



ECAC

ECAC Newsletter

ecacmoaa.com

FEBRUARY 2021



MOAA®



CAPT Hugh E. (Ted) Mills, USN, Retired

A View of Analytics for Service Members & Veterans

CAPT Ted Mills is a former Navy S-3B Viking squadron commander and a former Commanding Officer of Naval Air Station Patuxent River, the country's largest military research, development, test and evaluation base located in Southern Maryland. He is a 26-year Navy veteran with over 3000 hours of flight time and service on 7 aircraft carriers. He has had tours in senior positions in combatant command headquarters and on the Navy staff (OPNAV N81) in the Pentagon. Since retirement from the Navy, he has served as a senior operations research analyst at NASA headquarters in Washington D.C.

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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 FEBRUARY 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 20 st	Tuesday	5 PM	Virtual by Zoom
May 18 th	Tuesday	5 PM	Virtual by Zoom
Jun	None		
Jul	None		
Aug 17 th	Saturday	4 PM	Grove Hill 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	1 PM	Moore's Mill Club



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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



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



The President's Corner:

Happy February Everyone!

If you haven't had the opportunity to visit our website yet, please do so at <https://ecacmoaa.com>. I would urge you to snoop around the website and see what it offers. This is YOUR website and if there is something you think could be better, we'd love to hear your opinion. I suspect that there is more on this website than you might be aware of and as such you might be surprised with how good it is. We also have a facebook page that you can search for called ECAC MOAA which can either be found through a direct search or by following the link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/300482473982236>. Additionally we have a Linked in Group as well for those who have a Linked in account. I'd encourage everyone to peck around what is available to them and see the resources we offer as an organization.

As far as the Covid, I don't realistically see us getting together until sometime after the summer. What I envision is a time after we all have vaccinations and things have settled down to a point where we can relax and break bread together. Getting together in a social setting was my primary motivation for joining this organization and both Marilyn and I miss it very much. I suspect we're not alone on this. For expectation management purposes, let's set a tentative date for our next dinner TOGETHER as sometime in October. If you don't all go crazy by then, it should be a lot of fun. In the meantime, I'd urge everyone to do what socialization you can safely do and get outside as much as possible. We've got this and I can clearly see light at the end of this tunnel.

Take care and keep the faith!

Mike Horsefield
President ECAC-MOAA



Mills—Continued from Page 1.



He currently serves as a senior operations research analyst and data scientist at the headquarters for the Department of Veterans Affairs and for the Board of Federal Administrative Law Judges. He serves as leads analysis of assigned benefits trends, health analytics, geographic trends, and advanced analytics for a panel of over 100 judges dependent on advanced analysis for consistency and quality control in a highly visible area of responsibility that rivals Social Security or Census. CAPT Mills holds the following degrees: a Doctor of Engineering, Engineering Management, George Washington University, a MS Software Engineering, National University, Curriculum in Strategic Studies, U.S. Naval War College, a MS Operations Research, Naval Postgraduate School, and a BS Physical Sciences, U.S. Naval Academy.



Groundhog Day February 2, 2021

Pennsylvania's most famous groundhog emerged from his burrow on a snowy Tuesday morning and saw his shadow, declaring there would be **six more weeks of winter**. Members of Punxsutawney Phil's "Inner Circle" woke up the furry critter at 7:25 a.m. to see whether he would see his shadow or not.

Secretary's Report February 2021

As of January 31, 2020, the chapter has:	2021 Dues
66 Regular Members	\$20 Per regular member.
13 Surviving Spouse Members	\$15 Per dual member.
2 Associate Members	\$5 Per Surviving Spouse/Associate/ROTC
81 Total Members	

*** 2021 Dues have been sent out, are now due and being collected.**

Please mail a check to **ECAC-MOAA**, P.O. Box 124, Auburn, AL, 36830-0124.

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

The February Board of Directors meeting was Monday, February 1st at 1300 by Zoom video-conference. March's meeting is scheduled for Monday the 1st at 1300 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 wjbroome@gmail.com or 703-395-4317.**

Treasurer's February 2021

Summary of Activity 01/01/2021 to 01/31/2021	
Balance Forward from 01/01/2021	\$5,251.36
Deposits/Credits	\$95.00
Withdrawals/Debits	\$33.50
Service Charges	00.00
Ending Balance as of 01/31/2021:	\$5,312.86

National African American (Black) History Month

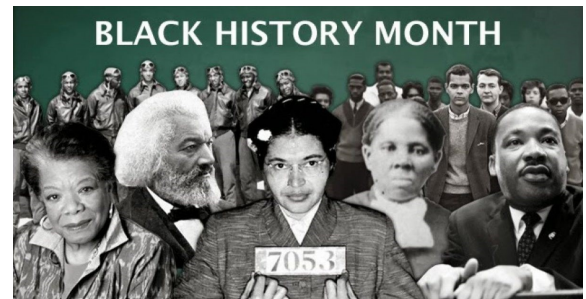
To commemorate and celebrate the contributions to our nation made by people of African descent, American historian Carter G. Woodson established Black History Week (then called "Negro History Week") nearly a century ago. The event was first celebrated during the second week of February 1926, selected because it coincides with the birthdays of both Abraham Lincoln (February 12) and abolitionist/writer Frederick Douglass (February 14). That week would continue to be set aside for the event until 1976 when, as part of the nation's bicentennial, it was expanded to a month. Since then, U.S. presidents have proclaimed February as National African American History Month.

The military history of African Americans spans from the arrival of the first enslaved Africans during the colonial history of the United States to the present day.



Click on the African-Americans in Military History link to view short video.

There are over 2.1 million Black military veterans in the United States.



