



**Middle Tennessee Chapter**  
**A 2020 5-Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter**  
**Military Officers Association of America**



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

February 2022

Editor: Doug Minton

**MOAA Monthly Meeting**

**22 February 2022;**  
**11:30 AM-1:00 PM**

**"Metro Nashville Police  
 Department Update"**

**Chief John Drake**

Nashville Metropolitan Police  
 Department  
**OSDTN**

1125 12th Ave S, Nashville, TN 37203

John Drake began his law enforcement career as a police officer in 1988 in his hometown of Nashville, Tennessee. He began in the Patrol Division, before being assigned to the Vice Division's Narcotics Unit to investigate mid to upper level drug traffickers. With a passion to mentor youth, Drake transferred to the Police Athletic League, where he began a basketball program for children. That program grew from 100 participants the first year to more than 1,300 participants in less than 5 years.

He was promoted to sergeant in February 2007, serving in the North Precinct. His next assignment was to the Office of Professional Accountability, where he investigated internal allegations against both sworn and civilian police department employees. In 2010, following his promotion to lieutenant, Drake was assigned to the Hermitage Precinct to lead its Investigations Unit. In 2014 Drake was promoted to captain, serving as an overnight field supervisor for 6 months before being assigned to oversee the Domestic Violence Division as its first male captain. While there, Drake helped start the lethality assessment program and detailed domestic violence supplements, which are still widely used today.

On September 1, 2015, he was appointed commander of the Central Precinct, Nashville's downtown business/entertainment district. On July 1, 2017, Drake was appointed Deputy Chief over the newly created Support Services Bureau, which oversees SWAT, Special Events, Field Training Officers, School Resource Officers, Fleet Operations, Building Services, Parks, Warrants, Aviation and several other components within the police department.

In June 2020, Drake was appointed Deputy Chief of the Community Services Bureau, which includes the department's 8 precincts, before being appointed Interim Chief of the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department in August 2020 and Chief of Police on November 30, 2020.

Chief Drake holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from the College of Public Service at Bethel University.

**Officers**

**President**

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

**1st Vice President** (Vacant)

**2nd Vice President**

1LT Colleen Vetere, USA ANC

**Secretary and Membership Chair**

COL (Ret) Doug Minton, USA

**Treasurer** (Vacant)

**Directors**

Mrs. Patricia Bergquist

CDR (Ret) John Ohlinger, USN

LTC (Ret) Wanda Bruce Graham, USA

CAPT (Ret) Larry Cotton, USN

CAPT (Ret) Dale Lewelling, USN

LTC (Ret) Michael Patenaude, USA

CDR (Ret) Ted Edwards, USN

**Surviving Spouse Liaison**

Mrs. Patricia Bergquist

**Chaplain**

CDR (Ret) Ted Edwards, USN

**Transition Services Coordinator**

Lt. Col. (Ret) Arlie Haddix, USAF

**Chapter Contact Information**

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<https://www.mtcmoaa.org>

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

Contact Email: [info@mtcmoaa.org](mailto:info@mtcmoaa.org)

**MTC Dues Increase**

The MTC Board considered and subsequently recommended an increase of MTC regular dues from \$20 to \$25 per annum for regular members at its meeting on 4 January 2021; surviving spouse dues were recommended to continue at \$5.00 per annum at the same meeting. Prior notice was sent to all members in the January 2022 Newsletter and by email to members that could access an online survey to cast their vote. The final vote was conducted at the chapter meeting on 25 January 2022, with the membership electing to follow the recommended increase. **The annual dues beginning with the calendar year 2022 were set at \$25.00 for regular members and \$5.00 for auxiliary members.**

*This is the first dues increase for Chapter members since dues were increased to \$20.00 in 2010.*

**President's Letter**

As I begin my term as President of the Middle Tennessee Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), I am grateful for the trust that I have been given by the executive board and the chapter's resolute men and women to lead this organization. I look forward to continuing the proud traditions of the chapter, which has garnered eight consecutive Five-star Levels of Excellence Awards, and broadening our impact through expanded outreach and new initiatives.

I am doubly proud to begin my term during the month of February, which holds significance for MOAA and for African Americans like myself. MOAA was created 93 years ago on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and is the largest, most influential, nonprofit and non-partisan military officer organization in the United States of America. Our parent organization continues to grow and improve and we will do our part to remain a key affiliate of the organization. I look forward to your ideas and involvement as we go forward to carry out MOAA's vital mission.

February is also the annual observance of African American History Month here in the United States and also in Canada. During this month, it is important to remember the critical contributions of African Americans who have served in our nation's defense. From Crispus Attucks, the first African American to die in the American Revolution, to the Buffalo Soldiers to the Tuskegee Airmen to the 688<sup>th</sup> Central Postal Directory Battalion, African Americans have proudly served and I stand on their shoulders. According to the Department of Defense, African Americans comprise 21% of the active-duty Army, 17% of the active-duty Navy, 10% of the active-duty Marines and 15% of the active-duty Air Force.

