



Middle Tennessee Chapter

A 2022 5-Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter

Military Officers Association of America



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

November 2023

Editor: Doug Minton

Our Next Monthly Meeting:

28 November 2023; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

“U. S. Army Recruiting”

LTC Kirsten S. McFarland
Commander, Nashville Army
Recruiting Battalion

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

LTC Kirsten McFarland is a 2002 graduate of Saint Bonaventure University in New York where she received a Regular Army Commission and a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing, before going on to earn a Master of Environmental Management from Webster University and a Master of Irregular Warfare from the Naval Postgraduate School.

McFarland started her career in the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, NC, where she deployed to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and then as a Platoon Leader to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom. She later commanded a Medical Company in Hawaii taking care of wounded, ill and injured Soldiers before moving to Tennessee for the first time.

McFarland served in the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, Airborne (SOAR(A)) at Fort Campbell, KY where she deployed again to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Freedom’s Sentinel. After a second tour at Fort Bragg, McFarland returned to Fort Campbell to 5th Special Forces Group, Airborne (5SFG(A)) and deployed to Turkey with the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force – Syria.

She was then chosen to manage careers of officers in her career field (majors and lieutenant colonels) at Army Human Resources Command at Fort Knox before serving as the Branch Chief, overseeing Army manning and career development for all chemical officers and warrant officers in the active Army.

Prior to assuming command in Nashville, McFarland served for nearly two years at the US Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) in Tampa, FL in the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Directorate. While in Tampa, she also served as the Vice-President of the Tampa ROCKS, a Chapter of the ROCKS National Mentorship Organization.

Her awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, the Afghanistan and Iraq Campaign Medals, the Global War on Terror Service Medal, the NATO Medal, German Parachutist Wings in Bronze, the Parachutist Badge, and the Combat Action Badge.

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Chapter Contact Information

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Ways to Gift and Honor

The end of the year brings multiple ways for members to provide joy for children, and honor those who have passed on. We will be collecting toy donations for the annual Marine Corps Toys for Tots campaign. If you would like to participate, please bring a new, unwrapped toy to the November luncheon. The toy should be \$20 or lower in value. Each donation is bound to delight the child who receives it!

To honor those veterans and their family members who are buried at the Middle TN State Veterans Cemetery, please consider purchasing a wreath through the Wreaths Across America program. The wreaths are \$17 each and for every two wreaths you purchase, a third wreath is added for free. Purchases must be made by Tuesday, November 28, 2023. The link for this program and for the Civil Air Patrol fundraiser are listed on the calendar.

President’s Letter

November is here and the holiday season is ready to take off! I hope your Thanksgiving will be joyful and safe; and I hope to see you at our November 28, 2023, luncheon at Old Natchez Country Club, which will be our final one for 2023.

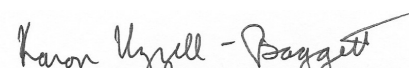
Our October luncheon at OSDTN coincided with a chapter visit from MOAA National, which occurs every two-three years. CAPT Bud Schneeweis, USCG, Retired, who served for years as a MOAA staff member and is now on the organization’s Board of Directors, visited the chapter. He discussed the various initiatives available to benefit chapter members and stressed MOAA’s advocacy. *Fortunately, our chapter is already actively engaged on all these fronts!*

This month we will focus on the state of armed forces recruiting with a brief on the United States Army’s efforts. Lieutenant Colonel Kirsten McFarland, USA, of the Nashville Recruiting Battalion, will discuss the current and future states of military recruiting. The All-Volunteer Force (AVF) is one of MOAA’s advocacy issues. Since 1973, the landscape for recruiting individuals motivated to serve the country has changed dramatically as the talent pool has shrunk. In FY 2023, only two services, the United States Marine Corps and Space Force, met their enlisted, active duty recruiting goals. To quote MOAA, “The AVF is our national strategic advantage. Maintaining such a capability requires protecting the quality of life for our uniformed community.”

I hope that you have looked at the November 2023 edition of *Military Officer* magazine. We are one of 29 chapters who have endowed scholarships to benefit military dependents. Your contributions have made a difference for countless young men and women. Attendees at our October luncheon heard how our contributions have benefitted one 2022 recipient. It was very moving and there is still time to make a scholarship donation to enrich a student’s academic pursuits.

MOAA Charities has opened its annual education assistance period which will run from 1 Nov. 2023, until 1 Mar. 2024. Students interested in an interest-free loan must be 24 years of age or younger with an officer or enlisted parent. Other requirements are found at <https://moaacharities.smapply.us/>

Finally, I hope you enjoy a wonderful Veterans Day. Thank you for honorably serving!


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 248th Birthday to the
United States Marine Corps
(November 10, 1775)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events

28 November 2023; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

"USA Army Recruiting"

LTC Kirsten McFarland, USA

Old Natchez Country Club,

115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin TN 37069

**** Please note date Change****

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28 November 2023; 11:30 AM

"MTC Annual Toys for Tots Collection"

Collection at our November meeting.

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7 December 2023; 7-8:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

Zoom

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16 December 2023; 11:00 AM

"Wreaths Across America"

Middle TN State Veterans Cemetery

Civil Air Patrol: <https://>

www.wreathscrossamerica.org/TN0346P

Wreathes Across America Program:

www.wreathscrossamerica.org/TN0080

7931 McCrory Lane, Nashville, TN 37221

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**** No Meeting December 2023****

"Happy Holidays"

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4 January 2024; 7-8:00 AM

"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"

NGATN Offices, 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN

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17 January 2024; 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

"TN Council of Chapters Meeting"

Sammy B's Restaurant, Lebanon, TN

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23 January 2024; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon

"2023 Year in Review"

Lt Col. Karon Uzzell-Baggett

115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin TN 37069

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31 January 2024; Time TBA

"Tennessee Veterans Day on the Hill"

Legislative Update

Have you needed to choose whether to work on something urgent or important? Certainly, you have worked that struggle. Your representatives and senators must live and work in that struggle, too. They are trying to juggle lots of balls – some are urgent and pressing; some are important; some are both; maybe some are neither. Whew!

With November beginning, there is that nasty item both urgent and important about keeping the federal government operating. It is only two weeks before the continuing resolution runs out on 17 November, and well over half the time available to work on budget was lost with the demise of the Speaker of the House. Maybe staff work and ideas could be worked, but nothing could be accomplished in the House until a speaker was finally chosen and the House got back in session. Now time is getting short, and the matters are urgent. Getting the work done is why we elect and pay them.

Our uniformed forces work within that budget. Here are a few important matters that become urgent within budgeting, and time is getting short:

* Protecting TriCare for Life – keeping it as a paid benefit by opposing CBO attempts to require us to pay.

* Restoring BAH to 100% of local rent and utilities.

* Ensuring that pharmacy benefits become restored and strong.

As important as these matters are for those who serve, they become urgent at budget time.

That matter about Tricare fees impacts our whole community – active, reserve, and retired. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) raises this up every year to save dollars on the backs of those who serve. It just never goes away, so neither should advocacy by MOAA and by us individually. This is an opportunity for you to communicate by using moaa.quantum.com. Please do that errand right now.

Other news: COLA looks like 3.2% and military pay at 4.5%.

More will come on it, but **Vets Day on the Hill at the State Capitol on Wednesday, 31 January**. This is something we can all attend and participate in, so please mark your calendar and watch for news about registration.

CDR Ted Edwards, USN Retired, MTC Legislative Liaison