



**Middle Tennessee Chapter**  
**A 2023 5-Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter**  
**Military Officers Association of America**



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

August 2024

Editor: Doug Minton

**MTC Monthly Meeting:**

**27 August 2024; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

**“Tennessee Maneuvers”**

**Mr. Benjamin Nance**

TN Division of Archaeology

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin TN 37069

The Middle Tennessee area played a distinct role in the preparation for U.S. involvement in World War II through its participation in the Tennessee Maneuvers.

Mr. Ben Nance, archaeologist with the Tennessee Division of Archaeology (TDOA) will join us this month to discuss the Tennessee Maneuvers and the role they played prior to and during the war effort.

Mr. Nance researched World War II sites in Tennessee and published a detailed study in 2007, and interest has only grown in this subject during the 79 years since the war ended. The Tennessee Maneuvers began in June 1941, approximately 6 months before the United States entered the war and concluded in March 1944. Twenty-one counties were involved in these engagements. Quoting from Mr. Nance’s 2007, “An Archaeological Study of World War II Military Sites in Tennessee”, “World War II activity in Tennessee can be divided into three general categories: military facilities and activities, civilian manufacturing of war materials, and civilian activities supporting the war effort (bond drives, scrap metal collection, waste fat collection, victory gardens, etc.). The United States Army and Navy established several facilities throughout Tennessee including training camps, air bases, prisoner of war camps, and bombing and artillery ranges. Perhaps the greatest impact that the military had on Tennessee was the series of military training exercises collectively known as the Tennessee Maneuvers.”

Research on this topic is part of the work undertaken by the Tennessee Division of Archaeology. This office, aligned under the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, is tasked with documenting and preserving Tennessee’s prehistoric and historic archaeological resources. The division maintains records of all known archaeological sites, issues permits for archaeological work conducted on state land and regularly produces electronic and written publications. In addition to his research on the Tennessee Maneuvers, Mr. Nance has also conducted meticulous research and authored publications on sites related to the American Revolution and the War of 1812, the Trail of Tears routes in Tennessee, and the birthplace of Cordell Hull.

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**“OSDTN Hunger Action Project”**

Our Chapter has a Community Service Project coming up in association with Operation Stand Down TN (OSDTN).

On 20 September 2024 we will meet from 12:00 - 3:00 PM, at OSDTN , (1125 South 12th Avenue, Nashville, TN 37203) to assist in packing community food bags for the middle Tennessee veterans community, in conjunction with the OSDTN Operation Commissary program.

The project involves packing and loading food bags that will be delivered by OSDTN to registered participants.

There is some bending and lifting involved, and depending on the number of MTC members that participate it normally does not take the full three hours. It is a casual opportunity for camaraderie with fellow members in support of a very good cause. Please volunteer if you can!

**President’s Letter**

I’m switching up the focus of the newsletter this month because the most important issues are legislative advocacy for the health of our armed forces and the continued support for their members and families, current and former; MOAA Chapters and MTC Chapter membership; and support for one of our members in representing MOAA members at the national level. With so much instability in the international world and uncertainty with how to deal with that instability here at home, our continued efforts at every level are critical for success.

The full House has approved the fiscal 2025 and VA spending bills, but they include many riders considered to be non-starters in the Senate. The Senate Appropriations Committee (SASC) has sent its version of those bills to the full Senate, but no further action has been taken. Since there is such short time between when Congress returns from its August recess and the government funding deadline, stop-gap funding is expected to be approved, but that means extending current funding levels at least through November elections. Please sign up for MOAA’s Legislative Action Center at <https://moaa.quorum.us> and make your opinions known to your legislators!

Did you know that only about 10% of the over 300,000 MOAA members are chapter members? Obviously, I believe our chapter does good work supporting local military-related initiatives through our annual scholarship and charity efforts. However, I also believe our chapter provides good value to our members through opportunities to continue to serve and of course great camaraderie. Please continue to let your contacts know about MOAA and our chapter and bring them to one of our luncheons (always enjoyable and worthwhile!). Chapter membership for them is free through the end of each year!

