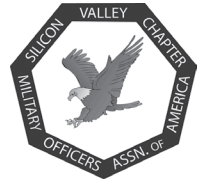




Silicon Valley Chapter

Military Officers Association of America

The Bulletin



Volume V Issue 7

July 2008

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The Silicon Valley Chapter meets at 129th Support Group,
 Bldg 653
 Moffett Federal Airfield
 through the courtesy of
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 P.O. BOX 2
 Moffett Federal Airfield, CA 94035

Please direct all correspondence to above address

RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE (RAO)
 Bldg 587 on Wescoat Court, 650-603-8047
 Corner of Wescoat Rd and Wescoat Ct

TRICARE Service Center
 Bldg 587 on Wescoat Court, 888-874-9378
 (Near the Chapel)
 MOFFETT FEDERAL AIRFIELD

LUNCHEON PROGRAM

24 July

(Fourth Thursday of the Month)

Social Hour: 11:00 AM

Luncheon: 11:45 AM

COL Keith Giles, USAF

Bicycling in England

Luncheon is \$20.00

See Back Page For Reservation Form and Directions

Remember - It's Vacation Time

No August Lunch, No August Bulletin

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

3 July	Board Meeting	10:00 AM
24 July	Luncheon	11:00 AM
7 Aug	Board Meeting	10:00 AM

NO AUGUST LUNCH

Board Meetings Are Open To All Members
 Board Minutes Are Available To Members From The Secretary

SVC WEB SITES

Our Chapter website is www.siliconvalleymoaa.org. You can also get to it from the national MOAA site: Put the cursor over Community, then click on Chapters and Councils, Council/Chapter Locator, CA, then Silicon Valley Chapter. From there you may link over to our primary website above. ☺

TRICARE SERVICE CENTER

The TRICARE service Center is located on Wescoat Court, in Building 587, Moffett Federal Airfield. Hours are M-F 0730-1630. Phone 1-888-874-9378. ☺

REPORTING DEATHS

Mail notification of a MOAA member's death to:

MOAA
Attn: MSC
201 N Washington St
Alexandria, VA 22314-2539

or
Call 1-800-234-6622

or e-mail:
msc@moaa.org

Notify SVC-MOAA by phoning the Membership Chair – see listing on front page of The Bulletin. ☺

Thought For The Month

Committee work is like a soft chair - easy to get into but hard to get out of. ☺

AUGUST SPECTACULAR

San Francisco Bay Area and Monterey Bay Area chapters are joining forces to produce a MOAA Day on the Hornet event aboard the aircraft carrier USS Hornet Friday, August 8th, 10:00am to 5:00pm, at the former Alameda Naval Air Station.

At a time when many chapters are “dark,” not having a membership luncheon or dinner meeting in August, this event offers opportunities for camaraderie, a delightful luncheon, great program, and tours of the ship, something very special and potentially exciting for mid-summer 2008.

This is a special and rather extraordinary event for the mutual benefit and enjoyment of all MOAA members, not just chapter members, along with family and friends.

The day begins at 10:00am with an easy walk up to the hangar deck, central location of the Hornet Museum. There are aircraft static displays, the ship's store and gift shop, and an extensive area for the catered luncheon and program.

In late morning docents will guide small groups around the ship with a focus on the “Island,” the superstructure where the bridge, combat information center, and flight operations activities are all located.

Officials from National MOAA and the California Council of Chapters will attend and be available for casual conversation and discussions about many of the major issues of the day. It's a chance to get acquainted with national and state leaders in a very interesting informal setting.

Although the catered luncheon menu will not be known until an attendance forecast becomes available, it will be sure to please. When was the last time a grand luncheon was made available on an aircraft carrier?

The luncheon speaker is Christopher “Chris” Michel, founder of the website Military.com, the largest military and veteran membership organization - 10,000,000 members, www.military.com. He is a former Naval flight officer, member of the board of directors of the U.S. Naval Institute, and a life MOAA member. Chris is a dynamic speaker whose remarkable career focuses on improving pay, benefits, treatment, and overall care of military personnel.

