



THE TERRITORIAL



TUCSON CHAPTER OF THE ARIZONA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

APRIL 2024

National MOAA and the Tucson MOAA Chapter are non-partisan



FROM THE EAGLES NEST

**By Col Tom Owens,
Tucson Chapter President**

We continue to conduct meetings in Vail to expand our chapter. We have had seven MOAA members show interest so far. MOAA National says there are over 100 MOAA members in this area. The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 20, at Del Lago Golf Restaurant, at 1130. Please attend if you are interested.

The University of Arizona Air Force banquet was held on campus on April 5. I awarded a MOAA Medal to Air Force Cadet Ryan Palmer. It was a great event with about 300 people in attendance.

number of billets, full and part-time, including aircraft maintenance, a specialized skill. He asked us to spread the word that the Base is recruiting and emphasized that the National Guard provides the opportunity to serve in one's hometown. [Careers, benefits, and contact info](#) can be accessed through the Base website.

We also presented MOAA National Leadership Awards and coins to ESGR Chair Ross Orvik and Surviving Spouse Liaison and



Territorial Editor Polly Parks. We are very grateful that they "Never Stop Serving."



Colonel Greg Hoffman, Deputy Commander, 162nd Air Wing at the Morris Air National Guard Base here in Tucson gave a most informative discussion at our March meeting. The ANG Base has a unique mission. They train allied pilots

on F-16s, including those acquired through Foreign Military Sales. The base has a large



Our next Tucson meeting is April 26 at Trattoria Pina at 1130. We plan to award scholarships to the University of Arizona: Air Force: Cadet Anders Noreng; Navy: MIDN 4/C Nolar Baker; and Army Cadet Mabry Baker. Please join us.

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Upcoming Tucson Chapter Meetings

The April Luncheon is scheduled for
1130 Thursday, April 25
Presentation of MOAA Chapter Scholarships
UA Air Force, Army, and Navy ROTC Cadets
Venue: [Trattoria Pina](#), 5541 N Swan, near Sunrise.

The May Luncheon is scheduled for 1130 Thursday, May 23
Speaker: Tucson Ward 5 City Councilmember Richard Fimbres.
Venue: [Trattoria Pina](#), 5541 N Swan, near Sunrise.

Richard Fimbres is a dedicated public servant serving as a Tucson City Council Member for Ward 5 in Arizona. He has been in office since 2009 and is currently representing the community until December 1, 2025. As a lifelong resident of Ward 5, Richard brings a wealth of experience and commitment to his role. Richard served 2 years in the US Army, followed by 25 years in the Arizona Army National Guard and US Army Reserve, honorably retiring in 2002.

MOAA Tucson / Vail Meeting

MOAA Tucson / Vail will hold its next meeting Saturday, April 20 at Del Lago Golf Restaurant, in Vail, at 1130. Please let me know if you will attend and please invite any military officers (active or retired) you know to attend. Please come and participate.

April Agenda includes Pledge, Esperanza en Escalante, MOAA April Awards for ROTC and JROTC (including Vail's Cienega NJROTC), March Stand Down event, and future Tucson meetings including a non-partisan September candidates forum.

Col Tom Owens
President, MOAA Tucson Chapter
520-400-9561 cell

<https://tucsonmoaa.org/> <https://www.dellagogolf.net/>

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TUCSON BOARD MEETINGS

The Tucson MOAA Board meets the first Wednesday of the month, at 2 p.m. via ZOOM. Members are invited to submit items for consideration to the Secretary: pam.devine@azmoves.com, not later than one week prior to the meeting. If you desire to participate, please email rorvik@orvik.com to receive the access link.

Eagles Nest continued from page 1

This month, chapter members will be awarding medals to leading JROTC cadets at Cienega, Desert View, Flowing Wells, and Cholla High Schools.

Our May meeting will feature a presentation by Tucsonan native, Army retiree, and Ward 5 Councilmember Richard Fimbres. The May Meeting is the last till September.

In September we plan to host a non-partisan Candidates Forum since it is election season. We will let you know who will participate. MOAA National will visit our chapter during our September meeting. They usually visit each chapter once every two years. We will let you know who will come as the time gets closer.

