



Forged under Fire

# Dallas Military Order News



Volume 30, No. 3

**Best Large Chapter in the Nation again**

September 2021



The 2021 MOWW National Convention, held in Dearborn, Michigan, this year, drew ten of the Past **Commanders-in-Chief** of the Order. (left to right) Dave Gibson, Phil St. Amant, Russ Vowinkel, **John Hayes**, LTG Sam Wetzel, Dave Titus, Clay LeGrande, Gary Engen, John Hollywood, and **Chuck Chamberlin**. Dallas Chapter is, the only Chapter in the Nation that can claim to having provided seven (7) Past CINC's. (Our seven were: Harley West ('66), Adrian Hoebeke ('76), Homer Schmidt ('03), Rollie Stevens ('04), Cliff Way ('12), John Hayes ('16), and Chuck Chamberlin ('20).

## This Month's Speaker, September 2021

### **"Inspiring to Soar"**

Jason Morgan is a retired Special Operations Command (SOCOM) *Pararescue* airman, who was permanently disabled while on a "special operations" drug raid in the jungles of Ecuador.

Jason is the best-selling author of a book entitled, "*A Dog Called Hope*". Jason was discovered face-down in a Central American swamp after a jungle mission gone wrong. He had a smashed spine, collapsed lungs and countless broken bones. When he awoke from a months-long coma, he was told he'd never walk again. Months of surgery followed, with Jason's life balanced on a knife-edge.



Jason Morgan and Napal

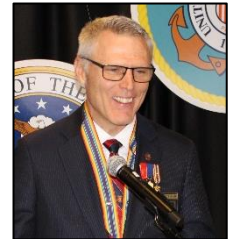
Released from hospital in a wheelchair and plagued by memory loss, Jason's life fell apart. Left alone to raise his three infant sons, all hope seemed gone, until Jason met Napal, a handsome-as-hell black Labrador. With Napal's help, Jason was able to conquer his paralysis, eventually completing a marathon and winning numerous medals in the Wounded Warrior Games. More than that, this amazing dog taught Jason to be the father his kids needed him to be.

*A Dog Called Hope* is the inspirational story of how Jason rediscovered his life's mission, his strength as a father and, through his beloved dog, his hope. It's the story of the closeness between a man and his dog like no other, and how this mesmerizing duo has changed countless lives.

## Commander's Call

### **The Commander's Report**

The Best Large Chapter in the MOWW has just gone through an unusual event. While at the MOWW Annual Convention, chapter commander, Jeff Butcher, resigned as Commander. His decision was based on an unfortunate incident regarding cancellation of the August speaker, because he felt the subject was inappropriate and would be hurtful for some chapter members. Without belaboring the details, it then became necessary to install a new Commander, as soon as possible, following the procedures established in the chapter's By Laws and Policies.



CPT Jeff Butcher

Upon returning from the Convention, the chapter's three living Past Commander's-in-Chief, CPT (USN) Rollie Stevens, CPT (USAF) John Hayes, and LTC (USA) Chuck Chamberlin, met to review the events that precipitated Jeff's resignation. The next day, the Past CINC's met with the Texas Department Commander, LT (USN) Chuck Daniels, and agreed to provide a formal, in-person, presentation to the Past Chapter Commanders. Following the briefing, intense mixed emotions were aired regarding the incident and Jeff's subsequent resignation.



The 3 CINC's

Chapter By Laws require the chapter staff to vote on a commander's replacement, whenever a vacancy occurs prior to the next scheduled elections [in May]. The By Laws stipulate that the line of succession should be followed,

Commander's Call (continued)

specifying the Senior Vice Commander, and then the Junior Vice Commander, in that order. The chapter staff met, with a quorum present, and voted the following:

1) Army LTC Russ Hooper was asked to remain as Senior Vice Commander, considering his retirement from his JROTC unit at the end of the *current* school year (a consideration that he had raised when he agreed to accept the position of Junior Vice, in 2019). He would then have much more time to devote to fulfilment of his duties as Chapter Commander.

2) The Staff voted to offer the vacant position of Chapter Commander to LtCol (USMC) Michael Menefee. The chapter would then need to fill the Junior Vice Commander vacancy, as soon as possible.



LtCol Michael Menefee

There were lots of dynamics that occurred leading up to the chapter staff's decision and the Past CINCs thank all concerned for supporting the difficult compromises made, and for reaching this decision.

Our sincere congratulations to Michael Menefee, who accepted the offer to fill the vacancy as our newest Dallas Chapter Commander. He will be sworn in during our Luncheon on Tuesday, September 7, 2021.