There is unlimited free parking close to the ship. The hangar deck is handicap accessible from the pier. As noted, the luncheon, restrooms, and many displays are on that deck. The remainder of the ship is not handicap accessible.

The event is \$25.00 per person, checks only/no cash, as no receipts will be issued. There are no age restrictions or discounts. Payments received after July 13, 2008, may be returned, if the event is fully booked. Reservations are now being accepted and must be received no later than Sunday, July 13, 2008.

To make a reservation, print the names of all attendees, indicate the MOAA chapter affiliation if any, and provide a contact telephone number including area code. Enclose \$25.00 per attendee and make checks payable to “MOAA Hornet Event.” Mail the payment prior to July 13th to MOAA

MOAA DAY ON THE HORNET



**Sponsored by: CAL-MOAA Area 2,
consisting of the seven MOAA
Chapters in the San Francisco
Bay and Monterey Bay Areas**



MOAA DAY ON THE HORNET is a special event for the mutual benefit and enjoyment of all members of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). It is a whole day of exciting activities (lunch included) tailored to providing you, along with your family & friends, with a memorable experience with fellow MOAA members aboard the very historic aircraft carrier, USS HORNET MUSEUM – a National Historic Landmark.

- Date: **Friday, August 8, 2008**
- Location/Contact: Aboard USS Hornet Museum (Telephone: (510) 521-8448) moored at the former Naval Air Station, Alameda, California. For directions, click on: http://www.uss-hornet.org/visitor_info/index.html, then click on "How To Get There" at the bottom of the page (or use other sources). For more Event information, including requests for late reservations, contact Steve Barber at (650) 525-1282.
- Itinerary:
- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 10:00 – 10:30 am | Arrive and check in |
| 10:30 – 12:30 am | Docent-led tours of ship |
| 12:30 – 1:30 pm | Catered luncheon on Hanger Deck |
| 1:30 – 2:15 pm | Dignitaries and Guest Speaker's Remarks |
| 2:15 – 5:00 pm | Self-guided tour of ship. Depart ship when desired |
- Guest Speaker: **Christopher (Chris) Michel:** Founder of "**Military.com**," the largest military and veteran membership organization - 10,000,000 members (<http://www.military.com>); former Naval Flight Officer, member Board of Directors of the U.S. Naval Institute, Life MOAA member. Chris is a dynamic speaker whose remarkable career focuses on improving pay, benefits, treatment, and overall care of all military personnel.
- Parking/Handicap: Unlimited free parking close to ship. Hornet Hanger Deck is handicap accessible from the pier. Luncheon, restrooms & many displays are on the Hanger Deck. Rest of the ship is not handicap accessible.
- Price: **\$25.00 per person** (Checks only – Please no cash, as no receipts will be issued). No age restrictions or discounts. Payments received after July 13, 2008, may be returned, if this Event is fully booked. Call first before making any late reservations.

RESERVATIONS COUPON

Reservations must be received by Sunday, July 13, 2008

To submit your reservation:

- 1) Cut out this Reservation Coupon along the dotted line.
- 2) **PRINT:** A) Names of ALL attendees; B) MOAA Chapter Affiliation (if any); and C) Contact Phone Number.
- 3) Enclose **\$25.00 per attendee**. Make check payable for total amount to "MOAA Hornet Event."
- 4) Mail your payment and completed Reservation Coupon before Sunday, July 13, 2008, to: **(Box on Right)**

Mailing Address

MOAA Hornet Event
c/o Steve Barber, Treasurer
950 Shoreline Drive
San Mateo, CA 94404-2023

A) First and Last Names of ALL Attendees: (List additional names on back)

B) MOAA Chapter you are affiliated with: Silicon Valley Chapter

C) Contact Phone Number (include Area Code): ()

Hornet Event, c/o Steve Barber, Treasurer, 950 Shoreline Drive, San Mateo, CA 94404-2023. For more information, contact CDR Barber at (650) 525-1282.

