



TriangleGram



MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA TRIANGLE CHAPTER

P.O. Box 19861, Raleigh, NC 27619



VOLUME V

NUMBER 1

FEBRUARY 2018

Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, 14 March 2018

Speaker

**Lt. General Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret)
President & CEO, Military Officers Association of America**

1815 - Social time, Cash Bar

Cheese/fruit platter, registration & raffle ticket sales

1900 Dinner

Printable Reservation Form Inside

Reservations MUST Be Received by Friday, 9 March 2018

**** PLEASE NOTE:** If you made a reservation and paid for the January meeting, you **DO NOT** have to make another reservation for the March dinner **BUT** please confirm you (and your guest) will be attending the March meeting by sending an email to ltcharrington@gmail.com.

If you asked for a refund from the January meeting, you will need to complete another reservation form and submit payment.**

MOAA Legislative Action Center

<http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/?tab=Legislative-Action-Center#Legislative-Action-Center>

The Triangle Chapter and National MOAA are nonpartisan organizations

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CDR Dean Block

2018 promises to be a challenging and exciting year. We have already been challenged by the January winter storm which forced cancellation of our anniversary dinner meeting. But it is exciting to report that we were successful in getting General Atkins for our rescheduled anniversary dinner, March 14. If you haven't made your reservation, you can do so in this newsletter. We are looking forward to a great crowd to welcome General Atkins and celebrate 55 years of fellowship and service. Also, our new chapter flag will be on display. Turning to May, we will reprise our Durham Bulls outing from last year. The event will take place on May 9 and it looks like we will have a good crowd. The Bulls play winning baseball and it's always entertaining. There are a limited number of tickets still available. Please see the note later in the newsletter. Hope to see you there.

As some of you may know, the Durham/Orange County MOAA chapter has stopped functioning as an independent unit. Its remaining members have transferred to your chapter and we welcome them to the Triangle Chapter. We look forward to seeing them at the dinner meeting in March, also at the Bulls game in May and being an integral part of all our activities.

We have had a difficult situation develop within your board. Illness has created vacancies within the board and its committees. Therefore we are reaching out to you to ask that you strongly consider stepping up to help the chapter. Please get in touch with me, past-president Matt Segal or any member of the board to express your interest and learn more. Thank you.

Three other on-going challenges need our collective attention and offer opportunities to serve and sustain the chapter. Of continuing concern is our need to keep up with timely dues payments. Our bylaws require that dues be kept current or one may be dropped from membership. You may have fallen behind without realizing it. Now is the time to get caught up by sending your checks to JoAnn Harrington. Closely related is the need for each of us to contribute to maintaining and increasing our membership. The reality is that the power of MOAA to protect our interests and those of our fighting men and women is in our numbers. All of us know or encounter eligible veterans in our business dealings and social lives. It may be simply that no one has asked them to participate, to join, and you can be the one to light that spark. Bringing a guest to our March anniversary dinner meeting is a great way to let them meet us and there is plenty of time left to sign up!

Finally, we need to sustain and, if possible, take our scholarship program to the next level. I know you agree that the program is one of the best ways we contribute to the Triangle community. In addition to our raffle and personal contributions, another great way to boost the fund is by working with businesses you know to enroll them in our business support program. For \$100 a year they receive advertising in our newsletter and the satisfaction of contributing to the success of some great young people. On a personal note, I am pledging to contribute \$20 each 2018 dinner meeting. I challenge each of you to make a donation of some size for each of these meetings. Add \$5 or \$10 to your reservation form when you sign up for dinner! Even if you can't make a dinner, send in a contribution! With wide participation, even small contributions will add up to a big impact. Thank you.

Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret)



Lt. Gen. Atkins is a native of Portland, Ore. He earned his bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Portland and holds two master's degrees, one in aeronautical science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and another in national security strategy from the National War College.

A command pilot with more than 4,000 hours in fighter aircraft, Atkins has served in a number of key command and staff positions, including commander, 20th Fighter Wing, Shaw AFB, S.C.; commander, 35th Fighter Wing, Misawa, Japan; vice commander, 7th Air Force and U.S. Air Force Korea; director of operations, U.S. Pacific Command; and special assistant to the supreme allied commander Europe during the air war over Serbia. During his career, he flew as a demonstration pilot for both the European A-10 Demonstration Team and the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds.

