



Alta Gram



Alta California Chapter • Military Officers Association of America

October / November 2025

Never Stop Serving

Volume 59, No. 6

President's Corner

Students Show Strong Promise for America's Future

This week I had the pleasure of talking to a group of very sharp high schoolers about national security. It was the US/China Relations class at my old school. The teacher invites me each year to give my perspective on world events as a career soldier.

I always talk about how our government uses the instruments of national power (the so-called DIME, which stands for Diplomacy, Information, Military, and Economic) to try to influence other countries. Then I give a lot of stories from my career that illustrate the points.

My favorite part is the questions at the end. These kids are thinking about how to make the world a better, safer place. They're asking hard questions about national priorities from a global perspective, searching for solutions and trying to understand the



problems from all perspectives.



I'm encouraged that there are generations coming up behind that are willing to look at things from both sides and who are willing

to work toward solutions. Our country is going to be okay; there are some really good people coming up who are anxious and prepared to make things better.

And it's good to know that they still value the observations of an old military guy.

- Still Serving,
Ed Harvey, Lt Col, USAF (ret)

Next Meeting

October 23: Pave Paws Mission Update Planned

Plan now to attend our October 23 luncheon meeting at Cool Hand Luke's when we expect to hear from the leadership of the 7th Space Warning Squadron about the continuing mission of Beale's Pave Paws installation. Social hour begins at 11:15 a.m.; lunch will be served at noon.

Please be aware that the current federal government shut-down may preclude the availability of 7th SWS officers for this presentation. We hope the country's fiscal situation will be resolved in time to allow their participation.

The 7th Space Warning Squadron guards the Continental United States, Alaska, and Canada against intercontinental ballistic missiles by detecting both sea-based launches, in-flight missiles and providing mid-course interceptor guidance to eliminate threats.

Additionally, the 7th SWS radar tracks and surveils objects in low-earth orbit. The unit is a geographically separated unit of Space Delta 4, Buckley Space Force Base, Colorado.



Upcoming Luncheon Meeting

Thursday, October 23, 2025

11:15 a.m. Social Hour, 12 Noon Lunch

Cool Hand Luke's

1669 Colusa Hwy, Yuba City, CA 95993

Please make your reservation by email or phone
not later than Monday, October 20, to:

Email: t.walther@att.net

Phone: (530) 673-5499

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Website: <http://altamoaa.org> • Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/altacachapter>

Alta California Chapter MOAA, P.O. Box 541, Yuba City, CA 95992

MOAA Alta California Chapter

Chartered 18 Mar 1966

2025 Executive Committee

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1st Vice Pres. LT Maury Castaneda 808-351-4393
2nd Vice Pres. Lt Col Marcus Bole 530-633-0117
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Grass Valley: RADM Dawn Wyllie 218-556-9292
Lake Wildwood: RADM Dawn Wyllie 218-556-9292
Lincoln Hills: Lt Col Shirley Schultz 916-645-7539

Mission

To serve the needs of active duty, retired and former military members and their surviving spouses.

Membership

Find membership information at these links:

MOAA National: <https://www.moaa.org/join>

Alta Calif. Chapter: <http://altamoaa.org/memberships>

Editorial Policy

National MOAA is a nonpartisan organization. The content of this newsletter is intended to be nonpartisan, in accordance with national policy.

Legislative Updates

Find out about MOAA's legislative initiatives by accessing the MOAA national website at: moaa.org/takeaction.
For state issues visit: www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/.

Chapter Recognition



2024 5-Star Level of Excellence Award



2024 5-Star Communications Awards:
Website and *AltaGram*

AltaGram Contributions

Contributions to the *AltaGram* are appreciated.
Please send material for consideration to:

Col Steve Witmer, Editor
1582 Summerhill Lane
Lincoln, CA 95648
altacalifmoaa@gmail.com

In Memoriam



Andra Munson

Surviving Spouse of Lt Col Dean Munson, USAF
Former Alta California Chapter Secretary

The Alta California Chapter extends its deepest condolences to Andra's family and friends.