Silicon Valley Chapter officials are investigating the possibility of using a chartered bus. An advertising flyer with registration coupon, as well as more information about the event and possible bus charter, will be provided during the months of June and July. ☞

Source: News Release

MOSUL REVISITED

At one point on a very dark night insurgents armed to the teeth approached a barrier fence and threatened to attack ordinarily unarmed medical personnel, doctors and nurses treating recent casualties. “It was one of those times we had to arm ourselves and prepare to fight as infantry,” said the area’s most senior officer.

In 2007 Brigadier General Gerald Griffin, AUS (RET), spoke at a chapter luncheon and described his experiences as commanding officer of a combat hospital at Mosul, Iraq.

More recently in small group conversation he told more about his work and praised his 120 medical professionals and support staff, saying they saved many lives over a significant period of time.

Griffin’s was the only combat hospital located at Mosul, a city of more than 3 million, an area larger in size than the San Francisco Peninsula, East Bay, and greater

San Jose. It was in support of a U.S. Army Stryker brigade from Fort Lewis, Washington, an organization which traded tanks, armored personnel carriers, and other tracked vehicles for powerful and well-armed armored fighting machines equipped with large rubber tires.

“There were only 120 of us,” Griffin said, “and we all knew each other well--we were like family.” The hospital was staffed by highly trained and competent medical doctors representing a number of specialties, a group of dedicated nurses, and even administrators, everyone needed to operate effectively and efficiently. There were just enough people to operate on a 24 hour 7 day a week basis.

Initially the hospital was set up on the edge of an airfield. It was January and cold with frequent rains making the area a sea of mud. The personnel were quartered in tents; they worked in tents and they lived in tents, and it wasn’t always a pleasant experience. “Later we were able to bring in some trailers and our situation improved,” Griffin explained.

The hospital staff was always busy with casualties arriving almost constantly, with many very badly hurt and in need of serious attention. General Griffin, with a clear expression of sadness, said, “We lost some; we just couldn’t save them all.” He said most of his patients were Iraqis--men, women, and children-- and many were enemy fighters. “We treated them all,” he said proudly.

The hospital was the first line of sophisticated treatment. Injured U.S. soldiers received initial care and then were quickly moved to

treatment centers in Germany and elsewhere.

The enemy was always nearby and the hospital was subject to attack; indeed, it was assaulted on any number of occasions, mostly coming under mortar and small arms fire. Although efforts were made to cover building and trailer roofs with sandbags, total protection was not guaranteed. On one occasion one of the nurses was in a trailer sleeping and a mortar round exploded just yards away, sending a cone of hot shrapnel through the trailer side and wounding her seriously. “If she had been just a foot or two closer she would have been killed,” General Griffin said.



There were times when staff members could climb to the roofs of some nearby buildings, watch a beautiful sunset, and perhaps enjoy an ice cold beer. General Griffin told about the rules of engagement. “We could not fire until someone fired at us, even if we knew almost for certain we were in mortal danger,” he explained. He said there was a row of houses on high ground not far from the hospital’s location and it was clear they were being used by the enemy to direct fire into the hospital complex. When it was suggested that in a World War II same situation those houses would probably be leveled, Griffin said,

“That doesn’t happen now. This is a politically correct war.”

The general himself had an experience with the medical evacuation system. At one point he fell and injured his shoulder, a moderate injury. It was decided to evacuate him to Germany for specialized treatment and he was witness to what he called “a truly outstanding system, one with a high level of capability to provide outstanding care to the wounded.”

