



Jayhawk Chapter



MOAA Newsletter

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July Program

Time: Tuesday 18 July 2023

Lawrence Country Club

6:00 PM Cocktails/Social Hour

7:00 PM Dinner

Speaker- Dr. Stephen Higgs, Director,
Bio-Security Research Institute (BRI),
Kansas State University

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 4

July 2023

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President's Comments

I hope everyone is taking advantage of our summer weather to travel or enjoy recreational activities. Once school was out in May, Georgiana and I traveled to Hawaii and San Francisco with our great nieces. We took a cruise from Honolulu to Maui, the Big Island, and Kauai before disembarking again in Honolulu on Norwegian Cruise Lines' *Pride of America*. We booked our cruise through MOAA's travel affiliate, Brencco Travel Services in Overland Park. If you want to know more about the cruise, please send me an e-mail at mkelly1123@icloud.com or give me a phone call at 785 424-7527.

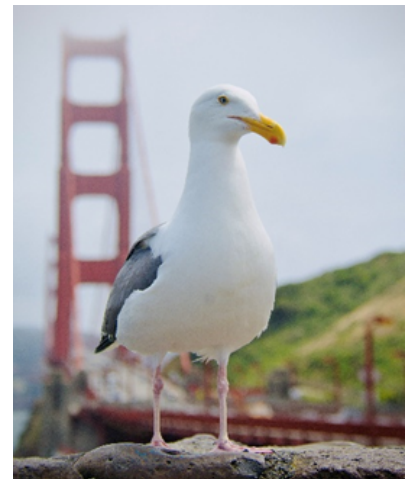


After our cruise we spent another day on Oahu visiting with long time friend Mike Fricano and his wife Debbie. Mike is Vice President of the Aloha Chapter of the MOAA and Mike traveled to Washington DC for MOAA's Advocacy in Action this past April. His photo is in the latest issue of *MOAA Magazine*. We were too early for the mid-summer opening of the commuter rail link between Honolulu and Pearl Harbor so we took a commercial bus tour of the *USS Arizona* Memorial. Speaking with a park ranger, she confirmed only one survivor of the crew of the *USS Arizona* remains alive. A visit to Pearl Harbor is a somber, but not to be missed, reminder of the cost of freedom. Moored nearby is the battleship *USS Missouri* (BB-63) which reminds us that the sacrifices of the Sailors and Marines lost that day on

the *USS Arizona* were not in vain.

On our return we had a stopover in San Francisco and took a driving tour of the city. My great niece Chloe Cook is a photojournalist for the Free State High School Yearbook and took this picture of the world's largest seagull! From this perspective it looks like he could protect the Golden Gate from Godzilla!

Our resident China scholar, Gary Borge, published another candid letter to the editor in the *Lawrence Journal-World* regarding educational partnerships with China. Well said Gary! Our newsletter editor Ray Finch also published a timely letter on homeless concerns based upon his volunteer contributions to solving the problem. I hope everyone will consider emulating Gary's and Ray's commitment to our precious tradition of public debate and speaking up on important issues in our community.



The upcoming chapter dinner meeting is Tuesday July 18 at Lawrence Country Club. I hope you can attend. Our speaker will be Dr. Stephen Higgs, the Director of the Bio-Security Research Institute (BRI) at Kansas State University. KSU's BRI is closely aligned with the new federal National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility in Manhattan. BRI conducts "comprehensive infectious disease research to address threats to plant, animal, and human health, including food-borne pathogens." Dr. Higgs is an expert in infectious diseases with a Ph.D. in Parasitology from the University of Reading, UK. I'm sure we will find his talk informative.

Sadly, I must report the loss of LTC Ray Rhodd, U.S. Army (retired). Ray was a former President of the Kansas Council of Chapters of MOAA and a huge contributor to MOAA and our advocacy causes. He passed away on June 3rd. Many MOAA members from across the state including our current Council President Dr. Joel Feder (CAPT, USN (retired) attended the funeral services. Georgiana and I have reached out to his surviving spouse.

