

President's Message
by Ron Kaita

Happy holiday greetings (Thanksgiving and Christmas) to all our chapter members. It has been a honor and pleasure serving over the past four years as your Fort Rucker Chapter President as this is my last Chapter Newsletter. We have asked for your due diligence to nominate my replacement for this position. I just cannot continue to serve due to my wife's medical condition. She is my number one priority over our 44 years of marriage, and today all my attention must be dedicated to her care and quality of life. Please contribute to the search for someone to take on this very important position for our chapter.

We truly survived an ugly National and State election this year, but we now must now muster all our support to the

country and local incoming leadership with all their responsibilities to fix the many failing issues that has affected the security of this Nation and all its workers, industries, and most importantly the families of the USA. Granted it is just my opinion, but I've proudly served in our military over 43 years and seen our country and its military at its best and worst of times. Do not get me wrong because I do not care whoever is in the office. I ardently served to support the Constitution of the United States of America. I do ask you to please support our Chapter's newest leadership and its Board of Directors and its appointed positions as you have over the many years of our chapter's existence.

As usual, our chapter activities have mostly centered around supporting the US Army Warrant Officer Career College

(USAWOCC) events. Our recruiting of Warrant Officer Candidates has been outstanding by adding

Basic Membership numbers for MOAA National and our Chapter with usually three recruiting events each month (328 for Oct/Nov). On 8 December 2024, WOCS Class 25-04 graduates 1000 hrs. at the Post Theater. This is the last WOCS class before exodus when all Warrant Officer candidate training on Fort Novosel takes what we call a "tactical pause." It's a grand event to witness the appointment of the Army's newest Warrant Officer One (WO1), and sometimes CW2 at the needs of our Army.

Our next chapter dinner **(see President's Message page 2)**

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS:
Nominations for Chapter President and Vice-President are requested. Please submit to Ronald Kaita NLT 30 November to his email address: ronald.kaita@twc.com or call him at 334-477-7860. **Thank you.**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	Page
President's Message	1-2
Dinner Schedule, Menu, Guest Speaker	1
Membership Report, Member Spotlight, & Donation to Food Bank	2
ROWA & Legislative Reports; WOC Awards	3
Financial Report, Schedule, Church Humor	4
October 19th Dinner Pictures	5&6
VA & Scam Targets	6
Advertisers	4&7
Membership Form	8

General Membership Meeting, Saturday December 21, 2024, St. Michael's Room, The Landing, Fort Novosel, AL Guest Speaker—
Christmas sing-along with Dennis Newton .

SCHEDULE & MENU
Social: 6:00pm..... Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance: 6:45pm..... Dinner: 7:00pm
>Fresh fruit salad
>Prime rib with Au Jus'
>Chef choince of vegetable
>Baked potato w/butter, shredded cheese & sour cream
>Rolls & butter
>Oreo Pie
>Sweet & unsweet tea, water, & coffee
Cost per meal: \$ 25.00/person

Please make **Reservations by noon Monday December 16th** to Susanne Bailey at (931) 237-1118.
Cancellations must be made by NOON Friday December 20th.
Cash or personal checks only!
Persons not canceling their reservation by noon on Friday prior to the Dinner Meeting will be responsible to our Chapter Treasurer for full payment of the reserved meals.



The MOAA Airways is the bimonthly newsletter of the Fort Rucker Chapter, MOAA which is an Affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA and its Affiliates are nonpartisan. Ft. Rucker Chapter MOAA, P.O. Box 620075, Fort Novosel, Alabama 36362. Email: moaa@fortruckermoaa.org; Website: <http://www.fortruckermoaa.org>

(President's Message from page 1) meeting will be at the Landing on 21 December 2024, at 1800 hrs with dinner served at 1900 hrs. This will be our traditional Christmas Dinner meal with all the trimmings. Please make every effort to come and join us with some great food and Christmas merriment. Our new chapter leadership election results will be announced. There may even be a surprise event for those attending! As always, please take care of yourselves, your families, as well as prayers and well-wishes for our men and women who are deployed keeping us safe and secure. I wish all Chapter MOAA members, their families, retirees, and all veterans to always remember to live our lives by MOAA's motto...Never Stop Serving.

Happy Thanksgiving and have a very Merry Christmas,



Membership Report by Othan Gilbert

Our chapter membership count is 121.

I am pleased to report the addition of a new chapter member: CW4 Robert Smith, who lives with his wife, Shannon, in New Brockton.

