



# Middle Tennessee Chapter

A 2016 5 Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter



## Military Officers Association of America

Web Site: [mtcmooa.org](http://mtcmooa.org)

September 2018

Editor: Doug Minton

### MOAA Luncheon Meeting

25 September 2018; 11:30 AM

#### "Puerto Rico Recovery Operations"

**Ms. Patricia Coffey**

Deputy District Engineer  
Nashville District USACE

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

Patty Coffey is the deputy district engineer for the Nashville District, USACE. In this role she serves as the Chief of the Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division. She assists in directing all the water resource activities of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers throughout the Cumberland River Basin, and navigation and regulatory matters in the Tennessee River Basin, an area of more than 59,000 square miles, with 49 field offices touching seven states and a work force of over 750 federal employees.

Patty Coffey was appointed as the Deputy District Engineer for the Nashville District in July of 2017. In this position, Ms. Coffey is responsible for the District business management and program delivery, assuring that assigned local, regional, and national programs are executed within budget and schedule. She manages and directs all programmatic activities, including program and budget development, preparation for Congressional testimony, oversight of program execution and reprogramming actions. Further, she is responsible for all civil works planning functions for the District, including plan formulation, economics and environmental resources.

She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tennessee in 1984. She obtained her Master of Science in Biology from Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, Tennessee in 1998 and received a mini-MBA at Belmont University.

In 2017 the Commanding General of the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division selected Patty Coffey to deploy to Puerto Rico in support of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' grid restoration mission. Ms. Coffey served as the Deputy District Engineer for Task Force Power from December 2017 through February 2018. Patty's ability to empower multidisciplinary teams enabled the continued success of the \$2.153 Billion effort to restore temporary power in Puerto Rico to over 1.41 million clients or 95.8% of power clients by the end of her tour of duty.

Hope you can join us at this meeting!

### Officers

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CAPT (R) Dale Lewelling, USN

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Mrs. Patricia Bergquist

#### Transition Services Coordinator

Lt.Col. (Ret.) Arlie Haddix, USAF

#### Legislative Liaison

LTC (Ret.) Doug Gilbert, USA

### Chapter Contact Information

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<http://www.mtcmooa.org>

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[info@mtcmooa.org](mailto:info@mtcmooa.org)

### TRICARE Retiree UPDATE

Of great importance to our Retirees that are currently enrolled in the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program is the reality that it ends 31 December 2018.

**ALL** Military Retirees and Currently Serving Members may qualify for the replacement program, the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (**FEDVIP**) for 2019; but there is a very **limited open enrollment period – from 12 November through 10 December, 2018.**

Go to [www.tricare.benefeds.com](http://www.tricare.benefeds.com) to learn more about this program, or you can contact your TRICARE benefits office.

Currently Serving Members can switch between benefits plans during this same open enrollment time frame.

### President's Letter

It was great to see another strong turn-out for our August meeting and it was special to have Commissioner Many Bears Grinder as our speaker. She gave us an excellent update on Veterans Services in Tennessee including news about some new facilities that are coming soon. Tennessee veterans have seen their conditions and opportunities improve significantly under her leadership.

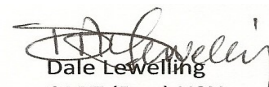
We sent out the Scholarship solicitation letters just a month ago and the response has been fantastic. I am pleased to announce in just a month's time we have collected \$3725 in donations. As you probably know we support scholarship efforts at Lipscomb, Belmont and with the MOAA national. At our local universities we give scholarship grants to disabled veterans and or vets if there is not a disabled applicant. Your participation is still needed if you have not already made a contribution. Thank you for your strong and generous support.

As we are aware, it is election year and if you are like me, you never miss the opportunity to vote. If you have not already registered to vote, in TN you have until October 9<sup>th</sup> to register. The chapter does not support specific candidates, but we encourage everyone to exercise their right to vote.

Congress recently passed the VA Mission Act and the President signed the legislation on June 6<sup>th</sup>. The new law will eliminate the Veterans Choice Program. It will streamline the community care program and replace Choice and consolidate multiple care programs currently managed by VA into a single program. To accomplish these changes the VA must be on an aggressive time line to comply with the mandates of the law. There are many decisions being made and MOAA wants to have an input. They need you to send them your questions about the VA Mission Act that you want the VA to answer. Here are a couple of the questions that MOAA has communicated to the VA for answers already.

