



# Jayhawk Chapter



## MOAA Newsletter

*This newsletter is published bimonthly by the Jayhawk Chapter of Kansas, Military Officers Association of America, as a service to all members. The Jayhawk emblem is used with the permission of the registered trademark owner, the University of Kansas.*

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### November Program

Time: Tuesday 16 Nov 2021

Lawrence Country Club

6:00 PM Cocktails/Social Hour

7:00 PM Dinner

Speaker-Brad Allen

Director of the Lawrence Public  
Library

### DUES

Dues for 2021 were due 01 January 2021 in the amount of \$20.

If you have not already done so, please send your check to:

*Jim Cooper, 5216 Brown Lane,  
Lawrence, KS 66049-5112*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ CHAPTER awarded in:

2002 / 2003 / 2005 / 2008 / 2009 / 2010 / 2011 / 2012 /  
2013 / 2014 / 2016 / 2017 / 2018 / 2021

★ ★ ★ ★ CHAPTER awarded in:

2004 / 2006 / 2007 / 2015 / 2019

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## President's Comments

*We had a great September meeting, and it was exciting to actually meet in person again. Our speaker, Dan Partridge, from Douglas County Public Health Department, gave us great info on the state of Covid 19 in our area.*

*Our November 16th speaker, Brad Allen, Director of the Lawrence Public Library, will discuss the state of the library and their strategic plan for the future.*



*And this will be Navy night, so we'll have folks from the KU NROTC unit with us as well. We'll also have the official presentation of our 5-star award.*

*Please join us at about 6 pm for cocktails, dinner at 7 PM. The menu: house salad, roast chicken, mashed potatoes, seasonal vegetables, strawberry cake.*

*And, as always, if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please email or call me: (785) 979-7279 or [jscooper36@hotmail.com](mailto:jscooper36@hotmail.com)*

*Hope to see you there!*

*Coop*



# Jayhawk Chapter News

## PERSONAL NEWS

### From Herschel Stroud

Jacque continues to progress along the back pain pathway. Next nerve ablation in her back is 9 November.

Herschel has organized the Topeka, Kansas Re-dedication of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Arlington Cemetery in Washington, D.C. will have the principal Re-dedication on Sunday, 7 November 2021, at 1:00 PM. Topeka will have a Re-dedication Ceremony at the Military Monument complex at Gage Park, 10th and Gage, at the same time, CST Sunday, 7 November 2021. Brig. Gen. Edward Garhardt (Ret.), will deliver remarks. A Re-dedication Wreath will be

presented. The American Legion Post #400 Military Honor Rifle Detail will deliver three rounds in Honor of all our fallen, and Capt. Herschel Stroud (Ret.), will sound Taps, to conclude the Ceremony.

Similar Ceremonies will occur in many cities across America and world-wide, all Sponsored by the Society of the Honor Guard of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and the Taps For Veterans Buglers organization.

**From Alan VanLoenen:**

American Legion Post 14 - 3408 W 6th Street, Lawrence, KS

(1) Every Tuesday and Thursday from 9AM to 12PM, "coffee and conversation" for military veterans and American Legion members. There have been some Jayhawk MOAA members that attend this "coffee and conversation"; but would like to see more; especially those MOAA members that are also American Legion members.

(2) Starting Thursday, October 28 from 6 to 9PM there will be country and western music band playing and from about 6 to 9PM a meal is available for \$12. The AL post has a trained chef that prepares these meals and I doubt you could get a meal this good for \$12 in Lawrence; with the addition of a music band playing. This music and meal should be every Thursday starting October 28, 2021; meal will be available until as food prepared is sold. These will also be a bar open for drinks.