Please let me know if you need assistance with any issues. Our board members are ready to use our pool of knowledge to help solve any problem for our chapter members. I look forward to seeing you on Tuesday the 18th of July at Lawrence Country Club.



Jayhawk Chapter News

PERSONAL NEWS

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 hot, humid, and happy hello from the Jayhawk Battalion! After a wonderful award ceremony and helocast on 5 May and an excellent commissioning ceremony for 10 now Second Lieutenants on 15 May, the cadets and cadre jumped straight into summertime operations for KU Army ROTC. The main effort every summer is the vaunted “Cadet Summer Training (CST)” held at Fort Knox, Kentucky. 7000 cadets from across the country flock to Fort Knox to be tested across a range of capabilities: the ability to shoot, to land nav, to ruck march, and – most importantly – to lead under difficult conditions. This program is led and run by cadre from ROTC programs across the country who arrive in advance of the cadets to prepare and execute the training. All of our rising seniors and all of our active-duty cadre will attend this summer. In addition to CST, we send cadets across the country to various Army Schools. Rising junior CDT Sam Kirk traveled to West Point, NY to attend Air Assault School. He passed on 3 July 2023- the day prior to Independence Day. Several other cadets will attend Air Assault later this summer. We also send CDT Mason Patterson to Eglin AFB in Florida to attend the Combat Diver Qualification Course. He is still decisively engaged in this training. Our future Cadet Battalion Commander – CDT Regan Warburton – just recently returned from Taiwan where she participated in Chinese Language Training in Taipei. Suffice to say, the summers are extremely busy for the Jayhawk Battalion.



As mentioned in the last note and as in all Army units over the summer, the Jayhawk Battalion will undergo a transition in personnel. SFC Smith will retire to North Carolina, SSG Allcock will PCS to Fort Leonard Wood, MO and I will retire to the local area. This will be my last MOAA submission. As the son of a KU Army ROTC alum (my mom is a KU grad too), husband to a KU grad, and brother to several KU grads, I’m as close to a Jayhawk as I can be without having graduated from here. I’m so proud of the cadets – past and present – who have opted to take the challenging path of ROTC and count myself as lucky to have been able to play a role in their development. I’m passing the baton to the capable hands of LTC Calvin Taetzsch who comes to the position with incredible energy and insight.

Finally, the summer is a heavy time for us to get the word out regarding ROTC. Every summer I talk to incoming KU Freshman who have no idea that ROTC

is an option. Please help me get the word out. If you know anyone who is interested in finding out more about Army ROTC Scholarships, please have them get in touch with my Recruiting Operations Officer – Mr. Lawrence Jenkins (Lawrence.v.jenkins@ku.edu). Scholarship boards for high school applicants will be held 6 October 2023, 12 January 2024, and 4 March 2024.

Rock Chalk!

COL John D. Finch, Professor of Military Science



Navy News



Greetings from the Jayhawk Battalion

It is bittersweet that this is the last newsletter input I provide as I close out this chapter of my career and move on to the next adventure. The close of the spring semester came quickly and



Commissioning Seniors (Left to Right):
Ensign James McDermott, Ensign Daniel Percival, Ensign Dylan Robertson, Second Lieutenant Kyle Morgan,
Ensign Xavier Stuart, Ensign Steven Winkler

our staff and Midshipmen are now attending summer training and cruises. We had the pleasure of hosting Vice Admiral Eugene H. Black III, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Operations, Plans, and Strategy as the guest speaker for both Naval and Joint Commissioning ceremonies, where we commissioned six new officers into the Navy and Marine Corps.

On July 14 at 1000, I will conduct a change of command with my relief, Captain Todd Copeland, at the Campanile. I will then hold my retirement ceremony on August 26th at

1100 in Woodruff Auditorium. If you would like to attend please rsvp through this link: <https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=761293&k=0567430B7254> Given the opportunity to return to my alma mater to command the Jayhawk Battalion has truly been an honor and a pleasure. I know the Battalion will continue to excel and flourish under CAPT Copeland. Rock Chalk!

Rock Chalk and Fly Navy!

