

## Science and Technology Has Made Weather Forecasting More Predictable

by LTC Mike Wisniewski

The Mahoning Valley Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America met on Thursday, March 23, 2018 at the Consolidated Activities Center of the Youngstown Air Reserve Station in Vienna for a luncheon meeting. President Florence Hosler welcomed a guest, Father Steve Denas, whose son is serving in the Air Force. Lt Col Ralph Minton gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by LTC Sam Axtell. LTC Rod Hosler provided a brief legislative update noting that President Trump signed the Omnibus bill. Although it did not provide everything the President had hoped for, it nevertheless gave the military a much-needed funding boost to shore up many shortfalls over the past 10 years. In addition LTC Hosler and Col Calta will again be “Storming the Hill” in Washington, DC meeting with Congressional legislators from Ohio from April 16<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup>.

The guest speaker for the luncheon, introduced by COL John Koshan, was Ohio Air National Guard Captain, Joshua Palmer. Joshua, a local graduate of Mineral Ridge High School in 2008, was selected for the Air Force Academy and graduated in 2012 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Meteorology. After graduating the Air Force Academy, Capt Palmer was assigned to Little Rock Air Force Base in Arkansas as a Weather Flight Commander and Assistant Director of Operations. He is currently the Staff Weather Officer at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base near Columbus, Ohio. He and his wife and two children live in Howland.

The science of analyzing weather and producing forecasts has come a long way from just adhering to the old adage, “Red sky in morning, sailors take warning. Red sky at night, sailors delight”. Weather conditions are a very important element in any commander’s assessment in conducting military operations. It is important to know not only what the current weather status is in the area of operations but what can be expected in the near term and next 7–10 days. Of course, there is greater uncertainty in predicting weather conditions the further you go into the future but cutting-edge science and



*Capt Josh Palmer receives the MSVC flag set from President LT Florence Hosler.*

technology has made the process of forecasting a lot more predictable. There are essentially four different processes used to measure weather conditions. 1) Surface observations. 2) Upper air soundings. 3) Satellite imaging. 4) Radar readings. In surface observations a number of different instruments at fixed locations measure temperature, wind speed and direction, relative humidity, barometric air pressure, etc. Many of these same observations are recorded at various altitudes by using weather balloons. Weather satellites also use a multitude of instruments to record and transmit data back to earth from orbiting and geosynchronous satellites. And finally, Doppler radar can give a visual image of precipitation as it moves through an area. For those who want to look at weather maps and data provided by observations, satellite imagery, and radar imagery can go to this web site: <http://weather.rap.ucar.edu/> Another resource that can give Skew-T and upper air analyses is: <http://www.spc.noaa.gov>.

The winner of the 50/50 raffle was CDR David Di Tallo. Two beautiful ladies bracelets were donated by CPT Dennis Gartland and were also raffled off. Winners of the bracelets were Rev. Daniel Rohan and Mrs. Linda Calta. Next month’s guest speaker will be talking to us about fly fishing. That’s right—a topic that’s non-military from someone who is an expert fisherman and a regular contributor to the American Angler magazine. Join us and bring your spouse, neighbor, or guest who might “lured” to hear about fly fishing.

## President’s Notes

Spring is finally here and as the members of the shake off the spells of winter we can understand why a little better. Our Speaker at our March meeting was none other than our Captain Josh Palmer. He talked about weather, how to forecast it and its implications. So, when the weather is good or bad, we can get the right story from Josh. Great presentation.

April will also be a busy month for our chapter. Dick Calta and Rod Hosler will be joining MOAA members from across the nation and the MOAA staff as they “Storm the Hill.”

