

# MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

APRIL 2020 Volume:11 Issue 3



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rod Hosler

As Thomas Paine wrote, "These are the times that try men's soul,...." The fear of the China/Wuhan Coronavirus (COVID-19) is widespread through the world and especially here in America. Because of the current situation, the MSVC-MOAA has curtailed many activities for the next couple of months. As everyone is aware, the March meeting has been cancelled as had out 30 April Cadet Night Dinner because the CAC is closed. Other activities we participate in have also been cancelled; YSU ROTC Awards Ceremony, East High School Army JROTC Awards Ceremony, and Trumbull County Technical Center Air Force JROTC Awards Ceremony and other programs and activities.

We'll try to keep every one updates through our news letters and e-mails. As it stands now, we are still scheduled to have our Thursday, 21 May dinner meeting at the CAC with Colonel Terri Cole from MOAA National Headquarters, were MOAA will recognize Janet Oglesby for her contributions to MOAA and our Chapter.



## Colonel Marvin Harris Communications Award

I am pleased to announce the Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter is awarded the Colonel Marvin Harris Communications Award, FIVE STAR recognition for our printed newsletter and website. Congratulations and well done Janet Oglesby and Bruce Bille. Four other Ohio Council of Chapters, chapters also received five Star recognition.

## LEGISLATIVE NOTES: MOAA News

Last week, MOAA joined fellow veterans' service organizations to call on the secretaries of the departments of the Treasury and Veterans Affairs to make it easier for recipients of VA payments to receive stimulus money.

Congress took aggressive action in response to the COVID-19 pandemic with the passage of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Along with funding for the response efforts, the bill authorizes a one-time payment called a "recovery rebate" to be sent to most American adults.

These \$1,200 payments are subject to certain eligibility and income requirements. The process to verify the requirements and quickly distribute the aid is critically important to support those in need.

Individuals' tax returns are one of the main tools for the government to automatically process a payment. Those who filed a tax return in 2018 or 2019 will automatically receive a payment via direct deposit, if eligible.

However, not all Americans eligible for the payment can be tracked through this method. Unique to the military community are veterans who have service-connected disabilities and survivors who receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC).

MOAA co-signed an April 3 letter to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and VA Secretary Robert Wilkie, calling on them to avoid unnecessary paperwork and to use existing systems to identify and make direct payments to VA beneficiaries and Social Security recipients.

"We are gravely concerned that absent quick and decisive action from the Administration, millions of seriously disabled veterans, their survivors and caregivers — who are among the most vulnerable Americans during the ongoing coronavirus health crisis — may never receive this critical financial support," the veterans service organizations' letter states.

In addition to VSO support, the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Jerry Moran (R-Kansas) and Ranking Member Jon Tester (D-Mont.) are urging cooperation between the Treasury and VA. Moran called for "leveraging existing resources and data with the IRS will reduce bureaucratic hurdles for our veterans and get them the needed CARES Act relief money faster."

April 2020

**MSVC Presses Ahead with Cadet Awards**

*By David J. Di Tallo*

The coronavirus (COVID 19) may have cancelled the Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter – Military Officers Association of America’s April 30 Cadet Night Dinner, but it will not stop them from recognizing area JROTC and ROTC cadets. While area schools and colleges remain closed, the chapter will still present MOAA JROTC and ROTC Medals to outstanding cadets and recognize those about to receive their commissions.

Retired U.S. Army Master Sergeant David Moon from East High School’s (Youngstown, OH) Army JROTC program has nominated **Cadet Justin Trammell** for the **MOAA JROTC Medal**. Cadet Trammell is a junior and his JROTC Battalion’s Command Sergeant Major. In addition, he participates in Academic Team, Raider Team, Air Rifle Team, Color Guard, and Drill Team. When the Youngstown City Schools reschedule their annual JROTC awards ceremony, MSVC-MOAA will be there to present Cadet Trammell’s award, as well as **a fifty dollar cash prize**.

Youngstown State University Assistant Professor of Military Science Joseph Paydock has nominated junior class cadet **Ting-Yu Chiu** for the **MOAA ROTC Medal**. He will receive **a three hundred dollar cash prize** in addition to his medal. Chiu is currently enlisted in the Ohio National Guard and majors in Criminal Justice.

