



# The Communiqué

Southwest Virginia Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America



A Five-Star Chapter

VOLUME 14 NUMBER 4

ROANOKE, VIRGINIA

OCT-NOV-DEC 2022

## DEMOCRACY OR A REPUBLIC

While often categorized as a democracy, the United States is more accurately defined as a constitutional federal republic. A “republic” is a form of government in which the people hold power, but elect representatives to exercise that power. **In a democracy**, the people meet and exercise the government **in person**; **in a republic**, they assemble and administer it by their representatives and agents. A **democracy**, consequently, must be confined to a small spot. A **republic** may be extended over a large region.

The Constitution established a Federal democratic republic. It is the system of the Federal Government; it is democratic because the people govern themselves; and it is a republic because the Government's power is derived from its people. The United States is a representative democracy. This means that our government is elected by citizens. Here, citizens vote for their government officials. Voting in an election and contacting our elected officials are two ways that Americans can participate in their democracy.

The United States is a representative democracy. This means that our government is elected by citizens. Here, citizens vote for their government officials. These officials represent the citizens’ ideas and concerns in government. Voting is one way to participate in our democracy. Citizens can also contact their officials when they want to support or change a law. Voting in an election and contacting our elected officials are two ways that Americans can participate in their democracy.

The Constitution was meant to foster a complex form of majority rule, not enable minority rule. The founding generation was deeply skeptical of what it called “pure” democracy and defended the American experiment as “wholly republican.” To take this as a rejection of democracy misses how the idea of government by the people, including both a democracy and a republic, was understood when the Constitution was drafted and ratified. It misses, too, how we understand the idea of democracy today. When founding thinkers such as James Madison spoke of democracy, they were usually referring to *direct* democracy, what Madison frequently labeled “pure” democracy. Madison made the distinction between a republic and a direct democracy exquisitely clear in “**Federalist No. 14**”: “In a democracy, the people meet and exercise the government in person; in a republic, they assemble and administer it by their representatives and agents. A democracy, consequently, will be confined to a small spot. A republic may be extended over a large region.” Both a democracy and a republic were popular forms of government: Each drew its legitimacy from the people and depended on rule by the people. **The crucial difference was that a republic relied on representation, while in a “pure” democracy, the people represented themselves.**

The history of democracy as grasped by the Founders, drawn largely from the ancient world, revealed that overbearing majorities could all too easily lend themselves to mob rule, dominating minorities and trampling individual rights. Democracy was also susceptible to demagogues—men of “factious tempers” and “sinister designs,” as Madison put it in “**Federalist No. 10**”—who relied on “vicious arts” to betray the interests of the people. Madison nevertheless sought to defend popular government—the rule of the many—rather than retreat to the rule of the few. American constitutional design can best be understood as an effort to establish a sober form of democracy. It did so by embracing representation, the separation of powers, checks and balances, and the protection of individual rights—all concepts that were unknown in the ancient world where democracy had earned its poor reputation.

Continued on Page 2 “Democracy Or A Republic

## President’s Corner

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy Holidays however you celebrate. I hope all had a blessed



Thanksgiving holiday also. As this year comes to a close let us take time to be with family and friends. Remembering the good times as well as

taking time to remember those we lost this past year. This past quarter has gone by quickly and your chapter has been busy. Several members of MOAA were able to ride with Gary Powers in his Shore Patrol Jeep and represent our local chapter in the Roanoke Veterans Day Parade. While not held on Veterans Day as is traditional, all of us lucked out by Roanoke moving parade to the 12th as we had a beautiful day for those in the parade as well as the spectators. The board is also working a field trip for our last meeting of spring in May, before we take our summer break. We are looking to hire a bus for a trip to the Virginia War Memorial. Trip will include bus ride and lunch with an option of just lunch for those who may want to drive and spend additional time in Richmond and surrounding area. This is still a work in progress but we will update you as we refine the details. I also represented MOAA SWVA at the Roanoke Valley Veterans Council sponsored Veteran Legislative Forum on 3 December. This

Presidents Corner Cont’d on page 2

**2022 OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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COL Anita White, USA (Ret)  
Mrs. Mary Lou Summers

**Presidents Corner** Cont'd from page 1

was an opportunity for members of all veteran originations to meet with our local state legislators. Local representatives in attendance were Delegate Joseph McNamara, District 8, Senator David Sutterlein, District 19, and Senator John Edwards, District 21. This forum was an opportunity to get their input on several legislative initiatives that the Joint Leadership Council of Veteran Service Organizations developed as well as address issues to all such as Interstate 81 repairs that affect all who live in the area. All legislators were supportive of the initiatives in concept but wanted to fully review before they committed to them. They did express concern that the General Assembly may want to approve the easy, low cost initiatives and push the more expensive and more beneficial to veteran initiatives to the next year. That way they can say they supported veterans but not take a stand that will cost the taxpayer in either higher taxes or loss of other services to pay for the veteran initiatives. The legislators also pointed out what they and the General Assembly did for veterans last year. The most significant was the phased in reduction of tax exempt retirement income for military retirees.

Lastly I attended the Salem VA town hall. Due to Covid, this was the first town hall since February 2020. The VA plans to resume holding town halls quarterly and I will strive to get the word out when the next one will be for those who want to attend. At this one I learned that the VA has a new feature called VA Health Chat. Have a minor health question? The VA Health Chat app provides easy online access to chat with VA staff. This can be used if you feel ill and unsure about going to an emergency room or clinic, or if you are having a reaction to medication or have questions about prescriptions. You can also use this for medical advice for a minor injury or illness. It looks like a mobile app based nurse line to me. For more information please visit; [mobile.va.gov/app/va-health-chat](http://mobile.va.gov/app/va-health-chat). The VA also discussed the PACT Act and stated that if you think you may be affected by this legislation file a claim or amended claim depending on your history with the VA system. While by law they cannot process claims until January 2023 they are accepting them so the earlier you file the higher in the stack you will be once they can start processing claims. In closing I just want to wish you all the best. I hope to see you at our December meeting and if not there than at our meetings next year. Happy Holidays,

Matthew K. Haag  
CAPT USN (Ret.)  
President

*“Democracy Or a Republic Continued From Page*

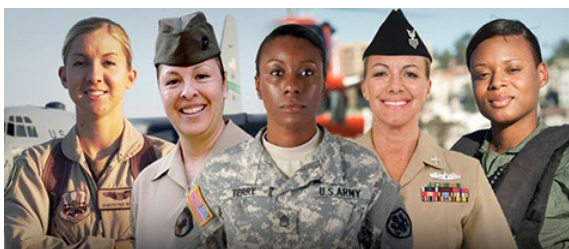
In “Federalist No. 10” and “Federalist No. 51,” the seminal papers, Madison argued that a large republic with a diversity of interests capped by the separation of powers and checks and balances would help provide the solution to the ills of popular government. In a large and diverse society, populist passions are likely to dissipate, as no single group and balances would help provide the solution to the ills of popular government. In a large and diverse society, populist passions are likely to dissipate, as no single group can easily dominate. If such intemperate passions come from a minority of the population, the “republican principle,” by which Madison meant *majority rule*, will allow the defeat of “sinister views by regular vote.” More problematic are passionate groups that come together as a majority. The large republic with a diversity of interests makes this unlikely, particularly when its separation of powers works to filter and tame such passions by incentivizing the development of complex democratic majorities: “In the extended republic of the United States, and among the great variety of interests, parties, and sects which it embraces, a coalition of a majority of the whole society could seldom take place on any other principles than those of justice and the general good.” Madison had previewed this argument of a majority of the whole society could seldom take place on any other principles than those of justice and the general good.” Madison had previewed this argument consistent with the democratic form of government.”

