



# ***Military Officers Association of America***

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***-- We Are One Powerful Voice --***

***--- For every officer at every stage of life and career ---***

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## ***Heartland of America Chapter***

***\*\*\*\*\* July 2017 \*\*\*\*\****



***NOTE !! Our Special Guest !! MOAA's National President  
LtGen Dana Atkins USAF (Ret) will be our July speaker***

***-- Dinner Meeting, Wednesday, July 19th --  
(see inside back cover for details)***

Check out our website at  
[www.heartlandMOAA.us](http://www.heartlandMOAA.us)  
or call (402)339-7888

# The Bulletin Board

Is the Newsletter of the Heartland of America Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America. Content is from members, MOAA's [Take Action](#), [Legislative Action Center](#), and other military-oriented sources. Material used is public domain or attributed as to source and copyright. Our editorial policy is the same [non-partisan policy as MOAA](#).

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Lt Colonel Patrick L. Jones, USAF (Ret) Editor & Webmaster - (402)650-4457

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Number 7

July 2017

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



**For our June meeting, instead of a dinner meeting at Anthony's Steakhouse, we had a Saturday, June 10th luncheon meeting at the Strategic Air Command & Aerospace Museum. We had fine attendance as we filled the library room of the museum. After lunch, we had a presentation on the mission and the ongoing restoration of the EC-135 Looking Glass aircraft. The three presenters were chapter members: Col Merlin Stevens, Lt Col Hank Carriger, and Lt Col Dick Doolittle. All are USAF retired and each had flown as crewmembers on Looking Glass missions. Col Stevens, a former 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Commander had been the aircraft commander on many missions. Lt Col Carriger did the command post functions and Lt Col Doolittle, the communications functions. All three now spend several hours a week as volunteers working with the Museum staff to clean, sand, scrape, and restore the aircraft. Another Chapter member, Brig General Regis Urschler was at the meeting and added his considerable expertise to the presentation. A former 55<sup>th</sup> Wing commander, he had flown as the aircraft commander and, later as a SAC Division Commander, he regularly flew as mission commander.**

**Restoring the Looking Glass aircraft is a current priority for the museum as its mission was an integral part of Strategic Air Command. Its function was to mirror all the command and control functions of the underground SAC Command Post. From 1961 to 1990, one of the EC-135's was airborne with a SAC general officer at all times, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. If the underground command post was unable to operate, the communications and control of the SAC aircraft and missiles on alert would transfer to Looking Glass. This excellent presentation made it possible to envision the complexity and the importance of the airborne Looking Glass.**

**After answering several questions, our presenters led us to the restoration hangar and the EC-135. While much progress has been made, it is estimated that it will take at least another year to complete the restoration. We were able to enter the aircraft and view its current status. Since much of the instrumentation**

**in the cockpit has been installed, it is no longer looking like the shell of an aircraft.**

**When a former co-pilot called me, and told me he would be coming to Omaha to attend the Arc Light/Young Tiger Association Reunion, I joined the organization and attended part of it with him. It is comprised of former members of SAC units that participated in B-52 Arc Light and KC-135 Young Tiger combat and combat support missions in the Southeast Asia (SEA) area of operations between 1965 and 1973. I had deployed on Young Tiger in 1965, 1967, and 1969 from Lockbourne AFB, and in 1972, I was deployed to Guam from Castle AFB as an Arc Light Planner. The banquet speaker was Global Strike Command 8th AF Commander, Major General Tom Bussiere who commands all bomber units (B-1, B-2 and B-52s). His excellent presentation noted the bravery and professionalism of the B-52 crews who flew more than 800 sorties over Hanoi in 1972 and the B-2 Southwest Asia missions launched from Whiteman AFB, all supported by multiple air refuelings, in 2016 and 2017.**

**Our speaker for our July 19<sup>th</sup> dinner meeting will be our MOAA President and CEO, Lt General Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret). He will be accompanied by his wife Laura. National MOAA is inviting many Life members who are not yet Chapter members to this meeting. Please arrive early and have your checks written for your menu selections so we can expedite the check-in.**

**Our August 23<sup>rd</sup> dinner meeting speaker will be Chapter member Don Bacon who is a Brig Gen USAF (Ret) and the 2<sup>nd</sup> District Congressman. Please note that this meeting will take place on the 4th Wednesday of the month.**

**Dan Donovan      [d.donovan1@cox.net](mailto:d.donovan1@cox.net)      402-339-7888**

### **Programs**

(from Ken McClure, Maj USA (Ret))

**Our July 19th meeting will be headlined by our MOAA President and CEO, Lt General Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret).**

**A member of our Chapter Board, Brigadier General/Congressman Don Bacon will be our guest at our August 23rd meeting. Please note that this meeting will take place on the 4th Wednesday of the month.**

