



Military Officers Association of America
Northeast Florida Chapter
Monthly Membership Newsletter

"The NOR'EASTER"

July 2022 edition



P.O. Box 442022,
Jacksonville, FL 32222-2022

"Chapter website"

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This publication is intended for the benefit of our membership and to provide a form of communications to the members by the Officers and Board of Directors of the chapter.

The "Nor'easter" a newsletter of MOAA Northeast Florida Chapter (FL-18); published by the Northeast Florida Chapter, which is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA and its affiliated chapters and councils are **non-partisan**. The advertisements that appear in this publication also do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA or this affiliate.

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL

If you would like to join our chapter or renew your current membership go to <https://chapterdues.moaa.org/> by doing so you will be able to pay online using your credit/debit card. Annual membership is ONLY \$25.00 or \$12.50 if you are a surviving spouse. If you have any questions please contact our chapter Membership Chair, Jim Lorenz by email at jim.lorenz84@gmail.com.



The President's Corner

CWO5 Marc Manor, USN (Ret)

One thing we may take for granted (including me) is the outstanding effort of the few in our chapter. We are always looking for folks to step up and take some of the heavy strain away from the those have done so much in the past to carry the organization forward. One aspect of contribution where we can all chip-in on a regular basis is recruiting. It's not easy to keep recruiting for MOAA in the front of our mind while in the midst of our day-to-day challenges, but it is important for our chapter.

There is a wealth of experience and knowledge already in our chapter that we all draw on regularly, but we still have room to expand. One area of recruiting I think we need to focus on is the younger folks. Those junior and mid-grade officers are a difficult group to recruit because they are in the intense grind of raising young families, daily jobs, qualifications, and deployments. Those on active duty as well as those newly injected into the civilian ranks are in a world of high stress to compete for promotions and favorable assignments.

We need to let these young officers know that we have been there and our members are a great resource for insight based on our experiences and accumulated wisdom. Younger members can also be a great resource for us by taking charge of the some of the chapter positions and initiatives without taking too much of their valuable time. Occasionally, we attend events were these folks will see us and ask a few questions; but that is clearly not enough. If I could ask one small task of all of you, it would be to bring up MOAA when you engage, socially or otherwise, the young men and women who have taken our place among the ranks of the world's finest military.

The commissary and exchange are target rich environments and occasionally, we see these folks in uniform in the local grocery. Many times, we can tell military folks just by looking at the way they carry themselves. How about striking up that conversation and giving MOAA of NE FL a mention? You don't have to "hard sell," but a mention of the benefits and fellowship could make a big difference in their lives.

Thank you for your contributions, and until next month...steady as she goes.

From Your Chapter 1st Vice President (and Membership Chairman)

LTC Jim Lorenz, USA, (Ret)

Our July luncheon speaker is retired U.S. Navy Capt. William J. (Bill) Toti, author of *From CO to CEO: A Practical Guide for Transitioning from Military to Industry Leadership*.

Captain Toti served more than 26 years on active duty, from enlisted seaman to CO of the USS Indianapolis (SSN-697) and Commodore of Submarine Squadron 3. He served more than 9 years in the Pentagon where his jobs included special assistant to the Vice Chief of Naval Operations, Navy representative to the Joint Requirements Oversight Council and Deputy Director for Navy War Plan Deep Blue.

In more than 26 years on active duty, he went from enlisted seaman to Commanding Officer of the nuclear submarine USS Indianapolis (SSN-697) and Commodore of Submarine Squadron 3. He served more than nine years in the Pentagon, including tours as special assistant to the Vice Chief of Naval Operations, as Navy representative to the Joint Requirements Oversight Council and as Deputy Director of Navy War Plan Deep Blue.

Transitioning to industry in 2006, he has served as a Vice President at Raytheon, Hewlett-Packard, DXC Technology and HPE, and as President of Cubic Corporation and L-3 Maritime Systems. He eventually became President and former CEO of Sparton Corporation.

He holds a bachelor's degree in physics from the U.S. Naval Academy, and a master's degree in spacecraft systems engineering and pre-doctoral electrical engineering degree from the Naval Postgraduate School. Among many other honors, he is a seven-time recipient of the Legion of Merit. Bill and his wife, Karen, are parents of two adult children and reside in Florida.

From Your Chapter 2nd Vice President

CDR Paul Werring, USN (Ret)

For our July Luncheon on the 20th, we will once again be at River Cove on NAS Jacksonville. Our social begins at 1100 with a BBQ style buffet lunch being served at 1130. Our business meeting will start at 1200. The guest speaker will be **Bill Toti**, author of *From CO to CEO: A Practical Guide for Transitioning from Military to Industry Leadership*. I hope to see as many of you there as possible.

