

## End of Season Dinner Social *Meet the Candidates!*

Our next event will be May 24 at the Coast International Inn. Please SAVE THE DATE and join us for our 24 May dinner.

Guests: Candidates for Governor  
Former Senator **Mike Dunleavy**,  
businessman **Scott Hawkins** and  
former construction leader and  
House Speaker **Mike Chennault**

Date: May 24

Tim: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Coast International Inn

## Meet the Candidates

We invited all the viable candidates in the gubernatorial race to join us at our dinner social. We are appreciative of those who accepted our invitation and certainly understanding of the scheduling commitments of those who couldn't. Below is a brief biographical sketch of each of the candidates who will be able to join us:



Scott Hawkins has been married to his wife, Toyoko, for over 25 years and they have a 23-year-old daughter, Lisa, who graduated from Service High School. He started as a bank

economist, specializing in Alaska's major industries. In the late 1980s, he was the founding president of the Anchorage Economic Development Corp. (AEDC). He is a founder, owner and operator of two long-standing Alaska businesses.



Mike Dunleavy spent almost 20 years in rural Alaska where he met his wife, Rose. Married almost 30 years, their three daughters, Maggie, Catherine, and Ceil were raised in both rural and urban Alaska. They have made their home in the Mat-Su Valley since 2004. He was a member of the Alaska Senate from 2013 to 2017 when he resigned to run for Governor.



Mike Chennault worked in the construction industry on the Kenai Peninsula and has served the Peninsula for 8 terms in the State House. He was elected to the Kenai Peninsula School Board and has served on non-profit boards in the community. Mike is married to Tanna, and they have four

children: a son, Brandon, and three daughters; Elisha, Shanda and Miranda.

## East Asia In the News

(Ed Note: Clearly actions on-going in the East Asia Pacific with China, North Korea and even Russia are in the spotlight. Defense news and a timely informative article about China are weighted in this months news items.)

## How far can China's long-range missiles reach in the South China Sea?:

By Mike Yeo

MELBOURNE, Australia — China's deployment of long-range missiles to its artificial islands in the disputed South China Sea would further consolidate and enhance the country's physical control over the region and further complicate the movement of American military assets through the area, according to an Asian maritime security expert.

Collin Koh, a research fellow at the Maritime Security Programme at Singapore's S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, also called the deployment yet another indication that China is serious about ramping up activities on the disputed Spratly Islands. He said he expects to see the future rotational deployment of high-powered assets like fighter jets and bombers to the air bases there, in time to come as part of China's strategy of creeping control in the strategic waters.

CNBC reported earlier this week that China had quietly deployed HQ-9 surface-to-air missiles and YJ-12 supersonic anti-ship missiles onto its outposts in the South China Sea in the past month, quoting anonymous sources with direct knowledge of U.S. intelligence reports. They did not specify on which of the Chinese-held islands the missiles were placed. The reported deployments come in the wake of a Wall Street Journal report last month that the Chinese military was using electronic warfare equipment placed on the islands to jam U.S. Navy aircraft operating over international airspace in the South China Sea.

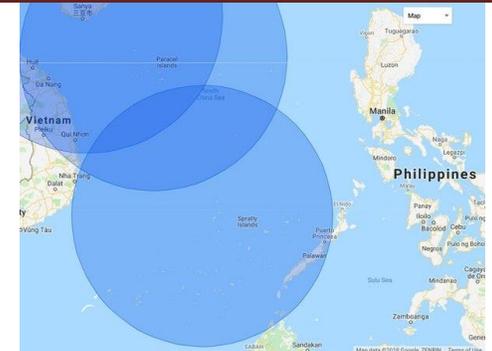
Koh told Defense News that the presence of the missiles, with a reported range of 160 and 295 nautical miles respectively, signifies that China regards the artificial islands as strategically high-value installations and merits the allocation of such resources for protection. The islands were built with sand dredged from the seabed. They are now host to airfields, military installations, supporting infrastructure and ship-berthing spaces.



CNBC has called the missiles “defensive” in nature. However, in practice they will also allow China to engage targets far into the surrounding airspace and waters, which includes features held by the other claimants.

The Chinese-built HQ-9 is based on the Russian S-300 air defense system, although its derivatives have been improved over the years by China. It is used for long-range air defense of strategic targets, and the deployment of this system in the Spratly Islands potentially gives China the ability to target aircraft over the whole island group.

In the case of the YJ-12, it also theoretically allows China to interdict shipping in an arc stretching from the coast off central Vietnam, to eastern Malaysia’s Sabah state and the Philippines’ Palawan Island if deployed on the island province of Hainan and Chinese-controlled islands in the Paracels and Spratlys, as the accompanying graphic in this article shows.



