



Jayhawk Chapter



MOAA Newsletter

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May Program

Time: Tuesday 16 May 2023

Lawrence Country Club

6:00 PM Cocktails/Social Hour

7:00 PM Dinner

Speaker- Major Jess Foster, 139th
Airlift Wing Intelligence Officer,
MOANG

DUES

Dues for 2023 were due 1 January 2023 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

Volume XXVIII, Issue 2

March 2023

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President's Comments

Monday May 29th is Memorial Day. As before, our chapter will have "Flags Out" honors at Maple Grove and Pioneer Cemeteries on Saturday May 27th. Please let George Pogge know if you wish to participate in the effort to honor our fallen or help with flag recovery late in the day on May 29th. Fly your flag at home on Armed Forces Day, Saturday May 14th!



May is graduation month for many and commissioning for many of our future officers. As in the past we will be awarding scholarships and recognizing outstanding performance by midshipmen and cadets. I am proud of our good relationship with KU's ROTC programs and will work to continue our good relations. Our nation needs well-educated leaders with impeccable character and physical stamina to meet the demands of leadership in our nation's defense. I commend all the KU military faculty for their long hours, mentorship, and overall good work in nurturing these future military leaders.

May is the end of the Kansas Legislature's session and I will provide more words and specifics on MOAA's state-level advocacy elsewhere in this newsletter. I am honored, alongside our Kansas Council President, Dr. Joel Feder, Captain USN retired, to have met with our federal legislators in MOAA's Advocacy in Action event. Please see my 2023 Advocacy-in-Action trip report elsewhere in this newsletter.

A pillar of MOAA's ethic of service is our service to surviving spouses. Surviving spouses are full members of our Association and we offer them support in their time of need to make sure they can access all entitlements and benefits of military survivors. Sandy Cooper served as our Jayhawk Chapter Surviving Spouse Liaison for several years. We appreciate her devoted service to our chapter in this essential role.

In March we enjoyed the visit and talk of Surviving Spouse and Gold Star Mother Gail Joyce from our MOAA National Board. We honored our chapter's surviving spouses. I hereby advise my successor to keep the theme of the March meeting in future years in honor of our surviving spouse members. I'm pleased to announce that my precious wife, Georgiana Beverly, will be our Jayhawk Chapter and Kansas Council Surviving Spouse Liaison going forward. Georgiana was an active duty Air Force spouse for 30 years. Her father, George Beverly, was a World War II Army veteran and while serving with the 747th Tank Battalion earned the Normandy Campaign Ribbon with Arrowhead Device for the historic Omaha Beach assault landing.

Anyone with concerns related to a surviving spouse member may contact Georgiana or any of our chapter board officers for assistance. Here is Georgiana's contact information:

E-Mail: gbev54@icloud.com

Home Phone: (785) 424-7527 (please leave voicemail if no immediate answer)

Our speaker's topic for the **next chapter dinner meeting on Tuesday May 16th** is an unclassified intelligence assessment of military threats worldwide. We have the intelligence officer for the 139th Airlift Wing of the Missouri National Guard, Major Jess Foster, slated to provide this assessment. Please RSVP to Jim Cooper: jscooper36@hotmail.com. Dinner cost \$30. Steak—potato-vegetable with cheesecake for dessert



Finally, I want to thank Mike Chapman from our Board for building a replacement storage locker for our gear we store in the LCC clubhouse. Our old storage locker was falling apart and Mike took the initiative to address this shortfall. BRAVO ZULU Mike! Here's a picture of his handiwork:

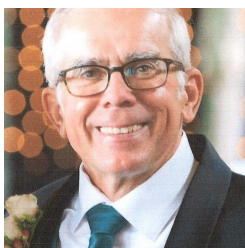
If you need any assistance with your military benefits or any other issue please feel free to call me at: 785 424 7527. Leave a voicemail if I'm not home. I look forward to seeing our Board members on Thursday May 11th, 1730, and to seeing all chapter members on Tuesday May 16th, 6 p.m., at Lawrence Country Club.



Jayhawk Chapter News

PERSONAL NEWS

In Remembrance



Charles (Chuck) Protasio passed away peacefully surrounded by his family at home on March 9, 2023. He was born and raised in Williamsport, Pennsylvania as the eldest son of William Protasio and Dorothy (Walters) Protasio.