Treasurer's Report

As of September 25, 2025, the chapter's treasury balances were:

Checking	\$2,659.43
Cash Fund	<u>250.00</u>
Total	\$2,909.43

Membership Report

As of September 25, 2025, the chapter's membership totaled:

Regular Paid or Free	39
(Including 4 surviving spouse)	
Unpaid	<u>3</u>
Total	42

Save the Date: Holiday Luncheon December 18 in Lincoln Hills

We plan to join the Lincoln Hills Veterans Group again this year for its popular holiday luncheon celebration coming up on Thursday, December 18 in the Orchard Creek Ballroom. A cash bar will open at 11:00 a.m.

Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon.

Watch for details about the luncheon and instructions on how to sign up in the next *AltaGram*. A separate email invitation and reservation form will also be sent to all members.



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DoD Clarification: No Termination Date Set for Legacy Retiree IDs

Although DoD officials encourage retirees holding legacy (paper-based) identification cards with indefinite expiration dates to update to the new model, they have yet to determine a termination date for the older IDs.

This is in contrast to a June retiree newsletter published by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), which stated all retirees had until Dec. 31, 2025, to update their cards to the Next-Generation Uniformed Services ID (USID) card before they became invalid for base access.

According to a DoD official, "It's important for

Next Generation USID Card



cardholders to know these older paper-based forms of ID will eventually be terminated, and will need to be replaced by the new plastic-based

USID card. This is true even if your old ID card has an INDEF expiration date on it."

The DoD official told MOAA that the old cards "may continue to be used as the Department of Defense has not determined a termination date for cards with indefinite ("INDEF") expiration dates. Military retirees and beneficiaries with legacy ID cards with INDEF expiration dates are encouraged to update their USID cards to the new Next Generation USID card at their convenience."

Other DoD resources and social media pages have also put out information citing an incorrect Dec. 31 changeover deadline, which has led to some cardholder confusion.

Renewing Your Card

Full details on the DoD ID card system are available at MOAA's [ID card resource page](#), to include:

- Eligibility guidelines.
- A guide to renewing your card, including mail and online options.
- What to bring when you renew your card.
- How to update a dependent's card.
- How to update your information in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS).

Beetle Bailey turns 75: the Army's Lovable Slacker Marches On

When "Beetle Bailey" debuted in 1950, it was a college strip about a lanky underachiever who wanted to do as little as possible. Six months later, creator Mort Walker had Beetle enlist in the Army during the Korean War.

From that moment on, the reluctant private became one of the most recognizable characters in American comics, embodying the frustrations, absurdities and humor of military life.



September 4 marked the strip's 75th anniversary, a milestone few comics have ever reached. For the Walker family, it is both a celebration of their father's creation and a continuation of a legacy that has outlived the man who drew it for more than six decades. Mort Walker died in 2018 at age 94, but his sons Greg, Brian and Neal have kept the strip alive, publishing new gags every day since.

"It's our entire life, almost," Greg Walker said. "The strip was created soon after I was born. I've been here from the beginning. I started writing when I was in college more than 50 years ago, and it's always been a part of us."

Seventy-five years after Beetle stumbled into the Army, he is still on duty. Not because he wants to be, but because readers still want to see what he will do to get out of work tomorrow.

- *Military Times*

U.S. Coast Guard to Add Heavy Icebreaker Amid Shipbuilding Overhaul

Full production of a new polar security cutter for the U.S. Coast Guard was recently approved by the



Department of Homeland Security, as the administration seeks to boost shipbuilding and maritime security in the

increasingly competitive Arctic region.

The new vessel — the first heavy polar icebreaker to be built in the U.S. in about five decades — will be constructed by Bollinger Shipyards.

The U.S. Coast Guard currently fields a single heavy polar icebreaker, the USCGC *Polar Star*, and a single medium polar icebreaker, the USCGC *Healy*. The *Healy* was put out of action by a fire last July and the *Polar Star* is nearly five decades old.

To compensate for a dearth of existing icebreakers, the service in December purchased a commercially available light polar icebreaker — renamed the USCGC *Storis* — that became the first to be added to the service's fleet in a 25-year period.



