



Heartland of America Chapter

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

***** **February 2021** *****



**Valentines Day is the All-American Treat Time –
Do Something Special for Those Dear To You**
(So don't forget it !)

Next *SCHEDULED* Dinner Meeting??
Maybe MARCH 17th at Anthony's Steak House, 72nd & F St.

(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

Volume XXXV

Number 2

February 2021

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



At our January Board Meeting, we decided to not have a Dinner Meeting in February. We are hopeful that we will be able to return to dinner meetings in March. By then most members should have been vaccinated and the COVID restrictions relaxed. We discussed potential speakers and want to have the best ones available.

We were disappointed to learn that on January 15th, the Air Force announced that Huntsville, Alabama, had been selected to be the headquarters of the U.S. Space Command instead of

Offutt Air Force Base and four other sites across the country. The Colorado Springs Gazette reported that President Donald Trump, in his last week in office, overturned Air Force Secretary Barbara Barrett's recommendation of Colorado Springs' Peterson Air Force Base. This was seen as a political favor to supporters in deep-red Alabama. The complaint was loudest in Colorado Springs, whose Peterson Air Force Base was widely considered the front-runner to retain the military command. Space Command was based there from 1985 to 2002 and again after 2019. Nebraska also has a complaint as the U.S. Strategic Command at Offutt AFB led the military's space mission during the intervening years from 2002 to 2019.

Huntsville's Redstone Arsenal has long been the center of the Army's missile program, as well as NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center. In a press release, the Air Force cited several of the city's selling points, including what it described as "a large, qualified workforce, quality schools, superior infrastructure capacity, and low initial and recurring costs." At its November 6, 2020 meeting, members of the Nebraska Commission on Military and Veteran Affairs were told that Offutt did very well on parameters of community support and quality of life. It is very likely that this basing decision will be appealed to the new administration and there may be a different base selection for Space Command.

The Nebraska Unicameral began its session the first week of January with senators introducing new legislation. Senator Carol Blood introduced LB-5, the

Purple Star Act. This proposal is a recognition and outreach program that is designed to help military children to better transition to their new schools as well as develop programs that recognize the value of military service, as well as civic responsibility. Each school would appoint a “Purple Star Liaison” to track and to assist the military-connected students. Your Board fully supports this proposal. I plan to highlight the important roles of our Board members who contribute so much behind the scenes.

Most of us know that Pat Jones has an award-winning newsletter. One of the reasons for that success is the wonderful assistance of Dick Doolittle in obtaining advertisements for the newsletter. Dick meets in-person with business owner or their agents and explains the benefits of advertising with us. His record of success enables us to keep newsletter costs to a minimum. Dick encourages us to acknowledge these ads when using their services. Such thanking helps businesses renew the following year. Dick is also our Recruiting Chair. When we get lists of potential members from MOAA National, he sends them a welcoming letter explaining the benefits of chapter membership. Dick has participated in every Offutt Retiree Day and National Guard Association for the past ten years and is very successful in recruiting members.

