

## Dinner Socials

The chapter enjoyed a dinner social at the Coast International Inn last month. LtCol Ty Moore (USMC), a J-5 Homeland Defense Planner (Alaska NORAD Region and Alaskan Command), was our



speaker and shared his thoughts and observations on the international issues he has observed. It was a particular treat because LtCol Moore is one of

those rare Marines who were raised in Alaska before earning their Eagle, Globe and Anchor!

He served in the infantry during both Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center of 9/11, and has redeployed to Iraq twice since then. He has also been a member of one of the jewels of the Marine Corps, a Marine Expeditionary Unit (the 13<sup>th</sup>) and has since been at the heartbeat of 3d Marine Regiment as the



assistant and then Operations Officer. Currently serving as the Homeland Defense Planner, Alaska NORAD Region and Alaskan

Command, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER), Alaska we were fortunate to hear his thoughts as someone with experience and close to the pulse of current events here



in Alaska, as the Arctic has developed growing international importance. Ty is also on the board of the World Affairs Council and coordinated a speaking engagement by an old colleague thoroughly immersed in the Far East, Grant Newsham Col USMC (Ret), a scholar of Asian relations and events.



Many thanks to everyone who attended! Our next event will be February 24 at the Coast International Inn. Please save the date and join us!

- Speaker: Timothy D. Ballard, M.D., M.S. (Col, USAF, Ret), Director, Alaska VA Healthcare System (AVAHS)
- Topic: AK Veterans Affairs System
- Date: Feb 24, 2019
- Time: 6:00 p.m.
- Location: Coast International Inn

We are lining up speakers of interest for the coming months. While tentative, we expect BG Saxe, The Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard and a speaker from the USPHS (US Public Health Service) in March and

April. If possible, May will be the State of Alaska update as we are inviting the Governor or LtGov for that dinner.

## Continuing Service

We are pleased to offer our congratulations to one of our chapter leaders. As you know Edie Grunwald (Col, US Army National Guard) ran a hard-fought campaign for LtGov during the recent political season. Gov Dunleavy has appointed her to join his team as Chair of the Alaska Parole Board. We are pleased and proud to see her step into this important post for our State and feel comfortable that the right decisions will be made.



## JROTC Awards

Wow, the end of school year is already approaching! There will be JROTC awards in Anchorage on April 6<sup>th</sup>, and in Fairbanks on April 17<sup>th</sup>. The Award Ceremony in Anchorage is a one-time 10 school event on 6 April at West High.

The Interior Alaska Combined JROTC awards ceremony brings together all



four JROTC organizations in the Interior of Alaska for an event recognizing top performing cadets within each JROTC unit. The units include Lathrop High School Army JROTC, North Pole High School Air Force JROTC, West Valley High School Marine Corps JROTC, and Ben Eielson High School Air Force JROTC.

The awards consist of a medal and ribbon set for Cadet high school uniforms along with a signed certificate of achievement from Captain Cook Chapter of MOAA. This year we plan on awarding a monetary scholarship to a graduating senior. To help us be more consistent in this area CDR George Tolbert, USCG (Ret) is spearheading our Scholarship Committee moving forward. If you would be willing to assist George and so help us become a little more focused in this area, please let us know.

If you are interested in presenting MOAA awards either in Anchorage or in Fairbanks, please let us know! And as a friendly reminder if you haven't had a chance to send your dues (\$25): The webpage to pay chapter dues, join or renew is on the web page (please let us know if any problems):

<https://chapterdues.moaa.org/Membership.aspx>

## Federal Military Leadership

We were gratified to notice in a recent issue of MOAA magazine, that one of our own had a featured presentation on the cover! Colonel Dan Sullivan



(USMCR) (also known locally and nationally as Senator Dan Sullivan) was smiling at us from a MOAA magazine cover noting his continuing public service in the federal legislature. And of course our old friend Congressman Don Young was also featured in the article. We are blessed that all our representatives in Washington respect and support the military, but it was nice to see our Alaskan military reps noted as two of the 97 in Congress!



## ASYMCA Salute to the Military

The Armed Services YMCA of Alaska's 42nd Annual Salute to the Military will be held at the William A. Egan Center (555 W. 5th Avenue, Anchorage) on February 16, 2019.

No-host Cocktails begins at 6:00pm and Dinner begins at 6:45pm. Tickets may be purchased at:

<https://www.asymca.org/alaska-salute-tix>



## Alaska Military Youth Academy (AMYA) Graduation

AMYA will have a graduation of its twice-yearly schedule on 22 February. This is a worthy organization and does a lot to get young people back on track and/or a leap ahead with a military regimen and intense academics. Many of these young cadets go on to enter the military. If you've been to various events around town, you've seen them supporting these occasions, sometimes with working parties, cleanup crews or in Flag Details. Good group of young people, a good organization and we'll have an article on them in the near future!



## MOAA Advocacy

MOAA National's Ten Goals for 2019 follow. Some of these have been on the list before. That is because a sustained effort is generally required to develop broad positive consensus among lawmakers in Washington!

