

Dinner Socials

The chapter enjoyed a Christmas social at the home of Bob and Paula Pawlowski last month. Many thanks to the hosts and to those who attended!



Our next event will be January 24 at the Coast International Inn. Please save the date and join us!

- Guest Speaker: USPHS Officer (TBD)
- Topic: U.S. Public Health Service
- Date: Jan 24, 2019
- Time: 6:00 p.m.
- Location: Coast International Inn

As a note, please take a moment to send annual dues in. Instructions at the end of this newsletter.

New Sheriff In Town

On January 3d, the new Defense Secretary laid out his initial policy plans. This short item is a summary of those plans:

- Acting Defense Secretary Patrick M. Shanahan will use the National Defense Strategy (NDS) as his blueprint moving forward but will transition from a counterinsurgency strategy to one based on near-peer competition (primarily China).

- The NDS aims at rebuilding U.S. military capabilities that were decimated by years of sequestration spending cuts, constant deployments and equipment overuse and to foster capabilities needed to maintain American pre-eminence.

- The three lines of effort in the National Defense Strategy are: improving lethality, maintaining and building strong alliances, and reforming DOD business practices.

MOAA Advocacy

Part of our efforts to maintain a chapter far from the Pentagon is support MOAA as it advocates on behalf of military readiness, serving military interests and veteran/retiree issues. Thank you for your participation and support! You may have recently received MOAA National's newsletter in your e-mail. Some of the issues that MOAA is pursuing:

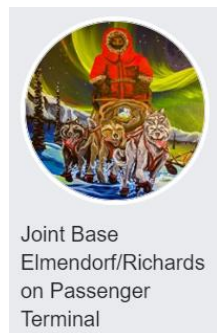
- Tell Congress Not to Shrink the Deficit by Shorting Troops and Veterans - TRICARE for Life, BAH, and more military benefits have been targeted by the Congressional Budget Office.

- Battle for Blue Water Navy Benefits Will Begin Again in 2019 - MOAA will push the new Congress to act fast on behalf of these veterans.

- Don't Hold Coast Guard, NOAA Corps Hostage During Shutdown - Take action now to support these service members and their critical missions.

Travel and Military Lodging

We've all had the thought of using our Space A travel options when we retire, but we tend to put it off. As you know, JBER provides a significant opportunity to start a trip so think about that for a new adventure! You can find JBER Passenger Terminal on Facebook and they post flights inbound and outbound there. Flight information is posted daily at 2200L and is updated periodically as required.



Here is a link to DOD lodging across the globe that might be useful.

<https://www.dodlodging.com/>

As a note, initial dates of stay are dependent upon availability at the time your reservation is made. Should your

plans change, additional nights are dependent upon availability on the final night of your initial stay. Obviously, Space-A travel can be somewhat fluid and unpredictable, but you're most likely to be able to take advantage of military airlift during off-season so this might not be too big a problem.

Similarly, there are five military Armed Forces Recreation Centers resorts that might be of interest in your travel plans. These resorts are part of the military's Morale, Welfare, and Recreation program.

- Shades of Green Resort — Orlando, Florida. The Shades of Green Resort is a military-owned resort within Walt Disney World

- Hale Koa Hotel — Honolulu, Hawaii
- New Sanno Hotel — Tokyo, Japan
- Dragon Hill Lodge — Seoul, Korea
- Edelweiss Lodge and Resort — Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany

You can google, bing or visit the website for each one for full details, but a thumbnail of each is provided below!

Edelweiss Lodge and Resort



- Address: St.-Martin-Strasse 120, 82467 Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany
- Phone: +49 8821 9440
- <https://www.edelweisslodgeandresort.com/>

Surrounded by mountains, this luxurious alpine hotel is 3.1 km from the Bavarian Zugspitze Railway and 26 km from the beautiful and picturesque Zugspitze mountain. Sophisticated rooms with rustic-chic furnishings feature coffeemakers, free Wi-Fi and flat-screen TVs with satellite channels. They also have private bathrooms; most have balconies or terraces with mountain views. Suites add pull-out sofas; some have 2 separate levels. Dining options include a show-kitchen restaurant, a buffet restaurant, plus a casual bar/eatery and a snack/juice bar. Other amenities include a fitness center, an indoor heated pool and a whirlpool tub, plus a spa with saunas and treatments.

