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TIMELY TOPICS

Capitol Area Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
Chapter Website: www.cacmoaa.org

Vol 2024 No 2

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February Program

Please join us for our February program! Our featured speaker this month is Edward Pocock. Edward is an architect with the Smith Group of Detroit. His program will discuss the planning, construction and development of new hospitals, recently, that of the new McLaren Greater Lansing Hospital. His discussion will include trends in the development of healthcare facilities, and how they impact both the hospital and patients utilizing them. Come join us as we continue to bring excellent and informative programs to our members!

February 2024 CAC MOAA Dinner Meeting

When: Thursday, 8 February 2024

Our dinner meeting will take place at Coral Gables, located at 2838 East Grand River Avenue, East Lansing, MI, Thursday, 8 February. Social hour begins at 5:30 and dinner begins at 6:30. The meal is buffet style which includes: Grilled Chicken Teriyaki, Roast Loin of Pork w/Gravy, Corn, and Whipped Potatoes. All dinners include a Greek Salad and Ice Cream with Chocolate Sauce. Cost is \$28. Please RSVP by Monday, 5 February to www.cacmoaa.org or contact: Tony Kruckeberg at (517) 575-9386, or email at armyblkhawk@yahoo.com



2023 Financial Summary

We ended the year with a deficit of \$437. Our spending remained constant, but we did not receive some additional money from National MOAA and USAA that we received in past years, one sponsor chose not to renew their advertisement in our newsletter, and our dues received were down a bit. Please encourage any businesses you frequent to advertise in our newsletter. We will put their business card in the newsletter for 10 issues per year for \$150. Our membership is decreasing and we need everyone's help to recruit new members. The first year is free and at \$15 a year, our dues are quite inexpensive! If there are any questions or you would like a more detailed explanation, please contact our Treasurer, Maj DeLee Dankenbring at 517-614-6090 or email deleemarie@aol.com

State of Michigan Commanders Group

The Michigan Commanders Group is the coalition of Michigan's congressionally chartered Veterans Service Organizations. Collectively, these organizations represent Michigan's 550,000+ veterans and their families, and have been the state's leaders in successfully advocating for this population for nearly 100 years. The following link takes you to state and federal legislative priorities as well as the ability for you to contact your State and Federal legislatures: <https://michigancommandersgroup.org/Contact.php>

****REMINDER****

Bring your cleaned and bagged bottles and cans to our next meeting to support chapter initiatives!

Army Opens Warrant Officer Recruiting Roles as It Struggles to Fill the Ranks

(Editor's note: This article by Steve Beynon originally appeared on [Military.com](#), a leading source of news for the military and veteran community.)

The Army on Wednesday [opened up applications](#) for its new "talent acquisition technician" role for warrant officers as part of its efforts to overhaul [recruiting](#). The service is looking for a total of 225 applicants across three selection boards to beef up its new job designation -- 420T -- after years of missing goals for bringing in new soldiers and struggling to pitch existing noncommissioned officers to be recruiters, [according to a memo to the force](#). The deadline for the first wave of applications is Feb. 2. The new warrant officer program is meant to install more consistency in the recruiting ranks and be a bridge between recruiting and marketing. Some recruiters have told Military.com that by the time recruiters get up to snuff on the bureaucratic processes and get more comfortable with pitching service, they move on with their career. The service aims to eventually phase out involuntary recruiting assignments between the warrant officer program and a new talent acquisition military occupational specialty for noncommissioned officers.

That first cohort will be mid-career warrant officers, as the Army prefers those with previous recruiting experience or a bachelor's degree in marketing, data analytics, psychology or human resources.

The second pool of applicants the Army is looking for are permanently assigned, active-duty recruiters between the rank of staff sergeant and master sergeant. Those NCOs must also be graduates of the Advanced Leadership Course, have at least an associate degree or 60 hours of semester hours. Applications for that cohort are due March 4.

The third round will be open to all active-duty NCOs between sergeant and master sergeant, regardless of occupational specialty. Both of those NCO cohorts will have a modified warrant officer selection board. The application deadline for the last cohort is April 1. Each cohort will attend a 75-person class at [Fort Knox](#), Kentucky.