While in the Army, Chuck served in the Field Artillery, was on General Staff, was an Assistant Project Manager for a large Corps of Engineer project and retired in 1994 as head of the ROTC program at Michigan State University with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He also obtained a graduate Business Administration degree from Boston University and a graduate degree in Civil Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) while serving in the Army.

Chuck met his wife, Patricia, at the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas in 1986. They married in April 1988 and shared almost 35 years of love together. Pat was Chuck's "Angel on Earth" who gave him the blessings of being part of a real family and every day made him a better man. He was blessed with three daughters, three son-in-laws, and six grandchildren. He loved spending time with his family.

After military retirement, Chuck embarked on a 24-year career with the Kansas Department of Transportation, primarily as a Civil Engineer. For the last 14 years of his career, he was a member of the Bureau of Program and Project Management. He enjoyed working with his work-family, a small but important group of professional, talented, and dedicated people who truly focused on KDOT's mission.

Chuck is survived by his wife Patricia Protasio; his brothers James Protasio and John Protasio; daughter Sheena Shearburn and their three children; daughter Chelsea Baker and their two children; and Kara Baden and their son. He was preceded in death by a sister, Ann Marie Protasio. A funeral/memorial mass was held on March 22, 2023, at Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Lawrence, Kansas. The family suggests memorials in his name to the American Cancer Society and may be sent in care of Warren-McElwain Mortuary, 120 W. 13th Street, Lawrence, KS 66044.

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.

(4) Anyone interested in U.S. Civil War history; that Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) Camp 4; Lawrence, KS meets every third Tuesday of the month (no July meeting) at the American Legion post from 6:30 PM to 8:00PM and have programs about the American Civil War. Membership in Camp 4 is available to all that have Union Civil War ancestors and will add

in documenting Union Civil War veterans; if you do not or cannot document a Union Civil War veteran you can still join Camp 4.

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.

Effective April 25, 2023, the COVID vaccination clinic at the Leavenworth VA will be moving from building 21 to the main building in the **Schwarzkopf Conference Room**.

- The Schwarzkopf room is located on the **2nd floor of the main hospital, room B222**.

- Vaccine Clinic Hours will be **0800-1200 on Tuesdays only**.

- COVID Vaccines are administered **by appointment only**.

- To schedule your COVID vaccine call **913-682-2000 Ext. 64266**.



Army News

A hearty hello from the Jayhawk Battalion! Spring for the cadets and cadre has been action packed. Immediately following spring break, we launched into our 96-hour Field Training Exercise (FTX) held at Ft. Riley with the ROTC programs from University of Nebraska and Kansas State University. In those four days, we conducted a rifle range, day and night land navigation tests, an obstacle course, familiarization flights (on Chinooks), and – most importantly – graded raids, movements to contact, recons, attacks/defenses, patrol base operations, and ambushes. The weather cooperated: it was raining and cold for the nights outside. Immediately following the FTX, we pivoted to prep for the Ranger Buddy Competition.



This year's Ranger Buddy Competition – the 27th annual meet – saw 170 teams from across the country come to Lawrence to compete on Saturday, 8 April. The women's division was won by Marquette University, the Co-Ed division winners were from Liberty University (in Virginia), and the men's division was won by our very own University of Kansas (team of Cadets Delton Larson and Luke Rogers). Special kudos to the KU Navy ROTC team of MDN Putney and Jost who took second place in the women's division. Again the competition consists of physical events (15km ruck march, 5k run, several lifting events) and military skills (weapons assembly, call for fire, hand grenade throws, tactical combat casualty care, land nav, etc). As Sam Damon points out in the book *Once an Eagle*, the

quickest way to get troopers fit is to march with a ruck. To that end, KU participated in the Bataan Death March (a marathon with a 35lbs ruck) in White Sands, New Mexico, the Norwegian Foot March (30km with a 25lbs ruck), and the traditional Army 12-mile foot march (12 miles with a 35lbs ruck). Suffice to say, our cadets have walked their fair share of miles!

