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Visit our website  
(scan Code)

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hope you all enjoyed a safe, healthy, and Happy Holiday Season.

A New Year begins with hope and determination for a better 2021. Specifically our Green Valley Chapter is looking forward to continue our planned scheduled activities and hopefully a few new projects in order to perpetuate the momentum of years of our "Level of Excellence" performance.

I am pleased to report a successful luncheon at the Grill on the Green this past December 9th. Although the number of guests was understandably diminished as compared to previous years, we did have a spirited and enjoyable event highlighted by our annual holiday gift giveaway. In addition we were able to present a bountiful array of holiday gifts to Karen Kuciver, CEO of "Women Warriors" for needy veteran mothers and their children who reside in Southern Arizona.

Our next membership meeting will be held Jan 19th at Quail Creek. This too will be a luncheon format at which time our guest speaker will be BRIG GEN Jeffery Butler, Commander 162nd Fighter Wing AANG. At this event we will present the 162nd with our annual monetary contribution to help supplement their pantry for needy active service personnel. (See event details, next page.)

Finally I would like to congratulate the new 2021 Board of Directors (BOD) who were sworn in at our December luncheon, and wish to thank the 2020 BOD for their service so generously offered in the previous year.

Stay safe, stay healthy, and stay positive; hope to see all of you at the January luncheon.

Joseph Longo 1<sup>st</sup> LT USA (Former)  
2019-2021 Chapter President  
Green Valley Chapter, MOAA



## MOAA Events Return to Quail Creek

Peggy McGee, Treasurer/Public Relations Officer

Your Chapter will be holding its first meeting of the New Year in the Crystal Ballroom in Quail Creek's Madera Clubhouse. For those of you who are not familiar with the facility – it holds 300 for a meal but we will be getting the entire Ballroom to ourselves to ensure social distancing. The tables that normally seat 10 will have 6 people at them. Tables for 2 can be arranged by request.



Our first event will be a luncheon on Tuesday, January 19. We will have a social ½ hour beginning at 11:30 with lunch being served at 12:05. The luncheon will feature a choice of Oriental Salad with a Ginger Soy marinated Grilled Chicken breast over Romaine lettuce and Napa Cabbage with toasted almonds, Mandarin oranges and wontons, or a Club Croissant featuring turkey, ham, bacon, lettuce and tomato. A vegetarian option is available by request. Cost will be \$22. Beer and wine will be available for purchase. Reservations can be made by contacting CW3 Jack Bundy at 951-760-8706 or [jhbundy@verizon.net](mailto:jhbundy@verizon.net).

**Deadline to sign up is January 9.**



Guest speaker at the luncheon will be Brigadier General Jeffrey L. Butler, Commander, 162<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing, AZ Air National Guard. General Butler became Commander, 162<sup>nd</sup> Wing with operations at Morris Air National Guard Base, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and Libby Army Airfield, Arizona in April 2020. As commander, he is responsible for more than 1,800 members of the Air National Guard's largest F-16 and Remote Piloted Aircraft wing. The wing maintains 72 F-16 Fighting Falcons to train U.S. and partner nation F-16 pilots and provide 24/7 immediate response operations in support of the North American Aerospace Defense Command. In addition, the wing executes remotely piloted MQ-9 Reaper missions providing Persistent Attack capabilities in support of combat operations worldwide. The 162<sup>nd</sup> also provides support to the Air National Guard/Air Force Reserve Test Center missions.

General Butler received his commission from the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs in 1988. He attended undergraduate pilot training at Reese AFB, Texas followed by several operational, combat and training assignments in the F-16. He joined the Tucson ANG in 1996 where he has served in several capacities including an exchange tour with the Royal Netherlands AF. He is a command pilot with more than 5,000 flight hours that includes more than 200 combat hours. He has flown F-16, T-37, and T-38 aircraft.

General Butler earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the Air Force Academy in 1988. He earned a Master of Aeronautical Science Technology degree on the Luke Air Force Base campus from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

General Butler was awarded the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters and numerous other medals during his Air Force career.

