



THE TERRITORIAL

TUCSON CHAPTER OF THE ARIZONA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



FEBRUARY 2023

National MOAA and the Tucson Chapter are non-partisan



FROM THE EAGLES NEST

MOAA

National has a new leader, General Brian Kelly (USAF, Ret). He took over from Gen Dana Atkins who served 7 years. MOAA currently has 360,368 members nationwide.

At the January 26 meeting, we held our MOAA Tucson officers induction ceremony:

Guest speaker was Mark Taylor, from the Board of Directors of the Central Arizona Ground Replenishment District (CAGWD) which is a public body integral to the Central Arizona Project (CAP). It was a very interesting topic which held everyone's interest. Water levels are down 25% from only 20 years ago. Arizona and California and other jurisdictions are negotiating for the rights to future water usage. Mark then answered the many questions from our members.



President Tom Owens, Treasurer Col Gary Pettett, Asst. Treasurer Major Jim Whipp, and Secretary Pam Devine were sworn in. We still have a vacant position for VP

Catalina Mountains Chapter

I hope you had a great January! I attended two great MOAA luncheons in January and there are several more great luncheons occurring between now and April or May. Two luncheons, you say? You're probably thinking the Catalina Mountains Chapter had only one luncheon in January. I attended both our Chapter's luncheon on Saturday, January 21st and the Tucson Chapter's later that week.

Our Chapter's January speaker was Len Hampton of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). Len gave a great presentation, including a VFW video. I really did not know much about the VFW so I'm glad he was our speaker. We (the chapter) might, in the future, consider partnering on local veterans issues with the Tucson VFW chapter.

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MOAA MISSION

Military Officers Association of America is a nonprofit veterans' association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and to preserving the earned entitlements of members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors. Membership is open to those who hold of have ever held a warrant or commission in any component of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service or NOAA and their surviving spouse.

Upcoming Tucson Chapter Meetings

Membership meetings are 11:30 am, each fourth Thursday at the Vivace Restaurant, 6440 N Campbell Ave, September through May. Reservations required. Call Jim Whipp at: 520-751-6356

The **February 23 meeting** will feature Tucson native **Valerie Cavazos**, KOLD Investigative Reporter. Valerie grew up in the military -- her father met her mother while stationed at Davis Monthan Air Force Base. She also lived abroad -- in Italy -- for three years, which gave her a valuable worldwide perspective on life. Valerie has had a successful career holding authorities accountable — exposing wrongdoing that's led to local, state and federal investigations as well as changes in leadership roles, practices and policies. She's also served on the Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Foundation and currently serves on the UA Journalism Advisory Committee.

The **March 23 meeting** will feature **Watershed Management Group Green Infrastructure Project Manager Luis Salgado**. Water retention strategies and more!.

Please join us for the camaraderie and interesting presentations.

Pima Air Museum for May?

For the Tucson May 25 meeting, we are considering a tour of the Pima Air and Space Museum. The Board decided to poll members to see interest. Plan is to meet onsite, eat lunch there, then tour the museum. We may have a speaker TBD. The weather in May starts to be warmer, so an option is to convene earlier in the day.

Entrance fee - \$15.25 for Pima county residents, \$19.50 otherwise. Restaurant should have enough room to gather together for a meeting - meals ala carte - if inside is full, patio can easily take up to 50. There is no A/C in buildings, but large fans which should be OK for late May. Restaurant and gift shop have A/C. Tram for tour of outside static displays is \$8. We would need to let them know ahead of time if wheel chairs are used. Bring your own walkers or wheel chairs - none available there. We want your input if you would attend. *Send comments to Ltc Jerry Petersen, cactushome1@earthlink.net.*

Tucson Chapter Activities

Tucson MOAA Board meets the first Wednesday of the month, at 2p.m. via ZOOM. Members are invited to submit items for consideration to the Secretary: pam.devine@azmoves.com, not later than one week prior to the meeting. If you desire to participate, please email chuck.vaughan@comcast.net to receive the access link.