The future looks bright in the Jayhawk Battalion as we close out the semester. On Friday, 5 May, we'll hold our awards ceremony at Bloomington Beach. About a third of our cadets and cadre will storm the beach after exiting a CH-47 into Clinton Lake. Should be both exciting and cold! Also, we'll commission 10 cadets on 15 May. The Army ceremony will be held at 0900 on 15 May at the Campanile



and the Joint Ceremony will be at 1100 in the Union Ball Room. Finally, as with all Army units, the summer brings transitions. SFC Chris Smith will retire to North Carolina and SSG Allcock will PCS to lovely Fort Leonard Wood, MO. I'd also like to introduce LTC Calvin Taetzsch – the future Jayhawk Professor of Military Science. He joins the team from the US Army Europe G2. He comes in with the energy and insight to take the Jayhawk Battalion to new heights!

COL John D. Finch, Professor of Military Science



Navy News



Greetings from the Jayhawk Battalion

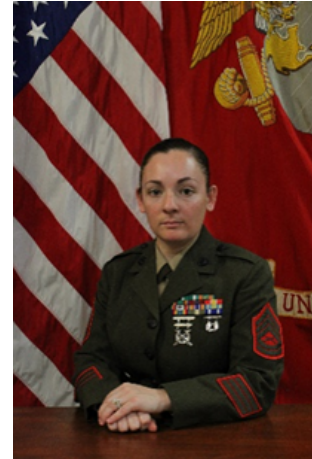


As the staff and Midshipmen wrap up a busy spring semester, the Battalion is more than ready to celebrate the upcoming summer vacation and the commissioning of our senior class.

On March 30th through April 2nd, the Jayhawk Battalion's Marine Option Midshipmen (MIDN) traveled to Johnston, Iowa to participate in the 2023 Spring Field Exercise (FEX) with Iowa State University. During their Small Unite Leadership Evaluation (SULE) lanes, the MIDN had the opportunity to fly in Sikorsky YUH-60 Blackhawks. The second day of training included a 5-mile weighted

hike, land navigation, more SULE lanes, and "Military Operations in Urban Terrain" (MOUT) training. MIDN were also taught how to effectively clear rooms and buildings in a MOUT specific training building. To end the FEX, the MIDN took part in a Combat Conditioning Course that included map plotting, a knowledge test, a "Call for Fire" evaluation.

This April, we welcome aboard Gunnery Sergeant (GySgt) Chayna La Rose to the Jayhawk Battalion! GySgt La Rose, who is from Oakland, California, is the Battalion's new Assistant Marine Officer Instructor (AMOI). Before coming to Kansas, GySgt La Rose was an ammunition technician and served in the Combat Logistics Regiment 25 and Combat Logistics Regiment 2, in the II Marine Expeditionary Force. GySgt La Rose also served as Chief Drill Instructor, 2nd Degree Martial Arts Instructor, and Staff Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of the Leatherneck Square Martial Arts Center in Parris Island, South Carolina. She was the Staff Non-Commissioned Officer in charge of Parris Island Ammunition Supply Point and later the Ammunition Chief and Operations Chief. Welcome aboard GySgt La Rose!



On April 8th, 2023, four of our MIDN: the male team, MIDN 1/C Winkler and MIDN 2/C Wernli: the female team, MIDN 3/C Jost, and MIDN 3/C Puntney, participated in the annual Army ROTC's Ranger Buddy Challenge. During this daylong event, teams are challenged physically and intellectually: marching with 35-pound rucks for 8.5 miles, weapon, medical, and knowledge lanes, and finishing off with a 5k in boots. MIDN 3/C Jost and Puntney received 2nd place overall out of the 24 female teams participating.

On April 26th, 2023, the Jayhawk Battalion joined together with friends, families, and sponsors for the Battalion's 2023 Awards Ceremony. During the award ceremony, MIDN were presented awards for the hard work they have put in over the last year and for their demonstrated leadership, patriotism, and dedication to country in their actions in and out of the battalion. At the awards presentation's end, the commissioning seniors were given their first officer rank by the Battalion's Commanding Officer, Captain (CAPT) James Miller, and CAPT Jim Cooper (ret.). Following the recognition of the commissioning seniors, CAPT Miller gave each non-commissioning MIDN a challenge coin as his parting gift with his retirement coming in August. Congratulations to all the awarded Jayhawk MIDN and commissioning seniors!