CAPT James “Nemo” Miller Professor of Military Science



Air Force News



Hello from Detachment 280, the Flying Jayhawks!

No input for this issue.

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

MOAA News

Don't Forget to Give Your Retired Pay Account a Regular Checkup!

There is an old quote attributed to Benjamin Franklin: "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." And while this can be true of many things—like our health—it's also true about your retired pay account! You should make a plan to regularly review and update your retired pay account.

Keeping your account current will ensure that DFAS can get in touch with you if there is information you need to know about your retired pay and help make sure that outdated information doesn't cause difficulties for you or your loved ones down the road.

Use this handy checklist to do a retired pay checkup at least once a year. A good time to do it is just after you finish your tax preparation, since you'll have the documents handy. Or, you can do it at any time that is convenient for you by using myPay.

1. Is your mailing address current?

*You might be surprised to learn DFAS gets a lot of returned mail. If you moved and haven't told us, we won't know how to reach you. Let's keep the lines of communication open! You can **easily log in to your myPay account and check "Correspondence Address" under "Pay Changes" on the side menu as part of the annual account checkup: <https://mypay.dfas.mil>***

Or, check your mailing address on your Retiree Account Statement to ensure that it is up-to-date.

2. Is your email address in myPay current?

***Make sure you have an email address in myPay and that it is current.** Email is the easiest and fastest way to communicate. **If we have an email address, you will hear news faster.** Plus, now you can get **email status notifications** when you submit certain requests for your account if you have a valid email address in myPay.*

It only takes a minute to check your email address in myPay. At the top of the myPay account menu, select "Personal Settings" and then in the side menu on the left, select "Email Address" to view the email address(es) on file with DFAS. Make sure you indicate the primary email address you want us to use, and check the box to indicate if the address is still valid. Delete any old email addresses you no longer use.

If you have a valid email address in myPay, you can receive notification about the DFAS Retiree Newsletter and about your Branch of Service's retiree newsletter, as well as information about your pay account.

3. Are your allotments correct?

*Review your allotments **at least once a year**. Look under "Pay Changes" for "Allotments" in the menu on the left side of the myPay account. Check each allotment and the allotment amounts. Make sure each allotment is current and the amount is correct.*

You might also consider moving allotments for bill payments to your online bank account where you would have more control and flexibility in the timing and changes to your payments. If you do not monitor your allotment amounts and your pay changes for any reason, it is possible that your pay could be suspended if your allotments exceed your net retired pay—so please monitor these closely!

*Please keep in mind that **some allotments cannot be changed using myPay**. These include allotments that are paid via paper check, those for your federal benefits, such as FEDVIP, TRICARE and NSGLI, and those that are not voluntary allotments.*

*If you have a question about allotments for your federal benefits, **please contact that organization***

directly. DFAS cannot answer questions about or make changes to your federal benefit allotments. If you have a question about an allotment that cannot be changed in myPay, please contact our Customer Care Center.

4. Is your income tax withholding correct?

If your income changes, you move to another state, or there are changes in the tax laws, you should **look at the federal or state income tax withholding information in your account.**

You can verify and update your tax withholding information yourself in myPay. Click on “Federal Withholding” or “State Withholding” under “Pay Changes” in the menu on the left to see if your withholding meets your current need. You may also mail or fax us a new IRS Form W-4 to request a change to your federal withholding.

DFAS is unable to provide tax advice. If you have tax or withholding questions, we recommend you consult a tax professional or the IRS website at <https://www.irs.gov>. You can also use the IRS estimator at: <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/tax-withholding-estimator>

5. Have you had any major life changes?

If you get married, lose a spouse, or have a child, **that change can affect your account.** Changes may need to be made to your Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) information or your Arrears of Pay beneficiary.

To make changes to your Survivor Benefit Plan coverage, please send DFAS a copy of the official documentation (marriage license, divorce decree, death certificate or birth certificate), along with the request to update your account.

Retirees should **always notify DFAS as soon as possible about a major life change.**

6. Is your Arrears of Pay beneficiary correct?

Retirees should **choose a beneficiary for any arrears of retired pay that may be due when they pass away.** Make sure the designation is current and confirm that the beneficiary’s address is up to date.