Membership meetings are 11:30 am, each fourth Thursday at the Vivace Restaurant, 6440 N Campbell Ave, September through May. Reservations required. Call Jim Whipp at: 520-751-6356

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STAY HEALTHY

TUCSON CHAPTER OFFICERS

(<http://www.tucsonmoaa.org>)

President: Tom Owens, Col, USAFR, (Ret) 520-760-3476/owensttt@gmail.com

Vice President/Program Chair: Vacant

Legislative Chair: Ann Hollis, USAF LTC (Ret) 520-749-3573; email: annhollis@usa.net

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Secretary: Pam Devine 520-401-0001/Pam.Devine@azmoves.com

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Chaplain: Vacant

Webmaster: Charles Vaughan, CAPT. USN, (retired) 505-553-4364/chuck.vaughan@comcast.net

EDITORIAL POLICY

THIS MOAA NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY FROM SEPTEMBER THROUGH MAY IS SOLELY FOR THE BENEFIT OF MEMBERS OF THE TUCSON AND CATALINA MOUNTAINS CHAPTERS. THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED HEREIN ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHORS/EDITOR AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THOSE OF THE MOAA NATIONAL ORGANIZATION, THE EDITOR, OR ANY OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT POLICIES OR AGENCIES.

Grant Orvik, Editor, TUCSON CHAPTER, MOAA MOAA@GOJO.MOZMAIL.COM; 202-681-5295

LOCAL VA CONTACTS

Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS) 520-792-1450 or 1-800-470-8262

Caregiver Support Program 520-792-1450 extension 5390

Patient Advocate Office 520-629-1819

Care in the Community 520-792-1450 extension 6555

Women's Health Clinic 520-629-4885

Suicide Prevention Coordinator 520-792-1450 extension 64

D-M AFB CONTACT NUMBERS

Base Welcome Center 520-228-4886

Info and Referral Services 520-228-5690

ID/CAC card processing 520-228-4425

Base Exchange 520-748-7887

Commissary 520-228-3116

MOAA MOVERS

HELP NEEDED: Become a MOAA Mover. Volunteer for:

Catalina: Fundraising Chair, Chaplin

Tucson: Chapter VP/Program Chair, Chaplin, Legislative Chair

Our MOAA programs and their quality depend on the voluntary efforts of our members. Please consider lending your *LEADERSHIP AND VOICE* to the Chapters' teams.

Contact Tucson Chapter Tom Owens, Col at owensttt@gmail.com or Catalina Mountains Chapter President Capt. Charles Vaughan @chuck.vaughan@comcast.net.

Catalina Mountains Chapter...

The Tucson Chapter speaker was Mark Taylor, from the Board of Directors of the Central Arizona Ground Replenishment District (CAGWD) which is a public body integral to the Central Arizona Project (CAP). Mark gave informative background on both the CAGWD (where Tucson's drinking water comes from) and the water rights and priorities of the Colorado River Lower Basin states (Arizona, Nevada, California) which is based on historical usage by entities such as agriculture, tribal entities, and urban centers. There was lively discussion and, understandably, a lot of interest among the group about Tucson's continued water supply.

Two great speakers and presentations. Where do we find these speakers and who determines the speakers and topics? For both MOAA chapters, chapter leadership (the Board of Directors or the leadership team) determines who the speakers will be. Leadership of both chapters is always open to suggestions of speakers and topics for the monthly luncheons. So, if you know of a good speaker, or have a topic you'd like some-

one to speak on, please mention it to Tom Owens or myself.

Enough about luncheons. My wife and I recently traveled and it made me realize how blessed we have been to be able to afford to travel and to live in a nice home in Oro Valley. Some veterans are not as fortunate as we are. One of my goals this year is to help veterans who are not as fortunate as us. I'm working on a couple of initiatives with Tucson's *Esperanza En Escalante* that would provide some support to low-income veterans living at their facility by D-M. I'll let you know later how Catalina Mountains Chapter members might be able to help some low-income veterans.

That's it for now. I have to miss February's luncheons but I hope to see you at March's luncheon on March 18th at Saddlebrooke Ranch or on March 23rd at Vivace Restaurant in Tucson for the Tucson Chapter.

Chuck Vaughan, CAPT, USN, retired
President, Catalina Mountains Chapter

CATALINA MOUNTAINS CHAPTER OFFICERS

<http://www.tucsonmoaa.com>

President: Chuck Vaughan, CAPT, USN, (retired) 505-553-4364, chuck.vaughan@comcast.net

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Legis. Liaison: Chuck Vaughan, CAPT, USN 505-553-4364, chuck.vaughan@comcast.net

Past President: Bill Nagy, COL, USAR, (retired) 520-355-5064, wjnagy@yahoo.com

Programs Director: Bill Nagy, COL, USAR, (retired) 520-355-5064, wjnagy@yahoo.com

Audio/Visual: Jeff Peckeron, Capt, USMC, (retired) 520-603-7871, jeffpeckeron@gmail.com

Fundraising: Vacant

Chaplain: Vacant

CATALINA MOUNTAINS CHAPTER ACTIVITY

CMC membership meetings are the third Saturday of the months of October through April, at 11:30 hours, at locations TBA in Saddlebrooke. Contact: Chuck Vaughan, 505-553-4364.

