



ECAC

ECAC Newsletter

ecacmoaa.com

APRIL 2021



Rick Diggs

Department of Defense Professional Education Short and Mid-term Impacts of the Pandemic

Our speaker, Rick Diggs is a retired Army officer currently serving as Director of Curriculum, Defense Financial Management & Comptroller School, Maxwell AFB, Alabama. Since 2004, Rick has been involved with Department of Defense education and related issues. His presentation will focus on shifts in educational approaches as decision makers adjust their sight picture to the reality and uncertainty of the current pandemic. Let's prepare to receive one educator's perspective on which of these changes will stay, which will subside, and the impacts on readiness. He and his wife, Janell, live on a farm in Hope Hull, Alabama.

Greetings everybody and happy April!

I am willing to bet that most everyone receiving this letter has already received their Covid vaccination and is ready to get back to life as we knew it pre-Covid. With that in mind, we're planning to have our Luau in-person this year after the summer break on or around August 17th. Details will be forthcoming in the coming months, but suffice it to say that we're ready for a non-virtual party where we can actually talk to one another face to face in ACTUAL REALITY. But in case you haven't gotten your shots yet, the VA appears to be wide open with who they will give shots to and that's how I got mine. I think they are even giving them to spouses as well, and from my experience it is a fairly well-oiled machine down in Tuskegee giving them out.



In other news, I am honored to accept an invitation to be the guest speaker for Opelika's Memorial Day event this year which I believe is happening on May 31st. I have no other details than that, but it would be nice to see some friendly faces out there for the event. In the meantime, I'd urge everyone to tune into our next chapter zoom meeting on April 20th at 5pm just to keep in touch with everyone. I hope this Spring finds you and your family happy, healthy and in good spirits and I look forward to breaking bread and toasting old friends soon!



FLY NAVY

Regards – Mike Horsefield

MEETING INFORMATION

The location for the meeting this month is a virtual experience by Zoom. You can connect by clicking on the following link: [ECAC-MOAA APRIL 20, 2021 MEETING](#). Meeting ID: 998 1811 6089 and Passcode: MOAA. If chapter members want to call in because they may not have a microphone and webcam, they can still watch the meeting using the link and call in to talk using this information: Call: (312) 626-6799. Enter Meeting ID: 998 1811 6089 and Passcode: 961139 when asked.



ECAC-MOAA's 2021 Meeting Dates

Jan 19 th	Tuesday	5 PM	Virtual by Zoom
Feb 16 th	Tuesday	5 PM	Virtual by Zoom
Mar 16 th	Tuesday	5 PM	Virtual by Zoom
Apr 20st	Tuesday	5 PM	Virtual by Zoom
May 18 th	Tuesday	5 PM	Virtual by Zoom
Jun	None		
Jul	None		
Aug 21 th	Saturday	4 PM	Moore's Mill Club
Sep 21 ^h	Tuesday	6 PM	Moore's Mill Club
Oct 19 th	Tuesday	6 PM	Moore's Mill Club
Nov 16 th	Tuesday	6 PM	Moore's Mill Club
Dec 14 th	Tuesday	6 PM	Moore's Mill Club

COVID-19 Protect yourself and loved ones

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19

- WASH YOUR HANDS**
Wash your hands with soap and warm water regularly.
- COVER A COUGH OR SNEEZE**
Cover your cough or sneeze with your sleeve, or tissue. Dispose of tissue and wash your hands afterward.
- DON'T TOUCH**
Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth, especially with unwashed hands.
- KEEP YOUR DISTANCE**
Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- STAY HOME**
If you experience respiratory symptoms like a cough or fever, stay home.
- GET HELP**
If you experience symptoms of COVID-19 (cough, fever, shortness of breath), call your health care provider or local health department before seeking care.

MORE INFORMATION
Follow the California Department of Public Health: @capublichealth and www.cdph.ca.gov/covid19

Standing with you at every stage.

1-800-247-2192 • www.moaainurance.com

Who Can Join?