- \* How can veterans expect VA to communicate with them as progress is made in implementing the MISSION Act and how can veterans provide feedback throughout the process?
- \* What does walk-in care mean, and will I be charged for getting this care outside of my VA medical center?

During our meeting this month we will welcome Patricia Coffey, Deputy Director Nashville District US Army Corp of Engineers. She will provide an update on the Corp in Nashville and a Puerto Rico hurricane recovery update. Look forward to seeing everyone on September 25<sup>th</sup> at Old Natchez Country Club for our regular meeting.

  
Dale Lewelling  
CAPT (Ret.) USN  
President

**MIDDLE TENNESSEE CHAPTER**  
**Military Officers Association of America**  
**P. O. Box 50252**  
**Nashville, TN 37205-0252**



Happy 71st Birthday to the  
 United States Air Force  
 18 September 1947

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Upcoming Programs & Events**

**14 September 2018; 7:30– 9:30 AM**  
**“OSDTN Heroes Breakfast”**  
 Music City Center, Nashville, TN

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**22 September 2018**  
**“Retiree Appreciation Day”**  
 Ft. Campbell, KY

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**25 September 2018; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**  
 MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting  
**“ Puerto Rico Recovery Operations”**  
 Ms. Patricia Coffey  
 Deputy District Engineer  
 Nashville District USACE  
 Old Natchez Country Club, 115 Gardengate Drive,  
 Franklin, TN 37069

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**2 October 2018; 7-8:00 AM**  
**“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”**  
 NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

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**12 October 2018; 4:00 - 5:00 PM**  
**“10th Annual National Security Symposium”**  
 ADM (Ret.) William E. Gortney, USN  
 Sarratt Cinema, Vanderbilt University

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**23 October 2018: 11:30 AM—1:00 PM**  
 MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting  
**“USO Ft. Campbell—Nashville”**  
 Mrs. Kari Moore  
 Center Director

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**6 November 2018; 7-8:00 AM**  
**“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”**  
 NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

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**10 November 2018, 9:00 AM—5:00 PM**  
**“VETFEST”**  
 Harlinsdale Farm, Franklin, TN

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**Remaining MTC Meeting Dates (Not listed above)**  
 27 November 2018 (Week after Thanksgiving)  
 No Meeting December 2018

**MOAA Military Family Initiatives**

MOAA Military Career Transition Program

The Career Transition program offers uniformed service members and veterans of all ranks and their families’ high-quality, career-development events and activities designed to introduce them to a range of civilian career possibilities, including professional certifications, advanced education and training, franchise ownership and entrepreneurship.

The high operations tempo resulting from almost two decades of combat operation in the two longest wars in American history have resulted in approximately 200,000 uniformed service members transitioning out of the military each year-1,300 each day. MOAA completes more than 750 complimentary career counseling sessions each year, to include resume and LinkedIn profile reviews and delivers dozens of professional development workshops designed to prepare service members, veterans and military spouses for a more favorable interaction with company recruiters. MOAA's nationwide veteran jobs initiative is complemented with a LinkedIn career networking group with more than 29,000 members who receive weekly updates on career transition best practices, financial literacy and healthcare planning from MOAA's team of transition experts.

At a local level we are just beginning to generate a network of Chapter members who are facing transition issues in order to assist each other in approaching the hurdles of moving from military service to the civilian sector. More to come on how to participate and assist!

MOAA Military Family Initiative Community Outreach Program

The MOAA MFI Community Outreach program provides grants to MOAA chapters delivering direct assistance to military families in their local communities in eight areas (Housing, Food Assistance, Employment, Health Services, Family and Community Reintegration, Financial and Legal Assistance, and Transportation) of critical military and veteran family need. This program is supported by corporate, foundation and public donations.

It offers grants to MOAA Chapters delivering services-either directly or through partnerships with other community organizations- in one of the eight areas of critical military and veteran family need.

To qualify for a grant, the MOAA Council/Chapter must either deliver the services directly or must occupy a leadership position (council, board, committee member, etc.) of a local community collaboration delivering these types of services. MOAA Councils/Chapters are solely responsible for ensuring all MOAA MFI grant funds are disbursed only in support of programs and services approved by the grant criteria and falling within one or more of the eight critical areas of need listed above.