



NEVER STOP SERVING

May 2020 E Connection

Membership is open to anyone who holds, or has ever held, a commission or warrant in any component of the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and their surviving spouses.

President Keith desk. Three topics this month: (1) TRICARE Refunds, (2) 2020 GAMOAA Convention, and (3) 2020 AMOAA JROTC Scholarship Winner, First Topic: About 35,000 military retirees will soon receive cash refunds from Tricare, thanks to a policy change made last year that affects how Tricare calculates annual out-of-pocket maximum payments. The rebates impact retirees with Tricare Prime who paid more than \$2,400 out of pocket towards their annual maximum payment in 2018 and 2019. They do not impact Tricare for Life or Tricare Retired Reserve users. The annual maximum out-of-pocket payment, or "catastrophic cap," for any retiree family with a service member who joined the military before Jan 1, 2018, is set at \$3,000. For those who joined after Jan 1, 2018, the annual retiree cap is about \$3,600. Those who joined before 2018 pay about \$600 per year for plan enrollment, while those who joined after 2018 will pay about \$1,000. A set of sweeping Tricare reforms ordered in 2018 directed that the annual fee paid by retirees to use Tricare Prime no longer counted toward the yearly out-of-pocket max. That meant that some families were faced with an increase of about \$600 in their yearly Tricare spending, up to \$3,600 for most retirees. But that change was reversed last summer, retroactive to 2018, allowing the enrollment payment to count toward the cap once again and reducing the amount of money retirees might pay out of pocket each year by about \$600 for most users. Retirees should watch their mailboxes for refund notification letters from Tricare's contractors, HealthNet in the west region and Humana in the east, Tricare officials told Military.com today. The letters will start going out April 20, they said. The reimbursements will be automatically to future enrollment fees in the form of an account credit, officials said. Retirees will also have the option of requesting a cash refund, they said.

Coronavirus timeline update

Currently open: Gyms, fitness centers, bowling alleys, body art studio, barbers, cosmetologists, hair designer, nail care artists and massage therapists. Kemp said basic health and sanitation standards must be met before any business can reopen, such as screening employees for fever and wearing masks. Theaters, private clubs and restaurants' dine-in services

Bars, nightclubs, amusement parks and live performance venues will remain closed

State and County parks open

May 1 Government mandated Social distancing ends

Malls reopen

Churches and sporting venue reopenings TBD

June 18 Primary vote

July 15 Federal and state taxes due

The Defense Health Agency, which oversees Tricare, announced a plan early this year to bar retirees from access to many on-base medical facilities, instead requiring them to be seen off base. That means retirees on Tricare Prime will increasingly be paying out of pocket for care and coming closer to hitting that annual out-of-pocket maximum. While retirees using Tricare Prime face no out-of-pocket costs if they are seen by an on-base providers, they do cost shares when seen off-base, including \$20 per primary care visit and \$31 for specialty care.

Second topic: The 2020 GAMOAA Annual Convention will be held in Athens, GA this year at the Hilton Garden Inn October 23 – 25. We need to support the Athens Chapter like they supported us last year. I am trying to get a head count of people who plan to attend the conference so I can give an input to the GAMOAA President. Appreciate everyone's assistance in this matter.

Third topic: I am happy to announce the winner of this year's AMOAA JROTC \$2500 Scholarship. The winner is Jack Maley who attends North Atlanta High School. Jack will be attending Auburn University.

Sadly, we lost a committed chapter member last month. Elder Penny and his wife Jewel. He passed on April 6th and his wife passed on April 8th. They were both buried on April 29th in Greensboro, North Carolina their 70th Wedding Anniversary. We lost a great member and a fellow veteran, he served in World War II. He will definitely be missed. Until next time Fair winds and following seas.

