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*Spring!*



## President's Message

*Fred Jaffin*

Spring weather seems to have finally arrived after a spat of rather cold mornings and nights. But it looks like it will be a dry year again.

There are good things happening with our Chapter, that I need to highlight for you. First, this week we had a very informative and thought provoking presentation at our General Members Meeting, with LCDR Grant Hatten, USNR, on the Pacific Rim geopolitics, and specifically US Navy operational challenges currently and in the future. Thanks to our First Vice and Program's Director, Lance Sapera, CDR, USN, Ret. for arranging this and our upcoming presentations (that I will remind you later). And, another thanks for our CAL MOAA President, Fred Green, LCDR, USN, Retired, and Area 2 VP Gil Borgardt, Captain, USN, Retired for joining us. I counted about 25 participants for this Zoom meeting.

Our membership has hit 95 members this year, and we are way ahead of last year at this time. A big thanks to CDR Rudolf Bredderman for his absolute untiring efforts in getting us there!

*Editor: Ramona Chávez, Capt., USAF (Ret)*



**Guest Speaker: Mr. John Bennett, Retired  
FBI Assistant Director in Charge, Los Angeles,  
and Special Agent in charge of the 911 FBI**

**MOAA – ONE ASSOCIATION, ONE VOICE–  
YOURS**

**Take Action: <http://takeaction.moaa.org>**

2021 General Meetings Join us on <a href="#">Zoom</a>		
Jun 9 <sup>th</sup>	Aug 11 <sup>th</sup>	Nov 10 <sup>th</sup>

2021 Board of Directors Meetings <a href="#">Zoom</a> , 1030 to 1200		
May 4	Jun 1	-
Jul 6	Aug 3	Sep 7
Oct 5	Nov 2	Dec 7

**President’s Message...continued**

We also plan to check out alternative sites that we might be able to meet for in person member meetings and luncheons, perhaps as early as this summer. Again, getting your vaccines/virus immunity helps all of us to have some level of confidence in this return to normalcy.

Our next presentation on the 9th of June will be Mr. John Bennett, retired FBI Assistant Director in Charge, Los Angeles, and Special Agent in charge of the 911 FBI investigation.

Thank you all for the support for our Chapter!

**Visit our Website:**  
<http://www.alamedamoaa.org/>



<https://myturn.ca.gov/>



**Stay Informed**

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Upcoming Events	
Oct. 8 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Blues Cruise
Dec. 4 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Holiday Luncheon
<i>All events are dependent on COVID-19 county advisory</i>	

*Guest Speaker: Lcdr Grant Hatten, USNR, Commanding Officer, United States Pacific Fleet talks about maritime superiority.*

**In Case You Missed It: Guest Speaker**

*Lance Sapera, First VP & Program Director*

Thank you to all who joined our April Chapter Meeting to hear CDR (Sel.) Grant Hatten, SC, USNR cover “Globalization and the Great Power Competition.” We are also excited to share our next two guest speakers:

- June 9th: John Bennett, Retired FBI Assistant Director in Charge, Los Angeles
- August 11th: RDML Penoyer, USCG, Commander District 11

In case you missed Hatten’s review on, please visit:  
[https://talend.zoom.us/rec/share/3tHp56ecngw-zfAxnAcok9xyedEXI952r54Yva6-DIH6DdUCREjqJfpFlrOcJ6Z3.svdIKC9cyPfV\\_kUX](https://talend.zoom.us/rec/share/3tHp56ecngw-zfAxnAcok9xyedEXI952r54Yva6-DIH6DdUCREjqJfpFlrOcJ6Z3.svdIKC9cyPfV_kUX)  
 Passcode: PChCT7!A

## Honor Flight Bay Area Donations Accepted Through May

*Tulio Acquistapace, Immediate Past President*

Everyone wants money – emails and internet messages are swarming with every retired flag officer, police associations, veteran causes, etc. asking for money and seemed to have turned off our drive for Honor Flight donations. This is a request for all members to donate in any amount so we can send at least one veteran to Washington DC in the fall. Unlike all the others “give me money” requests 100% of your donation goes for the Honor Flight expenses -\$1000 will pay for a deserving Veteran to experience a memorable trip. **Your donation is tax deductible.**

**The Alameda MOAA Chapter will match up to \$500 in donations.**

The donation drive goes to the end of May with a planned presentation of funds at our June meeting. The directors of Honor Flight Bay Area are always impressed and appreciative of our chapter’s participation – remember, our board has approved \$500 matching funds from our treasury. Donate what you can - \$5 or more goes a long way.