Professor Paydock reports YSU Army ROTC will commission four new Second Lieutenants at the close of the academic year in May:



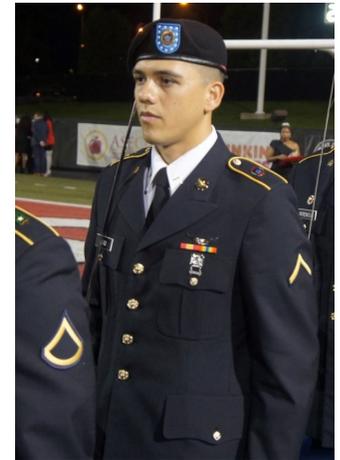
**Nicholas Armeni** (Military Police), **Jordan Hall** (Infantry), **Isabella Wagner** (Ordnance), and **Macauley White** (Infantry). Together with the **Reserve Officers Association (ROA)**, MSVC-MOAA will present each graduate with second lieutenant rank and branch insignia and a copy of The Army Officer’s Guide. **Cadet Armeni was the chapter’s 2019 MOAA ROTC Medal** winner and attended last year’s Cadet Night Dinner.

Even though this year’s Cadet Night Dinner is cancelled, **members can still contribute the on-going support of the chapter’s awards program by donating to its scholarship fund**. Monies collected are used to cover the cost of the MOAA medals, certificates, uniform insignia, and books. Contributions may be sent to chapter Treasurer Florence Hosler, included with annual dues assessments, or made when checking in for chapter lunch/dinner events.

The officers and board members thank everyone for their ongoing generosity in the important endeavor.



Cadet Justin Trammell, Army JROTC, East High School, Youngstown, OH. (Photo courtesy of MSG Moon)



Cadet Ting-Yu Chiu, Army ROTC, Youngstown State University. (Photo courtesy of YSU ROTC)



Cadet Jordan Hall, Army ROTC, Youngstown State University. (Photo courtesy of YSU ROTC)



Cadet Isabella Wagner, Army ROTC, Youngstown State University. (Photo courtesy of YSU ROTC)

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**MSVC Currently Serving Profile – Steven Wisniewski**

*By David J. Di Tallo*

Currently serving chapter member Chief Warrant Officer (CW2) Steven Wisniewski, U.S. Army is currently deployed, since November of 2019, to Herat, Afghanistan, where he flies the AH-60D APACHE helicopter with Company A, 1-10 Attack Reconnaissance Brigade, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division. His father and fellow MSVC member, retired Lieutenant Colonel Michael Wisniewski, U.S. Army, was kind enough to share some details about Steven, his career, and his current assignment.

Steven grew up in northeast Ohio and graduated from Howland High School in 2001. He was awarded an Army ROTC scholarship and attended The Ohio State University (GO BUCKS!), graduating in 2006 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Systems Engineering and commissioning into the Aviation Branch as a Second Lieutenant.



CW2 Steven Wisniewski, USA and 1LT Holmes beside their AH-64D APACHE attack helicopter at Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Vienna, OH in 2019 during a cross-county ferry flight.  
*(photo by Michael Wisniewski)*

After undergoing flight training at Ft. Rucker, Alabama, Steven qualified in the APACHE helicopter and headed to Illshheim, Germany in 2009 to begin his first assignment. There he met his wife, Astrid, a native of Munich, and they were married in March 2014 just as Steven was being transferred to Fort Bliss, TX for his first state-side assignment.

At Ft. Bliss Steven served as Commander, Company D, 4-501 Attack and Reconnaissance Brigade, which afforded him the opportunity to become a Maintenance Test Pilot (MTP) and Aviation Maintenance Officer. As an MTP he was responsible for ensuring aircraft were flight worthy after any maintenance or repair procedures, which included checking all systems and flying the aircraft for a performance test, if necessary.

After two years in Texas, Steven and Astrid were fortunate to return to Germany. Steven was stationed at a multi-national training site of Hoenfels, just north of Munich, where he qualified in the UH-72A LAKOTA helicopter as a Maintenance Evaluator/Trainer for aviation units rotating in and out of their training cycles. According to Michael, off post housing in the rolling hills of Bavaria, unlimited speed limit on the German Autobahn, and the proximity of Astrid's family were the highlights of this tour.