There are many MOAA National members in this area that are not, for various reasons, members of our chapter. It is apparent that we need to get some of our younger members to join our chapter. The best recruiter is you. If you are reading this column, then you know how much MOAA has meant to the military community (including enlisted). Please be a strong advocate of MOAA and see if you can get your friends to join MOAA on the national and local level.

The national MOAA website is moaa.org. The phone number for MOAA National is 800-234-6622. If you would like to purchase a MOAA National life membership, it is better to do so by calling them directly and speaking with someone. If you do that (vs doing so over the web), they will give you a 10% discount, give you credit for your current premium membership (if applicable) and arrange payments over an extended period.

Remember to patronize the eleven sponsors of our newsletter. They help to support the chapter and deserve our consideration.

Member Spotlight—Randy Godfrey

Randy is our chapter Vice-President and was born in Atlanta, GA, in 1960 and graduated from Towers High School in Decatur, GA in 1978. He earned his Associate of Science degree from Lake City Community College in Florida in 1983 and later earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Embrey-Riddle Aeronautical University. He enlisted in the Army in 1987 and graduated from the Warrant Officer Candidate School and Warrant Officer Flight Training in 1989. In 1988 he married his wife, Debbie, whom he met in Fort Myers, FL. Debbie was a "military brat" who was born in England. They have 2 children and 1 grandson. Randy retired from the Army as a Chief Warrant Officer 5 in 2016 after 29 years of service and he and Debbie decided to settle in Enterprise. After retirement he served as a Military Program Analyst from 2017-2024 for the Organization and Personnel Force Directorate at Fort Rucker (now Fort Novosel).



Randy's military assignments include tours in Germany, Fort Bragg, Fort Hood, Korea, Fort Rucker, Fort Stewart, Fort Campbell and Hunter Army Air Field in Georgia. He deployed to Kosovo, twice to Iraq and three time to Afghanistan. He served as the Command Chief Warrant Officer of the 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade and his service culminated when he served as the Chief Warrant Officer of the Aviation Branch.

Since retirement in 2016 he has been very busy serving the community in a variety of positions. He served as the President of the local chapter of the US Army Warrant Officer Association from 2017-2021. He has also served or is currently serving in leadership positions with the local VFW, the Fort Novosel Retiree Council and the Hire Heroes USA Mentor and Transition organization. Presently his major volunteer position is as Director of Operations for the Friends of Army Aviation organization which serves as a vehicle for the public to participate in aerial flight in Army aircraft that were flown in combat by Army crews.

MOAA Chapter donation to Novosel Food Bank



The Fort Novosel Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and its members recently donated \$1,000 to the Fort Novosel Holiday Food Assistance Program to benefit the Fort Novosel military community. This program is administered by the Army Community Service (ACS) department at Fort Novosel. Pictured are Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Loel Ewart, the chapter treasurer, and Ms. Jo Anne Close, who is an Army Emergency Relief Officer and Financial Counselor with ACS.



Retired Officer Wives Association (ROWA) by Mary Jane Collins

How soon this year is reaching the time of the year for Christmas. How special is Christmas day coming with happiness and peace to remember throughout the year. May we ever remember the blessing of the gifts of the Lord, the gifts of His love for all. How special is helping others to come to Christ and how many have changed with peace and joy. Not by the years we live but how much we give. From one day to another, God will gladly give. To everyone who seeks Him and tries each day to live. Living close to God and helping neighbors, friends, and brothers. Let us always be faithful to God's healing and the happiness to give to others.

Legislative Report by Ray Collins



To say that I wish I have some news to share with you about the issues which affect the U S Military Active, Reserve, and Retired would be an understatement. We have labored through year after year of highly active involvement by many branches of the military alliance or coalition. The issues which have seen the most intense support have garnered more and more attention by the entities of the federal government which must step up and fund them, yet they remain unfunded.

The ability to substantiate ones case for compensation due to exposure to the military environment seems to grow increasingly difficult. In the event a service member can prove injury due to military service monetary support is far from assured. The fact that the military service member especially junior grade and his/her family ranks several rungs of the ladder below the illegal immigrant is a smudge on our National character that is hard to swallow. This is no exaggeration. Consider the fact that the U. S. Military would have need for a Basic Needs Allowance, Basic Housing Allowance, or a Food Security Program. These are just three of the most unbelievable failures of what was once the most affluent nation on the planet.

The aforementioned issues and many others will never be resolved without involvement from people like you and me. When only 17 percent of our elected members of our government have ever put on a service uniform, we cant expect understanding or involvement.

Warrant Officer Awards



WO1 Brett M. Becker (R), the Distinguished Honor Graduate of Class 25-01, as the student with the highest class standing.