- Ensure any TRICARE reform sustains access to top-quality care.



- Prevent disproportional TRICARE fee increases.
- Sustain military pay comparability with the private sector.
- Stop erosion of compensation and non-pay quality-of-life benefits.
- End financial penalties for military survivors.
- End concurrent receipt penalties for military retirees.
- Achieve equity of benefits for Guard and Reserve members with their active duty counterparts.
- Strengthen DoD-VA collaboration and services to support wounded warriors and an expanding population of women veterans.
- Ensure timely access to service-earned VA benefits.
- Protect military and veteran family support programs and policies.

## DoD Systems Bulldozers



Note: This image was created by Zach Evenor

The armored bulldozer is a basic tool of combat engineering. These combat engineering vehicles combine the earth moving capabilities of the bulldozer with armor which protects the vehicle and its operator in or near combat. Most are civilian bulldozers modified by

addition of vehicle armor/military equipment, but some are tanks stripped of armament and fitted with a dozer blade. Some tanks have bulldozer blades while retaining their armament, but this does not make them armored bulldozers as such, because combat remains the primary role — earth moving is a secondary task.



D-7 bulldozer, 1944

The first armored bulldozer was developed by the British during World War II. This was a conventional Caterpillar D8 bulldozer fitted with armor to protect the driver and the engine. The bulldozer was one of several strange armored vehicles that were collectively referred to as "Hobart's Funnies". The bulldozers were produced in preparation for the Battle of Normandy with the tasks of clearing the invasion beaches of obstacles and quickly making roads accessible by clearing rubble and filling in bomb craters.

Modern armored bulldozers are often based on the Caterpillar D7 and D9. The attributes that make the D9 popular for major construction projects make it desirable for military applications as well. It has been particularly effective

for the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and for the United States armed forces (the Marine Corps and the US Army) in Iraq, both using an armor kit developed and manufactured by Israel. Following the success of the armored D9, Caterpillar Defense Products started to manufacture and sell armored bulldozers, mainly for the United States Armed Forces.

During the preparation to the war in Iraq in 2003 the United States Army purchased several D9 armor kits from the IDF and used them to produce similarly fortified D9s. These have been used to clear destroyed vehicles from roads, dig moats, erect earthen-barriers, and construct field fortifications. D9s have also been used to raze houses which sheltered insurgent snipers.

## Defense News



An Army paratrooper activates a signal flare during training at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska on Feb. 2, 2019.

**Can Iron Dome cut it for indirect fire protection? US Army is buying a couple systems to find out** (Defense News) The U.S. Army plans to buy a limited number of Iron Dome batteries, evaluating the option for protecting U.S. military

service members against a wide variety of indirect fire and aerial threats.

**Iran inaugurates medium-range ballistic missile, says local media** (Defense News) The missile is reportedly a version of the Zolfaghar missile that has a 430-mile range.

**Sorry, Marvel fans: SOCOM says real-life 'Iron Man' suit remains a fantasy** (Defense News) A high-ranking SOCOM official put a damper on what its proposed "Iron Man" suit will truly be capable of when it's finally operational.

**Airman stationed at Eielson Air Force Base found dead in Alaska** (Stars & Stripes) An airman was found dead in a parking lot in North Pole, Alaska, Eielson Air Force Base officials said Tuesday.

**Russia bids farewell to INF Treaty with fresh nuclear development plans** (Defense News) It didn't take long following the United States' announcement that the country would suspend its participation in a major Cold War arms treaty for Russia to move in kind. Now, freed of its obligations under the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, Moscow is wasting no time in developing new, once-prohibited weapons systems.

**China will build 4 nuclear aircraft carriers in drive to catch US Navy, experts say** (South China Morning Post) Four of at least six aircraft battle groups China plans to have in the water by 2035 will be nuclear-powered, as the Asian giant tries to equal the U.S. in naval

strength, according to Chinese military experts.

**US, South Korea reach cost sharing agreement on troop presence** (Military Times) The U.S. and South Korea have reached a tentative cost-sharing agreement for the continued presence of U.S. troops there, the U.S. State Department confirmed Tuesday.

**Former airman who thwarted terrorist train attack is made a citizen of France** (The Associated Press) Former Air Force Staff Sergeant Spencer Stone and two other Americans who thwarted a terror attack on a French train in 2015 have been granted French citizenship.



*(Editor's Note: In August of 2015, Staff Sergeant Stone, Army Spc. Alek Skarlatos of the Oregon National Guard, and their friend Anthony Sadler became international heroes and celebrities after thwarting a terrorist attack intended to massacre dozens aboard a train heading to Paris in France.)*

**Trump says to meet North Korea's Kim in Vietnam in late February** (Reuters) U.S. President Donald Trump said on Tuesday he would hold his second meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Vietnam on Feb. 27-28, while giving himself credit for averting a major war on the Korean peninsula.

## 2019/20 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.

- Feb 16: 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
- Jan (2020): 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](mailto: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!
- Chapter site: [www.MOAA-AK.COM](http://www.MOAA-AK.COM)

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

