



Heartlander

South Central Florida Chapter
July 2020



South Central Florida Chapter of MOAA



P.O. Box 7841
Sebring, FL 33872



Chapter Officers:

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Past President: Roy Whitton

Our Web Site: www.scfcmoaa.org
Florida Council of Chapters website: www.moaaf.org
Take Action. MOAA Legislative Action Link:
<http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/?tab=Legislative-Action-Center#Legislative-Action-Center>

7 July 2020 Dinner/Social with spouses/better halves/significant others: 6:30 PM, Victoria's of Spring Lake, 100 Clubhouse Lane, Spring Lake, Sebring 33876.

5 August 2020. Board Meeting: 1700 (5:00 PM) Business Meeting, 1830hrs (6:30 PM). Venue: Sea Services Museum, 1402 Roseland Ave., Sebring, FL 33870, (corner of Kenilworth and Roseland, about a mile east of Sebring High School).

July Birthdays: 13 July George Cajigal

Editor's Note: If your birthday is not recognized, it is because you did not include it on your application form. Please contact our Secretary, Doug Tait at 863-385-1763, and provide the same.

New Members: Joann Posthumus

From Glenn West: Bealls coupons: Some of you bought the coupons, but then COVID-19 came to town. Fear not. Resolution is that coupons can be taken to the store and honored anytime. The next planned sale will be in August. Current coupons can be exchanged for new ones when available. All is not lost

WHO CAN JOIN MOAA?

MOAA membership is open to all officers, commissioned or warrant, whether on active duty, retired, former, reserve or national guard of all the seven uniformed services, including the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Public Health Service.

President's Message:

As we slowly get back into the swing of things, I want to remind everyone that we will have our chapter dinner/social at Victoria's restaurant in the Spring Lake Country Club neighborhood on 7 July. The staff assures me that they are taking all precautions. Masks and social distancing are recommended, of course. But you eat without a mask, unless you have one that is unique. We will seat no more than six people at a table and will ask couples to sit a bit closer than normal to provide even more distance between folks. We hope to see you there.

This edition of the newsletter is filled with great stuff: Our grant presentation to the Veterans Council, a highlight about the Avon Park AFJROTC program, our last meeting featuring Fred Carino's 1:48 scale model of the USS Enterprise (WWII version), a cash award to USAF Academy Cadet (to be) Matthew Andrews, and much more. Check these great items out. Of course, we have the four "Did You Know?" items in here for your info as well.

Thanks for your great support to our chapter. It is clearly among the best—not only in Florida—but in the entire country. Without your continued participation and support, we couldn't make the contributions, give back, and Never Stop Serving the way we do. See you at the 7 July dinner/social at Victoria's. Be there or be square!!

If you want to sign up for a range of updates from MOAA National:

Go to: http://moaa.highroadsolution.com/moaa_preference_page/EmailSearch.aspx and follow the prompts. It gives various options for the type of information desired, as well as the frequency you may wish to receive it. Don't miss out on this valuable resource!

Are you looking for a way to serve veterans in a very direct and meaningful way?

Well, here is your chance. The County Veteran Services Office, located right behind the Watering Hole restaurant is short staffed and needs help desperately. They need someone to answer phones, greet folks coming in, and generally serve as an all-around receptionist. There is no pay for this job, but there is reward—the reward of helping our veterans. If you want to volunteer, call Denise Williams or Carol West at 863-402-6623.

Did You Know? Military Delays Major Changes to Health Care Systems—From Military.Com’s Patricia Kime

The COVID-19 pandemic is having a significant impact on reforms of the Pentagon's health system, delaying plans to reduce services at 48 hospitals and clinics by months and forcing additional reviews of civilian care in locations affected by the changes. **FYI—this is MOAA’s top priority.**

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Thomas McCaffery told reporters Thursday that efforts to alter operations at some military treatment facilities was scheduled to begin in September, but now may start "more toward the end of the year" **or later.**

The changes, designed to focus the facilities on providing medical care to active-duty personnel only as well as training military medical personnel, thereby shedding non-uniformed beneficiaries to the [Tricare](#) network, will result in outsourcing health care for at least **200,000 patients.**

For the plan to work, the Defense Department is dependent on the availability of providers within Tricare. With the ongoing pandemic, however, "it's going to affect the timeline as to when that happens," McCaffery said during a conference call with the Defense Writers Group, an association of defense and national security correspondents.