Legislative Chair—Charlie Block

National, State, & Local News

The following article from MOAA discusses a concern that is not discussed as often as it should be. Another example of “robbing one group to support another” occurred when the legislators made their first effort to reduce the “Widows Tax”. While we all applaud that effort, many were not aware that the copays for prescription drugs were increased acting as the “bill payer” for the bill.

Copied from MOAA:

The only way to ensure continued U.S. military dominance is to realize our service members “are our No. 1 weapon system,” Lt. Gen. Dana T. Atkins, USAF (Ret), president and CEO of MOAA, wrote in a recent opinion piece published by The Hill.

The piece stresses the importance of rewarding service members for their performance – not just at the bare minimum as part of efforts to shrink budget figures, but in a way that recognizes their talents and encourages others to join their ranks. Otherwise, the continued erosion of benefits will have “strategic consequences that I don’t believe our nation is in a position to accept,”

Atkins wrote:

The piece cites another discouraging trend known as a “pay-for” approach to expanding and improving military and veteran benefits – one that forces one set of beneficiaries to cover the costs of providing improved services to others. Among the examples: Paying to expand long-delayed coverage of so-called “Blue Water Navy” Vietnam veterans to include conditions related to toxic exposure by raising VA home loan processing fees.

This method of “robbing one group to support another” only serves to dilute the benefit pool, Atkins wrote.

Charlie Block
ECAC Legislative Chair

[Read MOAA’s Letter to President Joe Biden](#)



Click Picture above for Video on Facts about Presidents Day

Presidents' Day is a federal holiday celebrated on the third Monday in February; Presidents' Day 2021 will occur on Monday, February 15. Originally established in 1885 in recognition of President George Washington, the holiday became popularly known as Presidents' Day after it was moved as part of 1971’s Uniform Monday Holiday Act, an attempt to create more three-day weekends for the nation’s workers. While several states still have individual holidays honoring the birthdays of Washington, Abraham Lincoln and other figures, Presidents' Day is now popularly viewed as a day to celebrate all U.S. presidents, past and present. <https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/presidents-day>

AN ALL-BLACK PARATROOPER UNIT



PHOTO: NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Paratroopers from the Triple Nickle took part in the secret mission Operation Firefly in 1945 to extinguish fires caused by Japanese balloon bombs; they also disarmed and destroyed balloons. So Operation Firefly was inaugurated. The Triple Nickle was sent to bases in Pendleton, Ore., and Chino, Calif., to train as firefighter paratroopers, or smokejumpers.

PREPARE TO TAKE ACTION

Key Bills - 2021

Federal - HR 5995

A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to expand eligibility to certain military retirees for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retired pay or combat-related special compensation, and for other purposes.

Federal - HR 413

A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the work opportunity credit to small businesses which hire individuals who are members of the Ready Reserve or National Guard, and for other purposes.

Federal - HR 847

A bill to provide interim appropriations for the Coast Guard Retired Serviceman's Family Protection and Survivor Benefits Plans for each fiscal year after fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes.

Federal - S 3393

A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retired pay for disability retirees with fewer than 20 years of service and a combat-related disability, and for other purposes.

Federal - S 21

A bill making continuing appropriations for Coast Guard pay in the event of an appropriations act expired prior to the enactment of new appropriations (official title to be confirmed).

Federal - S 1047

A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to create a dependency and indemnity compensation allowance for surviving spouses receiving dependency and indemnity compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

Federal - S 2216

A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to formally recognize caregivers of veterans, notify veterans and caregivers of clinical determinations relating to eligibility for caregiver programs, and temporarily extend benefits for veterans who are determined ineligible for the family caregiver program, and for other purposes.

Federal - S 2981

A bill to reauthorize and amend the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002, and for other purposes.

Federal - HR 2406

A bill to amend the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002 to make certain changes to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's commissioned officer corps, and for other purposes.

Federal - S 2629

A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the Public Health Service Corps.

Federal - S 2297

A bill to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard, and for other purposes.

Federal - HR 333

A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability rated less than 50 percent to receive concurrent payment of both retired pay and veterans' disability compensation, to extend eligibility for concurrent receipt to chapter 61 disability retirees with less than 20 years of service, and for other purposes.

MEMBER SECTION



AUBURN OPELIKA EVENTS FEBRUARY 1ST - FEBRUARY 28TH, 2021



Every Officer Has Two Families (2021 Super Bowl LV Commercial)



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!



COVID-19 Vaccine Registration

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

At this vaccination site, vaccines are available for persons **age 65 and greater who reside in Lee, Chambers or Macon counties.**

If you meet the age and residence requirements, please complete the form below with your demographic information and you will be called to schedule your vaccine.

- It may take several days to receive a call as vaccine is still very limited.
- Once you receive your confirmation that your data has been entered into the registry, there is no need to register again. Any changes can be made when you are called.

The vaccine site is wheelchair accessible.



COVID-19 Vaccines at Veterans Administration Facilities

The VA is working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other federal partners to provide COVID-19 vaccines to Veterans and VA health care personnel. They realize that health care personnel, veterans, and caregivers have a lot of questions, and information is changing quickly. **Please click on the link above** for information and updates. The VA will continue to update this page as new information becomes available.

[Who can get a COVID-19 vaccine at the VA at this time?](#)

[Basic information about getting your vaccine at the VA](#)

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.



Governor Ivey has extended the State's Safer at Home. Individuals will be required to wear a mask or other facial covering when in public and in close contact with other people, as described in the order. This amended order is extended until March 5, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. It includes a statewide mask requirement to be kept in place to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. [COVID-19 News and Resources - Office of the Governor of Alabama](#)



The Auburn City Council requests everyone to continue practicing social distancing and wearing masks to help slow the spread of COVID-19. In addition, to the resolution of support for Governor Ivey's amended Safer at Home order.

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



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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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