



Middle Tennessee Chapter

A 2024 5-Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter

Military Officers Association of America



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

October 2025

Editor: Doug Minton

Next MTC Monthly Meeting:

28 October 2025; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

“Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA)”

Patrick Sheehan

Director

OSDTN 1125 12th Ave. South, Nashville

Patrick C. Sheehan was appointed as the Director of the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency in 2016.

Director Sheehan advises Governor Bill Lee on all aspects of emergency management policy and serves as Tennessee’s principal liaison to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. He previously served in several roles at the Ohio Emergency Management Agency from 2003 to 2016. Prior to serving in emergency management, he was an enlisted member of the United States Army Reserve as a Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Specialist and completed Army Airborne School. He also worked in the private sector, helping to run his family’s businesses in the Atlanta area.

Director Sheehan holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Kennesaw State University and is currently pursuing his master’s degree from Lipscomb University. He is a graduate of the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security Executive Leaders and the Radiological Emergency Preparedness Executives programs. He was also a fellow in the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s inaugural Vanguard Crisis Leadership Program in 2022 and is a part of the Harvard Global Crisis and Resilience Forum.

Director Sheehan chairs Tennessee’s State Emergency Response Council and is a member of Tennessee’s Cyber Security Council, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s First Responder Resource Group, the Public Safety Advisory Council for the FirstNet Authority, the Tennessee Nuclear Energy Advisory Council and serves in other emergency management, homeland security, and public safety and service organizations. Patrick is Chairman of the Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium Board of Directors and was the past President of the National Emergency Management Association from 2022 to 2023.

Director Sheehan, an Eagle Scout, and his family continue to be engaged in scouting in Middle Tennessee.

Officers

President

CAPT Larry Cotton, USN (ret.)

1st Vice President

Col Dale Kiser, USAF (Ret)

2nd Vice President (Vacant)

Secretary and Membership Chair

COL Doug Minton, USA Retired

Treasurer

LCDR Bea Henderson, USN (ret.)

Directors

Mrs. Patricia Bergquist

CDR Ted Edwards, USN (ret.)

CDR John Ohlinger, USN (ret.)

LTC Wanda B. Graham, USA Retired

CAPT Dale Lewelling, USN (ret.)

LTC Mike Patenaude, USA Retired

Lt Col Karon Uzzell-Baggett, USAF (Ret.)

Surviving Spouse Liaison

Mrs. Patricia Bergquist

Chaplain & Legislative Liaison

CDR Ted Edwards, USN (ret.)

Transition Services Coordinator

Lt Col Arlie Haddix, USAF (Ret).

Chapter Contact Information

Mailing Address:

Middle TN Chapter, MOAA

P. O. Box 50252

Nashville, TN 37205-0252

Website:

<https://www.mtcmoaa.org>

Contact Phone: **(615) 415-6816**

Contact Email: info@mtcmoaa.org

MTC needs your Assistance

MOAA recently undertook the very daunting task of updating the database that holds all member records. As you can imagine, the process has not always been smooth, although the Member Service Center and Council & Chapters have worked very diligently in the process. MTC has been reviewing our member records since they were made visible to us in early 2025 and have identified various items that are missing or out of date on many of our members. We can see the data or where it should be but due to privacy restrictions only the actual members can revise their profile. PLEASE log into your MOAA account and review/update your profile. Once you have updated your account, you should be able to make changes or additions. If you are unable to accomplish the updates, please advise us at info@mtcmoaa.org and we will work with MOAA to accomplishing the task.

President’s Letter

The current government shutdown is on everyone’s minds as they normally interact with any service of the federal government. Unfortunately for our servicemembers, their monthly pay is caught up in this Congressional failure to fund its own authorizations, and they are not receiving paychecks although they continue to do their duty every day. One temporary solution to provide them and their families with relief is the Pay Our Troops Act of 2026 (H.R.4501). The bill covers the Armed Forces, which includes the US Coast Guard, but it does not cover USPHS commissioned corps nor the NOAA Corps. The current version has received over 90 co-sponsors. *“This legislation provides the financial certainty military families deserve, protecting them from the instability of government shutdowns while they protect us,”* said MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret). You can easily show your support for this bill and other issues directly from the website: <https://moaa.quorum.us/>. Passing the Major Richard Star Act, Improving TRICARE Access for Families, and Supporting Military Spouse Employment remain important issues, of course, and also deserve your support.