"Because of the requirements of the health system -- that we really have been diverting more time and resources to the COVID response -- it could be something more to the end of the year that we would have a better idea of which military treatment facilities of the 48 would be earlier implementation and which would be later," he said.

The changes originally were expected to take two to four years. McCaffery said implementation at each MTF will largely depend on the ability of local providers to absorb new patients. But with both military and civilian health care workers engaged in pandemic response, local networks "may not be able to engage with us at this moment," he said.

"The key driver here is whatever change we make, we want to maintain access to care for our beneficiaries, and obviously that only works if that private-sector network is available," McCaffery said.

Efforts to reform the military health system date to 2012 with the creation of the Defense Health Agency, a DoD department created to standardize and consolidate health care functions and services across the [Army](#), [Navy](#) and [Air Force](#) medical commands.

But the transformation snowballed under the fiscal 2017 National Defense Authorization Act, which required DHA to assume management of all military hospitals and clinics, as well as many medical functions, and left the service medical commands to focus on providing medical care only to military personnel.

Defense officials say the efforts will curb costs and improve care and services across the board for beneficiaries. But the changes have met pushback from the services -- which continue to support DHA with hospital management (Cont.)

Did You Know? (Cont.)

face a reduction of medical personnel billets -- as well as some military advocates.

In December, Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy sent a memo to Deputy Defense Secretary David Norquist expressing concern over what he saw as a "lack of performance and planning with respect to the transition" by the Defense Health Agency.

McCarthy asked for a delay in transitioning Army health facilities to DHA and also sought to keep the Army Public Health Center and Army Medical Research and Development Command, slated to transfer to DHA.

On Thursday, McCaffery did not comment on McCarthy's request, but said much of the DoD's funding for research and development comes through his office, and he works with the DHA and the services to determine priorities and allocate the money to various offices and research arms. "We think that approach works well, and we are going to continue that," he said.

Among the ongoing reforms within the military health system is a planned reduction of more than 17,000 medical billets. Early last year, the Army, Navy and Air Force quietly began planning to eliminate positions for several thousand doctors, nurses, technicians, medics and corpsmen and administrative personnel.

But which positions have been targeted has not been made public: Neither the DHA nor the services have released their plans, even as they have said they already are jettisoning those jobs through attrition.

Congress has requested a detailed report on the reductions; McCaffery said Thursday it will be forwarded to the House and Senate this month.

But even that plan may be subject to change as a result of the pandemic, he added.

"Obviously, implementation of that or other reforms will be tied to what we have learned and what we are learning with regard to the pandemic," he said. Nearly 4,000 active-duty, reserve and [National Guard](#) medical

personnel [deployed](#) within the United States and elsewhere to assist the U.S. public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As of Thursday, more than 7,400 military members, 1,213 family members, 1,691 civilian DoD employees and 771 defense contractors have tested positive for the coronavirus. Thirty-six, including three service members, have died.

McCaffery, a former health industry executive who took office last August, said he initially was concerned at the two- to three-year turnover of military medical community positions, the result of changes in duty stations and deployments.

But he expressed enthusiasm for the DoD's ability this year to switch rapidly from focusing on health system reform to responding to a national emergency.

"It's very easy for [health system leadership] to quickly pivot. ... Usually, when our medical forces are deployed, whether it's overseas or domestically, it's for trauma-related events. This was very different, a very different enemy," he said.

Did You Know 2? PREVENTS roadmap, a nationwide plan for ending suicide among Veterans and all Americans

WASHINGTON – The U.S Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today the release of the President’s Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide (PREVENTS), an historic, nationwide plan to raise awareness about mental health, connect Veterans and others at risk of suicide to federal and local resources, and facilitate focused and coordinated research into suicide.

The roadmap is the result of an Executive Order President Trump signed March 5, 2019, calling on the Departments of Veterans Affairs, Defense, Health and Human Services and several others to develop a comprehensive strategy for ending the national tragedy of suicide.

The order was signed as data continue to show 132 Americans, **including 20 service members**, former never federally activated guard and reserve members, and Veterans; die on average each day by suicide.