NOTE:

On the last day of the Constitutional Convention, September 18, 1787, a Mrs. Elizabeth Willing Powel of Philadelphia asked Dr. Benjamin Franklin “*Well Doctor what have we got a republic or a monarchy – A republic replied the Doctor if you can keep it.*”



## ATTENTION ALL WOMEN VETERANS



December 8, 2022

It's hard to believe that despite being home to one of the largest percentages of women veterans in the United States, Virginia does not have a specialty license plate honoring women veterans. More than 107,000 women veterans call Virginia home, and that number is growing. With more than 250 specialty plates offered by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), this license plate option is long overdue. **This may change soon with your help. Here's how you can help.**

You can make this specialty license plate option come to fruition. We need to collect 450 pre-applications along with a \$10 deposit by January 11, 2023. You may access the application [here](#). Once we have those applications and deposits in place, the Women Veterans License Plate Bill will be sent to the 2023 General Assembly!

Once passed during the 2023 session, the bill will be on its way to the desk of Governor Glenn Youngkin, who has already expressed his support for such a license plate. Upon the Governor's signature, production of the license plate begins!

**If you are one of the first 450 people to submit a pre-application along with your \$10 deposit, (or \$20 deposit for a personalized plate) you will be given the opportunity to vote on your favorite option for the ultimate license plate design. Furthermore, you will be afforded the personal opportunity to contribute to the legacy of women veterans in Virginia.**

You do not need to wait for your registration to expire, you may simply choose the option to transfer your plate to this specialty plate once available or wait until your registration expires to request this plate option at the time of renewal.

Completed hard copy applications and a \$10 (\$20 if requesting personalized plate) deposit should be submitted to the Virginia Department of Veterans Services. Check only – no cash please. Submit to the Virginia Department of Veterans Services, Attn: Jasmine Scott, 101 N. 14<sup>th</sup> Street, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor, Richmond, VA 23219.

We welcome your support and with your help we will continue to lead the way as the best state for all veterans to live, work and thrive. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please reach out to Beverly VanTull, 804-297-8783, or [Beverly.VanTull@dvs.virginia.gov](mailto:Beverly.VanTull@dvs.virginia.gov).

Daniel Gade, PhD  
Commissioner  
Virginia Department of Veterans Services

## VIRGINIA TECH CORPS OF CADETS, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, FACILITY CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

On Thursday 20 October 2022 Major General Randall Fullhart, USAF (Ret) Commandant of Cadets, Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets provided a PowerPoint program on the status of the Corps of Cadets, the Leadership Development Program and the Corps facility construction program. About 1,200 cadets are currently enrolled in the program with a goal of 1,400 cadets by 2023/2024. The Corps provides leadership training for all of its cadets through two tracks: a Military-Leader Track for cadets

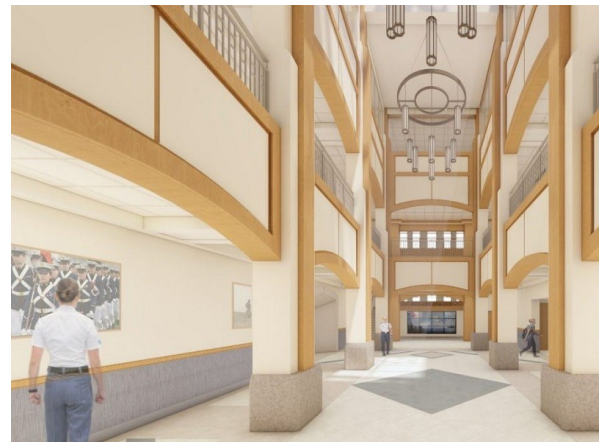


enrolled in one of the three Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) programs, and the Citizen-Leader Track for cadets wishing to pursue civilian sector careers. Students in the Military-Leader track can pursue a commission in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Air Force.

In 2022 first year cadets are 21% female and 79% male while in the Regiment the ratio is 21% female, 70% male from 40 states, 1 territory, 9 countries, with 51% in state, and 49% out of state. The % of Cadets in ROTC/Citizen-Leader Track are 38% Army, 22% AF, 18%, Navy, 4% Marine Corps and 17% Citizen-Leader Track. In May 2022 250 Cadets will graduate with 75% receiving a commission in one of the services and 39 will be graduates from the Citizen Leadership Track. Citizen-Leader graduates received jobs/offers from Marine PLC, Navy OCS, US Navy Civil Engineering Corps direct commission, USAF OTS, Army enlistment, Dept of Justice, Vet Med (2), JP Morgan Chase, Accenture Federal Services, Roanoke PD, Enterprise Holdings, Lockheed Martin, 12 to grad school, Grad Research Fellowship.

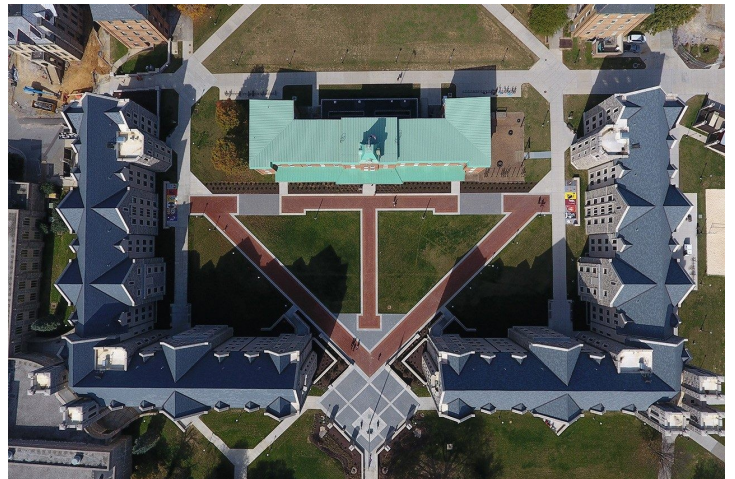
Countries represented in the Corps of Cadets are India, Jamaica, Nigeria, Pakistan, The Philippines, Portugal, China, France, South Korea, and the Virgin Islands. Academically the most recent Corps of Cadets Grade Point Average (GPA) is 3.24 and over ten years has been above 3.0. 759 Cadets have a GPA over 3.0 with 46 Cadets having a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Virginia Tech's Corps of Cadets plans to grow from 1,100 students to 1,400 once it has a building on campus to call its own. The Corps Leadership and Military Science Building will bring together the corps staff and the university's ROTC programs that are now spread out across several locations on campus. The Corps two new buildings (a residence hall for the 4th Battalion and the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building) will open next fall. The Corps Leadership and Military Science building will house offices for commandant's staff, ROTCs and their staffs, classrooms, the Corps museum, an honor court room, and a cyber classroom, cyber office and storage for the cyber program. The residence hall also contains a new facility for the athletic trainer, along with a mudroom, classroom, band storage, conference spaces for cadets, lounges, a kitchen, a laundry space, and offices for the staff. The funds for the construction program were raised from donations from Corps and Virginia Tech alumni. No state funds were used for the construction.



Cont'd. on Page 5 "Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets,  
Leadership Program, Facility Construction Program"

Cont'd. from Page 4 "Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, Leadership Program, Facility Construction Program"



MGEN Fullhart answering questions from the Chapter membership.



MGEN Fullhart accepting the Chapter Mug with logo from Chapter Vice President CAPT Gary Powers in appreciation for his excellent presentation.