Spouses are always welcome. Seating is limited to the first forty (40) members and guests who confirm their attendance. A meeting agenda will be provided to all attendees via email.



MAJ James J Britt III (USA, Ret) 1919-2022

Tucson MOAA chapter member, MAJ James J Britt III (USA, Ret), passed December 18, 2022. James was born March 4, 1919 in Asheville, NC. There will be a Graveside Service, February 17, 2023, 12:00 p.m. at the Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Marana. The inscription on his headstone will be, *Soldier Teacher Father Servant*.

While it has been a number of years since James attended MOAA meetings, his son, Jeff, said he always loved to read *The Territorial*. It is fitting we honor his life and service as he embodied MOAA's ethos: Never Stop Serving.

James Britt III came from humble beginnings; the family owned a plot of land and his son said he grew up as a farm boy. But he participated in the Scouts and went to business school. In 1941 he was drafted. At Ft. Bragg, he was assigned to the 4th Field Artillery and trained in the mule pack artillery group, which broke down and transported cannons to the field. The Army quickly moved to moving artillery by Jeep, but his superiors were impressed and in 1942, Britt was shipped from the Pacific theater to Ft. Sill and officer training. He served in the Pacific and European theaters.

He was shipped to Korea in 1949 as part of an observation battalion that did field reconnaissance. Britt recalled in a 2015 Arizona Daily Star article, that during the brutal winter of 1950-1951, he lost a man to the weather as they only had their uniforms and field jacket and were bivouacked in tents over frozen ground. "We wore two to three pairs of socks and kept moving our feet to try not to get frostbite," said Britt. When President Truman dismissed General MacArthur, General Ridgeway told the battalion: "I don't need observers. I need artillery!"

He recalled the North Koreans as brutal and cruel adversaries. Britt received a Bronze Star while serving in Korea. Other medals from his career include the Victory WWII medal, the National Defense Service medal and the Medal of Military Merit.

After two decades in the Army, he retired to the warmer climes of Tucson. enrolled at U of A leading to a master's degree in Education. He then became a TUSD elementary teacher for 17 years. After he retired, he volunteered for 33 years at the D-M Pharmacy where he told them, When someone at the base pharmacy asked him about volunteering, he told them "The motto is still serving." We will miss James Britt III. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Dorothy in 2002 and is survived by his son Jeff, daughter Diana, and his cousin, Lois Davis.

The newsletter editor wants your opinion!

What are your thoughts on the recent format changes in *The Territorial*?

Let me know at
moaa@gojo.mozmail.com

Tucson MOAA Mission

1. Advocate and support MOAA national goals.
2. Advocate and support the Arizona and metro Tucson programs, activities, and proposed legislation.
3. Encourage and promote a spirit of volunteerism and participation in programs and activities beneficial to Tucson civic and military communities.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Federal: With the new Congress, all previous bills must be reintroduced. MOAA is asking we urge our legislators to support the Major Richard Starr Act which provides concurrent receipt for service-members unable to complete 20 years of service due to combat-related injuries.

A recent CBO report includes two proposals among its options to the deficit that would increase costs for seniors using the Tricare for Life benefit. Although these are just concepts, not legislation, it's important to let Congress know we strongly oppose any plans to reduce the earned Tricare for Life benefit.

Expanding America's National Cemetery Act requires MOAA members and others encourage others to act. Outreach to our elected officials, especially our two Senators, will help improve the changes for the Act to be included in the FY 2023 NDAA.

Please keep updated and outreach to our elected federal officials through [MOAA's Advocacy Center](#). The interface is simple and it really does make a difference.

STATE: Tom Waddell, AZCoC Legislative Director met with Jessica Roza, AZ Dept. of Veteran Services (AZDVS) on Thursday, 26 Feb. Ms. Roza is an Army veteran and was a Marine spouse. Tom reports: Governor Hobbs has appointed LTC Dana Allmond, USA (Ret) as the new DVS Director replacing Wanda Wright. Dana is a 1994 West Point graduate and served 23 years on active duty. Jessica is making herself and benefit counselors available as guest speakers to chapters. A request can be submitted on the DVS website under the "contact us" tab.

Ms. Roza noted that the current legislature is still getting their feet wet but one thing for sure is they are very hesitant to approve any further tax cuts to include exempting USPHS and NOAA active duty pay from state income tax. She added that the State Senate has closed accepting any new bills and the House is getting close to the same. Tom notes this doesn't mean we can't continue to keep the issue in front of the legislature. In addition, he asks for help in identifying new sponsors for this issue. The last bill, HB2256 dates back a few years and needs to be rewritten.