Dan Donovan

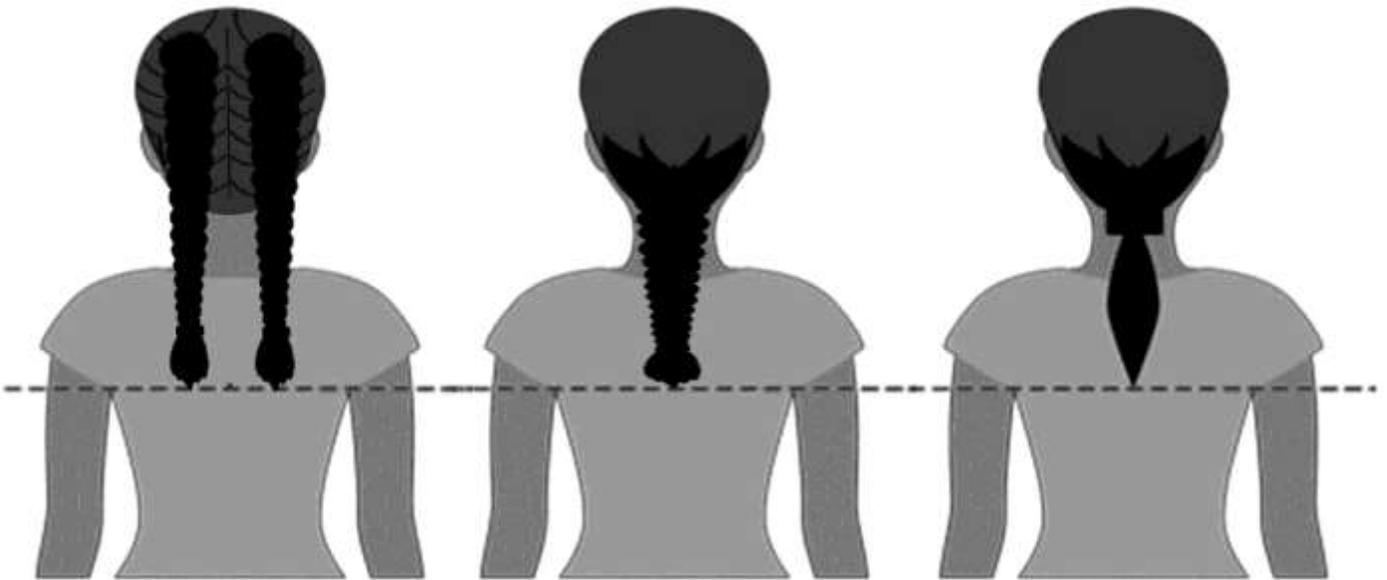
d.donovan1@cox.net

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Air Force to OK braids, ponytails for women – but no beards for men

(The AF Times Daily News Roundup – 21 Jan)

Female airmen will soon be allowed to wear their hair in one or two braids, or a single ponytail, Air Force officials announced.



Women will also be allowed to wear longer bangs that touch their eyebrows, the Air Force said in a news release, but the bangs will not be able to cover their eyes. The revised dress and appearance standards will take effect with the next update to Air Force Instruction 36-2903, which is slated to be published in February, the Air Force said.

“This decision is a commitment to supporting the airmen we need, and sustaining the culture and environment of excellence that will continue to make the Air Force an attractive career choice for airmen and families,” Chief of Staff Gen. Charles “CQ” Brown said in the release, “I’m thankful for the feedback and research conducted from a number of women leaders, the Women’s Initiative Team, the Air Force uniform board and our joint teammates.”

The idea for these changes came from airmen across the service, part of a campaign to gather suggestions on how to improve dress and appearance rules. The moves are part of the Air Force's efforts to create a more diverse and inclusive culture. Thousands of women wrote to the Air Force's Women's Initiative Team last year about problems with the old hair grooming standards, the release said. The current approved styles for women, such as wearing their hair in tight buns, caused damage to women's hair, migraines, and in some cases, hair loss, some women complained.

The Air Force decided against further relaxing standards that bar most men from wearing beards.

Gov. Ricketts deliver State of the State Address
(Forwarded by Dean Kenkel, Veterans Coalition)

On 14 January, Governor Pete Ricketts delivered his annual State of the State address in the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber. In the address, Governor Ricketts overviewed his priorities for the next two-year budget, which include delivering property tax relief and veterans tax relief. He also welcomed senators as they opened the First Session of the 107th Nebraska Legislature.

