



Middle Tennessee Chapter
A 2018 5-Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter



Military Officers Association of America

Web: <https://www.mtcmoaa.org>

September 2019

Editor: Doug Minton

MOAA Luncheon Meeting

24 September 2019; 11:30 AM
"The Weather"

Capt. Dan Thomas, USAF
 WSMV Meteorologist

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

Dan Thomas has been a weather fanatic for as long as he can remember. As a small child, in his hometown of North Andover, MA, he loved to stare out the window, watching New England's powerful ocean storms. To this day, he still has a cassette recording from when he was 6 years old, on which he said, "It's rainy, snowy, windy ... That's all the news for now. This is Danny Thomas."

Dan's passion for weather led him to The Pennsylvania State University, where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in meteorology. He also joined the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps and was commissioned as a Lieutenant upon graduation.

After graduate school, Dan began his military career at Moody Air Force Base in Valdosta, GA. He deployed to the Middle East, where he briefed pilots on weather conditions for their training missions over Iraq's no-fly zone. He completed his active duty military service in the fall of 2000 as a Captain, leading a 15-person organization in weather operations at Vance Air Force Base in Enid, OK.

After his time in the military, Dan began his full-time career in television as the morning meteorologist for KHBS/KHOG-TV in Fort Smith/Fayetteville, AR. From tornado alley, Dan moved to "hurricane central" - New Orleans - in early 2003 to work as a broadcast meteorologist for WDSU-TV, the NBC affiliate. While there, he covered more than a half dozen hurricanes and tropical storms that hit the southeastern United States. Most notable was Dan's coverage leading up to and during Hurricane Katrina.

Dan moved to Nashville and joined the WSMV News4 team in August 2006. In May 2009, Dan was certified by the American Meteorological Society as a Certified Broadcast Meteorologist, which involves passing very rigorous testing and standards. In 2010, Dan won an Emmy award for his coverage of the Flood of 2010. Dan's thrilled to call this area home with its gorgeous terrain, ever-changing weather, and very kind people. When not in the office, Dan loves spending time with his wife, Deanna, and two children, Sadee and Hudson.

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Chapter Contact Information

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MOAA Membership

If you are not currently a MOAA National member, we need you to become one! We very much appreciate your Chapter membership, but there is more that needs to be done! We can be effective at the local level with our numbers, but to be effective at the national level we have to join with the other 350,000 officers that belong to MOAA National to really make an impact!

MOAA has made it quite easy for any officer to join by offering the free BASIC membership as a starter so that you can see the value without having to pay first. This is an electronic membership, which means that some publications can only be viewed online, but it is a great way to support the initiative and see first hand what is being accomplished. To join, go to <https://www.moaa.org/micro/joinmoaa/USAA-BASIC-Membership-Offer/>.

President's Letter

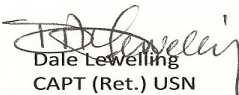
Thanks to all who came to our August meeting. If you missed it, Army Chaplain Jay Outen gave us an excellent update on what is going on with the Chaplain Corp as well as valuable insight into the challenges they face every day supporting and aiding a force that deploys on a routine basis. Another in a long line of excellent programs.

By now you should have received our request for contributions to the MTC MOAA Veteran's Scholarship program. We have a long tradition of giving generously to this fund. Over the years we have funded three endowed MOAA national scholarships for \$25,000 each. Several years ago, we also began contributing to Lipscomb and Belmont Universities to help fund education for disabled veterans at those schools. Over the years we have contributed \$1,000 dollars annually to each school. Two years ago, because of our strong relationship with Lipscomb, we inherited a dormant endowment fund and started funding it under the Middle Tennessee MOAA moniker. This endowment fund is in addition to the annual gift. Our tradition is to ask every member to make a minimum \$25.00 tax-deductible contribution to support this initiative. Historically we have had some members want to contribute directly to MOAA national. If you do so, please annotate your check for your donation to be credited to the Middle Tennessee Chapter. A self-addressed envelope was included with the mailing, or you can drop off your check at the front desk at our next meeting. Thank you in advance for your support.