Membership in the East-Central Alabama Chapter is open to any National MOAA member who is on active duty, reserve, retired, or a former commissioned officer or warrant officer in any component of the Seven Uniformed Services of the United States (U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Space Force, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Public Health Service, or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). The Surviving Spouse of these individuals are also eligible to join and participate as regular members. Additionally, we offer Associate memberships to 4th year ROTC cadets at Auburn University and Tuskegee University as well as to the living spouse of a regular Chapter member.



Why join MOAA or a Chapter?

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



Secretary's Report April 2021

As of March 31, 2021, the chapter has:	2021 Dues
63 Regular Members	\$20 Per regular member.
14 Surviving Spouse Members	\$15 Per dual member.
2 Associate Members	\$5 Per Surviving Spouse/Associate/ROTC
79 Total Members	

Per Chapter By-laws, you must become a member of National MOAA to belong to the chapter.

The April Board of Directors meeting was Monday, April 12th, at 1300 by Zoom video-conference. May's meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 3rd, at 1300 at the American Red Cross conference room in Opelika or by Zoom video-conference. Any member wishing to attend should contact a Board member for an invitation. *** If you have any information that has changed, please contact Bill Broome at wjbroom@gmail.com or 703-395-4317.**

Treasurer's April 2021

Summary of Activity 03/01/2021 to 03/31/2021

Balance Forward from 03/01/2021	\$5,349.11		
Deposits/Credits		\$447.00	
Withdrawals/Debits			\$24.25
Service Charges	00.00		
Ending Balance as of 03/30/2021:			\$5,771.86



COVID-19 Vaccine Registration

east alabama medical center

This is the East Alabama Medical Center portal for COVID-19 vaccine registration. [Index - EAMC Secure Forms](#)

Who's Eligible?
Beginning April 5, all individuals age 16 and older are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in Alabama.

The Pfizer vaccine is the only COVID-19 vaccine currently approved for age 16 and older. Currently, our county health departments are giving the Moderna vaccine. Other providers, such as hospitals and some pharmacies, are giving the Pfizer vaccine. These other providers may also be offering the Johnson and Johnson vaccine, which is currently not approved for those under 18 years of age. If you are 16 or 17 years of age, please check vaccinefinder.org or contact the provider to see which vaccine is offered before scheduling your For recent news and updates on vaccination in Alabama, visit [Vaccination Updates](#).

The vaccine site is wheelchair accessible.

28 February 2021

From: Audit Committee
To: ECAC-MOAA Board of Directors
Subj: Annual Audit for FY 2020

The Audit Committee has reviewed the financial documentation of the chapter and found no alarming discrepancies. All monies collected have been properly deposited in the Chapter's bank account, and all debits have been for authorized expenditures. The chapter's Treasurer, Earl Digman faithfully fulfilled his duties and successfully turned over all accounts to Michael Golden, the new ECAC-MOAA Treasurer as of December 2020.

Recommendations from last year's audit are reviewed and discussed below:

1. An audit should be conducted annually, in the month of February, after the January bank statement has been received to review the previous year's financial records. This is a responsibility of the board to make sure that this happens, not the Treasurer.
 - a. Audit conducted in the month of February as recommended.
 - b. Recommend continuing this action item.
2. The Treasurer should maintain a list of all transactions in the check register, including debit card transactions. The check register acts as the Chapter's "General Ledger" of financial transactions.
 - a. The check register has been kept current per this recommendation.
 - b. Recommend continuing this action item.
3. The Treasurer should reconcile the account monthly, following receipt of the preceding month's bank statement. This would help with timely identification of any discrepancies.
 - a. The Treasurer has reconciled the account monthly per this recommendation.
 - b. Recommend continuing the action item.
4. Recommendation for a "Cashier" to be assigned to work with the Treasurer became overcome by events as the COVID-19 pandemic halted face to face chapter meetings for the remainder of 2020. However, the recommendation upon resumption of normal meetings is still valid.
 - a. No "Cashier" has been identified yet to work with the "Treasurer," but until normal events resume, there is no rush to identify this person.
 - b. Recommend continuing the action item.

