

# *The South Georgia Voice*



*South Georgia Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America  
September, 2010*



[www.sgamoaa.org](http://www.sgamoaa.org)

## ***SGAMOAA Wins Prestigious Five-Star Award***

Each year, MOAA chapters may request to be recognized for one of two Levels of Excellence awards. The very, very best chapters receive a five-star award. The next best chapters receive a four-star award. A standard set of rating criteria is used to evaluate all chapters submitting a package. Our South Georgia chapter was one of 103 chapters nationwide to submit an entry for consideration and, along with the Atlanta MOAA chapter, received the Five-Star award. A Five-Star streamer will be presented to our chapter president, Ron Borders, at the MOAA Annual Meeting in Arlington, VA, November 15-16, 2010. The Savannah, Athens and Blue Ridge chapters are four-star winners.

## ***SGAMOAA Service Project***

Did you notice Resolution No. 14 in the August edition of the military Officer Magazine? ***“Resolved, that MOAA headquarters staff, state councils, local chapters and individual members join in striving to set an honorable example of civic***

*participation and service for the greater good of our nation, our communities and our fellow citizens.*

In support of that resolution, our chapter has adopted That Others May Live (TOML) as a service project. TOML provides for post-secondary educational opportunities for the children of fallen Search and RESCUE Heroes, some from our own Moody AFB community.

Eight of our SGAMOAA members will serve as volunteers at a fund raising golf tournament sponsored by TOML at Stone Creek on September 10. Dorothy Walden, Mary Lois Patten, Bill Piper, Gil Gjertsen, Tim Oliver, Brooks Lovelace, Jean & Buddy Johnson will help with registration, prize distribution, water boys/girls and a variety of other duties to ensure the success of the event. Glenn Walden has formed a first class golf team to compete for a chance to win a Ford Mustang and other prizes. Most of all, we want to help raise funds for the very worthy project.

***SGAMOAA representatives to  
attend Symposium***

Each year MOAA hosts a Presidents' Symposium in a different section of the country. This year's event will be held at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront September 16-18. Participating states are: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

The event brings together council and chapter leaders to review effective chapter management techniques and to discuss best practices to help meet the membership challenge facing our chapter system. Council and chapter leaders located in the South East Region and their spouses are invited to attend at MOAA's expense. Those attending will be the current chapter President, Vice President, Membership Chair and TOPS Liaison.

### ***Membership Chair Report***

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

Did you notice another section of Resolution, No. 14, in the August edition of the Military Officer Magazine? ***“Resolved, that MOAA promote development of and membership/leadership in local MOAA chapters as a primary means of sustaining community, communication, camaraderie and service among all officers of all ages.”*** To assist us in that effort, MOAA recently forwarded a list of 416 potential chapter members living in our area. 169 of those are MOAA National members and 41 are Life members. What a remarkable opportunity we have to grow our chapter! We are presently in the process of actively contacting prospective members who are already

National MOAA members. Keep in mind that all of our chapter members are recruiters. If you are aware of someone who is an officer, former officer, or surviving spouse please invite them to our chapter meeting as our special guest. We do expect some guests this month so welcome them with "open arms".

It is not too late to register for the GAMOAA 51st annual state convention held in Athens on Oct. 21-23. I have the registration forms and hotel information available. I can give you a copy at the Sept 9 meeting or email or mail you a package. A late registration fee is added after Sept 25.

In the August edition of the *Air Force Magazine*, John O. Brennan, White House counterterrorism advisor, Center for Strategic and International Studies, stated, "Our enemy is not terrorism, because terrorism is but a tactic. Our enemy is not terror, because terror is a state of mind and, as Americans, we refuse to live in fear. Nor do we describe our enemy as jihadists or Islamists.... We are at war against al Qaeda and its terrorist affiliates."

### ***News you can use from MOAA***

The Defense Business Board task force recommended that the Secretary of Defense reduce the DOD civilian workforce by more than 111,000 and laid the groundwork for potential future recommendations to cut spending on military retirement, health care, family support and other programs. Additionally, the task force

recommended drastic reductions in combatant command staffing, hiring freezes and elimination of organizational duplication. These preliminary recommendations will be followed by additional cost-cutting proposals.

For the past year, the defense Business Board has predicted major problems for the Defense budget as the nation deals with deficit reduction efforts, the economic slowdown, escalating health care and personnel costs and the potential exit from two wars. Board members believe that avoiding a looming fiscal crisis will require cutting the Defense budget beyond Secretary Gates' recently announced target of a \$100 billion reduction in "overhead" spending.

The Boards "Initial Observations" briefing devoted an entire section to costs for military compensation, retirement, health care, veteran's affairs, concurrent receipt, commissaries, dependent education and military family housing. It particularly highlighted costs associated with Tricare For Life. A page titled "The Military Retirement sacred cow is increasingly unaffordable" cites increases in the number of military retirees since 1980 (as if this weren't the direct result of decisions by every administration and Congress since the 1950s to induce a large standing career force to protect America and the world) and criticizes the 20 year retirement system (as if the military could have sustained the force over the last 10 years of

repeated wartime deployments without it). Another cites personnel cost growth since 1998 – conveniently overlooking that 1998 was the nadir of two decades of erosion of military pay, retirement, health care and other benefits and the resulting retention problems of that era were what sparked Congress to embark on an extended program to fix it.

Unfortunately, the Defense Business Board report is only one of the early shots in what likely will be years of budget battles to reconcile military and other needs with truly daunting deficit projections.

### *Welcome New Members*



New member Mary Lois Payton & GMOAA  
President Col Dan Holtz



Col Dan Holtz, Linda with new member Lt  
Col Rod Casey & Debbi

## September Meeting

Our next meeting is Thursday September 9, **6:00 pm**, at the Rainwater Conference Center on Norman Drive. Dinner is **at 6:30 PM**

Georgia State Representative Amy Carter will be our guest speaker. We look forward to an update on happenings beneath the Golden Dome.

Please make your reservations through chapter secretary Buddy Johnson

Phone 229-561-0690(c) email [buddy1612@bellsouth.net](mailto:buddy1612@bellsouth.net)

**Not later than Noon Monday, September 6**

We are required to provide an accurate meal count **prior to** the conference center staff meeting at **1:00 pm Monday**. Cost is \$20 per person.

**Sorry, we must bill no-shows**

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

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