## YOUTH AND GANG VIOLENCE PREVENTION

On 17 November 2022 Mr. Christopher Roberts, City of Roanoke Coordinator, Youth and Gang Violence Prevention accompanied by Mr. Nichols, Fletcher addressed the chapter membership meeting on the Roanoke City program is designed to drive solutions to youth and gang violence. Responsibilities of the Youth and Gun Violence Prevention program includes coordinating activities and programs between city departments, community groups, stakeholders, and agencies in **“the awareness, suppression, intervention and prevention of youth and gang-related activity.”** They are also tasked with the establishing and



maintaining partnerships with appropriate community groups and agencies, assisting with data collection, and compiling information on a comprehensive Youth and Gang Violence Community assessment report. They are a vital component of the City’s multi-faceted response to address gun violence.



A new approach to address gun violence in Roanoke is called [The Empathy Project](#). Organizers said the goal of the project is to shine a light on



families in Roanoke whose loved ones were murdered. The Empathy Project shares those stories through paintings, photography, and poetry. The project came to life with the help of Roanoke’s Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Coordinator, Chris Roberts. “The best part about it is to be able to tell the family’s stories. And to show how courageous they are in their vulnerability. And being able to share their story publicly,” Roberts said. Three painted doors honor the lives of [Brooks Mullen](#), [Nickalas Lee](#), and [Markel Girty](#) and are currently on



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play at the city’s municipal building. Lee’s family told 10 News they hope this pro-shows how gang violence impacts the community. “It is trying to make connections with people. The finality of a loss, finality of that decision in that split second that they pull the trigger, the gun doesn’t just go off, somebody had to pull that trigger. So it is connecting the people to that and get people to feel that,” said Nickalas’ father, Darrell Lee. “We’re hoping that the empathy will really take root and people will start treating people with kindness and love,” said Nickalas’ sister, Brandy Campbell. Another part of The Empathy Project is photographs of people who have lost a loved one to violence. These photos will soon be displayed on billboards throughout the Star City. Some of the photos will feature the co-founders of the nonprofit prayer group, FEDUP, who lost both their father and brother to gun violence. “People will start to realize we are affecting families and these are real

people who have been affected. We want to start conversations and we want to start thinking of ways to prevent gun violence,” said FEDUP co-founder, Renea Taylor. The billboards are expected to be up across the city next month.

## GLIDERS IN THE NORMANDY INVASION

On Thursday 15 December 2022 Mr. Bob VandeLinde spoke to the chapter membership on the use of gliders during WW II and specifically on gliders in the Normandy Invasion. Bob VandeLinde was a member of the 187th Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division in Korea, a recipient of the Silver Star, Purple Heart and Combat Infantryman's Badge and made two combat jumps in Korea. Although he never trained as a glider pilot or rode into combat in a glider he maintained a love of military history including gliders but felt more comfortable becoming a paratrooper



Bob VandeLinde's latest military honor is the Silver Star

### **Gliders in the United States Army, Army Air Forces, and Air Force**

Major General Henry "Hap" Arnold, Acting Deputy Chief of Staff for Air initiated a study on March 9, 1942 with view to develop a glider capable of being towed by aircraft. This directive was set into motion through Classified Technical Instructions authorized the procurement of 2-, 8-, and 15-place gliders and equipment. Eleven companies were invited to participate in the experimental glider program, but only four responded with any interest. Only Waco Aircraft Manufacturing Company based in Troy, Ohio was able to deliver the experimental glider prototypes that satisfied the requirements of Materiel Command, the eight-seat Waco CG-3 modified to become a production nine-seat glider and the fifteen-seat Waco CG-4. The shock of the Japanese attack on Pearl

Harbor on 7 December 1941 prompted the United States to set the number of glider pilots needed at 1,000 to fly 500 eight-seat gliders and 500 fifteen-seat gliders. The number of pilots required was increased to 6,000 by June 1942. Bigger gliders, such as the 30-troop Waco CG-13A and the 42-troop Laister-Kauffman CG-10A were designed later. The original design,

which was designated CG-4A (C for cargo, G for glider), was for an aircraft approximately 48 feet in length with nearly an 84-foot wingspan that could carry a pilot, copilot, and thirteen fully-equipped infantrymen



or one jeep, bulldozer, or other piece of equipment (to a maximum of 3,750 pounds).

A second, larger model, the CG-13A, was designed to carry thirty men. The gliders were towed on a 350' nylon rope, most commonly by C-47 transport planes and, once released, began a rapid descent to a designated target area. The most widely used type was the Waco CG-4A, which was first used in the invasion of Sicily in July 1943 and participated in the D-Day assault on France on 6 June 1944, and in other important airborne operations in Europe, including Operation Market Garden in September 1944 and the crossing the Rhine in March 1945, and in the China-Burma-India Theater. The CG-4A was constructed of a metal and wood frame covered with fabric, manned by a crew of two and with an allowable normal cargo load of 3,710 lb, allowing it to carry 13 combat-equipped troops or a jeep or small artillery piece. The CG-10 could hold 10,850 lb of cargo, such as two howitzers, at a time. The final glider mission of the war was at Luzon on 23 June 1945. By the end of the war, the United States had built 14,612 gliders of all types and had trained over 6,000 glider pilots. The designs of the Waco Aircraft Company were also produced by a wide variety of manufacturers including Ford Motor Company and Cessna Aircraft Company as well as furniture, piano and coffin manufacturers. Following World War II, the United States maintained only one regiment of gliders. Gliders were used in military exercises in 1949, but glider operations were deleted from the United States Army's capabilities on 1 January 1953. However, the United States Air Force continues to use sailplanes at the United States Air Force Academy to train cadets in the fundamentals of flight.



## CHAPTER OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS SWORN IN FOR 2023

On Thursday 15 December 2022 MGEN James E. Archer USAR (Ret) administered the oath of office to the Southwest Virginia Chapter Officers and Board of Directors for 2023 . Shown are the list of Chapter Officers and the office they were appointed to and the list of the Board of Directors.



### SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER OFFICERS 2023

**PRESIDENT** - CAPT Matthew Haag USN (Ret)  
**FIRST VP** - CAPT Gary Powers, USN (Ret)  
**SECOND VP** - LTC Dan Karnes, USA (Ret)  
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**TREASURER** - COL Robert Brown USA (Ret)  
**PROGRAMS** - COL Thomas Dalzell, USMC (Ret)  
**CHAPLAIN** - LTC Dave Gilleran, USA (Ret)  
**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR** - COL Robert Brown USA (Ret)  
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**SERGEANT-AT-ARMS** - MAJ Michael Kasnick, USA (Ret)  
**BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE** - LTC Dave Gilleran, USA (Ret)  
**TRANSITION TEAM REP** - LTC Dan Karnes, USA (Ret)  
**COMMUNITY SERV VOL REP** - LTC Dan Karnes, USA (Ret)  
**PAST PRESIDENT** - CDR Lee Ensley, USN (Ret)  
**SURVIVING SPOUSE REP** - Mrs. Mary Lou Summers  
**SMITH MOUNT SATELLITE REP** - CAPT Richard Cocrane, USN (Ret)



MGEN James E. Archer USAR (Ret) speaking with Mr. Bob Vandelinde the guest speaker at the meeting.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 MAJ Michael Kasnick, USA (Ret)  
 COL John Miller, USA (Ret)  
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 COL Donald Sowder, USA (Ret)  
 Mrs. Mary Lou Summers



At the meeting COL Dave Lofgren, USA (Ret), a long time member of AUSA and MOAA and former VP of the AUSA chapter, presented his Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Saber to COL John Miller, USA (Ret) as a gift to the AUSA Chapter.



**SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER PARTICIPATES IN THE 12th ANNUAL VETERANS DAY PARADE, ROANOKE VIRGINIA, SATURDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2022**

Southwest Virginia Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America participated in the 12th Annual Veterans Day parade in downtown Roanoke Virginia. The Virginia's Veterans Parade celebrates and recognizes those who have served with a public procession featuring floats, music, and other entertainment organized by The Roanoke Valley Veterans Council to show support from the community and to recognize veterans of all the armed services and all conflicts, as well as honoring those who currently serve this great nation. The parade route was lined with enthusiast supporters and watched by folks at home on television. For the third time in the parade's history, a pair of stealth tactical fighter aircraft performed a flyover to kick off the event. Two F-22 Raptors from Langley Air Force Base in Hampton, Virginia flew over the parade route at the end of the singing of the national anthem. This was a crowd favorite. Children cheering from curbs clamored for candy thrown by waving military veterans driving muscle cars, lifted trucks and rumbling motorcycles. High School and college marching bands rattled off renditions of "You're a Grand Old Flag." Camouflage-clad and navy-uniformed junior ROTC cadets trudged along, belting out chants. Other youths stood at street corners, handing out small America stick flags to passersby. Those flags were waved aplenty by parade attendees and participants alike. Spectators clapped and hollered as fire trucks, police cars, ambulances and dented old military Jeeps tooted their horns while rolling along in the procession.



Shore Patrol Jeep driven by CAPT Gary Powers, USN (Ret) with riders COL Thomas Dalzell USMC (Ret) in passenger seat and CDR Lee Ensley, USN (Ret) riding in the rear seat.



SWVA chapter members CAPT Gary Powers, USN (Ret), COL Thomas Dalzell USMC (Ret) and CDR Lee Ensley, USN (Ret) pose with the Shore Patrol Jeep prior to the parade.



Chapter members COL Thomas Dalzell, USMC (Ret ) and CAPT Gary Powers USN (Ret) and other parade participants pose with Ms. Roanoke Valley Isabella Jessee and Ms. Virginia Outstanding Teen Ayana Johnson prior to the parade.

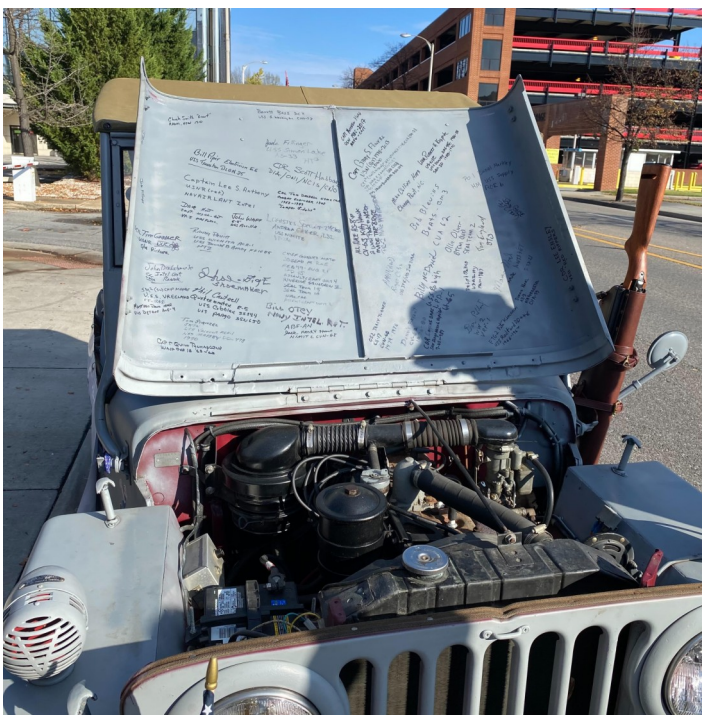
### SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER PARTICIPATES IN THE 12th ANNUAL VETERANS DAY PARADE, ROANOKE VIRGINIA, SATURDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2022—CONTINUED



Chapter Membership Chair COL Bob Brown USA (Ret) set up a MOAA/SWVC chapter information table in the Market building where visitors met to speak with veterans and their families before, during and after the parade.



Chapter members COL Bob Brown USA (Ret), COL Tom Dalzell USMC (Ret) and CDR Lee Ensley USN (Ret) with a Virginia Tech Cadet in the Market building prior to the parade.



The Shore Patrol jeep owned by CAPT Gary Powers USN (Ret) with the hood up showing where Navy veterans and one USMC veteran signed their name, units and other information. A tradition initiated by CAPT Powers.



Ms. Roanoke Valley Isabella Jessee, CAPT Gary Powers USN (Ret) and Ms. Virginia Outstanding Teen Ayana Johnson

## The Pentagon's Recruiting Woes

OPINION - REVIEW & OUTLOOK By The Editorial Board Wall Street Journey 15-16 October 2022.

***“Fewer young people want or are able to serve, a big problem for U.S. security.”***

The U.S. Army recently told the press that it missed its fiscal year recruiting goal by 25%, coming up short nearly 20,000 soldiers. For 50 years America has relied on volunteers to defend the country, but that system is a luxury maintained at a cost, and its struggles deserve attention.

The Army's troubles are acute but not unique. The Air Force barely hit its numbers for 2022. The Navy met its targets for enlisted sailors but came up short about 200 officers. Both the Navy and Air Force had to dip into “delayed entry” pools of recruits usually kept in a holding pattern for later, which means the services will start a new recruiting year in an even tougher position. The numbers are worse in the reserves.

Several factors are contributing to the shortfall. Fewer than one-quarter of Americans ages 17 to 24 are eligible to serve, and the reasons for disqualification include obesity, addiction and criminal history. The decision to close high schools during the pandemic kept recruiters at bay and left many teens mentally unwell, another disqualification.

Record job openings and Covid transfer payments hurt enlistment, but the problems run deeper. Fewer than one in 10 youth are inclined to serve, according to survey data. Dismal civic education hasn't helped; teenagers taught to think America is a racist or imperialist country won't wear the uniform.

The left portrays the military as a retrograde institution where sexual assault and extremism are rampant, which is not borne out by evidence. The right's affinity for military service is also in free fall.

Only 53% of Republicans had “a great deal of confidence” in the military in a 2021 Reagan Foundation survey, a 17-point drop in less than a year. Flag officers have too often associated themselves with vogue political causes, promoting books on “anti-racism,” for example, as the Navy's top officer did last year. The services may need to relax the Covid-19 vaccine mandate as a concession to reality; thousands of National Guard members have refused it.

The recruiting crisis is an opportunity for Congress to drive a tank over anachronistic practices. That Congress recently saw fit to pass a cash supplement for some service members called a “basic needs allowance” suggests the military's pay scales aren't competitive with the private economy, especially for lower-ranking enlistees. The 4.6% raise slated for next year doesn't match inflation.

The Army toyed with waiving high-school degree requirements and has thrown around signing bonuses of up to \$50,000. But Congress could require the services to experiment with, say, short service contracts or a different benefit mix that might let a service member spend an entire commitment at one home base in between overseas deployments.

The services also rely too heavily on an antiquated “up or out” model that leaves human potential on the table. The Marines deserve credit for realizing, in an initiative called Talent Management 2030, that discharging 75% of its first-term Marines every year and recruiting 36,000 replacements isn't efficient or sustainable.

Congress has offered more flexibility to let those with experience in cyber or other essential fields enter the service at a higher rank. But these are still exceptions. Especially crazy is pushing service members into taxpayer-funded retirement after 20 years of service, when most have productive years left.

