



One Powerful Voice.®

Middle Tennessee Chapter

Military Officers Association of America



Web Site: mtcmooa.org

May 2009

Editors: Doug, Gus and Paul

MOAA Monthly Luncheon

May 26, 2009
11:30 AM

Old Natchez Country Club
115 Gardengate Dr
Franklin TN 37069

Maj Mike Nave, TN ANG
State Partnership Director
(Bulgaria) - TN National Guard

Major Nave is the State Partnership Program Director for the Tennessee's Army and Air National Guard units. In this capacity, Major Nave oversees the coordination of military exchanges between the Tennessee National Guard units and its host country, the Republic of Bulgaria. He oversees not only the military to military exchanges but civilian-to-civilian exchanges as well. Maj Nave recently completed a five month tour serving as the Bi-Lateral Affairs Officer (BAO) in Sofia, Bulgaria at the U.S. Embassy and the Bulgarian Ministry of Defense.

Major Nave has served as the Health Systems Specialist and Deputy Director of Operations for the 118th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron prior to his appointment to JFHQ. Major Nave received his commission through a direct appointment from the National Guard Bureau as a Medical Service Corp Officer in May 1996. He has also served as a flight instructor and flight examiner for aeromedical evacuation technicians accumulating over 1450 hours in the C-130 aircraft. He has also served as the Executive Officer of the 118th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.

(Another program with an International twist—don't miss it!)

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

2009 Memorial Day Ceremony

Our Chapter will conduct its annual Memorial Day Ceremony on Saturday, 23 May 2009 at 1000 hours at the TN State Veteran's Cemetery on McCrory Lane (located off I-40 West, just west of Bellevue).

The ceremony is military in nature for the sole purpose of honoring the deceased. There are no speeches. It commences with General Officer Honors, the presentation of the Honor Guard, and "Sound Off" by the Piper. This is followed by the Publishing of the Order "Each year a day shall be set aside for the purpose of decorating the graves of all veterans with flowers and ribbon. The practice shall continue until the last veteran no longer stands..." Placement of wreaths, followed by Amazing Grace and Taps played by the piper, concludes the ceremony.

We welcome and encourage your participation! The wearing of your uniform is definitely encouraged.

MTC Board Notes

Do you remember when an instructor would spring a pop test on you just to see how much you knew about a subject? It seems that CDR Jim Auer, our April speaker, has learned a few tricks as a Professor at Vanderbilt! Luckily he declared that we would be grading our own tests and quickly moved to increase our awareness of the development of relations between Japan and the US since the end of World War II. The ability to string events together and coherently show cause and effect is a gift, and it is obvious that Jim possesses it with this subject.

On a belated note, it seems that the Japanese government also recognizes Jim's expertise in this arena, as the Emperor of Japan announced in November that he would be the recipient of the Order of the Rising Sun; which was conferred upon him on December 26th by the Consulate General of Japan in Nashville. Once again, our congratulations Jim!

Did you know that we have a number of members that are deployed, or about to deploy? **LTC Tony Funderburg** (USA Ret) is serving a civilian tour in Afghanistan. **LTC Mike Walsh**, USA has departed his MTSC ROTC assignment for Iraq. **2LT Jason Pollard**, USMCR is in the process of deploying to Iraq. I know that I am probably missing someone, and if so we will pick them up in later newsletters.

Other changes in process include **CAPT Mark Laughton**, USN retiring from his Professor of Naval Science Post at VU, to be replaced by **CAPT Jamie Hopkins**, USN who will not redeploy from Iraq until later this year. Mark will be returning to Beaufort, SC to let his children get to know their grandparents.

Scholarship Fundraising Update: As of May 1 we have collected approximately \$3510.00 in scholarship contributions which will retire our 2009 commitment and leave us a small balance to apply against our 2010 commitment. A large **Thank You** goes out to the 81 members and friends that contributed to this amount!

Doug Minton, President, MTC

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

Upcoming MTC Programs

May 26

Maj Mike Nave, TN ANG
TN Partnership for Peace Mission-Bulgaria

June 23

Lt Gen 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*
TN Air National Guard Roles & Missions

* Current Middle TN Chapter Members.

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.

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. We will begin taking a count to determine how many are interested at the May meeting, so think about whether you would be interested and available.

Our Annual Joint ROTC Picnic is in the planning phase, with a *September* date and venue to be published soon!

Items of Interest in the 2010 Budget for Defense and VA

Manpower plus-ups. It fully funds planned increases to the Army and Marine Corps and would halt planned reductions for the Air Force and Navy, according to Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) Robert Hale.

Full funding for the TRICARE program. The good news is that this is the first time in four years that the budget hasn't included formal proposals for big hikes in TRICARE fees for retirees under 65. The bad news is that Pentagon leaders still want to raise TRICARE fees. A key difference is that this year, they're going to ask Congress to do that rather than cutting the budget on the assumption that it will happen.

Further progress on concurrent receipt. The specific details are not yet available, but the general descriptions offered make it appear that the proposal would extend current eligibility rules for retirees with 20 or more years of service to members forced into medical retirement before attaining 20 years.

A 2.9% military pay raise. MOAA supports a modestly larger 3.4% raise to continue to shrink the military pay gap, and both the House and Senate Armed Services Committees have endorsed the higher figure.

An Increase to the VA budget. The VA Budget of \$113 billion is more than a 15% increase over current year spending, due in large measure to enactment of increased GI Bill benefits and increased numbers of disabled veterans qualifying for VA benefits. Specifics include:

- Gradual expansion of VA health care eligibility up to 500,000 "category 8" vets (nondisabled vets whose incomes are currently above regional ceilings) by 2013
- \$144 million to begin implementing a paperless claims processing system
- Adding staff, improving procedures and using technology to reduce claims backlogs and reduce claims processing to 150 days (vs. an estimated 168 for FY2009)
- Nearly \$6 billion to expand long-term care services and \$4.6 billion to expand mental health programs.