The Army faces a two-pronged issue with recruiting. It faces a yearslong recruiting slump as the military branches struggle to pitch service to young Americans and get them into boots. The challenge has a variety of causes that are partly out of the Pentagon's control, including a surging obesity epidemic and poor investment across many jurisdictions in public schools, which has led to applicants who can't meet weight or academic standards to enlist. It is also struggling to pitch recruiting to NCOs already serving. Recruiters often work long hours and irregular schedules. The eight-week recruiting school at Fort Knox can train 2,866 students per year [but only graduated 1,336](#) last year -- leading to a major shortage of recruiters. In November, the Army sent out involuntary orders to hundreds of NCOs to attend recruiting school, spurring ire across the rank and file just before the holidays. Some of those NCOs were given only a week's notice to attend the course and faced being assigned anywhere in the country for recruiting duty, which was a massive challenge for families on such short notice. Huge swaths of those NCOs wiggled out of those orders, and for the first recruiting class following those orders, only 132 out of 200 NCOs showed up, according to personnel data provided to Military.com.

Meanwhile, recruiters and some [lawmakers on Capitol Hill](#) are pointing to Military Health System Genesis, which launched in March 2022, as part of the recruiting problem. That program centralized medical records en masse from participating medical providers. In some cases, recruiters say applicants are being denied enlistments altogether because of increased scrutiny on medical or mental health issues that are no longer relevant, minor or are incomplete due to Genesis' data collection, unfairly disqualifying them from service or delaying the process.

The Army has not finalized a timeline for the new enlisted MOS, which will be designated 42T. It's unclear how that new MOS will be functionally different from the current 79R recruiter MOS, but Army Secretary Christine Wormuth [told reporters in October](#) the service is aiming to be more aligned with the talent recruiting goals of civilian corporations.

[RELATED: More Recommended Reads From MOAA]

Executive Board Meeting
Thursday, 8 February 2024 @ 11:30 am - 1:00 pm @ Piazzano's restaurant, 1825 N. Grand River Ave,
Lansing

2024-2026
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Membership

For membership inquiries please use this link: www.cacmoaa.org. For eligibility or other questions regarding membership please contact Bruce Bahr at (517) 526-2406. **Why join?** <https://youtu.be/42YD9d8W15Q>

CAC Mission Statement

Our mission is to support legislative and charitable initiatives at the local, state, and national levels to enhance our families, communities and country.

Support our Scholarship Program with a Kroger Card!!

We continue to increase our enrollment in the Kroger Community Rewards Program! Thank you for all of your support in signing up and shopping with Kroger. For those interested in beginning the program, our chapter non-profit organization number is: JR311, use this number when contacting Kroger for admission to the program and Kroger will donate a portion of your purchase to the CAC MOAA chapter scholarship fund.

Veterans Crisis Line

The Veterans Crisis Line connects veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text. Veterans and their loved ones can call (800) 273-8255 and press 1, chat online, or send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Support for deaf and hard of hearing individuals is available.

Your local Capitol Area Chapter and National MOAA are nonpartisan groups representing all members regarding legislative issues and current events affecting you and your community! For more information regarding issues that affect you and your family members please use this link: <http://takeaction.moaa.org> or call (800) 234-6622/(703) 549-2311

Newsletter

Help the chapter reduce newsletter costs by requesting an email version in lieu of a printed copy. If you are able to and would like to get this via email, or if you need some help with it, contact me at moaaeditor@gmail.com or call (517) 526-2406

Chapter Scholarships

Scholarship Applications are due 15 March. The size of our Scholarship fund will determine how many scholarships we can grant. We had over \$11,100 available to award in each of the last two years thanks to your generosity. Now is the time to make a donation and help us reach a goal of providing a scholarship or book award to all eligible applicants. Make checks payable to Capitol Area Chapter MOAA and bring to the next Chapter Meeting or mail to: Maj DeLee Dankenbring, 992 Pennine Ridge Way, Grand Ledge, MI 48837