While we plan to have most of our meetings at River Cove, we are also planning to occasionally hold our meetings off base. I have been given several suggestions by Chapter members for alternative locations which I have looked at for possible future events. However, if you have additional ideas, I will be glad to hear them.

If you have any other thoughts or concerns you can e-mail them to me at pgwerring@gmail.com. Thanks again for your support.

July 4, 2022—the 246th birthday of the United States of America . . .

Happy Independence Day, USA!

20 JULY CHAPTER MEETING & LUNCHEON

Please make plans to join us for our June Chapter Meeting & Luncheon at The River Cove Community Center on NAS Jacksonville. Social hour will be from 1100 to 1130, and lunch will be served at 1130 sharp. Dress is appropriate casual.

Menu

BBQ luncheon served Buffet style, featuring Brisket, Chicken, Baked beans, Corn on the cob, Cole slaw, Texas toast, and Iced tea/coffee. Dessert will be a chef's choice.

Cost is \$20 per person.

You can make your reservations online via our website at <https://moaafi.org/Chapters/NEFLMOAA/Calendar.aspx> . You must have a reservation to eat. Please make your reservation as early as possible so we can provide an accurate head count for the caterer so they can properly set up the facility and have enough meals prepared. So do not delay, make your reservations today! The actual deadline/cutoff date for making reservations is midnight on Sunday May 13, 2022. Reservations may also be made by calling CDR Paul Werring at (571) 274-6570 or by email at pgwerring@gmail.com .

Cancellation Policy: All reservations are binding financially unless they are cancelled no later than the Cutoff Date for making reservations or due to a last-minute hardship that is accepted by the Board of Directors.

LUNCHEON PROGRAM:

Captain Bill Toti, USN, Ret.

author of

***From CO to CEO: a Practical Guide for Transitioning
from Military to Industry Leadership***

**Chaplain's Corner—
David McCuiston, CWO , USN (Ret)**

Remembrances.

Mrs. Joanne Robertson

It is with great sadness we remember the passing of Mrs. Joanne Robertson, who was called to our heavenly kingdom to celebrate Christ's resurrection on Saturday, April 3, 2021. She departed this life peacefully at her home with her loving, dedicated family by her side. She was born on July 13, 1929, in Detroit, MI to Gilbert James Moran and Virginia Neale Moran-Yeager. Her early years were spent in Detroit, Dearborn and Ypsilanti, MI where she attended Michigan State Normal College (currently Eastern Michigan University) and completed her undergraduate studies in English and Drama. She also began her graduate studies before marrying her adoring husband of 64 years, LCDR (retired) Robbie Robertson.

Joanne was also a lover of reading and passionate and dedicated to teaching. In the late 1970s through the 1990s she could be found educating bright young minds at what was formerly N.B. Forrest High School (now Westside High.) When she entered any room as a substitute, it would be to the sound of students clapping and greeting her with big smiles as they chanted, "Yay, we have Mrs. "Rob" today as our sub!"

Joanne is preceded in death by her parents; the love of her life, LCDR. (retired) Coll E. "Robbie" Robertson; and her cherished daughter Robin C. Robertson-McClendon; as well as many close family friends. She is survived by her devoted and loyal children: Joan "Jody" Chipoletti (Neal), Dawn Fenske (Terry), Coll Scott (Kelly) and Colin Robertson along with six grandchildren; Derek Chipoletti (Chrystal), Kelsey Ivey (Rodney), Taryn Fenske, Coll Robertson, Allison "Ali" Bahr (Coleman) and Tretyn "Trey" Fenske; three great-grandchildren: Austin Chipoletti (Cheyenne) from WA, Hunter Chipoletti and Harper Chipoletti, as well as three great-great grandchildren; Maizey and Hallie Chipoletti (WA) and Eloise Ivey (Fleming Island.) Her surviving extended family includes her sister-in-law Jewell Stibor (Fred), many nieces and nephews from Michigan as well as a cousin, Robert "Bob" Neale also from Michigan.

Sick and Distressed.

Wayne Elliot informed us that **CDR Don Walsh, USN, Ret.** was to be released from the hospital on June 28 to return home.

Contact the Chaplain: The Chaplain asks that news of sick and distressed members and notifications of member deaths be sent to David McCuiston, email davidmcc44@outlook.com.