However, Koh does not expect the news of the missile deployments, which appear to fly in the face of previous Chinese pledges not to “militarize” the South China Sea, to generate much protest from regional countries or rival claimants. Any pushback from the region is unlikely to stop China from pursuing similar behavior, he added, or even upping the ante in the future.

“What China is doing now is precisely what gray zone or short-of-war strategies is about: Keeping its actions below the threshold of red lines that could lead to hostilities, while making calculated gambles to present fait accompli against its rivals”.

The missiles would also enable China to complicate peacetime operations and movement of American warplanes and warships traversing the area, including those carrying out so-called freedom of navigation operations, essentially extending China’s anti-access, area denial “bubble” out from the Chinese mainland into the South China Sea.

Newly appointed commander of U.S. Pacific Command Adm. Philip Davidson,

who was only confirmed by the Senate last week, said during his confirmation hearing that to ensure regional security, “U.S. operations in the South China Sea — to include freedom of navigation operations — must remain regular and routine.” Yet he acknowledged that advances in Chinese military means Pacific Command needs to invest in increased resiliency in its forward-deployed force posture.

## Defense News

**Navy secretary, other US officials increasingly sounding alarm over Chinese smartphone maker Huawei:** The Navy's top civilian recently warned that the service needs to keep the telecom behemoth out of U.S. military projects due to fears the company could allow Beijing to steal U.S. national security secrets. (Defense News)

**Naval aviation plagued by ‘disturbing’ trend of ground mishaps:** The head of all Naval Air Forces says there has been a six-year rise in Class C mishaps caused by a drop in the experience of sailors. (Defense News)

**Two US airmen injured by Chinese lasers in Djibouti, DoD says:** Two U.S. airmen suffered “minor” injuries as a result of the use of the Pentagon believes are Chinese-deployed lasers in Djibouti, the Defense Department’s

chief spokeswoman said Thursday. (Defense News)

**Will we stay or will we go?:** Mixed signals from top political leaders ahead of a summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un have some questioning what is the future for the 28,500 U.S. military members and their families stationed in South Korea. (Army Times)

**China ‘crosses threshold’ with missiles at South China Sea outposts:** Beijing has installed cruise missiles and surface-to-air missiles on man-made islands throughout the South China Sea, according to a report on Wednesday, a move one US security analyst described as “a clear offensive threat.” (Asia Times)

**Here’s the latest on America’s next supercarriers:** The future Ford-class aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy is nearing the halfway mark, the head of Huntington Ingalls said Thursday. (Defense News)



(Ed Note: from Wikipedia - John F. Kennedy (CVN-79) is the second Gerald R. Ford-class aircraft carrier being built for the United States Navy. The ship is

under construction and planned to be commissioned in 2020.)

**McCain book: US should consider cyberattack to punish Putin:** Sen. John McCain wrote in his new book that America should seriously consider a cyberattack to retaliate for Russia’s meddling in U.S. elections, to send a strong message to the superpower. (Defense News)

**US warns airmen to beware of laser attacks near China’s military base in Djibouti:** Pilots warned of possible attacks after ‘multiple events’, but Chinese observers say the lasers may have been used to counter spy drones. (South China Morning Post)

**Report to Congress U.S. Coast Guard cutter procurement:** The Coast Guard’s acquisition program of record (POR) calls for procuring 8 National Security Cutters (NSCs), 25 Offshore Patrol Cutters (OPCs), and 58 Fast Response Cutters (FRCs) as replacements for 90 aging Coast Guard high-endurance cutters, medium-endurance cutters, and patrol craft. The Coast Guard’s proposed FY2019 budget requests a total of \$705 million in acquisition funding for the NSC, OPC, and FRC programs. (USNI News)

**Pakistan cosies up to Russia, but Moscow doesn’t seem to want to take sides:** Pakistan and Russia have pledged to improve defense ties, but

Moscow appears to be trying to balance its South Asia relations rather than abandon its traditional strategic partner India. (Defense News)

**Two Koreas dismantle propaganda loudspeakers at tense border:** The rival Koreas dismantled huge loudspeakers used to blare Cold War-style propaganda across their tense border on Tuesday, as South Korea's president asked the United Nations to observe the North's planned closing of its nuclear test site. (The Associated Press)

**Trump again teases 'space force' as the sixth military branch:** President Donald Trump on Tuesday again hinted at the possibility of a new military service dedicated to space, saying discussions are already underway with defense officials. (Military Times)

**Report: Russian jet buzzes US spy plane over Baltic Sea:** A Russian jet came within 20 feet of a Navy surveillance aircraft as it flew in international airspace over the Baltic Sea on Tuesday, CNN reported. (Navy Times)

## **Combatant Command in the Spotlight Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM)**



The United States Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM), located in Doral, Florida in Greater Miami, is one of ten Unified Combatant Commands (CCMDs) in the United States Department of Defense.

It is responsible for providing contingency planning, operations, and security cooperation for Central and South America, the Caribbean (except US commonwealths, territories, and possessions), their territorial waters, and for the force protection of US military resources at these locations.