(3) Every Wednesday and Saturday there is American Legion bingo. Doors open at 4:30 PM with pull tabs games, bingo games start at 6:45 PM; there is a snack bar for drinks starting at 5PM, and food served starting at 5:30 PM. There is a special "progressive black out" bingo game that progresses in value each night until won in the posted number or less; to give you an example this Wednesday this bingo game has a prize of \$6,799 in I believe 56 called numbers or less; if not won in the posted numbers the consolation prize is \$300. If not won in the posted number of 56 or less, the game will increase to the next bingo night to 57 numbers or less and probably a prize of over \$7,000. --- Note all proceeds from the American Legion bingo go to keep the Lawrence American Legion post open and to continue our mission of supporting US military veterans and other Lawrence community programs like Lawrence's girls fast pitch softball teams.

All of these events are open to the public, the Thursday meal and music; if not a Post 14 member you have to sign in; because of their being an open bar for drinks.



# Army News

Warm greetings from the cadets and cadre of the Jayhawk Battalion! As noted in my last letter, we've entered the fall semester at full speed and the tempo won't abate until Thanksgiving! September was busy. Besides our normal battle rhythm events (classes and physical training at three locations and consolidated labs at various locations), we conducted a "super lab" (shooting at the pop-up range at Fort Riley on 10 September), Combat Water Survival Training in the Robinson pool on 13 September, tryouts for our Ranger Challenge Team, and a diagnostic Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT) for all the cadets and cadre. Lawrence High School continues to be our gracious host for the ACFT – a rigorous 6-event test involving weighted sleds, lots of heavy objects, and, of course, running as fast as one can!

The high OPTEMPO in the Jayhawk Battalion continued over the course of October with several big lifts for the cadets. The first heavy lift was the flawlessly executed Ranger Challenge held at chilly Camp Dodge, Iowa. As always, U of Iowa and Iowa State facilitated a phenomenal event. KU's team was in 4<sup>th</sup> place going into the Day 2 events, but a series of missteps thwarted our ambitions and we ended the day in 7<sup>th</sup>. The lessons learned were invaluable, though, and because 9 of the 11 participants plan on trying out for the team next year, I estimate we'll be in the hunt to dethrone the perennial favorite (Iowa State). We would not have been successful



without the 4 x senior cadets who volunteered to assist KU in running our lanes during the event. The following weekend (22-24 OCT), we had another big lift: we launched 73 x cadets and all of our uniformed cadre to Fort Leavenworth to conduct the Jayhawk Battalion Fall Field Training Exercise. Friday consisted of individual, squad, and platoon movements, patrol base set-up, and a land navigation refresher class. Saturday started early with land navigation then transitioned to an M4 Range and a training round robin consisting of advanced marksmanship, tactical combat casualty care, 240/249 Weapons Assembly/Disassembly, and call-for-fire. These classes were taught by our senior Jayhawks. After the range and round robin training wrapped up, we shuttled the cadets back to our bivouac site to begin night land nav. The long Saturday came to an end with cadets occupying

their patrol bases and prepping for the next morning's planned ruck march. The next morning, intense lightning forced me to cancel the march, but the cadets were not too disappointed. Upon return to KU, we commenced weapons cleaning and refit. After three days of MREs, the cadets were pleased to be served pizza while they cleaned.

November will be action packed: between three salute-to-service games, the Joint Commander's Cup Competition, Joint Service Ball, all of the Veteran's Day Events (Vigil, 5k, gala, and wreath laying), and our Army 10-Miler (on 20 NOV), the Jayhawk Battalion's cadets and cadre will be decisively engaged until Thanksgiving. In other news, we welcomed Captain Zach Kramer to the team. He and his family are joining us from Alaska where he served as a Battalion S2 and Company Commander. Again, thank you to the Jayhawk MOAA for hosting a wonderful dinner for Army in September.

As a final note, our Cadet Honor Society (the Scabbard and Blade) is refurbishing our cadet lounge. If you would like to donate any funds to this effort, please address a check to KU Army ROTC Scabbard and Blade and send to KU ARMY ROTC, Military Science Building, 1520 Summerfield Hall Drive, Room #204. We think with \$500, we can repaint, put new furniture, remove a wall, and kit out the lounge to make it both more accessible and more suitable for studying.