Our own Lt Col Karon Uzzell-Baggett, USAF (ret.) has volunteered to serve on MOAA’s Board of Directors, and I cannot think of a better example of “Never Stop Serving!”. As you know, Karon served as our immediate past chapter president, and in that role, she initiated several projects supporting veterans and their families. Karon’s efforts led to our Chapter receiving its first MOAA Grant funds (seven grants over three years to be exact) for community outreach and engagement in the Middle Tennessee area. Karon is deserving of our full support, so please go to [moaa.org/vote](https://moaa.org/vote) and cast your vote.

Finally, I look forward to seeing you at the August monthly luncheon where we will hear from Mr. Benjamin Nance, TN Division of Archaeology, on the “Tennessee Maneuvers.” We will meet at Old Natchez Country Club again this month on August 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am. 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 77th Birthday to the U. S. Air Force -  
18 September 1947.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### Upcoming Programs & Events

**27 August 2024; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

**"Tennessee Maneuvers"**

**Mr. Benjamin Nance**

TN Division of Archaeology

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin TN 37069

**5 September 2024: 7-8:00 AM**

**"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"**

NGATN , 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

**20 September 2024; 12:00 - 3:00 PM**

**"OSDTN Hunger Action Project"**

(MTC Service Project - Packing Food Bags)

OSDTN, 1125 South 12th Avenue, Nashville, TN 37203

**24 September 2024: 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

**"TN Department of Homeland Security"**

**LT Greg Mays, USN**

Deputy Commissioner, TN Homeland Security

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin TN 37069

**3 October 2024: 7-8:00 AM**

**"MTC Monthly Board Meeting"**

NGATN , 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

**5 October 2024; 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

**"7th Annual VetFest"**

Sponsored by VetLinx [www.VetLinx.org](http://www.VetLinx.org)

Granny White Park, 610 Granny White Pike, Brentwood

**14 October 2024: Check-In 9:00 AM**

A Soldier's Child Foundation Fundraiser

**"16th Annual Celebrity Golf Scramble"**

[Register to Play](#)

Old Natchez Country Club, 115 Gardengate Drive,

Franklin TN 37069

**22 October 2024: 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting

**"Battle of Shiloh"**

**Mr. Richard White**

Chief Curator, Tennessee State Museum

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin TN 37069

### Legislative Update

"It's Summertime ..." and I wish you well, so I wrote for our July issue.

Well, now it is August, and what does Congress do in August? They recess for vacation time. Now I would be the last to begrudge vacation time for our elected representatives in Washington. They work hard for us; they keep two places to live and travel back to Tennessee often, so they spend a lot of time away from families. It's almost like deploying, but not quite.

Important is that they leave a LOT of unfinished work on the desk with a hard deadline facing them when they get back into session. The fiscal year ends 30 September during the busy election season. Here is what a non-Tennessee congressman friend wrote in a newspaper editorial earlier in July:

*With just two legislative weeks left before Congress adjourns for August recess, the U.S. House of Representatives has only passed four of the 12 government funding bills that must be completed before the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30. And the Senate has yet to pass a single government funding bill for the upcoming fiscal year. When members of Congress return on Sept. 9, we will only have three legislative weeks to pass the remaining eight funding bills.*

Will all this work get done on time? Timeliness is apparently not a virtue on Capitol Hill. That congressman had proposed a bill that would keep all those legislators in Washington through August if the budget bills had not been passed. An incentive! This would be a great time to write to your representatives and senators about how much it matters to get budgeting done on time.

Right now is a great time to join the Legislative Action Center to send such messages. That website is [www.moaa.org/takeaction](http://www.moaa.org/takeaction). Lawmakers' offices are very receptive to constituent requests, and it is easy to send them.

Another matter: MOAA elections are coming as well. On page 17 of your Military Officer magazine is the photo and write-up for our Immediate Chapter President as a candidate. It's not political for me to ask for your vote for Lt Col Karon Uzzell-Baggett for the MOAA Board come 1 August when the MOAA polls open.

And, it's still summertime! Be safe and well.

CDR Ted Edwards, USN (ret.)  
MTC Legislative Liaison