**Your suggestions for future programs are needed. Please contact me, Ken McClure, at (402) 504-8796 or email [kgmccclure@gmail.com](mailto:kgmccclure@gmail.com)**



Program Chair, Ken McClure

**MOAA's President is Our Guest**  
(from MOAA website)

**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, Atkins served as President of Chronicle Media, a print and digital media company based in Augusta, Ga., that serves the southeastern U.S.**

**TRICARE Changes Coming Soon**

(MOAA Top Issues – Jun 9 )

**The 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) brought sweeping health care reforms, many of which will take effect in just a few months. MOAA is working closely with TRICARE program officials to learn what new processes and responsibilities these changes will bring for TRICARE beneficiaries and when they will occur.**

**The new TRICARE Select option, which replaces TRICARE Standard and Extra, begins Jan. 1, 2018 -- just 6 short months from now. TRICARE Select is the self-managed preferred provider organization (PPO) option. It provides freedom of choice of providers, with reduced/fixed fee beneficiary out-of-pocket costs for care in the network. TRICARE Prime, TRICARE Reserve Select, TRICARE Retired Reserve, and TRICARE Young Adult and TRICARE for Life will remain as is.**

**Under the new model, beneficiaries must make an active, annual choice of health plan for themselves and/or their family. Because 2018 is the first year of the plan, there will be a grace period, and beneficiaries will be automatically renewed in their existing TRICARE option as of Dec. 31, 2017. This means beneficiaries currently in TRICARE Standard or Extra will be converted automatically into TRICARE Select.**

**Active duty family members newly entitled to TRICARE will be automatically enrolled in TRICARE Prime if they live in a Prime Service Area (generally around a military treatment facility). If not, they will be enrolled in TRICARE Select.**

**Two populations may be at risk of losing coverage:**

- 1. Active duty members who retire and do not elect to enroll in an option. MOAA is advocating for a seamless enrollment default option for this population, as well as increased transition education services.**
- 2. Retiree beneficiaries who fail to pay their enrollment fees. Officials have stated that eligible beneficiaries will never lose their benefit, as they will always be eligible for care at military hospitals. However, this would most likely be on a space-available basis.**

#### **Enrollment Details**

- Year 1 (2018): Auto renewal (Jan. 1, 2018) and grace period: Can change TRICARE Prime or Select at any time in 2018**
- Year 2 (2019) and beyond: Can elect TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select coverage (enroll, dis-enroll, or change) only during annual open season (1 Nov - 20 Dec) or if the beneficiary has a qualifying life event:**
  - Marriage, divorce, or annulment**
  - Birth or adoption of a child**
  - Placement of a child by a court in a member's home**
  - Change in sponsor status**
  - Loss of eligibility (due to age, Medicare, etc.)**
  - Move to a new ZIP code**
  - Loss/gain of other health insurance**
  - Death of a sponsor, spouse, or child**
  - Change in eligibility status of any single family member in another family ( e.g. joint service member)**

**All qualifying life events require a Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) update. If beneficiaries request a change in coverage, it must occur within 90 days of the life event.**

**Beneficiary cost shares will be based on the sponsor's "date initially entered into service" (DIEMS). Per the 2017 NDAA, those who have entered into service prior to Jan. 1, 2018, are grandfathered into existing cost shares - unless the 2018 NDAA incorporates provisions from the administration's budget proposal to repeal grandfathering.**

**As many of these changes show, beneficiaries will be expected to take more responsibility for their health care. MOAA will continue to work closely with DoD to ensure program changes will be beneficiary-centered and clearly communicated to all stakeholders.**

**What is the most important thing you can do right now? Make sure your DEERS information is updated for both you and your family. [Click here to see](#) how to update DEERS. There will be much more to come over the next few months.**

**Repeal Sequestration**  
*(from MOAA TOP ISSUES Jun 28)*

**Unless current law is changed, sequestration will return next year and automatically trigger deep cuts to the Defense Department. These severe cuts will exhaust our resources and capabilities in immeasurable ways—the toll on our military and their families will likewise be incalculable.**

**The congressional session is underway. Please engage your members of Congress—encourage them to make it their priority to repeal sequestration. You notify them in several ways:**

- 1. Click on the link, [MOAA ISSUES](#). (or cut and paste into your browser address line <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/alert/?alertid=74607626>) and use MOAA's email or letter assist.**
- 2. Send the suggested message, or your own version, email or U.S. Mail, or both**
- 3. Use MOAA's toll-free Capitol Hill Hotline (866) 272-6622**

