



Middle Tennessee Chapter  
A 2021 5-Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America



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

October 2022

Editor: Doug Minton

MOAA Monthly Meeting

25 October 2022; 11:30 AM-1:00 PM

***"Bunker Labs"***

**Sean Patton**

Bunker Labs Nashville Ambassador  
U.S. Army 5th Special Forces Veteran

**Old Natchez Country Club**

115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

Sean Patton graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 2005. He served 10 years as an active US Army Infantry and Special Forces Officer. Sean commanded frontline troops in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Highlights of his military awards include the Ranger Tab, Special Forces Combat Diver Badge, the Combat Infantryman's Badge for engaging the enemy in direct fire combat, and two Bronze Stars.

After leaving the military in 2015, Sean earned his MBA from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and began his entrepreneurial journey. He has worked in multiple start-ups, including founding his own companies. Sean currently serves as a Nashville Bunker Labs city ambassador where he is a volunteer coach for Veterans and Military Connected entrepreneurs.

Sean's passions have always been leadership and problem-solving. He helps individuals and businesses build more fulfilling and profitable futures as an Executive Coach and Leadership Consultant with his company, Stronger Leaders Stronger Profits. His book, A Warrior's Mindset: The 6 Keys to Greatness was recently released. This framework provides a road map to achieving fulfillment, living with purpose, and maximizing one's positive impact on the world.

**PACT Act Update**

The Veterans Health Administration has announced plans to screen all patients for environmental exposures, beginning in November. The screenings, a requirement of the PACT Act will be conducted on all veterans enrolled in VA health care.

Beginning 1 October, more than 300,000 veterans who meet the new criteria and may have missed the opportunity before will be eligible to enroll in VA health care for the next year.

The screenings take about five minutes to complete and will be scheduled to be conducted at least every five years.

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**Military Indefinite and Dependent ID Card Update.**

Retirees and military family members who have identification cards with no expiration date (Indefinite) need to upgrade to the new Next Generation Uniform Services Identification, or USID, cards whenever it's convenient -- as long as it's done within the next four years, according to the Defense Department. After 2026, only the USID card will be accepted for installation and benefits access. Expired cards can be confiscated at base gates.

ID Cards with an expiration date can be replaced 60 days prior to that expiration date.

The DOD ID office located at the Tennessee National Guard Headquarters is available by appointment for ID replacement. Appointments can be scheduled at (615) 313-0854.

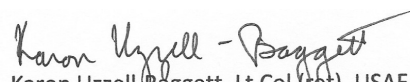
**President's Letter**

The last quarter of 2022 has begun and Fall is upon us. Thank you to everyone who joined us at OSDTN for our September meeting. One of our own chapter members, Col. Duffy White, USMC, Retired, gave an insightful recounting of his time as a Presidential aide in the 1990's. In honor of his carrying the "nuclear football," we had a football theme and enjoyed game style food.

For our October and November meetings, we return to Old Natchez Trace Country Club. This month we have a wonderful opportunity to hear from former United States Army Special Forces Officer Sean Patton. He has taken his passions for excellence and team development and channeled them into a career as a leadership coach. This quest to chart his own path also led to his current position as Nashville Ambassador for Bunker Labs. Sean will tell us about his entrepreneurial journey and Bunker Labs, a national, non-profit dedicated to providing resources, support and training for active-duty, guard and reserve military personnel, veterans and their family members.

Sean's chapter visit will precede the annual observance of National Veterans Small Business Week, October 31 – November 4, 2022. The United States Small Business Association designates this week to recognize the tenacity and success of veteran-owned businesses. According to the United States Census Bureau, an estimated 337,934 veteran-owned businesses employed about 3.9 million people and had an annual payroll of approximately \$177.7 billion. They generated \$947.7 billion in receipts. The highest ranked industries were professional, scientific and technical services; construction; health care and social assistance; and retail trade. Let's pledge to support at least one veteran-owned business during this important week.

Finally, the chapter has taken its community engagement to new levels. Twelve chapter and family members gathered at Operation Stand Down Tennessee on Friday, September 30, 2022, to support Operation Commissary. This vital program combats food insecurity in 20 Middle Tennessee counties through the delivery of food bags packed with canned goods and pantry staples. Our members packed 160 bags in 2 hours! Through a generous grant from the MOAA Foundation, the chapter will be able to further combat food insecurity through distribution of gift cards for needy families. There will be two additional community outreach projects where we can impact veterans and their families through sponsorship from the MOAA Foundation. I hope you can join us for these remaining projects.

  
Karon Uzzell-Baggett, Lt Col (Ret), USAF  
Chapter President

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



Happy 247th Birthday  
USN

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Upcoming Programs & Events**

**15 October 2022: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM**  
MOAA Community Grant  
***“Alzheimer’s Association Dementia Awareness Project”***  
Operation Stand Down TN  
1125 12th Ave So, Nashville, TN 37203  
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**25 October 2022; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**  
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting  
***“Bunker Labs”***  
**Sean Patton**  
Bunker Labs Nashville Ambassador  
U.S. Army 5th Special Forces Veteran  
Old Natchez Country Club  
115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069  
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**3 November 2022; 7-8:00 AM**  
***“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”***  
NGATN, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN  
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**3 November 2022; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**  
***“God’s Word for Warriors 2nd Annual Gala”***  
**Brig. Gen. Robert H. Holmes, USAF (Retired)**  
Sonesta Hotel, 600 Marriott Drive, Nashville, TN  
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**8 November 2022; 7:30 AM-9:30 AM**  
***“OSDTN Heroes Breakfast”***  
Music City Center, Karl Dean Ballroom,  
Nashville, TN  
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**11 November 2022; 11:00AM**  
Davidson County Veterans Coordinating Council  
***“Veterans Day Parade”***  
Broadway, Nashville, TN  
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**\* 29 November 2022; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM \***  
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting  
***“Mental Health and the Military”***  
**Dr. Tom Seals**  
Founder/Chairman of God’s Word for Warriors  
Foundation & MTC Member  
Old Natchez Country Club  
115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069  
**\* Please note date change\***  
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**Legislative Update**

I am writing this on 30 September – the last day of federal Fiscal Year 2022. Nothing will happen before midnight, so a continuing resolution was passed while we were busy watching Hurricane Ian. Like every year since Fiscal 1997, we begin a new fiscal year without a budget. Need I say more?

The National Defense Appropriation Act was passed through the Senate committee before they took an August Recess. My research found that there will not be a vote on it until after the November elections. We have all experienced what it means to serve under those constraints.

We usually write about the good sense of writing to our legislators and how we can express our support for initiatives by cutting out the mail-in letters from Military Officer magazine. Did you note that the most recent issue for October did not contain any of them?

Right now, all of the Representatives and 1/3 of the Senators are busy being re-elected.

Here is an idea: They usually get piles of mail about issues; what they really get is a numerical count of mail supporting and opposing specific issues. People write because they want something, and there is nothing personal about it. Instead, why not write a personal letter thanking those elected officials for what they have done for us. Make it personal – much like a note of thanks. They probably don’t get much directly expressed appreciation. It might make those people really take notice of how what they do matters to those they do it all for.

Neither of our US Senators is up for re-election this year, but all 9 House of Representatives are up for re-election. What can we do to support them personally for what they have done for those of us who wore the uniform? How can we make their day better? Here is an opportunity to be the good guys.

Letters are more likely to reach them personally if sent to their regional offices in Tennessee rather than to Washington. This is a task we can all take on easily, quickly, and effectively.

CDR Ted Edwards, USN (Retired), Legislative Affairs Liaison