COVID Reminder

Covid 19 is still with us. Infections are fewer now, and it is wonderful to enjoy spring without wearing a mask, but we continue to see new cases, including some among fully vaccinated people. Don't panic, but do wash your hands, get tested if you don't feel well or exhibit COVID symptoms and stay home if you feel sick..

DEALS FOR MOAA MEMBERS

Every wonder what benefits MOAA offers our members? Want cool MOAA gear to wear to meetings?. Check out these and more at www.MOAA.Org.

MOAA VACATIONS

Thinking about an adventure? You've come to the right place. [MOAA Vacations](#) can assist with every cruise line, every ship and every tour company in the world, plus airfare and hotels. Click the link for the latest packages, or call (800) 211-5107 for more details.



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PREMIUM and LIFE Members can log in to access savings on products and services of all types, including shipping, appliances, car rentals, lodging, movie tickets, and more. New to Perks Marketplace? [Click here](#) for a video tutorial on accessing your benefits.



INSURANCE

As a MOAA member, you can take advantage of many different insurance products at exclusive rates. MOAA's partnership with USAA offers a host of benefits and products for U.S. servicemembers, veterans, their spouses, and children. USAA is free to join. [Click here to learn more.](#)



MOAA teamed up with SimpliSafe to provide award-winning home security to PREMIUM and LIFE members. SimpliSafe is the fastest growing home security company — protecting over 3 million Americans.

THE NEW MOAA STORE

Show your MOAA pride and visit the online MOAA Store where you will find great products from apparel to headwear and much more! New inventory is being continuously added, so be sure to check it out!



Following Up on MOAA Advocacy in Action 2022

The Military Officer's Association of America is more than a social club that meets for lunch once a month. Each year, MOAA identifies issues that have direct bearing on the welfare of the armed forces and national security, then, acting on behalf of MOAA members, executes a focused plan to contact every member of the United States Congress to ensure that they understand the issues and how they affect national security. This year's Advocacy in Action program has contacted every single member of Congress at the national level. You might be thinking, "Well, that is over. Now I don't have to bother with it for another year."

Now, while the Congress is going into recess and the members are at home in their districts and states, is exactly the right time to approach them on critical issues. Below are a few of the actions before the Congress that MOAA has identified as being of major concern, why they matter, how you can get more information about them, and even a link to a suggested message you can send to our Representatives and Senators to urge them to support these three things.

Note: If you get this newsletter by e-mail and read it on your computer, just hit *control* and *enter* to follow the highlighted links.

1--The Major Richard Star Act

The Major Richard Star Act would provide concurrent receipt of both military retirement benefits and VA disability compensation 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.

What's At Stake: Concurrent receipt of DoD retirement pay and VA disability benefits for combat-injured veterans.

Learn More: Download [MOAA's Issue Paper](#). Watch [this video](#) about the bill and the need for concurrent receipt.

Take Action: [Send this message](#) to your lawmakers.

2--The Stop Copay Overpay Act

H.R. 4824, the Stop Copay Overpay Act, would reduce TRICARE mental health copays by capping them at the amount TRICARE beneficiaries pay for primary care visits. TRICARE officials have unintentionally made mental health care unaffordable to many military families by categorizing mental health visits as specialty care, leading to skyrocketing copays. H.R. 4824 would help address the financial barrier to accessing mental health care posed by TRICARE copay increases.

What's At Stake: Affordable mental health care for TRICARE beneficiaries, including retirees and families of servicemembers.

Learn More: Download [MOAA's Issue Paper](#).

Take Action: [Send this message](#) to your lawmakers.

3--Ensure a Competitive Military Pay Raise

The 4.6% raise dictated by the Employment Cost Index (ECI) and proposed in the president's budget does not go far enough in the face of inflationary pressures and the need to recruit and retain our nation's best. But there is a solution--Now is the time to fill the 2.6% "pay gap" created from 2014 to 2016, when the uniformed services pay raise fell below ECI. The result - a 7.2% raise--would allow our nation to compete with companies and agencies for a dwindling pool of qualified, eligible individuals considering uniformed service. If we fall behind in compensation, prospective recruits may just go elsewhere.

What's At Stake: Preserving fair compensation for those in uniform and maintaining the all-volunteer force.

Learn More: Download [MOAA's Issue Paper](#).

Take Action: [Send this message](#) to your lawmakers.