**MOAA's and Heartland Chapter's Missions are the Same**

**The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, working to support military and their families at every stage of life. It actively petitions Congress on behalf of the military community on issues affecting the career force, the retired community, and veterans of the uniformed services. MOAA offers a wide range of personal and financial services exclusive to MOAA members. Whatever the stage of a career, MOAA membership delivers benefits geared specifically to you – and your family. You become part of the strongest advocate for our military and their families. Those with prior officer service in any of the seven uniformed services can become members. Consider joining today because every voice counts! You will be protecting not only your earned benefits but all serving today. Our Heartland Chapter also focuses on similar state and local issues. We provide an environment for camaraderie and mutual support with our meetings, newsletters, website, and community involvement.**

**As MOAA, WE NEVER STOP SERVING.... We are *One Powerful Voice* –  
*For every officer at every stage of life and career... Join Us !!*  
*You will be glad you did!***

## Selection of Membership

<p>When you join MOAA, you become part of the strongest advocate for our military's personnel and their families. The stronger our membership is, the stronger our voice becomes. Consider joining today because every voice counts. Three membership levels to meet the needs of all Officers.</p>	 <b>BASIC</b>	 <b>PREMIUM</b>	 <b>LIFE</b>
<p><b>Features of each Membership level</b></p>	<p>No-cost electronic Membership designed for today's junior officers.</p>	<p>Full access to MOAA's career resources, countless discounts on products and travel, &amp; access to all of MOAA-exclusive publications &amp; news updates. <b>Full access to a wide variety of member benefits for today's career officer.</b></p>	<p>Receive all the benefits that PREMIUM membership has plus exclusive privileges and benefits.</p>
<p><b>Membership Dues</b></p>	<p>Free</p>	<p>1 year -\$40, 2 years - \$75 3 years - \$98</p>	<p>Dues are based on your current age</p>
<p>Support of critical advocacy efforts to protect the benefits of the entire military community.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Electronic access to several of MOAA's news updates.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Discounts on products and travel.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Career transition resources</b> MOAA helps transition efforts by hosting career fairs, resume critiques, training sessions &amp; much more.</p>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Expert advice on your military pay &amp; benefits</b> MOAA's team of highly trained professionals can help you receive the military benefits you've earned through one-on-one counseling.</p>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Financial planning and investment advice</b></p>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Military Office magazine</b></p>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Access to all MOAA-exclusive publications</b></p>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Scholarships, interest-free loans, &amp; grants</b></p>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>MOAA Chapters</b> Take advantage of the opportunity to get involved &amp; meet fellow offices in your community. A PREMIUM or LIFE membership makes it easy.</p>	<p>Dues vary by Chapter.</p>	<p>New chapter members receive a voucher good for one year of chapter dues.</p>	<p>New chapter members receive a voucher good for two years of chapter dues.</p>
<p><b>Bonus travel rewards and discounts</b></p>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Initiation fee waived at the Army and Navy Club of Washington, D.C.</b></p>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Protection for your spouse</b> Membership benefits transfer to your spouse should something happen to you.</p>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



With more than 380,000 members nationwide, the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading organization protecting the rights of servicemembers and their families. Those who belong to MOAA not only lend their voices to a greater cause, but they also gain access to extensive benefits tailored to the needs and lifestyles of military officers. MOAA members proudly hail from every branch of the uniformed services. To them, we have made the same promise that they have made to their country: Never Stop Serving.

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### LIFE Membership Dues

Dues are based on your current age.

50 and under	\$693
Age 51-55	\$654
Age 56-60	\$616
Age 61-65	\$564
Age 66-70	\$501
Age 71-75	\$431
Age 76-80	\$354
Age 81-85	\$270
Age 86-90	\$191
Age 91-95	\$118
Age 96-100	\$72
Age 101+	FREE

### For LIFE or PREMIUM options, choose one of the following payment methods:

Payment in full  Enclosed is my check  
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- Two-Year PREMIUM**  
\$75 (Surviving Spouse – \$68)
- Three-Year PREMIUM**  
\$98 (Surviving Spouse – \$88)

### BASIC Membership Dues

Free

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**Merrifield, VA 22116-9820**

For faster service,  
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M1500QON

**Local Membership Form**



Heartland of America Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America  
P.O. Box 1756  
Bellevue, NE 68005-1756

**LOCAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

(Heartland Chapter members must also be a National MOAA Member)

Membership:  Initial or  Renewal

Annual local dues  \$20.00  \$10.00 (new ones after 1 July)  Aux. \$5.00

Benefactor Donor: \$50, \$100 or more \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_

Nickname \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(H) \_\_\_\_\_ W \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Service \_\_\_\_\_ Retired  NOAA  USPHS