You can check this information by clicking on the “Beneficiary for Arrears” link under “Pay Changes” in the menu on the left side of your account in myPay. Beneficiary designation changes can be made through myPay, as well as updating the beneficiary’s address information.

DFAS also now has a Form Wizard for the DD Form 2894 (Designation of Beneficiary Information) to help take the “form” out of the form. You can use the Form Wizard to provide updated beneficiary information—and even conveniently submit your document using askDFAS. You can find more information **here:** <https://www.dfas.mil/askdfas>. On that page, click on Retirees and Annuitants.

7. Are your Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) coverage and beneficiary correct?

Your Retiree Account Statement (RAS), available in myPay, has a lot of information on it about pay, deductions, taxes and SBP. The SBP section has five lines for members who participate in SBP. **The most important information for you to check: type of coverage, and date of birth of your spouse beneficiary (if applicable).**

If you divorced since retiring, carefully check your Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) participation status. **Under the law, SBP coverage for a spouse ends with a divorce.** Coverage for a former spouse does not continue after the divorce unless certain actions are taken.

To continue SBP coverage for a former spouse, either (a) the retiree must voluntarily request coverage be continued for the former spouse, or, (b) the former spouse must request the coverage (but she/he may do so only if a court order requires the coverage). Certain time limits and other conditions apply.

If those actions were not taken, the coverage for the former spouse has ended. This could have important consequences for your survivors.

To check your SBP coverage status, review your Retiree Account Statement (RAS) carefully. Make sure that the “SBP Coverage Type” properly reflects “former spouse” or “spouse” (as applicable to your individual circumstances).

Please see our special webpage “How to Identify the Status of Spouse/Formal Spouse SBP Coverage on your Retiree Account Statement” for more details: <https://www.dfas.mil/sbpspouseformerspouse>

Note: If you would like more information about the SBP Open Season that runs from December 23, 2022 to January 1, 2024, please visit our special focus webpage for information on eligibility to enroll or discontinue coverage: <https://www.dfas.mil/sbpopenseason23>

Make a plan to review your pay account information regularly

Pick a date to review your retired pay account information. It doesn't matter if it's your retirement anniversary date, birthday, first of the year, or tax time. **Set a yearly reminder** to look over information to make sure your account is up to date.

<https://www.dfas.mil/RetiredMilitary/newsevents/newsletter/June2023-Give-Your-Retired-Pay-Account-a-Regular-Checkup/>

If You Passed Away Today: Consideration for Retired Service Members

Last year, I heard a sad story about a military retiree who passed away while living in Germany. Even sadder was that he had no family there. When his death was discovered by the German authorities, they searched for the next of kin or a friend who knew his final wishes. Finding none, they buried him in a local German cemetery. Thousands of retired service members pass away each year. Most leave a spouse or children who care for them, who will bury or cremate them, and who may receive the deceased's effects and assets –

if the retired service member's wishes are known. In the hours after your death, will your spouse or children know what to do? Have you told them? Or better yet, have you left them final instructions to carry out your wishes?

There are several ways for retired service members to document their assets and leave them to others, such as a will and revocable living trust. Retired Service Members may receive free legal advice from military legal assistance attorneys. You can find the office nearest you at <https://legalassistance.law.af.mil/>

Have you been procrastinating about planning for your death? My dad did -- until he had a stroke. When he recovered, he created "The Book." He showed each of his children, on their next visit, "where the Book lives" and what was in it. He'd included everything we needed to know down to which mortuary to call and their phone number; the cemetery plots he'd purchased for Mom and himself; the casket he wanted; and where all their assets were with account numbers.

But dad passed 13 years after his stroke, as I was driving to visit him. I arrived too late to say goodbye, but as I sat with him, I remembered his plan, his wishes. So I called my brother and told him to email me the first two pages of The Book – the instructions for what to do immediately upon his death. Ten minutes later, I had his wishes in hand, and knew what he wanted me to do. While I was very sad, I did not have the stress of trying to guess what he wanted or whom to talk to. The Book was his way of reminding us that he still loved us, even in death.

