

September Dinner Social

We were fortunate to have Kameron Perez-Verdia, CEO and President, Alaska Humanities Forum (former President and current member of ASD school board) speak to our chapter last month, and we thank him for his time and comments!



L to R: Randy Banez, Kameron Perez-Verdia and Catkin Burton

October Dinner Social

Our next dinner social will be as noted below.

- Date: October 27, 2016
- Speaker: Commissioner Marc Luiken, Commissioner, State of Alaska Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities
- Time: 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
- Location: Coast International Inn
- Address: 3450 Aviation Ave, Anchorage, AK 99502, USA
- Phone: 907-243-2233
- Please contact Catkin Burton or Edie Grunwald to RSVP.

Marines Birthday Invitation

If interested in attending this year's USMC 241st birthday celebration (to be held on Nov 5 at the Anchorage

Sheraton), please follow the below link for your invitation and to RSVP:

<https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=312502&k=0160400C7B55>

MOAA News

Presidential Responses

MOAA National posed questions to the candidates for the presidency who are at the threshold deemed as potentially electable (Clinton, Johnson, and Trump). The responses are too long for this newsletter. However, you might have interest in reviewing them to ponder, chuckle, revile, or support, depending on your interpretation of the sometimes boilerplate, sometimes insightful, sometimes baloney (I could use a more descriptive adjective, but we strive for a professional document!) Please use the following link and enjoy

<http://www.moaa.org/Content/Take-Action/Top-Issues/Currently-Serving/Clinton,-Johnson,-Trump--Presidential-Q--A.aspx>

CMC

Commandant of the Marine Corps Visit



This summer, the head of the U.S. Marine Corps stopped in Anchorage and

the interior to evaluate new opportunities for training. Great to see the potential for new military presence in our great State. The whole story can be read at:

<http://www.alaskapublic.org/2016/07/25/could-the-marine-corps-be-coming-to-alaska/>

Premier Military Visitors to Alaska

Provided by Senator Dan Sullivan

(Ed note: In addition to the above story/note on CMC, our junior Senator provided information on additional senior military leaders who have visited us this year, and it is shared below.)

In just the past few months, several senior defense officials have visited Alaska's military installations in recognition of their strategic importance to our national defense. I toured Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex - America's premier combat training range - with Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Robert Neller, witnessed our Arctic-tough 1-25 Stryker's conducting real-world training with Secretary of the Army Eric Fanning, and discussed the importance of expanding our Arctic security capabilities with the new combatant commander of USNORTHCOM and NORAD, General Lori Robinson. Vice Admiral James Syring, Director of the Missile Defense Agency, also visited Fairbanks this summer, calling our forthcoming missile defense projects in Alaska "urgent" to our national security. I will continue to invite top Defense Department officials to Alaska to



personally see our highly strategic location, the wide-array of critical capabilities, and the incredibly warm and military-friendly communities that we have in Alaska, all of which help keep America safe.

As noted in a recent op-ed, Alaska is home to an emerging triad of military might: a hub for combat airpower, a strategic platform for expeditionary troops and the cornerstone of our nation's missile defense. Given North Korea's recent second test of a nuclear weapon this year, China's continued aggressive maneuvers in the South China Sea, and Russia's unprecedented militarization of the Arctic, each of these pillars has become even more vital to protecting the homeland and responding to threats all around the globe.

F-35 Information

As reported by Liz Ruskin (Alaska Public Media), Congress last week agreed to spend more than half a billion dollars on military construction projects in Alaska. Most of the projects are in Fairbanks, to prepare Eielson Air Force Base for the arrival of F-35 aircraft.

The short-term spending bill Congress passed also has \$155 million for a new radar system at Clear Air Force Station, and \$47 million for a drone hangar at Fort Wainwright. Sen Lisa Murkowski (our senior Senator), a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, added a section encouraging the Defense Department to seek out Alaska contractors and cooperate

with the state workforce development agencies.

(Ed Note: Kudos to all our federal representatives for their hard work and continuing efforts to bring well-considered federal resources to our State.)

