

May Dinner Social

The MOAA Captain Cook Chapter will be holding a dinner social event as noted below. As you know, we took heavy rolls during COVID and we want to have a get-together before we break for the summer to elect and ratify new officers to allow board level activity during the summer for planning and preparation of a strong 2024 season. We hope you mark on your calendar and join us! A separate dinner invite will come out at the beginning of May and will also be posted on the Chapter Facebook account.

Date: May 25, 2023

Time: 6- 8:30 p.m.

Speaker: Mr. Josh Revak (Aide)
Congresswoman Peltola

Location: Coast Inn at Lake Hood
3450 Aviation Avenue, Anchorage

JROTC Awards

Every year, our chapter procures and awards MOAA ROTC/JROTC Medal with Ribbons to deserving officer candidates. That process is underway at this time. Please let us know if you would like to be a presenter, either in Anchorage or Fairbanks.



DOD News

Flight data recorders found after deadly Black Hawk crash (The Associated Press) The helicopters crashed near Fort Campbell during a nighttime training exercise on March 29.

Landing Ship Medium requirements in final approvals with Navy, Marines (Defense News) The U.S. Navy and Marine Corps are nearing agreement on the requirements and cost of the Landing Ship Medium program, formerly called the Light Amphibious Warship, after the services previously diverged in their visions for this program, officials said.

Your 2023 Military Times Pay and Benefits Guide (Military Times) Whether it's health care, retirement benefits, commissaries and exchanges, family support, VA loans, GI bill education benefits or the plethora of other benefits, maximizing the options available to you is essential to making the most out of your military career.

Today's Episode: Finland joins NATO Today, Finland becomes the 31st member country of world's largest security alliance. (Al Jazeera) After decades of neutrality, Finland has become the 31st country to join NATO, prompted by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg said the alliance would also ensure that Sweden, whose membership has been held up by NATO members Turkey and Hungary, will also join. French President Emmanuel Macron and European Commission President Ursula von der

Leyen fly into Beijing on Wednesday on a three-day state visit to China that is set to focus on Ukraine.

Finland doubling NATO's border with Russia in blow to Putin (The Associated Press) The blue-and-white Finnish flag rises outside NATO headquarters Tuesday afternoon, making Finland a member and doubling Russia's border with the world's biggest security alliance.

Navy tests secret Project Overmatch tech with Carl Vinson strike group (C4ISRNET) The U.S. Navy is testing technology developed as part of its secretive Project Overmatch using the Carl Vinson Carrier Strike Group in the waters off California, according to the chief of naval operations. (Ed Note: Project Overmatch is the Navy's contribution to Joint All-Domain Command and Control, or JADC2, the Pentagon's multibillion-dollar pursuit of seamless battlefield connectivity across land, air, sea, space and cyber realms.)

US strike kills senior ISIS leader in Syria, US Central Command says (CNN) A US strike in Syria has killed a senior ISIS leader who planned attacks into Europe, United States Central Command said in a statement.

Philippines names 4 new camps for US forces amid China fury (The Associated Press) The Philippine government on Monday identified four new local military camps, including some across a sea border from Taiwan, where rotational batches of American forces with their weapons would be allowed to

stay indefinitely despite strong objections from China. (Ed Note: some near disputed area of the South China Sea)

Just in time F-35 supply chain too risky for next war, general says (Defense News) The F-35 Joint Strike Fighter will need a more resilient supply chain to ensure the military can keep it flying in a future, highly contested war, the Air Force officer in charge of the program said Monday.

SpaceX rocket launches Space Development Agency's first satellites (C4ISRNET) A SpaceX rocket launched the Space Development Agency's first satellites April 2, sending a mix of 10 missile tracking and communication spacecraft into low Earth orbit in the agency's highly anticipated debut mission.

Philippines names 4 new camps for US forces amid China fury

Jim Gomez
Associated Press
(abridged)

MANILA, Philippines -- The Philippine government on Monday identified four new military camps, including some across the sea from Taiwan, where rotating batches of American forces will be allowed to be stationed indefinitely despite strong objections from China.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s administration announced in February his approval of an expansion of the U.S. military presence to four additional

Philippine military bases from the five existing sites under the 2014 Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement between the longtime treaty allies.

Marcos said the move would boost the Philippines' coastal defense. It dovetails with the Biden administration's efforts to strengthen an arc of military alliances in the Indo-Pacific to better counter China, including in any future confrontation over Taiwan.

The new sites identified by Marcos' office include a Philippine navy base in Santa Ana and an international airport in Lal-lo, both in northern Cagayan province. Those locations have infuriated Chinese officials because they would provide U.S. forces with a staging ground close to southern China and Taiwan, the self-governed island Beijing claims as its own.

The two other military areas are in northern Isabela province and a navy camp on Balabac island in the western province of Palawan.

DOD Weapons System In The News *M252 Mortar*

The M252 81 mm medium weight mortar is a British-designed smooth bore, muzzle-loading, high-angle-of-fire weapon used for long-range indirect fire support to light infantry, air assault, and airborne units across the entire front of a battalion zone of influence. In the U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps, it is normally deployed in the mortar platoon of an infantry battalion.

