

The South Georgia Voice



*South Georgia Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
April, 2011*



www.sgamoa.org

Community Blueprint

By Buddy Johnson, Lt Col, USAF, Ret

Community Blueprint is an effort, supported by DOD, VA and MOAA, to provide integrated support for veterans, warriors and their families in communities across America. The immediate goal is to identify communities where a *pilot effort* could be started by bringing together a group of community leaders including the mayor, local veteran's organizations, chamber of commerce, local VA officials and others to receive a presentation from the Community Blueprint leadership.

Our Georgia MOAA President, Col Dan Holtz was asked by MOAA National "to identify possible communities where you have a chapter whose leaders might be able to pull together those groups and be interested in doing a project like this". After consultation with several MOAA chapters in the state, President Holtz responded.....

"After consulting with our senior leadership team in GMOAA and considering several options, I nominate the South Georgia Chapter in Valdosta. The following information is relevant:

- *Our South Georgia MOAA Chapter is well poised to participate in the Community Blueprint project.*
- *Moody AFB, located just a few miles from downtown Valdosta, is deeply committed to our nation's mission in Afghanistan and Iraq with deployed Search & Rescue and Security Forces*
- *The chapter is a member of the Valdosta-Lowndes chamber of Commerce and their representative serves on the Military Affairs Committee.*
- *Their TOPS Officer is active on Moody AFB and local Veterans Council.*
- *They have high visibility in the community through the Honor Flight program and, as a result, they have a special relationship with the local news media, City Council and County Commission.*

This is a special project for special people and the South Georgia Chapter has all the pieces in place and ready to move out and serve those who are, and have, served our nation".

Col Lee Lange, MOAA Director of Council and Chapter Affairs responded....
"Thanks for the input, Great

recommendation. I'm passing this on to Vice Admiral Ryan for review".

As a result of these recommendations, and the enthusiastic response to the project by our chapter leadership, our South Georgia MOAA chapter has been selected by Admiral Ryan from the 416 MOAA chapters as one of three to participate in the Community Blueprint pilot project. On March 25 chapter president Ron Borders, Public Affairs Chair and Chamber of Commerce representative Jack Sinnott and secretary Buddy Johnson participated in a conference call with Admiral Ryan and Col Lange to discuss a May visit by the Community Blueprint Team to Valdosta. The team will demonstrate a web matrix tool that includes 8 key Mission Areas and a set of some 50 best practices including ways to set priorities, adopt strategies that work and build coalitions in the community.

Membership Chair Report

By: Don McArthur, Maj. USAF, Ret. .

Spring has finally sprung! It is great to see the azalea blossoms all over the city and county. Those who did not attend our March meeting were greatly missed. I sincerely feel we are one big family, and whenever one doesn't attend there is a big void.

This is the last month to write those checks for the ROTC project for the 2010-2011 school year. We are still short of our \$1,500 goal. If you have not contributed, please consider a tax deductible gift this month. We will be presenting the National MOAA Medal and stipend at awards nights at the end of April and on May 2. Please mail your

check to Buddy or bring it to our April 14 meeting.

We welcome our latest new member, Carolyn Abell, Lt Col, USA, Please introduce yourself to her and other guests at our meetings. There are many prospects still out there. "Go get 'em"

News You Can Use from MOAA

From: MOAA's Legislative Update

The impact on military families who have lived through a decade at war was alarmingly highlighted when military children were included in the "high risk" category for high school drop-outs this year.

MOAA Government Relations Deputy Director Kelly Cotton joined DOD leaders and other association representatives at a military education roundtable this week to identify solutions for this growing problem.

There are 1.1 million military children between the ages of 5 and 18. 75,000 parents of those children have been deployed multiple times since 9/11. Military children attend 6-9 schools on average before graduating high school, and different state curriculum requirements and graduation standards add to the stressors that military children face when transferring schools.

