

Vol 10-18

Captain Cook Chapter

October, 2018

Dinner Socials

We all enjoyed last month's dinner social and were able to share what's happened since we last met in the spring.

Our dinner guest last month was Dennis Anderson, the publisher of The Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman in Wasilla, Alaska. He also oversees all Wick operations in Alaska. He provided an interesting insight into challenges and rewards in the publishing environment in the State of Alaska – we are very appreciative of his visit!

Our next event will be October 25 at the Coast International Inn. Please save the date and join us!

- Guest: Mr. Bryan Schroeder, Capt, USCG (Ret)
- Billet: US Attorney
- Date: Oct 25, 2018
- Time: 6:00 p.m.
- Location: Coast International Inn

Future event: The Marine Corps Birthday Ball is coming up on 10 November. If you'd like to join Catkin and Tom (yes he's back for a visit!) please let us know!

Event Hosted by MOAA

How to Shop for Your FEDVIP Dental and Vision Plans

Are you ready to make a decision on which is the best Dental and/or Vision plan for you and your family? FEDVIP open season is rapidly approaching and MOAA is here to help. MOAA benefits

professionals Shane Ostrom and Paul Frost guide you through "How to shop for a FEDVIP dental and vision plan." We'll use the BENEFEDS comparison tool to discuss and compare potential plans that best meet your needs.

- Tue Oct 9th
- 2PM Eastern Standard Time
- Visit www.moaa.org/email for details.

You can register for this meeting at the below link:

<https://cc.callinfo.com/registration/#/?meeting=1lshd40guba41&campaign=10y5cu8tcmp0c>

MOAA does not rent or sell its members' emails to third parties. If you include your email address, you will receive e-communications from MOAA.

Unable to attend? This webinar will be recorded and archived on the MOAA website for Premium and Life Members here:

<https://www.moaa.org/transitionwebinars>

Alaskan Interest Spotlight

Coasties investigated for illicit drug use on Kodiak

The Kodiak Daily Mirror (By: Carl Prine)

The U.S. Coast Guard says it has taken a number of members in Kodiak off duty status as it investigates allegations of illicit drug activity. Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Raymond Reichl says the

investigation has "only been going on for a very short period of time" and will continue for several weeks. Reichl says members from "a variety of units" are being investigated, but he declined to give the number of people involved or what prompted the investigation.

Reichl says the allegations could deal with anything from drug possession to the wrongful use of prescription medication. He says duty status includes security watches, aircraft or boat duties, and other routine activities performed by Coast Guard personnel.

Missile Defense

Missile Defense Review complete, Shanahan says *(Aaron Mehta October 5, 2018)*

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon's Missile Defense Review has been completed, according to the department's No. 2 official. But when it will be released remains unknown. During a media roundtable Wednesday, Deputy Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan was asked about the status of the review, a broad-spectrum look at America's missile defense capabilities that is expected to drive investment in the coming years.

"We don't have the document release. The strategy is done," Shanahan said. "Don't worry about the strategy. The strategy's been done for quite some time."



During the roundtable, Shanahan referred many times to how the department's fiscal 2020 budget request, which will be finalized in the next two months, is strategy-based, drawing from the White House's National Security Strategy as well as the Pentagon's National Defense Strategy and Nuclear Posture Review. Those documents were completed and released early in the year, unlike the still-unpublished Missile Defense Review.



But Shanahan indicated that the MDR's findings, even if they are not yet public, are being baked into the FY20 budget plan — news that will be welcomed by industry figures hoping to cash in on what is expected to be a sizable increase in missile defense funding for new capabilities.

American investment in missile defense has been inconsistent over the last three decades, leaving the U.S. without "a comprehensive ballistic missile defense system that would be capable of defending the homeland and allies from robust ballistic missile threats," the Heritage Foundation wrote in a new report. "The pace of the

development of ballistic missile threats, both qualitative and quantitative, outpaces the speed of ballistic missile defense research, development, and deployment."

When will the report be made public? Speaking to media Sept. 4, John Rood, who as undersecretary of defense for policy is the point man for the MDR, indicated the report could come out in a matter of weeks. Rood added he was eager to push out the review "as soon as we can, believe me, on a personal level, I am, and hopefully we will get through the final hurdles in the department to do that very soon." But that refrain has been heard before, with Pentagon officials indicating the document would be out in late 2017, then February, then mid-May and then late in the summer.

Some have pointed to a change in focus — from ballistic missile threats to all missile threats, including cruise missiles and hypersonic weapons — as drawing out the process. Shanahan has said the issue was giving Rood time to spin up into the job and add "quality" to a report that largely started before Rood arrived at the Pentagon. There is also widespread speculation in the missile defense community that the review has been delayed, at least in part, because of the warmed relations between the Trump administration and North Korea. Notably, the mid-May time frame for release, which had been floated by Shanahan in April, lined up President Donald Trump's planned meeting in Singapore with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un; while that

meeting was canceled and then eventually happened in June, there was a sense the Pentagon did not want to do anything that could jeopardize those talks, such as releasing a report discussing how the U.S. could counter North Korean capabilities.