Topics to address in your final instructions:

- Getting a death certificate
- Burial or cremation plans and location
- Pre-need eligibility letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) (<https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/pre-need-eligibility/>)
- How to report a Retired Airman's death (<https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary>)
- How to schedule a benefits brief with the VA before the funeral if needed (800) 827-1000 (Benefits Hotline) or (800) 698-2411 (main information line)
- Military funeral honors (<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/leaders-service-providers/casualty-assistance/military-funeral-honors>)
- Burial flag (VA) (<https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/>)
- Headstone/grave marker or veteran's medallion for a private headstone (VA)
- Application for burial expenses from the VA (<https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/veterans-burial-allowance/>)
- Filing claim for VGLI or VALife (<https://www.va.gov/life-insurance/>), or private life insurance
- Applying for Dependency & Indemnity Compensation from the VA (<https://www.va.gov/disability/dependency-indemnity-compensation/>)
- Applying for DOD Survivor Benefit Plan annuity (<https://www.dfas.mil/RetiredMilitary/survivors/ApplySBP/>)
- Applying for the arrears of retired pay (<https://www.dfas.mil/RetiredMilitary/survivors/1174RetireeAOP/>)
- Transferring Thrift Savings Plan (<https://www.tsp.gov/publications/tspbk31.pdf?TSP-BK-31>) ([survivors/ifyou.html](https://www.tsp.gov/publications/tspbk31.pdf?TSP-BK-31))
- Social Security survivors benefits (page 4) (<https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/>)
 - Updating DEERS and ID Cards (<https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/>)
 - State-specific veteran benefits (<https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/Benefit-Library/State/Territory-Benefits>)

- TRICARE plan updates (<https://www.tricare.mil/LifeEvents/DeathinFamily>)
- Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Plan (877) 372-3337 or <https://www.benefeds.com/education-support/eligibility-military>)

Here's How to Add a Caregiver to Your Online Pharmacy Account

TRICARE beneficiaries who use an [Express Scripts online account](#) to manage pharmacy needs can add up to eight caregivers to that account, the Defense Health Agency (DHA) [announced June 22](#).

Through the online portal, caregivers can order or cancel prescriptions, review order status and shipping information, and answer questions from Express Scripts about medication. At some military pharmacies, registered caregivers may be able to pick up a beneficiary's prescription; DHA recommends contacting the pharmacy in advance to find out whether they offer this option and what procedures must be followed.

To add a caregiver, login to your [Express Scripts account](#), click on the "Account" button at the top of the page, and select "Add a Caregiver" from the menu. Input the required information from there, including the first and last name, date of birth, and contact information (email and phone) for each caregiver.

Caregivers can access the account using the beneficiary's username and password. The beneficiary will retain full account access, and adding a caregiver is optional.

Beneficiaries with questions on the process, or about other aspects of the TRICARE pharmacy program, should contact Express Scripts at (877) 363-1303.

Top Corporations Still Slow to Address Military Spouse Unemployment

When President Joe Biden signed [an executive order at Fort Liberty](#), North Carolina, earlier this month, hopes were high that it would inspire the private sector to shift the needle on the epidemic of unemployment among [military spouses](#).

So far, the results in corporate America have been mixed.

Substantial roadblocks remain, from [licensing procedures](#) that vary from state to state and profession to profession, to a dearth of existing infrastructure to support dual-income families on and around military bases, to cultural bias. Nevertheless, some advocates remain optimistic both that expanding the hiring of military spouses is a good thing, and that the timing has never been better.

"President Biden's executive order was a signal to the federal government that it's time to put the internal house in order when it comes to hiring military spouses," Elizabeth O'Brien, the executive director of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's Hiring Our Heroes initiative, said in an interview with [Military.com](#). "Corporate America has an opportunity to come alongside and create solutions for military spouse hiring, just as they did when veteran unemployment was at an all-time high."