General Griffin couldn’t speak highly enough of his medical soldiers, dedicated men and women who worked hard, often under the most trying living and working conditions, to provide our military personnel the finest care available on any battlefield. ☺

SVC Field Correspondent

129TH IN 2007

An-124 Ruslan, designed by the Antonov ASTC, based in Kiev, Ukraine, is a very large cargo aircraft. It is manufactured by Aviant State Aviation Plant, Kiev, and Aviastar, Ulyanovsk, Russia. The An-124 is designed for long-range delivery and air dropping of heavy and large-size cargo. The aircraft, which has the NATO reporting name Condor, is designed for long-range delivery and air dropping of heavy and large size cargo, including machines, equipment and troops. The An-124 entered service in 1986 and over 55 aircraft have been built. The Russian Army operates 28 An-124 aircraft.

In 2007 a California Air National

Guard 129th Rescue Wing Cargo Deployment Function Team worked to load HH-60 helicopters, spare parts, and all the necessary equipment aboard a chartered An-124 for deployment to the Middle East. Later it was quite a sight to see the giant aircraft lift off from Moffett Field for its long trip overseas.

And one of the organization’s MC-130 Combat Shadow aircraft was seen leaving for a deployment in the Horn of Africa not long after crewmen stowed away huge piles of personal baggage and other gear.

A C-17 lifted off at about the same time loaded with the HH-60 crews, supplies, and spare parts for Baghran Air Base, Afghanistan. Dr. (Major) Kathryn Hodge and her family were on hand to send her off to deployment. Captain Nate Nowaski demonstrated his best Superman pose. And any number of the travelers passed the long hours sleeping the trip away.



In most cases the local media were out in force reporting on the deployment. But the hardest part of all was to watch the families, wives and little children and others, wave goodbye just prior to departure.

While overseas, officers and enlisted airmen alike flew important missions, maintained the aircraft and equipment, provided local security, and even volunteered at an orphanage in Djibuti.

These were men and women carrying out the motto, “These things we do so that others may live.”

Ultimately, the 129th deployed elements returned home in the face of images like a C-130 “Herc” proudly flying the United States colors, a beautiful little girl framed by a banner proclaiming, “Welcome Home Daddy,” and family members greeting wives, girlfriends, and of course the children.

“Can you believe it?” asked Colonel Amos Bagdasarian, Wing Commander. “2007 is behind us and the 129th Rescue Wing wrapped up another action-packed year,” he said.

He indicated that an important inspection was passed successfully, deployments were made around the globe throughout April to September, a high level of security was maintained, and wing personnel performed to the tradition of high levels of professionalism and excellence.

There were literally hundreds of awards and decorations as well as promotions given to deserving unit members throughout the year. One very impressive sight was a newly promoted lieutenant colonel taking an oath with raised right hand and yet carefully holding his new son Nathan in his left.

Operations and maintenance groups were kept busy. In July the 130th Rescue Squadron deployed a

Continued on Page 6

INFO AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Military Retired Affairs Offices

Army	1-703-325-9155
Navy	1-800-255-8950
Marine Corps	1-800-336-4649
Air Force	1-800-531-7502
DEERS Verification (Update ID records)	1-800-538-9552
TRICARE World Wide Information	1-800-874-2273
VA Benefits Issues	1-800-827-1000
VA Burial Information	1-800-697-6947
Defense Finance & Accounting Office	1-800-321-1080
Travis AFB (Space A Information)	1-707-424-1854
Fort Ord General Stillwell Community Center (Discount Tickets/Tours info)	1-831-242-6037
USCG Training Center, Petaluma, CA (Guest housing, ID cards, MWR & other services)	1-707-765-7215
Army Recreation Centers:	
Hale Koa Hotel, Hawaii	1-800-367-6027
Shades of Green, Florida	1-407-824-3600

Taddled from ROA Chapter 63

C-130 to Devon Island, the largest uninhabited island on Earth, to bring tons of supplies to the NASA Mars Arctic Research Station (MARS) project. The scientists there are even now conducting geological, hydrological, botanical, and microbiological studies.

At one point 129th personnel conducted unit training exercises at Camp Morena near the California/Mexico border renovating and refurbishing dilapidated buildings and facilities. And the Medical Group deployed to San Juan Puerto Rico for special training at a local hospital.