### Get on board!

One hundred percent of your donation will go toward making a veteran have a once in a lifetime trip and deserving of his/hers sacrifice to our great nation. To contribute, please:



- Send checks to: CAPT. Warren McDonald, 1430 Wendy Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025
- PayPal to: [mcdcpa@gmail.com](mailto:mcdcpa@gmail.com)
- Payable to: Alameda Chapter MOAA Honor Flight
- Note “For Honor Flight donation”

### Membership

*Rudolf Bredderman, Membership Director*

*Welcome*

**Ensign Kenneth Scott, USCGA**

Ensign Scott is serving on active duty with the USCG Auxiliary. He joined national MOAA and they encouraged him to join our Alameda County Chapter. March was also a good month for membership renewals. Twenty one of our 2020 members renewed for 2021 in March. Then, I received another renewal in the first week of April. The Chapter now has 94 members (11 Active Duty, 8 Surviving Spouses, 2 Spouses and 73 Regular members). That still leaves 10 of our 2020 members who have not renewed; one has said he will renew, and one more who has not responded to my emails. I am hopeful both will renew. Three of our 2020 members have moved out of our area and two have declined to renew for health reasons. **My thanks to all who have renewed their Chapter membership for calendar year 2021!**

We need to recruit new members. If you have a friend, neighbor or acquaintance who has been an officer in any of our military services, please make them aware of our MOAA chapter and see if you can get them to join. Use the [membership application](#) included in this newsletter. If you give me their contact information, I’ll make contact and send them our most recent newsletter. Just send me an email [bredderman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bredderman@sbcglobal.net).

## FEATURED STORY

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**Editor's Note:** In our last featured series, we had the honor of sharing a soldier's story over two decades. We got his unique and storied perspective on how our military has transformed since the 1940s, and a glimpse of a soldier's life during the Korean War. Sidney Jordan, USA Maj. Reserve, Retired, gives us another look at the other chapter in his military career – Vietnam.

*This is a two-part series that will continue next month.*

*Thanks again Sid, for the privilege of sharing your story!*

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### **My Personal experiences in the Vietnam War: Part I**

*Sidney Jordan, USA Major, Reserve Retired*

In November 1965, I was alerted that I had been ordered to Vietnam and must be in country no later than 31 December 1965. At the time I was assigned to the Transportation Command on Okinawa. I was given until mid-December to clear government quarters and to arrange transportation for my family's return to California before heading to Vietnam.

I arrived in Saigon, Vietnam December 22<sup>nd</sup>. I was met there by my new unit's executive officer. He introduced himself as Major Ambercrombie, executive officer of the Transportation Management Agency for Region III. He told me that he had a C-130 ready to take us to Danang, Vietnam where our headquarters was located. He let me know I would be briefed on my new assignment when we landed.

#### **Briefing and Assignment**

When we arrived in Danang, we walked a short distance to a large hangar where inside there was a small building office. Inside, Major Ambercrombie was waiting for me to explain my assignment and mission.

He said, Captain Jordan you are assigned as the Air Traffic Coordinating Officer (ATCO) for Danang Air Force Base effective immediately. You are also assigned Summary Court Officer, Payroll Officer, and Morale Officer. You will be further briefed at tomorrow morning's staff meeting.

My briefing was very short, the bottom line was that the ATCO office was in terrible shape and they had information that I would be the officer that could get it operational and functional for the mission. I now realized how they knew about me, my former boss on Okinawa was promoted to Brigadier General and was ordered to Vietnam to head up the Transportation Management Agency (TMA)

The Overall Mission of the ATCO Officer was to provide consistent air transport of logistical support for the 3rd US Marine Division that was deployed throughout the far northern Region III of Vietnam. The ATCO had a fleet of 40 Aircrafts, 20 C-130 Hercules, and 20 C-123s to be used only by that office. As ATCO, it was essential to work arm-in-arm with the 15th Aerial Port Airlift Squadron who was responsible for the planes and pilots that were ready to fly 24/7.