At the time of his retirement from the Air Force, Atkins served as commander, Alaskan Command, U.S. Pacific Command; commander, 11th Air Force, Pacific Air Forces; and commander, Alaskan North American Defense Region,

Elmendorf AFB, Alaska. He and his wife, Laura, were the 2004 recipients of the General and Mrs. Jerome F. O'Malley Award, which recognizes the wing commander and spouse whose contributions to the nation, the Air Force, and the local community best exemplify the highest ideals and positive leadership of a military couple.

Before becoming the ninth president of MOAA, Gen Atkins served as president of Chronicle Media, a print and digital media company based in Augusta, Ga., that serves the southeastern U.S.

2018 Triangle Chapter Annual Dues

CAPT Bob Caron

It is dues time for CY 2018 for those of you who are not life members of the Triangle chapter (verses national MOAA). Please note that National MOAA membership differs from Chapter membership so if you are a National MOAA Life member, you are still responsible for paying local chapter dues which funds all the work our chapter does with your generous support.

There are two ways to pay your annual dues to your Triangle Chapter- US Postal System (USPS) or on line:

USPS: Include dues with (or without) your reservation form for an upcoming dinner that is in the back of each TriangleGram issue and mail it to LTC Harrington at the address on the reservation form. If you want to pay before the TriangleGram comes out and you are not currently a chapter life member, you can just mail a check for the dues (\$25 annually; \$5 for surviving spouses) to LTC Harrington (making sure you note on the check it is for "2018 annual Triangle Chapter MOAA dues". Her address is 4000 Winston Hill Drive, Apt 108, Cary, NC 27513. Pay on line by credit card using the instructions below:

HOW TO PAY ANNUAL CHAPTER DUES ONLINE: Go to the MOAA (National) website (MOAA.org). On the page that appears there is a title line in red near the top. Click on the word "Chapters" (a drop-down menu will appear, but just click on the word "Chapters"). The page that appears after step 2 will have a green box on the right that says "Pay Your Chapter Dues". Click on the box. The next page will ask you several questions under the words "Getting Started" to identify the chapter you are in (Triangle Chapter). After you identify the chapter continue to the next page and identify yourself as a "Regular Member" where it says "Dues Category". Continue through the process. One of the fill ins asks for your MOAA number, but if you do not have it do not worry and continue populating the rest of the information.

Chapter Bylaws provide that those not paid by 1 March are in arrears and will be so notified. The membership and dues committee will be reviewing membership status and notifying delinquent members in the next 30 days to ensure we have a robust, active chapter. Please help us save the postage by paying your 2018 Chapter dues. Any member in arrears is asked to include past dues with the submission.

Durham Bulls Outing

Lt Col Chris Froeschner

We are looking forward to our May 9th social outing to the Durham Bulls Athletic Park to watch the 2017 Triple-A National Champions Durham Bulls take on the Columbus Clippers! This year, we have secured excellent seats in Section 206, covered seating behind the first base line. Tickets will cost around \$23 each and will include a ticket to the game and a \$10 "Bulls Bucks" voucher that can be used at any vendor in the park.

UPDATE: While the initial deadline for tickets has come and gone, due to the large response we were able to secure a limited number of additional tickets that can be purchased on a first come, first serve basis by emailing Chris Froeschner at frosh90@gmail.com for a link to purchase tickets while they last.

This event is open to members, non-members, family and friends, with maximum participation encouraged! We look forward to seeing you at the ballpark!

January 2018 Legislative Report

COL Mike Flynn

Triangle Chapter Legislative Chair

Federal Issues

Military Pay: Although the administration recommended a 2.1% pay raise for active duty service members, the House of Representatives and the Senate agreed in conference to a 2.4% raise. This is the first time in several years that our active duty personnel have received the raise called for by the cost of living index. Thanks to everyone who contacted their Senators and Representatives on this important issue.

Sequestration: Congress passed legislation which covers the Department of Defense for two years, but sequestration is not gone. We need our Senators and Representatives to return to passing annual budgets. Citizen contact with our elected officials helps so write, call or send an email to your legislators.

North Carolina Issues

In 2016 legislation was introduced into the North Carolina General Assembly on the following issues.