This is an annual MOAA event that pairs MOAA state leaders with their Federal Senators and Representatives to discuss those issues that are vital to the interests of America’s active military and retired personnel and their families and seeking Congressional support for those initiatives that will better the quality of life for all members of America’s uniformed services. Several issues that will be discussed are the

*Continue on page 2*

### MSVC-MOAA 2018 Calendar

Date	Location and Program
4/5	MSVC Board Meeting, NOC, YARS
4/6	United Veterans Council Recognition and Awards Banquet Honors a Veteran of the Year and Citizen of the Year Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Center 4500 Norquest Blvd. Austintown Social 6:00 p.m. Dinner 6:30 p.m. Tickets \$25 per person see Rod Hosler contact info page 6
4/16-19	MOAA "Storming of the Hill," Washington, DC
4/20	Luncheon Meeting at CAC, YARS (3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri.) Program: Fly Fishing
4/20	East High School JROTC Awards Ceremony & Dinner at East HS
4/21	TCTC JROTC Awards Ceremony at Trumbull County Technical Career
4/26	YSU Army ROTC Awards Ceremony & Breakfast at YSU— invite only
4/28	Ohio Council of Chapters Quarterly Meeting, DSC-Columbus
5/3	MSVC Board Meeting, NOC, YARS
5/4–6	MOAA Leadership Seminar, Chicago, Illinois
5/5	YSU graduation & ROTC Commissioning after graduation
5/10	Dinner Meeting JROTC/ROTC/new 2LT's Recognition CAC, YARS This is our Recognition Dinner Meeting for our cadets of ROTC & JROTC and newly commissioned cadets. For this meeting we have instituted a <b>"Buy A Dinner for a Cadet"</b> where a member can contribute \$25 to offset the cost to the chapter, paying for the dinner for a cadet, their guest, or their military staff member. If you can assist by "buying a dinner" you may do so at the door or mail a check to the address on page 6. Any surplus of donations will be put into the scholarship fund.
5/12	Decoration of Graves, Calvary Cemetery, Youngstown
5/19	Armed Forces Day at Buhl Park
5/28	Memorial Day Ceremonies 8:30 A.M. Oak Hill Cemetery, Youngstown
6/7	MSVC Board Meeting, NOC, YARS
6/21	Dinner Meeting at Golden Corral, Hermitage, PA program TBA
7/26	Picnic, Vienna Rod & Gun Club, rifle & pistol shoot, picnic The ladies will have the pistol range with their own instructor
7/28	Ohio Council of Chapters Quarterly Meeting, DSC-Columbus
8/5	Wings-n-Wheels 9-5 SLOAS Airfield, 4085 N River Road, Warren
8/17-18	D-Day at Conneaut, Ohio <a href="http://www.ddayohio.us">www.ddayohio.us</a> free bus transportation available on Friday, reservations required
8/23	MSVC at YARS Steak Fry/Corn Roast—legislative night
9/6	MSVC Board Meeting, NOC, YARS
9/21	TBA (Nomination of Officers)
10/4	MSVC Board Meeting, NOC, YARS
10/26	Luncheon Meeting, CAC, YARS (Business Mtg & Election of Officers)
10/28	Ohio Council of Chapters Quarterly Meeting, DSC-Columbus
10/31	MOAA Annual Meeting, Phoenix, AZ
11/8	MSVC Board Meeting, NOC, YARS
11/16	Luncheon Meeting, CAC, YARS (Installation of Officers)
12/2	MOAA/ROA Christmas Party, Manor Restaurant, Austintown

### President's Notes Continue

Defense Budget and Title 61 Medical Retires who have not completed 20 years of active duty and more. Remember one of MOAA's missions is to lobby Congress on your behalf and MOAA is your voice.

John Koshan, our own First Vice President, has arranged for an interesting program for the April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. He is a well-known sportsman and author. See page six of the newsletter for all the details.

Also on the 20<sup>th</sup>, is the JROTC awards program that evening at East High School, several of our chapter members are attending to present the awards to the cadets. Then a repeat the next day on the 21<sup>st</sup> at TCTC for those JROTC cadets. The YSU ROTC awards breakfast is on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Several of our chapter members are YSU alumni will be presenting awards and be in attendance. As a chapter we will invite all the MOAA medal awardees and new 2LT's to a dinner on May 10<sup>th</sup>. See the note about the dinner in the column on the left.

As you all know, any organization is only as good as its membership and their active participation, and the MSVC-MOAA continues to be one of the better chapters in Ohio and perhaps the country. We have much to be proud of. I encourage all MSVC-MOAA members to continue to attend our dinner and luncheon gatherings, to meet other officers, renew old acquaintances and get acquainted with new members. It's up to US to keep our chapter active and vibrant. Thanks for your continued support to MSVC and MOAA National.

