



Heartland of America Chapter

-- **We Never Stop Serving** --
-- **We Are One Powerful Voice** --
--- **for Every Officer at Every Stage of Life and Career** ---

***** **November 2020** *****



ROTC produces officers in all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces except the U.S. Coast Guard. ROTC graduates constitute 56 percent of U.S. Army, 11 percent of U.S. Marine Corps, 20 percent of U.S. Navy, and 41 percent of U.S. Air Force officers, for a combined 39 percent of all active duty officers in the Department of Defense

Come and meet Cadets and staff from the ROTC programs at Creighton, UNL, and UNO

***Next Dinner Meeting November 18th
At Anthony's Steak House, 72nd & F St.
Social Hour starts 6pm, dinner at 7pm***

(see inside back cover for details)

Check out our website at www.heartlandMOAA.us or call (402)339-7888

The Bulletin Board

is the Newsletter of the Heartland of America Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America. Content is from members, MOAA's [Take Action](#), [Legislative Action Center](#), and other military-oriented sources. Material used is public domain or attributed as to source and copyright. Our editorial policy is the same [non-partisan policy as MOAA](#).

Lt Colonel Patrick L. Jones, USAF(Ret) Editor & Webmaster - (402)650-4457

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Unfortunately, we had to cancel our October meeting as our speaker had cancelled because of the COVID -19 and we had an insufficient number of chapter members planning to attend. Mr. Don Borman, Director of the VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System, was to have been our speaker. I have heard him speak and he is very engaging. Hopefully, he will be able to speak next Spring.

During the past month, a few readers of our newsletter complained about some of the verbiage in an article on voting.

While the sides were not identified as being Democrat or Republican, the article seemed to favor the more conservative view. A few Chapter members did complain to me and I apologized to those members who were offended.

Subsequently, our legal affairs authority reviewed the article in question. Chip Stuart's opinion: *"While this article raises issues that are relevant, controversial, and in some cases emotional, I interpreted the main message was to exercise your civil obligation to vote. It was thought provoking and generated discussion. It does not specifically advocate for one party. By law MOAA must not endorse any particular party or candidate. Publishing this article did not violate that requirement."*

I will add that I consider our newsletter editor and webmaster, Pat Jones, a good friend. He is completely dedicated to our organization and performs at the highest level. He is highly ethical and a natural leader in several organizations. We are extremely fortunate to have him on our Board and we look forward to his future contributions.

On October 20th, Jeff Mikesell, Dean Kenkel, and I participated in the fairly new MOAA State Legislative Forum. The purpose was to learn what other states are doing or have done, their accomplishments, and/or issues. Our MOAA CEO, Lt Gen Dana Atkins began the meeting. He noted that the proposed changes to military health care have been paused for more study on the impact of reducing non-active

duty retirees and families who use the medical facilities and the transfer of 18 thousand billets from the medical services to operational units. Gen Atkins also mentioned that they are considering a phased repeal, similar to what was done with the SBP/DIC repeal for surviving spouses, for concurrent receipt. Finally, he mentioned the issue “Guard and Reserve Parity” as their pay that is uniquely different from those on active duty.

Next, Martin Dempsey, Midwest Regional Liaison (CO, IA, KS, MN, MO, NE) Defense-State Liaison Office, described the functions of his office and provided a list of the DoD Key Issues Supporting Service Members and Families for 2021. When he heard that Missouri, Colorado, and Nebraska would be presenting, Martin noted the successes in Nebraska as he had worked with and praised Gen Paul Cohen.

I gave the short Nebraska input and how working together and knowing that retaining military retirees benefits the State, we managed to get the 50% exemption on military retired pay. Our success was due to the teamwork of multiple agencies and individuals including: the Nebraska Veterans Coalition, the Military Commission and its ability to task UNL to do studies on hard data, the Offutt Advisory Council, the Omaha, Sarpy, and Bellevue Chambers of Commerce, State Senator/Col Tom Brewer, and Governor Pete Ricketts.

Our November 18th Dinner Meeting is our annual Salute to ROTC and we plan to have 10 cadets/midshipmen from our five ROTCs there. Many of our members consider this to be the best meeting of the year. We hope you will attend, and even if you can not attend, will consider buying a cadet’s meal..