*Chuck Chamberlin*  
*Past National Commander-in-Chief*  
*Military Order of World Wars*

Scouting USA

**Soaring with Eagles**

Despite the restrictions imposed to control the latest variant of the deadly Corona virus, GSA and coed Scout Troops throughout the Metroplex continue to encourage their young men and women to pursue their dream of attaining Scouting's highest rank. Hats off to Companion Bill Farmer for his efforts to ensure that their achievements are properly recognized.



The Court of Honor for the newest Eagle Scouts of Troop 402

Last Month's Speaker, August 2021

**The Nation's Obsolescent Nuclear Weapons**

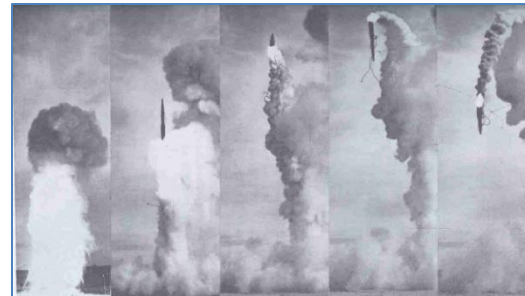
The headline of a recent New York Times edition read: **"U.S. military warns - China is building more nuclear missile silos"**.

As a former ICBM Minuteman Missile Launch Officer, in Strategic Air Command (now, *Air Force Global Strike Command*) past Dallas Chapter Commander, Paul Brown, spoke from firsthand experience of the urgent need for the US to examine its current nuclear capability and to take corrective action to modernize it.



Capt (USAF) Paul Brown, Missileman

Paul reminded a captivated audience that the Minuteman Missile was conceived during the Eisenhower Administration. It became operational in 1962! The Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) and the



Strategic Arms Reductions Talks (START) led to the reduction of our land-based arsenal from over 6,000 missiles to the current aging inventory of 405 Minutemen.

In keeping with our Preamble

**Speaker Programs Just Keep Getting Better**

**7 Sep 21 – Jason Morgan, USAF (Ret) Pararescue Airman**  
**"Inspiring to Soar"**

**5 Oct 21 – Michael Menefee, Dallas Chapter Commander**  
**"Bronze Patrick Henry Awards"**

**2 Nov 21 – Jeremy Mahugh, former Navy SEAL**  
**"Working to End Human Trafficking"**

**7 Dec 21 – Annual Dallas Christmas Banquet**  
**"Remembering Pearl Harbor"**

**4 Jan 22 – Not Yet Confirmed**

**1 Feb 22 – Not Yet Confirmed**

## Law and Order

### Chapter salutes Dallas' Finest Officers in Blue

On 8 Sep 21, Dallas Police Sr. Corporal **Dasha Williams** (#9696), will receive our Outstanding Service Citation for her selection as DPD's **Officer of the Month**. She is currently assigned to the Internal Affairs Division, where she has the responsibility to conduct investigations of Dallas Police Officers. She now trains all new members of the Internal Affairs Division, while continuing to be deeply involved in many local civic community activities. She is an outstanding example of why the Dallas Police Department is one of the Finest in the Nation.



## Companion Down

### Terry Thorson, Captain, USA

Terry has had his wife, Audrina, on an emotional roller coaster ride, since early last month, when he had a stroke that landed him in the intensive care ward at the Arlington Medical Center.



Companion Michael Menefee reports that Terry sounded much better during their recent phone call. His speech is slurred, but understandable. Terry expressed sincere appreciation for all the

calls, email, and texts of support.

Audrina says is still partially paralyzed on his left side but is looking forward to being at home for future healthcare and rehabilitation. He still needs a feeding tube to eat, but has begun to bypass that by developing an appetite for applesauce and Jell-O.

The doctors are hopeful that he may still make a full recovery. Your prayers and support will help to make that happen. Drop him a line at: [09ducknc@gmail.com](mailto:09ducknc@gmail.com)

## Monthly Luncheons

### Back to the Future

Let the word go forth! The Park City Buffet is Back! Thank you, Companion **Harry Chris**.

After eleven months of restrictions caused by the Corona virus, the Club has re-opened the *Best Buffet Line in Dallas*.

Bring your spouse, bring a friend, bring a potential member. They will be happy that you did.



## Membership

### Companions answer the call to *Recruit*

Adjutant Brandon Hern, our man behind the throne, has announced a tidal wave of applicants who are to be inducted during upcoming scheduled Luncheons. Keep up the great work, Brandon.

Two flag rank officers from the Texas National Guard are featured on the following "**Know Your Companions**" page. Both Generals will be inducted on Tuesday.



