



The South Georgia Voice



South Georgia Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
January 2024



www.sgamoa.org

November 9, 2023, Meeting



Our speaker was Charles White, Congressman Austin Scott's Field Representative covering the Southern part of the Eighth Congressional District. He briefed us on the works in Congress relating to the military plus other items such as agriculture.

Austin Scott serves on the House Armed Services Committee and the Agriculture Committee.

He was formerly the regional representative for Senator David Perdue.

Veterans Day 2023

Veterans Day was celebrated around the area in many ways. A program was held at Valdosta High School where the JROTC units from Lowndes and Valdosta along with residents and students participated in honoring the veterans.

Valwood Middle School students also honored the veterans with a musical program and brunch. Some of our chapter members attended.



Tim Oliver and Don McArthur



Susan and Bill Rupright

Veterans Day (continued)



Jeanette and Chet Pitchford
Along with Don



Headmaster, John Davis, Sr. opened the Valwood program reminding everyone the need to continue teaching students about what the veterans have done.



Marty Charist, an active USAF paratrooper shook hands with John McGowan, the oldest Veteran attending. John is a former chaplain of our MOAA chapter.



The Azalea City Women's Club invited Don and Sara McArthur to speak as they were honoring all veterans.

Army News

Which Army unit deploys the most?
Since 2002 the Tenth Mountain Division has been the most deployed regular Army unit.

How many soldiers are in the Army?
(2023)
452,689 active-duty personnel
325,218 Army National Guard personnel
176,968 Army Reserve personnel as of July 31, 2023

How many soldiers leave the Army each year?
Approximately 200,000 service members

What is the maximum age to join the Army? 35 The minimum is 17.

How much does the Army pay?

Rank	2yrs	6yrs
Pvt(E1)	\$23,011.20	Same
Corporal(E4)	\$30,044.2	\$36,471.60
SSGT(E6)	\$35,766	\$48,506.40 (8 yrs.)
2 nd Lt	\$43,646.40 (4 yrs.)	
Major(O4)	\$66,196.80 (2 yrs.)	\$92,714.40 (8yrs.)

Navy News

What the Navy does today.
The Department of Navy will recruit, train, recruit, equip, and organize to deliver combat ready Naval forces to win conflicts and wars while maintaining security and deterrence through sustained forward presence.

How often do Navy sailors get deployed?
Once every 18-24 months
Extended operations away from home port can last up to 6-9 months, and ships typically deploy once every 18-24 months. This varies depending on the mission and type of ship one's son or daughter will be serving on. Ships on deployment usually spend time visiting ports throughout the world.

How many US Sailors are there?
With 336,978 personnel on active duty and 101,583 in the Ready Reserve, the US Navy is the third largest of the US military service branches in terms of personnel. It has 299 deployable combat vessels and about 4,000 operational aircraft as of July 18, 2023.

Where are most Navy sailors stationed?
In addition to being the home for the Navy's largest concentration of Naval forces, Naval Station Norfolk also hosts personnel from the Marine Corps, Army, Air Force, and Coast Guard, and supports significant joint missions as well.

Air Force News

How many people are in the Air Force as of 2023?
323,400

With Space Force Personnel aligned under appropriation 3510, the Air Force FY 2023 President's budget reduces the all-volunteer active duty personnel to 323,400 from the 337,620 (AF329,220:Space Force 8,400) authorized in FY 2022, a 4,900 personnel reduction from the FY22 AF request.

How long is AF enlistment?
Enlisted have a 4-year commitment with some career fields requiring a 6-year commitment. Officers normally have a commitment of 4-6 years with pilots incurring a 10-year obligation.

How long does AF stay deployed?
Typically, 6-12 months. They may also do a series of 2-3-month deployments in quick succession.

What part of the AF sees combat?
AF Special Warfare (AFSPECWAR) comprises ground combat forces that specialize in air power application in hostile, denied and politically sensitive environments. These enlisted specialties include Combat Control, Pararescue, Special Recon and Tactical Air Control Party(TACP), which is considered the most elite unit.

What is the most "badass" military branch?
The **Marine Corps** is known for being the most elite and intense branch of the military. They are often first to respond to any crisis, and they have a reputation for being fearless and tough.

MOAA Tidbits

The AF is offering up to \$600,000 in new bonuses to keep aviators in service.

MOAA was named to *The Hills* top lobbyists list for the 17th straight year.

The Senate overwhelmingly passed an \$886 billion policy bill. (The National Defense Authorization Act) 87-13 going to the President's desk.

Chapter Dues for 2024

Dues are \$25 and may be paid at the meeting on January 11 or mailed to SGAMOOA, Box 5941, Valdosta, GA 31603.

Thanks to those who have taken care of this!

Our next meeting is Thursday, January 11, 6:00 PM, Mama Junes

We meet and greet from 6-6:15.

After the Pledge and blessing we proceed to the food bar.

Introduce yourself to any guest or member you don't know.

PLEASE RSVP—"YES" or "NO"

To Don McArthur dandsmcarthur@bellsouth.net or 229-244-7498.

Submissions for consideration to this newsletter are welcomed and should be sent to sararmcarthur@gmail.com as soon as possible due to time needed for print. Thanks to Don McArthur and the various branch websites for contributions to this newsletter. (Army.mil, Navy.mil, Air Force.mil)

SGAMOAA is an independent, politically non-partisan, non-profit corporation affiliated with The Military Officers of America (MOAA). National MOAA is also non-partisan.

<p>The January speaker will be DeAnnia Clements, President, Wiregrass Georgia Technical College</p>

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