

THE SARASOTA BREEZE



THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF SARASOTA, INC

An Affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America MOAA and The Florida Council of Chapters

Best Newsletter 2000-2004, 2007/2010; Runner Up 2008/2009, 2012-2014; Newsletter 5 Star 2015/2017-2023; 4 Star 2016; Website 5-Star 2015-2023
Vol. XXXVI No. 3 MOAA 4-Star Chapter 2003/2008/2019; MOAA 5 Star Chapter 2004-2007, 2009-2018, 2020-2023 March 2025

FEBRUARY 2025 PROGRAM - Sarasota Big Brothers Big Sisters

Since 1904, Big Brothers Big Sisters has operated under the belief that inherent in every child is incredible potential. As the nation's largest donor- and volunteer-supported mentoring network, Big Brothers Big Sisters makes meaningful, monitored matches between adult volunteers ("Bigs") and children ("Littles"), ages 5 through young adulthood in communities across the country.

Ms. Theresa Taft, Regional Manager of Volunteer Recruitment at Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Suncoast covering Sarasota and Charlotte Counties, gave a very informative and enlightening presentation at our February luncheon meeting.

We learned a lot about a great Program which is worth looking into further. Starting at an early age the organization matches children with a stable caring adult to be mentors and help them have a different type of fun and experiences in their lives that may never happen without the Big Brother/Big Sister.



Although the children age out of the Program at 21, many continue to have meaningful relationships afterwards with their Big Brothers and Big Sisters, a testimony to the success of the Program.

Ms. Taft walks the talk by being a Big Sister herself. Her presentation piqued the interest of at least one MOAS member who signed on to be a Big Sister right after the luncheon and got the wheels turning for some others on how we as individuals and/or an organization can help in some way.

MARCH 2025 PROGRAM - NOAA Hurricane Hunters - Aviation Operations

Our March Luncheon Program and Guest Speaker is LT Kenneth Brewer, a Programs Officer and Pilot with the Hurricane Hunter Aircraft Operations Center in Lakeland, FL. This should be a most informative and important presentation especially considering the recent damage caused by Hurricanes Debby, Helene and Milton

The NOAA Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO), part of the US Dept of Commerce, manages and operates NOAA's fleet of 15 research & survey ships and 10 specialized environmental data-collecting aircraft, and is comprised of civilians and officers of the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps. OMAO also manages the NOAA Diving Program, Small Boat Program, and Uncrewed Systems Operations Center.



The research and survey ships comprise one of the largest fleets of federal research ships in the nation. Ranging from large oceanographic research vessels capable of exploring the world's deepest ocean, to smaller ships that chart the shallow bays and inlets of the United States, the fleet supports a wide range of marine activities including fisheries surveys, nautical charting and ocean and climate studies.

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Military Officers Association of Sarasota (MOAS)**Mission Statement**

MOAS, a non-profit 501c(19) organization, exists to improve the awareness, life style, and overall environment of its members; support and serve the citizens of the Sarasota area; influence the political process in matters pertaining to active duty, retired and former military personnel; and enhance the image of America's uniformed services in our local community.

Chapter Officers, Directors and Committees

President	David Downer
1st Vice President	Steven L. Carnes
2nd Vice President	Ron Wozniak
Treasurer	Christa I. Friedlander
Secretary & Historian	Peter Dering
Director (Scholarships)	William F. Lawyer
Director (Communications)	Vacant
Director (Legislative)	Michael Lindquist
Director (Membership)	Len Friedlander
Immediate Past President	Jonathan C. Gordon
Legislative Committee	Michael Lindquist
Vets Affairs/Commission	Vacant
Marketing & Communications Committee	
Chairperson	Vacant
Editor-Newsletter	Len Friedlander
Web Site	Craig Hullinger
BLOG/Social Media/Photo	Craig Hullinger
Membership Committee	
Recruiting & Retention	Len Friedlander
Recruiting & Retention	William F. Lawyer
Reporting & Records	Christa I. Friedlander
Personal Affairs Committee	
Surviving Spouses Liaison	Peggy Mock
Chaplain	Michael Lindquist
Programs Committee	
Chairperson	Ron Wozniak
Luncheon Programs	Chris Nind
Luncheon Programs	Karen Olson
Young at Heart [YAHOO]	Ron Wozniak
YAHOO Coordinator	Linda Wozniak
Meet & Greet	Peggy O'Connell
Luncheon Committee	
Chairperson & Coordinator	Peggy O'Connell
Greeter	Peter Dering
50-50 Manager	Mary Gordon
Scholarship Committee	
Chairperson	William F. Lawyer
Member	Jim Ainslie
Member	Len Friedlander
Member	Mary Gordon
Member	Linda Wozniak
JROTC Liaison	William F. Lawyer
Support Our Troops [SOT]	Ron Wozniak
Awards Board Chair	Jonathan C. Gordon

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***David Downer*

Teresa Taft was our guest at the luncheon meeting on Friday, February 21st and gave a very interesting program on the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the Suncoast. They are doing a lot of good work with local youth – both boys and girls, and I would say are worthy of support from any who can put some time into mentoring young men and women. It was interesting to note that they've been doing this for some years but always need adults willing to contribute some time. It turns out that they always have a waiting list of boys and girls, and it can be discouraging for young people with a lot of enthusiasm for the program to spend a long time on that waiting list. Would you be willing to mentor a youngster? Their office, she also told us, has moved into a closer location, just off Clark Road, near the interstate.