## My First Day

My first day at the office I had a meeting with available staff and found a multitude of alarming things that were not being done:

- ATCO staff were unaccounted for
- Staff did not know what their jobs were
- Staff did not know what a Transportation Control Movement Document (TCMD) form was or what it was used for.
- Did not know what the ATCO's mission was
- No cargo called in for two months
- Missing shipments, including mail igloos and the bodies of fallen service men
- The 15th Aerial port was upset because their pilots were unable to fly
- ATCO liaison personnel in various outposts had not been paid for months.



*Danang, Vietnam, 1966*

*Left to right: Capt. Sidney Jordan, USA, and Jordan's late brother, LTC William Jordan, USA, Mag Advisor Army, Vietnam*

I had my work cut out for me. ... to continue in May's ACE.

## Legislative Affairs

*James "Skip" Phair, Legislative Affairs Liaison*

During May, MOAA will be conducting its annual Congressional campaign, Advocacy in Action. This virtual engagement with key members of Congress and their staff will address three important topics that affect the currently serving, veterans and recent retirees, Guard and Reserves, and their families.

**Toxic Exposure – TEAM Act (Toxic Exposure in the American Military)** When most people hear about toxic exposure, they think of Agent Orange and Vietnam. The problem extends to those in uniform today. Exposures include burn pits in Afghanistan and Iraq, exposure risks from fire-fighting chemicals, and contaminated drinking water to name a few. We seek the basics: expanded health care for those who were exposed, the creation of an advisory council, and to reauthorize the Agent Orange authorities which expired in 2015.

**TRICARE Young Adult (TYA)** Military kids face unique challenges. Yet, current law leaves military kids transitioning to adulthood without the same health care protections afforded to families with commercial plans. We must ensure military families who have sacrificed so much in support of our nation have the same health care protections for their young adult children as their civilian counterparts covered by commercial plans. H.R. 475, The Health Care Fairness for Military Families Act of 2021 addresses this inequity.

**Basic Needs Allowance** An automatic subsistence allowance for servicemembers whose gross household income (not including BAH) is below 130% of the federal poverty line is needed. This recurring struggle is exacerbated by COVID-19 layoffs which impacted spouses' contribution to the household income. A small number of servicemembers qualify for SNAP. Many military families do not qualify as BAH is considered income; so, they turn to food pantries instead.



## Veterans' Discounts

*Bill Garcia, Personal Affairs*



Here is a good one from the VA blog Vantage Point -a list of over 500 discounts available to veterans. The list is too long to include here but check out the blog - <https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/85765/veteran-discounts-available-year-round/>

### [Veteran discounts available year round - VAntage Point](#)

## Social Security and the Surviving Spouse

*Joyce Quartly, Surviving Spouse Liaison*

The current reality is that when one spouse passes away, one Social Security benefit will end. The surviving spouse may have to live with only one Social Security check for a considerable period of time. According to the March 2021 **AARP Bulletin**, in almost 75 percent of married couples, one spouse will outlive the other by five years. In about 50 percent of couples, the surviving spouse will outlive the other by at least ten years. That's a long time to make ends meet on a substantially reduced household income.

However, here may be a silver lining in the near future. According to the March 26<sup>th</sup> edition of the **Kiplinger Report**, the Social Security Administration, will likely grant a larger cost of living adjustment next year. The forecast is that next year's COLA, which will be made in January of 2022, will come in at about 3%. By contrast, this year's increase was just 1.3%. Additionally, one of the post-covid plans of the new administration is to allow the surviving spouse to keep a greater share of the Social Security benefits.

## Membership in National MOAA

*Rudolf Bredderman, Membership Director*

National MOAA has set a goal to have all Chapter members be, at least "Basic" members of national MOAA. All but one of our 2021 Chapter members who are eligible for national MOAA membership are members of national MOAA. Our spouses are not eligible for national MOAA membership.

We have 56 Chapter members who are "LIFE" members of national MOAA, 20 who are "Premium" members and 15 who are "Basic" members.