USSOUTHCOM is also responsible for ensuring the defense of the Panama Canal and the canal area. As explained below, USSOUTHCOM has been under scrutiny due to several human rights and rule of law controversies in which it has been embroiled for nearly a decade.

Under the leadership of a four-star Commander, USSOUTHCOM is organized into a headquarters with six main directorates, component commands and military groups that

represent SOUTHCOM in the region. The current commander is Admiral Kurt W. Tidd, USN.

USSOUTHCOM is a joint command of more than 1,201 military and civilian personnel representing the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and several other federal agencies.

Civilians working at USSOUTHCOM are, for the most part, civilian employees of the Army, as the Army is USSOUTHCOM's Combatant Command Support Agent.

The Services provide USSOUTHCOM with component commands which, along with their Joint Special Operations component, two Joint Task Forces, one Joint Interagency Task Force, and Security Cooperation Offices, perform USSOUTHCOM missions and security cooperation activities. USSOUTHCOM exercises its authority through the commanders of its components, Joint Task Forces/Joint Interagency Task Force, and Security Cooperation Organizations.

## **DOD Systems You Might Not Know Sikorsky CH-53K King Stallion**

The Sikorsky CH-53K King Stallion is a large, heavy-lift cargo helicopter currently being developed by Sikorsky Aircraft for the United States Marine Corps (USMC).



The design features three 7,500 shp (5,590 kW) engines, new composite rotor blades, and a wider aircraft cabin than previous CH-53 variants.

It will be the largest and heaviest helicopter in the U.S. military. The USMC plans to receive 200 helicopters at a total cost of \$25 billion. Ground Test Vehicle (GTV) testing started in April 2014; flight testing began with the maiden flight on 27 October 2015.

The CH-53K is a general redesign of the CH-53E. The main improvements are new engines and cockpit layout. The CH-53K will have over twice the lift capacity and radius of action of the CH-53E, and a wider cargo hold to allow it to carry a Humvee internally.

The CH-53K will feature new stubby composite sponsons to cut overall width, giving the helicopter a narrower footprint for shipboard operations. It will also be equipped with a new composite rotor blade system, with technology similar to that currently found on the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter. The CH-53K will use the General Electric GE38-1B engine. This engine beat out the Pratt and Whitney

Canada PW150 and a derivative of the Rolls-Royce AE 1107C-Liberty used on the V-22 Osprey.

**Statue of heroic war horse to be unveiled in Kentucky:** The Kentucky Horse Park plans to unveil a statue of a horse that became a hero during the Korean War. (The Associated Press)



*Horse Haldalgo, representing life-saving US Marine horse Sergeant Reckless who served with the US Marine Corps during the Korean War, is awarded with the PDSA Dickin Medal beside Sergeant Mark Gostling, right, and Lieutenant Colonel Michael Skaggs in London, Wednesday, July 27, 2016. (Frank Augstein/The Associated Press)*

Sgt Reckless, who survived one of the bloodiest battles in modern military history, was awarded the PDSA Dickin Medal – known as the animal equivalent of the Victoria Cross – for her bravery and devotion to duty during the Korean war 1950 until 1953.

The Kentucky Horse Park plans to unveil a statue of a horse that became a hero during the Korean War. A statement from the park says the 1,000-pound (450-kilogram) statue of Sgt. Reckless will be unveiled Saturday, May 12.

The small mare had a racing background and was purchased by the U.S. Marines to carry ammunition. In a 1953 battle, she carried more than 9,000 pounds (4,000 kilograms) of ammunition on her back and made 51 trips to gun sites.

Sgt Reckless was wounded twice, but carried on. She also helped evacuate dead and wounded soldiers.

The statue in Lexington will be unveiled by four Korean War veterans who served with the horse. The dedication comes more than two years after Marine Corps veterans and private citizens began raising money for the statue.

### Cruise Opportunity

**SAIL WITH MOAA**  
from Paris to Normandy to commemorate the 75th anniversary of D-Day and those who fought before us.  
Another 60 cabins available!

See MOAA (National) web site for details and book online.

### 2018/19 Calendar of Events

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

- May 24: Meet The Candidates Social
- Jun 14: Army Birthday
- Aug 4: Coast Guard Birthday
- Sep 18: Air Force Birthday
- Oct 13: Navy Birthday
- Oct 25: Dinner Social
- Nov 10: Marine Corps Birthday

Nov ##: USMC Birthday Ball  
Dec ##: Christmas Social  
Jan 24 (2019): Dinner Social  
Feb ##: ASYMCA Salute to the Military  
Mar 28: Dinner Social  
April ##: MOAA Storming the Hill

### Contact Information

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

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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!
- Chapter site: [www.MOAA-AK.COM](http://www.MOAA-AK.COM)

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