Family Support: Amending current law would insure continuity of family support when service members move between states. This bill passed the House but not the state senate in 2016, but was not reintroduced in 2017.

MEDICAID Waivers: This legislation would insure dependents retain MEDICAID waivers when the sponsor is transferred outside North Carolina. This bill passed the House but not the state senate in 2016, but was not reintroduced in 2017.

Limiting Service Members Community College Tuition: This legislation would cap tuition for service members at the amount of tuition assistance available from the federal government. This bill passed the House but not the state Senate in 2016, but was not reintroduced in 2017.

Bailey, Emory, Patton Issue: Legislation to redress the Bailey, Emory, Patton (Bailey) inequity was re-introduced in 2017. The legislation was referred to the House Finance Committee. Despite a strong effort by North Carolina MOAA officers and other concerned organizations, the bill was not reported out for vote. Unless the language in Bailey is grafted on to legislation in the 2018 short session, the issue will not resurface until the 2019 long session.

Contact Your Legislators

In conversation with our elected representatives at every level, the issue of citizen contact and input is continually emphasized. It is crucial that we communicate with our elected representatives to have our concerns heard and to positively influence legislation. Call, write a letter or send an email but make your voice heard to ensure our elected officials know your position on important issues. Contact information for state and federal legislators is on the Triangle MOAA web site.

Scholarship Fund Update (as of 19 February 2018)

Col Bob Penny

With the donations forwarded with registrations for the January dinner meeting (cancelled because of snow), our account balance in the Triangle Chapter Scholarship Fund is \$2865.36. Our goal is to continue awarding at least three \$1000 scholarships annually to deserving JROTC cadets from the twenty high school units we support.

These MOAA scholarships are one of the primary ways we interact with our community and show our support for future military leaders of all Branches. The long-term goal is to provide at least \$5000.00 in scholarships each year. To do that, we need members to continue to contribute. That can easily be done when you sign up for membership meeting attendance and meals. There is a line on the sign-up sheet for MOAA JROTC Scholarships. Please check it out and contribute if you can.

New ROTC and JROTC Units Added to Our Chapter

Col Bob Penny

The MOAA Durham/Orange County Chapter has closed their doors and their membership has been invited to join the Triangle Chapter. Along with their members, we are also accepting responsibility for their ROTC and JROTC units. These include two Army and one Air Force high school JROTC units and the Army, Air Force, and Navy detachments at both UNC-Chapel Hill and Duke University. This brings our support of these programs to 23 JROTC units and 10 ROTC detachments.

There is Still Time to Plan Your Spring Vacation

Col Bob Penny

The *Military Vacations for Families from Armed Forces Vacation Club®* (AFVC) is a "Space Available" program that offers military and other Department of Defense-affiliated personnel the opportunity to enjoy vacations at popular destinations around the world - for the incredibly low price of just \$349 to \$369 USD per unit (anything from studio to three bedroom suites), per week. Membership is free! Those eligible and their family and friends have access to spacious accommodations at more than 4,000 resorts, apartments, condominiums and homes in more than 100 countries.

Who Qualifies? The program is available to all active and retired members of the Armed Forces, Department of Defense employees and select civilian employees in military support roles. Availability varies but frequently includes destinations in the United States, Mexico, South America, Asia and Europe. The condominium-style accommodations typically include a full kitchen with refrigerator, stove, dishwasher and microwave. Many AFVC accommodations also include washers and dryers, balconies or patios, access to pools and gyms plus many other comforts of home. Golfing and skiing are available on-site at some resorts, as well. Add in exciting area attractions, and you have an exceptional vacation for far less than you would normally expect to pay!

Always Low Fees, Never Any Pressure. While accommodations are mostly at timeshare resorts, you will not be required to attend a timeshare presentation.

Visit their Web site at: <http://www.afvclub.com/>

Business Support for the Triangle Chapter

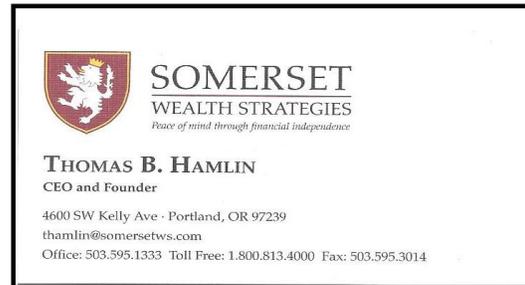
COL Matt Segal

As you know, members continue reaching out to local businesses and ask them to support our scholarship fund making a contribution of \$100 or more. In return, we will post their business cards in the TriangleGram for a calendar year.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Support the businesses that support our chapter's scholarship fund so they can continue to support us while you enjoy their products or services!
- Tell your friends and family to support those businesses. When you or someone you have told about the businesses visits them, thank them for their support of our chapter!