Gary Pettett has stepped down as our Treasurer and Membership Chair. Gary will still attend meetings when he is in town. He usually goes to Idaho for the summer.

The Arizona Council of Chapters meeting is scheduled for May 2-3 in Surprise, Arizona. All 10 MOAA Chapters plan to participate to share activities and programs.



Tucson-Catalina Mountains joint proposal to MOAA Foundation garners \$1,000 donation to Tucson Veterans Supporting Veterans Stand-Down

The MOAA Foundation gave a \$1,000 donation to a joint Tucson-Catalina Mountains proposal to support the annual Tucson Veterans Supporting Veterans stand-down. Ann Hollis, representing the two chapters took items, such as underwear, socks, toiletries, and sunblock, and delivered them on March 12 to the stand-town team. In addition to male and female veterans, the stand-down also supports wives of indigent veterans. Ann noted the stand-down also took clothes in good condition like suits and shirts but did not have a lot of clothes for women. She noted it “could be a good opportunity for us to clean out our closets next year.”

Right: Ann Hollis with team members. Lower: a table with some of the items given out at the Stand-Down.



WWII MIA TSgt Seifried To Be Interned at Marana Veteran’s Memorial Cemetery

The Defense Prisoner of War and Missing in Action Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced that Army Air Forces Technical Sergeant Harlod L Seifreid, 31, of Philadelphia, PA, killed during WWII, was accounted for on Nov 21, 2023. TSgt Seifreid will be buried Friday, April 19, 2024, at noon at the Marana Veteran’s Memorial Cemetery, 15950 N Lockett Rd.

Seifreid was the radio operator on the B24J Liberator tail# 42-73196 assigned to the 436th Bombardment Squadron, 7th Bombardment Group, 10th Air Force. They were part of a formation of B-24s on a bombing mission to the Insein Railroad Yard north of Rangoon, Burma. After the bombing run, the B-24 was hit in the left wing by anti-aircraft fire, began smoking badly, and dove sharply to the left chased by three enemy fighters. They were last seen descending into a cloud bank. He received the Air Medal and Purple Heart.

Legislative Update

By Ann Hollis, USAF LtCol (Ret), *Legislative Chair*

MOAA's annual Advocacy in Action (AiA) campaign, including the April 17 Hill visit to all Senate and House offices, takes place mid-month. MOAA Chapter members from across the country will educate Legislators on [three 2024 priorities and "Asks."](#) If you click the links below, you will go directly to the MOAA Action Center to contact our congressional members to ask them to support MOAA's priorities before the April 17th AiA visits. Our congressional members must know there is grassroots support for these important issues. The 2024 priorities are:

Support Combat-Injured Veterans

The Ask: The Major Richard Star Act would end an unjust pay offset that prevents tens of thousands of retired servicemembers from receiving the compensation they deserve. [Ask Congress to include the bill in the upcoming National Defense Authorization Act.](#) In our catchment area, Senators Kelly and Sinema have signed on to the Senate bill. Rep. Grijalva was an original co-sponsor of the House bill, and pressure from MOAA members, among others, has moved Rep. Ciscomani to sign on.

Restore the Basic Allowance for Housing

The Ask: Ever-growing housing costs are just one of the financial challenges faced by servicemembers and their families, especially young enlisted personnel. [Ask Congress to ensure BAH again covers 100% of housing costs.](#)

Protect TRICARE For Life

The Ask: This earned benefit is under threat -- unfair fees and cost shares now under consideration are misguided cost-saving options. [Ask Congress to reject these ideas not just for current retirees, but to protect future generations of servicemembers.](#)

You can learn more about these vital priorities by clicking the links on the [2024 MOAA Advocacy in Action page](#). Each item has background information, additional resources, and FAQs.

Arizona Legislative News: We need you to continue to push our state representatives in the

Senate and House to support these important legislation!

[S.B. 1413](#) had its third read in the Senate mid-March and passed, and has had its second reading in the House. The bill expands the individual income tax subtraction for active service compensation to include compensation received for active service in the U.S. Uniformed Services, rather than the U.S. Armed Forces. Our catchment area state legislators have not signed on. Please contact our state Senators and Representatives to ensure they support this important bill.

