



# Jayhawk Chapter



## MOAA Newsletter

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### Inside this issue

March Program	1
President's Message	2
Jayhawk Chapter News	2-3
Army ROTC	4
Navy ROTC	5
Air Force ROTC	6-7
MOAA News	8-9
Meal/Dues Payment Form	10

### November Program

Time: Tuesday 15 March 2022

Lawrence Country Club

6:00 PM Cocktails/Social Hour

7:00 PM Dinner

Speaker-

Army University at Fort Leavenworth

### DUES

Dues for 2022 were due 1 January 2022 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

Greetings Jayhawk Chapter members! I am honored to take over from Past President Jim Cooper. His energetic and cheerful leadership made sure our chapter endured through our unprecedented public health emergency. Jim remains on our Board as our chapter Treasurer. Thank you Coop!



Our next Jayhawk Chapter meeting is Tuesday, March 15th, at Lawrence Country Club. Caesar nor Brutus have RSVP'ed so I trust no one will have to "Beware the Ides of March." Our guest speaker has not been confirmed but I'm confident Army University at Fort Leavenworth will provide us an informative guest speaker. Please RSVP to me or Jim Cooper so the LCC staff can fully meet our needs.

If you have ideas for any public service or charity project you would care for our chapter to pursue, please contact me with your pitch.

I hope you will offer me candid feedback to keep our chapter at the high level of performance and involvement we've experienced under the strong leadership of George Pogge and Jim Cooper. If you are facing a difficult situation and need assistance, please feel free to reach out to me: 785-424-7527 or [job4mike6@aol.com](mailto:job4mike6@aol.com). I will strive to lead our chapter with integrity, care, and excellence going forward.

I look forward to seeing everyone on the 15th.

Thanks, Mike Kelly



# Jayhawk Chapter News

## PERSONAL NEWS

### From Herschel Stroud

Jacque is in the McCrite Rehab Unit. She had an episode of high blood calcium. Hypercalcemia. She is getting better.

## From Shirley Halladay



On 11 January, John was honored as the "Military Honoree" during the KU-Iowa State basketball game. It was quite an enjoyable evening and we were very pleased, as we left Allen Fieldhouse, with the number of parents reminding their children to say "Thank You for your Service."

## 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) Thursdays from 6-9PM 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. The meal will be available until 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.

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! Difficult to believe that we've already reached the madness of March, but time flies when you're having a blast. The Jayhawk Battalion has had a number of keen successes over the last two months. First off, I have to mention our Northern Warfare Challenge team. The Northern Warfare Challenge is held every year in the first few weeks of February on the banks of the Mississippi in La Crosse, Wisconsin. The competition consists of shooting, rucking, knot tying, mystery events, and more rucking in the icy cold of Wisconsin. Last year, the temperature topped out at -9 and that team (first ever fielded by the Jayhawks) was neither acclimated nor ready for the skills tests. As a result, the team finished a respectable, but distant 24<sup>th</sup> out of the 35 teams competing. This year, we fielded a team ready to challenge for the podium. The team (Cadets Guyot, Fink, Kularatne, Warburton, Patterson, Constable, and Kirk) not only placed 7<sup>th</sup> overall, but was the #1 co-ed team out of the 38 teams competing! Huge congratulations to them!

In other news, all three services got together to work with KU to have a portion of a dorm (Downs Hall) designated for ROTC. The Special Interest Community allows those students who are in ROTC to live together. Because of the relatively strange pattern of life for cadets (early to rise, early to bed), we hope that this will encourage students to join and assist cadets in staying in the program(s). The first iteration of our SIC will occur in Fall of 22. In January, the Jayhawk Battalion was also able to leverage Fort Leavenworth and the Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) G2 to provide a threat brief for our cadets. The brief focused on China, Russia, North Korea, Iran and Violent Extremist Organizations and helped provide context for cadets.

The month of March is a busy one for the cadets of the Jayhawk Battalion. From 24-27 March, we will conduct our Combined Field Training Exercise at Ft. Riley. Besides KU, this year's event will include University of Nebraska, Creighton, K-State, Pitt State, UCM, and Missouri Western. Combining our cadre and events should make for a superb event. We have also started planning in earnest for the Ranger Buddy Competition – an event hosted by the Jayhawk Battalion. Unfortunately, the KU Athletics Department could not let us rent Rim Rock, but the City of Lawrence came through like champions and we'll be hosting the event at Sesquicentennial Park near Clinton Lake. This two-person team competition will bring in teams from across the country to compete in a truly rigorous set of events. **Rock Chalk!**

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



# Navy News



## Greetings from the Jayhawk Battalion!

The Jayhawk Battalion continues to impress me as we enter the first few months of the spring '22 semester. Their positive attitude and teamwork contribute to making this the best NROTC Unit that I could ask for.