Dan Donovan

d.donovan1@cox.net

402-339-7888

Here’s Your 2021 Military Retiree and VA Disability Pay Raise

(MOAA Newsletter – 22 Oct)

(Editor’s note: This article by Jim Absher originally appeared on Military.com, a leading source of news for the military and veteran community.)

Military retirees, those who receive disability or other benefits from the [Department of Veterans Affairs](#), federal retirees and Social Security recipients will see a 1.3% increase in their monthly checks for 2021.

The annual [Cost Of Living Allowance](#) (COLA) is slightly less than the 1.6% increase from last year but in line with the historical increases seen over the last 10 years.

Each year, [military retirement pay](#), [Survivor Benefit Plan Annuities](#), [VA Compensation and Pensions](#), and Social Security benefits are adjusted for the rate of inflation.

Military retirement pay is one of the top three benefits of military service, along with medical and other benefits. Understanding how to calculate military retirement pay involves understanding the final pay and high 36-month average methods.

Retirement Pay Increase

As a result of the increase, retired military members will see a \$13 increase for each \$1,000 in [military retirement](#) pension they receive each month.

Retirees who entered military service on or after Aug. 1, 1986, and opted for the [Career Status Bonus \(CSB/Redux retirement plan\)](#) have any COLA increases reduced by 1%, so they will see a smaller increase in 2021. They should see a monthly increase of only \$3 per \$1,000.

Survivors receiving Survivor Benefit Plan payments will see the same increase of \$13 per \$1,000 in their monthly payments.

Related content at Military.com:

- [Military Retirement & Survivor Pay Dates](#)
- [Get the Military.com Pay App](#)
- [Active-Duty Members on Track for 3.0% Pay Raise in 2021](#)

VA Disability Increase: Disabled veterans will also get a bump. The average [VA disability check](#) will go up about \$1.85 per month for those with a 10% rating, and \$19.68 for those rated at 100%. [RELATED AT MILITARY.COM: [See the Current VA Disability Compensation Rates](#)]

Other Federal Retirees and Beneficiaries

Military retirees and VA beneficiaries aren't the only ones who benefit from the COLA increase. Civil Service retirees and Social Security recipients will also see the 1.3% jump in their monthly checks.

For Social Security recipients, the monthly increase will mean an extra \$18.07 per month for the average beneficiary.

How the COLA Is Determined:

The Department of Labor determines the annual COLA by measuring the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which is a measurement of a broad sampling of the cost of consumer goods and expenses. The CPI is compared to the previous year; if there is an increase, there is a COLA. If there is no increase, there is no COLA.

[RELATED: [MOAA's COLA Watch](#)]

The COLA affects about one in every five Americans, including Social Security recipients, disabled veterans, federal retirees and retired military members.

In 2020, the COLA increase was 1.6%; in 2019, retirees saw a 2.8% increase.

2021 FEDVIP Pricing Schedules Released

(By: Paul Frost, MOAA Newsletter, 22OCTOBER 20, 2020)

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) finally posted the long-awaited 2021 Federal Employee Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) [pricing schedules](#).

By this time last year, I was able to [summarize the average dental and vision increases](#) for 2020. That data's not yet available, and while it may come later, I wanted to demonstrate what I encourage every FEDVIP dental and/or vision plan holder to do – check whether the scheduled 2021 pricing for your current plan provider continues to meet your family's dental and/or vision needs.

If you are comfortable with your plan's scheduled premium increase (or decrease, in some cases) and were pleased with the benefit itself overall, then do nothing – your plan will roll over under new premium pricing beginning Jan 1, 2021.

If you're looking to make a change, **remember the 2021 FEDVIP open season will run Nov. 9 to Dec. 14. MOAA Premium and Life members can get some guidance on shopping for a new plan by watching [this MOAA webinar](#) (you must log in access).**

[RELATED: [More Archived Webinars From MOAA](#)]

You can make your own comparisons [at the BENEFEDS website](#).