Mr. Robert Gordon, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Military Community and Family Policy said this is not just a DOD problem, but America's problem. There is still much research being done, but we know that military children's test scores are declining, and

school attendance and engagement are becoming greater struggles.

Just as multiple factors contribute to the well-being of the military child, there are several opportunities for organizations and communities to help. For example, President Obama has called on all states to adopt the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children through his Strengthening Military Families campaign. 35 states have signed the Compact so far. MOAA chapters having played key roles in winning their states' approval, and many others are actively pushing adoption in the remaining states.

The Boys and Girls Club of America has over 390 Military Youth Centers around the world, and Girls Incorporated is leading a diversity initiative to raise awareness and educate communities on daughters of military service members. A recent RAND study showed these girls have higher levels of anxiety than their civilian peers.

MOAA will continue to work with Congress and continue our partnerships with the Military Child Education Coalition, Military Impacted Schools Association, and other organizations to build national and community support to reduce education risks for our military children.

The Education Center at the Wall

For many, the Vietnam War is from the distant past. Some 40 percent of the 4 million people who visit The Wall today are too young to remember. To them the long list of names cut in the smooth black

granite is faceless; there's no context, no connection.

- By sharing the faces and stories behind every name, officers and infantry alike, the Education Center at The Wall will help future generations understand the courage, sacrifice and devotion of those who fell, those who returned, and those who waited.
- The Education Center project is headed by Jan C. Scruggs, founder of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.
- And like The Wall itself, the second-most visited site in Washington, D.C., the Center will be built entirely with private funds donated by the American people.
- To preserve the hallowed nature of The Wall and all the memorials gracing the National Mall, the two-story learning facility will be built entirely below ground.

Exhibits will include a wall of photographs of those whose names are on The Wall, a selection of the over 100,000 items that have been left at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, a timeline of key military events of the Vietnam War and a history of The Wall. The Center will celebrate the values embodied by all of America's service members—loyalty, duty, respect, service, honor, integrity and courage—and an exit exhibit will show images of those who served in all of America's conflicts, from the Revolutionary War to Iraq.

Over \$20 million has been raised for The Education Center, including the lead gift of \$10 million from Time Warner. It is estimated that the Center will cost \$85 million to build.

Our next meeting is Thursday April 14 6:00 PM, Valdosta – Lowndes
Conference Center on Norman Drive

Please welcome our guests and ask them to join you for dinner.

Dinner is served at 6:30 PM

Dr. Ray Perrin, President, Wiregrass Technical College (Designated a “Top
Military Friendly College”) will present our program

Please make your reservations through chapter secretary Buddy Johnson

Phone 229-561-0690(c) email info@sgamoaa.org

We are required to provide an **accurate** meal count **two work days** prior to the event.

Cost is \$20 per person.

Sorry, we must bill no-shows and late cancellations

<p>President Ron Borders Former USA CWO</p>	<p>Vice President Bill Piper Former USAF Captain</p>
<p>Secretary Alton “Buddy” Johnson Lt Col USAF, Ret.</p>	<p>Treasurer John Salter Former USAF Captain</p>
<p>Directors Norm Conant, Maj. USAF, Ret. James Smith, Lt Col USAFR Glenn Walden, Col USAR, Ret.</p>	<p>Personal Affairs Gil Gjertsen Former USMC Captain</p>
<p>Tops Officer Tim Oliver, Lt Col, USAF, Ret.</p>	<p>Legislative Affairs Jim Smith Lt Col USAFR, Ret.</p>
<p>Public Affairs Jack Sinnott, Col, AUS, Ret.</p>	<p>Programs Dr. Hugh Bassham Former USA Captain</p>
<p>Remembrances and Memorials Mrs Jacque Clark</p>	<p>Membership Don McArthur Maj. USAF, Ret</p>
	<p>Auxiliary Advisory Chair Mrs. Rose Marie Sinnott</p>
<p>Chaplain Rev. John McGowan, Lt Col, USAF, Ret.</p>	

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