# Military Officers Association of America

Green Valley Chapter · Desert Duster Newsletter · January 2021 Issue



**January 19, 2021 · Social: 11:30AM Luncheon: 12PM**

Quail Creek Madera Clubhouse · [2055 E Quail Crossing Blvd, Green Valley](#)

**Please make your reservations by SATURDAY, JANUARY 9**

Reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places      Cost: \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$22 per person)

## MENU CHOICES:

**#1 – Oriental Salad** with a Ginger Soy marinated Grilled Chicken breast over Romaine lettuce and Napa Cabbage with toasted almonds, Mandarin oranges and wontons.

**#2 – Club Croissant** featuring turkey, ham, bacon, lettuce and tomato.

**#3 – Vegetarian Option** available by request.

Beer and wine available for purchase.

Check # \_\_\_\_\_  
Attn: GV MOAA Reservation

**Mail check and reservation form to:**

MOAA of Green Valley · PO Box 1535 · Green Valley, AZ 85622-1535

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

**Menu choice (#1, #2, #3):**

Member/Guest name: \_\_\_\_\_

If you require a ride to a meeting, program or event, please check here:

✂ ----- CUT HERE -----

If you cannot get your reservation and check mailed timely, or **if you have made a reservation and find you cannot attend PLEASE CALL CW3 Jack Bundy at 951-760-8706 (leave a message if no answer) or email him at [jhbundy@verizon.net](mailto:jhbundy@verizon.net). Your chapter is charged for all ordered meals even if they aren't served.** Please bring a check or exact cash amount to the meeting. Tables that normally seat 10 will have 6 people to ensure social distancing. Tables for two can be arranged by request.



## Benefits of MOAA National Membership

Elliott Jones, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President/Membership

As you know, the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading organization protecting the rights of military service members and their families. Those who belong to MOAA not only lend their voices to a greater cause, but they also gain access to extensive benefits tailored to the needs and lifestyles of military officers. We thought it worthwhile to highlight the benefits of MOAA membership on the national level. There are three levels of membership: Basic, Premium and Life.

<b><u>BASIC MEMBERSHIP</u></b>	<b><u>PREMIUM MEMBERSHIP</u></b>	<b><u>LIFE MEMBERSHIP</u></b>												
<p>As a MOAA Basic member, you'll have free electronic access to:</p> <p>MOAA e-communications about news and support for critical advocacy efforts to protect your military benefits.</p> <p>There is no charge for Basic Membership.</p> <div data-bbox="129 1365 487 1543" style="background-color: #d4af37; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p><b>Details about each of these levels can be accessed <a href="#">HERE</a>.</b></p> </div>	<p>MOAA Premium membership gives you total access to everything MOAA has to offer, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A full spectrum of career and financial resources</li> <li>• MOAA-exclusive publications</li> <li>• College scholarships for dependents</li> <li>• Countless discounts on products and travel</li> </ul> <p><b>Membership cost:</b></p> <p><b>One Year:</b> \$48</p> <p><b>Two Years:</b> \$82 (save 15%)</p> <p><b>Three Years:</b> \$108 (save 25%)</p> <p>The monthly magazine will be mailed to you.</p>	<p>MOAA Life membership is the most elite membership category.</p> <p>As a MOAA Life member, you'll receive all of MOAA's Premium benefits - plus more - for life.</p> <p>Additional benefits include waived initiation fees at the Army Navy Club of Washington, D.C., spouse protection, and direct access to MOAA staff experts on the dedicated MOAA Life Member Hotline.</p> <p><b>Membership costs vary by age:</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>50 &amp; under:</b> \$851</td> <td><b>56-60:</b> \$757</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>51-55:</b> \$801</td> <td><b>66-70:</b> \$615</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>61-65:</b> \$692</td> <td><b>76-80:</b> \$434</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>71-75:</b> \$529</td> <td><b>86-90:</b> \$234</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>81-85:</b> \$332</td> <td><b>96-99:</b> \$88</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>91-95:</b> \$145</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Fees can be paid in 10 monthly installments. Military married to military get a special discount when both are Life members.</p>	<b>50 &amp; under:</b> \$851	<b>56-60:</b> \$757	<b>51-55:</b> \$801	<b>66-70:</b> \$615	<b>61-65:</b> \$692	<b>76-80:</b> \$434	<b>71-75:</b> \$529	<b>86-90:</b> \$234	<b>81-85:</b> \$332	<b>96-99:</b> \$88	<b>91-95:</b> \$145	
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<b>61-65:</b> \$692	<b>76-80:</b> \$434													
<b>71-75:</b> \$529	<b>86-90:</b> \$234													
<b>81-85:</b> \$332	<b>96-99:</b> \$88													
<b>91-95:</b> \$145														

National membership does not automatically give one Chapter membership because each Chapter is a separate entity with its own expenses and location specific missions. And paying membership dues to either National MOAA or the Chapter is not a tax-deductible donation.