[S.B. 1206](#) Military Spouse Tuition has passed the Senate and was placed on the House consent calendar in mid-March. Both the Majority and Minority Caucus have said yes. Please encourage our local House members to vote yes when the bill comes to the floor.

[SB1375](#), died in Committee vote in early March. The bill, introduced last session, would have amended current law to include NOAA and USPHS active members in the active duty pay exemption in ARS 43-1022

The Tucson and CMC member catchment areas are comprised of Legislative Districts 17, 18, 20, and a part of 21.

LD-17: Sen. Justine Wadsack, 602-926-3106, JWadsack@azleg.gov; Rep. Rachel Jones, 602-926-3558, rachel.jones@azleg.gov; Rep. Cory McGarr, (602) 926-3630, CMc-Garr@azleg.gov.

LD-18: Sen. Priya Sundareshan, (602) 926-3437, PSundareshan@azleg.gov; Rep. Nancy Gutierrez, (602) 926-4134,

NGutierrez@azleg.gov; Rep. Christopher Mathis, (602) 926-3138, CMathis@azleg.gov. **LD-20:**

Sen. Sally Ann Gonzalez, (602) 926-3278, SGonzalez@azleg.gov; Rep. André Cano, (602) 926-3027, ACa-no@azleg.gov; Rep. Alma Hernandez, (602) 926-3136,

AHernandez@azleg.gov. **LD-21:** Sen. Rosanna Gabaldón, (602) 926-3424,

RGalbaldon@azleg.gov; Rep. Consuelo Hernandez, (602) 926-3523,

Surviving Spouse & Personal Affairs

Millions of Vets Exposed to Toxins Eligible for VA Health Care on March 5th.

MOAA Editor's note: This abridged article by Patricia Kime originally appeared on [Military.com](#), a leading source of news for the military and veteran community.

Millions of U.S. veterans are eligible beginning March 5th for health care with the Department of Veterans Affairs under an accelerated effort to provide benefits and services to those exposed to toxic substances while serving.

The VA announced that all veterans who have served in a combat zone since the Vietnam War, as well as those who participated in training or operations and came into contact with hazardous materials, will be able to enroll in VA health care.

The expansion of health care benefits was mandated by the [PACT Act, signed into law by President Joe Biden in August 2022](#), which required the expansion to occur by 2032. VA officials said last month the acceleration is a result of a hiring blitz made possible by provisions in the law.

Under the PACT Act, over 100,000 veterans have enrolled in VA health care and roughly 760,000 disability claims have been approved. VA officials did not detail exactly how many veterans now will be eligible for care under the expansion but said the figure is in the "millions."

The expansion allows all veterans who deployed to combat zones in support of the Vietnam, Persian Gulf, Iraq, and Afghanistan wars to enroll in VA health care. In addition, veterans who never deployed but were exposed to pollutants while participating in a known "toxic exposure risk activity," or TERA, either in the U.S. or abroad, will be eligible. That would include exposure while on active duty, active-duty training or inactive-duty training to: air pollutants from burn pits, particulate matter, sulfur or oil well fires; chemicals such as pesticides, herbicides, contaminated water or depleted uranium from embedded shrapnel; occupational hazards such as lead, industrial solvents, toxic paint, asbestos and firefighting foam; radiation, including nuclear weapons handling, maintenance and detonation, X-rays and occupational exposure; and chemical or

biological weapons or nerve agents.

According to the VA, the department will use service records and other resources to determine whether a veteran participated in a TERA. Veterans are not required to have a service-connected disability or file a compensation claim to be eligible for VA care.

New enrollees will have access to a toxic exposure screening provided by their primary care physician and may be referred to specialty care depending on need. They also will be assessed for placement in the VA's priority-based health system and referred to the Veterans Benefits Administration if they qualify for additional benefits.

The Veterans Health Administration has set a goal to hire 52,000 employees this fiscal year, which, when factoring in attrition, should grow its workforce by 3%. The increases could help to absorb new patients, meet demand, and standardize -- or even improve -- wait times. The VA is encouraging veterans to apply for care or benefits by visiting the [VA.gov/PACT](#) website or calling 1-800-MYVA411.

