



**Middle Tennessee Chapter**  
**A 2019 5 Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter**  
**Military Officers Association of America**



Web: <https://www.mtcmoaa.org>

August 2021

Editor: Doug Minton

**MOAA Monthly Meeting**

**24 August 2021; 11:30 AM-1:00 PM**

**"Homeland Security Brief"**

**Mr. Ron Hughes**  
**Mr. Mark Collier**

Old Natchez Country Club,  
 115 Gardengate Drive,  
 Franklin, TN 37069

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and its homeland security mission were born from the commitment and resolve of Americans across the United States in the wake of the September 11th attacks. DHS is committed to relentless resilience, striving to prevent future attacks against the United States and our allies, responding decisively to natural and man-made disasters, and advancing American prosperity and economic security long into the future.

Our Speakers:

**Mr. Ron Hughes**, an Intelligence Operations Specialist, joined DHS's Office of Intelligence and Analysis in October 2009 to become the first DHS Intelligence Officer deployed to the Tennessee Fusion Center. He is charged with providing intelligence support to law enforcement, public safety, and private sector partners in Tennessee, to include DHS components. Prior to joining DHS, Mr. Hughes was a full-time member of the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force in Nashville and a key member of the district's Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council.

Mr. Hughes is retired from the United States Air Force. During his military career he functioned as a Signals Intelligence Analyst supporting military operations.

**Mr. Mark Collier** serves as the Collection Operations Manager of the Southeast Region for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A). He is responsible for intelligence collection, production, and dissemination throughout the region. Mr. Collier has served in this position, in Nashville, Tennessee, since 2015. Mr. Collier has been with DHS since 2005.

Prior to joining DHS, Mr. Collier served for over 20 years on active duty with the U.S. Army and retired in 2005. He conducted HUMINT collection and reporting operations in peacetime and war, to support the U.S. Army, the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) and other national level government agencies in the United States, Europe, and Africa.

**Officers**

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LTC (Ret) Mike Patenaude, USA

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CDR (Ret) Ted Edwards, USN

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**Scholarship Time**

We have made great strides in fulfilling the endowment requirements for our fourth MOAA National Scholarship as well as our inaugural Veterans Scholarship at Lipscomb University; and we continue to provide \$1000 as an annual veterans scholarship at Lipscomb and Belmont. Please be watching for our annual chapter scholarship solicitation letter in the mail!

**RSVP and Mask Requirements for the August 2021 meeting.**

**There is no need to submit an RSVP for the August meeting.**

**If you have been vaccinated for Covid-19 there is NO mask requirement for this meeting; however, if you have not been vaccinated we suggest that you wear a mask in the meeting, with the exception of when you are eating.**

If you have been vaccinated and still feel more comfortable wearing a mask, then please do so.

**President's Letter**

It was great to see CAPT Erin Stone, USN Retired at our July meeting and hear directly from MOAA National about their current goings on. She was impressed with the vibrancy of our Middle TN chapter, specifically in the areas of engagement and membership. She explained that many chapters are only now beginning to meet in person, and many are trying to rebuild their chapters. Erin was energized to see two new members sign up at our July meeting and enjoyed participating in a meeting with close to 40 members in attendance.

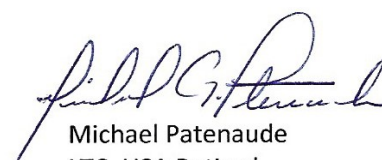
On that note, I encourage you all to keep our chapter in mind when you encounter current, former or retired officers. Forward them our latest newsletter and website address and invite them to attend our next meeting. Our current members have been our best recruiters, so please keep up the good work!

As most of you are aware, we have a long and successful history of contributions to the national MOAA Scholarship Foundation. We also sponsor veterans' scholarship programs at Belmont and Lipscomb Universities, with our primary objective being to get aid to disabled veterans and if there are none applying, then to other veterans. Please watch your mail for our scholarship solicitation letter and return envelope for your contribution. Our contributions have been strong over the years, and I ask you to continue your strong support.