A deeper undercurrent is that young people with other prospects won't join a military that looks more hollow all the time. After a decade of mostly diminished budgets, the services have developed a culture of doing more with less, adding stress on equipment and personnel.

Fighter pilots fly fewer than 1.5 sorties a week, according to an estimate from last year, too low to be proficient. The backlog on submarine work means Navy sailors can spend entire tours stuck in the maintenance yards instead of at sea. Ships, aircraft squadrons and Army air defense units are being run ragged by longer or more frequent deployments.

This may explain why fewer veterans are recommending military service. Only 62% of those polled in a 2021 Military Family Advisory Network survey said they'd encourage someone to sign up, down from 74.5% in 2019. This is an ominous trend given the importance of family military legacies.

The recruiting problems are hitting even as the Navy and Air Force need to expand to meet proliferating threats from Iran to China. Tanks and planes aren't worth buying if there's no human capital to man them. Some might be tempted to treat this year's recruiting failures as an anomaly, but it could be an emerging threat to national security. The American experiment can only last as long as citizens are willing to defend it.

## TRANSFORM OR DIE—DEBATE ON FUTURE OF THE MARINE CORPS

The Marine Corps needs to take a VERY close look at the direction it is heading. The Marine Corps belongs to all of us. What follows are three articles to consider relative whether our Marine Corps survives. Many are too young to remember that following World War II a very strong effort was perpetrated towards doing away with the Marine Corps. But the American people, and government leaders, made sure that didn't happen. It would appear now that Marine Corps itself is flirting with self-destruction. Some of the proposals Marine Corps leadership is pushing have merit, but to completely forsake this flexible war machine we appear to be evolving is questionable – not to mention self-destructive.

**Defense One 16 October 2022**

### The U.S. Marine Corps Has a Choice: Transform or Die by Dakota Wood

If the Corps does not veer from its current course, it will lose the things that differentiate it from the Army and the special operations community. The 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU)'s Lt. Collin Bish and Lance Cpl. Angel D. Marmolejo establish a communications network while participating in mass casualty response training on Ie Shima, Feb. 10, 2022. At some point, the Senate will have to start deliberations on the 2023 National Defense Authorization Act. Part of that debate will determine the way forward for the Marine Corps.

There is no question the Corps is in poor shape to handle the security challenges of the near future. Gen. David H. Berger acknowledged this in 2019 when he became Commandant. His predecessor did as well. Berger warned that the service risked becoming irrelevant if it did not change. He has pushed to shift the Corps' focus back to what differentiates it from the U.S. Army: amphibious operations and land operations in support of a naval campaign. These functions not only define the Corps, they are required by law. Yet a small but potentially influential cadre of retired Marine generals don't want the Corps to move in this direction. They are actively lobbying lawmakers to block or overturn Berger's initiatives. War often demands that services do things that are not at the top of their prescribed set of responsibilities. None has been better at adjusting to this reality than the Corps. But its success as a "second land army" came at a severe cost: it lost touch with its seafaring roots.

During 20 years of combat in Afghanistan and Iraq, few Marines gained any experience in learning the complexities of amphibious operations. The Corps did, however, gain significant weight and logistical dependency. The Marines up-armored everything. When units used amphibious ships to land their gear in Iraq, they found they were outweighing the ship before they out-cubed it. It's never been unusual for units to run out of space for all of their boxes and equipment. But with heavily armored Humvees, blast-resistant vehicles, and even cargo trucks encased in protective glass and armored panels, units were weighing down the ships to the point of instability. This was not a good sign for a force that is supposed to be light, nimble, self-sustaining (at least initially), and able to conduct highly distributed operations in contested littoral waters.

Since the early 1990s, the Corps has recognized that amphibious operations are getting more challenging. The threat from long-range precision guided munitions, especially anti-ship cruise missiles, forces large, conventional amphibious warships to operate farther from shore. As a result, Marine forces must be less dependent on their sea-base for support. They must also be able to move around the battlefield in ways that attract less attention from the enemy.

For 30 years, there has been a lot of talk but very little action to solve this problem. Now, however—thanks to advances in unmanned systems, smaller guided weapons that are more mobile and accurate, improvements in the ability of units and platforms (like the F-35B) to share information about the battle space, and new designs for naval mobility platforms—it is possible to do what could not be done in the past.

Enter Berger's Force Design 2030, a rare transformational effort that would take maximum advantage of these realities. Force Design 2030 is based on these key facts:

- \* The primary mission of the Corps is "to provide forces...for service with the fleet in the seizure or defense of advanced naval bases and for the conduct of such land operations as may be essential to the prosecution of a naval campaign." Though the Corps does other things very well, they are secondary to its primary mission.
- \* All primary national security documents identify China as the most significant security challenge facing the U.S. If the U.S. cannot counter the Chinese threat and the set of modern challenges it represents, it will have to cede regions deemed essential to the long-term interests of the country.

*Continued on Page 13 "Transform or Die—Debate on Future of the Marine Corps"*

*Continued from Page 12 “Transform or Die—Debate on Future of the Marine*

weapons that enable the Corps to support naval campaigns, like anti-ship cruise missiles and anti-air weapons (both of which deny the enemy the ability to freely operate against U.S. forces); amphibious ships and unmanned platforms that are harder to find than their older and much larger counterparts; and Marines equipped with sensors and intelligence-related tools that enable them to make the larger Joint Force more effective in the theaters of action of greatest importance to the United States.

Force Design 2030 embraces the latter approach to keep the Corps from plunging into irrelevance. Berger’s critics seemingly don’t understand how much the environment has changed, are too wedded to what they know has worked in the past, or think that there is enough money, time, and manpower to retain the old while also introducing the new.

Berger would not be the first commandant to reimagine the Corps. Lt. Gen. Thomas Holcomb, 17th Commandant, developed amphibious assault capabilities that proved essential to success in World War II. It meant profound changes in force design, equipping, concepts, and employment—and Holcomb could have refused to do it. But he had the foresight to see what was needed and the courage to make the necessary changes.

For years, the Corps has said it must be “most ready when the nation is least ready.” Where is the nation least ready today? In its ability to confront the most advanced threats since the early days of the Cold War. Force Design 2030 will deliver a Corps with new combined-arms formations organized for distributed operations against the most capable enemies, equipped to prevent an enemy from controlling key terrain on land, at sea, and in the air, and trained to project naval power and larger, Joint Force capabilities anywhere on the planet.

Some critics worry that the Corps is proceeding too quickly, that it does not yet have sufficient buy-in from the other services—especially the Navy, whose ships are an essential component to operations. There is some merit to this argument, but only some. If the Commandant waited until he got broad concurrence from all interested parties, until the Navy got its ship-building act together, until the Joint Force was fully on-board, until all applicable concepts were fully proved in a range of operational settings, until all processes and systems bearing upon the matter were perfected, then nothing would ever get done. His tour as Commandant would end with no progress made in any area.

The Corps’ bold approach shows progress and application in real-world settings. It demonstrates seriousness and practical utility. And it has strong support in Congress and among the regional combatant commanders.

If the Corps does not transform, it will die the death of irrelevance, useful only as an adjunct to the U.S. Army or for small, crisis-response missions like reinforcing an embassy, the type of task for which the U.S. military has other options. If the Corps does not transform, it will lose the things that differentiate it from the Army or the special operations community.

Transformation is part of the DNA of the Corps. This latest iteration merits the support of all Marines and those charged with the defense of our nation.

**[A 20-year veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, Dakota L. Wood is the senior research fellow for defense programs at The Heritage Foundation.]**



Marine Corps Times 14 October 2022

## The Unintended Consequences of Marine Corps Talent Management 2030 by Warren Parker

Marines always have had their own identity — an “eternal spirit” according to Gen. John Lejeune — that animates our Corps. The unintended consequences of Talent Management 2030 could kill that “eternal spirit” and strip Marines of their distinctive identity.

