



ECAC

ECAC Newsletter

ecacmoaa.com

SEPTEMBER 2021



Zoom Program at 6 PM on Sept 21st

Data Analytics in Sports

Guest Speaker: Chris Atwater

Topic – An analysis of spending and performance in Division I college football and basketball. This presentation will highlight trends between different conferences and classifications and demonstrate the relationship between athletics expenses and outcomes.

Christopher Atwater, Ph.D. was born and raised in Boothbay Harbor, Maine. He is a graduate of Skidmore College where he received his B.A. in History. Following graduation, Chris spent almost ten years working and living in various cities including Washington DC, New York City, Boston, New Orleans and Portland, Maine working for organizations including The New York Times, National Research Council, and Covenant House. After returning to school in 2005, he received his M.S. in Sport Leadership and his Ph.D. in Education, Urban Services Leadership at Virginia Commonwealth University. Chris teaches a variety of courses at Troy University including Analytics, Governance, and Research Methods. He and his wife Beatrice reside in beautiful Montgomery, Alabama.

**For safety issues the dinner meeting has been changed to a Zoom meeting.
ECAC-MOAA Monthly Meeting Zoom Link for 6 PM on Sept. 21, 2021**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/99818116089?pwd=RW92WGhSREpwYmYwcVZCVVoyejdxUT09>

Meeting ID: 998 1811 6089
Passcode: MOAA



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 th	Tuesday	5 PM	Virtual by Zoom
May 18 th	Tuesday	5 PM	Virtual by Zoom
Jun	None		
Jul	None		
Aug 17th	Tuesday	5 PM	Cancelled
Sep 21 st	Tuesday	6 PM	Virtual by Zoom
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





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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 September 2021

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

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

The September Board of Directors meeting was Tuesday, Sept. 2nd, at 1300 at the Horsefield's residence. October's meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 5th at 1300 at the Horsefield's residence 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 Judy Bohler at bohler1107@charter.net or 334-826-1107.**

Treasurer's September 2021

Summary of Activity 08/01/2021 to 08/31/2021

Balance Forward from 08/01/2021	\$5,748.43		
Deposits/Credits		\$100.00	
Withdrawals/Debits			\$00.00
Service Charges	\$00.00		
Ending Balance as of 08/31/2021:			\$5,848.43

MEMBER SECTION

Two previous members of our chapter who lived in Auburn have passed away in the last month.

William Chansler passed away on August 16, 2021. His wife, Phyllis, passed away back in 2014. Please have his son Phillip Chansler and wife, Mary-Claire, who were also in our chapter in your thoughts and prayers.

Mark McGuire passed away on September 12, 2021. His wife, Susie, is still in the process of making arrangements. Please check the local funeral homes, newspaper, and online news for more information. Please keep Susie in your thoughts and prayers.

FYI: Distaff Club If you are somewhat new to ECAC MOAA, you may not be aware that there is a club called Distaff for military spouses. 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!

Legislative Chair—Charlie Block

National, State, & Local News

We still await the markup of the Defense budget. Bills have been introduced to increase the amount that was in the Presidents budget. The proposed budget is an actual cut from this years numbers due to inflation. Regarding inflation we are now looking at a 5.7% COLA, but beware of attempts by the Congress to reduce that amount. Revisions to Arlington Cemetery burial eligibility should be published in the Federal Register in a couple weeks. MOAA and other members of the Military Coalition have asked that current retirees not be affected by the new eligibility rules. We shall see!!

As a reminder I am including the current MOAA priorities as a refresher.

- Recognize the COVID-19 Pandemic Changed the Landscape for Many of Our Priorities
- Protect the Value of the Military Health Care Benefit
- Protect the MHS Pharmacy Benefit and Achieve Flexibility in TRICARE Pharmacy Copays
- Address Barriers to Accessing Care Within the MHS, Including TRICARE Coverage Gaps and Mental Health Care Access Challenges
- Achieve Concurrent Receipt of Service-Earned Retirement Pay and VA Disability Pay
- Protect Family Support Programs, and Ensure Military-Provided Services (Housing, PCS, Child Care) Are Affordable, Readily Available, and Meet Quality Standards
- Reform the Presumptive Process to Support Veterans Claiming Service-Connected Disabilities for Toxic Exposures
- Achieve Equity of Benefits, Protections and Administrative Support for Guard/Reserve Members Consistent With Their Active Duty Counterparts
- Sustain Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Foundational Missions and Services

Charlie Block
ECAC Legislative Chair

East Central Alabama Chapter

won the 2020

Five Star Harris Communication Award

and the

Five Star Levels of Excellence Award



President's Letter

Greetings Shipmates!