Dragon Hill Lodge



- Address: 7 Yongsandong 4(sa)-ga, Yongsan-gu, Seoul, South Korea
- Phone: +82 50-3338-2222
- <https://www.dragonhilllodge.com/>

Welcome to Seoul! Your adventures in Asia start at Dragon Hill Lodge in Seoul, South Korea! A familiar oasis in the heart of a bustling city, Dragon Hill Lodge is designed for military members and families. Whether you're here for business, leisure or a little of both, Dragon Hill Lodge is a home base that gets you to all the action, beauty, sights and delights in Seoul and all of Asia.

New Sanno Hotel



- Address: 4-12-20 Minamiazabu, Tokyo 106-0047
- Phone: 03-3440-7871
- Website: <http://www.thenewsanno.com/>

An 8-minute walk from Hiroo subway station, this industrial, refined hotel is

3 km from the lively, tree-lined Omotesandō Avenue and 6 km from the bustling Tsukiji fish market. Polished rooms offer free Wi-Fi, TVs and mini-fridges, as well as tea and coffeemakers. Suites add living areas; some have separate living rooms, futons and views of the traditional Japanese garden. There are 7 dining options, including an Italian bistro, a chic teppanyaki eatery and a plush lounge bar decorated by stained glass artwork. Other amenities include a gym, gender-separated saunas, and an atrium with an indoor pool. There's also a children's pool and a hot tub.

Hale Koa Hotel



- Address: 2055 Kalia Rd, Honolulu, HI 96815, USA
- Phone: +1 808-955-0555
- <https://www.halekoa.com/>

Aloha! Welcome to paradise. Hale Koa Hotel is an oceanfront retreat for military members and families on the storied, sunny shores of Waikiki Beach. You'll find a whole new meaning for rest and relaxation here among the sand, surf and swaying palms. Plus, our shows, sights and shopping bring

Hawaiian culture, activities and entertainment within easy reach.

Shades of Green

- Address: 1950 Magnolia Palm Dr, Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830, USA
- Phone: +1 407-824-3400
- <https://www.shadesofgreen.org/>

Shades of Green is a resort owned by the United States Department of Defense in the city of Bay Lake, Florida, near Orlando, Florida on Walt Disney World property. Welcome! Explore the family-friendly excitement of Central Florida from Shades of Green® on Walt Disney World® Resort. Tucked between two PGA golf courses and arm's reach to theme park magic, Shades of Green is a unique resort for military members and families. Tickets, adventures, dining and accommodations are all more affordable than you think.

DoD Systems

A new military system you will begin to hear about is the new Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV), a coming part of the family of transportation options in the military.

The Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV) is a U.S. military (specifically U.S. Army, USSOCOM, and U.S. Marine Corps) program to partly replace the High Mobility Multi-Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) with a family of more

survivable vehicles with greater payload

JLTV variants are capable of performing armament carrier, utility, command and control (shelter), ambulance, reconnaissance and a variety of other tactical and logistic support roles. Capabilities continue to grow as the following are noted as capabilities:

- Off-road mobility and power to escape high-threat situations
- Advanced hull designs that are built to optimize survivability against a full range of blast and ballistic threats
- Blast protected seats, restraints and stowage to minimize crew impact during adverse events
- An integrated system designed to absorb and deflect blast energy
- Automatic fire suppression systems
- Plug and play integration of situational awareness systems



A production standard USMC JLTV in General Purpose (GP) configuration, this example fitted with a deep fording kit and tire chains.

Defense News

US Navy, Missile Defense Agency shoot down an intermediate-range ballistic missile in space (Defense News) The U.S. Navy and Missile Defense Agency continued a hot streak Tuesday when they successfully shot down an intermediate-range ballistic missile target in space from its Hawaii-based Aegis Ashore facility.

Family, friends remember Marines killed in KC-130J crash off Japan coast (Stars & Stripes) The five missing Marines who were aboard the KC-130J tanker plane that collided midair with an F/A-18 fighter off the coast of Japan last week ranged from young corporals early in their service to a veteran pilot, who was the executive officer of their Japan-based squadron. On Tuesday, they were declared dead, ending days of searching for them.