**"NEVER STOP SERVING"**

Florence Hosler, MSVC President

**Welcome new chapter member, LT Jason Lassiter, US Coast Guard. He is assigned to District 9 in Cleveland. We want to thank Jason's "adopted" parents Jim & Carrie Hosack (whose son is a close friend of Jason) for encouraging Jason to join our chapter. He is a graduate of the USCG Academy and Cleveland is his fourth duty assignment.**

### Membership Requirements for MSVC-MOAA

Membership in MSVC-MOAA shall be composed of: Men and women who are or have been commissioned or warrant officers of the seven United States uniformed services (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Service). Surviving spouses of deceased individuals who, if living, would be eligible for membership. Chapter specific membership for spouses of present members and honorary members. MSVC-MOAA memberships are open to all eligible people.

## Legislative Issues – April 2018 *Legislative Affairs Liason, LTC Rod Hosler, USA, Ret.*

If you are a premium or life member of MOAA when you receive your April *Military Officer* magazine there are post cards on the back cover to be sent to your Senators and Representatives asking to support a pay increase that will keep military compensation comparable to private-sector compensation. **SEND IN THOSE POST-CARDS!** You can also e-mail your legislators through their web site, click the link on this page.

The President signed the \$1.3 trillion spending bill after a threat to veto because of the gains for the military and the VA to include:

- opioid abuse treatment and prevention;
- mental health programs, including mental health screenings and additional services for veterans with other-than-honorable discharges before leaving service, and suicide prevention outreach;
- research on gender-appropriate prosthetics and toxic exposure;
- development and implementation of the new electronic health record;
- efforts to reduce disability claims processing backlog;
- major and minor construction improvements; and,
- some portion of the FY 2019 appropriations for medical and benefit programs.
- A 2.4 percent pay raise for servicemembers, which they've been receiving since Jan. 1. (Learn more about the military pay-raise gap here.)
- \$700 billion for the military - the largest year-on-year funding increase for DoD in 15 years. That includes \$144 billion for weapons and equipment upgrades.
- A lift on defense spending caps, one of five things MOAA wanted President Trump to address in his first State of the Union speech.
- Spending flexibility that will allow military leaders to use some funds appropriated this year in fiscal 2019.
- A \$234 million funding increase for NOAA.
- Mental-health services for "bad paper" veterans that includes screenings before they leave the military. Metal-health support will also be provided to those who: served 100+ days on active duty, experienced sexual trauma, or served as drone operators.

But the Caring for Veterans Act failed as members of congress and VSO's were concerned it was moving the VA towards privatization and taking funds for infrastructure improvements.

Then Trump fired Secretary Shulkin so it's back to square one. It is hoped that after the congressional break for campaigning all parties to include MOAA will get back to the table and work this out.

There are several issues in the Veteran/Military Pending Ohio Legislature that affect the military and veterans:

**Students in Military:** To enact the "Students to Soldiers Support Act" regarding the participation of students who are serving in the uniformed services in extracurricular activities at public and non public schools and public and private colleges.

**Professional Licensure-Armed Forces:** To establish an expedited process to grant a professional license to an individual who is on active duty as a member of the armed forces of the United States, or is the spouse of such an individual, and holds a valid license in another state.

**Military Transfers:** To permit persons who quit work to accompany the person's military spouse on a military transfer to be eligible for unemployment compensation benefits.

**Veteran Commissions:** permit county veterans service commissions to elect to add two members to the commission, one who is a veteran who served in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom, or subsequently in those theaters of operation, and one who is a military spouse.

**Awareness Day:** To designate the first Saturday of May as "Veterans Suicide Awareness Day."

**Veteran Treatment:** To permit courts to create veterans treatment courts and to allow courts to divert certain criminal defendants to participate in veterans treatment court.

**Dog Registrations:** To exempt certain disabled veterans from paying a dog registration fee when application is made to the county auditor that includes proof that the dog is an assistance dog.