We would like to thank Earl Digman for his hard work as our Treasurer and his service to our Chapter during the majority of 2020 and welcome Mike Golden as the new Treasurer.

Signed via Email Attached
Richard Phelan

Signed via Email Attached
Robert Cochran


Jeffrey Bohler

Legislative Chair—Charlie Block

National, State, & Local News

Hope by now that most of you have had at least your first COVID vaccination. Hopefully we will be able to meet in person in the not too distant future. We recently read the presidents proposed budget, and as many of us expected Defense did not fare too well. The budget calls for a 1.6% Defense increase, which adjusting for inflation means a 0.3% reduction. This compares to a 16% spending increase in social programs. The only good news is that the president promises that active duty personnel will see an increase in their take home pay. The other rumor that could affect many of us is discussion about using a different formula for annual cost of living increases (COLA). Estimates are that this would reduce our annual COLA by about 0.5%. Doesn't sound like much but over time it is a huge cut.

With China and Russia getting closer and closer to each other the last thing we need is a cut in defense spending. From what I read China could very well far exceed our military capability in the next 5 years. Add to that, China would only have to fight on one front while we could see war against Russia as well. Not a pretty picture in my view.

In closing let me again appeal to you to contact you legislators about issues of interest to MOAA. It is easy to do and costs you nothing.

TAKE ACTION

These important issues require your immediate attention. Send your elected officials a MOAA-suggested message today.

[Urge Your Elected Officials to Support Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Reform Legislation](#)

Comprehensive toxic exposure reform is needed to ensure we avoid the problems faced by Vietnam veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange.

[Urge Your Elected Officials to Fix the TRICARE Young Adult Coverage Gap](#) MOAA continues efforts to build support for The Health Care Fairness for Military Families Act of 2021 (H.R. 475), introduced by Reps. Elaine Luria (D-Va.) and Michael Waltz (R-Fla.). This bipartisan bill would expand TRICARE eligibility to young adult dependents up to age 26, bringing TRICARE in line with commercial plan requirements.

[Ask Your Lawmakers to Support the Military Hunger Prevention Act](#) Food insecurity among junior servicemembers is not a new concern, but like many ongoing problems, it's been made worse by the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Military Hunger Prevention Act would establish a Basic Needs Allowance (BNA) for these servicemembers, helping them overcome financial difficulties and allowing them to concentrate on their duties.

[Urge Your Senators to Support Legislation to Repeal the TRICARE Select Enrollment Fee](#)

Act now to urge your senators to support the TRICARE Select Restoration Act, which is an important first step to repeal the enrollment fee for grandfathered retirees.

[Urge your legislators to support concurrent receipt](#) Contact your representative and senators and urge them to support The Major Richard Star Act, which would provide concurrent receipt for servicemembers unable to complete 20 years of service due to combat-related injuries. Help ensure these men and women get their full service-earned retirement, as well as their disability compensation from the VA.

[Support Health Care for Children of Disabled Veterans or Veterans Who Have Died Due to a Service-Connected Disability](#) Did you know many adult children of veterans who are disabled or who died from a service-connected disability lose access to their parent's health well before the age of 26?

TAKE ACTION

These important issues require your immediate attention. Send your elected officials a MOAA-suggested message today.

Urge Your Senators to Support Legislation Extending TRICARE Coverage to Certain ‘Gray Area’ Retirees The TRICARE Fairness for National Guard and Reserve Retirees Act (S. 829), introduced by Sens. Rob Portman (R-Ohio) and Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and the House companion bill (H.R. 1997), introduced by Reps. Bill Johnson (R-Ohio) and Dean Phillips (D-Minn.) would ensure these “gray area” retirees who qualify for retirement pay before age 60 are eligible for the TRICARE retiree benefit.

Ask Congress to Preserve Arlington National Cemetery and Eligibility for 20-Year Retirees

Help MOAA stay in the middle of this important conversation – Contact your representative and urge them to designate in the FY 2022 NDAA the next national cemetery as ANC reaches capacity.