◀ *The U.S. Coast Guard's only heavy icebreaker, the USCGC Polar Star, transits through pack ice in the Southern Ocean.*

The green light for the heavy polar icebreaker, meanwhile, comes as the U.S. military has observed a recent surge in foreign maritime activity in the Arctic region, including a joint Chinese-Russian air patrol near Alaska last summer.

Additional vessels are only one facet of sweeping changes now being introduced to the U.S. Coast Guard, which is currently being restructured according to a recently announced initiative called Force Design 2028. “We are executing transformational change to renew the Coast Guard,” said Acting Commandant Adm. Kevin Lunday.

— *Navy Times*

Incoming CNO Caudle Calls for New Fleet Design in First Speech

The Navy will roll out an updated fleet design that will integrate emerging military technologies into how the service fights, newly sworn-in Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Daryl Caudle announced in his first speech as the service's top officer.



Speaking at his swearing-in ceremony at the Navy Yard in Washington, D.C., Caudle said the service is

developing the fleet design in line with how it plans to operate in the next several years.

“The way we fight today will not be the way we fight tomorrow. We will relentlessly innovate, adapt and accelerate the integration of cutting-edge technologies, artificial intelligence, robotics and autonomous systems, resilient command and control networks, hypersonic weapons, advanced manufacturing and quantum-enabled sensing,” he said. “The way we fight tomorrow becomes reality with our future fleet design, a design that will be tightly coupled to the Navy warfighting concept, a newly developed Navy deterrence concept and aligned to the department's investment priorities.”

Caudle, the former commander of U.S. Fleet Forces, has preached readiness as a priority for the service and the need for the Navy to do a better job of improving its maintenance backlogs. At the same time, new construction for the service's major programs like *Virginia*-class and *Columbia*-class submarines and the *Constellation*-class frigate are facing years-long delays. The Navy has been slow to develop new unmanned surface and air systems, and has made little progress on next-generation ships and aircraft.

For the last several years, the sea service has prioritized the readiness of its current force as a top priority with an eye toward a conflict with China in the Pacific that could come as early as 2027 in a plan outlined by then CNO Adm. Lisa Franchetti.

Time to Re-up!

The start of a new year is not far away. Your membership renewal form is on the following page. Renew now and be ahead of the game in 2026.



**Standing with you
at every stage.**

1-800-247-2192
www.moaainsurance.com/plans

100392

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Alta California Chapter Annual Dues, Membership Year 2026

January 1, 2026

Dear Valued MOAA Chapter Member or Prospective Member -

Your support for MOAA and the Alta California Chapter is much appreciated. As with all organizations, our strength is in numbers, and we need your voice along with ours to advocate for the many issues facing our active, former and retired military, as well as surviving spouses. In addition, we count on local dues to help fund important projects such as the annual Stand Down for veterans in our area. We also support the Civil Air Patrol (CAP), the Yuba Sutter Sea Cadets, Lindhurst High Air Force JROTC, and the Yuba City High Navy JROTC programs.

We hope you will join our chapter or renew your Alta California Chapter membership and enjoy the camaraderie of the members and the excellent presentations at our luncheon meetings and activities. Specific information about meetings and activities appears in our *AltaGram* newsletter. The Alta California Chapter appreciates your membership and support.

Annual Dues for Alta California Chapter MOAA, Jan 1, 2026 – Dec 31, 2026

\$20.00 Regular Member ** or \$10.00 Surviving Spouse (SS)

Add \$_____ for additional donation to fund such causes as Veterans Stand Down, Civil Air Patrol, Sea Cadets, Naval JROTC and AF JROTC.

Total Enclosed \$_____. Please make check payable to: Alta CA Chapter MOAA

Mail to: Alta California Chapter MOAA, P.O. Box 541, Yuba City, CA 95992

or renew online at: <https://chapterdues.moaa.org/Membership.aspx>.

Name: _____ Service: _____ Officer Rank _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

☐ Check if Surviving Spouse

☐ Check if interested in serving in a leadership position

Phone: _____ e-mail address _____

**** Help us recruit a new member. Those who do not already belong to national MOAA can receive one or two years' FREE Chapter membership by joining national MOAA. See: www.moaa.org.**



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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