COL W. M. Bransford, USA, Ret.
Nor'easter Editor

From Your Legislative Liaison

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

By Kathy Spain

“A Window of Vulnerability”

HASC PASSES ITS FY 2023 DEFENSE BILL: After debating hundreds of amendments, the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) passed its version of the *Fiscal Year 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 7900)* after midnight on June 23, by a vote of 57-1. HASC Chair, Rep. Adam Smith (D-WA) recommended a topline figure of \$772.5 billion for defense spending, which was in line with the Biden administration’s budget request. However, Rep. Jared Golden (D-ME) introduced an amendment to increase the defense budget by \$37 billion, and the Committee voted 42-17 to approve the increase. Among other things, the budget increase would provide an additional \$5.2 billion for military construction and fund the purchase of more F/A-18 jets and 5 additional C-130 cargo planes. It would also allow DOD to keep 5 littoral combat ships that had been scheduled for retirement. None of the new funding would go to increasing military pay or benefits.

Some of the other provisions in the House defense bill include: (1) no new TRICARE fee increases; (2) a 4.6 % pay increase for active-duty; (3) \$4 billion for the European Deterrence Initiative; (4) \$450 million for the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative; (5) \$6 billion for the Pacific Deterrence Initiative; (6) funds for 8 new warships and 61 new F-35 fighter jets; and (7) funding for the continued production of B-21A nuclear-capable bombers, the Columbia class of nuclear-missile submarines, and Army & Marine Corps ground vehicle and helicopter programs. In addition, the bill generally supports the administration’s proposal to maintain a U.S. military end-strength of 2.1 million personnel, although it would increase the Navy’s end-strength by 1,920 sailors. Notably, this year’s House defense policy bill does not contain provisions restricting the closure of the U.S. military-run prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The legislation includes a number of ‘Climate Change’ provisions. The House bill requires the DOD to: (1) institute a pilot program for the transition to Electric Vehicles (EVs); (2) increase the recycling of advanced batteries and address rare & strategic mineral shortages; (3) create a pilot program for the use of sustainable aviation fuel in military aircraft; (4) update DOD’s building code to include integrated solar roofing on new construction at stateside military installations; and (5) provide for the installation of commercial electric vehicle charging stations at commissaries and base exchanges.

The House’s annual defense policy bill now heads to the House floor for a late July vote.

SENATE CMTE APPROVES FY23 NDAA WITH \$45 BILLION INCREASE: Although the House chamber did authorize a significant bump in the topline for defense, it falls \$8 billion short of the \$45 billion added to the Biden Administration’s original request in the Senate version of the FY 2023 NDAA. A few days before passage of the House bill out of Committee, the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) voted 23-3 to authorize \$857.7 billion for National Defense. That breaks down to \$817.3 billion for DOD, \$29.8 billion for Dept. of Energy, and \$10.6 billion for defense-related activities. Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI), Chair of the SASC, said the bill “provides critical support for our allies and partners in Europe and the Indo-Pacific region and addresses other persistent threats around the globe...It [also] strengthens our offensive and defensive cyber capabilities and accelerates research and development of advanced technologies like hypersonics and artificial intelligence that will give our forces critical advantages.”

According to a summary of the Senate NDAA, major elements of the bill—which is named after retiring Sen. James Inhofe (R-OK)—include: (1) \$1 billion for the National Defense Stockpile procurement of critical minerals; (2) \$4 billion for the European Deterrence Initiative; (3) \$6 billion for the Pacific Deterrence Initiative; (4) a 4.6 % pay raise for U.S. troops & the DOD civilian workforce; (5) \$25 million for R & D for the sea-launched cruise missile (SLCM-N); (6) \$20 million for continued research on the W80-4 warhead; (7) \$800 million for the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative; (8) funds for an additional seven F-35s; (9) a requirement for women to register for the Selective Service; (10) a block on the retirement of F-22 Raptor jets and 25 EA-18G Growler jets; and (11) additional funding of \$5.2 billion for military construction.

Once both chambers pass their versions of the FY 2023 NDAA, the differences in the bills will be debated and a final version of the legislation crafted in a conference committee—usually before the end of this fiscal year. The final version will then have to be voted on by both chambers before it can be sent to the president’s desk for his signature.

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEES BEGIN MARKUPS: On June 8, the House set a \$1.6 trillion total budget limit for the FY 2023 federal budget. On June 15, the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee marked up the *FY 2023 Defense Appropriations* bill, but details have not yet been released. This defense spending bill and the *Energy & Water Appropriations* bill will be considered in full committee on June 28—as this newsletter goes to press.