Countywide Cleanup Event

Thurs April 22 | Fri April 23 | Sat April 24

9am - 2pm cdt

Sign up for a time & location at

LEECO.US

Lee County will provide bags, safety vest and bottled water.
In cooperation with Alabama PALS | People against a Littered State

Clean Up Lee County is a great opportunity for citizens, schools, churches, community organizations and volunteer groups to join in and help clean the roadsides of Lee County. To join, simply select the hub location you would like to meet at on the day of your choice. The event runs Thursday, April 22 to Saturday, April 24 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. CDT.



ECAC sponsored Hole 13, Par 4 at the 2021 Veterans Golf Classic (VGC) on April 13th - Each Spring, the Veterans Resource Center holds a Golf Classic at the Auburn University Club (AU Club). Each team of 4 consists of one student veteran and three community or business members. Pictured above are sponsors and two VGC teams at the beginning and near the end on Hole 13. Everyone was having a great time on this beautiful day.

MEMBER SECTION



AUBURN OPELIKA EVENTS FOR APRIL 1ST - APRIL 30TH, 2021

FYI: Distaff Club If you are somewhat new to ECAC MOAA, you may not be aware that we have a group for spouses of MOAA members called Distaff. In non-Covid times we meet once a month for lunch. We usually try new restaurants in the local area. We also have an annual Christmas Party/ ornament swap. Traditionally, our February meeting includes a bring a spouse/friend luncheon. We enjoy getting together to socialize and get to know one another. Dues are only \$5.00 a year. If interested, please contact Judy Bohler, President, (334) 826-1107 or Cathy Golden, Treasurer, (334) 246-7142. We would love to have you join us!



James R. Hathcock, Lt. Col, USAF, (Ret)

March 27, 1933 - December 28, 2020

James R. Hathcock, 87, was born on March 27, 1933 to the late Wallace Hathcock and Minnie Schlichting Hathcock, and passed away on December 28, 2020, in Dothan, Alabama.

James graduated with a Bachelors in Agriculture from API in 1955, a Masters in Business from Central Michigan in 1974, a Bachelors in Education from Auburn in 1980 and went on to get a Masters in Education in 1981. Mr. Hathcock began his service in the U.S Air Force in 1956 and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1978. Serving as a navigator on various aircraft such as the C-124, C-141, and C-5, he was also awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross during his service in Vietnam. James Hathcock retired from teaching at Auburn High School in 1998.

In the community, he was a part of the Auburn War Eagle Lions Club for over 30 years and serving in many State leadership roles. He was heavily involved in Boy Scouting over the years, also serving in leadership and training roles in multiple States. Mr. Hathcock was an avid Auburn fan. He influenced many youth in a positive way throughout his life.

James is survived by his wife, Anna Elizabeth McKenzie Hathcock, daughter, Jacquelyn Giddens (James) Dothan, AL; sons, James W. Hathcock (Delane) Gonzales, LA, William Hathcock (Kelly) Austin, TX, and John Hathcock Brookhaven, GA; grandsons, Luke Giddens, Noah Hathcock, Christopher Hathcock, and David Hathcock; granddaughters, Madelyn Hathcock and Grace Hathcock.

James was interred on January 2, 2021 at Town Creek Cemetery in Auburn, Alabama and the family requests that donations made to: Endowed Scholarship Fund Auburn University College of Agriculture in James R. Hathcock memory (107 Comer Hall Auburn, AL. 36849).





Chris (L) & Michele (R)
Richie

As promised last month, the member section now includes a couple's picture of **Chris and Michele Richie**. Again, the Chapter would like to welcome them as our newest members. Hopefully, in the near future, we will be able to meet them and our other new members face to face. The Board is working diligently to make this a reality by following the science and CDC protocols to insure the safety and health of all of our members and guests.

APRIL — MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD 2021

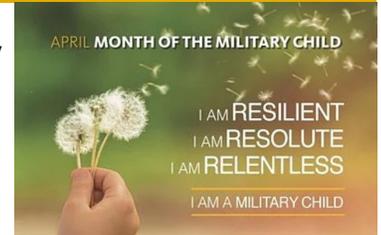
ECAC is proud to recognize all military-connected children this April during Month of the Military Child. Each year we join our country in celebrating the resiliency of military-connected children for their tremendous service and sacrifice at home in the U.S. and overseas.