***Rock Chalk!***

**LTC John D. Finch  
Professor of Military Science**



# *Navy News*



**Greetings from the Jayhawk Battalion!**

The campus is filled with students once again and it is great to see midshipmen making the most of their academic experience. We have accomplished some outstanding training and officer development as we pass the halfway mark in the semester. I am continuously amazed by the determination of this battalion and their ability to work as a team to maximize training. On the 14<sup>th</sup> of October, eight of our 1/C midshipmen received their long-awaited service assignments. Three years of hard work culminated in their selection, and I am immensely proud of them. Midshipman Krajicek and OC Kleehammer were selected as Submarine Officers, OC Allin was selected for Nuclear Surface Warfare Officer, Midshipmen Devany and Holloman were selected as Surface Warfare Officers, Midshipman Hussong was selected for Student Naval Flight Officer, and finally Midshipmen Bestgen and House were selected for Student Naval Aviator. Bravo Zulu Midshipmen!

Every Wednesday afternoon the Jayhawk Battalion gets together as a family for Naval Science Lab where they learn about a variety of topics in the Navy and Marine Corps. In our most recent meeting, the battalion celebrated the Navy's 246<sup>th</sup> Birthday by facing off in high intensity paintball matches which concluded with the reading of the official birthday message from the



Chief of Naval Operations and a traditional cake cutting ceremony where the youngest and oldest members of the Command cut the cake together.

*2021 Service Selection (clockwise from top left) Allin, Bestgen, Devany, Holloman, Krajicek, Kleehammer, Hussong, House.*

The midshipmen worked hard on their physical fitness as they set their sights on the Physical Fitness Assessment (PFA).

The Marine midshipmen also trained for the Combat Fitness Test (CFT) which consists of ammo can lifts, 880-meter sprint, and a maneuver under fire portion. We had a 96% pass rate on the PFA and every Marine Option scored a 1<sup>st</sup> Class on their CFT. Great work team!

Lastly, I want to thank the KU Alumni and those who attended our Homecoming Tailgate. We had a great time playing yard games and grilling food at the Military Science Building while the Jayhawks took on the Red Raiders. It is always a pleasure to see current midshipmen meet Alumni and hear some sea stories. I am incredibly proud of the midshipmen and staff here at the unit. I look forward to the many future events we have this fall semester.

**Rock Chalk and Fly Navy!**

***CAPT James “Nemo” Miller  
Professor of Military Science***



# *Air Force News*

**Hello from Detachment 280, the Flying Jayhawks!**

Hard to believe we have less than a month left until stop day and final exams, but the temps (and leaves) are falling and we're about to wrap up a very challenging yet rewarding semester with the cadet wing.



The cadets conducted a field leadership exercise (FLX) on the KU West Campus in October. The FLX focused on small team tactics, movements, and communication; casualty care and evacuation; force protection, and weapons handling and safety.

A week later, we took our Fall fitness test. It was a cool, rainy evening at the Free State High School track, but the cadets didn't mind, so it didn't matter. The effort and intensity was palpable and I was blown away by the progress so many of our cadets have made since the beginning of the semester.

As I write, the cadets are honing their collective wargaming skills as they prepare to take on Kansas State AFROTC (Det 270) in the Air Force Employment Exercise (AFEX). AFEX presents AF doctrine-based scenarios that allow participants to plan and execute a virtual air campaign, complete with modern weapon systems and the core competencies they represent. I think we'll take it to the (M)ildcats and I'm anticipating a different outcome than what we saw on the football field.

We're also in the midst of annual Veterans Day activities. Cadets were at the Salute to Service Game, are the lead planners for the KU ROTC 24-hour vigil, will have a strong contingent at the KU Vets Day 5K, and we're eagerly anticipating the Tribute to Veterans Gala at the Dole Center.

Congratulations to Cadet 2c Jadya Yoder for being competitively selected to attend the National Character and Leadership Symposium next February at the Air Force Academy. She will represent us well.