**Veterans Waiver:** To establish the Veterans Fee Waiver Program.

## Legislative Contacts

**MOAA Legislative Update**  
[moaa.org/takeaction](http://moaa.org/takeaction) or  
**1-800-234-6622 ext. 215**

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Email the legislative contacts through their web site.

## Changes Coming to TRICARE Dental and Vision Insurance Coverage in 2019<sup>®</sup>

*This article by Jim Absher originally appeared on Military.com, the premier resource for the military and veteran community. It was published on MOAA web site.*

Starting in 2019, military retirees will have dental and vision coverage outside of TRICARE, while active-duty families will have access to vision coverage for the first time ever, thanks to a law passed by Congress in 2018.

### New Dental Insurance Plan

In 2019, the TRICARE Retiree Dental Plan is going away. Those covered under that plan who wish to keep coverage will be required to sign up for the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP), which is the same program used by civil service members and retirees.

The new dental plan will offer coverage options from 10 insurers, with each providing at least two different levels of coverage: standard and high. The high level typically offers a greater range of services and lower co-pay amounts than the standard version, but comes with a higher monthly cost.

Under both the current TRDP and the upcoming FEDVIP, monthly premiums are based on location. The premiums for both TRDP and FEDVIP are similar, so users may not experience a price jump, depending on the plan they choose.

For example, someone getting family coverage in Zone E, which is made up of 27 states, pays \$115 each month under the current TRDP, while the same person using FEDVIP would pay between \$60 and \$175 each month, depending on the insurance plan they choose.

Compared to TRDP, the new plans will offer a greater choice of dentists and more coverage options that retirees can tailor to their specific needs.

### New Vision Insurance Plan

Even bigger news is that in 2019 most retirees and active-duty family members will be newly eligible to enroll in the FEDVIP vision insurance program.

Vision coverage is currently not part of the TRICARE program. While beneficiaries now receive one free standard eye exam each year or every other year, depending on their plan and whether they are diabetic, exams for contacts are not covered, nor are glasses or contacts themselves.

But under the FEDVIP vision program, you will not only have a covered eye exam but, depending on your choice of coverage, you may be able to get glasses, contacts or both for free or a very deep discount. TRICARE will continue its current eye exam coverage system for those who do not enroll in the new vision plan.

Currently, there are four different insurers available in the FEDVIP vision program. Monthly family premiums range from \$19 to \$43.

Like the FEDVIP dental program, you will be able to choose from a greater number of eye care providers than are currently a part of the TRICARE networks, and tailor your coverage to fit your individual needs.

### Enrollment Information

If you are currently enrolled in TRDP, you will have to enroll in a FEDVIP dental plan during open season or you will lose your dental insurance in 2019.

If you want to enroll in the FEDVIP vision plan, you must also do it during open season. This year's open season runs from Nov. 12, 2018, through Dec. 10, 2018. You can make changes to your insurance each year during open season or when you experience a "qualifying life event" such as a job change, move or birth of a child.

While the enrollment period may seem like a long way off, if you are thinking about enrolling in either of these programs, it is probably a good idea to check them out ahead of time. The large number of plans and options can be pretty confusing.

If you plan on getting major dental work done, doing your homework can possibly save you a bunch of money. The new plan may be a lot cheaper than the current one, or vice versa.

Also, if you have kids who need braces, some insurance plans under FEDVIP require you to be enrolled for 12 months before insurance will pay for orthodontic care.

## Pet Insurance for Your Family's Cat or Dog

MOAA's new pet insurance program, offered through

**We're letting  
the cat  
out of the bag:**



Pets Best, now is available to MOAA members. There are plans with various deductibles and reimbursement levels to help cover veterinary expenses for a sick or injured cat or dog with an option to add a wellness benefit rider to cover regularly scheduled routine veterinary care. For those who want coverage for accidents only, a plan is available. For more information, visit [www.moaainsurance.com/personal-insurance/Pet-Insurance](http://www.moaainsurance.com/personal-insurance/Pet-Insurance). Pets Best was founded by a veterinarian in 2005. For details call; 1-877-934-9423 and mention referral code: MOAA.

