

The South Georgia Voice



*South Georgia Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
February, 2012*



www.sgamoaa.org

Those who were not at our January meeting missed a great meal, program, and fellowship with 57 members and guests. When you are not there, you are sorely missed. We consider our chapter to be a big family having a reunion each month.



Don Wood from Pepsico spoke at our January meeting. He shared about the cultural differences he encountered as he worked in over 100 countries throughout the world to set up Pizza Huts and KFC's.

February 9th meeting

You will not want to miss our **February 9th** Valentine meeting. The special musical program will feature Mr. Joe Prichard, County Manager, accompanied by his wife, Becky, on the keyboard. Mark your calendars and plan to join your chapter friends. We are also expecting some Florida MOAA folk so make them feel welcome.



Dave Gordon, President of the GA Mountain Chapter in Dahlonega, and our own David Ammons along with 2nd Lt William Wright. David commissioned Lt. Wright. He taught him in JROTC at Taylor County High School in Florida.

Winter GMOAA Conference



Buddy Johnson, GMOAA President and Don McArthur attended the winter GMOAA Conference held near Robins AFB on Jan. 14, 2012. Buddy presided as the GMOAA State President for the first time.

March Meeting

Please mark your March calendar as soon as you read this newsletter so you won't forget it later. Our meeting will be on the **THIRD Thursday, March 15**, rather than the second.



Life Memberships

In last month's newsletter, we included information regarding costs to upgrade to a life membership. To encourage this move, national MOAA has added an incentive "carrot". For every new paid membership or annual membership that's converted to a life membership, our chapter will receive \$20. Chapter members who convert their regular memberships to life memberships also will receive 10 % off their life memberships. To receive the discount, chapter members may use the on line join form or call MOAA's Member Service Center at 800 234-MOAA (6622) and identify yourself as a chapter member.

Personal Affairs

The Retiree Activities Office (RAO), has sent the following newsletter (#112) Nov. 15, 2011. The newsletter states: Defense Finance and Accounting Service officials report that survivors can now use a "fast form" to report the passing of a retiree on the Internet rather than waiting on the phone

The DFAS Form 9221 for notification of death can be processed quicker than faxed or mailed forms, said officials, and they save paper and postage costs. Officials warn that if a survivor doesn't receive confirmation of receipt from DFAS within 48 hours of submitting the form, they should call 800-321-1080.

The form can be completed and submitted online from the privacy of a customer's home, or with the help of a casualty assistance rep. Submitting the form initiates all of the same actions a DFAS customer care center representative would:

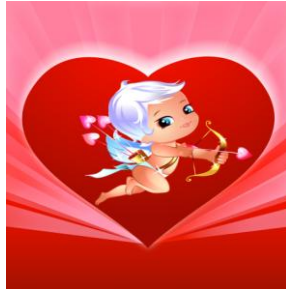
1. The retiree's account will be suspended to avoid release of monthly payments.
2. A Standard Form 1174 claim form will be sent to the retiree's arrears-of-pay beneficiary.
3. If the decedent was enrolled in Survivor Benefit Plan or the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan, an annuitant care package will be sent to the beneficiary.
4. The notification-of-death form is only for reporting the death of a military retiree. Annuitant deaths must still be reported to one of the DFAS customer care reps at 800-321-1080.

To access the notification of death fast form, click on the link at <https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/forms.html>. For more retiree news and information, please visit <http://www.retirees.af.mil>.

If anyone wishes to have publications such as Turning the Corner or Help Your Survivors Now which is a guide to planning ahead, our chapter has copies of these publications. Just give Don McArthur a call and he will get one to you.

Chapter Programs

Please keep in mind that our chapter continues to support our three ROTC units plus "Hopes and Dreams". Donations to these programs are tax deductible. There are only three months left to gather a nice stipend for each of these. We have only received a few donations for these so far this year. We've done well in the past in supporting these projects so let's get going. Please keep in mind that the Defense Budget Ax has fallen. Money will be getting tighter very shortly.



Our next meeting is Thursday, February 9th, 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

**Please make your reservations through chapter Secretary,
Don McArthur 229-244-7498 or email dandsmcarthur@bellsouth.net**

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

February program is a special music presentation by Mr. Joe Prichard,
county manager, accompanied by his wife, Becky, on the keyboard.

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