Once again, we appreciate your support of our local chapter; it enables us to continue our support of local veterans' needs. If you haven't renewed your Chapter dues yet, please do so. The renewal form is on the next page.

# Military Officers Association of America

Green Valley Chapter · Desert Duster Newsletter · January 2021 Issue



Military Officers Association of America  
Green Valley, Arizona Chapter  
P.O. Box 1535  
Green Valley, AZ 85622-1535

## 2021 Chapter Membership Dues

**Chapter Dues:** (Regular-\$25; Auxiliary-\$15)

Membership Dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Make check payable to: Military Officers Association of Green Valley (or GV MOAA).

### PLEASE PROVIDE THE INFORMATION BELOW:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Branch of Service: \_\_\_\_\_ National # \_\_\_\_\_

Auxiliary \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

DOB (Month/Day/Year): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Scholarship & Military Assistance Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation.

Make check payable to Green Valley MOAA Scholarship and Military Assistance Fund or GV MOAA S&MA Fund. **Dues may be paid at any meeting or mailed to Military Officers Association of America, Green Valley, Arizona Chapter, P.O. Box 1535, Green Valley, AZ 85622-1535.**

## MOAA Elects New Officers for 2021

Peggy McGee, Treasurer/Public Relations Officer

Your Chapter installed its new and reelected officers at its December luncheon. Of the 13 officers on the Board, two hold two distinct and unrelated positions. Guiding the operations of the Chapter for the next year will be:

President: **1LT Joseph Longo**

First Vice-President and Membership: **1LT Elliott Jones**

Second Vice-President and Programs: **CW3 Jack Bundy**

Secretary: **Jadine Hilt**

Treasurer & Public Relations Officer: **COL Peggy McGee**

Immediate Past President, President, 501(c)(3): **LCDR James Knox**

Legislative Affairs: **CDR John Chernoski**

ESGR Representative: **Lt Col Dick Kosnick**

Surviving Spouse Liaison: **Nora Durham**

Director, Personal Affairs: **CWO3 James Rundlett**

Director/JROTC Liaison & Historian: **COL Marianne Rogers Faust**

Transition Liaison: **Lt Col Darren Venters**

The Chaplain position is currently vacant. One does not have to be an ordained minister to serve as Chaplain for the Chapter but rather have a willingness to lead us in prayer at the meetings.

MOAA membership is opened to all currently serving officers and warrant officers, retired, former, reserve and National Guard from the five military services as well as officers in the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration. Invite your eligible friends to join our Chapter too.



(L-R) New and returning board members:

Darren Venters, Jack Bundy, Nora Durham, Jadine Hilt, Peggy McGee, and Joe Longo are sworn in to office by Past President John McGee.

PHOTO CREDIT: BETTY ATWATER

## Chapter Person of the Year

Peggy McGee, Treasurer/Public Relations Officer

It had been four years since a Chapter Person of the Year was selected but there was one person who really stood out in 2020 to be deserving of the award—our Secretary, Jadine Hilt.

It didn't take long to realize that something positive might come out of our COVID-19 experience after all. Jadine, who likes to sew, quilt and do other creative things, thought it might be good to make some masks for the Board members. She then decided to include Chapter members and began to ask for a voluntary donation to the Scholarship fund in exchange for a mask.

Because there are so many veterans in Quail Creek, her masks were featured in the community's newspaper and the donations started to pour in as Jadine's sewing machine went in to overtime.

Then June came around and it looked like we'd be wearing masks for quite a while so she introduced patriotic masks for Flag Day and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July period. She also added some solid colors for those who like to have a color-coordinated outfit to include mask as well as some tropical prints to remind us of the days when we'd be free to travel again. Halloween masks appeared on the scene followed by Christmas creations.

Throughout it all, Jadine continued to sew masks and bring in money for scholarships. Her efforts have paid off since mask donations totaled \$3551 by the end of the year, slightly more than enough to cover two scholarships for the JROTC cadets at the high schools in Nogales, Rio Rico and Sahuarita.