ONLINE UNIFORMED SERVICES ID CARD (USID) RENEWAL

USID CARDS

- Issued to retired and reserve uniformed Service members, dependent family members, and other eligible individuals in accordance with DoD policy
- Used for access to benefits, privileges, and DoD facilities

CURRENT RENEWAL PROCESS

- Must be done **in person** at a RAPIDS site
- Often requires an appointment scheduled in advance
- No opportunity to renew online

WHAT'S CHANGING?

- Sponsors can request card renewals **online**, from anywhere
- Cards will be mailed to the cardholder via US mail
- No in-person requirement for most renewals

REQUIREMENTS

- Sponsor must be a CAC holder and requesting a renewal of an active USID card
- Sponsor and Cardholder must have email addresses listed in DEERS that they have authorized DoD to use for contacting them
- Sponsor's personnel status must extend at least 30 days in the future from the renewal request date
- Cardholder has a photo saved in DEERS taken in the last 12 years
- Cardholder's mailing address is present in DEERS and is in United States
 - USID cards **cannot** be shipped to PO Boxes

FOR MORE INFORMATION

See ID Card Office Online (IDCO): <https://idco.dmcs.osd.mil/idco/>

D-M RAO Meeting

This was the last Board meeting until September. RAO Director Charles Schable's wife is continuing to have health problems and it is impacting his ability to be present at the RAO office four days a week. The RAO has put out a call for a Deputy Director; the position requires a retired officer or chief. The position requires at least 2 days in the office per week and must have computer skills. In addition, a Technical Computer Support person is needed. A call was put out for a RAO Newsletter (quarterly, electronic) editor, but I (Polly) have volunteered. In addition, the office always needs volunteers who can "man" the reception desk and answer phones, even if just once a week. Hours are 0900 to 1400 (2 pm). Training is provided. If interested, call 520-228-5100.

Base News: The offices of the Wing Cdr and Operations could not make the meeting due to some unexpected problems. **VITA** is going gangbusters as it heads toward April 15, after which it will shut its doors till next year. Over 1800 state and 1700 federal returns have been submitted. Almost \$1 million in commercial tax preparation fees have been saved. **Freedom Festival** is scheduled for June; fireworks are included. The base is moving towards two annual large festivals and smaller ones monthly. The **Exchange** will have a May 3 Grand Reopening. April is Military Child Month and several events are planned. May will see a May 4 Beauty and Mother's Day events. After renovation, the **Express** will include a Hunts Bros make-your-pizza station. Coolers and snack aisles is scheduled for a redo. The Express will remain open the entire time. The **Pharmacy** is making a change in its training hours which currently close the facility one day a month. Starting in June, every Wednesday will have two-hour training and the Pharmacy will open at 0900. With Snowbird Season volunteers are needed. The April-June **RAO Newsletter** has gone out.

SAVAHCS Volunteer: The 8th Anniversary of Fisher House was celebrated. There will be a Last Roll Call Ceremony of Remembrance on Friday, April 12 from 1 p.m. to 2 pm. This honors the lives and sacrifices of SAVAHCS veterans who have passed away. Third week of April, where approximately 280 volunteers will be honored during A World of Difference, which will include a volunteer meeting and barbeque. Whole Health for veterans and staff has begun which includes Tai Chi and yoga. Van drivers are needed.

Right: Barb Estes, RAO Newsletter Editor, presents a quilt she made for SAVAHCS Hospice to Kimmy Kamerer, SAVAHCS Center for Development and Civic Engagement at the April 1 D-M RAO meeting.



Projected Gate Operations (4 Mar – 31 May 24).

CRAYCROFT: Projected long term closure from 4 Mar 24 – 31 May 24

VISITOR CENTER (located outside Craycroft) - Mon-Sun / 24 hours; no hour changes. Expect traffic flow delays during Craycroft closure

SWAN: Mon-Sun / 24 hours till Craycroft opens.

N. WILMOT - Mon-Fri / 0600-1800. Closed on holidays. Change of hours started when Craycroft closed. Hours may adjust based upon utilization rate.

S. WILMOT - Mon-Fri / 0500-0900 & 1330-1800. Long term construction projected to start – May 2024

NOTE: These hours are subject to short notice changes in order to meet emerging requirements or construction timelines.