Asked Wednesday about the holdup on releasing the document, Shanahan smiled and said, "It's not me," before noting that Defense Secretary Jim Mattis has been discussing the document with stakeholders ahead of any official rollout.

Pacific In The News

Destroyer USS Decatur Has Close Encounter With Chinese Warship (Ben Werner, October 1, 2018)

Arleigh Burke guided-missile destroyer USS Decatur (DDG-73) was approached Sunday morning (30 September) in the South China Sea by a Chinese warship in what Navy officials are calling an unsafe and unprofessional maneuver.

At about 8:30 a.m. local time, Decatur was conducting freedom of navigation operations (FONOps) in the vicinity of Gaven Reef in the South China Sea. China's People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) Luyang-class destroyer approached Decatur, which was operating within 12 nautical miles of the Gaven and Johnson Reefs in the Spratly Islands, Cmdr. Nathan Christensen, a U.S. Pacific Fleet spokesman, told USNI News in an email.

“The (People’s Republic of China) PRC destroyer conducted a series of increasingly aggressive maneuvers accompanied by warnings for Decatur to depart the area. The PRC destroyer approached within 45 yards of Decatur’s bow, after which Decatur maneuvered to prevent a collision,” Christensen said.

Decatur’s route passed rocks and reefs that China has turned into artificial islands in a bid to extend its South China Sea territorial claims. These islands are not recognized by international law as meeting the requirements to qualify as sovereign territory.



Decatur has previously crossed paths with Chinese destroyers in the South China Sea. Two years ago, a Luyang-class destroyer observed Decatur operating near Chinese holdings near Triton and Woody Islands in the Paracel Islands, which China calls Xisha. At the time, a Chinese Ministry of Defense release complained Decatur violated China’s sovereignty, though Vietnam and Taiwan also claim the small sand spits.

Referring to the most recent freedom of navigation operations, Christensen said, “U.S. Forces operate in the Indo-Pacific region on a daily basis, including

the South China Sea. As we have for decades, our forces will continue to fly, sail and operate anywhere international law allows. All operations are designed in accordance with international law and demonstrate that the United States will fly, sail and operate wherever international law allows. That is true in the South China Sea as in other places around the globe.”

Meanwhile, the Wasp Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) with embarked 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) is also operating in the South China Sea. The ARG/MEU recently completed a Defense of the Amphibious Task Force (DATF) drill at sea, including live firing crew-served weapons from USS Wasp (LHD-1).

“The DATF rehearsal demonstrated the full integration of Marine Corps and Navy capabilities showcasing the intensity of joint firepower available to defend Wasp, and our forces, in a wide range of combat situations,” Col. Robert Brodie, the commanding officer of the 31st MEU, said in a statement. “Our ironclad Blue-Green partnership allows us to continuously hone our lethality through training and exercises, in preparation for any operation.”

The ARG and MEU were simulating travel through potentially dangerous waters. The Wasp ARG and 31st MEU are serving as a ready-response force in the region, according to a U.S. Indo-Pacific Command statement.

“Increasing the lethality of the Navy-Marine Corps Team is the priority for us. Sailors and Marines are doing amazing work, and we are becoming more lethal every single day,” Rear Adm. Brad Cooper, commander of Amphibious Force 7th Fleet, said in a statement. “Today, we showed once again why the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps are the premier combat forces in the western Pacific, reinforcing security and stability in this critical region.”

Defense News

US indicts Russians in hacking of nuclear company: The United States on Thursday charged seven Russian intelligence officers with conspiring to hack computers and steal data from the nuclear energy company Westinghouse Electric Co as well as anti-doping watchdogs, sporting federations and an international agency probing the use of chemical weapons. (*Reuters*)

Mattis: Russia violation of missile treaty ‘untenable’: Defense Secretary Jim Mattis on Thursday said Russia’s deployment of nuclear-capable missiles in violation of an arms treaty is “untenable” and unless Moscow changes, the U.S. will have to match that military capability. (*The Associated Press*)

Long-term presence in Syria not war-footing against Iran: Recent statements from the White House regarding a long-term presence of troops in eastern Syria to counter

Iranian influence in the country should not be interpreted as a shift to a war-footing, Pentagon leadership said Thursday. *(Military Times)*

US charges 7 Russian intel officers as West condemns military spy agency:

The U.S. Justice Department on Thursday charged seven Russian intelligence officers with hacking anti-doping agencies and other organizations hours after Western officials leveled new accusations against Moscow's secretive GRU military spy agency. *(The Associated Press)*

Army chooses Raytheon, Lockheed to mature new missile defense radars.

The Army has chosen Raytheon and Lockheed Martin to enter into a technology-maturation and risk-reduction phase of a program to replace its legacy Patriot air and missile defense radar. *(AUSA)*

The US may not be able to fight two big wars at once. America's "marginal" military means the U.S. would struggle if forced to take on a second major conflict at the same time, a new report has found. *(Pentagon)*

US Military on Standby to Evacuate Consulate in Iraq Amid Threats from Iran.