The F-35 Lightning II, the Joint Strike Fighter, is soon going to be stationed in Alaska (expected in 2020). The following overview information on this platform is provided for your situational awareness:



The first F-35 Lightning II aircraft are expected to arrive at Eielson AFB in 2020. On April 4, 2016, the Secretary of the Air Force, Deborah Lee James, signed a Record Of Decision (ROD) for the required Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

This made it official that Eielson Air Force Base will host two squadrons of the latest generation U.S. fighter jet at Eielson Air Force Base in Fairbanks. The Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II is a family of single-seat, single-engine, all-weather, stealth multirole fighters undergoing final development and testing for the United States and partner nations.

Top speed: 1,930 km/h
Range: 2,220 km
Wingspan: 11 m
Length: 16 m
Max G limits: 9g
Engine type: Pratt & Whitney F135
Manufacturer: Lockheed Martin

Recent National Military News

US falls behind other nations in cyberwarfare

The US is falling behind nations such as Russia, China and North Korea when it comes to battle in cyberspace. "The cyber threat is one of the greatest challenges we face," Pentagon official Marcel Lettre has said.

U.S. News & World Report (9/29)

Pentagon urged to do more blast exposure studies

A US lawmaker is asking Defense Secretary Ash Carter for more studies on the effects of blast exposure on service members. "Should the department continue its current policy of denying the relationship between brain injury and primary blast exposure, the consequences could be ... tragic for our brave men and women in uniform," Rep. Louise Slaughter, D-N.Y., wrote.

The Hill (9/29)

Nuclear capabilities are "highest priority" for DOD, Carter says

Defense Secretary Ash Carter is advocating for a strong US investment in modernization of the nuclear arsenal, calling nuclear capabilities "the bedrock of our security, and the highest priority mission of the Department of Defense."



The Defense Department is planning to invest \$108 billion in modernization efforts over the next five years.

Defense News (9/26)

DOD: Islamic State tried to use chemical weapons on US forces

Islamic State militants fired a powdered mustard agent at US forces near Mosul, Iraq, on Tuesday, but there were no deaths or injuries, the Defense Department said. Pentagon sources called the weapon "imprecise and crude."

The Guardian (London) (9/21)



Senate votes to override presidential veto on 9/11 bill

The Senate has voted to override President Barack Obama's veto of a bill that would allow victims of terrorists to sue foreign sponsors of terrorism. The outcome in the House is expected to be the same, and if so, the votes would mark the first time Congress has overturned a veto by Obama.

USA Today (9/28)

VA's suicide hotline in disarray, ex-director says

The Department of Veterans Affairs' suicide hotline is missing calls from troubled veterans because of staffers' bad work habits and other issues, according to Greg Hughes, the former director of the hotline. More than a third of the calls received by the VA's Veterans Crisis Line in May were switched to backup centers where operators are less experienced in dealing with veterans, Hughes said.

The Associated Press (9/26)

US-Philippines relationship on agenda at ASEAN meeting

The military relationship between the US and the Philippines is one of the key issues facing Defense Secretary Ash Carter as he attends a meeting of the Association of South East Asian Nations. Other issues expected to be discussed in today's meeting are concerns about China's moves in the South China Sea and a possible return of the Islamic State to the region as the militants are pushed out of Syria and Iraq.

Defense News (9/29)

Next president will face US policy challenges in Europe

The next president faces major decisions involving US military strategy in Europe in light of Russia's recent moves. For the past two years, the US has been building up its forces in Europe because of Russia's resurgence.

Stars and Stripes (9/25)

Defense budget battle likely to shape next president's options

Congress' struggle to pass a defense budget could have a major impact on the next president's defense plans, as

the budget debate might stretch into the new leader's first term.

Stars and Stripes (9/18)

Squadron's operations on hold after Harrier crash

An AV-8B Harrier crash last week near Okinawa, Japan, has resulted in an operational pause for Marine Attack Squadron 542. The pilot ejected with injuries, but the aircraft was destroyed in the crash, which remains under investigation.