Then, in 2012, corporate America came up big, reducing [veteran employment](#) to the low single digits. Those same businesses have been slow to adopt policies assisting military spouses.

"While there have been some successes, by and large, corporate America is not responding in the same manner for a population that is 91% female, more educated than their peer group and a diverse candidate pool," O'Brien said.

Of the top 25 Fortune 500 companies, 11 have policies in place about hiring military spouses. A few, like CVS, which has offered preferential hiring for military spouses for 20 years, or Walmart, which has hired 110,000 veterans and military spouses since 2013, won't have to change much.

But only two of the top 25 Fortune 500 companies -- UnitedHealth Group and Verizon -- are listed as "military-friendly employers." Only 10 of the top 25 take part in the popular Military Spouse Employment partnership.

Unemployment remains above 20% for military spouses, and while the federal government can commit to proactive policies dedicated to hiring and retaining military spouses, it's not possible to enforce compliance in private industry -- only to encourage certain behavior.

One test of private industry's commitment to employment of military spouses is remote work. Military spouses are frequently required to relocate with their service members, which can hinder or cement careers, depending on how it's handled by employers.

Larger corporations have more resources to put behind hiring, and greater flexibility to move employees between jobs and locations. Furthermore, companies that deal in online services are often more progressive about providing the right resources and allowing remote work among employees.

But among the four tech companies in the Fortune 500's top 25 -- Amazon (2), Apple (3), Alphabet/Google (8), and Microsoft (14) -- only Amazon, which committed to hiring 100,000 veterans and spouses in 2021, has a robust stance toward employing military spouses.

While Google seems to lack an internal policy for hiring military spouses -- if they do, it is not publicly available -- it recently made its largest grant so far to [Hiring Our Heroes](#), or HOH, a U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation organization dedicated to advancing employment opportunities for the military community.

It's part of an initiative Google created with HOH called [Career Forward](#) in which military spouses, active-duty service members and veterans can go through a six-month course and earn a Google Career Certificate in one of six job areas before connecting with employers.

"The pandemic created a testbed for remote work. Employers had no choice but to embrace it," Rory Brosius, a partner with the Cicero Group, and previously the executive director of Joining Forces, a White House initiative under first lady Jill Biden designed to support the military community, said in an interview. "Prior to the pandemic, convincing an employer to do a remote worker pilot would have been pretty challenging. It's become easier now to hire remote employees."

While corporate America focuses its efforts on hiring more military spouses, financial companies are looking at other ways to combat unemployment in a highly mobile workforce. One path to economic parity among military spouses is building their own business and bringing it with them when they move.

Vivian Greentree, senior vice president and head of global corporate citizenship at Fiserv, a multinational corporation based in Wisconsin, said in an interview that her business has been working on programs that foster entrepreneurship among military spouses.

"As a leading 'fin-tech' [financial technology] company with capabilities to help start and scale small businesses, we can hire military-connected employees, and we can also help thousands of them start and grow their own businesses, creating sustainable impact in both areas," Greentree said.

O'Brien underscored the importance of creating viable and long-lasting economic and career opportunities for military spouses, both as an issue for family solidarity and also as national security.

"We're losing a lot of talented people because of the challenges spouses face getting and keeping work through [permanent change of station \[PCS\]](#) moves," she said.

That could also lead to an increase in marriage stress among military families.

"When you think about the systems that create stress in marriages, certainly, things like financial insecurity or feeling that you don't have authority to move your life the way you want can create challenges," said Brosius. "The people who operate our weapons systems and create strategies have families; giving those families the same economic opportunities as others is a priority for everyone in the country."



JAYHAWK CHAPTER MOAA



A membership meeting will be held **Tuesday, 18 July 2023**

at the **Lawrence Country Club**

Dinner cost is \$30.00/meal.

The Program: Dr. Stephen Higgs, Director, Biosecurity Research Institute (BRI), K- State Univ.

Social Hour: 1800 hours Dinner: 1900 hours

The Menu: TBD

Send your reservation and check payable to Jayhawk Chapter MOAA to arrive no later than **Thursday, 13 July** 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)

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