Disabled Veterans Property Tax Exemption has numerous bills with varying language being currently considered. When and if a final compromise bill emerges is up in the air.

D-M RAO Meeting February 2023

Base News: March 25-26 Air Show Premium tickets (i.e. Afterburner Club, Beer Garden) are going fast. There is a new **Red Cross/Emergency Family Assistance Facility** open off-base, near the airport, at 3470 E. Universal Way. The Base has released a new [D-M 2035 Vision Civic Placemat](#). The **Bowling Center** is closed for updates. There is now 24/7 access to the **Fitness Center**.

The **Commissary has the cheapest (sic) eggs in Tucson; \$3.99/doz**. Superbowl munchies abound. Valentine flowers and steaks are in. President's Day hours will be 9-5. They donated over 2 tons of food to local food banks in 2022. The Commissary is participating in the Fisher House [Scholarship for Military Children](#) program. At least one child per Commissary will be awarded a \$2,000 scholarship. The Commissary is also participating in [Pathways for Students and Recent Grads](#), which gives paid opportunities to train as federal workers.

The Exchange has a new general manager, **Hafeeza McCullough**, whose portfolio includes renovation of the facility, including the food court. She comes from similar successful assignments at West Point, Fort Stewart, and Joint Base Lewis-McCord.

In 2022, **D-M RAO** had 800 visitors and 425 calls that were recorded. This does not count VITA tax assistance. Volunteer hours outside of VITA were 2,000. Volunteers are needed. Please see

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D-M RAO Meeting February 2023...

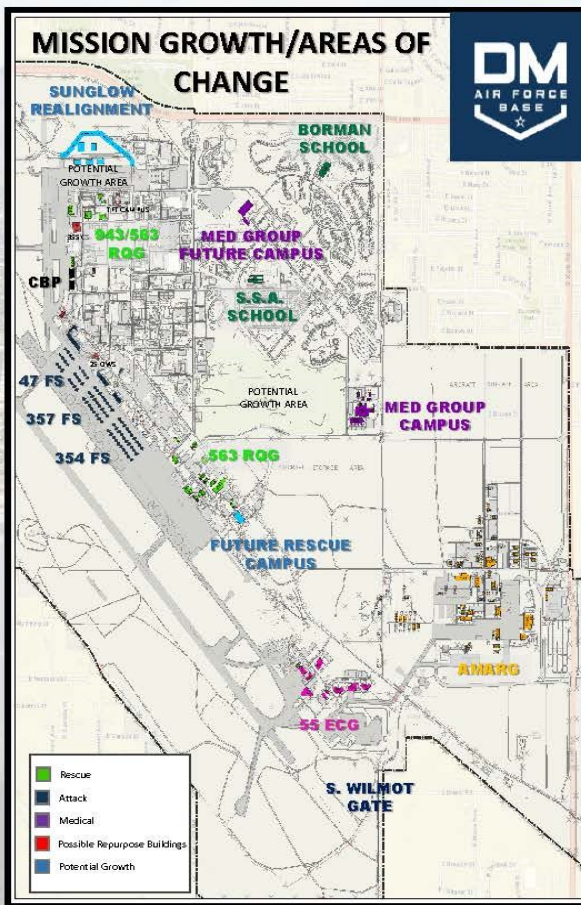
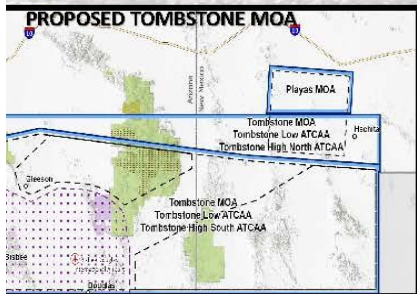
In 2022, **D-M RAO** had 800 visitors and 425 calls that were recorded. This does not count VITA tax assistance. Volunteer hours outside of VITA were 2,000. Volunteers are needed. Please see the flyer in this issue. A new volunteer, Steve Bonds, is a VSO, and hopes to initiate some on-base seminars on VA Disability Claims, the PACT Act, and Surviving Spouse issues.

VITA is three weeks in and has completed 250 returns. They need volunteers (3 passed on this year) and will train. Don't forget, they serve both retirees and active duty. **TMC Hospice** supported 240 veterans last year make a comfortable and respectful passing. Sewers are needed to make pillows; current crop is aging out. The **Gold Star Family Memorial** is nearing completion. Dedication is scheduled for 10:30 a.m., May 30, 2023 at 2773 S. Palo Verde Road, Tucson. More info as we near date. **Military Widows** is active again and membership is holding steady. They meet the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 11:30 a.m. at the Hungry Fox at E. Broadway and Swan.

