



The Granite Slate

The official newsletter published quarterly for the
New Hampshire Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America
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June, 2019

Spring Edition

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The MOAA-NH Chapter's Mission

- To promote the aims of the MOAA stated in the By-Laws of that Association
- To further legislative goals and objectives of MOAA
- To encourage and facilitate camaraderie among our membership
- To provide useful services for and to protect the interests of members, their dependents, and survivors
- To encourage participation in community services deemed to be in the Chapter's best interest

Spring 2019 Meeting — Common Man Inn & Spa

The day began dreary and raining. By the afternoon most of the rain had abated, but it was still dreary! That didn't deter the large group of chapter members and guests (112 in total) who braved the weather and recent floods in the area to arrive once again at the Common Man Inn and Spa in Plymouth, NH on April 27, 2019 for the chapter's Spring meeting. Prior to the meal, chapter member Lt Col Wayne Balcom, USAF (Ret) and honorary member Terry Bobseine conducted a 50/50 fund raiser that garnered almost \$320 to support veterans organizations in the state. The winner, LT Bob Pelletier, USN (Ret), donated his winnings back for the benefit of our veterans outreach program.

After the meal that was enjoyed by most, we were honored to have as our guest speaker General David G. Perkins, USA (Ret), a New Hampshire native and now resident. Gen. Perkins' last duty in the Army was as commander of the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC). He gave a thorough and amusing presentation on a number of current topics relating to the Army. After his talk, Chapter President CAPT F. Warren Coulter, USN (Ret) called on chapter



Gen. Perkins (left) and Pres. Coulter



CDR Burdett

member CDR Peter S. Burdett, USN (Ret) who gave a lengthy recap of his recent "Storming the Hill" with MOAA in Washington, DC, where nation-wide Councils and Chapters argue for important issues with the various Congressional delegations affecting the military and our veterans. Peter went on to cover several other topics.

Warren Coulter then acknowledged chapter webmaster CDR Michael A. McLean, USN (Ret) in recognition of the New Hampshire Chapter being a Five-Star Award winner in MOAA's annual *Communications Award* for the *fourth year* in a row.

That was followed by a presentation from Kathy Flynn of Easter Seals who updated everyone on Veterans Count, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping veterans in the state.



Kathy Flynn

After several other announcements, the luncheon came to an end. We were joined by one first-time chapter member: Kevin Sullivan and his wife, Marina, from Boscawen.

CDR Michael A. McLean, USN (Ret)
MOAA-NH Secretary

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Visit the chapter's website at www.moaa-nh.org

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President's Corner

CAPT F. Warren Coulter, USN (Ret)



Greetings as Spring has finally arrived – well, at least the lawns are as green as can be.

Thinking back about the last luncheon, I hope you all enjoyed General Perkins' presentation as much as I did. Some of his statistics were quite sobering – especially the one regarding the minimal number of young folks eligible to join the military. It is a problem our society has got to come to grips with and ameliorate.

Our next luncheon on June 22 at the White Mountain Hotel in North Conway will have another interesting speaker – CAPT Mark Winter, USN (Ret) a former Chief of Staff to the Commander, Joint Task Force, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. And, after listening to some helpful comments following our latest luncheon, we will endeavor to minimize the administrative portion of the meeting.

We look forward to seeing you there – perhaps with a friend or acquaintance qualified to join our chapter.

Warren Coulter

Fall Mountain Army JROTC Awards and Military Ball April 6, 2019



The Fall Mountain Army JROTC held its annual Awards and Military Ball on April 6, 2019. On behalf of the MOAA-NH Chapter, CW5 Bernard L. Satterfield, USA (Ret), presented Wildcat Battalion Cadet Commander C/LTC Ruslan Bierweiler-Franks with two awards:

The MOAA medal and certificate that is presented to an outstanding cadet who has demonstrated exceptional abilities for military leadership; and

The MOAA Outstanding Senior Cadet Award which honors the cadet by placing their name and photograph annually on the award plaque.

Congratulations!



