



ECAC

ECAC Newsletter

ecacmoaa.com

JANUARY 2021



Colonel Edward E. Marshall Jr. is the Commander, 45th Mission Support Group, 45th Space Wing, Patrick SFB, Florida. The 45th Mission Support Group provides mission support to range and launch operations ensuring the vitality of national space activities at the only launch base for DoD and commercial Atlas, Delta, SpaceX and NASA launch vehicles. The 45th Mission Support Group prepares worldwide deployable expeditionary forces; assures comprehensive base support to the wing and 70+ DoD tenants, supports over 16,000 military/family members, reservists, civilians and contractors, plus 125,000 retirees.

TOPIC: The US Space Force (USSF), newest branch of the Armed Forces organized within the Department of the Air Force, was established on December 20, 2019. The presentation will focus on the Mission, Organization, and Capabilities of Patrick Space Force Base (SFB) and its launch mission.

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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 JANUARY 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.



Editorial Policy. The East-Central Alabama Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and national MOAA provide their advocacy in a nonpartisan manner. Any conveyance of partisanship is unintended.

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 2021 everyone!

Our MOAA chapter here in Auburn is eagerly looking towards this new year as an opportunity to get back together and break bread and share in fellowship together. With this in mind and to provide a bit of expectation management, we are planning our 50th anniversary celebration for this October, which hopefully will not be our first real social event for the year, but we will see. With all that is going on, planning for anything is a challenge, but I am confident that we will be able to resume a normal social program during 2021. With that in mind, I wanted to provide some information that may be useful to those members who are enrolled in the Tuskegee VA medical facility. They have started to provide veterans the Moderna Covid-19 vaccine (**VA to begin COVID-19 vaccinations at 128 additional sites - Vantage Point**) to veterans who sign up by telephone.

To sign up for a free Moderna Covid-19 Vaccine, simply call (334) 260-4144 and provide the following information after the recorded message: First Name, Last Name, Last 4, & Phone Number.

They are prioritizing the vaccines by age of the recipient and registration time. Note that there is a 30 minute waiting period after the shot and that a booster will be required within the month to provide maximum protection. For more information on the vaccine, check out the CDC website **<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/Moderna.html>**.

In the meantime, I welcome you to participate in our Zoom meetings as we continue on our journey and Happy New Year! I look forward to talking to everyone soon!

Mike Horsefield
CAPT USN (Ret)
President ECAC-MOAA



FLY NAVY



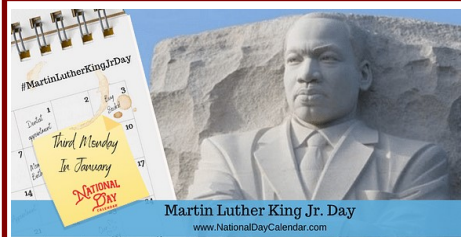
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Colonel Marshall graduated from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Finance. He was commissioned through Air Force ROTC and entered active duty in 1996.

Prior to his current assignment, Colonel Marshall served as Chief, Financial Analysis Division, Directorate of Plans, Programs and Financial Management, Headquarters Air Force Space Command. He has commanded two Comptroller Squadrons and was a Deputy Mission Support Group Commander. He served as the Executive Officer for the Under Secretary of the Air Force for Financial Management. He has held positions at Program Office, Base, two Major Command, Air Staff, and the White House. He has also been deployed in support of operations in Bosnia, Afghanistan, and Kyrgyzstan. He is also a Joint Qualified Officer.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY



Martin Luther King Jr Day, on the third Monday in January, honors the American clergyman, activist, Civil Rights Movement leader. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968) is best known for his role in the advancement of civil rights using nonviolent civil disobedience. King has become a national icon in the history of American progressivism. Hundreds of streets in the U.S. have been renamed in his honor. This year MLK Jr. Day is celebrated on **January 18th**.

Secretary’s Report

November 2020

As of December 31, 2020, the chapter has:

2021 Dues

67 Regular Members	\$20	Per regular member.
13 Surviving Spouse Members	\$15	Per dual member.
2 Associate Members	\$5	Per Surviving Spouse/Associate/ROTC
82 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 January Board of Directors meeting was Tuesday, January 5th at 1300 by Zoom video-conference. February’s meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 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.**

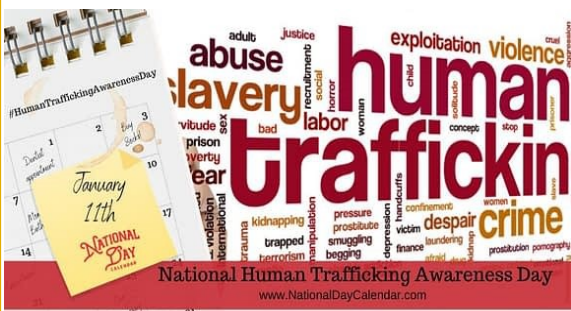
Treasurer’s

November 2020

Summary of Activity 12/01/2020 to 12/31/2020

Balance Forward from 11/01/2020	\$4,472.36		
Deposits/Credits		\$820.00	
Withdrawals/Debits			\$41.00
Service Charges	00.00		
Ending Balance as of 12/31/2020:			\$5,251.36

NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS DAY



National Human Trafficking Awareness Day on **January 11th** brings attention to a crime that leaves a lasting toll on human life, families, and communities around the world.