Lt. Gen. Victor Krulak wrote that the Marine Corps exists “because of what the grassroots of our country believe we are and believe we can do.” America’s special trust and confidence in her Marines will be shattered if the Corps’ customs, traditions and ethos are lost.

Identity is fragile. Unlike the gutting of force structure and equipment, which always can be added back albeit at great expense and over time, attributes that define Marines once extinguished are lost forever.

Talent Management 2030’s numerous references to Army and Air Force programs and academic trends should give us pause.

Its basic assumption that the Marine Corps is mired in an “industrial age (talent management) model” and needs new models for recruiting and retaining talent suggests a radical change in who we are.

The plan also assumes an “industrial age” concept of leadership, implying our current approach is no longer relevant.

More than 60 years ago, Krulak outlined a concept of leadership that is as applicable today as it was then, writing that there is within the Marine Corps an “inspirational personal relationship among our officers and rank and file — a relationship quite different than that found in the other services and one which heretofore has distinguished our Corps.” If that is “industrial age” leadership, then we need more of it, not less.

The plan also advocates academic management concepts currently trending in Silicon Valley.

Let’s not be fooled, neither Silicon Valley nor Fortune 500 companies are models for “managing talent” in an organization whose tradition is to be the readiest when the nation is least ready.

Talent Management 2030 additionally emphasizes retention of highly talented Marines through potentially divisive programs, such as pay differentials, enhanced parental leave, lateral entry and the opportunity to change career fields without restriction — all without a clear analysis or understanding of their potential adverse impacts. Many, maybe most, of these “innovative” programs are ill-suited for an institution whose culture is “first to fight” and whose ethos is characterized by service and sacrifice.

Culture, traditions and ethos, those intangibles that define Marines, are the underpinnings of our combat effectiveness and must be preserved. Whether intended or not, our identity will be eroded, if not lost, if we pursue “flavor of the month” business and academic personnel management models. “Every Marine a rifleman” will be sacrificed. Talent Management 2030 envisions Marines as specialists, specifically matched to an assignment for which they are uniquely qualified and trained.

This is not who we are. We all are riflemen, primarily or secondarily trained for the rigors of combat. Talent Management 2030’s own words set the tone for stripping Marines of their identity as a rifleman: “Our core manpower model (post World-War II) thus aimed to create and maintain an enlisted force predominately composed of young troops ... prepared for the physical rigors of combat, but otherwise requiring little education or training.” This statement discounts our enlisted Marines who selflessly have served the nation. It also dismisses the cutting-edge training and education systems that are the legacies of Gen. Al Gray and his successors. Maturing the force, lateral entry, specialized recruiting for individuals with critical skills and a host of other “business model” approaches are all intended to develop a force of specialists, not to nurture a culture of warfighting where every Marine is a rifleman. Officers will be discouraged from seeking command. The sad reality is that too many outstanding officers never have the opportunity to command.

The Marine Corps always has had more officers exceptionally qualified than positions available. Nevertheless, every officer has been encouraged to seek command, beginning at The Basic School. Force Design 2030 will reduce the number of command positions, exacerbating the problem. Given the mismatch between the numbers of outstanding officers qualified for command and positions available, Talent Management 2030 simply will encourage more officers to remain in staff or technical positions and not seek command.

To further discourage those who would seek command, Talent Management 2030 is very clear that command is no longer the most important aspiration of a Marine officer: “Our personnel system and service culture must recognize that superior performance and proficiency are not exclusive characteristics of commanders or officers seeking command.” No officer should be discouraged from seeking command. That is not our culture or tradition. Officers should be encouraged to seek command, knowing that not everyone will be selected. The Marine Corps always has recognized command as first among equals in assignments, painfully accepting that too many outstanding officers will not always get the chance. Promotion board opt-outs, encouraging officers to pursue paths other than command, lateral entry with career credit to qualified civilians, and other considerations for officers with staff and technical skills will, at some point, adversely impact the soul of Marine leadership: command. Whether intended or not, Talent Management 2030’s business model policies will benefit some Marines but not others. The young, single, enlisted Marines in the combat arms fields, who have historically done the Corps “heavy lifting,” will be the most disadvantaged. Our civilian and military leaders have not been particularly good at predicting the “next war.”

According to former National Security Advisor H.R. McMaster: “We have a perfect record in predicting future wars ... 0%.”

Our most precious asset is our Marines. We risk everything if we adopt talent management models unsuited for our culture of fighting and winning “in ever clime and place.”

*[Col. Warren Parker was an infantry officer while on active duty, who served in a variety of operational commands as well as recruiting and manpower.]*

Forbes 17 October 2022

**Marine Corps War Plans are too Sino-Centric. What About the Other 90% of the World?** by Loren Thompson

China has long been known in standard Mandarin as *Zongguo*, the “middle country.” Judging from President Xi Jinping’s remarks to the Communist Party congress this weekend, the idea that China is the center of the world is just fine with him. However, the Pentagon’s 2018 National Defense Strategy may have gone too far in designating China as the central threat around which future U.S. military preparations must be organized. The Chinese challenge to America is mainly economic in nature, and Taiwan looks to be the only place where Beijing might undertake a military campaign in the foreseeable future. For all its super-power pretensions, China remains an insular nation hemmed in by geography and its own internal challenges. Nonetheless, U.S. military services have been striving since the release of the 2018 strategy to demonstrate their relevance to the Chinese threat. Nowhere is this more true than in the Marine Corps, where Commandant David H. Berger has undertaken a wholesale redesign of his service’s formations and plans. Among other things, General Berger has called for eliminating all of the Corps’ tanks and a sizable chunk of its rotorcraft; creating smaller combat units; fielding a new class of light amphibious vessels capable of eluding enemy detection; and increasing Marine support of the Navy’s sea-control mission. All of these changes have been initiated to bolster Marine relevance in the Western Pacific. They are intended to facilitate “Expeditionary Advance Base Operations” and “Littoral Operations In Contested Environments”—doctrines generated to combat China within the confines of the first island chain along its eastern coast. And while the commandant states in his 2019 planning guidance that the 31 large amphibious warships the Navy currently operates to lift Marine units “will remain the benchmark of our forward operating crisis response forces,” he also raises doubts about the survivability of such vessels in what is now the most important theater of operations for U.S. military planners. This has sown confusion in the Navy’s shipbuilding plans, which currently propose truncating a planned buy of 13 new LPD amphibious warships at three while commencing early retirement of the decrepit amphibies they were supposed to replace, and stretching out construction of larger LHA assault warships to twice the preferred interval—up to ten years. If these proposals were actually implemented, they would leave the Marine Corps with a grossly inadequate lift capacity for dealing with crises in the Caribbean, Mediterranean, Persian Gulf and elsewhere, while fielding dozens of “light amphibious warships” likely to prove useless in most contingencies. Thanks to its amphibious-landing capabilities and training to operate under austere conditions ashore, the Marine Corps has long served as America’s first-responder force, able to insert ground forces into crisis situations before other U.S. services or allies arrive. According to NASA, over a third of the global population lives within 60 miles of the sea. Most of the world’s megacities, from Jakarta to Karachi to Lagos to Shanghai, are located on or near the ocean. Every country likely to challenge U.S. interests in the years ahead is accessible from the sea. So, the value of a sea-based quick reaction force such as the Marine Corps is not hard to grasp. Marines have been used to intervene in the Caribbean dozens of times, and may yet do so again in Cuba or Nicaragua or Venezuela. It is a rare year when Marines are not called on to perform critical missions in the Mediterranean. The problem with redirecting Corps preparations to the Chinese littoral is that the service is called on to develop capabilities that aren’t much use elsewhere—and might not make much difference even there. The basic idea Marine leaders have advanced is that platoon-size units transported on light amphibious warships and equipped with long-range munitions can hop among the islands off the Chinese coast, disrupting the movement of Beijing’s naval forces and aiding U.S. military efforts to control littoral seas. Unfortunately, this requires the Marine units to operate within range of Chinese weapons, which is why they need to be highly mobile and generate minimal trackable signatures. Commandant Berger freely admits that current Marine air defenses and reconnaissance assets are not up to the job—which is why money needs to be freed up to buy new equipment such as the light amphibies. However, in an August 26 report, respected congressional naval expert Ronald O’Rourke raises a series of searching questions about this concept of operations:

1. Do Marine plans focus too much on China at the expense of other challenges and missions?
2. Can the Marines successfully gain access to littoral islands and then survive there?
3. Can the Navy resupply Marine units within range of Chinese weapons once deployed there?
4. If the proposed force redesign is implemented, would it significantly aid U.S. sea control in the region?

The short answer to these questions is that nobody can say today, because it all depends on what reconnaissance assets Beijing deploys between now and when the Marines are ready to execute their operational concepts in the Chinese littoral. It is not hard to imagine how a combination of long-endurance drones and orbital assets might preclude even small units from hiding in wartime. The more immediate issue, though, is how this problematic approach to the China challenge might deprive the Marine Corps of capabilities needed to respond elsewhere. We are already seeing evidence that the consensus supporting a fleet of large amphibies suitable for responding to crises in other places is being undermined by confusion over Marine plans.

Continued on from page 11 "[Marine Corps War Plans are too Sino-Centric](#)"

Getting rid of all the tanks on the assumption the Army can supply heavy armor in a timely fashion seems unrealistic. And eliminating squadrons of heavy, medium, and light rotorcraft is doubly questionable, given the fact that Marines are already breaking up deployed readiness groups to cope with diverse regional challenges. Those rotorcraft may not be needed to fight China, but there are dozens of other places around the world where they could prove more useful than a light amphibious warship.

### CHAPTER MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN THE 10TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS WREATH LAYING PROGRAM AT THE VIRGINIA VETERANS CEMETERY IN DUBLIN VIRGINIA

On Saturday 17 December 2022 members of the SWVA chapter participated in the 10th Annual Wreath Laying program at the Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin, Virginia. This event is sponsored each year by The Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery Volunteers aptly led by the Chapter Surviving Spouse Representative Mrs. Mary Lou Summers. Southwest Virginia participants included US Army Representative - COL John Miller, USA (Ret), US Navy Representative - CAPT Gary Powers, USN (Ret), US Marine Corps Representative - COL Thomas Dalzell, USMC (Ret), US Air Force Representative - COL John Rogers, USAF, US Coast Guard Representative - CDR Richard At Lee, USCG (Ret), POW-MIA Representative - LTC Bob Habermann, USA (Ret), Commonwealth of Virginia Flag Representative - CDR Lee Ensley, USN (Ret). Chapter members also donated funds to purchase some 1,600 Christmas wreaths put on the headstones by family members and guests



# NOTICE

Annual Chapter Dues are due 1 January 2023. Dues are \$30.00. Widows (ers) dues are \$15.00. Dues for those entering MOAA between 1 July and 31 December are \$20.00. Please mail dues payment to: MOAA, Southwest Virginia Chapter, P.O. Box 3090, Roanoke, VA 24015-1090



**PENTAGON BEDEVILED BY RECRUITMENT FAILURES AS SOLUTIONS PROVE ELUSIVE**

By Alex Horton, National Security Reporter for The Washington Post

Military officials and lawmakers on Wednesday painted a grim picture of recruiting efforts within the Defense Department, as a recent study suggests worrisome shortfalls could grow worse if more women decline to serve over restrictive [abortion](#) laws in many Republican-led states where U.S. personnel are based. The Pentagon has characterized the head winds in stark terms, saying its recruiting environment is the worst it has been since the end of the Vietnam War. Some of the military services will just barely meet their goals as the fiscal year ends later this month, officials said in testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee. The Army, the armed forces' largest branch, will miss its target by 30,000 soldiers, said Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.).

Sen. Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) said there is little evidence to suggest the outlook will improve any time soon, adding bleakly, "There is no sunlight on the horizon."

Military leaders teach a three-word mantra — "adapt and overcome" — to every service member. It's part reminder and part road map for how to meet challenges head on.

But during their testimony, military officials offered a litany of reasons why factors outside of their control undermined recruitment efforts, with vague promises to consider potential solutions and problems raised by the committee.

Further, it was unclear from Wednesday's hearing whether the Pentagon has prepared for the possibility that some of the military's biggest draws — including the GI Bill, which offers generous educational benefits in exchange for military service — would one day prove inadequate in the face of waning public interest.

Only one in 11 people ages 17 to 24 have a "propensity to serve," said Lt. Gen. Caroline Miller, a senior Air Force personnel official.

The confluence of problems they described include: High school closures during the coronavirus pandemic that strained access to military prospects; a competitive job market luring talent away; and obesity and other health problems drying up an already small pool of Americans who physically qualify for enlistment.

Some prospective solutions, like an Army program that sends motivated recruits who perform poorly on tests to remedial training ahead of enlistment, have shown some promise, officials have said. But outfoxing competition from the private sector has proven elusive, particularly in cybersecurity jobs, even though the military offers tens of thousands of dollars in bonuses for such billets.

On Wednesday, panelists from each of the military service summarized their outlook ahead of the fiscal year's end Sept. 30. The Air Force will make its goals with a "narrow margin" but miss its target for reservists, Miller said. Vice Adm. Rick Cheeseman said the Navy has met its goals for bringing in new active-duty sailors, but not in the Navy Reserve. The Marine Corps "only slightly" adjusted its original recruitment goal and met its mission, said Michael Strobl, a personnel official.

The officials did not offer much insight into how the Supreme Court's decision this year ending the constitutional right to abortion may further strain the desire to serve among women. A recent study by the Rand Corp. said that of the 201,000 women serving on active duty in the continental U.S., about 40 percent are stationed in states that either have or will have the highest restrictions, with potentially thousands running into complications in seeking reproductive care by needing approval from commanders to travel long distances.

Women already exit the service at higher rates than men, according to the Rand report, which was sponsored by the Pentagon. "It is not unreasonable to expect that both women's propensity to serve and their subsequent retention intentions will decrease" further, it says.

The National Guard, the force of part-time troops who over the past two years have been activated for missions ranging from hospital support staff to driving buses, is facing similar recruiting and retention challenges. The Army National Guard expects to be short 6,000 soldiers of its target strength, officials said this week. The Air National Guard will come up 3,000 fewer than the 108,300 it projected.

Additionally, the Army Guard said that next year it could lose as many as 9,000 soldiers who have refused to get vaccinated against the coronavirus. Officials are awaiting guidance on how to proceed with those dismissals, and have not yet discharged any personnel who have said they will not get inoculated.

National Guard Bureau Chief Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson acknowledged that limited benefits for Guard members, compared to their active-duty colleagues, can make service unappealing. Guard members don't have military health insurance unless they are activated for federal duty, and 60,000 members don't have coverage through a civilian employer, he said in a call with reporters on Tuesday.