Senior cadets are anxiously awaiting their career field selections and we expect to receive that announcement in the next few weeks.

**Rock Chalk!**

**Lt Col Charlie Dorssom  
Professor of Military Science**



**(15 Oct F-16 Flyover)**

## ***MOAA LEGISLATIVE UPDATES***

This is a summary of the many items MOAA produces each week on legislative activities.

Those who are MOAA National members receive the full Legislative Updates each week. Let me know if you want additional info on any particular topic: [rayfin3@gmail.com](mailto:rayfin3@gmail.com)

### **Why Fixing Gaps in Your TRICARE Coverage Remains a Top MOAA Priority**

NOVEMBER 01, 2021

One of MOAA's ongoing roles is to monitor TRICARE coverage and advocate to ensure it keeps up with new technologies, evolving treatment protocols, and changing standards set by commercial plans. Servicemembers and retirees have earned a comprehensive health care benefit, but TRICARE could quickly become a Swiss cheese of coverage gaps without the efforts of MOAA and our fellow military advocacy groups.

The case of two military children who were terminally ill is an example. A major children's hospital approached the [TRICARE for Kids Coalition](#) (TFK) regarding a coverage gap for terminally ill military kids. The palliative care team at this hospital was concerned because two of their patients, both military kids, could not access hospice — a service they would recommend to any other family in similar circumstances — because it would mean the children would have to forego curative care per TRICARE reimbursement policy.

At that time, TRICARE's pediatric hospice policy was outdated and based on Medicare requirements for senior adults. Medicaid and commercial plans had evolved to cover hospice in addition to curative care for pediatric patients for a variety of reasons, including the unpredictability of children's illnesses and the fact that both parents and pediatric medical providers are reluctant to stop curative care under almost all circumstances.

The children's hospital team noted their military kid patients needed the in-home services hospice provides even more than their civilian counterparts because their mobile military families did not have extended family nearby or long-standing relationships with others who could help.

MOAA and TFK took the issue to the Defense Health Agency (DHA). Officials there said this would require a legislative fix, so we took the issue to Capitol Hill. We met with Armed Services Committee staff and numerous member offices. Our efforts paid off with a provision in the FY 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). As of August 2019, military families with terminally ill children have the same treatment options as their civilian counterparts.

Other Coverage Gaps



MOAA's efforts to address TRICARE coverage gaps continue. Today, our top TRICARE policy issues include coverage for chiropractic care, updates to reflect new Medicare eligibility policy for continuous glucose monitors, and young adult coverage that is included in every other employer-sponsored plan.

The pediatric hospice issue provides a good example of how a coverage change comes about. Because TRICARE coverage is governed by statute, it is often necessary to pass a law to update TRICARE coverage policy. Even when a law isn't necessary, MOAA plays a vital role in identifying coverage gaps and bringing them to DHA for action.

Identifying coverage gaps is a multipronged effort that includes monitoring legislative requirements for commercial plans (e.g., the Affordable Care Act) and policy updates by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). It also includes maintaining relationships with industry and coalition partners — such as TFK — that have deep knowledge in specific areas of health care, and gathering feedback directly from beneficiaries.

In recent years, MOAA has worked to achieve numerous fixes to TRICARE coverage including:

Lab developed tests/diagnostic genetic testing (used to guide targeted cancer therapies, identify or rule out a specific genetic or chromosomal condition, or screen for genetic mutations such as cystic fibrosis carrier screening for those trying to conceive).

Pediatric concurrent hospice

3D mammograms for breast cancer screening

Expanded eligibility for continuous glucose monitors

Breastfeeding services and supplies.

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2021-news-articles/advocacy/why-fixing-gaps-in-your-tricare-coverage-remains-a-top-moaa-priority/>

## **Ask Your Lawmaker to Delay DoD's Planned Medical Billet Cuts**

**OCTOBER 27, 2021**

As the FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) moves toward conference, where the House and Senate will reconcile differences between their versions of the bill, MOAA remains focused on supporting a key provision to ensure continued beneficiary access to quality health care.