Beginning in 2010, by Presidential Proclamation, each January has been designated National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Following the start of National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, with the help of non-government organizations, National Human Trafficking Day began on January 11th.



KOREAN AMERICAN DAY

Korean American Day on **January 13th** commemorates the arrival of the first Korean immigrants to the United States in 1903. The day also honors the Korean American’s immense contributions to every aspect of society. In 1882, the United States and Korea signed a treaty establishing a peaceful relationship, friendship, and commerce. They served their communities and their country during World Wars I and II and the Korean War. During these times, more Koreans decided to emigrate from their homeland; some, as wives to U.S. servicemen, others were adopted as children.

Legislative Chair—Charlie Block

National, State, & Local News

Defense Bill Signed: Congress voted to enact a \$741 billion defense policy bill over the objections of President Donald J. Trump, who vetoed the long-running annual legislation on Dec. 23. The Senate overrode Trump's veto 81-13 on New Year's Day, following the House's 322-87 vote on Dec. 28. Their rare bipartisan move greenlighted billions of dollars for troop pay, weapons programs, and military construction, plus hundreds of provisions directing how the military should spend that money and detailing reports due to Congress. Not only does this bill give our service members and their families the resources they need, but it also makes our nation more secure. Likewise, the Senate followed by overriding the veto.

Next Year's MOAA Priorities: Here is a preview of MOAA's legislative priorities for the upcoming congressional session. You will also see these in the January issue of Military Officer. These objectives are broad and topical in nature. They are subject to refinement and interpretation depending on the latest legislation, as well as activities on the Hill or within the administration and its departments.

- ✦ Protect the value of the military health care benefit.
- ✦ Protect the military health system's pharmacy benefit, and achieve flexibility in TRICARE pharmacy copays.
- ✦ Address barriers to accessing care within the military health system, including TRICARE coverage gaps and mental health care access challenges.
- ✦ Protect family support programs, and ensure military-provided services (housing, PCS, child care) are affordable, readily available, and meet quality standards.
- ✦ Sustain pay raises for the troops and COLA raises for retirees.
- ✦ Ensure Coast Guard members are paid during a government shutdown.
- ✦ Sustain Veterans Health Administration (VHA) foundational missions and services.
- ✦ Achieve equity of benefits, protections, and administrative support for Guard and Reserve members consistent with their active-duty counterparts.
- ✦ Reform the presumptive process to support veterans claiming service-connected disabilities for toxic exposures.
- ✦ Achieve concurrent receipt of service-earned retirement pay and VA disability pay.
- ✦ Protect Arlington National Cemetery as an option for those currently eligible to receive full military honors through expansion of our national cemetery.
- ✦ Improve survivor benefits.

Charlie Block
ECAC Legislative Chair



COVID-19 Vaccine Registration

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

At this vaccination site, vaccines are available for persons **age 75 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.

MEMBER SECTION



Connie & Terry Burke

Col. Terry Burke, a retired Air Force officer, and his lovely wife, Connie, became members of the chapter in November; however, we did not receive a photo in time to make the December Newsletter. The Burkes live at Lake Martin near Dadeville. We would like to welcome them again as new member and hope to meet them in person some time this year. It is nice to be able to put face with a name. **“Go Air Force”**.



Congratulation to Tom & his lovely bride, Lauren Kathryn Cross-Whately on their December 12th nuptials. We would like to welcome Lauren as our newest spouse. We look forward to meeting her when the Chapter returns to face-to-face meetings.



National Blood Donor Month

According to the American Red Cross, winter is “one of the most difficult times of year to collect enough blood products to meet patient needs.” That’s because of, among other things, busy holiday schedules and bad weather often resulting in canceled blood drives. Furthermore, seasonal illnesses such as the flu force potential donors to forgo their blood donations.

Considering the limitation placed on the Chapter, the Christmas Party and the reindeer games were a success. Many thanks to Jeff & Judy Bohler and Mike & Marilyn Horsefield for their hard work and persistence to insure an enjoyable experience for all in virtual attendance.



VA to begin COVID-19 vaccinations at 128 additional sites.

Alabama

- ✦ Central Alabama (Montgomery) VA Health Care System
- ✦ Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center

VA to begin COVID-19 vaccinations at 128 additional sites - VAntage Point

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.

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 January 22, 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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