Jadine not only gave her time and talent to making the masks but also donated all the materials required to make them.

Jadine Hilt is presented the Chapter Person of the Year plaque by Joe Longo for her efforts in raising funds for JROTC scholarships by making masks.

PHOTO CREDIT: PEGGY McGEE



# Military Officers Association of America

Green Valley Chapter · Desert Duster Newsletter · January 2021 Issue



## A Sincere Thanks for Supporting Scholarships throughout 2020

Marianne Rogers Faust, Director/JROTC Liaison

*thank you*

As 2020 ends (thankfully!), I want to extend my sincere thanks again for your very generous contributions this year for our JROTC scholarships. As mentioned in a previous newsletter, this academic year is very challenging for the cadets and they are striving to do well academically and with the various JROTC program activities. Their instructors continue to tell me that they are inspired by the cadets and their spirit to participate and benefit from the great opportunities that JROTC provides.

Consequently, we should all feel good that our contributions will help three outstanding cadets pursue their hopes and dreams of attending college.

Hopefully they will become future leaders who will make a positive difference in our Country. Thanks again!

## Arizona Council Newsletter

Elliott Jones, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President/Membership

Chartered on 6 Jun 1975, the Arizona Council of Chapters (AZCOC) is an organization of more than 1,100 active, retired, and former officers of the uniformed services of the United States, and the surviving spouses thereof. Access [this link](#) for the Fall 2020 issue where our own John Chernoski is featured in several sections.



## MOAA Caps Available



MOAA caps have arrived and will be available for purchase at the January luncheon. The caps are \$15, cash or checks payable to GV MOAA. The navy-colored caps have the MOAA emblem and Green Valley Chapter embroidered on the front.

## Knit Wits Kept on Knitting

Donna Lou Hetler



The year 2020 started out in quiet manner and the Knit Wits, a group of MOAA spouses and some of their friends who like to knit, started out the year by getting together twice each month to knit afghans as they

chat. The group was started by Donna Lou Hetler several years ago to give the knitters in the Chapter a chance to socialize while they knit and also help others. Members include Lynda Linker, Ruth Link, Sharon Rychener, Polly Casey, Donna Herrera and Donna Lou Hetler.

The Knit Wits have not met since February but they do keep in touch. Their knitting continues in the isolation of their own homes. Afghans have been made for the VA Hospital who will start accepting them in 2021 and some have been distributed to other local charities to keep those in need warm. As Donna Lou said, they have to distribute the afghans because they are continuing to knit and need the storage space!

In September, 50 scarves and 52 hats were sent to Operation Gratitude to be used to this year's Christmas package for deployed troops. The Knit Wits look forward to a return to "normal" in 2021, if just to give big hugs—and of course, knit.

## Toiletries for the Homeless

Peggy McGee, Treasurer/Public Relations Officer

If you did travel over the holidays and brought home some unopened travel sized shampoo, conditioner, lotion that you don't plan to use, please bring them to the meeting on January 19 and we will deliver them to the VA for the homeless program.

Now that the weather is colder, they are getting more veterans coming in for hot showers. Toothbrushes, tooth paste and floss are also needed.

If you have men's sweaters, hats, scarves and gloves that you are no longer using they would be very much appreciated.

The VA is not accepting any calendars at this time.

Women Warriors can use ladies sweaters, hats, scarves and gloves for the homeless veterans that they help.



## Thanks to MOAA, It Was a Very Merry Christmas for Women Warriors

Peggy McGee, Treasurer/Public Relations Officer



The Green Valley MOAA Chapter celebrated Christmas with a new twist. Instead of a dinner, they welcomed the holiday with a festive luncheon. After the solemnity of installing the new officers, they relaxed as they celebrated the traditional gift exchange. Attendance was smaller than usual because of COVID concerns so everyone in attendance got a gift, all of which were shopped for and lovingly and attractively wrapped by Diane Longo.