Thanks to Chris Nind for running the polo match gathering at the polo grounds again this year. I also want to thank Ron Wozniak for bringing out and setting up the tents we now have, as well as all the flags we had on display. Also, many thanks to all the participants who brought so much good food. I think everyone had a good time and no one left hungry! Thanks again to all of you who supported this and participated!

While there are many good things about Michael's on East, we're still interested in looking for another lunchtime venue that would be reasonably priced, located where everyone can get to it easily and willing to provide a decent lunch menu. If you know of such a place, please let us know. We were going to consider moving back to the Bird Key Yacht Club but recently learned that they are closing; planning to tear down the existing building and build a new one several feet higher. High water has gotten their attention! Moving back there might be in the future, but, if so, years out.

Since Craig Hullinger left & returned north, we still need someone to fill the "Communications" position on the board! There are other talents we could use, so don't hesitate to let me or another board member know of your abilities and interests.

I hope that 2025 is proving to be a great year for you. We've been having great programs, so please keep coming, and spread the word among potential members you know! Remember that the Breeze always includes the sign-up information for the next luncheon (see the back page).

Editorial Policy: "The Breeze" newsletter is published by the Military Officers Association of Sarasota, Inc., an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and the Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC). MOAA and its affiliated chapters & councils are non-partisan."



SECRETARY'S CORNER

Peter Dering

**Military Officers Association of Sarasota, Inc (MOAS)
Sarasota Military Officers Foundation, Inc (SMOF)**

The board meeting for the above organizations was held Monday February 3, 2025 at the Meadows Lifestyle and Wellness Facility 3350 Longmeadow. Issues of significance are addressed below. NOTE: The complete minutes and financial reports will be on the MOAS website www.sarasotamoaa.com following approval of the Board of Directors, The information below should be considered unofficial as the meeting minutes are not yet board approved.

CALL TO ORDER: President Dave Downer called the meeting to order at 1400 and began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dave Downer (Pres), Steve Carnes (1VP), Ron Wozniak (2VP), Christa Friedlander (Treas), Bill Lawyer (Dir), Michael Lindquist (Dir), Len Friedlander (Dir) & Jon Gordon (IPP)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Peter Dering (Sec'y)

COMMITTEE CHAIRS & VISITORS PRESENT:Linda Wozniak, Chris Nind & Karen Olson

PRESIDENT'S ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

- Dave gave an overview of the sessions and programs presented at the FCOC Leadership Training Seminar in Orlando on January 17-18. Included and discussed were the Treasurer's Roundtable, budget management, legislative updates, liability insurance, Florida state requirements, record keeping, IRS requirements, and communication updates.
- Invitations to MOAS members were issued by the Naples Chapter/ Gala, the Ft Meyers Chapter/ Golf tournament, and by the Sebring Chapter/Medal of Honor Ceremony.
- Reminder that the LOE submission is due this month, Steve Carnes and Dave will work it.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT: (Steve Carnes) I will assist Dave in preparing our LOE submission.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT: (Ron Wozniak) Nothing to Report.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:(Jon Gordon) Nothing to Report.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: (Peter Dering) The January 2025 BOD Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT:(Christa Friedlander) The January 2025 Treasurer's Reports was approved unanimously.

- Annual Reports required by Florida for both MOAS and the SMOF were submitted 1/10/2025. Certificates have been received and are on file.
- The renewal application for the Solicitation of Contribution Permit was submitted 2/3/2025 accompanied by required documents. The active permit expires on 2/28/2025.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

LEGISLATIVE:(Mike Lindquist) Nothing to Report

BREEZE NEWSLETTER: (Len Friedlander) The February Breeze was emailed to 235 recipients and mailed (USPS) to 33 members.

- Preparing newsletter & website submissions for MOAA Communications Award (due Feb 15).

MEMBERSHIP: (Len Friedlander)

Membership Renewal Status a/o 2/1/25

Renewed – 175, Resigned/Moved – 5, No Response – 23

Sent another Reminder email on Feb 2 to non-responders w/email.

SOCIAL MARKETING, COMMUNICATION AND WEBSITE:

Coordinated website Comm Award submission

LUNCHEON REPORT: (Peggy O'Connell):

- We had 40 paid in January and 1 guest; there were 2 no shows and four meals to go.
- We paid for 38 guests and had a \$2 overpayment; thus, we took in \$1562, paid out \$1402.20. Our profit was \$159.80.