How YOU Can Support MOAA-NH

Come this November there will be two vacancies on our Board of Directors which need to be filled: a Directorship and Chair, Personal Affairs Standing Committee. Please consider volunteering for one of these positions and being part of MOAA-NH's nationally recognized excellence.

What are the duties involved with each position?

Director: supervision, control, and direction of the organization, determining policies and procedures, taking actions to promote our purposes, voting on expenditure of funds, and adopting any rules and regulations which are deemed necessary.

Chair, Personal Affairs: serves as the primary point of contact for issues associated with military rights and entitlements, with special emphasis on survivor benefits information, and when called upon, provides information to members and survivors about their entitlements. Makes reports to the Board of Directors and members (Blast emails, *The Granite Slate*, chapter website) regarding topics of interest and the status of Personal Affairs. Being a member of MOAA national is advantageous for this position.

Please consider supporting your MOAA-NH chapter. If you are interested in one or both positions contact either member of the Nominating Committee: Sharon Day, (603) 642-7956, cimice89@comcast.net, or Michael McLean, (603) 692-4648, mamclean@comcast.net.

HELP WANTED

The Chapter's Board of Directors needs a back-up Recording Secretary to fill in if the regular Recording Secretary is not available for a Board of Directors meeting. The position requires the individual to take notes/record the conduct of the meeting and prepare written minutes for distribution to the Directors. The Board meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Red Blazer Restaurant in Concord from 6:30 pm until approximately 8:30 pm, with a break for dinner in the middle. The person filling this position need not be a member of the Chapter – spouses are welcome! Again, this is a stand-by position required only if the Recording Secretary is not available. For more information, contact CDR Michael McLean, USN (Ret) at 603-692-4648 or mamclean@comcast.net

Military Service Stories Wanted!

Please consider sharing your military service stories with your fellow MOAA comrades. There are so many stories to be heard and passed on to future generations, that once we are gone, those stories will have been lost forever if not recorded now.

Email your written story to marie.chipola@gmail.com. If you'd prefer to dictate it, email me and we can make arrangements to do this via telephone.

Here's to anticipating a flood of service stories in the near future!!

*Marie Chipola, Editor
The Granite Slate*



Reflections . . . In Service to My Country

568th LE Company Supports the 54th Combat Engineer Battalion in Wildflicken, Germany

I was commanding the 568th Light Equipment Engineer Company stationed at Pioneer Kaserne in Hanau, West Germany in the summer of 1969. My previous assignment was in the 54th Combat Engineer Battalion stationed in Wildflicken, Germany as a Platoon Leader. There I was promoted to 1LT. Shortly after joining the 568th in Hanau, I was promoted to CPT. The 568th was supporting the 54th doing Combat Engineer project work in the field on the Wildflicken base. Also stationed at Wildflicken was the 2/15th Infantry Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division. At the time of my visit to Wildflicken to visit my men in the field to see their project work, the 2/15th Infantry Battalion was conducting air



mobile operations using CH 37 helicopters which had big engines on the sides of the helicopter.

When I finished my ground visit with my troops by jeep, I returned to the Wildflicken airfield to get my helicopter ride (a CH 34) back to Hanau. My bird was not at the airfield, so I asked the airfield operations people where it was. They told me it was on a recovery operation, because one of the air mobile birds had crashed with about 12 troops on board. I later learned that one was killed and 11 were injured, some with severe injuries. The CH 37 had lost cyclic control at about 100 feet and came down on its side with one of the engines setting on top of the wreckage. It was in a field not far from the Wildflicken airfield.