*Continued on Page 18 "Pentagon Bedeviled by Recruitment Failures)"*

*Continued from Page 17 “Pentagon Bedeviled by Recruitment Failures)”*

Guard troops also face limitations on access to federal student aid compared to active duty service members, Hokanson said. Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) chastised the panel over general statements about the problem of sexual assault, which climbed to unprecedented highs despite long-standing promises from the Pentagon to get the problem under control.

Warren said a failure to bring the numbers down can undermine interest for women to enlist and sour the career for those already in uniform. Low conviction rates and ineffective prosecution, Warren said, send the message that sexual crimes are tolerated.

“I would just suggest an ounce of humility, because this is an area where we do not excel,” Warren said, asking for better solutions. “I don’t want something defensive, I don’t want something declaring victory.”

## DO YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the Southwest Virginia Chapter of MOAA undertakes annual MOAA Medal awards presented to distinguished JROTC Cadets/Midshipmen in 14 area high schools and the four ROTC Cadets/Midshipmen at Virginia Tech and Radford University? Did you know that these awards recognize the recipient’s academic, community service and leadership qualities that demonstrate exceptional potential for leadership while a member of their respective JROTC/ ROTC Programs? These JROTC/ ROTC awards consist of a MOAA Medal Award and an appropriate Award Certificate. The chapter bears the cost of the MOAA Medal Awards, presentation folders and mailing costs.

Did you also know that the Southwest Virginia Chapter of MOAA has established two Leadership Awards presented to ROTC Cadets/Midshipmen at Virginia Tech and Radford University during each academic year? Recipients are to be juniors or who will be starting their final year in the coming fall of the academic year. The Leadership Awards were established to recognize the recipient’s academic, community service and leadership qualities that demonstrate exceptional potential for military leadership while a member of the Virginia Tech and Radford University ROTC Programs. The two Leadership Awards each carry a \$500 monetary award and an appropriate Award Certificate. The chapter bears the cost of the two Leadership Awards, presentation folders and the two \$500 monetary awards.

The South West Virginia Chapter of MOAA has been a strong supporter of the Military Family Support Center. At this time The Military Family Support Center is undergoing transition and the Southwest Virginia Chapter is looking into options to restart the mission to identify and provide for the morale, welfare, and informational needs of military families (of all branches and components) who reside outside of the established support networks. During 2023 the chapter hopes to merge with another food pantry to be able to provide supplies and distribute food stuffs to needy military families.

The South West Virginia Chapter of MOAA also supports the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin, Virginia each year providing a MOAA Mobile Vehicle and with the Christmas Wreath Laying Program providing and placing wreaths on veterans’ grave sites. The Chapter funded and dedicated a “Memorial Bench” at the Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin, Virginia in honor of LTC James “Pat” Green, USA (Ret) who was the person most responsible for getting the cemetery located at Dublin, Virginia.

These programs are extremely important for the SWVC to continue as the community face of the Military Officers Association of America, to be an advocate for a strong national defense, to be an influential provider and supporter of programs, benefits and services for our military community, and to be a source of social fellowship for our members. The chapter has no regular financial stream except for chapter dues or donations. During the coming year we will be asking for your personal and financial support of our outreach programs and our monthly membership meetings.



## Chapter Website Up and Running

The Southwest Virginia Chapter website is now up and running. To access the site go to [moaaswva.org](http://moaaswva.org). The website is one of the primary means to keep in touch with the current membership, connect with potential members and keep members advised on current issues of importance to the active duty, retired and former military, their spouse and family. The Chapter also has a Facebook page at MOAASWVA

## WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON AT MOAA

- Legislative Accomplishments?
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**Log on to [MOAA.org](http://MOAA.org)**

**MOAA Southwest Virginia Chapter**  
**P.O. Box 3090**  
**Roanoke, VA 24015-1090**  
**Email: [info@moaaswva.org](mailto:info@moaaswva.org)**  
**Webpage: [www.moaaswva.org](http://www.moaaswva.org)**  
**Facebook: MOAA SWVA**

**The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and the Southwest Virginia Chapter (SWVC) of MOAA** are a nonprofit veterans' association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and ensuring our nation keeps its commitments to currently serving, retired, and former members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors. Membership is open to those who hold or have ever held a warrant or commission in any component of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Space Force, Public Health Service, or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and their surviving spouses.

## UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS

**16 December 2022** – Board of Directors meeting. Installation of Officers and Board of Directors for 2023 by MG James E. Archer, USAR (Ret). Program by Mr. Bob VandeLinde on gliders in the Normandy Invasion. He was a member of the 187th Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division in Korea, a recipient of the Silver Star, Purple Heart and CIB and made two combat jumps in Korea.

**19 January 2023** – Video program of Staff Sergeant David G. Bellavia Medal of Honor recipient for his heroics during Operation Iraqi Freedom in Fallujah, Iraq in 2004.

**16 February 2023** – Board of Directors meeting. Program by Ms. Linda Breckinridge and Ms. Betty Shideler dressed for the time period of the Northern War of Aggression to discuss "*The Women Left Behind*." with a focus on the Breckinridge family and the Burwell family and the impact the war had on them.

**16 March 2023** – Program by Mr. Ken Dutch Rauch "Thoughts of a Career Well Spent As a Naval Aviator, Combat Pilot, and Test Pilot".

**20 April 2023** – Board of Directors meeting. Program by Ms. Rebecca J Stackhouse, CTRS, FACHE, Executive Director Salem VA Health Care System with an update on the Salem VA Health Care System.

**18 May 2023** – Bus trip to the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond, Virginia to include a tour of the Virginia War Memorial and lunch.



COL Thomas Dalzell USMC (Ret) shown presenting CDR Lee Ensley, USN (Ret) a MOAA Certificate of Appreciation and MOAA Past President Pin in recognition of his Outstanding Service as Past President of the Southwest Virginia Chapter 2020-2021 at the Virginia Veterans Cemetery Dublin, VA on 2/17/2022

**CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP**  
**as of 30 June 2022**

Regular Members 114  
Surviving Spouses 14  
Total Members 128  
Talk to a fellow officer about joining the Southwest Virginia Chapter!

**JOIN THE CHAPTER**

Looking to join the Southwest Virginia Chapter? Want more information on how to join and become involved? Check us out on the chapter website at **moaswva.org** or on face book at **moaswva** then Contact COL Bob Brown, USA (Ret), Chapter Membership Chair at (540) 904-2810 or email at **rbbrown68@gmail.com**.



**MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**  
**SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER - ENROLLMENT/RENEWAL FORM**

Name (First ,Middle, Last, Rank) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_ Retired \_\_\_\_\_ Active Duty \_\_\_\_\_ NG \_\_\_\_\_ Former Officer \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Name \_\_\_\_\_ MOAA Membership ID No. \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Chapter Dues are \$30.00. Widows (ers) dues are \$15.00. Dues for those entering MOAA between 1 July and 31 December are \$20.00. Please mail dues payment to: **MOAA, Southwest Virginia Chapter, P.O. Box 3090, Roanoke, VA 24015-1090**

**Note:** The Chapter Newsletter *The Communique* is published quarterly and sent to the membership by email. Printed copies will be provided upon request. The next issue will be published at the end of March 2023.

*Featured in this Issue*  
Presidents Corner  
Democracy or a Republic  
The Pentagon's Recruiting Woes  
Transform or Die-Debate on Future of the Marine Corps  
The Unintended Consequences of Marine Corps Talent Management  
Marine Corps War Plans are too Sino-Centric.



**Bring a fellow officer and their spouse to our next meeting.**



**NEVER STOP SERVING.**

Military Officers Association of America  
Southwest Virginia Chapter  
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