White House mulls Jim Webb, ex-Democratic senator, as next defense secretary (New York Times) The Trump administration is considering Jim Webb, a former Democratic senator and Reagan-era secretary of the Navy, to be the next defense secretary, according to three officials, potentially bypassing more hawkish Republicans whose names have been floated to replace Jim Mattis.

The new military pay raise is in effect (Military Times) President Donald Trump may have misstated the facts Dec. 26 when he told U.S. troops in Iraq that he had secured their first pay raise

in 10 years, but this year's pay raise is the largest pay hike in almost a decade.

Russia is swallowing the Black Sea and won't stop until it has 'choked out Ukraine' (Military Times) But absent harsher measures and greater push-back, the former commander of U.S. Army Europe warns that the Russian Federation won't let up.

US urges Pacific allies to boost their military presence in South China Sea (Stars & Stripes) The Pentagon is urging America's Pacific allies to increase their military presence in the South China Sea in line with its own efforts to confront China.

Why Allies Matter

Finally declassified: Swedish pilots awarded US Air Medals for saving SR-71 spy plane

More than 31 years ago, the relationship between the United States and the Soviet Union remained icy, and the Berlin Wall had yet to come down. U.S. Air Force pilots were engaged in secret reconnaissance missions aboard the legendary SR-71 Blackbird spy plane. Many of those flights occurred over international waters in the Baltic Sea. These sorties were known as "Baltic Express" missions. The SR-71 pilots would fly their aircraft at high altitudes while gathering imagery on key Russian bases — such as the Soviet Navy's Northern Fleet on the Kola Peninsula — from international airspace.

During one such mission on June 29, 1987, a Blackbird flown by retired Lt. Cols. Duane Noll and Tom Veltri, experienced an engine failure. The crew descended to roughly 25,000 feet over Swedish airspace where they were intercepted by two pairs of Swedish air force Saab 37 Viggen fighter jets. The Swedes were more than simply intercepting a wayward aircraft, they were offering defense from any opportunistic Soviets looking to harass an enemy spy plane on the fritz. Given the tight corridor in the Baltic Sea, accidental airspace violations weren't out of the realm of possibility. And Soviet fighter aircraft might have been looking for any reason, however slight, to enter into an air-to-air altercation.



The SR-71, unofficially known as the "Blackbird," is a long-range, advanced strategic reconnaissance aircraft. (Air Force)

This mission remained classified until last year. But with declassification has come official acknowledgement for services rendered. On Nov. 28, in Stockholm, the U.S. Air Force finally presented four Swedish pilots with Air Medals for their actions back in 1987,

according to a video of the ceremony posted by the Pentagon. "We were performing an ordinary peace time operation exercise," recalled retired Maj. Roger Moller, one of the Swedish air force pilots. "Our fighter controller then asked me: 'Are you able to make an interception and identification of a certain interest.' I thought immediately it must be an SR-71, otherwise he would have mentioned it. But at that time I didn't know it was the Blackbird."

Once the Swedish pilots intercepted the damaged SR-71, they decided to render support to the aircraft by defending it from potential third-party aircraft that might have tried to threaten it, according to the Air Medal citation. The pilots then accompanied the SR-71 beyond the territorial boundaries and ensured that it was safely recovered by American forces. "I can't say enough about these gentlemen," said Veltri, one of the SR-71 pilots who was at the ceremony. "I am so amazingly grateful for what they did, but also for the opportunity to recognize them in the fashion we are doing. What these guys did is truly monumental."



Noll, the other SR-71 pilot, was not able to be at the ceremony. However, he recorded a message which was played to those in attendance. "Your obvious skills and judgement were definitely demonstrated on that fateful day many years ago. I want to thank you for your actions," Noll said.

"We will never know what would or could have happened, but because of you, there was no international incident," Noll added. "The U.S. Air Force did not lose an irreplaceable aircraft, and two crew members' lives were saved. Lt. Col. Veltri and I can't thank you sufficiently for what you prevented. Thank you for being highly skilled and dedicated patriotic fellow aviators."

