to join their ranks as soon as possible.

Change Your Email Recently? We are working on an email distribution list, so send your name and new address to Doug Minton at mintond@comcast.net.

MTC Board Notes

Many thanks to member LTC Wanda Graham for the Personal Affairs Update in February. Wanda did a very nice job of reminding us that we all need to keep our personal affairs documentation current! If you did not receive a copy of the MOAA Personal Affairs Guide at the last meeting, Wanda will have the remaining copies at our March meeting, or you can contact MOAA for a copy.

Your Board recognizes that the primary reason that most of us join and attend meetings is for the camaraderie, and that the fellowship grows as we learn more about the histories of our fellow members. Your Board is working on several suggestions intended to enhance this camaraderie by finding a way to share more of our stories. LTC Wanda Graham shared her story at the February meeting, and we will try to accomplish this more frequently at upcoming meetings.

Scholarship Fundraising Update:

As of March 9th sixty-eight members have responded with contributions for our 2009 MOAA Scholarship installment. While this is a very good start, it only represents the efforts of a quarter of our membership; imagine what we could accomplish with half of the membership responding! We will have an overall Scholarship status update published in the near future.

Road Trip?

We are considering visitation of the Arnold Air Force Base in Tullahoma, TN as an option to having an October meeting this year. It truly is "rocket science" and makes for a very interesting tour! You will remember that Col Art Huber, Commander Arnold AFB gave a 30 minute glimpse into the activities at Arnold last October.

Our Annual Joint ROTC Picnic is in the planning phase, with a date and venue to be published soon! Thanks go out to CAPT Mark Laughton (VU NROTC) and LtCol Karon Uzzell-Baggett (TSU AFROTC) for their continuing efforts to make this happen. And while on the topic of ROTC thanks are always due to MAJ Dan Sullenger, USA Retired for his ongoing activities as our Middle TN POC for the MOAA Award packets that are available for Junior ROTC Graduates. A great job with very little fanfare!

Doug Minton
President, Middle TN Chapter

Middle Tennessee Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
P. O. Box 50252
Nashville, TN 37205-0252

Legislative News

Earlier this month, Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL) introduced his bipartisan bill, "The Military Retiree Survivor Equity Act" (S. 535), which would repeal the law that requires deduction of VA survivor benefits from military Survivor Benefit Plan annuities. The reduction can be up to \$1,154 per month and affects 57,000 survivors.

Please use MOAA's Web site to urge your senators to cosponsor this important legislation. Please also urge your U.S. representatives to cosponsor the House companion bill (H.R. 775) sponsored by Reps. Solomon Ortiz (D-TX) and Henry Brown (R-SC).

Upcoming MTC Programs

April 28
CDR Jim Auer, USN Ret.*
US Military Relations with Japan

May 26
MAJ Mike Nave, TN ARNG
TNG Partnership for Peace Mission-Bulgaria

June 23
LTG Garry Trexler, USAF Ret*

July 28
CPT(P) Matt Smith, TN ARNG*
Preparation for 2nd Deployment to Iraq

August 25
Col Gus Schettler, TN ANG*

TRICARE Reminder

Keep Your Data Current to Ensure TRICARE Benefits

(This is just one of the areas discussed by LTC Graham in our February Meeting)

When Should You Update DEERS?

- whenever you have a new phone number, mailing address or email address;
- change in marital status;
- changes in military status such as retiring from active duty;
- when you have a baby or adopt a child;
- if a child is enrolled in college (to extend benefits beyond the normal age limit of 21);
- when attaining Medicare eligibility;
- death of sponsor or family member; and
- before your uniformed services ID card expires

How Do You Update DEERS?

First, you can *verify* DEERS information by: Visiting a personnel office (ID card-issuing facility). You also can add or delete a family member from your DEERS record there. Locate the nearest office online at www.dnmc.osd.mil/fsl.

- Calling (800) 538-9552, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m. EST, except federal holidays.
- To change your phone number, address, or e-mail address:
- Call (800) 538-9552
- Visit www.tricare.mil/DEERS
- Fax the information to (831) 655-8317

Be all that you can be for your loved ones, keep your records current!