“Suicide prevention is VA’s highest clinical priority, and the department is taking significant steps to address the issue,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “But just as there is no single cause of suicide, no single organization can end Veteran suicide alone. That’s why PREVENTS aims to bring together stakeholders across all levels of government and in the private sector to work side by side to provide our Veterans with the mental health and suicide prevention services they need. By employing a public-health approach to suicide prevention, President Trump’s roadmap will equip communities to help Veterans get the right care, whenever and wherever they need it.”

National Suicide Prevention Activation Campaign

This summer, the PREVENTS Task Force will launch a nationwide public health campaign aimed at educating Americans that suicide is preventable, creating awareness of mental health and suicide prevention best practices with a call to action for ALL Americans to take the PREVENTS Pledge to Prevent Suicide.

A primary goal of the campaign is to change the culture surrounding issues related to suicide and mental health. The campaign will stress everyone has a role to play in the well-being of family members, friends and coworkers. It will create awareness about risk and protective factors and encourage people to reach out to those who may be struggling.

The campaign will rely on coordinated messaging from all levels of government and non-government partners, as well as national digital, radio and television public service announcements. Efforts will focus on dissemination in states with a high concentration of Veterans. It will also rely on high-profile ambassadors who will help amplify these messages, including Second Lady Karen Pence, and U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams.

Improving Suicide Prevention Research

Too often, efforts have focused on a one-size-fits-all approach to suicide prevention that fails to (Cont.)

Did You Know 2? (Cont.)

consider an individual’s specific risk factors. As a key element of the roadmap, PREVENTS will launch the National Research Strategy to accelerate the development and implementation of effective solutions to help prevent Veteran suicide.

A critical first step toward this goal is the optimization of the current research ecosystem, which will accelerate the impact of Veteran suicide research by enhancing interagency collaboration, evaluating the role of open science practices, leveraging team science and enhancing data resources and analysis. The PREVENTS Task Force will have an initial assessment of the current research landscape by the end of 2020 and will simultaneously work with Task Force agencies and non-governmental partners to begin moving toward this exciting goal.

The development of the National Research Strategy will result in an increase in focus on the isolation of risk factors and an identification of the most effective treatment practices and interventions for Veterans. This all of government and all of nation approach will lead to a dramatic shift in the ability to prevent suicide for Veterans and all Americans.

Building Partnerships

The PREVENTS Task Force has built relationships with dozens of organizations across the country, including faith-based groups, universities, non-profits, corporations, small businesses as well as state and local governments. The Task Force will continue to expand these relationships in order to share best practices for promoting mental health, ensuring awareness of and access to federal, state, local and tribal resources, and coordinating and implementing the public awareness campaign across sectors. The Task Force will encourage all 50 states, the U.S. Territories and the District of Columbia to sign the PREVENTS proclamation affirming their commitment to preventing suicide among Veterans and all of their citizens.

The PREVENTS Task Force has already connected with more than 150 known community boards, 27 statewide suicide prevention teams and Building Healthy Military Communities, a pilot initiative with seven partnering states. The Task Force has also completed an initial analysis of funding that will be available for suicide prevention efforts. During the next several months, PREVENTS will be implementing a plan to improve coordination among grant programs and develop a strategy to fill gaps through additional funding as well as additional public-private partnerships.

The PREVENTS Task Force is working with communities and stakeholders to develop and further efforts focused on coordinated systems of care. Government and non-government entities alike have a critical role to play in ensuring a comprehensive system of support.

View the roadmap and find more information about the PREVENTS Task Force here: www.va.gov/PREVENTS.

Did You Know 3? Veteran Trust in the VA Reaches an All-Time High

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced Veteran trust in VA **reached 80% in April, reflecting a 19% increase since January 2017.**

Each quarter Veterans Signals (VSignals), VA's customer experience feedback program, randomly surveys approximately 257,000 Veterans with recent interactions VA-wide with claims, appeals, health care, memorials and other services to rate their overall trust in VA.

This VA-wide trust survey compliments the previously [reported](#) Veteran trust survey focused specifically on VA outpatient health care only which reached 90% for the first time on April 12. The monthly average of Veteran trust in VA outpatient health care increased to 90.1% for the month of May.

"These survey results show VA is listening to the voice of the Veteran and taking decisive actions," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "Customer feedback continues to drive improvements in the way VA provides care and services."