MEET & GREET: (Peggy O'Connell) The February Meet & Greet will be February 12 at Mattison's on 41 at 5:30pm.

PROGRAMS: (Ron Wozniak)

- February Luncheon Program changed from NOAA Hurricane Hunters Aircraft Operations Center to the Sarasota Big Brothers & Big Sisters. Teresa Taft, Regional Manager, Volunteer Recruitment Sarasota & Charlotte Counties will be our Guest Speaker.
- March Luncheon Program- NOAA Hurricane Hunters Aircraft Operations Center. Guest Speaker TBD See the MOAS online Calendar at Sarasota MOAA | for full details for both Programs. This change is due to NOAA operational missions.
- April Luncheon Program- US Central Command Current Operations. Guest Speaker TBD.
- May Scholarship Luncheon. Bill Lawyer attempted to get the Sarasota County Superintendent of Schools, but he was already committed. Bill is still working on getting a suitable Guest Speaker.
- The remainder of the year is open. Programs and Guest Speakers TBD.

NOTE: Chris Nind has agreed to work on the 2025 Program Committee with Ron Wozniak.

JROTC, MCJROTC: (Bill Lawyer) I contacted (via email) all senior instructors requesting their outstanding cadets and the date of their awards program. Two have responded so I will begin a phone campaign in the next few days.

YAHOO: (Ron & Linda Wozniak) For info on cancellations, venue, date & time changes, go to the MOAS website Calendar & Blogs at <https://www.sarasotamoaa.com/> or text Ron Wozniak: 941-779-5448 or e-mail: RonWozniak13@gmail.com or Linda at 941-779-5447 or NauticalEffect@msn.com.

Future Events/Outings — Details on YAHOO Page 8 -

- Sunday 23 Feb Twins @ Pirates, LECOM Park: 1305
- Thursday 20 Mar Yankees @ Orioles, Ed Smith: 1805
- Friday 11 April Pop Stroke Putt Golf, 1900
- Saturday 3 May Big Cat Habitat, 1100

SARASOTA MILITARY OFFICERS FOUNDATION, INC

SCHOLARSHIP REPORT: (Bill Lawyer): I contacted Terry Connor, Superintendent of Sarasota County School District, to be our speaker at the scholarship luncheon on 7 May 2025 but was told he already had a commitment that day. .

NEW BUSINESS:

- Gift for the February luncheon speaker's Big Brothers-Big Sisters organization.

MONTH	BOARD	LUNCHEON
March	Monday 3	Friday 21
April	Monday 3	Friday 21
May	Monday 5	Wednesday 7 **

	LUNCHEON PROGRAMS
February	Sarasota Big Brothers Big Sisters
March	NOAA Hurricane Hunters
April	US Central Command

- Annual Picnic at Phillippi Estates Park Pavilion. Two dates were suggested. Saturday 26 April was the primary date.

BOARD APPROVED ACTIONS/MOTIONS:

- Board members were asked by Len to contact any non-responder with a personal phone call. A motion was made to approve the request and approval was given. Len will provide Board members with names and phone numbers.
- The Board approved a \$300 gift for the February luncheon speaker's Big Brothers-Big Sisters organization.
- Chris Nind will put a member survey together to increase luncheon attendance and gain new members by offering new options..

BOARD ACTIONS/MOTIONS NOT APPROVED: None

The meeting adjourned at 1525.

NEXT MEETING: The next Board meeting is scheduled for Monday March 3, 2025 1400 hours at the the Meadows Lifestyle and Wellness Facility, 3350 Longmeadow



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER
Michael Lindquist

Spring

March is the beginning of Spring. The Spring Equinox marks the moment when the sun crosses the celestial equator from South to North bringing equal daylight and darkness. This alignment of the sun over the equator occurs in Sarasota, Florida, Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 5:01 am EDT.

As winter abates, we prepare ourselves for spring. In a spiritual and metaphysical sense, believers associate the spring equinox with rebirth and renewal.

Spring holds profound spiritual meaning as a period of renewal and balance. It symbolizes the awakening of nature as flowers bloom, trees begin to bear fruit, and Mother Nature invites us to reflect on our own inner growth. By embracing this celestial event, we can align ourselves with the rhythms of the Earth and find greater harmony within ourselves and the world around us.

Embracing Balance

The Spring equinox is a time of opposites, the Yin and Yang, light and dark, life and death, joy and sorrow. When we bring our minds and bodies into alignment, balancing these opposites we will better control the good and bad energy that surrounds us.

This March, consider making "Balance" a central theme of your journey. Balance has the power to bring us Overall Well-being, Reduced Stress and Anxiety, Improved Mental Health, and Enhanced Creativity and Motivation. As poet Robert Frost (1874-1963) expresses his thoughts on Balance in our lives.