Tucson ROTC/JROTC 2024 Awardees

The MOAA ROTC/JROTC Medal

The MOAA ROTC awards program recognizes an outstanding cadet (or midshipman) in their next-to-last year in the ROTC program who has demonstrated exceptional potential for military leadership. All military services have officially approved the medal for presentation. The recipient is selected by the unit commander using the following criteria:

A candidate must be in the next-to-last year of an ROTC or JROTC program; be in good academic standing; be of high moral character; demonstrate a high degree of loyalty to the unit, school, and country; and demonstrate exceptional potential for military leadership.

The TUCSON Chapter MOAA ROTC/ Scholarship

The Tucson Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America is proud to sponsor the Lieutenant Colonel John A. Devine Memorial Scholarships each year to recognize outstanding cadets or midshipmen in each of our military services' ROTC programs at the University of Arizona. Each scholarship is presented in memory of or to honor a veteran of our United States Military Services. They are sponsored jointly by the Tucson Chapter and families, friends, or other veterans to honor the service and sacrifices of previously or currently serving veterans. The ROTC cadet or midshipman receiving this award has demonstrated exceptional potential for military leadership, is of high moral character, is in good academic standing, and has shown a high degree of loyalty to the unit, their school, and our country.

This year the Tucson Chapter of MOAA will award \$2,000 scholarships to Air Force ROTC Cadet Anders Noreng, Army ROTC cadet Mabry Robinson, and Navy ROTC MIDN 4/C Nolan Baker. MOAA Medals will be awarded to Air Force ROTC Cadet Ryan Palmer, Army ROTC Cadet Brett St. John, and Navy ROTC MIDN 2/C Travis Guzman.

MOAA Medal Recipients for the high school-based JROTC programs are Cienega HS NJROTC Cadet Natalie Tellez; Desert View HS AFJROTC Cadet Dulce Cardenas; Flowing Wells HS AJROTC Cadet Riley Ramirez; and Cholla HS AFJROTC Cadet Charles Trostle.

WHO CAN JOIN MOAA?

MOAA membership is open to all officers, commissioned or warrant, whether on active duty, retired, former, reserve or national guard and their surviving spouse of all the eight uniformed services, including the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the Public Health Service.

To join the Tucson Chapter, click the Join Our Chapter button on our Chapter's home page: <http://www.tucsonmoaa.org/>.

MOAA Tucson Chapter Mission

1. Advocate and support MOAA national goals.
2. Advocate and support the Arizona and metro Tucson programs, activities, and proposed legislation.
3. Encourage and promote a spirit of volunteerism and participation in programs and activities beneficial to Tucson civic and military communities.



TUCSON CHAPTER OFFICERS

(<http://www.tucsonmoaa.org>)

President: Tom Owens, Col, USAFR, (Ret), 520-760-3476/owensttt@gmail.com

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Legislative Chair/Personal Affairs/Veteran Committee Rep.: Ann Hollis, USAF LtCol (Ret), 520-749-3573; / annhollis@usa.net

Secretary: Pam Devine 520-401-0001 / Pam.Devine@azmoves.com

Treasurer/Membership Chair:

Scholarship Chair: Douglas May, LtCol, USAF, (Ret), 520-818-3309 / dougmay@gmail.com

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Volunteer to be a MOAA Mover

Tucson Chapter needs a Membership Chair and a Treasurer

Our MOAA programs and their quality depend on the voluntary efforts of our members. Please consider lending your *LEADERSHIP AND VOICE* to the Chapters' teams. Contact Tucson Chapter President Tom Owens at owensttt@gmail.com .

Contact Your Legislator and Urge Them to Support the All-Volunteer Force

LOCAL VA CONTACTS

Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS) 520-792-1450 or 1-800-470-8262
Suicide Prevention Coordinator 520-792-1450 extension 6415
Caregiver Support Program 520-792-1450 extension 5390
Patient Advocate Office 520-629-1819
Care in the Community 520-792-1450 extension 6555
Women's Health Clinic 520-629-4885

Center for Development & Civic Engagement
520-629-1822

D-M AFB CONTACT NUMBERS

Base Welcome Center 520-228-4886
Info and Referral Services 520-228-5690
ID/CAC card processing 520-228-4425
Base Exchange 520-748-7887
Commissary 520-228-3116
Retiree Activities Office 520-228-5100
VSO 520-275-7633