As always, please accept invitation to the upcoming formal events:
15 May, 0900 – Navy Commissioning Ceremony, Woodruff Auditorium, Kansas Union
15 May, 1100 – Joint Commissioning Ceremony, Ballroom, Kansas Union

Rock Chalk and Fly Navy!

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



Air Force News



Hello from Detachment 280, the Flying Jayhawks!

We fared extremely well in the FY23 Professional Officer Course Selection Process board. Seven of the eight sophomore cadets that met the board in March received an enrollment allocation, meaning they'll attend Field Training this summer and complete their rite of passage into our upperclassmen Professional Officer Course. With the addition of the new Charles McGee Leadership Award, mentioned in the last newsletter, all of these cadets will finish their time at Det 280 on full scholarship. Much of the cadet training this semester has been focused on ensuring our Field Training attendees are ready to perform this summer at Maxwell AFB, AL.

Several cadets were competitively-selected for AFROTC-sponsored summer professional development opportunities. Cadets Cavanaugh, Kim, Scales, and Whisenhunt will attend Project Global Officer at locations around the world where they will formally study a foreign language and gain valuable cross-cultural skills. Cadets Bryant and Gonzalez will attend Aim High Flight Academy and JROTC Flight Academy, respectively, where they will gain flight hours and practice mentorship and leadership. Finally, Cadet Oswald volunteered for and was selected Field Training Cadet Training Assistant. This will be his second consecutive summer performing CTA duty, which is a significant sacrifice.

We held our annual awards ceremony and cadet change of command on 3 May in Woodruff Auditorium at the KU Memorial Union. Academic, athletic, and leadership excellence was recognized across the detachment and I appreciate Col Kelly (ret) being on hand to pass out gold bars to our FY23 graduates and commissionees. The Det 280 flag was formally passed from Cadet Jason Oswald to Cadet Emily Whisenhunt. Cadet Oswald did a fantastic job leading cadet organization and training during the spring semester and I'm excited to watch Cadet Whisenhunt perform next fall. I know she and her staff have several initiatives they intend to execute, all for the betterment of our evolving cadet wing.

Lastly, I want to recognize our spring 2023 graduates and commissionees:

Cadet Rachel Clark, Pilot (Vance AFB, OK)

Cadet Samuel Klingenberg, CSO (Pensacola NAS, FL)

Cadet Hannah Pennington, Cyber (Keesler AFB, MS)

Cadet Nicholas Sandusky, Pilot (Columbus AFB, MS)

Cadet Ryan Ward, Intelligence (Goodfellow AFB, TX)

Cadet Jadyn Yoder, CSO (Pensacola NAS, FL)

All recipients of this newsletter are welcome to attend our commissioning ceremony at 9 AM on 15 May in the Kansas Room, KU Memorial Union. Col Mike Edmonston, Air Force Element Commander at Command and General Staff College, will be our guest speaker.

Rock Chalk!

Lt Col Charlie Dorssom Commander, Air Force ROTC Det 280, University of Kansas



(Good times after recent Field Training Exercise)

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: job4mike6@aol.com

Here are some web addresses and phone numbers for retirement pay and related issues such as changing an allotment or tax withholding for inclusion in our newsletter.

WEB ADDRESS <http://www.dfas.mil/dfas/retiredmilitary.htm> Or <https://myPay.dfas.mil>

POSTAL ADDRESS Defense Finance and Accounting Service, US Military Retirement Pay, 8899 E 56th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46249-1200

PHONE/FAX COMMERCIAL 317-212-0551; TOLL FREE VOICE 1-800-321-1080; TOLL FREE FAX 1-800-469-6559

2023 Advocacy in Action Washington DC Trip Report

On April 26th, Mike Kelly accompanied our Kansas Council President, Dr. Joel Feder to visit our Kansas elected leaders in Washington DC. Mike and Joel met with both our Senators and professional staff members from all six offices. The House was voting on the 26th which precluded meeting with Representatives.

We addressed three main issues: 1) Support to the All-volunteer force, 2) Restore Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) to 100%, and 3) Fight Cuts to the TRICARE Pharmacy Benefit.