U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. John Williams, U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa mobilization assistant to the commander, presented the Air Medals to Swedish air force Col. Lars-Eric Blad, Maj. Roger Moller, Maj. Krister Sjoberg and Lt. Bo Ignell. "That day in 1987 showed us that we can always count on our Swedish partners in times of great peril," Williams said during the

ceremony. "Even when there was both political risk and great physical risk in the form of actual danger, there was no hesitation on your part to preserve the pilots on that day." The presentation of Air Medals to the Swedish pilots represented a measure of gratitude from the U.S. military, as well as a longstanding partnership with Sweden between the countries, U.S. Air Force officials said. The Swedish pilots also received a painting chronicling their heroics.

The Pentagon

Found this article at Defense.gov and thought you might enjoy it! Used editing to shorten and match our format.

Why is the Pentagon, you know, a pentagon? The land the Pentagon was first planned to go on was bordered on five sides by roads, so the architects designed a five-sided building. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt was worried putting the building at that location would interfere with the view of Washington from Arlington Cemetery, so he chose to move it to its present location, but he kept the five-sided design.

After construction began, it was completed in record time. More than 15,000 workers were on site around the clock, and wartime office space shortages meant that workers moved in before the Pentagon was fully finished. Construction finished on Jan.

15, 1943, just 16 months after it started. Speed costs money, though: Initially budgeted at \$35 million, the final cost was \$63 million, more than \$900 million in today's money. September 11 has a double significance for the Pentagon: Builders broke ground for the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 1941, exactly 60 years before the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.



A photo of the Pentagon and surrounding roads and parking lots in 1947.

The Pentagon is the world's largest low-rise office building. The entire U.S. Capitol building could fit inside any of the building's five wedges. It has 6,500,000 square feet of office space (three times the floor space in the Empire State Building!), 7,754 windows and 17 1/2 miles of corridors. Yet, its spoke-and-ring design means it takes only about 7 minutes to walk between the furthest two points in the building. The builders were frugal with their materials.

During construction, the builders were able to conserve enough steel to build a battleship. And the 689,000 tons of sand and gravel used to make the building's reinforced concrete –

including 41,000 concrete pilings – came from the nearby Potomac River.

The same guy oversaw construction of the Pentagon and the atomic bomb. Col. Leslie Groves, an Army Corps of Engineer officer, took charge of the Pentagon's construction in August 1941.

He worked six days a week in his office in Washington. Then on Sundays, he would visit the project he felt most needed his personal attention.

Groves later said of his time at the Pentagon that he was "hoping to get to a war theater so I could find a little peace." Instead, he was assigned to direct the Manhattan Project – America's effort to build an atomic bomb.

The Pentagon has undergone a recent 17 year renovation, which was completed in 2011. Until that year, there was only one passenger elevator in the Pentagon, reserved for the defense secretary. The renovation included 70 passenger elevators installed in the building. Until then, people who couldn't use stairs used long ramps to move between floors. The ramps are still there, but the rumors of office chair races are greatly exaggerated.



Construction crews work on floors and walls at the Pentagon.

More important, the renovation project probably saved thousands of lives. The Pentagon is divided into five wedges, and the renovation project was going wedge by wedge when terrorists flew American Airlines Flight 77 into the Pentagon, Sept. 11, 2001, killing 189 people.

The plane hit in Wedge 3, where renovations had just completed, but only about 800 out of the 4,500 people who normally would have been working there had moved back into their offices. And the new sprinkler system, extra structural support and blast-resistant windows helped to keep the building damage to a minimum, likely saving additional lives.

2018/19 Calendar of Events

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

Jan 24 (2019): Dinner Social (Meeting)
Feb ##: ASYMCA Salute to the Military
Feb 28: Dinner Social (Meeting)
Mar 28: Dinner Social (Meeting)

April ##: MOAA Storming the Hill
April 25: Dinner Social (Meeting)
May 23: End of Season Social (Meeting)
Jun 14: Army Birthday
Aug 4: Coast Guard Birthday
Sep 18: Air Force Birthday
Sep 26: Dinner Social (Meeting)
Oct 13: Navy Birthday
Oct 24: Dinner Social (Meeting)
Nov 10: Marine Corps Birthday
Nov 21: Dinner Social (Meeting)
Dec ##: Christmas Social

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. Thank you for your support!
- Chapter site: www.MOAA-AK.COM

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