WO1 K'Dejha L. Avery (L), the Leadership Awardee of Class 25-01, as the student demonstrating the highest leadership attributes.



WO1 Dustin S. Dillon (R), the Distinguished Honor Graduate of Class 25-02, as the student with the highest class standing.

WO1 Christopher A. Terry (L), the Leadership Awardee of Class 25-02, as the student demonstrating the highest leadership attributes.



WO1 Shelby K. Baron (R), the Distinguished Honor Graduate of Class 25-03, as the student with the highest class standing.

WO1 Ryan C. Hacker(L), the Leadership Awardee of Class 25-03, as the student demonstrating the highest leadership attributes.

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TREASURER'S REPORT by LTC (Ret) Loel Ewart

Net Worth of the Fort Novosel (Rucker) Chapter of MOAA as of 11/11/2024 is **\$29,056.51** These funds are in one checking account, one savings account and one Money Market Account in the AllIn (FCU).

Activities Since Last Report:	(10/14/24) Starting balance of;	\$28,887.33
DEPOSITS	ACTION	
10/21/24	MOAA Dinner meals	\$746.00
11/02/24	Coffee County Arts Alliance (NLSP)	150.00
10/31/24	MM Interest	10.17
10/31/24	Credit Interest	00.01
	Deposits Total	\$906.18
CHECKS:	EXPENDITURES:	
2017	10/14/24 Ron Kaita Guest Speaker pins	\$125.00
2018	10/21/24 IMWRF October Dinner meals	612.00
	Expenditures Total	\$737.00
	Net Increase	\$169.18
	(11/11/24) Current Total Balance of;	\$29,056.51
	All In checking	\$7,260.26
	All In Savings	\$5.50
	All In Money Market	\$21,790.75
	Reserve Total: (Minus Reserve);	-\$21,790.75
	Life Membership	\$7,090.00
	MOAA reserve,	\$14,700.75
	Minus Savings:	5.50
	*Usable Funds as of November 11, 2024 (Minus reserve/savings)	\$7,260.26
	No outstanding bills. Scholarship Fund=	\$266.00

Merry Christmas

It was Palm Sunday but because of a sore throat, 5-year-old Johnny stayed home from church with a sitter. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds. Johnny asked them what they were for. "People held them over Jesus' head as he walked by," his father told him. "Wouldn't you know it," Johnny fumed, "the one Sunday I don't go and he shows up."

*extracted from
www.swapmeetdave.com*

Important Dates for MOAA

Board of Directors' Meeting	Newsletter Input Suspense	Bi-Monthly Meeting
12-9-2024		12-21-2024
1-13-2025	1-15-2025	
2-10-2025		2-15-2025
3-10-2025	3-19-2025	
4-14-2025		4-19-2025
5-12-2025	5-21-2025	
6-9-2025		6-21-2025
7-14-2025	7-16-2025	
8-11-2025		8-16-2025
9-8-2025	9-17-2025	
10-13-2025		10-18-2025
11-10-2025	11-19-2025	
12-8-2025		12-20-2025

Dinners will be on Saturdays at 1800.

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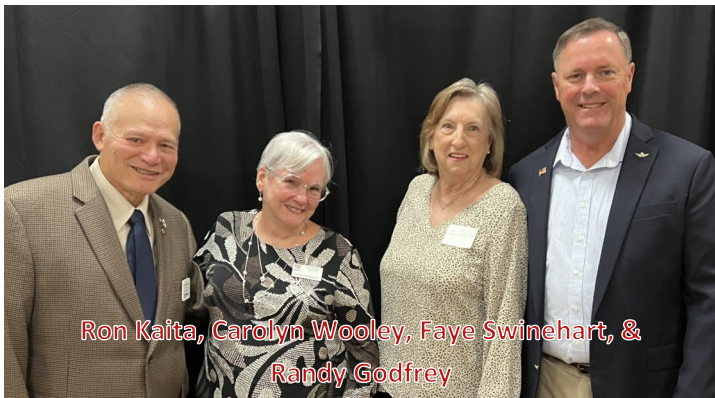
Photos from October 19, 2024 Dinner