Operation Stand Down Tennessee (OSDTN) is planning their Heroes Breakfast at 7:30 on Thursday, November 4 in the Nashville Music City Center. It is a fundraiser for their veteran support programs. Each year our Middle TN chapter aims to fill at least one 10-person table. The donation is \$100 per attendee, and we still need four members to complete our table. It is always a positive event attended by many of Nashville's leaders.

If you want to be a part of our MTC table, please email to [info@mtcmooa.org](mailto:info@mtcmooa.org), or let me know at our August meeting.

We have another great meeting lined up for August 24. We will hear from two presenters from the Department of Homeland Security; Mr. Ron Hughes and Mr. Mark Collier. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

  
 Michael Patenaude  
 LTC, USA Retired  
 President

**MIDDLE TENNESSEE CHAPTER**  
**Military Officers Association of America**  
**P. O. Box 50252**  
**Nashville, TN 37205-0252**



Happy 231st Birthday to the  
 U. S. Coast Guard  
 4 August 1790

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Upcoming Programs & Events**

**24 August 2021; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

**"Homeland Security Brief "**

**Mr. Ron Hughes and Mr. Mark Collier**

Old Natchez Country Club, 115 Gardengate Drive,  
 Franklin, TN 37069

**7 September 2021; 7- 8:00 AM**

**"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"**

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

**28 September 2021; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

**"Tennessee Valley Healthcare System"**

**Ms. Jennifer Verdal-Baron**

Director, TVHS

Old Natchez Country Club, 115 Gardengate Drive,  
 Franklin, TN 37069

**2 October 2021; 9:30 AM- TBD**

**"VETFEST 2021"**

Granny White Park, Granny White Pike, Nashville

**5 October 2021; 7- 8:00 AM**

**"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"**

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

**20 October 2021; 1130 AM-1:30 PM**

**"TN Council of Chapters Meeting"**

Sammy B's Restaurant, Lebanon TN

**26 October 2021; 11:30 - 1:00 PM**

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

**"Brain Health"**

**Ms. Kelsey Williams**

Middle TN Alzheimer's Association

Old Natchez Country Club, 115 Gardengate Drive,  
 Franklin, TN 37069

**4 November 2021; 7:30 AM - 10:00 AM**

**"OSDTN Annual Heroes Breakfast"**

Music City Center, Nashville, TN

**Legislative Update**

**Service Academy Congressional Nomination Boards**

Each year our TN Senators and Representatives nominate deserving students for the Army, Navy Air Force, and Merchant Marine Service Academies (the Coast Guard Academy does not require a Congressional nomination). This process was initiated by President Thomas Jefferson in 1802 with the establishment of the US Military Academy (West Point).

This process normally involves interview boards held over multiple days in the fourth quarter, and a final board where all applicants are ranked each of the academies by Congressional District or by Senator for each state. The process was upended in 2020, but now it is time to put the pieces back in place for the boards for our local Congressmen.

Our Chapter has participated in the process of providing volunteers for these boards over the years, and we should do so again in 2021.

CDR John Ohlinger, USN (Ret.) has volunteered to orchestrate our volunteers with the needs of the various local Congressional offices. **If you are interested in serving on any of these Boards, please let John know at [johlinger@att.net](mailto:johlinger@att.net) by the end of August.**

If you have already signed up to work a board with a specific Congressman, please continue that path; but it would be appreciated if you could let John know for our records.

**FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) Update**

While the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) had not published its bill text as of Aug. 3 after completing its markup the week of July 19, the subcommittees of the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) have released their markup reports and associated bill texts after wrapping up work the week of July 26. The full HASC is scheduled to complete its markup Sept. 1, after Congress returns from the August recess.

- Provisions of the [Military Hunger Prevention Act](#), one of MOAA's three [Advocacy in Action](#) issues this year, appear in both the House and Senate versions of the NDAA.
- Legislation addressing TRICARE parity gaps – for young adult dependents and National Guard and Reserve servicemembers is NOT included in the draft bill.
- Toxic Exposure Reform is moving forward outside of the NDAA under multiple Senate and House Bills still under consideration.

The need still exists for Chapter members to contact their Senators and Congressmen to request support for each of these issues by either writing their elected officials or by visiting [MOAA - Advocacy in Action](#) to send messages requesting support.