UNCLASSIFIED STRATEGY DOCUMENTS ARE DELAYED: Although the ‘classified’ documents laying out national defense strategy were released to Congress back in March, the administration has yet to release the ‘unclassified’ versions of the *National Defense Strategy*, the *National Security Strategy*, the *Nuclear Posture Review*, and the *Missile Defense Review*. For now, it appears these four documents are in some sort of bureaucratic limbo.

(continued from previous page)

NEW AIRBORNE DIVISION ACTIVATED IN ALASKA: *In June, the U.S. Army activated a new combat division—for the first time in more than 50 years. The 11th Airborne Division, known as the “Arctic Angels,” will re-organize Army troops based in Alaska and Hawaii into a combat division capable of deploying throughout the Arctic region and elsewhere. The 11th Airborne Division—which will have between 11,000 and 16,000 troops—was officially activated on June 6 at Fort Wainwright and Joint Base Elmendorf – Richardson, which are the two principle Army bases in Alaska. The “Arctic Angels” will be a combination of airborne and air-assault troops, allowing them to deploy by both parachute and helicopter. The Arctic is an emerging frontier and of vital strategic importance for U.S. national security. This move by the U.S. Army is a response to Russia’s increasingly aggressive military expansion into the Arctic Circle in recent years.*

CHINA AND RUSSIA ARE WEAPONIZING SPACE: *China and Russia are pushing for dominance in space. According to U.S. Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-CO), Ranking Member of the House Armed Services Committee on Strategic Forces, “China has demonstrated on orbit the ability to grapple with another satellite and drag it to another orbit. Russia has demonstrated a ground-launched anti-satellite weapon against one of its own satellites, resulting in a dangerous field of debris that the world is still dealing with.” Lamborn has called for a plan to defend our space assets currently on orbit.*

Protecting Satellites: *In the House NDAA bill just passed out of Committee, lawmakers directed Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin to provide Congress with a detailed new strategy for protecting U.S. satellites from adversary threats within 90 days of the policy bill’s enactment. The language of the bill says, “Both Russia and China have demonstrated the capability to target, degrade, and destroy satellites on orbit, whether through kinetic or non-kinetic means.” Furthermore, the new Pentagon strategy called for by lawmakers must specify “the actions that will be taken to defend and protect on-orbit satellites of the DOD and the intelligence community.” The bill would also require the Space Force to establish specific requirements for satellite protection prior to starting any major new acquisition program.*

EXPERT WARNS U.S. TO HARDEN ELECTRIC GRID: *Experts recently revealed that Iran is hardening its ‘critical infrastructure’ as a possible response to an attack on the U.S. electric grid. There is evidence, they say, that Tehran is increasing its efforts to explode a small nuclear weapon delivered via satellite in the skies over ‘key’ electric grids. According to a report by Peter Vincent Pry, executive director of the EMP Task Force on National and Homeland Security, “an official Iranian military textbook endorses nuclear HEMP (High-altitude Electromagnetic Pulse) against the United States.” Pry’s report urges the Pentagon and the Biden Administration to look beyond Iran’s ICBM program and focus on satellites. The report notes that Tehran has already demonstrated the capability to orbit civilian satellites and safely retrieve at least one military satellite.*

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

“I never worry about action, but only inaction.” ---Winston Churchill

“Simplicity is the solution to a lot of problems.”—Unknown

---NEVER STOP SERVING---



Northeast Florida Chapter, FL-18

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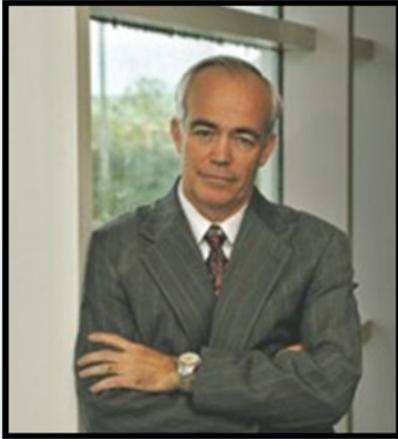
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“A Note From The Editor”

Each chapter member can help with the publication of the “Nor’Easter”, our chapter newsletter, by providing content and articles that they feel would be informative. The preferred format for your input is WORD doc for written input and jpg for pictures. I will make every effort to include your input in the next monthly newsletter if content is appropriate and timely.

The deadline for input to the June issue of the Nor’Easter is by COB Tuesday, May 27, 2022

Thank you for reading and supporting our monthly
membership newsletter

“The NOR’EASTER”



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