The VA-wide quarterly trust survey also asks Veterans to rate VA's ease of use, effectiveness and its staff's ability to provide an empathetic experience. The most recent VA-wide survey saw a 2% increase in effectiveness to 78%, a 3% increase in ease of use to 75% and a 3% increase in empathy to 77%.

VSignals currently has 35 wide-ranging surveys in use across VA and the feedback gained from the more than 5 million surveys received since January 2017 are used in real-time to resolve concerns, answer questions, record compliments and share recommendations. VA began measuring Veteran trust in the second quarter of fiscal year 2016.

Since 2017, VSignals has referred more than 2,755 Veterans to the [Veterans Crisis Line](#) (1-800-273-8255 and Press 1) or the [National Call Center for Homeless Veterans](#) (1-877-424-3838) as needed or requested.

In June 2019, VA was designated as Lead Agency Partner for the [President's Management Agenda](#) (PMA) Cross-Agency Priority (CAP) Goal on [Improving Customer Experience with Federal Services](#).

Did You Know 4? An Army General Will Co-Lead Operation "Warp Speed"—the Hunt for a COVID Vaccine

WASHINGTON — President Donald J. Trump recently announced that Army Gen. Gustave F. Perna, the commander of Army Materiel Command, will co-lead an effort, dubbed Operation Warp Speed, to find a vaccine for COVID-19 by January 2021. Defense Secretary Dr. Mark T. Esper said the Defense Department is very excited and committed to partnering with the (Cont.)

Did You Know 4? (Cont.)

Department of Health and Human Services, across the government, and in the private sector to accomplish the mission. "Winning matters, and we will deliver by the end of this year a vaccine at scale to treat the American people and our partners abroad," he said. The goal is to produce about 300 million vaccines by January, said Jonathan Rath Hoffman, assistant to the secretary of defense for public affairs, at a Pentagon press briefing in May. Hoffman mentioned that it's a goal involving a whole-of-government approach, not just the DOD. Regarding DOD and the Pentagon, Hoffman said neither has been shut down and daily operations continue, albeit with mitigation steps that include social distancing, face masks, quarantine when necessary and telework if the situation allows. As for increasing the number of personnel at the Pentagon, Hoffman said it will be conditions-based and informed by medical experts. The Pentagon, he said, is in consultation with the governments of the District of Columbia, Virginia and Maryland. Policy and decisions are currently under review and are expected to be released in a matter of weeks. Regarding the hospital ships USNS Comfort and Mercy, Hoffman said they have completed their work in New York City and Los Angeles and are standing by if their services are needed elsewhere.

Chapter Calendar

7 July 2020 Dinner/Social with spouses/better halves/significant others: 6:30 PM, Victoria's of Spring Lake, 100 Clubhouse Lane, Spring Lake, Sebring 33876.

5 August 2020. Board Meeting: 1700 (5:00 PM) Business Meeting, 1830hrs (6:30 PM). Venue: Sea Services Museum, 1402 Roseland Ave., Sebring, FL 33870, (corner of Kenilworth and Roseland, about a mile east of Sebring High School).

8 September 2020 Dinner/Social with spouses/better halves/significant others: 6:30 PM, Dimitri's Banquet Room, 2710 Kenilworth, Sebring 33870

7 October 2020. Board Meeting: 1700 (5:00 PM) Business Meeting, 1830hrs (6:30 PM). Venue: Sea Services Museum, 1402 Roseland Ave., Sebring, FL 33870, (corner of Kenilworth and Roseland, about a mile east of Sebring High School).

5 November 2020. Dinner/Social with spouses/better halves/significant others: 6:30 PM, Caddyshack. 3122 Golfview Rd., Sebring.

2 December 2020. Board Meeting: 1700 (5:00 PM) Business Meeting, 1830hrs (6:30 PM). Venue: Sea Services Museum, 1402 Roseland Ave., Sebring, FL 33870, (corner of Kenilworth and Roseland, about a mile east of Sebring High School).

15 January 2021. 2nd Annual Gala at the Island View Restaurant at Sun N' Lake clubhouse, 5223 Sun N' Lake Blvd, Sebring. Time to be determined.