Well, that's how we used to start a conversation while I was active duty in the Navy. Shipmate is the catch-all term to describe the people we served with, trusted and cared about. Seems appropriate now.

Your MOAA board is still working to figure out our next dinner, because that is the most enjoyable thing we do together. Covid is still an issue on the minds of everyone, and certainly a topic of discussion within your Board of Directors. We're watching the numbers closely to make sure that when we get together again, we can do so safely with a minimum of risk. With the number of cases going up in Alabama recently, we've decided to cancel the upcoming awards ceremony with Lieutenant General Dana Atkins and move on. We assess that right now the risk is too high for our membership, but we can see that we are getting close to being able to have in person dinners soon.

On paper, our organization is healthy and has just earned the 5-Star Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Award, but in reality we are weakened from not having seen each other in so long. With this in mind, we're working to make our events more appealing for our members starting out by having a free dinner when we resume our dinners - aiming for October 19th. The intent will be to have a wonderful night out with friends at Moore's Mill Country Club with no strings attached. I joined this organization to go to these types of events. So let's make our next one special. Additionally, we're going to adapt our dress code to be straight up casual, although those who'd like to get a little more spruced up are welcome to do so.

On Covid vaccinations: I'd like to encourage everyone to get the shots and protect themselves and their family. Recognizing that this may be a contentious issue for some of our members, I want to respect everyone's choices. However, our membership comprises a high risk population demographic for the virus and putting a single person at risk is not acceptable. Therefore, we'd very much like our membership to be 100% vaccinated to attend our events. We'd also ask that you'll excuse yourself from any of our planned events if you're feeling under the weather. Marilyn and I have received both Moderna vaccinations and we are going to get the booster shots when they become available.

Ending on a more interesting note, we'd like to start capturing and sharing stories from our collective military service with our local newspaper "The Villager". The idea is that we all have unique and interesting stories that others might be interested to read about, so we've decided to facilitate a way to collect your inputs for publication. Keep in mind the stories can't be too long and will be published in a local paper. Also include a brief bio of yourself and perhaps a picture. (Example page 7)

Anyhow, we will keep everyone informed of what we're doing and we look forward to our next get-together!

Best - Mike

Michael Horsefield

ECAC MOAA President

This family has deep roots in Fort Benning.
 Could their parents be the new namesake?

Ledger-Enquirer by Nick Wooten Shared from News Break

https://www.newsbreakapp.com/n/0bqxmPGy?share_id=evJ1c2VyaWQiOjE0NDQ5NTk5NywiZG9jX2lkIjoiMGJxeG1QR3kiLCJ0aW1lc3RhbXAiOjE2MzEyMDU5NTI2OTI9&share_destination_id=MTQ0NDk1OTk3LTE2MzEyMDU5NTczMjk=&s=a3&pd=09mI0bhz&hl=en_US

Our member, Dave Moore, and his family hope to honor the military family as they petition the federal government to select Fort Moore as the replacement name for Fort Benning. Benning’s name change is not optional. Congress says it must happen. Titles associated with the Confederacy must be scrubbed from Department of Defense-owned property and assets as mandated in the 2021 National Defense Authorization Act.

The article begins: The Auburn home is still in the family. It’s a place Dave Moore comes to work on occasion, and nearly every time, he finds himself lost in the history books from his late father’s library.

Walls filled with decades of military awards, movie posters and memorabilia surround Dave as he sits at the same desk where his father, Lt. Gen. Hal Moore, researched and co-authored his 1992 bestseller “[We Were Soldiers Once... and Young](#)” with late war correspondent and journalist [Joe Galloway](#).



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.

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

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



CAPTAIN Michael Horsefield Served in the Navy for 27 years as a Naval Aviator flying numerous aircraft all over the world.

During his service, he and his wife Marilyn lived overseas for 10 years including Japan, Belgium and the Netherlands and they loved every minute of it.

Navy Pilot Driving a Russian Tank

While I was stationed with NATO, we conducted a military exercise in Wrocław, Poland. On this particular day, I had to brief a German 4-star General. As I was waiting outside the Command tent, my good friend “Stan”, who was a Polish Army Officer came up to me in an excited voice and said,

“Mike! Mike! Come quick!”