* **Humana revised its 2020 Dental-High plan (no standard plan in 2020) for 2021 by providing both a Dental-High and Dental-Standard Plan. Humana 2020 Dental-High participants who do not request (via online or phone) to remain in the Dental-High plan for 2021 will be converted to Dental-Standard for 2021.**

2021 FEDVIP Dental Insurance Providers

Click the links below to find plan information, brochures, contact information, and more:

National/International

- [Aetna Dental®](#)
- [Delta Dental®](#)
- [Blue Cross Blue Shield FEP Dental®](#)
- [GEHA Connection Dental Federal®](#)
- [MetLife Federal Dental Plan](#)
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Regional

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- [EmblemHealth Dental®](#)
- [HealthPartners Dental®](#)
- [Humana](#)
- [Triple-S Salud®](#)

2021 FEDVIP Vision Insurance Providers

Click the links below to find plan information, brochures, contact information, and more:

National/International

- [Aetna Vision Preferred®](#)
- [Blue Cross Blue Shield FEP Vision®](#)
- [MetLife Federal Vision Plan](#)
- [UnitedHealthcare Vision](#)
- [VSP Vision Care®](#)

New Military Times installation Guide 2020

(By: Defense News & Military Times Early Bird Brief – 28 Sep)

Military Times has published an updated Installation Guide for 2020, offering a comprehensive look at Defense Department bases around the world and the vital services they provide for service members and veterans.

Electronic readers can [download the new Installation Guide here](#).

The guide includes an updated rundown of the services provided and key contact information for each base to support military families who are moving to a new duty station or veterans who might be traveling in the area.

The AF has built & flown a mysterious full-scale prototype of its future fighter jet

(By: Valerie Insinna, in *Daedalian Airpower blog* 5 Oct)

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Air Force has secretly designed, built and flown at least one prototype of its enigmatic next-generation fighter jet, the service's top acquisition official confirmed to Defense News on Sept. 14. The development is certain to shock the defense community, which last saw the first flight of an experimental fighter during the battle for the Joint Strike Fighter contract 20 years ago. With the Air Force's future fighter program still in its infancy, the rollout and successful first flight of a demonstrator was not expected for years.

"We've already built and flown a full-scale flight demonstrator in the real world, and we broke records in doing it," Will Roper told Defense News in an exclusive interview ahead of the Air Force Association's Air, Space and Cyber Conference. "We are ready to go and build the next-generation aircraft in a way that has never happened before."

Almost every detail about the aircraft itself will remain a mystery due to the classification of the Next Generation Air Dominance program, the Air Force's effort for fielding a family of connected air warfare systems that could include fighters, drones and other networked platforms in space or the cyber realm.

Roper declined to comment on how many prototype aircraft have been flown or which defense contractors manufactured them. He wouldn't say when or where the first flight occurred. And he refused to divulge any aspect of the aircraft's design — its mission, whether it was uncrewed or optionally crewed, whether it could fly at hypersonic speeds or if it has stealth characteristics.

Those attributes, he said, are beside the point. The importance, Roper said, is that just a year after the service completed an analysis of alternatives, the Air Force has proven it can use cutting-edge advanced manufacturing techniques to build and test a virtual version of its next fighter — and then move to constructing a full-scale prototype and flying it with mission systems onboard.

Keep Your Nebraska State Senator Informed

Contact your Senator and the Speaker of the Legislature - Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained... You just might make the difference!

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MOAA's and Heartland Chapter's Missions are the Same

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, working to support military and their families at every stage of life. It actively petitions Congress on behalf of the military community on issues affecting the career force, the retired community, and veterans of the uniformed services. MOAA offers a wide range of personal and financial services exclusive to MOAA members. Whatever the stage of a career, MOAA membership delivers benefits geared specifically to you – and your family. You become part of the strongest advocate for our military and their families. Those with prior officer service in any of the seven uniformed services can become members. Consider joining today because every voice counts! You will be protecting not only your earned benefits but for all serving today. Our Heartland Chapter also focuses on state and local issues, interfacing with the Legislature and the Governor. We provide a really great environment for camaraderie and mutual support with our meetings, speakers, newsletters, website, and community involvement. We are like family.

As MOAA does, WE NEVER STOP SERVING....

We are One Powerful Voice –

For every officer at every stage of life and career...

Join Us !! You will be glad you did!