When my CH 34 returned to the airfield with some of the badly mangled injured, we unloaded them placing them in ambulances. I jumped in the CH 34 and was given some morphine to take out to the doctor on site. When I arrived, there were two soldiers still left crushed under the wreckage. I was told they had a five-ton wrecker in route to lift the helicopter so the remaining two could be extricated from under the wreckage. I told them the five-ton wrecker would not do the lift since the helicopter weighed about 21,000 pounds. I suggested they request a 20-ton rough terrain crane from the 54th. They did make that request and it was

while waiting for the 20-ton crane I asked the Infantry unit members that had gathered on site to get me all the salt packs out of their C-Rations. When the crane arrived, I instructed the Engineer Maintenance Warrant who came with the wrecker to rig the helicopter for lifting, which he did. Then I told him to stand in the cab of the crane with the operator and not to let the operator set the brake on the crane's lift mechanism. If he set the brake, the crane would settle a few inches and we could not afford that to happen while the doctor and I were under it. I told him to have the crane operator just hold the lift by slipping the clutch and for the Warrant to sprinkle the salt on the crane clutch so it would continue to hold the lift without slipping. The doctor and I crawled under the helicopter to pull the two remaining soldiers free while the Warrant and crane operator lifted it up just enough so we could get under it and pull them out.

All this time, my pregnant wife back in Hanau had heard the news of a helicopter crash and did not know if it was my helicopter. She was in a panic to hear if it was my bird. I had the ops folks at Wildflicken call Hanau and tell them I was all right and in route back to Hanau.

We also conducted a humanitarian operation for a local town fire department. We had a community support request from a local town asking for some equipment to clear a field to create a fire practice field where the town fire department firefighters could practice burning things and putting them out. The project was approved, and we built the Fire Platz Field. Later, the town was holding an October Fest with fun and games and live entertainment and lots and lots of schnapps and beer. As a reward, the town gave me 2,500 drink tickets to give to the men of the company in appreciation for the work we did. With about 120 men in the company that would equal about 21 drink tickets per person. We made arrangements to shuttle the men in trucks to and from the company and the field giving the NCOs the tickets to hand out and to do courtesy patrols to keep the men under control if they had too much to drink. All went well. My wife and I attended and could not use any of our tickets as the Germans in charge of the event would not let us. They bought all our drinks. We had fun singing umm-papa drinking songs and drinking.

It was a great community relations event. The Germans were very grateful for our efforts, and my men were very happy to drink the beer.



R. Kent Whitman
CPT, USA (Ret)
Keene, NH

Edited by
LTC Geoff Corson
USMC (Ret)



Reflections . . . In Service to My Country

First Assignment in Vietnam

When I arrived in Vietnam January of 1970, I was assigned to the 169th Engineer Battalion Construction stationed on the Long Binh compound. I was the Commander of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC). The line companies (A, B, C, and D) were strung out along QL20 building the road from QL1 north to the (Military Region) MR III -- MR II border.



Most units residing on the Long Binh compound that had combat troops were given the mission on a rotating basis to conduct Search and Destroy operations outside the perimeter of the compound to make sure the VC were not present or preparing to attack the compound like they did during Tet of 1968. When it was the 169th's turn the Battalion S3 (Operations Officer) assigned the mission to me using HHC clerks and maintenance personnel. The S3 and I were both Rangers, so he knew I could handle the mission.

First, I went to the different staff sections to get the names of the troops they would provide to go on the operation. I selected some of the maintenance, communication, and mess hall troops in coordination with my First Sergeant and the section leaders. The First Sergeant and I then assembled the team and conducted some basic training in patrol operations including patrol formations and weapons safety. I covered the uniform requirements and established who would carry the PRC25 radio, the M60 Machine Gun, the M79 Grenade Launcher, and the senior enlisted member to be Platoon Sergeant for the operation. All others would carry their assigned M16 Rifle. This was not an easy task as they had never been trained in such a mission. However, they were all eager to get out of their daily clerk, mechanic, communication, and cook duties in order to go out on a "combat patrol." I made sure they understood that this was a serious mission and that there would be no fooling around. We would be locked and loaded. Many of them had never done such an operation, although all Engineer troops are required to operate as Infantry when the need arises.

On the day of the mission, I assembled the group and with the First Sergeant's help inspected them to make sure they were ready to go in the required uniform with clean weapons, ammunition, and water.

Early in the morning we went outside the perimeter about 100 meters from the wire on patrol. After traveling a few hundred meters, we discovered what we believed to be a weapons cache with tunnels.