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

Craig Smith, Surviving Spouse/Personal Affairs Chair

At the last surviving spouse virtual chapter meeting, the subject of DIC/SBP and remarriage was discussed. I thought it appropriate to reprint some regulations that govern remarriage. There was an add on to the bill: *Love Lives On Act of 2016*, which later became part of HR 1911 of 2016. However not much was done because of cost. Bottom line that some believe these benefits should not disappear with remarriage at any age. The Elimination of the offset does provide relief for those whose marriage status has not changed. REMEMBER SBP/DIC IS PHASED FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS.

Surviving Spouses may remarry at any time but depending on the age one remarries, military survivor benefits may end. It is important to know the regulations and possible consequences of remarriage before walking down the aisle a second time. **Editor's Note: This is complex, so pay attention!!**

If a surviving spouse is in receipt of SBP, the Survivor Benefit Plan, she may remarry after age 55 and retain SBP. Unless the new spouse is either active duty or a military retiree, he/she forfeits the military ID card and loses Commissary, Exchange and MWR privileges. Healthcare will change from Tricare to CHAMPVA. If he/she remarries before age 55, then SBP stops. He/she loses Tricare, and the military ID card, Commissary, Exchange and MWR privileges. If that marriage ends in death or divorce, he/she may apply to get SBP reinstated. When SBP is reinstated, he/she loses Tricare and his/her healthcare changes to CHAMPVA. Unless he/she remarries an active duty member or military retiree, he/she also loses his/her military ID card, Commissary, Exchange and MWR privileges.

If a surviving spouse is receiving DIC, Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, he/she may remarry after age 57 and if the remarriage occurred after 2004. With re-marriage before age 57, DIC benefits cease, as well as commissary, exchange, healthcare and MWR privileges unless the new spouse is either active duty or a retired service member. But if that marriage ends in divorce or death, he/she may re-apply to start receiving DIC again. Healthcare changes to CHAMPVA and he/she can obtain a new military ID card.

My next Surviving Spouse newsletter will include any revised updates on this subject from DFAS.

If you have a specific question or concern the following MOAA National Chairpersons are more than willing to help you address your specific concern, as am I. Their contact information is below:

Gail Joyce
mssvc02@gmail.com
(214) 676-2132

Micki Costello
mssvc02@gmail.com
(214) 770-4140

MOAA Legislative Goals for 2020

- Ensure any changes to the Military Health System sustain military-medical readiness and beneficiary access to top-quality care.
- Sustain military pay comparability with the private sector and block erosion of compensation and non-pay quality of life benefits.
- Protect family support programs, and ensure military-provided services (housing, PCS, childcare) are affordable, readily available, and meet quality standards.
- End financial penalties for military survivors.
- End concurrent receipt penalties for military retirees.
- Achieve equity of benefits, protections and administrative support for Guard/Reserve members consistent with their active duty counterparts.
- Ensure timely access to service-earned benefits, and resist proposals to erode foundational services delivered through VA and DoD.
- Support legislation, policies, and programs to enable the seven uniformed services' ability to recruit, retain, and manage personnel.

Take Action. MOAA Legislative Action Link:

<http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/?tab=Legislative-Action-Center#Legislative-Action-Center>

PURPOSES OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is a not-for-profit corporation that is operated exclusively to further the interests of the nation and its uniformed services personnel, their family members, and survivors.

From the preamble to the Bylaws of The Military Officers Association of America

- To inculcate and stimulate love of country and flag;
- To defend the honor, integrity, and supremacy of our National Government and the Constitution of the United States;
- To advocate military forces adequate to the defense of our country;
- To foster the integrity and prestige of uniformed service;
- To foster fraternal relations between all branches of the various Services from which our members are drawn;
- To further the education of children of Service personnel;
- To aid personnel of the Services from which our members are drawn, and their family members and survivors, in every proper and legitimate manner; and
- To present their rights and interests when Service matters are under consideration

We unite to form THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

TAKE ACTION!!
www.moaa.org

Nametags: If you don't have and DO want a chapter nametag, please let us know. We need your info as you want it to appear on the tag: Name, Rank, Service. Spouse/significant other's name. The cost is \$10.00 each. Here is an example:



Would you like to buy a MOAA polo shirt or some other MOAA item? Go to the MOAA "Store," click on the following link: <http://www.tmgwebstores.com/moaa/default.html> You can also call them at 1-866-860-9293. They have everything from men's and ladies' polos, coffee cups, hats, you name it.