Although developed in the 1950s, the weapon system entered service in the US Army in 1987.



The M252 is a gravity-fired smoothbore system. Attached to the muzzle of the weapon is the Blast Attenuation Device (BAD), used to reduce the blast effects on the mortar crew. To increase cooling efficiency, the breech end is finned; though first-hand accounts attest that the level of cooling is negligible. The M252 system weighs 91 lbs. completely assembled and is composed of the M253 Cannon, M177 Mount, M3A1 Baseplate, and the M64A1 Sight Unit.

A crew of five enlisted personnel operate the M252: the squad leader, the gunner, the assistant gunner, the first ammunition bearer, and the second ammunition bearer. The weapon system can employ high explosive, smoke, illumination, infrared illumination and also uses training rounds. There is some amount of precision guidance available. Rounds are propelled using a semi-circular donut of nitrocellulose, or C-charge, since the standard pack of four each resembles a puffy letter "C". These

charges can propel the round of choice up to 5,650 meters.

This Month in Military History

November

(The History Place)

April 1, 1865 - During the American Civil War, Confederate troops of General George Pickett were defeated and cut off at Five Forks, Virginia. This sealed the fate of Confederate General Robert E. Lee's armies at Petersburg and Richmond and hastened the end of the war

April 2, 1865 - General Robert E. Lee informed Confederate President Jefferson Davis that he must evacuate the Confederate capital at Richmond, Virginia. Davis and his cabinet then fled by train. The next day, The Confederate capital of Richmond surrendered to Union forces.

April 3, 1948 - President Harry S. Truman signed the European Recovery Program, better known as the Marshall Plan, intended to stop the spread of Communism and restore the economies of European countries devastated by World War II. Over four years, the program distributed \$12 billion to the nations of Western Europe. The program was first proposed by Secretary of State George C. Marshall during a historic speech at Harvard University on June 5, 1947.

April 4, 1949 - Twelve nations signed the treaty creating NATO, the North Atlantic

Treaty Organization. The nations united for common military defense against the threat of expansion by Soviet Russia into Western Europe.

April 5, 1986 - A bomb exploded at a popular discotheque frequented by American military personnel in West Berlin, killing two U.S. soldiers and a Turkish woman. American intelligence analysts attributed the attack to Muammar Qaddafi of Libya. Nine days later, President Ronald Reagan ordered a retaliatory air strike against Libya.

April 6, 1917 - Following a vote by Congress approving a declaration of war, the U.S. entered World War I in Europe.



April 9, 1865 - After over 500,000 American deaths, the Civil War effectively ended as General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S.

Grant in the village of Appomattox Court House. The surrender occurred in the home of Wilmer McLean. Terms of the surrender, written by General Grant, allowed Confederates to keep their horses and return home. Officers were allowed to keep their swords and side arms.

April 10, 1942 - During World War II in the Pacific, the Bataan Death March began as American and Filipino prisoners were forced on a six-day march from an airfield on Bataan to a camp near Cabanatuan. Some 76,000 Allied POWs including 12,000 Americans were forced to walk 60 miles under a blazing sun without food or water to the POW camp, resulting in over 5,000 American deaths.

April 10, 1945 - The Nazi concentration camp at Buchenwald was liberated by U.S. troops. Located near Weimar in Germany, Buchenwald was established in July 1937 to hold criminals and was one of the first major concentration camps. It later included Jews and homosexuals and was used as a slave labor center for nearby German companies. Of a total of 238,980 Buchenwald inmates, 56,545 perished. Following its liberation, Supreme Allied Commander, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, and other top U.S. commanders visited the sub-camp at Ohrdruf. U.S. Troops also forced German civilians from nearby towns into the camp to view the carnage.

April 12, 1861 - The American Civil War began as Confederate troops under the command of General Pierre Beauregard opened fire at 4:30 a.m. on Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina.

April 12, 1945 - President Franklin D. Roosevelt died suddenly at Warm Springs, Georgia, after suffering a cerebral hemorrhage. He had been President since March 4, 1933, elected to four consecutive terms and had guided America out of the Great Depression and through World War II.



April 14, 1865 - President Abraham Lincoln was shot and mortally wounded while watching a performance of Our American Cousin at Ford's Theater in Washington. He was taken to a nearby house and died the following morning at 7:22 a.m.

April 14, 1986 - U.S. warplanes, on orders from President Ronald Reagan, bombed the Libyan cities of Tripoli and Benghazi in retaliation for the April 5th terrorist bombing of a discotheque in West Berlin in which two American

soldiers were killed. Among the 37 person killed in the air raid was the infant daughter of Muammar Qaddafi, Libya's head of state.