We secured the site by establishing a perimeter of security and I called in to the Battalion HQ on the radio requesting a bulldozer to investigate the site by digging it up. The dozer was approved and dispatched. While waiting for the dozer to arrive, I went around checking on each of the men. They were all doing very well. As the dozer was digging out the site, I was standing on the side of the trench watching the operator do the digging. I saw the back end of a large black 155 Howitzer round under the blade of the dozer. I yelled to stop the operator from going any further. I called in to Battalion HQ requesting Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) support since we were not carrying any explosives to get rid of the shell. The EOD personnel arrived to find out it was a live fused shell that had not gone off. We moved the dozer and men back a good distance to let the EOD troops detonate it in place with other explosives. While I had the EOD troops stand by, I had the dozer operator continue to dig up the tunnels. We found no weapons or ammo at the site. We continued our patrol with no other incidents. After a long day outside the perimeter, we walked back to the 169th compound. I conducted a debriefing and made sure all ammo and weapons were accounted for and secured. The soldiers were all very proud of their performance, as was I. For days after, I observed them talking about their experience many times.



Another operation while serving with the 169th Engineer Battalion in early 1970 as Commander of HHC was when the battalion was tasked with removing the improvised minefields that had been installed around the perimeter of the Long Binh compound back during the VC/NVA Tet Offensive in 1968. The mines, mostly improvised, were placed in tangle-foot barbed wire out to about 100 meters in front of the major concertina wire close to the bunkers that had been built to establish the perimeter. Most of the mines were placed on top of the ground, not dug in like a normal minefield. Many were set up to be command detonated from bunkers back inside the major concertina wire. Most were deteriorated to a point of being unrecoverable and dangerous to deal with or touch. The plan was to set up small charges of C4 primed with det cord placing them close to the improvised mines. The det cord would all be tied together as a ring-main with a non-electric cap and fuse cord attached to initiate the sympathetic detonation of all the improvised mines. Five of us Engineer Captains were given large areas to set up explosive ring-mains using C4 explosives and det cord that would be initiated with nonelectric strikers and fuse cord. When all five ring-mains were completely set up, the five captains went out to ignite their fuses. All but mine were ignited. My igniter failed to set off the fuse. I had to hurry and go back

(continued on page 5)



Reflections . . . In Service to My Country

First Assignment in Vietnam (continued from page 4)

through the tangle-foot wire and get a cigarette lighter then go back out to light the fuse. I successfully lit the fuse and got back to the bunker and under cover just before the five ring-mains started to go off.

Behind where we were working was the Long Binh ammo dump. As a result of our demolition of the minefield, they thought they were under attack as earth, rocks, and shrapnel were falling from the sky inside the ammo dump. They set off the attack alarm so that the entire Long Binh compound went on alert. We called in and told them that it was only our detonation of the minefields and not an attack. That operation was a blast!



R. Kent Whitman
CPT, USA (Ret)
Keene, NH

Edited by
LTC Geoff Corson
USMC (Ret)

Let's Welcome Our New 2019 Chapter Members!

LCDR Emile R. Anderson, USN (Ret) — Nashua
COL John G. Buck, USA (Ret) — Hampton
Lt Col Lee F. Cheshire, USAF (Ret) — Belmont
Maj David J. Dunning, USMC (Ret) — Elkins
LCDR Marc O. Monbouquette, USNR (Ret) — Dover
CDR Edward J. St. Pierre, USNR — Dover

I am a Seenager (Senior Teenager)

I have everything that I wanted as a teenager,
only 60 years later:

- I don't have to go to school or work.
- I get an allowance every month.
- I have my own pad.
- I don't have a curfew.
- I have a driver's license and my own car.
- The people I hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant and they do not use drugs.
- And I don't have acne.



Life is great!
~Author Unknown~

Is travelling on your bucket list? Maybe this list will help . . .