It was a busy 2007 and the images will remain with so many for so long, everything from para rescue jumpers in a bright orange jeep training for steep mountain rescue in Yosemite National Park to a senior airman dressed in grass skirt learning the hula at an Asian

Pacific celebration in the Moffett hangar. And throughout it all Master Sergeant Adriana Herrere always displayed a bright smile. ☺

Source: 129th Publication

ROSTER ADDENDA

New Members

CAPT Paul Forney, USNR, 547 Utica Drive, Sunnyvale, CA 94087, phone 408-732-3520

WO2 Terence Garvey, USCGR, 3584 Ivalynn Cir, San Jose, CA 95132, phone 408-204-8798

CDR James McCrumb, USN, 1099 Robbia Dr, Sunnyvale, CA 94087, Phone 408-736-3326

Changes

Mrs Marie Le Doux, P.O. Box 779, Elk Grove, CA 95759-0779

MAJ Carlos Martinez, USAR, 24 Torregata Loop, San Jose,

CA 95134-1633

THUNDERBIRD SCHEDULE

Travis AFB, 30-31 August



HORNET UPDATE

It looks like getting a bus to transport a group to and from the Hornet for the "MOAA Day on the Hornet" event is a no-go. It's much too expensive. So car-pooling is advised. ☺

From Board Minutes



**Silicon Valley Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
Mail to: LTC Jay Craddock, 1448 Fallen Leaf Lane, Los Altos, CA 94024-5809**

Membership Application

Date _____ Enroll Me As: New Member _____ MOAA Membership # _____
Aux Mbr _____

Annual Dues: **\$26.00** \$ _____

(Auxiliary – No Dues charge)

Donations to SVC Fund \$ _____

Donations to Scholarship fund \$ _____

(All Donations are Tax Deductible)

Total: \$ _____ Make checks payable to SVC-MOAA and mail to above address. Please complete all applicable blanks

Status: Active _____ Retired _____ Former Officer _____ Widow(er) _____

Name: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ / _____
Last First MI Rank Service

Address: _____ / _____ Date of Birth _____
Number Street (P.O. Box, etc.) Apt/Suite

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ / _____ Spouse's Name _____
5 Digit 4 Digit

Phone (____) _____ E-mail _____

SVC Dues are separate from National MOAA Dues. SVC Dues support the Bulletin and Administrative functions. Luncheons are self supporting. Dues are not prorated. Donations can be made to the Silicon Valley Chapter's general fund and/or the Scholarship fund.

Discover the charm of an intimate setting for wine tasting, tours, picnics and special events.



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July 2008

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DIRECTIONS: *Going North on Hwy 101:* Exit at Lawrence Expwy; go Right; then next Right; then immediate Right; follow Frontage Rd. *Going South on Hwy 101:* Exit at Lawrence Expwy; go Left; then next Right; then immediate Right; follow Frontage Rd.

-----Cut Here-----Cut Here-----

*****LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM*****

Deadline to reach SVC no later than 18 July

If you have not sent in your reservation form by the
above date and still wish to attend,
please call Jay Craddock, 650-968-0446

LUNCHEON PRICE - \$20.00

Times: Social Hour 11:00 AM, Luncheon 11:45 AM



Please reserve _____ places for the
A TOTAL of \$ _____

24 July Luncheon

Make checks payable to: PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

Mail to: LTC Jay Craddock, 1448 Fallen Leaf Lane, Los Altos, CA 94024-5809

RESERVE IN THE NAME OF: _____

Telephone: _____

MENU: Buffet featuring several varieties of garden fresh vegetables, beans, pasta, cheese, tomato, and onion selections. Two (2) hot entrees. Soup. Assorted breads and rolls. Desserts. Coffee and tea.

NAMES OF PERSONS WHO ARE INCLUDED IN YOUR PAYMENT

| |