As we wrapped up last semester, students were able to enjoy each other's company and camaraderie at the Joint Service Ball with the Air Force and Army ROTC units. This fun and professional event displayed naval traditions and esprit de corps engrained in all service branches. During this event, the Naval ROTC unit was announced as the winner of the Commander's Cup competition between KU ROTC units. This event included different challenges that tested each midshipman and cadet mentally and physically. BRAVO ZULU midshipmen!

Over Winter Break, MIDN 1/C Hunter Holloman graduated and commissioned as an Ensign in the United States Navy. I am extremely proud of the work he accomplished and he will do great things as a Surface Warfare Officer (SWO) in the Fleet. He will serve onboard the USS McCAMPBELL (DDG 85) out of Everett, Washington – his number one choice during Winter Ship Selection. Additionally, two other future SWO's selected their ships in February 2022. OC Avery Allin selected the USS PAUL HAMILTON (DDG 60) out of San Diego, CA and MIDN 1/C Cameron Devany selected the USS PHILIPPINE SEA (CG 58) out of Hampton Roads, VA. Congratulations to both of them as they seek a commission this May.



In other good news, Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program (MECEP) student, Sgt Kyle Morgan promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant. Additionally, Officer Candidate Malone promoted to Machinist Mate Nuclear Second Class and Officer Candidate Kleehammer promoted to Electricians Mate Nuclear First Class.

Looking toward the rest of the spring semester, midshipmen will travel to Boulder, CO in early March to compete in the Colorado Drill Meet and we are excited to commission seniors into naval service in May. I am very proud of this unit and know that they will continue to perform at the highest level in this program.

**Rock Chalk and Fly Navy!**

***CAPT James "Nemo" Miller  
Professor of Military Science***





# Air Force News

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

March has thankfully come in like a lamb, but I can only assume that by the time you're reading this that it snowed at least once more. Ready for spring!

We promoted our detachment personnel expert Mitchell Ciccarelli to MSgt at the beginning of February (see photo). MSgt Ciccarelli works extremely hard for the cadets in our program and he deserves every accolade he earns, including his most recent promotion. Congratulations, MSgt!

Our 200-level cadets are anxiously awaiting results of the Professional Officer Course Selection Process. National order of merit has been determined and now we wait for our elected leaders to release the Program Guidance Letter, which will dictate how many of our underclassmen we can send to Field Training this summer and bring back as part of our Professional Officer Course cadets. The Air Force over-accessed several years ago and it's catching up with us now. We're hoping to retain the majority of our 200s, but time will tell.

Cadet Jady Yoder (AS300) attended the FY22 National Character and Leadership Symposium (NCLS) 24-25 Feb at the U.S. Air Force Academy. She was competitively selected to represent the AFROTC Northwest Region and Det 280. NCLS is USAFA's flagship event on character and leadership. It brings together distinguished scholars, military leaders, corporate executives and world-class athletes to motivate and equip participants for honorable living and effective leadership. This year's theme was "Ethics and Respect for Human Dignity." Cadet Yoder reported back that it was an exceptional event and that she was grateful for the opportunity.

In more good news, we had two cadets selected for more professional development opportunities this summer at USAFA. Cadet Liam O Bray (AS100) was selected to attend Freefall Parachuting and Cadet Oliver Gonzalez (AS200) was selected to attend Azimuth, a 3-week Space Force program designed to motivate, inform, and evaluate cadets for accession into the USSF. Congratulations to these two top-performing cadets!

Lastly, thanks very much for hosting us at the January Chapter Meeting. Our cadre and cadets very much enjoyed the opportunity to get to know some of the chapter members. Good company, good food, and the Jayhawks beat the Sooners!

**Rock Chalk!**

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



MSgt Ciccarelli promotion, 9 Feb 22

## ***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 us know if you want additional info on any particular topic: [rayfin3@gmail.com](mailto:rayfin3@gmail.com) or [job4mike6@aol.com](mailto:job4mike6@aol.com)

### **1. Health Care resource for TRICARE Retirees**

Urgent medical conditions are usually ones that aren't considered emergencies but still require professional medical attention within 24 hours. Examples might include a small cut that might need stitches, a fever, or a sprained ankle. If you have questions about an injury or illness, you can call the Military Health System Nurse Advice Line. Nurses are available 24/7 to help you find the care you need. People in the United States, Guam or Puerto Rico can call 800-874-2273 and choose option 1.