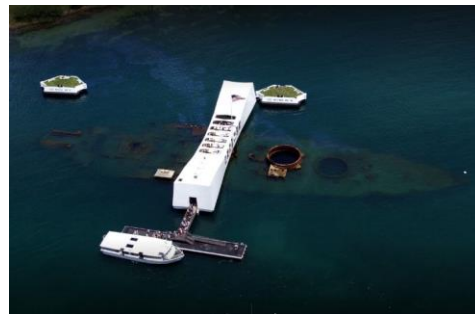
U.S. military forces in Iraq are standing by to help evacuate the U.S. consulate in the southern city of Basra after the State Department's recent decision to temporarily close the facility because of threats made by Iranian forces. *(Military.com)*

Pentagon accuses China of dumping products to undermine U.S. security.

A U.S. Defense Department-led review ordered by President Donald Trump concludes that the Chinese government is deliberately leveraging its monopoly on certain key natural resources to undermine the U.S. defense industrial base, sources told Foreign Policy ahead of the study's release. *(Foreign Policy)*

Dock repairs force USS Arizona Memorial to close.

The USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor will be closed for the rest of the week after the floating dock where visitors depart to the site became partially submerged, the National Park Service said. *(The Associated Press)*



TriWest takes over VA community care programs nationwide.

Veterans Affairs officials announced Tuesday that TriWest Health Care Alliance will take over nationwide operations for the department's main community care programs despite concerns raised last month about overpayments to the company. *(Military Times)*

DARPA wants researchers that think like Dr. Evil, but for good.

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

since its conception has embraced what amounts to a truism in the world of defense: evolving battlefields present war fighters with evolving challenges. It is this philosophy that spawned DARPA's newest competition. *(C4ISRNET)*

126,000 service members in crosshairs for separation as DoD's 'deploy or get out' policy takes effect.

The Pentagon's hard line on troop readiness took effect Monday, and 126,000 service members now find themselves on a path to separation if they do not become deployable in the next 12 months. *(Military Times)*

NATO is gearing up for its largest war games since the Cold War in a huge show of force.

NATO is gearing up for its "biggest exercises in many years," the alliance's Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg revealed Tuesday, according to multiple reports. *(Business Insider)*

Last pocket of ISIS fighters surrounded in Syria, says US military.

U.S.-backed fighters are closing in on the "last pocket of ISIS resistance" in Syria, and remaining ISIS fighters are becoming increasingly desperate, the U.S. military said Tuesday. *(Washington Examiner)*



Nielsen warns of Chinese influence campaign, but not with midterms.

Amid concerns that Russia may be trying to influence the 2018 midterm elections through hacks and disinformation campaigns, top American officials are warning of another threat: China. (*Fifth Domain*)

China conducts further tests with hypersonic vehicles. China carried out atmospheric tests with three hypersonic vehicle models at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre on 21 September, with state-owned television channel CCTV 7 reporting a week later that the tests were completed successfully. (*IHS Jane's 360*)

DOD Systems You Might Not Know Joint Strike Fighter

The F-35 Lightning II Program (also known as the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Program) is the Department of Defense's focal point for defining affordable next generation strike aircraft weapon systems for the Navy, Air Force, Marines, and our allies. This platform is manufactured by Lockheed Martin in partnership with Northrop

Grumman, Pratt & Whitney, and BAE Systems.

Over the years, several tactical aircraft acquisition programs have attempted to deliver new warfighting capabilities to the U.S. Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and our close allies. Most of those programs failed while the JSF program excelled. As a result, the United States plans to buy over 2600 aircraft to make up the preponderance of US airpower for the foreseeable future. The experience gained from previous programs has made JSF what it is today, the world's foremost stealthy, supersonic, survivable, lethal, supportable and affordable multi-role fighter.

The JSFs advanced airframe, autonomic logistics, avionics, propulsion systems, stealth, and firepower will ensure that the F-35 is the most affordable, lethal, supportable and survivable aircraft ever to be used by so many warfighters across the globe. A single-seat, single-engine fighter platform, it provides all-weather stealth multirole capabilities.



This fifth-generation combat aircraft is designed to perform ground-attack and air-superiority missions. With three major variants, F-35A conventional takeoff and landing (CTOL) variant, the F-35B short take-off and vertical-

landing (STOVL) variant, and the F-35C carrier-based catapult-assisted take-off but arrested recovery (CATOBAR) variant, it provides an impressive flexibility in operational utility.

In 2015 and 2016 (respectively), the Marines and Air Force announced combat readiness of their first squadrons. In 2018, the JSF was used in combat for the first time (in Afghanistan).

Partner nations in and out of NATO allow for strategic interoperability and affordability: The United Kingdom, Italy, Australia, Israel, Republic of Korea, Canada, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, and Turkey are program participants and others have shown continuing interest.

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.

- Oct 13: Navy Birthday
- Oct 25: Dinner Social (Meeting)
- Nov 10: Marine Corps Birthday
- Nov 22: Dinner Social (Meeting)
- Dec 13: Christmas Social
- 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 27: Dinner Social (Meeting)

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*