April is the Month of the Military Child; a time to recognize and appreciate military children for their service and sacrifice. Military children live with perpetual challenges presented by frequent moves, parental deployments, and life transitions including reintegration and dealing with profoundly changed parents. In their own way, military-connected children serve alongside their military parents. There are over 2 million children with parents who are serving in our military, and most are in grades K-12.

Every school district in America has military-connected children and youth: over 80% of military-connected children attend U.S. public schools, and less than 8% attend Department of Defense schools. We ask much of military children. After more than a decade of war, the well-being of all military-connected children and youth depends heavily on a strong, consistent network of supportive adults. Teachers, mentors, and role models play a pivotal role in the life of a military child.

<https://militarybenefits.info/month-of-the-military->



COVID-19 Vaccines at Veterans Administration Facilities



We're working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other federal partners to provide COVID-19 vaccines as quickly and safely as we can. We know you have a lot of questions, and information is changing fast. Please check back often for updates. We'll continue to update this page as we have new information to offer.

Central Alabama VA Medical Center-Tuskegee

2400 Hospital Road
Tuskegee, AL 36083-5001

[Get directions](#)

[COVID-19 vaccines at VA](#)

Main number: 334-727-0550

Update on Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 vaccine

We're following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) guidance to pause in providing the Janssen vaccine at this time. This pause is due to a concern about possible rare side effects. Your safety is our top priority.

For more information, go to the CDC website. Read the CDC and FDA statement on the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine.

If you have a vaccine appointment scheduled, your VA

These groups are now also eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine at VA when their local VA health facilities are able to offer more vaccines:

1. All Veterans
2. Spouses and surviving spouses of Veterans
3. Caregivers of Veterans. For COVID-19 vaccine eligibility, we define a caregiver as a family member or friend who provides care to a Veteran. Caregivers may help a Veteran with personal needs like feeding, bathing, or dressing. They may also help a Veteran with tasks like shopping or transportation.
4. Recipients of Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) benefits.

<https://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine/>

[Sign up to get a COVID-19 vaccine](#)



April 14 marks the 73rd birthday of the Air Force Reserve, whose **motto** – “Fly, Fight and Win” – founded by President Harry S. Truman on April 14, 1948, the Air Force Reserve was originally formed as a “stand-by” force for emergencies. Today, it is a Major Command (MAJCOM) of the Active Duty Air Force, and acts as a



critical part of the nation's defense, performing about 20 percent of the work of the Air Force. U.S. Air Force Reserves has supported every global conflict that the Air Force has participated in, whether its airspace, outer space, or cyber space.

More than 70,000 Citizen airmen complete traditional flying missions as well as more specialized missions, including Weather Reconnaissance (Hurricane Hunters), Modular Aerial Fire Fighting (MAFFs), and Personnel Recovery (Pararescuemen). The Air Force Reserve maintains presence in more than 60 locations around the world, with 33 flying wings and seven groups. 77 percent of the members are enlisted and 23 percent are officers, with Air Force Reserve headquarters located at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia. <https://militarybenefits.info/air-force-reserve-birthday/>



On April 23rd, the Army Reserve will celebrate 113 years of courageous service to the Army and the Nation, evolving from a small corps of medical professionals to what it is today: the best trained, best equipped and most ready Army Reserve in our Nation's history.

The Army Reserve traces its beginnings to the creation of the Medical Reserve Corps, which was authorized by an act of Congress signed into law by President Theodore Roosevelt on 23 April 1908. Under this new program, 160 medical professionals

were commissioned as Medical Reserve Corps officers in June 1908. By June 1917, as the United States entered World War I, the Medical Reserve Corps had a strength of 9,223 doctors, dentists, and veterinarians. This was the nation's first federal reserve force.

In 1917, the Medical Reserve Corps became part of the Officers Reserve Corps, which, like the Enlisted Reserve Corps and the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC), had been created by Congress in 1916. The National Defense Act of 1920 joined the Officers and Enlisted Reserve Corps to form the Organized Reserve (renamed the Organized Reserve Corps in 1948).