2019 MOAA Travel Program: (Additional information on the available 2019 and 2020 trips are posted on our website under "Group Travel")

- Magnificent Cities of Central and Eastern Europe, 14 days, August 4 — 17 (\$4,699 with air)
- Discover Canyon Country, October 8 — 15, eight days, (\$2,999 with air)
- Alaska Discovery, Land and Cruise, (featuring a seven-night Princess Cruise), July 16 — 28, 13 days, (\$5,414 with air and cruise)
- Magical Christmas Markets, Austria and Germany. December 7 — 14, eight days, (\$2,899 with air)

2020 MOAA Travel Program:

- **The travel event of the decade! Book early! One of the tours is already sold out.**
All the trips listed below include the Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany.
- Classic Danube River Cruise, 10 days, June 6 — 16, (\$6,499 with air)
- Classic Danube River Cruise, 10 days, Aug 30 — Sept 10 (\$6,499 with air)
- Exploring the Alpine Countries, (several dates available), 13 days, (\$6,999 with air)
- Austrian Delight, (*almost sold out; call Tony for dates*), 10 days, (\$4,999 with air)
- Discover Switzerland, Austria and Bavaria, (several dates available), 10 days, (\$4,999 with air)
- Imperial Cities, (several dates available), 11 days, (\$4,199 with air)
- Germany's Cultural Cities and the Romantic Roads, (several dates available), 13 days, contract pending

The following 2020 trips do not include The Passion Play:

- Memorials of World War II, 10 days, 15 - 22 April 2020 (\$4,349 with air)
- Spotlights on the French Riviera, 9 days, 18-26 April 2020 (\$3,399 with air)
- Maritime Coastal Wonders — Canada, 11 days, 7—17 July (\$3,799 with air)

The following trips are being negotiated with Collette; however, we have not received the final contract or brochures:

- Treasures of Europe, 12 days, September 2020 (\$4,499 with air)
- Mackinac Islands, 8 days, Aug 2020 (\$3,399 with air)
- Heritage of America, 10 days, October 2020 (\$3,600 with air)

Look for our "Trip of the Month" email blasts sent out periodically. Log into our website "moaa-nh.org" and click on "Group Travel." **For reservations or additional information, contact Tony Burdo, 603-391-7106 or email: tonyajjb@gmail.com.**

I would like to partner our travel program with a community organization such as the Kiwanis, the Elks, a religious organization, etc., so we can increase our customer base. Please furnish me with the name and phone number of a point of contact for any of these organizations, and I will accomplish the coordination process.
~Tony B.

The New Hampshire Chapter of the MOAA
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16th YEAR



WHY MOAA?
YouTube video

June 2019

Taps

MAJ Andrew T. Egan, USA (Ret), Buskirk, NY
1LT Lewis E. Janetos, USA, Rollinsford, NH
Mrs. Joyce P. Kelly, New Castle, NH
Mrs. Jennie Link, Goffstown, NH
Mrs. Carol L. McAdams, East Falmouth, MA
Mrs. June A. Novo, Goffstown, NH
Lt Col William J. Slauson, USAF (Ret), Dover, NH

2019 MOAA-NH Luncheons and Annual Meeting

June 22	White Mountain Hotel, North Conway
August 3	Clambake, PNSY
September 21	Bistro Nouveau at the Ctr at Eastman, Grantham
November 9	Annual Meeting, Nashua Country Club, Nashua



CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK

Did you know that MOAA-NH has a Facebook page? We do . . . at <https://www.facebook.com/MOAA-NH-403462326493407/> Check out all the latest pictures and information about the chapter. While you're there, be sure to "like" us.

Cut and paste or type the link below into your browser. It will take you directly to National MOAA's "Take Action" tab. There you can learn about current legislative issues and voice your opinions about their efforts.

<http://www.moaa.org/takeaction>

FOR LINKED-IN USERS

MOAA-NH members: We have established a group on LinkedIn for the purpose of helping members find employment in the New Hampshire area. If you have a LinkedIn account, please request to join the "New Hampshire Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA-NH)" group. If you are seeking employment or know a prospective member who will be, create a post for the group with a link to the member's profile. We also ask that recruiters and human resource professionals from companies around New Hampshire who are interested in hiring former officers to join the group. If you have suggestions for the LinkedIn Group, please contact Jim Spotts at jim.spotts@hotmail.com.