Fayette Veterans' Treatment Court: Continued thanks to Brue Resnak as our Fayette County Veterans' Treatment Court Lead. Our group continues to partner with the Eden Project and are quite thankful to have the organizational leadership provided by Bren Briggs. The time to make a difference in the life of a troubled veteran is now as mentors are needed for this court to be fully operational. Our group is particularly qualified to be such mentors; consider volunteering to be a mentor and please make your commitment known to us.

Need your assistance in securing guest speakers for our socials. If you know of someone in your circle of friends or professional contacts that you believe would be a good guest speaker for our socials, please reach out to them and ask the individual to consider doing this. There is no requirement to be a veteran or even represent an organization associated with veterans. We only ask that the individual's message be relevant to our group. Please provide me with the contact information and I will do the final coordination-thanks!

Increasing membership continues to be an important and ongoing effort. We need everyone's assistance in reaching out within your own circle of friends to find prospective members interested in veterans' issues and sharing camaraderie with like-minded individuals. Please reach out and make one of your friends a member of our group today!

Check out AMOAA, GAMOAA and MOAA websites for the current developments

<http://atlmoaa.org/Home> chapter website

<http://www.gamoa.org> GAMOAA website

<http://www.moaa.org/> MOAA website

Party time, Southside Style!

Southside Satellite Socials are suspended until further notice, Once the Coronavirus pandemic passes, we will resume our social activities

Village Café
1240 Hwy 54W Suite 200
Fayetteville, GA 30214
770.460.7888

AMOAA Membership

E1B1
EACH ONE
BRING ONE

Chapter membership recruitment is everybody's responsibility. Vice President Jonathan Reeder is spearheading the membership team. with potential members and recruitment ideas. We have on-line applications, www.atlmoaa.org and paper copies each board member carries with them. Serving always and everywhere, the team is a salute away.

Chaplain assistance call Chaplain (LTC) Paul Yuen,
706-531-6688

Farewell to Elder and Jewel Penny

Continue to Pray for

Chaplain (CAPT, USN) George Langhorne

Lina Holtz, Home

Brad Lord - coronavirus support, CDC



COVID 19 Scam Alerts

As the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic continues to impact the United States, phone scammers have seized the opportunity to prey on consumers. The FCC has received reports of scam and hoax text message campaigns and scam robocalls offering free home testing kits, promoting bogus cures, selling health insurance, and preying on virus-related fears. A text message scam may falsely advertise a cure or an offer to be tested for coronavirus. Do not click on links in texts related to the virus, and check [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) for the most current information. Some text scams are impersonating government agencies. The FCC recently learned of a text scam claiming to be from the "FCC Financial Care Center" and offering \$30,000 in COVID-19 relief. There is no FCC program to provide relief funds to consumers. The text is likely phishing attempt to get banking or other personal information from victims. The BBB is also warning of a text message scam impersonating the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services informs recipients that they must take a "mandatory online COVID-19 test" using the included link. Text message hoaxes may claim that the government will order a mandatory national two-week quarantine, or instruct you to go out and stock up on supplies. The messages can appear to be from a "next door neighbor." The National Security Council tweeted that these are fake. FEMA is tracking rumors and reminds consumers to always check a trusted source. Scammers are also using robocalls to target consumers during this national emergency. For example, the World Health Organization recently issued a warning about criminals seeking to take advantage of the pandemic to steal money or sensitive personal information from consumers. It urges people to be wary of phone calls and text messages that purport to be from the WHO, or charity organizations, asking for account information or for money. The FCC has received reports of robocalls purporting to offer free virus test kits, in an effort to collect consumers' personal and health insurance information. One pernicious version of this scam is targeting higher risk individuals with diabetes, offering a free COVID-19 testing kit along with a free diabetic monitor. Other robocalls are marketing fake cures and asking for payment over the phone. The Federal Trade Commission and the U.S. Food & Drug Administration have posted consumer warnings about fake websites and phishing emails used to promote bogus products. Opportunists are also making robocalls to offer HVAC duct cleaning as a way to "protect" your home and family from the virus. Fraudsters are also preying on financial fears tied to the pandemic. The FCC is aware of robocall scams with COVID-19 themed work-from-home opportunities, student loan repayment plans, and debt consolidation offers. Consumers aren't the only target. Small businesses are also getting scam calls about virus-related funding or loans and online listing verification. Many consumers will receive checks as part of the federal government response to the coronavirus. No one will call or text you to verify your personal information or bank account details in order to "release" the funds. The Treasury Department expects most people to receive their payments via direct-deposit information that the department has on file from prior tax filings. If you think you've been a victim of a coronavirus scam, contact law enforcement immediately. The FCC offers the following tips to help you protect yourself from scams, including coronavirus scams: Do not respond to calls or texts from unknown numbers, or any others that appear suspicious. Never share your personal or financial information via email, text messages, or over the phone. Be cautious if you're being pressured to share any information or make a payment immediately. Scammers often spoof phone numbers to trick you into answering or responding. Remember that government agencies will never call you to ask for personal information or money. Do not click any links in a text message. If a friend sends you a text with a suspicious link that seems out of character, call them to