Active Duty  Regular  Reserve  Nat'l Guard  Former Officer

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

National MOAA Membership # \_\_\_\_\_ Life Member?  Yes  No

Brief Bio: (entered service: branch: assignment summary: Interesting career anecdotes:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Chapter Officers for more info:** **President** Dan Donovan - 402-339-7888, **Ask about Membership:** Lou Zuccarello - 402-739-3521, **Programs:** Ken McClure - 402-504-8796, **Surviving Spouse Affairs -** Paula Muth - 402-292-1663, **Legislation:** Paul Cohen - 402-491-3551, **Treasurer:** Rene Dreiling 402-740-3127, **ROTC:** Brook Stafford - 402-916-9759, **Personal Affairs:** Paula Muth - 402-292-1663, **Hospitality & Reservations:** Ron Russell, 402-297-4244, **Webmaster & Newsletter:** Pat Jones - 402-650-4457



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### **May They Not Be Forgotten:**

I mean the men and women who have answered the call and paid the ultimate price so that we and future generations could have the freedoms so cherished by human beings. We must ever be vigilant and prepared to defend our way of life against those who would deny it. Callous politicians, power hungry egoists, corrupt individuals, adversarial religions, and even our latest self-oriented generations pose grave threat to the preservation of what many take for granted. Every citizen should take a few moments from time to time and reflect on the benefits we have in our country. They should give thanks to those who have served and preserved our way of life.

Hopefully, they will also pledge to do their part to keep it so. – pj



### **Wandering Mind of An Old Retired Guy**



Things seem to look different when you get older.

I totally take back all those times I didn't want to nap when I was younger.

How the heck are you supposed to fold a fitted sheet?

I can't remember the last time I wasn't at least kind-of tired.

Bad decisions make good stories.

You never know when it will strike, but there comes a moment when you know that you just aren't going to do anything productive for the rest of the day.

Nothing stinks more than that moment during an argument when you realize you're wrong.

I'm always slightly terrified when I exit out of Word and it asks me if I want to save any changes to my twenty-page MOAA Newsletter that I swear I had not made any changes to.

Was learning cursive really necessary? In my old age, it looks like scribbling.

How many times is it socially acceptable to say "What?" before you just nod and smile because you still didn't hear or understand a word they said?

**"GOOD FRIENDS ARE THE RARE JEWELS OF LIFE...**

**DIFFICULT TO FIND AND IMPOSSIBLE TO REPLACE!**

**TODAY IS THE OLDEST YOU'VE EVER BEEN, YET THE YOUNGEST YOU'LL EVER BE,  
SO ENJOY THIS DAY WHILE IT LASTS.**



All paint and decals are being replaced



Helen Jordan and B/Gen Reg Urschler



T-29 and EC-135 being restored



CINCSAC GEN ELLIS IN EC-135



Hank Carriger & fellow museum supporter



SAC & Aerospace Museum & Atlas missile



Interior of EC-135 cleaned and ready to restore



SAC shield added when museum expanded



Chapter members getting ready for personalized tour of the EC-135 being restored



Dick Doolittle obviously enjoys restoring a plane he flew on



Hank Carriger, Wayne Stevens, and Dick Doolittle discussing the restoring effort with Chapter President Dan Donovan



missiles in front of museum



B/Gen Urschler probably thought of the many pilot walk-around preflights he made before



The Cockpit restoration is going well



Like the Three Musketeers, restorers Carriger, Stevens, and Doolittle have a gallant record



Other things are on exhibit too. This 1950 Ford Convertible is neat.



B/Gen Reg Urschler getting a "mission preflight brief" from Dick Doolittle



## Heartland of America Chapter

*Please Join Us for Dinner*

Date: Wednesday, July 19, 2017

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

**Lt Gen Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret)  
President and CEO of MOAA**

Time: Social Hour – 6PM

Dining Hour – 7PM

Place: Anthony's Steakhouse

7220 F Street

Omaha, NE 68127

Menu (Choice of):

- (1) 8oz Sirloin Steak w/Baked Potato & Roasted Vegetables - \$28.90 -  
*With Vanilla Ice Cream - \$31.90*
- (2) Baked Salmon w/Pasta Alfredo & Roasted Vegetables - \$28.90 -  
*With Vanilla Ice Cream - \$31.90*
- (3) Strawberry Pecan Spring Salad w/Chicken - \$18.40  
*With Vanilla Ice Cream - \$21.40*

RSVP by Date: Monday, July 17<sup>th</sup>

RSVP: Lt Col Ron & Sharon Russell

Tel: 402-297-4244

[heartlandmoaa@hotmail.com](mailto:heartlandmoaa@hotmail.com)

Please specify names of attendees, meal choices and include a phone number in case we need to contact you.

**Reservations should be in by Monday night before the dinner! If you must cancel your reservation, please call Sharon at (402) 297-4244 prior to 4:00 pm on the day of the event; otherwise the chapter will be charged if you are a NO-SHOW and we will have to send you a bill for the cost.**

Dress: Gentlemen – Coat & Tie preferred

Ladies – Business attire or as appropriate

**Nonprofit Org  
Heartland of America Chapter, MOAA  
P.O. Box 1756  
Bellevue NE 68005**

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