At the August meeting, we announced that we are the recipient of our sixth 5 Star Chapter recognition by MOAA. Each year the criteria for selection are a bit different. This year we needed 80% of our local membership to be a member of the National organization. Although 80% is good, I believe we can do better than that. So for next year I am setting a goal of 90% national membership. So, if you are not a member on the National level please take a few minutes to go to MOAA.org and join. Although we hope you join as a regular dues paying member, you can join as Basic member for no cost. I think once you join MOAA at the national level you will see what an outstanding organization it is and what a great job they do lobbying for our active, reserve and retired members.

We have several veteran and military events happening in the local area in the coming months so please go to our website at <http://www.mtcmoaa.org/areaeventcalendar.html> to see everything happening.

This month we will be welcoming Air Force veteran and channel 4 meteorologist Dan Thomas as guest speaker. So, mark your calendar for the 24th of September. Hope to see you there!


 Dale Lewelling
 CAPT (Ret.) USN
 President

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



Happy Birthday U.S. Air Force
18 September 1947

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events

18-22 September 2019
"Welcome Home Veterans"

Ft. Campbell, KY
[Register Now!](#)

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24 September 2019; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
"The Weather"

Mr. Dan Thomas

WSMV Meteorologist - Former USAF Officer
Old Natchez Country Club, 115 Gardengate Drive,
Franklin, TN 37069

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5 October 2019; 11:00 AM—7:00 PM
**"VETFEST—Community Celebration
of Military Families!"**

VETLINX

Brentwood, TN

-

14 October 2019; 11:30 AM

"A Soldiers Child 11th Annual Golf Scramble"

Stones River Country Club, Murfreesboro, TN

Registration:

<https://asoldierschild.kindful.com/?campaign=333032>

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18 October 2019; 4:00 -5:00 PM

11th Annual National Security Symposium
"Competitive Threats to Order in the Pacific"

ADM (Ret.) Scott H. Swift

Host: Vanderbilt NROTC Alumni
Vanderbilt University, Sarratt Cinema

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22 October 2019; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
"Centerstone Military Services"

Dr. Jodie Robison

Executive Director for Military Services
Old Natchez Country Club, 115 Gardengate Drive,
Franklin, TN 37069

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Additional Meeting Dates : 19 November 2019
(PLEASE NOTE change to November date to ac-
commodate the Thanksgiving Holiday)

Legislative Update

On 13 August, MTC Members Doug Gilbert, Patricia Bergquist, Mike Patenaude and Thad Vann met with Senator Lamar Alexander and Mr. Will Patterson (Legislative Assistant for Defense and Veterans Issues) to discuss the MOAA concerns for the upcoming legislative session. Key in this discussion was Senator Alexander's ongoing support for the elimination of the SDP-DIC Offset (Widow's Tax) as well as the effort to sustain military pay and quality of life standards.

On 15 August, MTC Members Doug Gilbert, Dale Lewelling, Mike Patenaude, Patricia Bergquist and Kent Crossley met with Mr. John Clement of Senator Blackburn's Staff to discuss the same issues as stated above.

The intent of both meetings was to push for continued support for these issues as Congress prepares for Conference Committee negotiations on the 2020 NDAA.

Also of interest, Mr. John Clement and Ms. Patti Carroll (Congressman Greens' office) attended our 27 August monthly meeting as guests as part of our ongoing effort to familiarize their offices with our organization. Mr. Clement is a former officer and left with promises to join our Chapter.

Doug Gilbert, LTC, USA Retired, Legislative Chair

September is Suicide Prevention Month

We all understand that the first step in Suicide Prevention is to start the conversation when you recognize that someone is in trouble. The interest that you show, the compassion that you feel can often be the key to stopping that tragic next step.

Suicide Prevention Resources:

[The National Suicide Prevention/Military and Veteran Lifeline](#) offers free and confidential support to service members in crisis or anyone who knows a service member who is. The service is staffed by caring, qualified responders from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), many who have served in the military themselves.

[Veterans Crisis Line](#) Since 2007, the Veterans Crisis Line has answered more than 890,000 calls and made more than 30,000 lifesaving rescues. Support is offered through the crisis line, online chat, and text-messaging services for all service members (active, National Guard and reserve) and veterans 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year by visiting their website at.

[Military Crisis Line](#) Support for Service members, their families and friends. Services are available even if members are not registered with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) or enrolled in VA health care.