Not only did members get a gift but they made the holidays merrier for the 11 children and their five mothers who are part of the Women Warriors program. Women Warriors, a Tucson-based 501(c)3 charity, was started to provide assistance to female veterans who found themselves either homeless or unemployed to give them a new lease on life. The children, 6 boys and 5 girls, ranged in age from 6 months through 13 years. Thanks to donations of toys as well as monetary gifts from Chapter members, each child received a couple toys. The moms were gifted with beaded jewelry, body lotions and hats and scarves knitted by Nora Durham, Barbara Bundy and Peggy McGee and a Fry's gift card. Two Quail Creek residents who are not eligible for membership also contributed because they wanted to help the veterans and their families. Navy veteran Laura Colbert made fleece blankets for each child and Ann Nease crocheted hats and ear warmers for the moms.

At the end of the event, MOAA President Joe Longo presented a check for \$250 to Karen Kuciver, founder and CEO of Women Warriors to help them in their work. PHOTO CREDIT: PEGGY McGEE



Children and moms received several gifts from MOAA — the rest of the gifts were in the car — Too many to carry!

PHOTO CREDIT: BETTY ATWATER



Some of the gifts purchased and wrapped by Diane Longo which were raffled to the members who attended the luncheon.

PHOTO CREDIT: PEGGY McGEE

## Tax Time is Approaching

Peggy McGee, Treasurer/Public Relations Officer



AARP volunteers will once again be providing no charge tax preparation service in the Green Valley area. As the newsletter went to press, the location of the tax sites has not yet been determined because of COVID restrictions but if all goes to plan, the volunteers will start preparing both Federal and AZ returns in early February. The AARP volunteers are feverishly completing their training and learning about all the changes the CARES Act has caused in tax law for 2020 returns. Because they receive no training on tax requirements for other states, they cannot prepare state returns other than for Arizona.

The program is designed primarily for those 55 and older and low to moderate income families but there is no formal upper income limit. However, volunteers have not been trained and certified to prepare returns for those with rental properties, businesses with inventories, trusts or extremely complicated returns.

Please remember that if you have given to an organization that helps the working poor (e.g., the Food Bank, Friends in Deed, Salvation Army in AZ) or to a public school (for example, the JROTC programs at Sahuarita, Rio Rico and Nogales High Schools), you can claim the AZ tax credit up to specified limits even if you do not itemize. For donations that help the working poor, the credit for single persons is \$400 and \$800 for those filing jointly. Schools credits are \$200 for single filers and \$400 for married couples filing jointly. For contributions to schools and working poor charities, you may make a donation until April 15 and still take the credit on your 2020 AZ tax return.

Because of COVID, tax preparation will be by appointment only. To make an appointment, please contact Peggy McGee at [pjmcgee@cox.net](mailto:pjmcgee@cox.net) or 520-207-6188 after January 20. By that time, the location for the tax prep service should be determined.

Please be sure to bring:

- Picture ID for taxpayer and spouse, if applicable
- Social Security cards for each family member
- Proof of income to include all W-2 and 1099 forms
- Documentation for deductible expenses
- Form 1095-A if healthcare insurance was purchased through the national "Marketplace" or a state exchange. If you are on Medicare, you are completely covered.
- 2019 tax return
- Voided check for direct deposit or debit. Deposit slips are not accepted.
- Both spouses must be present to sign or power of attorney for the absent spouse, if married filing jointly.

Because Arizona is a community property state, the volunteers cannot prepare married filing separately returns.

## MARK YOUR 2021 CALENDARS

**January 19** – Luncheon Meeting:  
Social: 11:30am · Lunch: 12pm.  
Location: Quail Creek Clubhouse Ballroom

**March 18** – “Mix & Mingle”: 4:30pm.  
Location: TBA

**May 4** – JROTC Scholarship Dinner  
Social: 4:30pm · Dinner: 5pm.  
Location: TBA.

**September 14** – Social: 11:30am · Lunch  
12:00pm. Location: TBA.

**November 17** – Social: 4:30pm · Dinner: 5pm.  
Location: TBA.

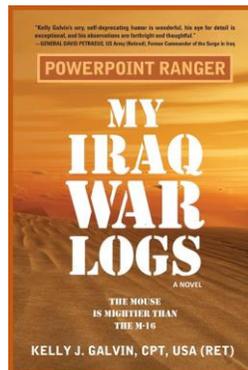
**December 15** – Social: 4:30pm · Holiday Dinner:  
5pm. Location: TBA.

**The Board of Directors meeting** is the 1st Wednesday of each month 8:30-10am at the Friends in Deed Building, Green Valley. Members are welcomed to attend... join us! There will be no Board meetings in June, July or August. All meetings will be via Zoom until further notice.

