



Middle Tennessee Chapter
A 2015 5 Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter



Military Officers Association of America

Web Site: mtcmooa.org

August 2016

Editor: Doug Minton

MOAA Monthly Luncheon

23 August, 2016; 11:30 AM

"The Military Diplomat - Life at a US Embassy"

Col. (Ret.) John McDevitt, USAF

*Old Natchez Country Club
 115 Gardengate Drive
 Franklin, TN 37069*

Colonel McDevitt was commissioned in 1986 as a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy, earning a bachelor's degree in political science.

He completed pilot training and has flown the F-16 Fighting Falcon in Germany, South Korea, Georgia, South Carolina and various bases across the Pacific as a member of the Pacific Air Forces Inspector General staff. As an F-16 pilot, Colonel McDevitt was an instructor and evaluator and held positions as scheduler, flight commander and director of operations. He also has extensive experience in flight training operations. His last flying assignment was at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, as Commander of the Euro-NATO Joint-Jet Pilot Training T-37 Flight Training Squadron.

He was then assigned to the Headquarters United States Air Force in the Studies, Analyses, Assessments and Lessons Learned Directorate. He served as the Chief of Mission Analysis, overseeing leading-edge modeling and simulation in support of Air Force leadership.

In 2008, he was selected as the Senior Defense Official and Defense Attaché to Pristina, Kosovo. Following that assignment, Colonel McDevitt served as Chief, Current Operations and Policy for the Office of Attaché Operations, Washington, District of Columbia. In 2013 he assumed the duties of the United States Air Attaché to the Netherlands.

In 2016 he retired from active duty and moved to Nolensville, TN with his wife Suzanne and three of their children. The Nolensville location is easily explained by the fact that another daughter now resides there with her husband and the grandchildren.

John knows his subject well, so please join us for what should be a very interesting program.

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Late Breaking News!

Every year, MOAA's affiliates compete to receive a four- or five-star Levels of Excellence Award. This year, 121 of MOAA's very best councils and chapters earned five-star awards; and **on 9 August we were notified that for the fourth year in a row the Middle TN Chapter was selected to receive a five star award.** Congratulations to the Ft. Campbell MOAA Chapter and to the Memphis MOAA Chapter for also being chosen to receive this prestigious award.

There are currently 409 MOAA affiliate chapters, so being chosen as one of the best is a big deal. It is something that we can ALL be very proud of because it is your involvement with the chapter and with the many military, veterans' and community programs that makes us what we are. "Never Stop Serving" is more than just words, it is a call to action in Middle Tennessee.

President's Letter

Again, a great luncheon! On 26 July, LTG Huber discussed the efforts of the Nashville Serving Veterans Community Board to be the central point of focus for organizations trying to help veterans and, most importantly, a contact where veterans can go when they can't navigate their way through those same supporting organizations. And we appreciate Commissioner Grider being in attendance to support the presentation. There are many kind and generous souls out there trying to help veterans—it's good to know that someone is trying to coordinate those efforts!

Many of our chapter members continue to serve the nation and community through veteran-related organizations, like Operation Stand Down, Matthew 25, the Wounded Warriors project and the Mission Continues program; and many support our communities through other civic organizations, like Rotary. Others, like LTC Wanda Bruce Graham and Capt. Hal Sauer continue to serve by assisting at their voting precincts. There are many different ways to continue to serve—if you have the time and inclination, please consider giving your time and support to one of the many organizations trying to make our communities the places our citizens deserve.

Of course, one way to directly help veterans is through the scholarships we give to deserving veterans and dependents through MOAA national and our chapter. You should have received a letter discussing our chapter's participation in helping veterans get higher education. In turn, this helps our communities and the nation. Please give when you can!

One of our new members, Col. (Ret.) John McDevitt, USAF joined our chapter this month—many of you probably spoke with him. We're going to put him to work at our luncheon 23 August when he will be our speaker. He is returning from the Hague, Netherlands, where he was the Air Attaché to the Netherlands and Belgium—it will be very interesting to hear his perspective on what's really going on in Europe. And September will be very busy with numerous events including "Marine Week," a "Heroes Breakfast" for Operation Stand Down, the "Matthew 25 Breakfast" and "Military Retiree Appreciation Days" at Redstone Arsenal (Huntsville) and Ft. Campbell, KY.

L. S. Cotton, Jr.
 CAPT, U. S. Navy (Ret.), President, MTC

MIDDLE TENNESSEE CHAPTER
Military Officers Association of America
P. O. Box 50252
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Happy 226th Birthday
U. S. Coast Guard
Formed August 4, 1790

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events

23 August 2016: 11:30 AM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"The Military Diplomat - Life at a US Embassy"

Col. John McDevitt, USAF (Ret.)

US Embassy The Hague, The Netherlands

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7 - 11 September, 2016; 6:00 AM – 10:00 PM Daily
"Marine Week"

U. S. Marine Corps Community Event

Various Venues in Downtown Nashville

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9 September 2016; 8:30 - 9:30 AM

"Heroes Breakfast"

(Annual Fundraiser for Operation Stand Down TN)

Omni Nashville Hotel, 250 5th Ave S, Nashville, TN

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20 September, 2016; 7:00 AM

"Matthew 25 Founders Breakfast"

(Annual Fundraiser for Matthew 25)

West End Church of Christ,

3534 West End Avenue , Nashville, TN

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27 September 2016: 11:30 AM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"Operation Stand Down Tennessee Update"

COL (Ret.) John Krenson, USA

CEO, OSDTN

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18 October 2016: 10:00 AM

"A Soldiers Child Foundation

8th Annual Celebrity Golf Scramble"

Gaylord Springs Golf Course 18 Springhouse Ln,

Nashville, TN 37214

-

25 October 2016; 11:30 AM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

**"The Craving Brain- Science, Spirituality and the
Road to Recovery"**

Anderson Spickard Jr. MD

Emeritus Professor Medicine and Psychiatry

Vanderbilt Medical School

-

Remaining MTC MOAA Meeting Dates for 2016:

15 November 2016

Legislative Affairs Update

Federal.

The federal legislature is on summer recess from Mid-July to the end of August. Prior to their departure, the House and Senate both passed their versions of the FY 2017 Defense Authorization Bill. The environment in Washington however is reflective of inaction.

One of the many congressional controversies is the calculation of Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) for those living off post. Amendments were raised to reduce dual military family BAH and prorate others compensations for living in the same dwelling with military or civilian roommates.

The promising note is the lack of support for the privatization of the commissary program.

Also important to retirees are both Houses lack of support for a 2% TRICARE for Life enrollment fee. There is however an effort both in the House and Senate to establish a fee for TRICARE Standard. The House supports a 2.1% pay raise whereas the Senate recommends a cap at 1.6%. The Senate recommends significant force reductions where the House recommends large increases in all branches of the military. The final bill should look very different when finally passed.

Another positive note is both the House and Senate recommend providing a Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) for the Survivor Benefit Program (SBP), which provides the survivor up to 55 percent of the service member's military retired pay, and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) of roughly \$310.

State.

The Tennessee Veterans Empowerment Team has announced the next *Veteran's Day on the Hill* will be held on 8 February 2017.

General

There is little legislative activity during this period; however this is an excellent time to personally visit your representative both at the state and Federal Level. I routinely have opportunities to speak with these representatives, many who are actively running for reelection. They are anxious to hear from their constituents and welcome your calls, letters and emails. MTC MOAA will use this time to engage these legislators to maintain a strong national defense.

/s/ Kent Crossley

COL, USA Retired , MTC Legislative Affairs Liaison