The Heartlander is published monthly by members of the South Central Florida Chapter of Military Officers Association of America, P.O. Box 7841, Sebring, FL 33872. The Chapter is an apolitical and not-partisan, non-profit organization affiliated with National MOAA and the Florida Council of Chapters, MOAA, not associated with the Department of Defense. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of MOAA, the Florida Council of Chapters, the Chapter or DOD.

Grant Check Presentation to the Veterans Council

As mentioned in an earlier newsletter, our chapter received the \$5,000 grant from MOAA National to support the Veterans Assistance Fund and food pantry operated by the Veterans Council of Highlands County. In the photo, chapter members David Grey, Charlie Martin, Mike Borders, Fred Carino and Glenn West present the "check" to Harry Marsh, President of the Veterans Council, of which our MOAA chapter is a member.



Fred Carino's 1:48 Scale Model of the USS Enterprise

At the June chapter meeting at the Sea Services Museum, Fred Carino proudly described his model of the WWII Aircraft Carrier the USS Enterprise. This model, some 17 feet in length comes complete with airplanes and all the bells and whistles you would find on the Enterprise. Fred was assisted by numerous people with work as well as financial contributions. Ultimately, the model cost nearly \$2000, with the airplane models accounting for the bulk of that amount. Chapter member Del Smith, a pilot on the USS Hornet added several interesting tidbits about the carrier and what it was like to conduct flight operations during the war. Here are some great photos:



Highlands County Veteran of the Year

Mike Borders was presented the Highlands County Veteran of the Year award by Harry Marsh, President of the Highlands County Veterans Council. The award is really a testament to the fine work of our chapter and our organization. Whether the Christmas toy drive for the Salvation Army, the grant program, our support to JRTOC, and so much more, we can be proud of our chapter and its members who Never Stop Serving.



John Harbaugh Receives Florida Council Leadership Award

Chapter member John Harbaugh, our chapter's first Treasurer, recently received the Leadership Award from the Florida Council of Chapters. John has been a mainstay of the chapter—one of the founding members of the chapter when it stood [back] up in late 2014. John served as the first Treasurer, setting the course for a solid financial footing, and also provided sage advice and counsel. John continues to lead as the President of the local chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America, as well as serving in numerous other organizations. For John, it is all about helping others, embodying the MOAA mantra of "Never Stop Serving."



Cash Grant for USAF Academy Cadet (to be) Matthew Andrews

In the below photo, Sebring High School graduate Matthew Andrews receives his check for \$500. Matthew will attend the USAF Academy in Colorado Springs starting this Fall (in fact, he is already there). Along with Matthew are chapter members Dave Grey, Doug Tait, Mike Borders, and Glenn West.



Communications Awards

Bob Brooks and Mike Borders received the MOAA National Colonel Marvin J. Harris Communications Awards at the 5-Star level for the chapter's newsletter and websites. We continue to excel in both of these products.



Focus on Avon Park High School Air Force JROTC

Avon Park AFJROTC FL-934 exceeded their community service goals for the year, even though seven weeks were limited due to COVID-19. Despite that challenge, 60 cadets completed over 1800 community service hours.

Chapter member Col Stuart "Sandy" Rhoades, USAF (Ret), leads the Avon Park program.

The Avon Park HS Color Guard Team supported over twenty-five events during school year. These included the Tampa Bay Rays baseball organization and 7 Veterans Day ceremonies to name a few. FL-934 also introduced a first-time initiative of a rocketry team. Cadets learned rocketry fundamentals and passed a safety test in order to participate. Each cadet then built their own rocket and conducted numerous launches on campus.

As part of their cultural studies, Avon Park cadets enjoyed taking an exciting curriculum-in-action trip in November 2019 to Disney's *Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow - EPCOT*. Around the central lagoon of EPCOT are 11 nations that make up the World Showcase. With an exploration of designated showcase nations, cadets gained an understanding of what culture is and what it means to be a global citizen today.

As part of their educational experience, activities linked the impact and power of communication as a key to learning about other cultures. Cadets discovered that communication technology varies between cultures and can be a major factor in building a bridge or creating a barrier between world cultures. The trip would not be complete without the topic of food as it provided an opportunity for a guided discussion of cultural filters and how influential they are in forming our perception of people, places and things. As global citizens, cadets were encouraged to become aware of their responsibility to look beyond their filters and broaden their understanding of our world and its inhabitants.