**April Birthdays:** 3–Nick Spano, 14–US Air Force Reserve 16–Don Allen, 16–Tyler Strohecker,

20–Shawn Dickerson, 23–Jason Lassiter, 23–US Army Reserve 110 years old, 27–Wil Kline

**May Birthdays:** 1–Adam Hoover, 14–Jack Russell, 18–Mark Andrews, 25–Janet Oglesby, 28–Audrey Chengelis



## Veterans Waiting for Their New ID Card to Arrive by Mail Sometime in April

*This article by Amy Bushatz originally appeared on Military.com, the premier resource for the military and veteran community.*

Veterans waiting for their new ID card to arrive by mail won't see it until at least April, officials announced.

The free ID cards, available to honorably discharged veterans of all eras through the Department of Veterans Affairs website, were to be mailed in early March, VA officials told Military.com in January.

An email update sent March 13, however, announced that "printing and mailing for approved ID cards will begin in April."

The printing delay was caused by the review process, which must "ensure that a valid form of identification and image was provided," Curt Cashour, a VA spokesman, said in an email.

"VA is currently working with a print vendor to validate printed ID card samples, and we expect to complete this process soon so approved cards can be printed and mailed as soon as possible," he wrote.

Cards can also be downloaded and printed from Vets.gov. Almost 65,000 veterans had applied for the card as of March 13, Cashour said — about 50,000 new applications since late January.

The shipping delay is the latest in a series of errors since the cards' original rollout in late November.

The online application appeared to face major technical problems immediately after opening, and the VA in early December suspended new applications, instead posting a message asking veterans to submit an email address to receive updates. Applications opened again in late January.

The card program, which was ordered by Congress in 2015, is meant to give veterans a way to show proof of service to businesses and others without carrying their DD-214 discharge paperwork. It is not meant to replace other forms of military or veteran ID and does not serve as proof of qualification for any federal program. Veterans are not required to get the ID.

Veterans continue to encounter errors while applying for the card, according to feedback sent by veterans to Military.com. Some vets reported problems with the system accepting their service records, while others who reached out to VA officials for support were met with confusion.

"I even called President Trump's hotline for veterans and they forwarded my concern to a Dr. David J. Shulkin, the Secretary of the VA," one veteran wrote this week in an email to Military.com. "I heard back from a person in the VA and he told me that they have nothing to do with the new identification cards. They only deal with the identification cards for veterans that are getting medical coverage through the VA."

## Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter—Blue Star Families, Active Duty Members, YSU Grads

If you know anyone who is deployed, or will be deploying, overseas, please contact the USO so we can add them to our recipient list. We want to support as many of our dedicated military members as possible and keep them connected with home and family. **Contact Information:** Bruce A. Bille, USO Northern Ohio Youngstown Air Reserve Station Support Office, Office: (330) 609-2115 Cell/Text: (330) 333-0397 Fax: (330) 617-8515 E-mail: [USOTrumbullCo@gmail.com](mailto:USOTrumbullCo@gmail.com)

Son of Mark and Patty Andrews Maj Matt Andrews, USAF, deployed to Afghanistan til April 2018	
Son of Jim & Martha Bishop Lt Col Kevin Bishop, USAF, Kirtland AFB Albuquerque, New Mexico	
Son of Jim & Carrie Hosack, LT Brennan Hosack, USN, Key West, Florida	
Son of Tom & Julia MacRae Maj John MacRae, USAF, Elgin AFB, Florida F35 instructor pilot.	
Sons of Rick & Janice Morgan LTC Andrew Morgan, USA, at NASA, Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX LCDR Benjamin Morgan, USCG, with VTS (Vessel Traffic Service) at USCG Sector New Orleans, Louisiana	
Grandson of Tom & Marla Raseta A1C Joshua Raseta, USAF, Hill AFB, Ogden, Utah, F16 Fighter Squadron	
Son of Rick & Kelly Williams — PFC Garrett Williams, USA 82 <sup>nd</sup> Airborne at Fort Bragg, North Carolina	
Son of Mike and Barb Wisniewski — CW2 Steven Wisniewski, is a Maintenance Test Pilot for the AH-64D Apache helicopter. He is stationed at Ft Drum, NY part of the 10 <sup>th</sup> Mountain Division	
<b>Active Duty Chapter Members</b>	
Col James Dignan, USAFR, Pentagon	