### **2. USAF Celebrates 75th Anniversary—Established September 18, 1947**

"The 75th anniversaries of the U.S. Air Force and the Department of the Air Force provides a unique opportunity to highlight the contributions of our Total Force Airmen, both past and present, who have fought and defended our nation in air and space," Secretary of the Air Force Frank Kendall said. "When you think about what the Air Force has accomplished since its inception in 1947, there's so much to be proud of – it's truly incredible. These past 75 years have showcased the service's ability to adapt to any situation and provide unparalleled airpower as well as spacepower right up to the establishment of the U.S. Space Force within the Department of the Air Force in 2019," he said. "As we look ahead to the next 75 years, we must continue to adapt and modernize so that our Airmen and Guardians have the warfighting capabilities they need to stay ahead of our pacing challenges, while also ensuring they and their families have the resources they need to thrive." As of Jan. 1, there were nearly 681,000 living Air Force retirees, and more than 150,000 surviving spouses.

### **3. Please keep your mailing address current with DFAS**

One of the challenges Air Force Retiree Services faces today is communicating with a large and diverse population of customers. As of Jan. 1, there were nearly 681,000 living Air Force retirees, and more than 150,000 surviving spouses. Most have embraced technology, while there is still a large population who remain "unwired" for many reasons. More than 525,000 of you have an online myPay account with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS.) Regardless, it is vitally important that DFAS has your current U.S. Postal Service and email addresses at all times. Some people believe that just because they have Direct Deposit there is no reason to notify DFAS when either address changes. Not true! DFAS needs to be able to reach you through the postal service or email regarding account statements, tax forms, newsletters and more. Retirees must change their address by calling 800-321-1080. If you have a myPay account you can make the change online. You can fax your change to 800-469-6559, or send it to: DFAS, US Military Retirement Pay, 8899 E 56th Street, Indianapolis IN 46249-1200.

MOAA State Legislative Report as of March 3, 2022

The Kansas Legislature is in session in Topeka and the Kansas Council of Chapters of MOAA has been actively advocating for veterans. Here is the activity on issues of interest to veterans.



## 1. ELIMINATION OF THE SALES TAX ON FOOD

There are several bills active in both bodies. HB2711 would phase out the sales tax over several years with a large rate cut effective in 2022. This bill includes fiscal conditions on the state budget that must be met for future rate reductions to zero. Other bills cut all of the sales tax in 2022. Some include prepared food and others have additional features. MOAA is supporting HB2711 but will support a bill that has a central provision to eliminate this regressive tax. No bill has been advanced out of the House Taxation Committee.

## 2) MODIFY ELIGIBILITY FOR KANSAS DISABLED VETERANS PLATE

This bill is HB2504 and the original version eliminated the financial benefit for most veterans rated 50% or more and would require Kansas or county officials to re-evaluate VA disability ratings for physical limitations. MOAA opposed this original version. Based on our feedback, the sponsor changed the bill. Current veterans rated 50% or more by VA would retain access to a free license plate, a \$30 per year benefit. Those veterans that meet the existing Kansas law requirements for a handicapped parking access plate with the international symbol of accessibility (wheelchair symbol) will need to file the appropriate form with a Doctor's certification of the limitation to be able to park in close-in handicapped parking spaces. This bill needs approval by the House Transportation Committee.

## 3) MODIFY KANSAS ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME FOR \$30K OF MILITARY PAY

This bill is HB2467 and would exempt the first \$30,000 of military pay from Kansas income tax. As you know, all retired pay is exempt from Kansas income tax. Currently, Kansas is one of only ten states that taxes all active military income at the state level. This bill will ensure junior enlisted in the Kansas National Guard will see all of their pay tax-free unless activated for a long-term deployment. MOAA interceded with the House Taxation Committee and argued the revenue impact of this bill was much lower than the official score provided by the Kansas Department of Revenue. MOAA provided information that led KDOR to confer with Defense Finance and Accounting Service and get better payroll data that resulted in much more accurate (and lower) revenue impact for this bill. This bill is awaiting floor action in the House having been advanced out of the House Taxation Committee.

There are bills to add Silver Star and Bronze Star license plate options and to offer educational benefits to survivors of military killed in the post-9/11 era. There is also a bill to construct a privately-funded Gold Star Family Memorial on the grounds of the State Capitol. These bills are moving forward and seem destined to pass with little or no opposition.

What you can do now: Send an e-mail to the Speaker of the House and ask the Speaker for a floor vote on HB2467. The Speaker's office e-mail is: [ron.ryckman@house.ks.gov](mailto:ron.ryckman@house.ks.gov)

Chapter President's Message, March 2022



# JAYHAWK CHAPTER MOAA



A membership meeting will be held **Tuesday, 15 March 2022**

at the **Lawrence Country Club**

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

**The Program:** Our program will be an Army University speaker

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

**The Menu: menu to be announced soon on email**

Send your reservation and check payable to Jayhawk Chapter MOAA to arrive no later than **Wednesday, 9 March** 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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