



Middle Tennessee Chapter
A 2019 5 Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter



Military Officers Association of America

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

December 2020

Editor: Doug Minton

MOAA Luncheon Meeting

No Meeting in December!

"Happy Holidays!"

Over the past years we have found that our members have found it increasingly difficult to schedule to attend a meeting given all of the holiday activities that take place in December. As a result your Board has chosen to defer on our monthly meeting, and instead give everyone a free Tuesday on the fourth week of the month.

Please put it to good use, and plan on attending our next meeting which will be on 26 January, 2021.

DFAS SBP/DIC Offset Update

As you may know, Congress enacted changes to the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) that will eventually eliminate the offset for surviving spouses who are also receiving Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The changes will take place in three phases.

Beginning December 1 DFAS will send letters to surviving spouses impacted by the SPB/DIC repeal to let them know what to expect financially on February 1, 2021.

January 1, 2021 begins the first phase. In 2021, surviving spouse SBP annuity payments issued by DFAS will be reduced (offset) by no more than two-thirds of the amount of DIC (issued by the VA) rather than by the entire amount of DIC, even though eligible surviving spouses will continue to receive the full amount of DIC from the VA.

Beginning January 1, 2022, the second phase, surviving spouse SBP annuity payments will be reduced (offset) by no more than one-third of the amount of DIC (issued by the VA) rather than by the entire amount of DIC, even though eligible surviving spouses will continue to receive the full amount of DIC from the VA.

On January 1, 2023, the SBP-DIC offset will be fully eliminated. That means, beginning in 2023, SBP payments will no longer be offset by DIC. Spouses will receive full SBP (issued by DFAS) and full DIC (from the VA).

For more details and frequently asked questions, see our special SBP-DIC News webpage: <http://go.usa.gov/xGfqd>.

Surviving Spouses should not call DFAS at this time.

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Lt.Col. (R) Arlie Haddix, USAF

Legislative Liaison

LTC (R) Doug Gilbert, USA

Chapter Contact Information

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Military ID Upgrade for Retirees

The military is moving from the paper-based ID cards issued to retirees and family members for a new, more secure card. The Next Generation Uniformed Services Identification Card will incorporate new design and security features to deter counterfeiting and fraud. The card will be printed on plastic cardstock and will look and feel more like the Common Access Cards issued to active-duty service members and DoD civilian employees.

This is the first major update in almost 30 years to the ID cards, which have been in use since 1993.

Current ID cards remain valid through their expiration dates, officials said, adding that cards will not be reissued solely for the purpose of getting the new card. Individuals with an indefinite expiration date on their ID cards should wait until summer 2021 to get a new ID., in order to minimize the impact on ID card facilities.

Completion of the transition to the new ID card is targeted for January 2026.

President's Letter

I hope everyone had an enjoyable Thanksgiving and are enjoying their preparations for the Christmas and Hanukkah celebrations. My family missed our usual Thanksgiving travel but found it surprisingly refreshing to remain at home and have a smaller and more relaxed celebration. My thanks to all of you for continuing to support our Middle Tennessee Chapter at full speed, despite all the precautions we had to navigate this year. It was especially nice to conduct our Memorial Day ceremony in June and reunite for our final three membership meetings of the year. I am particularly grateful to the Old Natchez Trace Country Club for working with us to make these meetings possible within the prevailing health guidelines

My thanks to Lt.Col. Karon Uzzell-Baggett for the outstanding job she did lining up and organizing meeting cancellations and rescheduling of an interesting and informative group of guest speakers for 2020. She is already locking in our speakers for 2021. Also, my thanks to all the board members who worked so hard to keep us on track for another consecutive 5 Star Chapter award this year.

My personal and official thanks for the generosity of each of you who contributed to our MTC Scholarship drive. To date our contributions have totaled \$6614.20 which exceeded our last year contributions. That means once again we will be able to donate \$1000 each to Belmont and Lipscomb, as well as to the MOAA National general scholarship fund, and that we will be able to grow the Middle Tennessee Chapter endowment fund at Lipscomb by an additional \$2614. Our contributions to both Belmont and Lipscomb are to veterans with the priority being to a disabled service veteran first. If none apply, then the grant is to a deserving veteran. Thank you again for your generous support.

Do not forget to read your December edition of the MOAA magazine; particularly the Mission Advocacy update beginning on page 14. This regular update keeps us abreast of legislative news that directly affects active, reserve, retired and veteran service members. Included this month is information on the VA Caregiver Program.

May the best team win in the Commander in Chief Trophy this year!

And I would be remiss if I did not wish the National Guard a Happy Birthday! On December 13 they celebrate their 384th birthday!

I want to wish everyone a very joyful holiday season and the Happiest of New Years in 2021!

Michael Patenaude
 LTC, USA Retired
 President

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events

5 January 2021; 7 - 8:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

13 January 2021; 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

"TN Council of MOAA Chapters Meeting (Virtual)"

26 January 2021; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"MTC Annual Report Meeting"

LTC (Ret.) Mike Patenaude, USA

MTC President

Old Natchez Country Club, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 3706

2 February 2021; 7- 8:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

February 2021

TVET "TN Veterans Day on the Hill"

This event has been **cancelled** over uncertainties related to the COVID-19 virus.

2021 Meeting Dates

(not shown above)

23 February 2021

23 March 2021

27 April 2021

25 May 2021

22 June 2021

27 July 2021

24 August 2021

28 September 2021

26 October 2021

16 November 2021

No monthly meeting in December

Legislative Update

FEDERAL

Should a federal law that protects National Guard members and reservists from being fired from their private sector jobs while they are deployed also apply to state government jobs? Last week, the U.S. Supreme Court hinted it might weigh in on the issue.

Breaking Defense reported that the Army is replacing its decades-old laser tag training system (Miles) with a more precise "eBullet," which more accurately calculates ballistic flight paths and allows for a greater array of weapons to be simulated.

A fire that raged for almost five days in July has doomed the San Diego-based amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard to the scrapyards, Navy officials announced Monday, 30 November.

STATE

Gov. Bill Lee announced the first bill in his administration's 2021 legislative package Tuesday: legislation that would provide reemployment protections to Tennessee National Guard service members called to state active duty. "Currently Tennessee law provides no reemployment protections for service members who are called to state active duty," Lee said during an afternoon news briefing. "We're calling for service members to now be protected, and when they go on state active duty for issues like responding to natural disasters or their response to COVID-19." The Reemployment Act from the Department of the Military has the potential to impact the Tennessee National Guard's nearly 13,000 service members.

On 4 December 2020 Gov. Lee issued Executive Order 68, which allows TN National Guard to be send to TN hospitals as nurses, Covid-19 testers, or ambulance drivers during the Covid 19 pandemic; but only if they have appropriate training or have earned these skill sets. Dr. Morgan McDonald, a deputy health commissioner, said the state would not assign guard members who are currently working in civilian medical jobs, which would effectively "rob Peter to pay Paul."

On 7 December 2020, TN Governor Bill Lee announced Major General Tommy H. Baker (the previous Deputy Commander of the TN National Guard) as the interim commissioner for the Department of Veterans Services. Former Commissioner Courtney Rogers and Deputy Commissioner Tilman Goins have both returned to the private sector.