As Steven and Astrid returned to the U.S. in 2018, they had two major life changes. First, their son Lucas was born in May, and, secondly, Steven elected to resign his commission in October and accept a new one as a Warrant Officer, allowing him to continue as a pilot and MTP for the duration of his career.

Steven's current deployment to Afghanistan is his second, along with combat tours in Iraq and Kuwait, but modern communications are making it easier for him to stay in touch with family. Steven uses FaceTime to video-chat with his wife and son frequently, as long as all are mindful of the 8.5 hour time difference with New York, where Astrid and Lucas remain. Michael points out that is a far cry from when he had to wait in line for hours for a ten minute phone call home in Operation DESERT STORM!

The world-wide outbreak of the coronavirus has affected Steven and other U.S. forces in Afghanistan, with most of the on-post shops closed, along with the gym and common recreation areas. Michael suspects that the virus will surely impact future deployments/redeployments and may determine when Steven's unit can rotate home to New York. Lastly, the current peace initiative between the U.S., Afghanistan, and the Taliban signed last month has affected the type of missions and amount of flight hours Steven is now logging. But Michael reports that twelve-hour duty days remain the norm, albeit with a bit more leisure time.



CW2 Steven Wisniewski, USA, wife Astrid, and son Lucas in Fort Drum, New York October 2019 before Steven's departure for Afghanistan. *(photo by Michael Wisniewski)*

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**China/Wuhan Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

We all need to be concerned, but not petrified with fear. Follow the guidelines from the CDC and you should be alright. Practicing standard sanitation and hygiene regimens is a top priority.

- Practice social distancing. Stay home if you don't need to go out.
- Encourage frequent and thorough hand washing with soap and water.
- Keep nose and mouth covered when coughing or sneezing, use the crook of your elbow or handkerchief or tissues, and dispose of them properly.
- Avoid touching nose, mouths and areas in and around the eyes, with unwashed hands.
- Use hand sanitizer, with at least 60% alcohol content, is a secondary option.
- Avoid going out if you feel sick and avoid others who may be sick.
- Get plenty of rest and eat a proper diet and drink plenty of fluids (water or juice).
- If you don't feel well within 24 to 48 hours, go to your doctor.



Cadet Nicholas Armeni, Army ROTC, Youngstown State University. (Photo courtesy of YSU ROTC)



April 2020

**Interview with LTC Joseph Paydock, USA (Ret.)**

By David J. Di Tallo

The coronavirus (COVID 19) may have led to the cancellation of the Mahoning and Shenango Valleys Chapter – Military Officers Association of America’s March 20 Lunch Meeting, but scheduled guest Joseph Paydock, Assistant Professor of Military Science and Chairman, YSU Department of Military Science, was amenable to conducting an interview...at a safe distance. Via email!

For those who are not familiar with how the current program is organized, LTC Paydock explained that YSU is a satellite of Kent State University’s (KSU’s) Army ROTC, led by Professor of Military Science LTC David Simms, USA, who has overall responsibility for ROTC at both colleges.

So how the YSU Army ROTC unit is faring with the university shutdown. And will senior cadets be able to complete their course requirements, graduate, and receive their commissions?

According to LTC Paydock, “Like the rest of the university, we are conducting virtual classes. We’re using various platforms (Blackboard, WebEx, YouTube Live, etc.), and they all seem to be going well.” Unfortunately, he reports, the shutdown means ROTC is unable to complete its labs. “A large part of our weekly training is the ROTC lab,” Paydock explained. “...we get all the cadets together to train on various collective tasks (tactics), which are key events in preparing our juniors to attend their Advanced Camp each summer at Fort Knox, KY.” At this point, the final decision for this year’s Advanced Camp has not been made.

On the positive side, LTC Paydock does not anticipate any hiccups with YSU or Army regarding senior class cadets graduating and receiving their commissions (see accompanying article *MSVC Presses Ahead with Cadet Awards*). “The university is working to ensure graduation and the Army is moving toward commissioning.”