“Next, I am proposing three initiatives to help Nebraska continue its journey to become the best state in the nation for military families and veterans. First, Nebraska is still working to bring Space Command to the Heartland. Senator Stinner and I are recommending the State invest \$50 million towards establishing a public-private partnership to locate this important mission at Offutt Air Force Base. Second, Senator Brewer and I are proposing that Nebraska exempt 100 percent of military retirement income for military retirees. This would complete the work on veterans tax relief we began last year. And third, military spouses continue to face challenges taking jobs in Nebraska in licensed professions on a temporary basis. In recent years, Nebraska has made great strides in helping military spouses, who

hold a teaching license in another state, to teach while their families are deployed here. Senator Sanders and I are working together to take new steps recommended by the Department of Defense to cut more red tape in this area." (ed. Note- while it has been announced the command will be in Alabama, that could change with the new administration)

New Law Has MOAA-Backed Protections for Military Health Care

By: Karen Ruedisueli, MOAA Newsletter 14 Jan)

After months of coordinated efforts, MOAA was pleased to see the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) conference report includes provisions halting congressionally directed military treatment facility (MTF) restructuring and DoD's plan to cut military medical billets. Both provisions also require DoD to conduct rigorous analysis and mitigation planning before downsizing or restructuring the military medical system.

The William M. (Mac) Thornberry NDAA for FY 2021, H.R. 6395, includes two key provisions addressing military medical downsizing.

Section 717 prohibits DoD from cutting medical billets for 180 days following enactment of the legislation. DoD has to conduct a review of the medical manpower requirements for all national defense strategy scenarios, including with respect to both the homeland defense mission and pandemic influenza.

(DoD is also required to submit a report on TRICARE network adequacy and transition plans for beneficiary care related to medical billet cuts. That report, required by the FY 2020 NDAA, still has not been released to the public.)

Section 718 adds rigorous requirements to DoD's MTF restructuring implementation plans related to access and quality of care available in the civilian provider network, and requires DoD to certify to the congressional defense committees that beneficiaries affected by MTF restructuring will have access to civilian care through the TRICARE program. This provision also prohibits DoD from moving forward with MTF restructuring for 180 days following submission of implementation plans and certification of civilian care availability.

Winning a Long Fight -

MOAA kicked off its campaign by urging House and Senate Armed Services Committee staff and leadership to halt military medical downsizing in light of potential lessons learned from the whole-of-government response to COVID-19. Our Virtual Storming the Hill event, held in May, leveraged our grassroots advocates in our councils and chapters network to reinforce that message via 253 virtual meetings and more than 19,000 letters covering all members of Congress.

Those efforts gained traction when Reps. Bill Posey (R-Fla.) and Kathy Castor (D-Fla.) circulated a congressional letter urging House Armed Services Committee Chairman Rep. Adam Smith (D-Wash.) and Ranking Member Rep. Mac Thornberry

(R-Texas) to ensure the FY 2021 NDAA included language to stop planned cuts to military medical capacity. We greatly appreciate the support from Congressman Posey and Congresswoman Castor, and all those who signed the letter, to help protect the military health care benefit.

We made tangible progress toward our goal when the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) released its mark of the FY 2021 NDAA in July and it included two provisions addressing our concerns.

The Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) did not follow suit, so MOAA regrouped and kicked off the Summer Storm to generate awareness and support in the Senate for the House provisions. An updated issue paper highlighted Government Accountability Office (GAO) report findings of shortfalls with DoD's plan for restructuring MTFs. **MOAA members once again stepped up to support our efforts, sending thousands of communications to lawmakers requesting support for House provisions.**

Although we are gratified to have achieved our goal, our work on military medical downsizing is not done.

MOAA has always supported Congressionally directed reforms aimed at improving medical readiness, even if those reforms require downsizing or closing MTFs that do not effectively support the readiness mission. It is critically important to ensure the last 20 years of combat casualty care advances are sustained and uniformed medical personnel have the right case mix and volume. MOAA supports these changes as long as beneficiaries can still access high quality care from civilian providers in the local community.

That said, MOAA will not support cuts to military medicine that are primarily cost-driven and has been vocal in expressing concerns about DoD's plan to reduce medical billets. We will continue to raise awareness about the potential negative impacts on readiness, medical provider recruiting and retention, and beneficiary access to care, and urge rigorous analysis and congressional oversight of this process.