It is important that Chapter members who are Premium (Annual) members of national MOAA keep their national MOAA membership current with the payment of annual dues; or upgrade to "LIFE" membership in national MOAA. I guess, another option would be to downgrade to "Basic" membership but with the loss of the MOAA's monthly Military Officer magazine and a few other premium member benefits.

### **MOAA Membership Costs:**

**Basic** MOAA membership is FREE

### **Premium (Annual) Membership:**

Annual Dues	One Year	Two Years	Three Years
regular members -	\$48	\$82	\$108
surviving spouses -	\$43	\$73	\$97

**LIFE** membership cost varies from \$851 for someone 50 years old or less to \$88 if you are 96 to 100

years old. LIFE membership passes to your spouse if you predecease your spouse.

If you need help in becoming a member of national MOAA, let me know. If I have your written permission, I can sign you up to be a “Basic” MOAA member at no cost. The best way is to send an email to [bredderman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bredderman@sbcglobal.net).

MOAA membership is incredibly significant when MOAA lobbies Congress on issues important to the military community.



To join, visit <https://www.moaa.org/content/join-moaa/why-join-moaa/>

**You defend the country. We defend your benefits.**

[Join Now](#)

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### **Resources at Your Fingertips**

- **Need a DD-214?** Visit <https://www.va.gov/records/get-military-service-records/>
- **Alameda, MOAA Board Members for 2021:** <http://www.alamedamoaa.org/Chapter-Officers>
- **MOAA Alameda Membership/Renewal Application** Last page of newsletter or online here: <http://www.alamedamoaa.org/Join>
- **MOAA National application** <http://www.moaa.org/Content/Join-MOAA/Why-join-MOAA.aspx>
- Alameda Chapter Website** <http://www.alamedamoaa.org>
- California MOAA Council Website:** <http://www.calmoaa.org>
- **Alameda Chapter Editorial and Privacy Policy:** <http://alamedamoaa.org/Editorial-and-Privacy-Policies>
- **MOAA Legislative Update/Action Center:** <http://alamedamoaa.org/Legislative-Update>
- **Useful Websites for California Veterans**
- **CA Legislation:**  
<https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billSearchClient.xhtml>
- **California State Senate:** <http://senate.ca.gov/>
- **California State Assembly:** <http://assembly.ca.gov/>
- To find CA Law, including the Military and Veterans Code: <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes.xhtml>
- Find your State and Local Legislator: <http://votesmart.org/>
- **CALMOAA Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/582556558468846>



## 2021 Alameda MOAA Membership Application

Please Check One		Please Check One		
<input type="checkbox"/> New Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse	<input type="checkbox"/> Surviving Spouse	
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal				
Name and Rank of qualifying officer's spouse:				
_____				

### Military Status (please check one)

Active Duty     
  Retired     
  Guard/Reserve     
  Former / Inactive

### U.S. Service (please check one)

Army     
  Air Force     
  Coast Guard     
  Marine Corps  
 Navy     
  USPHS     
  U.S. Space Force     
  NOAA

Date: mm/dd/yyyy National MOAA #\*: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*National MOAA # not required; however you can acquire free basic membership at: <https://www.moaa.org/content/join-moaa/why-join-moaa/>*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: mm/dd/yyyy  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spouses Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in participating in a Chapter office or committee  Yes  No

Membership is for the calendar year commencing 1 January of each year.

**Annual Dues: 1) Active Duty: \$0 2) Regular: \$20 / \$10 if joining after July 1 3) Spouse/Surviving Spouse: \$5**

**New Members: Please attach a copy of your military ID, DD-214, or other proof of service as military officer.**

**Make checks payable to:** ALAMEDA COUNTY CHAPTER, MOAA or [Paypal](https://www.paypal.com) to [mcdecpa@gmail.com](mailto:mcdecpa@gmail.com)

**Submit:** Can be filled out electronically and emailed to [alamedamoamembership@alamedamoaa.org](mailto:alamedamoamembership@alamedamoaa.org) or mail MOAA Alameda County Chapter, c/o CDR Rudolf Bredderman 35923 Romilly Court , Fremont, CA 94536