Before the coronavirus hit, YSU’s ROTC unit was having a splendid year, with thirty-two cadets enrolled. LTC Paydock observed that the overall unit size has not varied much since he arrived in August 2016, however, “...we are anticipating a junior class of 10 or more next fall, and I don’t believe that has happened in many years.” He pointed out that in the twenty or so years he has been associated with KSU/YSU ROTC he has not had that large of a prospective junior class, which means more commissioning’s in the years to come.

Paydock observed that Fall Semester was fairly typical for his program. In September alumnus Richard Tropea again sponsored a golf outing and fund raiser at Avalon Lakes Golf Club in Warren, Ohio. “Over the past four years, the outing has grown tremendously with the assistance of the YSU Alumni Office and YSU President Jim Tressel’s wife, Ellen,” he explained. “The outing is usually held close to September 11th is now done in conjunction with the Cincinnati Awards dinner sponsored by YSU Veterans Affairs.”

Also during Fall Semester ROTC unit supports YSU home football games with a Color Guard and canon tribute. They also host a Military Ball in conjunction with KSU, alternating sites every year. For Fall Semester 2020, YSU will be the location.

While many Spring Semester events were forcibly cancelled, the YSU cadets were able to complete an early 2020 trip to Washington, DC. Paydock explained, “We took sixteen cadets (all who wanted to go could go) on a three day trip to the nation’s capital.” While there they had dinner with YSU ROTC alumni, toured the Pentagon and the U.S. Capitol, and visited Arlington National Cemetery and the National Cathedral.

For many MSVC members LTC Paydock is a familiar face, but others will be interested to learn he hails from Cleveland, OH, attended the University of Toledo, and was commissioned through Army ROTC as an Armor Officer in 1987.

After his basic course, LTC Paydock reported to the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment in Amberg, Germany as a Tank Platoon Leader. In December 1990, the regiment deployed to Kuwait as part of Operation DESERT SHIELD and later DESERT STORM. Following the conflict, Paydock moved to Fort Hood, TX to serve with the 2nd Armored Division as a Staff Officer and Company Commander.

He remained at Ft. Hood for his next assignment with 5th Army, supporting operations and training for the Louisiana National Guard, before moving to KSU in the summer of 1999 for a tour as an ROTC instructor. When he left active duty in 2002, Paydock secured a contractor position to remain at KSU ROTC, joined the Army Reserves, and finally retired from uniformed service in December 2015. In 2016 he accepted his current contracted assignment as Professor of Military Science at YSU.

When MSVC is able to resume “normal operations”, we will be pleased to invite LTC Paydock back as a guest speaker and hear how YSU ROTC has fared.

April 2020

**MSVC 2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- 21 May: Dinner Meeting at CAC, YARS, speaker: MOAA National Staffer.
- 25 May: MEMORIAL DAY Ceremonies (Oak Hill Cemetery, 8:30 AM, Youngstown).
- 25 Jun: Dinner Meeting at Golden Corral Hermitage, PA.
- 23 Jul: Meeting and Rifle & Pistol Shoot, Vienna Rod & Gun Club.
- 01 Aug: YSU ROTC Alumni Picnic Reunion, Pollock House Pavilion, 12:00 PM.
- 14 Aug: D-Day at Conneaut. Reservations required by Mahoning County Veterans Service Commission.
- 20 Aug: Steak Fry & Corn Roast Dinner Meeting, at CAC, YARS.



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**YSU ROTC Alumni Picnic Reunion**

*Join Us on August 1, 2020!*

**Saturday, August 1, 2020 • 12 p.m.**  
**POLLOCK HOUSE PAVILION**

633 Wick Avenue, Youngstown, OH 44502

As winter fades, it's time to start thinking summer, and our next

**ROTC Alumni Picnic - Saturday, August 1, 2020.**

Voluntary donation this year is \$15 per person, which includes everything - no need to bring that big dish of baked beans again, or that delicious pie from Giant Eagle!

Please RSVP to Dave Long at [borderlinepao@gmail.com](mailto:borderlinepao@gmail.com) if you are planning to attend the picnic. You can also text Dave at 585-857-1876.

**MEMBERSHIPRENEWAL for MAHONING SHENANGO VALLEYS CHAPTER MOAA**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Military Status \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Name \_\_\_\_\_

Branch \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Years Active/Reserve \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Regular Member (Retired, Former, Active\* Officer of the seven uniformed US Services (Membership \$20/year)