

Season Opener Dinner Social

Our next event will be September 27 at the Coast International Inn. We are pleased to have Alaska's US Atty, Mr. Bryan Schroeder as our guest speaker! Mr. Schroeder is a retired officer and a National MOAA member.

We've been discussing likely speakers and are contacting them for availability. We'll nail this down and you'll see the specific speaker in the invitation when it comes out about two weeks prior to the event.

Our current list of potential speakers is:

- US Attorney
- Superintendent of Spring Creek Maximum Security
- Alaska Command J5 or J3
- Coast Guard Operations
- Anchorage Chamber of Commerce
- Director of local newspapers (including base)
- Arctic Update.

If you have additional suggestions, please let us know! **Please SAVE THE DATE and join us for our 27 September dinner.**

Guest: Bryan Schroeder, US Attorney

Date: Sep 27

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Coast International Inn

Pacific In the News

U.S. and China trade barbs after El Salvador cuts Taiwan ties

(AFP-JJII), Aug 24, 2018

BEIJING – China lashed out on Friday at “irresponsible” U.S. accusations that Beijing was destabilizing cross-Strait relations after El Salvador cut ties with Taiwan in favor of the Asian giant.

The White House also scolded the Central American country in a statement released Thursday, warning that the decision was made in a “non-transparent fashion” and affects “the economic health and security of the entire Americas region.”

Taiwan and China have been engaged for years in a diplomatic tug-of-war in developing countries, with economic support and other aid often used as bargaining chips for diplomatic recognition.

“The United States will continue to oppose China’s destabilization of the cross-Strait relationship and political interference in the Western Hemisphere,” the White House said. “The El Salvadoran government’s receptiveness to China’s apparent interference in the domestic politics of a Western Hemisphere country is of grave concern to the United States, and will result in a reevaluation of our relationship with El Salvador.”

Beijing sees self-ruling, democratic Taiwan as part of its territory to be brought back into the fold and has not ruled out using force to do so. Relations between Taipei and Beijing have worsened since Tsai Ing-wen became Taiwan’s president in 2016, as her government refuses to acknowledge the island is part of “one China.” China has stepped up its poaching of Taiwan’s

dwindling official allies, with El Salvador becoming the fifth diplomatic loss under Tsai’s presidency and the third this year.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said on Friday that El Salvador’s decision to adhere to the “one China principle” was “right, proper and above-board.” “Some country takes this and makes irresponsible remarks, is this not interfering in the internal affairs of El Salvador? Isn’t this, rather, politically meddling in the region? This is self-evident,” Lu told a regular news briefing.

While most countries have established formal ties with Beijing rather than Taipei in recent decades, Taiwan still has unofficial relationships with powerful countries. Its most important unofficial ally is the US, which remains Taiwan’s leading arms supplier, despite switching diplomatic recognition to Beijing in 1979. Ties have warmed between the U.S. and Taiwan in recent months, incensing Beijing.

Some analysts saw the poaching of El Salvador as an indirect slap in the face to the Trump administration and a warning against further friendly overtures.

Defense News

US urges ‘enduring defeat’ of ISIS, offers force if necessary

U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley urged all countries on Thursday to ensure that the Islamic State extremist group faces “an enduring defeat” and said the

United States will deepen partnerships with countries fighting terrorism “when force is necessary.” (The Associated Press), Aug 24

Navy Accepts Delivery of Future USS Sioux City and USS Wichita

The U.S. Navy accepted delivery of two Littoral Combat Ships (LCSs), the future USS Sioux City (LCS 11) and USS Wichita (LCS 13), during a ceremony at the Fincantieri Marinette Marine shipyard on August 22. (Navy), Aug 24

Two Navy ships boost US presence in Black Sea



A destroyer and a transport vessel are conducting separate missions in the Black Sea, only the second time since 2014 that two Navy vessels have operated simultaneously in this tense region for more than just exercises. (Stars & Stripes), Aug 24

‘Extraordinary sacrifice’: Air Force Tech. Sgt. John Chapman posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor

Tech. Sgt. John Chapman, the combat controller who was killed trying to save the lives of a team of Army Rangers during a ferocious mountaintop battle in Afghanistan in 2002, was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor Wednesday. (Air Force Times), Aug 23

Medal of Honor recipient Chapman inducted into Pentagon’s Hall of Heroes

Air Force Tech. Sgt. John Chapman was inducted into the Pentagon’s Hall of Heroes Thursday, one day after he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. (Air Force Times), Aug 24

The Force may not be with us: StratCom could lose space duties with new Space Force

Luke Skywalker might want to join President Donald Trump’s proposed new “Space Force,” but he and his X-wing starfighter probably wouldn’t be posted at Offutt Air Force Base. If anything, in fact, the Offutt-based U.S. Strategic Command might lose part of its mission under the new plan, although the impact isn’t clear yet. (Omaha World-Herald), Aug 24

National Guard to deploy roughly 400 soldiers in support of Hawaii hurricane relief operations

The National Guard has already activated 150 soldiers to support

emergency response efforts in Hawaii as the state braces for the impact of Hurricane Lane. But by the end Thursday that could jump to as many as 400. (Stars & Stripes), Aug 24

Senate passes \$675 billion defense budget bill, with hopes of avoiding funding lapse next month