Guest Speaker Shannon Smith & Chapter President Ron Kaita



Shannon Smith speaking on Veterans' Assistance



Ron Kaita, Carolyn Wooley, Faye Swinehart, & Randy Godfrey



Karen Beer, Carolyn Wooley, & Faye Swinehart



Leslie & Roy Templin



Ann & Frank Estes



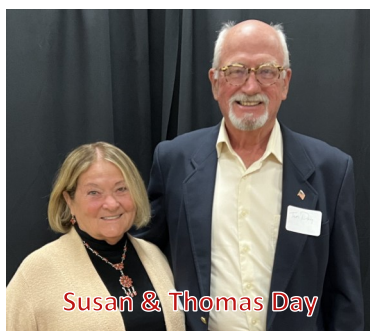
Robert & Shannon Smith



Sam & John Newton



Dee Gilbert & Dennis Newton



Susan & Thomas Day



Gerald & Minh Colley



Mary & Jeff Turner



Mr. Yan Pa



Debbie & Randy Godfrey



Dee & Othan Gilbert



Danual Ewart, Barbara Ewart, & Gale Ewart Brogden

VA Offers Help to Military Scam Targets

Veterans, active-duty military and their families are often targets of scammers. Current and former service members reported \$477 million in losses from scams last year, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) says.

In response, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) launched **VSAFE.gov** and **833-38V-SAFE (833-388-7233)**. The new website and call center will coordinate efforts across the federal government to protect veterans, service members and their families from fraud and scams.

The website includes resources on identity theft and the most common scams targeting veterans, including romance and other impostor scams, fake job offers and bogus investment schemes.

The call center provides a simple way to report scams. All federal agencies will be advised to route military members and veterans reporting scams to the correct place for assistance.

"This is a positive step," says Juanita Jiménez-Soto, AARP national veterans and military families manager, noting how crucial it is for veterans to understand the red flags for fraud. "They protected us. We should be protecting them."

Last year, military consumers lost a median of \$599 to scams reported to the FTC, which was 20 percent more than the \$500 median loss reported by nonmilitary consumers, according to the FTC's *Consumer Sentinel Network Data Book 2023*.

Copied from the AARP Bulletin, October 2024

Photos from October 19, 2024 Dinner (continued)



Merry Christmas



Head Table with Guest Speaker & Chapter President



Dinner Guests' Tables



Dinner Guests' Tables (continued)

MOAA-Backed Bill Expanding Free Credit Monitoring Services Clears Senate—By Kevin Lilley, November 15, 2024

The Servicemembers' Credit Monitoring Enhancement Act ([S. 1316](#)), would update federal law to allow all members of the armed services to receive this service, which currently is available only to active duty members. The bill, introduced by Sens. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.), Tom Carper (D-Del.), and Steve Daines (R-Mont.), passed by unanimous consent. "Every servicemember deserves access to the tools they need to accomplish their mission and defend our country," said Cory Titus, MOAA's director of Government Relations for Currently Serving Affairs. "MOAA thanks Senators Klobuchar, Cramer, Carper, and Daines for supporting the reserve component and closing a loophole that left some unprotected." Klobuchar said the legislation "will improve the financial security of military families and give them greater peace of mind," while Daines noted the "endless sacrifices to protect our country" made by servicemembers and families – "the last thing they should have to worry about is identity theft or fraud issues," he added. Active duty members can learn more about accessing the current monitoring program by contacting one of the three nationwide credit bureaus.

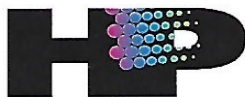


Checkin Desk—Loel Ewart & Susanne Bailey

Extracted from the MOAA website

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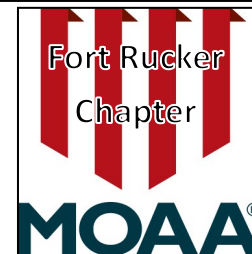
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Ft. Novosel, AL 36362-0075

Return Service Requested

MOAA Membership Application
Fort Rucker Chapter



Fort Rucker Chapter
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
PO Box 620075
Fort Novosel, AL 36362-0075

Enclosed is my check, in accordance with the schedule below, for membership in the Fort Rucker Chapter of the *Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)*.

Individual joining: 1 Dec – 28 Feb \$12.00; 1 Mar – 31 May \$9.00; 1 Jun – 31 August \$6.00;
 Membership 1 Sep – 30 Nov \$3.00.

NAME: _____ RANK: _____
 BRANCH OF SERVICE: _____ ADDRESS: _____
 CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
 DATE OF BIRTH: _____ PHONE: _____
 SPOUSE'S NAME: _____
 E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

NATIONAL MOAA MEMBERSHIP # _____ National Life Member? _____

Membership in the National MOAA is required for membership in our local Chapter. If you are a member of National and do not know your membership number so indicate and we will obtain it from National.

Make checks payable to Fort Rucker Chapter MOAA Thank you for your support!
Web address: www.FortRuckerMOAA.org