April 17, 1961 - A U.S.-backed attempt to overthrow Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba failed disastrously in what became known as the Bay of Pigs fiasco. About 1,400 anti-Castro exiles invaded the island's southern coast along the Bay of Pigs but were overrun by 20,000 Cuban soldiers and jailed. Trained and guided by the U.S., the exiles had expected support from U.S. military aircraft and help from anti-Castro insurgents on the island. Instead, due to a series of mishaps, they had fended for themselves with no support. The failed invasion heightened Cold War tensions between Cuba's political ally, Soviet Russia, and the fledgling administration of President John F. Kennedy. The following year, the Russians brazenly installed nuclear missiles in Cuba resulting in the Cuban Missile Crisis.

April 18, 1775 - The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere and William Dawes occurred as the two men rode out of Boston about 10 p.m. to warn patriots at Lexington and Concord of the approaching British.

April 18, 1942 - The first air raid on mainland Japan during World War II occurred as General James Doolittle led a squadron of B-25 bombers taking off from the carrier Hornet to bomb Tokyo and three other cities. Damage was

minimal, but the raid boosted Allied morale following years of unchecked Japanese military advances.

April 19, 1775 - At dawn in Massachusetts, about 70 armed militiamen stood face to face on Lexington Green with a British advance guard unit. An unordered 'shot heard around the world' began the American Revolution. A volley of British rifle fire was followed by a charge with bayonets leaving eight Americans dead and ten wounded.

April 19, 1943 - Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto staged an armed revolt against Nazi SS troops attempting to forcibly deport them to death camps.

April 19, 1989 - Forty-seven U.S. sailors were killed by an explosion in a gun turret on the USS Iowa during gunnery exercises in the waters off Puerto Rico.



April 20, 1914 - Miners in Ludlow, Colorado, were attacked by National Guardsmen paid by the mining company. The miners were seeking

recognition of their United Mine Workers Union. Five men and a boy were killed by machine gun fire while 11 children and two women burned to death as the miners' tent colony was destroyed.

April 21, 1836 - The Battle of San Jacinto between Texans led by Sam Houston and Mexican forces led by Santa Anna took place near present day Houston. The Texans decisively defeated the Mexican forces thereby achieving independence.

April 21, 1918 - During World War I, the Red Baron (Manfred von Richtofen) was shot down and killed during the Battle of the Somme. He was credited with 80 kills in less than two years, flying a red Fokker triplane. British pilots recovered his body and buried him with full military honors.

April 23rd - Established by Israel's Knesset as Holocaust Day in remembrance of the estimated six million Jews killed by Nazis.

April 24, 1915 - In Asia Minor during World War I, the first modern-era genocide began with the deportation of Armenian leaders from Constantinople and subsequent massacre by Young Turks. In May, deportations of all Armenians and mass murder by Turks began, resulting in the complete elimination of the Armenians from the Ottoman Empire and all of the historic Armenian homelands. Estimates vary

from 800,000 to over 2,000,000 Armenians murdered.

April 26, 1944 - Federal troops seized the Chicago offices of Montgomery Ward and removed its chairman after his refusal to obey President Roosevelt's order to recognize a CIO union. The seizure ended when unions won an election to represent the company's workers.

April 27, 1865 - On the Mississippi River, the worst steamship disaster in U.S. history occurred as an explosion aboard the Sultana killed nearly 2,000 passengers, mostly Union soldiers who had been prisoners of war and were returning home.

April 28, 1945 - Twenty-three years of Fascist rule in Italy ended abruptly as Italian partisans shot former Dictator Benito Mussolini. Other leaders of the Fascist Party and friends of Mussolini were also killed along with his mistress, Clara Petacci. Their bodies were then hung upside down and pelted with stones by jeering crowds in Milan.

April 30, 1789 - George Washington became the first U.S. President as he was administered the oath of office on the balcony of Federal Hall at the corner of Wall and Broad Streets in New York City.

April 30, 1948 - Palestinian Jews declared their independence from British rule and established the new

state of Israel. The country soon became a destination for tens of thousands of Nazi Holocaust survivors and a strong U.S. ally.

2023/2024 Calendar of Events

April (Various): JROTC Awards
April 27: MOAA Storming the Hill
May 25 Dinner Social (Meeting)
Jun 14: Army Birthday
Aug 4: Coast Guard Birthday
Sep 18: Air Force Birthday
Sep 28: Chapter Dinner Social
Oct 13: Navy Birthday
Oct 26: Chapter Dinner Social
Nov 10: Marine Corps Birthday
Nov: No Dinner Social
Dec ##: Christmas Social
Jan 25: Dinner Social
Feb ##: ASYMCA Salute to the Military
Mar 28: Dinner Social

Contact Information

Please share this newsletter! Contact information provided below:

- E-mail: c2burton@gci.net
- Phone: (907) 570-1027
- 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. Thank you for your support!

- Facebook Group: MOAA Captain Cook Chapter, AK
- Chapter site: www.MOAA-AK.COM

*President: Catkin Kilcher Burton
Vice-Pres: Ty Moore
Secretary: Justin Mills
Treasurer: Vacant (please volunteer!)
Webmaster: Edith M. Grunwald
Communications: Clyde T. (Tom) Burton
Scholarship Committee: George Tolbert*