Selection of Membership

<p>When you join MOAA, you become part of the strongest advocate for our military's personnel and their families. The stronger our membership is, the stronger our voice becomes. Consider joining today because every voice counts. Three membership levels to meet the needs of all Officers.</p>	 BASIC	 PREMIUM	 LIFE
Features of each Membership level	No-cost electronic Membership designed for today's junior officers.	Full access to MOAA's career resources, countless discounts on products and travel, & access to all of MOAA-exclusive pubs & news updates. Full access to a wide variety of member benefits for today's career officer.	Receive all the benefits that PREMIUM membership has plus exclusive privileges and benefits.
Membership Dues	Free	1 year -\$48, 2 years - \$82 3 years - \$108	Dues are based on your current age
Support of critical advocacy efforts to protect the benefits of the entire military community.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Electronic access to several of MOAA's news updates.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Discounts on products and travel.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Career transition resources MOAA helps transition efforts by hosting career fairs, resume critiques, training sessions & much more.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Expert advice on your military pay & benefits MOAA's team of highly trained professionals can help you receive the military benefits you've earned through one-on-one counseling.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Financial planning and investment advice		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Military Office magazine		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Access to all MOAA-exclusive publications		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Scholarships, interest-free loans, & grants		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MOAA Chapters - Take advantage of the opportunity to get involved & meet fellow offices in your community. A PREMIUM or LIFE membership makes it easy.	Dues vary by Chapter. (Heartland Chapter of Ne is \$20 per yr)	New chapter members receive a voucher good for one year of chapter dues.	New chapter members receive a voucher good for two years of chapter dues.
Bonus travel rewards and discounts			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Initiation fee waived at the Army and Navy Club of Washington, D. C.			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Spouse Protection -membership benefits transfers if something happen to you.		Auxillary Annual DUES 1 Yr - \$43 2 Yr - \$73 3 Yr - \$97	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

National Membership Form

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading organization protecting the rights of military service-members and their families. Those who belong to MOAA not only lend their voices to a greater cause, but they also gain access to extensive benefits tailored to the needs and lifestyles of military officers and their surviving spouses. MOAA members proudly hail from every branch of the uniformed services. To them, we have made the same promise that they have made to their country: Never Stop Serving.

THE LARGER OUR NUMBERS, THE GREATER YOUR VOICE.

Why MOAA
membership matters.



Select YOUR Membership:

 LIFE

 PREMIUM

 BASIC

 LIFE

Membership Dues

Dues are based on your current age.

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Age 56-60	\$757
Age 61-65	\$692
Age 66-70	\$615
Age 71-75	\$529
Age 76-80	\$434
Age 81-85	\$332
Age 86-90	\$234
Age 91-95	\$145
Age 96-99	\$88
Age 100+	FREE

**PREMIUM
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One-Year PREMIUM
\$48 (Surviving Spouse – \$43)

**Two-Year
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Dues to MOAA are not deductible as a charitable contribution for federal tax purposes.

Annual membership dues include a \$12 subscription to Military Officer magazine.

Send To: MOAA, PO Box 1488 • Merrifield, VA 22116-9820

For faster service, call (800) 234-MOAA (6622) or visit www.moaa.org/join.

Local Membership Form



Heartland of America Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
P.O. Box 1756
Bellevue, NE 68005-1756

LOCAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Heartland Chapter members must also be a National MOAA Member)

Membership: Initial or Renewal

Annual local dues \$20.00 \$10.00(new ones after 1 July) Aux. \$5.00

Benefactor Donor: \$50, \$100 or more _____

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Spouse's Name _____

National MOAA Membership # _____ Life Member? Yes No

Brief Bio: (entered service: branch: assignment summary: Interesting career anecdotes:

Signature _____ Date _____

Contact Chapter Officers for more info: President Dan Donovan - 402-339-7888,
Membership: Michael DeBolt 402-980-0554, **Surviving Spouse Affairs:** Martha Didamo -
402-291-2194, **Legislation:** Jeff Mikesell - 402-990-2713, **Treasurer:** Rene Dreiling 402-
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Pete Zekauskas