Fire and Ice

*Some say the world will end in fire,
Some say in ice.
From what I've tasted of desire
I hold with those who favor fire.
But if it had to perish twice,
I think I know enough of hate
To know that for destruction ice
Is also great
And would suffice.*

*First printed in Harper's Magazine, December 1920.
Maintaining Yin and Yang in my life,*

Michael



Sarasota Military Officers Foundation
(SMOF)

Bill Lawyer



Manatee Tech - Victoria Hirsch,
Financial Aid Specialist/
Veterans Representative



SCF - Lori Stephens
Tomlinson, Dir Grants &
Scholarships



Ringling College - Lisa Goss,
Ass't Dir Financial Aid &
Veteran Services

Bill Lawyer, MOAS Director, delivered scholarship checks for Veterans' support and aid checks to local education institutions -

- \$10,000 to Manatee Technical College
- \$10,000 to Ringling College of Art & Design
- \$12,000 to State College of Florida - Manatee/Sarasota
- \$12,000 to University of South Florida - Sarasota Manatee



USF - Chancellor Brett Kemker,
Director Carlos Moreira,
Ashlie Cruz,
Assoc. VP Marrie Neumer,
& Ass't Director Taylor Wey

TAPS

*Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to
the families and friends of
Mrs. Joyce Meier, SSM
Robert Peter Rice, CPT, USA*



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE Michael Lindquist

The 119th Congress has begun a new session, setting legislative priorities for the next two years. Your support is essential in ensuring that our political leaders continue to prioritize programs that benefit our Military Family, as we advocate for the needs of active-duty service members, reservists, retirees, survivors, and veterans at both the state and federal levels.

Key Legislative Issues for 2025

MOAA is focused on several important concerns affecting the military community, including:

- For Active-Duty & Reserve Members: Improving unaccompanied housing conditions
- For Retirees & Veterans: Addressing toxic exposure issues
- For Families & Survivors: Expanding employment opportunities for military spouses

Our Legislators in Congress

To ensure your voice is heard, it's important to know who represents you in Washington:

- Senator Rick Scott (Republican) [Official Website](#) | 202-224-5274
- Senator Ashley Moody (Republican) [Official Website](#) | 202-224-3041
- Rep. Vern Buchanan (Republican – 16th District) [Official Website](#) | 202-225-5015
- Rep. Greg Steube (Republican – 17th District) [Official Website](#) | 202-225-5792

Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)

The December 2024 Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), released Jan. 15, was 309.067, 0.1% above the FY 2025 baseline of 308.729. January 2025 figures will be announced Feb. 12.

The CPI-W figures from the end of this fiscal year (July, August, and September 2025) will be compared to the FY 2025 COLA baseline to calculate the 2026 COLA (see "[How Your COLA Is Calculated](#)," [The Chart](#) Compares changes in inflation against COLA for 2024.

TAKE ACTION - How You Can Help

MOAA works to advocate for our military community, but your help is needed. By reaching out to our representatives, you can make a real impact on legislation that affects retirees and their families.

Current Legislative Initiatives Needing Support:

- Expanding America's National Cemetery Act – Ensuring continued access to burial benefits
- TRICARE Pharmacy Network Changes – Addressing concerns about access to prescription medications

- Concurrent Receipt for Combat-Injured Veterans – Ensuring fair retirement and disability benefits
- You can easily contact your congressional representatives through the MOAA [Legislative Action Center](#).

ACCESS Act Would Expand Veterans' Community Care Options

Legislation introduced in both the House and Senate by the chairman of each chamber's Veterans Affairs committee would expand access to community care for veterans while standardizing and improving VA mental health programs.

The Veterans' Assuring Critical Care Expansions to Support Servicemembers (ACCESS) Act of 2025 (S. 275 | H.R. 740), introduced in the Senate by Sen. Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) and in the House by Rep. Mike Bost (R-Ill.), would codify standards for veterans to receive community-based care:

- Veterans who cannot be provided by the VA with a primary care, mental health care, or extended care appointment within a 30-minute drive or within 20 days (or shorter, as prescribed by the VA secretary).
- Veterans who cannot be provided by the VA with a specialty care appointment with an hour's drive or within 28 days (or shorter, per the VA secretary).

The bill also requires the VA to create a "standardized screening process" for veterans to participate in mental health treatment programs, craft a three-year pilot program allowing veterans to access mental health and/or substance abuse programs in the community without a referral and establish tracking on wait times and care availability for mental health programs, among other improvements.

"MOAA thanks Chairmen Moran and Bost for introducing the Veterans' Assuring Critical Care Expansions to Support Servicemembers (ACCESS) Act at a critical time for veterans' mental health care," said Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), president and CEO of MOAA. "More work is needed to expand mental health and substance use treatment in communities, especially rural areas where VA services are limited. We look forward to collaborating with the Veterans' Affairs Committees and urge close cooperation with VSOs and stakeholders during the legislative process." The bill also would require the VA to:

- Prepare a series of reports to Congress regarding community care access, including the appeals process for veterans who are denied community care.
- Coordinate with veterans service organizations and other stakeholders on possible improvements to the clinical appeals process.
- Make veterans aware of telehealth options, but prevent the department from using telehealth in place of the community care standards outlined above.