LTC Wil Kline, USAR, Norfolk, Virginia
LT Jason Lassiter, USCG, Cleveland
Capt Joshua Palmer, Ohio Air National Guard, Rickenbacker
LCDR BJ Sacramento, USN, (COMSUBGRU 8) NSA Capodichino, Naples, Italy
MAJ Lisa Stremel, USA, Ft Hood, Texas
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Kristina Valentich, MC—USAFR, Youngstown Air Force Reserve Station
<b>YSU ROTC Graduates</b>
2013—1LT Eric Hippley, USA, Elmendorf/Richardson Alaska
2013—1LT Jacob Rafidi, USA, Virginia
2014—1LT Tyler Strohecker, USA, Ft Drum, New York
2014—1LT Lorin Davis, USA, Wheeler Army Airfield, Hawaii
2014—1LT James Stiger, Fort Leonard Wood with the 5 <sup>th</sup> EN BN
2015—2LT Jared Hideg, USA, Florida
2016—2LT Brandi Burrows, Military Intelligence, Ft. Campbell, Kentucky
2016—2LT Adam Hoover, Chemical Corps, Ft. Leonard Wood, MO then Korea
2016—2LT Matthew McIntire, Chemical Corps, currently at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO
2016—2LT David Smith, Infantry
2017—2LT Lonnie Bissmeyer, Signal Corps
2017—2LT Tierney McCaster, Fort Campbell Basic Officer Leadership Course (BOLC)

**Membership Meeting at YARS, Friday, 20 April 1300 hr — RSVP by Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> by 1800 hr**

Where: **Youngstown Air Force Reserve Station**  
Community Activity Center  
3976 King Graves Rd  
Vienna, OH 44473

Who: **Members, Spouses, Surviving Spouses**  
**BRING your FLY FISHING FRIENDS**



Social: **1230** no cash bar

Call to Order: **1300** (1:00 P.M.)

Program: **Ted Fauceglia** who will talk about Fly Fishing

Lunch: **1310** (pre order from the selections next column)

Attire: **Causal**

Pre order from the following selections.

RSVP:

1. Click here [next-chapter-event](#) to place your order. The web site is set up to take orders. A copy of the order goes to Janet and one to Bruce. It can't handle special requeststs, contact Janet for those.
2. Email Janet Oglesby [djo52800@neo.rr.com](mailto:djo52800@neo.rr.com) with your reservation and menu selection.
3. Or call 330-568-4456 leave a message. Make sure you state your menu selection.

Please pay at the lunch meeting with cash or check The "soup of the day" will be announced in the email reminder that arrives before the meeting.

**Entrees:**

- Please*
- Buffalo Chicken Wrap, beverage**.....\$8.00  
Lettuce, tomato, onion, shredded cheddar, ranch and buffalo sauce
  - Club Sandwich, beverage**..... \$8.00  
Ham, turkey, bacon, American & provolone cheese, lettuce, tomato and mayo
  - Reuben Sandwich, beverage**..... \$8.00  
Marble rye, corn beef, sauerkraut, swiss and dressing
  - Fish Sandwich, beverage** ..... \$6.00  
Tarter sauce and lettuce
  - Chef Salad, beverage, roll**.....\$9.00  
Cherry tomatoes, sliced red onions, cucumber, hard-boiled eggs, shredded cheddar and pepper jack cheese, julienne ham and turkey  
Your choice of Italian, Balsamic, French, Ranch dressing

**Side Options:**

- Side Salad**..... \$3.00  
tomatoes, cucumbers, black olives & cheese
- French Fries** ..... \$1.00
- Cup of "Soup of Day" chili is always available**..... \$3.00
- Salad Dressing**  
Your choice of Italian, Balsamic, French, Ranch dressing

Note if you only order side options, beverage is \$1.00

**MOAA™ Valleys Chapter**  
Military Officers Association of America  
NOSC-Youngstown  
3976 King Graves Road Bldg #540  
Vienna, OH 44473-5980

Last Year Awards



5-star chapter



5-star web site



4-star newsletter

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