

MARCH 2019

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Northern New Jersey Chapter

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The luncheons have returned to Cannon Gate located at Cannon Gate Catering and Conference Center BLDG 121.

MARCH PROGRAM

SCOTT MECHKOWSKI
 Customs/Border Patrol operations at our southern border.

President's Message — BG William (Bill) Marshall, USA, RET

Hope you all are staying warm during this prolonged cold and nasty winter weather and I want to thank all of you who were able to join us for the February Luncheon and get a chance to see some of the innovation associated with the Army's newest command. Futures Command is headquartered in Austin, Texas and charged with the modernization and sustainment mission for the Army and preparing for future support and operations. Stanley Emelander, a former Army Officer, West Point Graduate and current Department of Defense civilian at Picatinny did a great job at breaking down the differences between how the Army use to look at sustaining and maintaining the force and what Future Command brings to the table in keeping the Army prepared to meet the mission, take care of the soldier and maintain readiness standards. Ironically what Stan did with his great presentation in 35 minutes I had to endure in a recent two-day seminar, and I think his presentation was much more effective. Thanks to Dr. Roland Brown for providing this program. Roland is a friend of Stan's and suggested that we get this briefing.

William Evers. Bill has served for almost a decade in this capacity and brought energy, commitment and professionalism to a difficult undertaking. He has been in many cases the meet and greeter of the Chapter as the interface to new members. Bill has been battling medical issues that he feels have impacted his ability to provide the level of commitment required to do the job properly. I want to personally thank Bill and Cheryl for the many contributions they've made to the Chapter and look forward to their continued participation in Chapter activities.

Looking down the road we will continue to provide interesting and timely programs for our monthly luncheon gathering and we are always opting to make improvements that make sense and accommodate our members.

In closing the New Jersey National Guard will be deploying thousands of soldiers and airman over the coming months in support of active units in the field and I ask all of you to keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

I thank you all for your service and your continued support of the guys and gals that wear the uniform and protect and defend the American values that make this the greatest Country on earth.

Respectfully,
 Bill

Recently the Executive Board met at Picatinny to discuss and report out on committee and Chapter activities and sadly accept the resignation of our long time Membership Committee Chair Colonel

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SPEAKER INFORMATION

Scott E. Mechkowski, *Deputy Field Office Director, New York Field Office*

Acting Deputy Field Office Director Mechkowski has been employed by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the legacy Immigration and Naturalization Service, for 20 years. During this period, Mr. Mechkowski has held the following positions: Deportation Officer, Supervisory Deportation Officer, Senior Field Training Officer, Special Response Team and Disturbance Control Team Commander for the New York Field Office. Mr. Mechkowski has also served as a Staff Officer in ICE Headquarters and was used as a subject matter expert to coordinate and develop the On the Job Program (OJT).

Mr. Mechkowski is a veteran of the United States Army and an active member of the New Jersey National Guard. Mr. Mechkowski is the recipient of a Bronze Star for his action during the Iraqi Freedom 08-09.

MILITARY HISTORY CORNER

MARCH 13, 1942

The Quartermaster Corps (QMC) of the United States Army begins training dogs for the newly established War Dog Program, or "K-9 Corps." Well over a million dogs served on both sides during World War I, carrying messages along the complex network of trenches and providing some measure of psychological comfort to the soldiers. The most famous dog to emerge from the war was Rin Tin-Tin, an abandoned puppy of German war dogs found in France in 1918 and taken to the United States, where he made his film debut in the 1922 silent film *The Man from Hell's River*. As the first bona fide animal movie star, Rin Tin-Tin made the little-known German Shepherd breed famous across the country.

In the United States, the practice of training dogs for military purposes was largely abandoned after World War I. When the country entered World War II in December 1941, the American Kennel Association and a group called Dogs for Defense began a movement to mobilize dog owners to donate healthy and capable animals to the Quartermaster Corps of the U.S. Army. Training began in March 1942, and that fall the QMC was given the task of training dogs for the U.S. Navy, Marines and Coast Guard as well.

The K-9 Corps initially accepted over 30 breeds of dogs, but the list was soon narrowed to seven: German Shepherds, Belgian sheep dogs, Doberman Pinschers, collies, Siberian Huskies, Malamutes and Eskimo dogs. Members of the K-9 Corps were trained for a total of 8 to 12 weeks. After basic obedience training, they were sent through one of four specialized programs to prepare them for work as sentry dogs, scout or patrol dogs, messenger dogs or mine-detection dogs. In active combat duty, scout dogs proved especially essential by alerting patrols to the approach of the enemy and preventing surprise attacks.

Dues Notices

March 3: Navy Reserve Birthday

March 5: Navy Seabee Birthday

March 13: K9 Veterans Day; March 13, 1942 is the official birthday of the United States K9 Corps. [K9 Veterans Day](#) is meant to honor all military and working dogs for their service and sacrifice for our nation.

March 29: [Vietnam Veterans Day](#) This day is set aside to show honor and respect to Vietnam veterans. For veteran stories and historical articles from the Vietnam War, see

Checks for CHAPTER dues, scholarship fund donations, and luncheons are to be made out to NNJ-MOAA. Please indicate the purpose of the check, i.e., dues, scholarship, etc.

Checks for luncheons should be mailed to Chuck Sweetman at the address on page 4.

Checks for CHAPTER dues and scholarship donations are to be mailed to:

CPT Jeffery Carr, USA
Treasurer, NNJ-MOAA
4 Tanglewood Way
Budd Lake, NJ 07828-2542

Annual Chapter dues are:

Regular Members \$25
Surviving Spouses \$15

Checks for **MOAA National dues** are to be made out to MOAA National and sent to:

MOAA
PO Box 1488
Merrifield, VA 22116



This newsletter distributed through our e-mail. Going forward the newsletter will be e-mailed to the members.

Those members not possessing an e-mail account will receive hard copies. We currently have nine members that are registered for mail. Should a reason exist for you to contact a specific member, contact one of the officers listed

2019 Lunch Schedule

BRING YOUR ANNUAL DUES TO THE MARCH MEETING

March 15, Friday

April 19, Friday

May 17, Friday

June 21, Friday

July 19, Friday

August 16, Friday



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Current Chapter Officers and Committee Chairmen

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