Fundamental to this global journey was a demonstration allowing students to recognize and comprehend the impact/effects of cultural assimilation, accommodation, displacement, and diaspora on world cultures. A private meet and greet with a World Showcase Representative provided an opportunity for interaction and cultural sharing. The learning experience culminated at The American Adventure stage show. Cadets encountered the influence of multiple cultures on our nation's development and a final activity brought the journey to a close when students were called to action to take responsibility for expanding their cultural understanding and increase their cultural competence. This experience was the first trip to a Disney park for 95% of the cadets.

Pictures of the JROTC Cadets in action are on the next page.

ROTC STUDENTS IN ACTION

Avon Park Cadets Salute



Avon Park Cadets at Tropicana Field



Avon Park Cadets at Epcot



Avon Park Color Guard



Now and Always We'll be There.



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USEFUL ADDRESSES, PHONE NUMBERS AND WEB SITES

Air Force Retiree Services: (800) 531-7502;
www.retirees.af.mil

Arlington National Cemetery: (703) 607-8000;
www.arlingtoncemetery.org

Armed Forces Retirement Home: (800) 422-9988;
www.afrh.gov

AAFES: (214) 312-2011; www.aafes.com

Army Retired Services: (703) 571-7232; <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement>

Burial at Sea: (866) 787-0081; <http://www.public.navy.mil/bupersnpc/support/casualty/mortuary/Pages/BurialAtSea.aspx> Combat Related Special Compensation: <http://www.secnav.navy.mil/mra/CORB/Pages/CRSCB/default.aspx> DEERS: (800)-538-9552, Fax: (831) 655-8317; www.tricare.osd.mil/deers

Defense Commissary Agency: www.commissaries.com

DFAS Casualty Assistance Branch: (800) 321-1080 or (216) 5225955; (For Reporting a Retiree's death, option #1)

I.D. Cards Benefits and Eligibility: (866) 827-5672; https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/appj/site;jsessionid=_liU5y-4sPqyCtIimgUJThnUWUeAanhb15EaGXQn4lh2pEEKpso!416826654?execution=e1s1

Internal Revenue Service: (800) 829-1040; www.irs.gov

Marine Corps Retired Affairs: <https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/webcenter/portal/MRAHome>
(Hover over "Veteran Marines" then click on "Retired Services")

Medicare: (800) 633-4227. TTY: (877) 486-2048;
www.medicare.gov

Military Officers Assoc. of America: (800) 234-6622;
www.moaa.org

National Burial Services: (800) 697-6940

NPC Navy Reserve Personnel Management (PERS 9):
(866) 827-5672; www.npc.navy.mil/career/reservepersonnelmgmt/Pages/default.aspx

Navy Casualty Assistance: (800) 368-3202

Navy Retired Activities Office: (866) U-ASK-NPC
(866-827-5672)

MILL RetiredActivities@navy.mil; www.npc.navy.mil/support/retired_activities/Pages/default.aspx

Reserve Component SBP: (866) 827-5672 ask for PERS-912

Retiree Dental — Delta Dental: (888) 838-8737;
www.trdp.org

Servicemembers Group Insurance (SGLI): (800) 419-1473; www.insurance.va.gov

Social Security Administration: (800) 772-1213;
www.ssa.gov

Pay/SBP Questions: www.dfas.mil. Pay inquiries and update of pay or SBP records in case of death, divorce, or remarriage:

Retiree:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service
U.S. Military Retirement Pay
P.O. Box 7130 London KY 40742-7130
(800) 321-1080, (216) 522-5955

SBP/RSFPP annuitant:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service
U.S. Military Annuitant Pay
P.O. Box 7131 London KY 40742-7131
(800) 321-1080, (216) 522-5955
(800) 669-8477; www.insurance.va.gov

Burial information: (800) 827-1000; www.cem.va.gov

GI Bill: (888) 442-4551; www.gibill.va.gov

VA: www.va.gov **Regional offices:** (800) 827-1000
(overseas retirees should contact the American Embassy/consulate)

TDD (800) 89-4833

Insurance: A Regional Office and Insurance Center
PO Box 7208 (claims inquiries) -ORPO
Box 7327 (loans) -ORPO
Box 7787 (payments)
Philadelphia PA 19101
(800) 669-8477; www.insurance.va.gov