Military.com (9/23)



US again flies bombers over S. Korea

Two B-1B Lancer strategic bombers flew over South Korea on Wednesday in a second show of force since North Korea's nuclear test early this month. The flight was the closest to North Korea ever by a B-1 bomber.

Reuters (9/21)

Book looks at civilian-military gap

Retired Marine Gen. James Mattis and his "Warriors & Citizens" co-author Kori Schake say there's a growing cultural gap between civilians and those who serve or have served in the military. "We thought we'd take a look at what had happened to civil-military attitudes with an all-volunteer force over a



decade-plus of war and just try to define it as best we could," Mattis said.

Task & Purpose (9/20)

Alternative PTSD therapies like scuba, yoga catching on

Military veterans are increasingly using yoga, fishing, horseback riding and scuba as therapies for post-traumatic stress disorder. Once dismissed by professionals, the alternative approaches are now being integrated into treatment plans.

The New York Times (9/17)



Empty seat at Ohio State games honors POWs, MIAs

Ohio State University is honoring prisoners of war and troops missing in action with an empty chair at its football games. The chair is featured prominently in the section where ROTC members usually sit.

The Associated Press (9/17)

US to move intelligence assets to Syria

US military surveillance aircraft and intelligence analysts will be shifted from other parts of the world to Syria as part of the US pact with Russia for the Syrian cease-fire. The US assets will be used to target Jabhat Fatah al-Sham, al-Qaida-linked militant group formerly called the Nusra Front.

The Associated Press (9/16)

Advisers recommend expanding exchange online shopping benefit

Opening exchange online shopping privileges to all honorably discharged veterans could add more money to the coffers for morale, welfare and recreation programs, according to senior enlisted advisers. They pitched the plan to the DOD Military Family Readiness Council on Thursday.

Army Times (9/15)

US bombs Islamic State chemical weapons facility

US warplanes bombed multiple buildings near Mosul, Iraq, that military officials say were used by the Islamic State to make chemical weapons. The site was also being used as a headquarters for the extremist group, a Pentagon spokesman said.

The Associated Press (9/13)

Medal of Honor



The only woman awarded the Medal of Honor (Army) is Mary Edwards Walker, who was a civilian Union Army surgeon during the American Civil War. She received the award in 1865 for the First Battle of Bull Run (July 21, 1861) and a series of battles to the Battle of Atlanta in Sept. 1864 ..."for usual medal of honor meritorious services". The 1917 Medal of Honor Board rescinded 911 awards (including hers) as not being combat related. However, she was allowed to wear here award until her death, and it was subsequently restored by President Jimmy Carter in 1977.



2016 Calendar of Events

General dates of interest are noted below. Membership meetings are generally on the 4th Thursday of each month except as noted.

- Oct 13: Navy Birthday
- Oct 27: Dinner Social, Commissioner Marc Luiken
- Nov 5: USMC Birthday Celebration
- Nov 10: Marine Corps Birthday
- Nov ##: Dinner Social, Speaker: U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan, US Senate (tent)
- Dec ##: Christmas Social
- Jan 26 (2017): Dinner Social TBD
- Feb: ASYMCA Salute to the Military
- April 11-14: MOAA Storming the Hill
- Apr 27: Dinner Social (Speaker TBD)
- May 25: Dinner Social (Speaker TBD)
- Jun 14: Army Birthday
- Aug 4: Coast Guard Birthday
- Sep 18: Air Force Birthday
- Sep 28: MOAA First Dinner of Season

Contact Information

Please share this newsletter with active duty, Guard, Reservist and retired Officers you know and encourage them to join. Contact information below:

- E-mail: c2burton@gci.net
- Phone: (907)644-6202
- Address: 1143 M Ct.
Anchorage, AK 99501
- Annual chapter dues: \$25; on or about January of each year, on-line payment may be made at <https://chapterdues.moaa.org/Membership.aspx> or a check payable to Captain Cook Chapter.
- Chapter site: www.MOAA-AK.COM

President: Clyde T. (Tom) Burton
 Vice-President: Catkin M. Kilcher Burton
 Secretary: Edith M. Grunwald
 Treasurer: Open
 Legislative Liaison: Bob Pawlowski