The bill is one of many addressing veterans' care and benefits either already introduced in the 119th Congress or under consideration on Capitol Hill. MOAA

will continue its work to ensure veterans receive the care they've earned and the VA receives the resources it needs to continue providing that care. Follow and take part in these efforts by registering at [MOAA's Legislative Action Center](#).

Federal military spouse workers exempt from return-to-office rule

Federally employed military spouses who work remotely are now "categorically exempt" from the return-to-office directive issued by President Donald Trump, according to new guidance clarifying the policy.

Federal agencies "shall" allow military spouses to continue working remotely, and agencies may continue appointing spouses to remote work positions, according to a memo issued Wednesday by Charles Ezell, acting director of the Office of Personnel Management, or OPM.

The new guidance clarifies a Jan. 27 memo from OPM and the Office of Management and Budget that included a footnote stating agencies "should also exclude military spouses working remotely based on the Military Spouse Employment Act" from the return-to-office requirement.

The Jan. 27 memo directed agencies to prepare plans to return all eligible employees to in-person work, with exceptions for those excused for compelling reasons certified by the agency head and employee supervisor. It further noted military spouses working remotely had a compelling reason not to return to in-person work and agencies "should" exempt them from the requirement.

In the wake of the Jan. 27 memo, some military spouses with federal jobs experienced uncertainty and angst about the new policy requiring in-person work. Advocates were concerned the guidance didn't explicitly require federal agencies to exempt military spouses from the return-to-office requirement, potentially leading to inconsistent policies across agencies.

Being able to work remotely, whether in the continental U.S. or overseas, allows military spouses to continue their careers despite frequent moves to new duty stations with their service members. Military spouses have long battled problems with unemployment, largely associated with these frequent moves. The military spouse unemployment rate has remained stubbornly above 20%, according to DoD surveys.

The new guidance applies to spouses of active-duty members, spouses of deceased service members who died while on active duty and haven't remarried and spouses of disabled service members who retired or otherwise left the service with a 100% disability rating. It also applies to spouses of U.S. Foreign Service members on overseas assignments.

The guidance also clarifies that agencies must allow military spouses to continue working remotely regardless of whether they were appointed under the Military Spouse Employment Act and covers those appointed under other appropriate hiring authorities. That applies to future appointments of military spouses to remote work positions.

February 2025 LUNCHEON



Dave Downer & Speaker Teresa Taft



Teresa Taft & Ron Wozniak



Estrella Engelhardt
& New Member Stephen Mulligan



Ilene & Paul O'Connell



Michael Lindquist (I),
Debra Sandberg & Dave Downer



Sylvia Barber & Steven Carnes



Bobbie & Ed Hamilton
flank Mary Lou Morris



Linda Brent (I) & Frances Rice



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS
Len & Christa Friedlander and
Ed Hamilton



Estrella Engelhardt and her guests
Tom Sikes & Roger Dowdell



Chris Nind (I),
Ron & Linda Wozniak and Cider

House Committee to Examine Secret Navy Effort on Pilot Brain Injuries

The Navy quietly started screening elite fighter pilots for signs of brain injuries caused by flying, a risk it officially denies exists.

The Navy's elite TOPGUN pilot school quietly undertook an effort called Project Odin's Eye in the fall of 2024 to try to detect and treat brain injuries in fighter crew members, and leaders kept it so confidential that not even the broader Navy knew about it.

Now, the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is demanding to learn about the project, and what the Navy knows about the risk that high-performance jets pose to the brains of the crew members who fly in them.

The committee cited a [report](#) by The New York Times that detailed how a number of F/A-18 Super Hornet crew members, after years of catapult takeoffs from aircraft carriers and dogfighting training under crushing G-forces, experienced sudden and unexplained mental health problems. The problems included insomnia, anxiety, depression and PTSD-like symptoms — all of which can be caused by repeated sub-concussive brain injuries.

Many of the problems started when the aviators were in their 40s, near the end of their careers, but those affected often kept their struggles hidden, even after leaving the Navy, so that they could continue to fly.

The Navy tells its pilots that it has no evidence that flying poses a risk of brain injury. That remained the official line even after three pilots with symptoms consistent with brain injuries died by suicide in a span of 12 months.

But in November, leaders at TOPGUN — where the Navy's best fighter pilots learn aerial dogfighting — quietly adopted Odin's Eye, a brain injury program that has been used by some Navy SEALs. The move allowed TOPGUN to use its own budget to screen pilots and sidestep the sometimes sluggish Navy bureaucracy.