October marks the official birthdate of the US Navy and its 250th anniversary is on 13 October. The National Day of the Deployed is on 26 October, which recognizes the time away from home of servicemembers in all services and the sacrifices that time away causes their families and loved ones.

Our chapter’s annual scholarship campaign is doing very well, and we anticipate being able to continue to support veterans at Belmont, Lipscomb, and Tennessee State Universities. We continue to support loans and grants for dependent college students of military families of any branch or rank through MOAA’s Education Assistance Program. You can still contribute in the addressed envelope that was sent to you last month or you can bring it to our next luncheon!

Importantly, please remember that **we are meeting at Operation Stand Down Tennessee (OSDTN, 1125 12th Avenue South, Nashville) this month**. Last month, we had a highly informative review of foreign policy and defense issues around the world from our own member, LCDR Pat Ryan, USN (ret.), in his presentation: “Emerging Foreign Policy Doctrine in a Brutally Challenging World.” This month, we will hear from Patrick Sheehan, Director about the “Tennessee Emergency Management Agency.” Again, **we will meet at Operation Stand Down Tennessee (OSDTN) at 11:30 am, on Tuesday, October 28th**. See you there!

Larry Cotton,
CAPT, US Navy (ret.)
President

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



Happy Birthday U. S. Navy!
13 October, 1775

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events

15 October 2025; 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM

"TN Council of Chapters Quarterly Meeting"

Sammy B's Restaurant, Lebanon, TN

28 October 2025; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"TN Emergency Management Agency"

Director Patrick Sheehan

OSDTN 1125 12th Ave. South, Nashville, TN

6 November 2025; 7 - 8 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

7 November 2025; 7:30 - 10:30 AM

"OSDTN 2025 Heroes Breakfast"

Music City Center, Nashville, TN

18 November 2025; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"Williamson County Veterans Treatment Court"

Judge Tom Taylor

General Sessions Division II

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

4 December 2025; 7 - 8 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

NO MTC Meeting in December
(Enjoy your time with the family!)

8 January 2026; 7 - 8:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

21 January 2026; 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM

"TN Council of Chapters Quarterly Meeting"

Sammy B's Restaurant, Lebanon, TN

27 January 2026; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

Legislative Update

I am writing in the early morning of October 1st just hours after Fiscal Year 2025 ended, and there is **NO** federal budget in place nor is there the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for 2026. A partial shut-down is in place – we have had that happen four times since 2023, and there is nothing good about it. I have put off writing for a week hoping that I would have something good to say on the matter or at least the NDAA.

The House and Senate need to pass legislation in matching forms before it goes to the President, and the process is stalled for lack of agreement. Nobody expects perfection here, but there is an urgency for the NDAA if not the whole federal budget. Why doesn't that urgency drive an outcome for our forces and move those responsible for passage to get it done?

If not our uniformed forces, lots of federal employees are getting furloughed today. No small number of them are in Middle Tennessee. To be furloughed means that those people and their positions are less essential than others. Nobody wants to think that their jobs and themselves personally are not essential even though this situation means prioritization needs to happen with limited resources available.

When I was in seminary in Alexandria VA decades ago, there was a crippling blizzard and word was put out that only essential personnel needed to come in. Commuter safety was the consideration; yet, people did not want to be labeled as "not essential" so they braved the snow and came in anyway. The roads were a mess and traffic jammed.

This has happened before, and it will happen again. This would be an opportune time to communicate to the Hill legislators and staff about what is needed and that poor performance is not valued out here among the people.

The primary election in District TN-07 comes 7 October and the election itself is 2 December. In TN-07 we are left out of the process this year; however, a special opportunity is available. This is a great advocacy moment to tell the candidates how important it is to do better if they get the opportunity.

A quote from LtCol Keith Beebe, USA, from page 24 of the September issue of Military Officer in the How I Advocate column: "I support MOAA's mission in legislative advocacy, which is to influence policy decision that improve their (servicemembers) lives." Please visit the MOAA Legislative Action Center!

CDR Ted Edwards, USN (Ret.)
MTC Legislative Chair