Local VA Brief from Gus Strassburger

Changes in our Community based Outpatient Clinics(CBOCs) Operations
In this time of crisis, the safety of our Veterans and staff is our number one priority. In order to minimize exposure to COVID-19, outpatient clinics and Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) will be open for telehealth appointments only. No face to face visits will be conducted. Veterans are encouraged to schedule a virtual appointment by using My HealthyVet. In case of an emergency, Veterans should call 911 or proceed to the nearest emergency room. Please contact our Telephone Advice Program (TAP) at 404-329-2222 if you need medical advice or have a question. My HealthyVet is more important than ever. My HealthyVet was designed for Veterans, service-members, their dependents and caregivers. When Veterans register on My HealthyVet, you gain access to tools that can help you track and monitor your health, reducing your need to visit an Atlanta VA clinic. Stay connected and register today. For technical support please contact Burl Whittaker at (404) 202-7005.

Medication Refills and Emergent Lab Needs

Most medications can be refilled using our automated prescription refill line. For medications that may require additional testing, please consult your provider via My HealthyVet. We have options in many cases for home tests or testing in the community. For urgent or emergent lab needs, the lab at the medical center will remain available. Additional information will be forthcoming in the next 24-48 hours.

Employee Guidance on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

There have been a lot of questions recently about who should wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Here's a quick and easy to read summary of the CDC guidance which allows asymptomatic healthcare professionals who have had COVID 19. Here's a quick and easy to read summary of the CDC guidance which allows asymptomatic healthcare professionals who have had COVID 19 exposure to return to work under strict guidelines

Cafeteria and Coffee Shop COVID-19 Changes

To increase social distancing, we are temporarily closing our cafeteria and coffee shop seating to help limit person-to-person contact, effective immediately. We will continue to offer services through grab-and-go and vending machines options.

Thank you for your understanding and patience as we navigate this challenging situation and make necessary adjustments



Army doctors may have found the answer to the personal protective equipment (PPE) shortages impacting health care workers who are on the front lines of the fight against the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The new device, COVID-19 Airway Management Isolation Chamber (CAMIC), is the brain-child of military doctors and researchers at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Maryland, the Madigan Army Medical Center in Washington State and the Fort Belvoir Army Community Hospital in Virginia, among other institutions. The device is essentially a frame made from material like PVC piping, complete with a clear plastic covering that is placed over a patient's head to isolate the particles they could spread from coughing or sneezing. The chamber cycles out air through holes in the piping pushing in fresh oxygen on one side, and vacuuming out viral particles through the other side.