Through every war, operation and emergency, at home and abroad, the men and women of the Army Reserve have never failed to meet the challenges of their time.

From the valor of the 100th Battalion/442nd Infantry Regiment in World War II – whose awards include 560 Silver Star Medals, 21 Medals of Honor, and seven Presidential Unit Citations – to the courage of the Soldiers and units who responded to the COVID-19 pandemic without delay, the Army Reserve has always been there when the Nation needed them most. <https://www.usar.army.mil/ArmyReserveBirthday/>



Each year in April, National Arbor Day encourages us to celebrate and plant trees. The observance takes place each year on the last Friday in April. On April 10, 1872, journalist and newspaper editor J. Sterling Morton established Arbor Day in the state of Nebraska with hopes that it would spread across the country. This first celebration challenged the people of Nebraska to plant as many trees as they possibly could. Since the pioneers missed the trees and forests of the east, they answered the challenge by planting more than 1 million trees that very first year.

Trees provide vital protection for the Earth's topsoil from erosion, oxygen, and homes for wildlife. They also are a renewable resource that provides a variety of materials for building, fuel, and office supplies.

Trees beautify our environment, provide shade on a sunny day, and improve our quality of life. The day celebrates all these things and aims for American generations to enjoy all the benefits trees have to offer.

ECAC Mission Statement

The East-Central Alabama Chapter is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and was chartered in 1970. It serves the cities of Auburn and Opelika, Alabama, as well as the surrounding areas of Lee, Chambers, Russell, Tallapoosa, and Macon counties in Alabama. The mission of the East-Central Alabama Chapter is to benefit the members of the uniformed services, their families and survivors, and to advocate for a strong national defense, while providing needed support to the community and its members.

Join ECAC Online!
<https://ecacmoaa.com/join-ecac>



FYI: If you are wearing a non-disposable cloth mask to prevent the spread of Covid-19, be sure to wash your mask in hot water and soap, scrubbing at least 20 seconds. Tumble the mask in the dryer on high heat to further sanitize, and store in a clean place. Cloth face masks should be worn in public settings where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, such as in grocery stores, especially in areas of significant community-based transmission.

Assassination of Abraham Lincoln

On April 14, 1865, Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States, was assassinated at his theatre box in Ford's Theatre in Washington D.C., while watching a production of Our American Cousin. His attacker was a Confederate sympathizer and famous actor, John Wilkes Booth. President Abraham Lincoln passed away the next day, only six days after the end of the American Civil War, which saw the Confederate Army surrendering. Lincoln was the first American president to be assassinated while in office, and what followed was a period of intense national mourning.

Executive Officers, Board of Directors, Chair Positions for 2020-2021

President: Mike Horsefield

Vice President: Jeff Bohler

Secretary: Bill Broome

Treasurer: Earl Digman

Director Chapter Affairs: Marilyn Horsefield

Director Communication: Cathy Golden

Director Program & Banquet: Mike Golden

Director Legislative: Charlie Block

Past President: Mike Golden

Surviving Spouses Liaison: Marilyn Horsefield

Chair Positions

Tops: Mike Horsefield

Membership: Judy Bohler

Personal Affairs: Marilyn Horsefield

Newsletter: Cathy Golden

Web Site: Bill Broome

Digital Com: Jeff Bohler

News Release: Bill Broome

ROTC Awards: Mike Golden

Monthly Mtg: Mike Golden

Guest Speaker: Jeff Bohler

By-Laws: Charlie Block

State Council: Charlie Block

Legislative Updates: Charlie Block

MOAA News: Charlie Block

Chaplain: Mike Golden



Find
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 on Facebook
 and Linked In



If you are interested in joining our *Facebook* group, you can use the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/300482473982236/>

If you are interested in joining our *LinkedIn* group, you can use the following link:

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12227504/>



Some of the articles on these pages are gathered online from various MOAA websites and newsletters. They are attributable to their reporters and personnel. Contact the club secretary with any questions.

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