Finally, for those of you who joined me for the annual Veterans Day on the Hill, which was organized by Tennessee Veterans (TNVET), I want to express my sincere appreciation. We were able to show the power of the thousands of Tennessee active duty, retired and former service members and their families. If you were unable to attend the event, please access information about the 2022 legislation at <https://www.tnvet.org> and contact your state representatives.

I look forward to seeing chapter members at our next meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at Operation Stand Down Tennessee's location. A buffet meal catered by Mission BBQ, a veteran-owned company, will be available.

Once again, thank you very much for this wonderful opportunity to Never Stop Serving!

*Karon Uzzell - Baggett*  
 Karon Uzzell-Baggett, Lt Col (ret), USAF  
 Chapter President

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



Happy 93rd Birthday MOAA.  
23 February 1929.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### Upcoming Programs & Events

**22 February 2022; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

**(Please note location change!)**

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

**"Metro Nashville Police Department Update"**

**Chief John Drake**

Nashville Metropolitan Police Department  
OSDTN, 1125 12th Ave S, Nashville, TN 37203

**24-26 February 2022**

**"National Guard Association of Tennessee**

**92nd Annual Conference"**

Embassy Suites Hotel, Murfreesboro, TN.

([National Guard Association of Tennessee – Nashville, Tennessee \(ngatn.org\)](http://NationalGuardAssociationofTennessee-Nashville.Tennessee(ngatn.org)) )

**3 March 2022; 7- 8:00 AM**

**"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"**

This will be a ZOOM meeting.

**13 March 2022; 4:00 PM**

**"USNA Glee Club Performance"**

**(FREE - No Tickets Required)**

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
3900 West End Avenue, Nashville, TN

**22 March 2022; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

**"Nashville International Airport Update"**

**Ms. Traci Holton**

Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority  
Old Natchez Country Club  
115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

**7 April 2022; 7- 8:00 AM**

**"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"**

NGATN Office, 4332 Kenilwood Dr., Nashville, TN

**26 April 2022; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

**"Annual Personal Affairs Meeting"**

**Dr. Jackie Pair, Ed.D.**

Vocational Development Specialist, Nashville VA  
Old Natchez Country Club  
115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

### Legislative Update

The Decennial Census specified in the Constitution was taken in 2020 with the allocation of congressional districts taking effect for the 2022 elections. There was no impact on Tennessee representation with the number of seats in the House of Representatives remaining at nine. What does impact us is the redrawing of district boundaries in our chapter's area. Some of our members will find themselves in a redrawn district and with a different member of congress after the upcoming elections.

New legislative boundaries were approved by the Tennessee Legislature. Some maps have been published but not with sufficient boundaries that would let us figure out what district we will vote within. Surely those maps will follow so be aware of what is coming for the November elections and then who will be elected to represent you beginning 3 January 2023. Immediately close to us is that Williamson County will be split between 2 districts and Davidson County for 3 districts. More will be coming our way on that subject, so watch this space.

The Census results also drive redistricting at the state level for our 99 representatives and 33 senators. Watch for more news coming after the Governor has signed the enabling legislation.

MTC members(6) joined 11 members of other TN MOAA Chapters and nearly 175 members of other veterans organizations in attending the "TNVET Veterans Day on the Hill" in Nashville on 3 February. This is an annual event organized by TNVET to connect veterans' groups with our elected leadership to seek their support for a number of legislative initiatives that impact veterans. A complete description of the issues discussed with 2022 legislators can be found at [2022 Legislation – Tennessee Veterans \(tnvet.org\)](http://2022Legislation-TennesseeVeterans(tnvvet.org)). The day of our visitation was the last day to introduce bills in this legislative session, so this list will be revised to include bill numbers as soon as they are available.

One of the major legislative initiatives that we are discussed is a test trial of online voting for deployed members of the uniformed services. That trial would occur in Montgomery County. Many states have engaged such deployment voting with West Virginia taking the lead. The intention is to work out a system for Tennessee before the federal level gets engaged so that Tennessee does not need to create a system out of nothing to catch up. There will be more news on this as the year passes.

On the Federal level, MOAA has unveiled a new legislative action center, which can be found at [MOAA | Take Action Center \(quorum.us\)](http://MOAA|TakeActionCenter(quorum.us)). This new site lists active legislative campaigns and offers a deep dive into key advocacy issues and how to engage with lawmakers. Please make use of this capability to share your views with our Federal legislators.

Ted Edwards, CDR USN (Ret.)  
Legislative Affairs Liaison