Message 1) This year is the 50th anniversary of the all-volunteer force (AVF) and it should be a celebration, not a recruiting crisis. Since the end of the military draft in 1973, the AVF has protected our nation at home and abroad. But now, DoD finds itself in a war for talent: The active component faces an environment where personnel shortages result in increased workloads and reduced quality of life amidst a recruiting crisis, while the National Guard works to rebound from the stresses of the COVID-19 pandemic and its largest mobilization since World War II.

The AVF is one of our greatest national strategic advantages. Maintaining such a capability requires protecting the quality of life for our uniformed community. Contact your legislators and urge them to support the all-volunteer force.

Message 2) The availability of affordable rental housing is a national problem — one made worse for service members thanks to frequent moves and the unique needs of their profession. Service members don't choose where they are stationed, and they are always on call. The challenges mount further for families, with spouses of those in uniform more likely to be unemployed or underemployed.

Service members and their families living on-base have their BAH cover 100% of the rent and utility costs. However, those off-base only have BAH cover 95% of rent and the utilities. We need to end this cost-cutting measure for our troops. Our nation expects 100% from our service members, so please help us ensure they get 100% of their housing allowance by supporting BAH restoration.

Message 3) The TRICARE pharmacy network was cut nearly 25% with the elimination of thousands of independent pharmacies. This cost-cutting measure, directed by the Defense Health Agency, creates barriers to accessing prescription medications with a disproportionate impact on rural beneficiaries, the elderly, and those with serious, complex medical conditions.

Here is the summary of our visit and a photograph of our visit with Senator Moran from his constituent newsletter. Dr. Joel Feder is pictured to the right of Senator Moran. The lady to Joel's right is Kathleen Curthoys, editor of *MOAA Magazine*. Mike is gesturing to emphasize the concern about the TRICARE Pharmacy Network issue. Senator Moran wants more brick and mortar pharmacies to remain in the TRICARE network.

"Military Officers Association of America

I appreciated the chance to meet with members of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) this week. During our meeting, I was honored to receive their Colonel Arthur T. Marix Congressional Leadership Award. The award, named in honor of Colonel Marix, recognizes members of Congress who have demonstrated strong support for national defense and the uniformed services community. I am grateful for organizations like MOAA, which generously devote resources to supporting our service members and veterans. I look forward to continuing to work with this organization to make certain that our service members and veterans receive the care they deserve."



2023 STATE LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY REPORT

The Kansas Legislative session adjourned on Friday April 28th for the year and the Governor has ten days to sign or veto end-of-the session legislation.

Here is how eight priorities for veterans and military fared this session.

- 1) Extend Property Tax Exemptions on primary residence and autos for disabled veterans—The Conference Committee Report on SB 8 contains an expansion of eligibility for a tax refund on residential property taxes for certain disabled veterans rated 50% to 100%. The Governor may or may not sign this bill. No other legislation reached the Governor on this item.
- 2) Support full Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs Office budget request. KCVA Office is fully funded.
- 3) Provide sales tax exemption for veterans rated 100% disabled for purchases up to \$25K—No progress
- 4) Exempt currently serving military pay from Kansas Income Tax—No progress
- 5) Provide family caregivers of disabled veterans a tax credit—No progress
- 6) Design planned northeast Kansas skilled nursing facility for expansion beyond 72 beds—Legislature passed language to transfer property from one state agency to another if the federal VA grants Kansas the money for this facility.
- 7) Expand veterans treatment courts, especially in rural regions—No progress
- 8) Permit permanent hunting and fishing licenses for disabled veterans—bill passed for veterans rated 30% to 100%



JAYHAWK CHAPTER MOAA



A membership meeting will be held **Tuesday, 16 May 2023**

at the **Lawrence Country Club**

Dinner cost is \$30.00/meal.

The Program: Major Jess Foster, 139th Airlift Wing, Missouri National Guard, Global Threats

Social Hour: 1800 hours Dinner: 1900 hours

The Menu: Steak, potato, vegetable, cheesecake-dessert

Send your reservation and check payable to Jayhawk Chapter MOAA to arrive no later than **Thursday, 11 May** 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 Mike Kelly at 727-3329

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
KANSAS COUNCIL WEBSITE: www.kansasmooa.net
JAYHAWK CHAPTER WEBSITE: www.jayhawkmoaa.org

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