**News contributors this issue:** Betty Atwater, Donna Lou Hetler, Elliott Jones, Joe Longo, Peggy McGee, Marianne Rogers Faust

## Sponsors

A special “thank you” to our sponsors who support MOAA of Green Valley with a sponsor ad.



*Novel by*  
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MEMBER OF GREEN VALLEY  
MOAA CHAPTER

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## 2021 Officers, Directors & Chairs

(Area code is 520 unless otherwise indicated)

**President:** 1LT Joseph Longo USA (Fmr)  
(509) 645-4993

**First Vice-President and Membership:**  
1LT Elliott Jones USA (Fmr) (847) 366-6466

**Second Vice-President and Programs:**  
CW3 Jack Bundy, USA (Ret) (951) 760-8706

**Secretary:** Jadine Hilt (414) 350-7821

**Treasurer:** COL Peggy McGee, USA (Ret)  
207-6188

**Immediate Past President, President, 501(c)(3):**  
LCDR James Knox, USN (Ret) (605) 941-0335

**Past Member of National MOAA Board, Past  
President, Legislative Affairs:**  
CDR John Chernoski, USN (Ret) 625-3909

**ESGR Representative:**  
Lt Col Dick Kosnick, USAF (Ret) 867-8999

**Surviving Spouse Liaison:** Nora Durham  
(714) 232-9277

**Director, Personal Affairs:**  
CWO3 James Rundlett, USCG (Ret) (509) 389-4286

**Chaplain:** (OPEN)

**Director/JROTC Liaison:**  
COL Marianne Rogers Faust, USAF (Ret) (210) 861-9440

**Historian:** COL Marianne Rogers Faust, USAF (Ret)  
(210) 861-9440

**Transition Liaison:**  
LTC Darren Venters, USAF (Ret) 490-4470

**Public Relations Officer:**  
COL Peggy McGee, USA (Ret) 207-6188

**Webmaster/Newsletter:**  
Marianne Cobarrubias, [webmaster@greenvalleymoaa.org](mailto:webmaster@greenvalleymoaa.org)

## MOAA NATIONAL NEWS

### Budget-Cutting Options in This New Report Could Cost You Thousands of Dollars

Every two years, just before a new Congress is sworn in, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) releases a report offering ways the incoming legislators could tackle the nation's growing budget deficit. But while [this year's version](#) calculates potential savings over five- and 10-year windows from 2021 to 2030, it does little to nothing to calculate what these options would mean for the bottom line of those in the crosshairs.

When it comes to servicemembers, retirees, and veterans, MOAA attempts to fill in those gaps.

*(continued, next page)*



The CBO's deficit-cutting proposals are consistent over the years, even predictable. But the current fiscal climate, combined with uncertainties highlighted by a pandemic nearing its first year, are far from normal and nowhere near predictable. While many government agencies are not fans of these options — several may seem too extreme — the harsh reality of our national debt, combined with a \$3.3 trillion deficit, may redefine tolerance for the measures offered by the CBO. And it is worth noting the CBO provides these options with no recommendations as to their use.

The list includes options to reduce mandatory and discretionary spending, along with plans to increase federal revenue. Of the 83 options, MOAA identified 13 you should know – items that, if enacted, could cost retirees, veterans, or those now in uniform quite a bit, all in the name of finding solutions to reduce our national deficit.

Here's the focused list by category:

## ***Mandatory Spending***

- Introduce Enrollment Fees Under TRICARE for Life
- Increase Premiums for Parts B and D of Medicare (Part B key to MOAA's interests)
- Raise the Full Retirement Age for Social Security
- End VA's Individual Unemployability Payments to Disabled Veterans at the Full Retirement Age for Social Security
- Reduce VA's Disability Benefits to Veterans Who Are Older Than the Full Retirement Age for Social Security
- Narrow Eligibility for VA's Disability Compensation by Excluding Veterans with Low Disability Ratings (30% and lower)
- Use an Alternative Measure of Inflation to Index Social Security and Other Mandatory Programs (what's known as "[chained CPI](#)" – a move that would change the cost-of-living adjustment calculation for retired pay)

## ***Discretionary Spending***

- Reduce the Department of Defense's Budget
- *Cap Increases in Basic Pay for Military Service Members (Employment Cost Index, or ECI, minus 0.5%)*
- *Reduce the Basic Allowance for Housing to 80 Percent of Average Housing Costs*
- Reduce the Annual Across-the-Board Adjustment for Federal Civilian Employees' Pay

## ***Revenues***

- Include Disability Payments from the Department of Veterans Affairs in Taxable Income
- Increase the Payroll Tax Rate for Social Security

*(continued, next page)*

Below, we go in-depth on two options that directly impact those currently serving. Stay tuned to The MOAA Newsletter (check [your delivery settings](#)) and MOAA.org for updates.