Boeing will have to pay \$168 million out of pocket to cover increased costs on the VC-25B Air Force One replacement program, the company said Wednesday. Boeing attributed the overrun to "engineering inefficiencies" caused by the impact of COVID-19, but Chief Financial Officer Greg Smith said the program remains on schedule with a projected delivery of the first VC-25B in 2024. However, Boeing's quarterly report to the Security and Exchange Commission noted future risk to the program's cost and schedule as a result of the engineering challenges. "We believe these inefficiencies will result in staffing challenges, schedule inefficiencies and higher costs in the upcoming phases of the program," the company stated in the report. Smith added that although the program team has done a "good job" of managing the program in the face of changes caused by the novel coronavirus pandemic and is "executing very well on many fronts," Boeing could not mitigate the added cost to the program this financial quarter.



A Chinese aircraft carrier sailed between two islands of Japan's Okinawa prefecture for the second time this month, according to Japanese defense officials. The Chinese carrier Liaoning and its five-ship strike group were spotted at around 9 a.m. Tuesday approximately 50 miles southeast of Miyako, a Japan Ministry of Defense Joint Staff statement said Tuesday. The ships sailed north, passing between Okinawa itself and Miyako at about 10 a.m. before traversing the East China Sea later that day. The Liaoning strike group was spotted by the JS Kongo, a guided-missile destroyer of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, the destroyer JS Umigiri and a P-3C Orion maritime surveillance aircraft, the statement said. The Liaoning was accompanied by two Chinese guided-missile destroyers, two multi-role warships and one supply-class fast combat support ship. It was the second time the strike group had traveled through the 155-mile-wide strait this month and just the fifth time since the Liaoning was commissioned in 2012.



The Marine Corps' inability to recruit enough pilots has led the commandant to question the F-35's place in the already budget-constrained Corps' future plans, a potentially huge shift for the service that first fielded the Joint Strike Fighter and fought harder than any other service to build it and buy it. "Our continued inability to build and sustain an adequate inventory of F-35 pilots leads me to conclude that we must be pragmatic regarding our ability to support" the program," Gen. David Berger says in a blunt new 10-year force design plan. He calls for an external assessment of the aircraft's place within the service relative to what he's being asked to do in the National Defense Strategy and the forthcoming Joint Warfighting Concept, a document the Joint Staff is expected to wrap up later this year. Berger not only singles out pilot shortfalls, but also notes high costs of maintaining and flying the F-35B as factors he's weighing "in reconciling the growing disparity between numbers of platforms and numbers of aircrew."

AMOAA Board of Directors Meeting

May 15, 2020, 1130-1300
using conferencecall.com
All members are welcome to call in
and participate. Call 515-604-9097.
Use access code 215017

**AMOAA Luncheons
will resume once the all
clear for COVID 19 is
announced**

**2020 AMOAA JROTC \$2500
Scholarship recipient, Cadet Jack
Maley, North Atlanta High School**



**Congratulations Jack and God-
speed to you and all your endeavors!**

MOAA TimelineGAMOOA Planning Meeting

October 23-25, 2020 GAMOOA Annual Convention,
Athens, GA

Primary and General Election Voting timeline

General election, November 3, 2020

AMOOA Sponsors**2020 Dues****Membership Renewal**

The Atlanta Chapter of MOAA

P.O. Box 468531

Atlanta, GA 31146

Please complete all items

NAME: _____ RANK: _____ BRANCH OF SERVICE: _____

STATUS: () RETIRED () ACTIVE () RESERVE () NATIONAL GUARD () FORMER OFFICER () WIDOW

DATE COMMISSIONED: _____ SPOUSE: _____

HOME PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

ROTC Scholarship/Award Fund

AMOOA's Scholarship program for JROTC Cadets who are college-bound high school seniors needs your support. When you renew your annual membership, please include an extra \$10—whatever you wish to give towards this worthy program.

Annual Membership renewal \$20

JROTC/ROTC Scholarship/Awards Contribution \$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Your donation will support a enduring leadership legacy for our county's future leaders, thank you! Please keep this form for your tax deductible donation.

Atlanta Chapter of MOAA, Inc

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Atlanta, GA 31146