SAVHCS has been holding town halls in the regions it covers; most recent was Yuma. As SAVHCS nears its 95 Anniversary, the main campus is undergoing extension renovation and new building. The VA has a Summer Youth Program. Deadline is March 6 and it is open to all youth 14-18. The successful applicants will work 100 hours over the summer.

D-M Vision Plan 2025

DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE: THE HOME OF RESCUE AND ATTACK



- ### 2035 INITIATIVES
- #### RESCUE
- Rescue Center of Excellence
 - Relocate 3 Squadrons from Nellis AFB
 - Premier AF Rescue Formal Training, Test, Exercises & Op Units
- #### ATTACK
- Modernize Facilities for Future Aircraft
 - Airfield Ready to Support Future Aircraft
 - World Class Facilities for National Missions
 - Droppable Bombing Ranges

- ### PRIORITIES
- Communication Network Hardware
 - 66 RQS Inactivation and Relocation
 - Runway Construction Project
 - SAP Program Stand Up (Wg/OG)
 - Munitions Storage Area Campus Development Plan Phas
 - Dorm Campus
 - Center of Resiliency Stage 1
 - Military Treatment Facility Projects
 - Electrical System Upgrades
 - Classified Facilities Upgrades

- ### ONGOING PROJECTS
- Compass Call Upgrade
 - South Wilmot Gate MILCON
 - TEP Substation / Power Resiliency
 - On Base Schools
 - A-10 Divestment – Prepare for Future Mission Sets

Facebook Instagram Base We



SUPPORTING VETERANS IN NEED

Tucson Veterans Stand Down March 15-16, 2023

Tucson Veterans Serving Veterans (TVSV) needs your help to supply Veterans coming out of homelessness with **NEW** hygiene items and **NEW GENTLY** or **USED** clothing.

YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE IN RESTORING INDEPENDENCE AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY FOR OUR VETERAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS!

The following items are in **CRITICAL** short supply:
SOAP—SHAMPOO—LOTION—SUNSCREEN
TOOTHPASTE/TOOTHBRUSHES—SKIN CARE—RAZORS
SHAVE CREAM—FEMININE HYGIENE—LIP BALM—SUN GLASSES

CLOTHES FOR MEN AND WOMEN
CAREER SUITS SHIRTS SLACKS TIES BLOUSES SKIRTS SHOES
HANDBAGS **CASUAL WEAR** SLACKS JEANS SHORTS TSHIRTS HATS
SHOES WORK BOOTS SWEATS RAIN GEAR JACKETS

ONLY NEW SOCKS AND UNDERWEAR CAN BE DISTRIBUTED

Contact: Marcia_wohlueter@yahoo.com

**5th Annual
RUN FOR FISHER HOUSE**
Saturday
March 11th 2023

\$ 20 a person
\$ 30 a couple

Presented by
ABATE of Southern Arizona

Registration is from 9:00-11:00
BREAKFAST AVAILABLE AT 1ST STOP
Starts at Northwest
Tucson Moose Lodge
Rally finishes at American Legion Post 109

* Food & Drinks
* Raffle Prizes
* Live Music
* Vendors

Proceeds to benefit the Arizona Fisher House

TUCSON VETERANS
2023 Stand Down and Career Fair
Grand Luxe Hotel 1365 W. Grant Road

Veteran Stand Down March 15
from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
and Career Fair March 16
from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

* Please bring extra copies of your resume; business casual attire for the career fair

Open to ALL Veterans, National Guard and Reservists in the local area in need of the following resources:

- Clothing/hygiene items
- Substance abuse counseling
- Disability claims
- Haircuts
- Treatment referrals
- Benefits applications
- Just minor first aid
- Legal matters
- Pet care
- Housing options
- Employment assistance and job training
- Service Organizations
- Veterans Court
- Mental Health and Religious counseling

Lunch will be served

For event information contact
520-909-4660 or azvet4u@gmail.com

NO ALCOHOL • NO DRUGS • NO WEAPONS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
DAVIS-MONTHAN AFB
RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE
Just 5 Hours Once A Week!

Call the Retiree Activities Office for more information.
520-228-5100

Office Hours: Monday – Friday from 9am to 2pm
Closed on Federal Holidays and Base Family Days

We provide training for new volunteers.
(Base Access Required)

Come discover all that DMAFB has to offer our retirement community.