Senators on Thursday advanced an \$857 billion appropriations measure that includes full defense funding for fiscal 2019 and raises hopes that Congress may be able to avoid a government shutdown or short-term budget extension for Pentagon programs this fall. (Military Times), Aug 24

U.S. senator plans measure to help Taiwan keep its allies

A leading U.S. Republican senator said Thursday he is preparing legislation to discourage Taiwan’s few remaining allies from switching their allegiance to China, after El Salvador became the third country this year to move toward Beijing. (Reuters), Aug 24

US spies warn of increase in supply chain vulnerabilities

The U.S. intelligence community has seen an increase in hackers trying to exploit the supply chain exploits this year, a top intelligence official said Aug. 22. (Fifth Domain), Aug 24

SOCOM to hold flyoff of tiny drones



Special Operations Command is asking drone makers to bring a slew of new technologies down to Florida in November to assess a range of novel gear, and they're particularly interested in tiny drones: everything from 1-lb. drones that can fly without GPS to systems that can carry 10 lbs. of blood on the battlefield to wounded commandos. (Breaking Defense),

Aug24

Combatant Command in the Spotlight *Southern Command (USNORTHCOM)*



United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) is a Unified Combatant Command (one of ten) of the U.S. military tasked with providing military support for civil authorities in the U.S., and protecting the territory and national interests of the United States within the contiguous United States, Alaska (not Hawaii), Puerto Rico, Canada, Mexico, The Bahamas, and the air, land and sea approaches to these areas. It is the U.S. military command

which, if applicable, would be the primary defender against a mainland invasion of the United States.

Commander, U.S. Northern Command is concurrently Commander of the U.S.-Canadian North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD). The two are co-located at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colorado. USNORTHCOM headquarters has approximately 1,200 uniformed and civilian members, and few permanent forces. Forces from all branches of the U.S. military may be assigned to the Command as needed to complete its mission.

USNORTHCOM exercises command and control of two subordinate unified commands, four service component commands, and several standing Joint Task Forces (JTFs).

The subordinate unified commands are Special Operations Command-North, which was activated on 31 December 2012, and Alaskan Command, which was transferred from US Pacific Command (USPACOM) control to USNORTHCOM control on 1 October 2014. USNORTHCOM service components include U.S. Fifth Army/ARNORTH, First Air Force/AFNORTH, USFF/NAVNORTH, and U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserve/MARFORNORTH.

USNORTHCOM's Joint Task Forces include Joint Force Headquarters National Capital Region, Joint Task Force-Civil Support, and Joint Task Force North. USNORTHCOM was created on 25 April 2002 when President George W. Bush approved a new Unified Command Plan, following the September 11 attacks. USNORTHCOM went operational on 1 October 2002.

The support that USNORTHCOM provides to civil authorities is legally limited by the Posse Comitatus Act, which sets some limits on the role of the U.S. military in civilian law enforcement. However, in case of national emergency, natural or man-made, its Air Forces Northern National Security Emergency Preparedness Directorate will take charge of the situation or event.

DOD Systems You Might Not Know *Littoral Combat Ships*

Two new littoral combat ships join the US fleet (By: David B. Larter)

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Navy added a pair of littoral combat ships to the fleet, accepting delivery of the Sioux City and the Wichita during a Wednesday ceremony at Fincantieri's Marinette Marine shipyard.

The ships, the sixth and seventh of Lockheed Martin's monohulled Freedom-variant LCS, will commission later this fall and are destined to be

based in Mayport, Florida, as part of LCS Squadron Two.



Two new monohull Freedom-variant littoral combat ships, like the one pictured, joined the fleet this week. (MC2 Amanda Battles/U.S. Navy)

Over the next few years, the Navy will start accepting littoral combat ships at a fever pitch as the fleet builds up to the programmed 32 hulls, and likely more depending on the outcome of this year's appropriations process in Congress. With the acceptance of Sioux City and Wichita, the Navy has 15 LCS in its inventory.

The rapid buildup of the fleet also puts pressure on the surface warfare community to get its newly reorganized LCS program up and running.

Vice Adm. Richard Brown, head of Naval Surface Force Pacific, told Defense News in mid-August that four ships will be available for deployments in 2019, and that the community was finalizing the advanced predeployment training for the crews.

As for Marinette, the shipbuilder is making rapid progress on several other LCS. The Indianapolis, St. Louis, Minneapolis-Saint Paul, and Cooperstown are all under construction. The shipbuilder has also begun fabrication of the future LCS Marinette. The future Nantucket will begin fabrication in the fall.

Across the program, 29 LCS have been awarded, with 15 delivered to the Navy, 11 in various stages of construction and three in preproduction states, according to a release from Naval Sea Systems Command.

The Senate is currently weighing whether to appropriate two new LCS in 2019, one more than the Navy asked for in its budget — a proposition that drew a strong objection from the White House. President Donald Trump's budget director, Mick Mulvaney, said in a letter that one LCS, combined with the ships already in the pipeline, would keep both Marinette and Independence-variant shipbuilder Austal USA, based in Mobile, Alabama, afloat while the Navy switches gears to its new frigate program.

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

- Sep 18: Air Force Birthday
- Sep 27: Dinner Social (Meeting)**
- Oct 13: Navy Birthday
- Oct 25: Dinner Social (Meeting)**
- Nov 10: Marine Corps Birthday
- *Nov 29: Dinner Social (Meeting)**
- Dec ##: 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

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*

2018/19 Calendar of Events