If you know of a business that might want to support us in this way for an annual donation of \$100, please encourage them to do so. Print off a color copy of the TriangleGram and show it to the potential sponsor or have them check our chapter website ("Google" Triangle MOAA) to view recent TriangleGram issues. Once they have accepted, just let me know and we can take it from there!



Pictures from the November 2017 Dinner
Stephen Volandt - pictured on the top left - briefed on
The "Triple Threat" to our Electrical Grid



Triangle Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs

All telephone numbers are the 919 area code except as shown

Officers

President	CDR Edgar Dean Block, USNR	500-9567	falcon1941@gmail.com
1 st Vice President	Vacant		
2 nd Vice President	Col Bob Penny, USAF	847-2453	penny.bob@gmail.com
Secretary	LtCol Chris Froeschner, USAF	840-3000	frosh90@gmail.com
Treasurer	LTC JoAnn Harrington, USA	274-3202	ltc.harrington@gmail.com

Committee Chairs

At Large Committee Chair	CAPT Bob Caron, USCG	650-2098	rrcaron61@nc.rr.com
Immediate Past President	Col Matt Segal, USA	632-4964	sega3245@bellsouth.net
Legislative/Liaison	COL Michael Flynn, USA	847-9695	mjflynn2@gmail.com
Public Relations	Vacant		
Personal Affairs	COL Tom Finnerty, USMC	605-0507	tfinne4565@aol.com
Newsletter and Website Editor	LTC Ken Tigges, USA	219-0356	ktigges001@att.net
Membership	COL Herb Segal, USA	845-2686	dukedocsegal@bellsouth.net
ROTC/JROTC Awards/Scholarship	Col Bob Penny, USAF	847-2453	penny.bob@gmail.com
Chaplain	LTC Tracy Maness, USA	781-1098	tracy.maness@yahoo.com
Sunshine	Vacant		
Legal Advisor	CAPT David D. Lennon, USN	846-7400	lawdrudge@yahoo.com
Historian	Vacant		
Surviving Spouse Liaison	CAPT Bob Caron, USCG	650-2098	rrcaron61@nc.rr.com
Tops Officer	COL Matt Segal, USA	632-4964	sega3245@bellsouth.net
USO Support	LTC Ken Tigges, USA	219-0356	ktigges001@att.net

TRIANGLE CHAPTER OF MOAA



Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, 14 March 2018

North Carolina State University Club
1815 Social (Cash Bar) 1900 Dinner



Speaker

Lt. General Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret), President & CEO,
Military Officers Association of America

RESERVATION FORM

LTC Harrington must receive your reservation by Friday, 9 March 2018

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Entrees:

Black & Blue Sirloin: Blackened 5 ounce Angus beef sirloin filet, blue cheese-panko crusted with roasted red pepper whipped potatoes and broccolini. _____

or

Chicken Picatta – Sautéed chicken supreme with lemon caper beurre blanc, creamy polenta Milanese and asparagus. _____

Caesar Salad, French rolls and butter, coffee, tea, water & Chocolate Mousse Cocktail.
During the social hour (1800-1855) there will be a fruit and cheese platter

Please Reserve _____ Meals at \$35.00 each

DUES

Active Duty, Former, or Retired Officer \$25.00; Widow \$5.00; Dues Amount \$ _____

Contribution to the JROTC Fund: \$ _____

TOTAL REMITTED \$ _____

Member's Name _____ Please check here if you are a surviving spouse and would like to sit at a reserved table for surviving spouses.

Name(s) of Spouse and/or Guest(s) _____

E-Mail address _____

Make checks payable to MOAA/TRIANGLE CHAPTER
Mail to LTC JoAnn Harrington, 4000 Winston Hill Drive, #108, Cary, NC 27513

QUESTIONS? Please call LTC JoAnn Harrington at 919-274-3202