The letter from Congress demands that the Navy share what it knows about possible brain injuries in aircrew members, including all studies and communications about the issue, as well as data on the number of aviators injured over the last 10 years. asks why Odin's Eye was created in secrecy. It "is concerning that Navy command may not be fully aware of its existence," the letter says, adding that the situation "raises additional questions about the Navy's knowledge of potential issues and whether it is acting to mitigate these issues in a comprehensive and effective manner."

The problem may be difficult to see clearly, even with the power of an influential House committee. Brain injury symptoms often resemble those of unrelated psychological disorders, and many aviators who experienced them said they had never been assessed for a brain injury by the Navy, so data on the injuries' prevalence may not exist.

Even so, retired pilots suggest that the problem is not new and has been crippling high-performing pilots for decades.

Air Force, Congressional Focus Grows in Ongoing Missileer Cancer Study

Investigations into potential toxic exposures of those who work with America's nuclear intercontinental ballistic missiles are reaching some of the highest levels of government and the Department of the Air Force, service officials said.

During a town hall meeting updating veterans, family members and current airmen about the ongoing health study into potential links between cancer diagnoses and working with nuclear missiles, Gen. Thomas Bussiere, head of Air Force Global Strike Command, told attendees that acting Air Force Secretary Gary Ashworth and lawmakers have inquired about the investigation.

Ashworth is a former missile combat crew commander for the Minuteman ICBM, according to his service biography.

"The congressional interest and support for this effort has not waned; it's actually increased," Bussiere said. "In fact, on the third day in office as the acting secretary of the Air Force, acting Secretary Ashworth requested an update on this study, literally in his third day in the seat."

"You not only have the interest, continued interest, in the uniformed members in the Department of the Air Force, you have the interest and attention of our senior acting political appointees," Bussiere added.

Lt. Col. John Severns, a spokesperson for Air Force Global Strike Command, said that delegations from the states that house America's ICBM bases -- Montana, North Dakota and Wyoming -- have also expressed interest in the study.

The town hall was just the latest during the Air Force's likely years-long health and environmental study. The most recent revelations included information from the National Death Index, a centralized database of death records, that "did not identify statistically elevated mortality" among the missile community.

Officials said there is still more information to digest. The next phase of the study will evaluate state cancer registries and a larger pool of data from across the country that "may provide deeper insights into the complex relationship between service in the [missile community] and cancer risk," the memo explaining the latest findings detailed.

"Additionally, efforts to promote health and wellness initiatives tailored to the unique needs of the [missile community] remain crucial in mitigating overall health risks, including cancer, within this community," the memo added.

A widespread study into cancer worries among America's nuclear missile service members began in 2023 when a Space Force Guardian and

former missileer compiled a report detailing alarming numbers of non-Hodgkin lymphoma cases among those who served at Malmstrom AFB in Montana.

The first phase of the study, involving initial data from DoD medical records, showed elevated breast and prostate cancer rates, but broadening the investigation with additional data from the mortality index, as well as VA electronic records and cancer registries, began to show lower rates.

Military.com reported on the worries among current and former missileers and maintainers in a series supported by the Pulitzer Center in which the newsroom revealed that small studies in the 2000s did not thoroughly investigate the concerns in that community as members began to worry that the chemicals they had been exposed to in missile silos had resulted in their cancer diagnoses and other illnesses.

Many of those service members and their families have started to fight for VA benefits, and some have been successful in those claims.

The Air Force has made changes since the study began, including more frequent workplace inspections, better tracking of potentially toxic exposures, and more in-depth cleaning.

Air Force officials said during the town hall Thursday that a cleaning contract related to polychlorinated biphenyls -- carcinogens known as PCBs that are prevalent in the Cold War-era facilities -- that were detected in some of the Air Force facilities would be in place as soon as next week, pending final approval from the Environmental Protection Agency.

"We're not done, but we continue to move forward deliberately in this process," Bussiere said during the town hall.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION



MOAS MEET & GREET

Wednesday March 12th

5:30pm to 7:30pm

Triple Tail Seafood & Spirits
in the Landings Plaza

4870 South Tamiami Trail

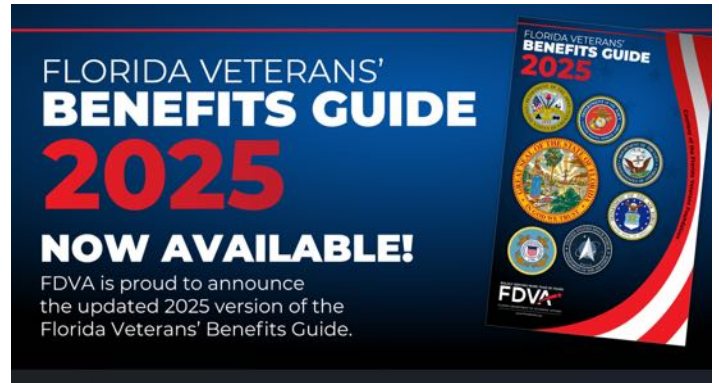
Sarasota, FL 34231

<https://www.tripletailsrq.com/>

Please let Peggy O'Connell know by Monday
March 10th if you will be attending.

pegoconnell12@gmail.com

or (312) 982-1374



FLORIDA VETERANS' BENEFITS GUIDE 2025

NOW AVAILABLE!