Me: “What’s up Stan? I have to brief the General.”

Stan: “NO! I have a Russian tank for you to drive!”

Me: “What are you talking about?”

Stan: “I have arranged for you to drive a tank but we must do it now!”

So many things in this exchange made no sense:

I had not asked Stan to arrange for a ride in the tank.

I don’t think the word “tank” has ever even come up in conversation.

I was waiting to brief a 4-star general one-on-one and my appointment time was in 5 minutes.

Come to think of it, I didn’t remember seeing any tanks anywhere.

So I had to decide... “Do I go drive a tank around Poland with my friend or do I go brief Deputy SACEUR per the schedule?”

I looked at Stan who was beaming with excitement and decided that it was probably worth the wrath I would incur, so I said “Let’s go drive a Tank!”

So we ran around to the back of the tent, and sure enough, there was a Russian T-72 Tank ready to go. I chuckled to think that of all the crazy things I ever imagined doing as a Navy pilot, I would never have guessed that I’d drive a Russian T-72 Main Battle Tank through the Polish countryside with my KGB buddy cheering me on. (Yeah, Stan was a KGB Officer - that’s another story)

The tank was basically the exact same setup of one of the first vehicles my dad taught me how to drive – a manual 3 speed Chevy pickup with an H on the column. Anyhow, I got the thing started and oriented my feet to the gas, clutch and brake pedals (because you couldn’t look down and see them) and we were good to go! Easing off the clutch, we start moving. The steering wheel was more like a yoke and not an actual wheel. I headed out to an impromptu course they had setup through the woods. I’m pretty sure that way one designs and builds this type of course is to drive it once and you’re done. Anyhow, it drove smooth and beautiful and coasted really well and I ran over a small tree and didn’t feel a thing. Then I hit some mud and a stream and around some trees and came back. Stan was waiting and we were both grinning ear to ear. It was a fantastic experience.

I thanked everyone for the ride - “Gin Coyah” in Polish I think. I may have been saying “Good Morning”.

Getting out of the tank, Stan handed back all my briefing documents and I hurried back around to the entrance to the tent smelling like tank and right on cue the 4 star General came out yelling out me. Lucky for me he didn’t have enough time to get into it, because it didn’t last long and we got right into the brief. Yeah. It was worth it. Stan and I remains friends to this day!

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>

Nomination Slate: We are taking nominations or self nominations for the following positions

- President: Mike Horsefield said he would serve a 2nd term
- Vice President: Jeff Bohler said he would serve a 2nd term
- Treasury: OPEN Mike Golden is filling in since Earl Digman resigned (Accounting knowledge and can cashier at the meetings?)
- Secretary: OPEN Judy Bohler is filling in since Bill Broome moved (Take minutes at board and general meetings)
- Director Chapter Affairs: Marilyn Horsefield said she would serve a 2nd term
- Director Legislative: Charlie Block said he would serve a 2nd term
- Director Communication: OPEN Cathy Golden is newsletter editor with Mike helping, and Jeff Bohler is filling in as webmaster. If someone has website & social media skills, or, if someone has computer skills to publish a newsletter this would be helpful.
- Director Banquet: OPEN Mike Golden has been scheduling dinners and taking RSVP count.

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

		Chair Positions	
President:	Mike Horsefield	Tops:	Mike Horsefield
Vice President:	Jeff Bohler	Membership:	Judy Bohler
Secretary:	Judy Bohler	Personal Affairs:	Marilyn Horsefield
Treasurer:	Mike Golden	Newsletter:	Cathy Golden
Director Chapter Affairs:	Marilyn Horsefield	Web Site:	Jeff Bohler
Director Communication:	Cathy Golden	Digital Communications:	Jeff Bohler
Director Program & Banquet:	Mike Golden	News Release:	Jeff Bohler
Director Legislative:	Charlie Block	ROTC Awards:	Mike Golden
Past President:	Mike Golden	Monthly Meeting:	Mike Golden
Surviving Spouses Liaison:	Marilyn Horsefield	Guest Speakers:	Jeff Bohler
		By-Laws:	Charlie Block
		State Council:	Charlie Block
		Legislative Updates:	Charlie Block
		MOAA News:	Charlie Block
		Chaplain:	Mike Golden



Find ECAC-MOAA 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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