## ***Capping Pay Increases***

This proposed option caps basic pay raises for all eight of our uniformed services at 0.5% below the ECI starting in January 2022 and continuing through 2027. Note that the current [pay raise slated for the FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act \(NDAA\)](#), which would effect pay starting Jan. 1, 2022, sits at 2.7%.

Let's look at what this option would mean for an E-7 with 16 years in service on January 2022, assuming she makes E-8 in January 2024 and retires on Jan. 1, 2028:

- For her last six years in uniform, she loses \$6,840. But it gets worse.
- Because of those losses, she'll start out \$1,700 behind in her first year of retirement pay (as calculated by the average of her last 36 months, or High-3).
- Assuming an average ECI at 2.5% (then subtracting 0.5%, per the CBO proposal) and a 2.5% COLA, she'd lose a total of *\$44,000 over the next 20 years*.

## ***Reducing BAH***

The proposal to reduce the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) to 80% of average housing costs would increase the out-of-pocket share paid by uniformed servicemembers by 15 percentage points (DoD covers 95% now, a figure that had been at 99% before other recent changes).

The reductions would take place over nine years, with 1.7 percentage points knocked off each year. It sounds minor, but at the end, here are two examples of the impact on our servicemembers:

- For a Marine E-7 with kids stationed in San Diego, the \$3,165 monthly benefit becomes \$2,665, *a loss of \$6,000 per year*.
- For an Army O-5 with kids serving at the Pentagon, the \$3,144 monthly benefit becomes \$2,647, *a loss of \$5,964 per year*.

This benefit cut is more than just financial: Servicemembers seeking to live within their new financial means will find smaller houses in worse neighborhoods with longer commutes. This lower quality of life would lead to a lower retention rate.

## Vice President Pence Announces Space Force Members Will Be 'Guardians'

Space Force members have an official new name: Guardians, Vice President Mike Pence announced.

"Soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Guardians will be defending our nation for generations to come," Pence said during a ceremony to commemorate the Space Force's 1st birthday on Dec. 20.

Pence was flanked by Chief of Space Operations Gen. John Raymond, Acting Defense Secretary Chris Miller and [Air Force](#) Secretary Barbara Barrett at the White House.

Space enthusiasts and military members were quick to point out the name 'Guardians,' evokes the Marvel Comics' "Guardians of the Galaxy" film franchise, about a motley crew of superheroes in space.

The announcement comes hours after [Air Force](#) astronaut Col. Michael "Hopper" Hopkins [transferred into](#) the Space Force [onboard the International Space Station](#), and a few days after Raymond was [made an official member](#) of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The name change -- from space professionals or space warfighters, [the generic term](#) used before the official name was announced -- follows the introduction of the service's [official logo](#), which reprises the use of the delta symbol from the Space Force's seal and flag.

In July, officials introduced the logo accompanied with its formal motto, "Semper Supra," which translates from Latin as "always above."

The Space Force's seal, which also uses a delta, was unveiled by President Donald Trump [in a tweet in January](#); in May, the president hosted Barrett, Raymond, and Chief Master Sgt. Roger Towberman, [senior enlisted adviser to the Space Force](#), during [a ceremony to present the flag](#) at the White House.

With each unveiling, users on social media have been quick to point out that the insignia is highly reminiscent of the "Star Trek" Starfleet Command logo; but the military says the symbol is part of its history, too.

The newest military branch has also debuted dark navy-colored name tape for its [uniforms](#), [a lapel pin](#), guidance on [camouflage uniform wear](#) (like the [Army](#) and Air Force, Space Force members wear the Operational Camouflage Pattern as the official service duty uniform); [three commercials](#); and its [organizational structure](#).

Pending Space Force [decisions](#) include formal dress uniform updates, insignia patches, a [rank structure](#), among others.