FDVA is proud to announce
the updated 2025 version of the
Florida Veterans' Benefits Guide.

HELP WANTED Volunteer Guides Needed at Patriot Plaza

If interested, or for more information,
please reach out to:

Maria Schaedler-Luera

Patriot Plaza Tour Coordinator

Email: patriotplaza@sarasotaarts.org

Phone: 941-365-5118 x305

Sarasota World Affairs Council 2025 Lecture Series

New College Campus

Mildred Sainer Pavillion

5313 Bay Shore Road Sarasota

March 25, 2025 - 6:30 pm

Avoiding a Collision Course

in U.S.-China Relations

Dr. Jennifer Staats,

Director, East Asia and Pacific Programs,
U.S. Institute of Peace

RSVP to: info@sarasotawac.org



**YAHOO
Young At Heart Organization
Linda & Ron Wozniak**

**Looking for Your Ideas & Volunteers to Organize
Future YAHOO Events**

We have other YAHOO Events/Outings in mind and would like to see other MOAS Members and/or spouses come up with suggestions and hopefully volunteer to assist and/or organize an event/outing. Linda and Woz will assist you along the way. It is fun and you will be glad you were able to make MOAS an even better organization.

PAST EVENTS & OUTINGS

Sunday 26 January - Sarasota Polo Club

The 2 MOAS tents provided plenty of shade even with the empty space between them on a nice sunny afternoon. 8 Flags & 2 SOT Banners were displayed. It was a beautiful day and an exciting polo match. A good time was had by all.



Sunday 23 Feb Twins @ Pirates Spring Training



**Thurs 20 Mar Yankees @ Orioles Spring Training
THIS OUTING IS CLOSED. 13 Signed up**

UPCOMING EVENTS/OUTINGS

Saturday/Sunday March 15/16 0800-1600

**FREE Tampa Bay AirFest 2025 FREE
MacDill AFB**

Details at <https://www.tampabayairfest.com/>

Wednesday 2 April Tee Time: 1900

Pop Stroke Putt Golf

195 University Town Center Dr
Sarasota, FL 34243

Make up your Foursome ahead of time or take your chance with who you play with that night.
UNLIMITED GOLF-\$20 Military & Seniors; \$25 Adults; \$15 Children 3-12

At PopStroke, both mini-golf courses and restaurant operate on a first-come, first-served basis; they do not accept reservations in advance. Guests can choose between two 18-hole mini-golf courses, each taking approximately 45 – 60 minutes to complete, depending on crowd size. They provide the putter and TaylorMade golf ball as part of the day pass price.

Please let Woz & Linda know if you are coming NLT Monday 1 April.

Saturday 26 April 1100-1500

MOAS 4th Annual Picnic

Phillippe Estate Park Pavilion,

5500 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34231

Save the date. We usually have a good crowd around 38 Folks. Details to follow.

Saturday 3 May Show time NLT 1045

Tour starts at 1100

Big Cat Habitat,

7101 Palmer Blvd., Sarasota 34240

Big Cat Habitat Conservation and Education Center is a diverse zoological park. Sitting on 20+ acres they welcome over 50k guests to visit, encounter, experience, and fall in love with over 350 animals spanning more than 60 different species.

They open to the public @1200 so we will have the place to ourselves during the tour & you can stay till they close at 1600.

We are picking a Saturday to attract MOAS members who work during the week and/or have children and grandchildren they would like to bring.

Cost: Veterans \$5; Adults \$30; Children 3-12 \$15. Need a minimum of 20 folks for a Group.

Contact Woz NLT Thursday 17 April for reservations. Send your check made out to: Ron Wozniak & mail to him at: 207 68th Street NW, Bradenton, FL 35209-2227

April or May Date TBD

After CENTCOM Luncheon Presentation (18 April).

Group Tour of USCENCOM

MacDill AFB, FL.

For information on cancellations, changes in venue, dates & times, go to the MOAS website Calendar & Blogs at <https://www.sarasotamoaa.com/> or text Ron Wozniak: 941-779-5448 or e-mail: RonWozniak13@gmail.com or Linda at 941-779-5447 or NauticalEffect@msn.com.

NOTE: Ride Sharing - If you need a ride please check the MOAS online Calendar for folks already signed up nearby. Contact them to inquire about getting a ride to an event or outing. We do not want to preclude folks from attending for lack of transportation. If all else fails contact Woz or Linda.