Section 721 of the House bill – which has already [passed its chamber](#) – would halt DoD's plan to cut medical billets for a year following the enactment of the FY 2022 NDAA. It also would require a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report on the analyses used to support billet

cut plans, including an evaluation of medical manpower requirements and the effect of billet cuts on local health care networks.

The Senate NDAA, while still subject to floor amendments and debate, does not include this language at present. Keeping the House section in the final bill will be critical to preventing planned cuts from corroding your earned health care benefit.

A recently released [DoD report](#) to Congress gave us the first glimpse at [how medical billet cuts might impact individual military treatment facilities](#) (MTFs) but offers few details on specific positions to be cut or mitigation plans for impacted beneficiaries. It also raises the following concerns:

Most eliminated billets will be replaced either with civilian hires or contract personnel, or absorbed by remaining MTF staff. However, the report does not indicate what, if any, analysis has been done to assess the feasibility of hiring civilian replacement personnel or the ability of current staff to absorb additional workload.

Medical billet cuts have been reduced from 17,005 in the original proposal to 12,801 – a move driven primarily by the Army, which accounted for 95% of the adjustment. The medical billet cuts proposed by the Navy and Air Force appear to remain almost unchanged, and MOAA remains concerned lessons learned regarding Military Health System surge capacity requirements and limits to civilian provider availability have not been fully considered in the Navy and Air Force plans.

Although many of the cuts are for administrative or other nonclinical positions, there are still a substantial number of medical provider billets proposed for elimination, including 779 physicians and 1,081 nurses.

MOAA also is concerned about significant cuts planned for pediatrics and mental health billets – areas already are under strain in the civilian health care system.

While MOAA supports military health system reforms aimed at enhancing the focus on medical provider readiness, the recent report to Congress indicates DoD has not conducted the analysis and feasibility assessments necessary to ensure continued access to quality care for beneficiaries.

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2021-news-articles/advocacy/ask-your-lawmaker-to-delay-dods-planned-medical-billet-cuts/>



# JAYHAWK CHAPTER MOAA



A membership meeting will be held **Tuesday, 16 November 2021**

at the **Lawrence Country Club**

**Dinner cost** is \$30.00/meal.

**The Program:** Our program will be Brad Allen, Director of the Lawrence Public Library

**Social Hour: 1800 hours      Dinner: 1900 hours**

**The Menu: house salad, roast chicken, mashed potatoes, seasonal vegetables, strawberry cake.**

Send your reservation and check payable to Jayhawk Chapter MOAA to arrive no later than Wednesday, 10 November to: **CAPT Jim Cooper, 5216 Brown Lane, Lawrence, KS 66049-5112**

*Dinner reservations are confirmed on Monday before the dinner. Cancellations, if necessary, should be made prior to Monday noon; otherwise, the Lawrence Country Club will charge us for those meals.*

*If you have any questions, you may contact Jim Cooper at 842-7037 or John Halladay at 843-6184*

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cut here

Yes, please make \_\_\_\_\_ reservations for me and my guests. (Spouse and other guests are welcome.)

The cost is \$30.00 per meal. I am enclosing a check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ for meal(s).

Clayton L. Comfort Award program contribution \$\_\_\_\_\_

(Separate check made out to "KU Endowment")

**TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

IF YOU NEED A RIDE TO MEETINGS, PLEASE LET US KNOW HERE \_\_\_\_\_

AND GIVE US YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

**TEAR OFF AND RETURN THIS FORM WITH A CHECK PAYABLE TO: JAYHAWK CHAPTER MOAA (CAPT Jim Cooper, 5216 Brown Lane, Lawrence, KS 66049-5112)**

MOAA WEBSITE: [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org)  
KANSAS COUNCIL WEBSITE: [www.kansasmooa.net](http://www.kansasmooa.net)  
JAYHAWK CHAPTER WEBSITE: [www.jayhawkmoaa.org](http://www.jayhawkmoaa.org)

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