MOAA's advocacy on these issues has reached many members of Congress and raised awareness about beneficiary concerns. We look forward to building on this foundation as we pursue a robust engagement strategy on Military Health System reforms with the 117th Congress.

Need something to look forward to in 2021?

(MOAA Email – 19 Jan)

We sure do. Join us on a MOAA Signature Cruise! With control of the virus underway, book today and let the excitement begin. Don't miss these two opportunities to mingle with MOAA Leadership and your fellow MOAA Members!

- **European Tour** -

MOAA President & CEO Lt Gen Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret) and Board Chairman, GEN Walter Sharp, USA (Ret) invite you to join them on our Signature Cruise exploring European holiday markets on the Danube next December. Experience Europe's old-world charms during the most magical time of the year. MOAA members will enjoy exclusive benefits, including:



**European Holiday Markets
December 8-15, 2021**

- **Unlimited premium spirits & wine**
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Your journey begins in Nuremberg and heads east to Vienna, with many opportunities for cultural stops and excursions over 7 nights of travel. [Click here for the full itinerary.](#)

- **Mississippi River Cruise** -

Only 26 rooms remain on the *American Countess* riverboat! Don't miss your chance to join MOAA Leadership and your fellow MOAA members on a 7-day Mississippi River Cruise. MOAA members enjoy exclusive amenities like:



**Mississippi River Cruise
July 17-25, 2021**

- **Free 1-night pre-cruise hotel stay in Memphis (July 17th)**
- **Unlimited Beverage Package (\$400 value)**
- **Free Prepaid Gratuities (\$273 value)**
- **Discounted Veranda and Inside Staterooms**
- **Welcome and Farewell Cocktail Parties**

Your journey begins in Memphis and heads south at a leisurely pace towards New Orleans, with plenty of historic and cultural stops along the way. The *American Countess* will be operating at a reduced capacity of 70% to ensure social distancing standards. [Click here for the full itinerary.](#)

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"/>
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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.
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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.

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Your spouse has access to all of your MOAA member benefits.

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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.

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Two-Year

PREMIUM

\$82 (Surviving

Spouse - \$73)



Three-Year

PREMIUM

\$108 (Surviving

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BASIC
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FREE

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 _____

Last Name _____ First Name _____ MI _____

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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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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 think about things I learned so long ago.... But, now, in my free time, I now question some things I was taught.... Such as...

Why is a "W" called "double-U", when it is clearly a "double-V"?

When pronouncing words ending in "ough", why is it, cough, bough, rough, dough, through, and though?

Why does fridge have "D" in it but refrigerator does not?

Why are Zoey and Zoe pronounced the same but Joey and Joe are not?

Why is the word "queue" just "Q" followed by four silent letters?

Why is it you can drink a drink, but can't food a food?

In the word scent, which is the silent letter, "S" or "C"?

(maybe that's why English Class was hard?)

BUT, LIFE IS GOOD

**"GOOD FRIENDS ARE THE RARE JEWELS OF LIFE,
DIFFICULT TO FIND AND IMPOSSIBLE TO REPLACE!**

**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 !!!**

Board Meeting INFO for February 11th

At 1145 at the Special, on Fort Crook in Belleue

No Dinner Meeting in February

NEXT SCHEDULED DINNER MEETING IS MARCH 17th

**Remember the expression, “The more, the merrier”?
We ask you to make our meetings better, with your presence.**

Our Reservation Team looks forward to a better year

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



**STAY SAFE, STAY HEALTHY,
THREE CHEERS TO YOU ALL,**

(Our Next Dinner Meeting is Scheduled for March)

***However, our Board is meeting on February 11th
To discuss potential events, dinners, activities, etc.***

This would be a great time for your ideas and suggestions !!!

Call or email Dan or any Board member with your input !!!
(see bottom page 11 for phone numbers)

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