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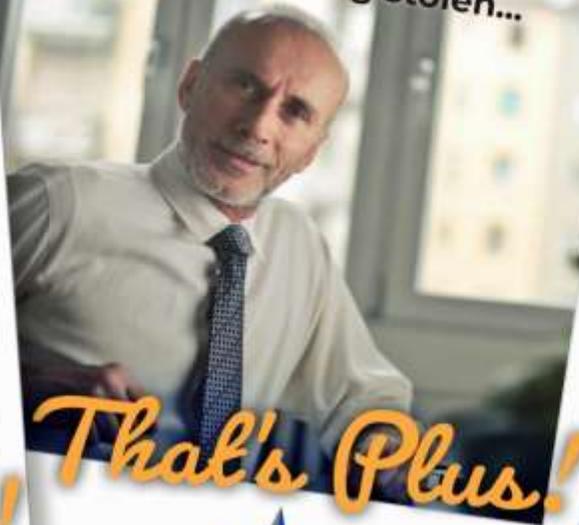


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May They Not Be Forgotten:

I mean the men and women who have answered the call and paid the ultimate price so that we and future generations could have the freedoms so cherished by human beings. We must ever be vigilant and prepared to defend our way of life against those who would deny it. Callous politicians, power hungry egotists, corrupt individuals, adversarial religions, and even our latest self-oriented generations pose grave threat to the preservation of what many take for granted. Every citizen should take a few moments from time to time and reflect on the benefits we have in our country. They should give thanks to those who have served and preserved our way of life.



Hopefully, they will also pledge to do their part to keep it so. – PLj

Wandering Mind of An Old Retired Guy



As I've aged, I've become kinder to myself, and less critical of myself. Whose business is it, if I choose to read, or play on the computer until 4 AM or sleep until noon? I will dance with myself to those wonderful tunes of the 50, 60 & 70's. I will walk the beach, in a swim suit that is stretched over a bulging body, and will dive into the waves, with abandon if I choose to, despite the pitying glances from the jet set. They too, will get old. I know I am sometimes forgetful. But, eventually I remember the important things. Sure, over the years, my heart has been broken. How can your heart not break, when you lose a loved one, or when a child suffers, or even when a beloved pet passes? But, broken hearts are what give us strength, and understanding, and compassion. A heart never broken is pristine and sterile and never knows empathy.

I am so blessed to have lived long enough to have my hair turn gray and to have my youthful laughs etched into lines on my face. Many have laughed little and have died before their hair could turn silver. So, being old has set me free. I like the person I have become. I am not going to live forever, but while I am still here, I will not waste time lamenting what could have been, or worrying about what will be.

But, life is Good!

**"GOOD FRIENDS ARE THE RARE JEWELS OF LIFE,
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TODAY IS THE OLDEST YOU'VE EVER BEEN, YET THE YOUNGEST YOU'LL EVER BE,
SO ENJOY THIS DAY WHILE IT LASTS."**

And SMILE.... It's contagious !!!

Dinner Reservations for November 18th

Social Hour starts at 6 PM – dinner at 7 PM

After dinner, our speakers will be ROTC Cadets from UNL, UNO, and Creighton Anthony's has agreed that the max number at a table will be six. However, they also agree to seat people at their own table or just with another couple if you wish. Masks are worn by all staff and sanitizers are readily available.

Remember the expression, “The more, the merrier”?

We ask you to make our meetings better, with your presence.

NOTE: IF YOUR RESERVATION HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED BY RON OR LIDIYA, PLEASE CALL THEM



RSVP: Lt Col Ron & Lidiya Glinka - Tel: 402-672-2020 - heartlandmoaa@hotmail.com

Please specify names of attendees, meal choices and include a phone number in case we need to contact you.

Reservations should be in by Monday night before the dinner! If you must cancel your reservation, please call Ron or Lidiya at (402) 672-2020 prior to 4:00 pm on the day of the event; otherwise the chapter will be charged if you are a NO-SHOW and we will have to send you a bill for the cost.

Meal selections are as follows:

Members are encouraged to buy a cadet's meal by ordering a steak for them when placing their own order.

**8oz Top Sirloin w/Smashed Potatoes & Green Beans Almondine - \$30.50
(\$33.50 w/Vanilla ice cream)**

**Tilapia Bruschetta w/Rice Pilaf & Fresh Roasted Veggies - \$24.00
(\$27.00 w/Vanilla ice cream)**

**House Chopped Salad with Grilled Chicken - \$21.00
(\$24.00 w/Vanilla ice cream)**

New check writing procedures:

**Make your check out to Heartland Chapter MOAA
OR....**

use our stamp which will be provided at sign-in

Dress: Business attire or as appropriate

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