Receive the Breeze via email or view it on www.sarasotamoaa.com or *blog* sarasotamoaa.blogspot.com



SARASOTA CHAPTER

Friday, March 21, 2025

@ 11:30am

Michael's On East

1212 S East Ave Sarasota, FL 34239

Dress Code – Coat - Tie Optional

MENU

SERVED LUNCHEON

Specialty Bread Basket

ENTREE

**Traditional Corned Beef
& Cabbage**

Served with Potatoes & Carrots

VEGETARIAN

Mediterranean

Vegetable-Stuffed Cabbage Rolls

DESSERT

Guinness Cake

Served Coffee, Decaf & Tea

Pre-set Iced Water

Served Iced Tea w/Lemon upon request

Please make your luncheon reservation by mail.

Fill out the form below and mail us your check.

1. Provide first & last names, rank and service of attendees. Use back of form, if needed. Please note in comments if it is your birthday month, you're a new member, a surviving spouse, or if this is your, or your guests, first time attending.
2. Special diet and vegetarian meal requests **MUST** be submitted together with the initial luncheon reservation. Michaels on East will no longer honor last minute requests at the luncheons.
3. **Your reservation and payment should be received no later than 3 days before the luncheon date.** For late registrations, you must EMAIL or Call our Luncheon Coordinator (Peggy O'Connell). Do **not** contact Michaels on East. We will try to accommodate late registrations, but *no guarantees*. We must inform Michaels on East at least 48 hours in advance. *No refunds will be possible after that date.*
4. If you make your reservation with the intent to pay at the door, we must hold you to that promise, as Michaels on East will charge us for your guaranteed meal, if you attend or not.

MEMBER INFORMATION

Name, Rank Service _____

Phone # _____ email: _____

Please reserve ___ seats for the luncheon

Cost \$39.00/person (Tax & Gratuity incl.)

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____

Name	Meal (E /	Comment

COMMENT CODES: SS-Surviving Spouse; BD-Birthday; NM-New Member

Please mail reservation form and check payable to **MOAS**

to:

PEGGY O'CONNELL

1100 Imperial Drive #303, Sarasota, FL 34236-2465

Questions? (312) 982-1374 or email: pegoconnell12@gmail.com

NAME TAGS

Fill out the form and provide a check for \$16.50 payable to **MOAS** & we will hand deliver a name tag to you at the next luncheon. Please allow 2 weeks for fabrication.

Give to Len Friedlander at a luncheon or mail to 8221 Deerbrook Circle, Sarasota, FL 34238.

First Name _____ Last name _____

Rank (Abbreviated) _____ Service _____ Status _____

Example

First Name Henry Last name O'Connell

Rank (Abbreviated) LCDR Service USNR Status Ret



MARCH - APRIL 2025



DATE	EVENT	TIME
Monday, March 3	MOAS/SMOF Board Meeting - Meadows Wellness Center	2:00 p.m.
Wednesday March 12	MOAS Meet & Greet: Triple Tail Seafood & Spirits- Details on Page 9	5:30 p.m.
Sat/Sun Mar 15/16	FREE Tampa Bay Air Fest 2025 @ MacDill - Details on Page 10	8:00 a.m.
Friday, March 21	MOAS Luncheon - Michaels on East - NOAA Hurricane Hunters	11:30 a.m.
Tuesday, March 25	Sarasota World Affairs Council - Details on Page 9	6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 2	YAHOO: Pop Stroke Putt Golf - Details on Page 10	7:00 p.m.
Monday, April 7	MOAS/SMOF Board Meeting - Meadows Wellness Center	2:00 p.m.
Friday, April 18	MOAS Luncheon - Michaels on East - CENTCOM	11:30 a.m.
Saturday, April 26	YAHOO: MOAS Annual Picnic - Details on Page 10	11:00 a.m.

MEMBERSHIP

Chapter Membership Renewal forms for 2025 were mailed to all members early in November. IF YOU HAVE NOT YET RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2025, PLEASE DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. We encourage ALL current members to use the application form below when encountering fellow officers in the Sarasota area, and direct them to our website for additional chapter information. www.sarasotamoaa.com

Military Officers Association of Sarasota, Inc. | P.O. Box 1016 Sarasota, FL 34230-1016

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Annual Membership Dues: Regular Surviving Spouse Allied Associate *Mail application with your check for \$35, made payable to MOAS. Postal Newsletter add \$24*

Last Name _____ First Name _____ MI _____ Rank _____ Spouse Name _____

Street Address (Include Apt#) _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ E-Mail Address _____ Birthday mm/dd/yyyy _____

Status: Active Retired Former Officer Regular Reserve Surviving Spouse Foreign _____ Country _____

Service Component: Army Navy Air Force Marine Corps Coast Guard NOAA USPHS National Guard Space Force

Please do not publish my personal information in the Directory Who told you about the Association? _____

Signature _____ Date _____ National MOAA Member Number _____

Revised 11/23

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