We are also pleased to announce that Brandon was able to rectify the records at National Headquarters that have resulted in recognition of **Vice Admiral David Robinson** as a Perpetual Companion in good standing.

VADM Robinson is a Texas native who attended Texas A&M University before entering the United States Naval Academy, from which he was commissioned an Ensign.

Dave served as the Administrative Aide to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, but he is far more widely admired



for his service during the Vietnam conflict. While commanding USS CANON (PG 90), he was awarded the **Navy Cross**, the nation's second highest award for valor. Among many other honors, he received the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, two Navy Distinguished Service Medals, five Legion of Merit Medals, the Bronze Star for Valor, the Meritorious Service Medal and the Purple

Heart. He is the most highly decorated officer in the Dallas Chapter.

In September (and/or October) we will also induct three more officers Perpetual LTC Martha Cencki, LTC Donald LaGrange, LT Huy Ton, and *Hereditary* Perpetual, Katherine Blair.

Biographical sketches of all these new members will be included in future issues of your Chapter's monthly Newsletters. These bios are just by way of introducing them to the general membership.

You will only get to know them if you walk up, shake their hand, and say "**Welcome to the Best Military Order Chapter in the nation**".



# Know Your Companions

(Inductions resume following *Coronus Interruptus*)

## MG Charles Aris, Texas National Guard

Major General Chuck Aris is a native son of Texas. He graduated from Texas A&M University with a BA degree in Communication and was commissioned as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant of Armor.

He later earned a JD degree from South Texas College of Law and an MSS degree in Strategic Studies from the US Army War College.

Chuck served as a Tank Platoon Leader, Executive Officer and staff officer in the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division at Fort Polk, LA. He later became Executive Officer of Charlie Company, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 112<sup>th</sup> Armor, 49<sup>th</sup> Armor Division, in Angleton, TX, and then Battalion Executive Officer in Rosenberg, TX.

He commanded Bravo Company, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 112<sup>th</sup> Armor and then commanded the Headquarters Company of the Battalion in Bryan, TX. In 2007, he assumed Command of 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 112<sup>th</sup> Armor, 49<sup>th</sup> Armor Division, Bryan, TX and Camp Bondsteel, in Kosovo.

His was XO of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Brigade Combat Team, in Houston and then its Deputy Commander. Following a year as Assistant Division Chief of Staff (G-3), he became the G-3 of US Division-South in Basra, Iraq.

He returned home to Command, 72<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Brigade, 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, in Houston, TX and then 56<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade in Fort Worth, TX. Following two years as Chief of Staff of the Division, in Austin, he deployed once again and was assigned as the Commander-South of USCENTCOM in Afghanistan.

In November 2017, he became the Assistant Division Commander (Maneuver) of the 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Since early 2018, he has commanded the Land Component of the Division.

It is not official yet, so don't tell anybody, but he is certain to be assigned to Command, 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Texas National Guard. In his civilian life, he is a Partner in Byrne, Cardenas, and Aris, LLP, a Civil Litigation firm in Dallas.



## BG Michael Wallace, Texas National Guard

Brigadier General *Mike* Wallace grew up in Denver, CO. He received a commission as an Infantry Officer from the United States Military Academy at West Point, where he majored in International History.

He attended the Infantry Officers Basic Course and the US Army Ranger School. The next 5 years included leadership positions in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry, at Fort Stewart, GA; and in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment (the Old Guard), at Fort Myer, VA. In 2000, he joined the Texas Army National Guard and has held a variety of positions to include Company Commander, Battalion S3, Battalion Executive Officer, Brigade S3, Division G3, and most recently as the Civil Affairs Officer (J5) for HQ, Joint Texas Forces. He currently commands the 56<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the Texas Army National Guard, in Fort Worth, TX.

COL Wallace deployed to Kuwait as a Company XO and mobilized for the first US-Canadian Operation (*Noble Eagle*). He deployed twice to Iraq as a company commander and once to Afghanistan.

Mike's military education includes the Infantry Officers Career Course, the Command and General Staff College, US Army War College, Joint and Combined Warfighting School, Airborne School, and Air Assault School. He has also earned a Master of Strategic Studies degree.

COL Wallace's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, numerous campaign medals, the Combat Infantry Badge, and several federal and state awards to include the Order of St. Maurice. He is a lifetime member of the Texas National Guard Assn.; the Infantry Assn; and the Military Order of World Wars.

Mike works as the National Sales Director for a Simi Valley (CA) retirement benefits company. He resides in Allen, TX with his wife, Debbie, and three boys, JT (14), Max (12) and William (8).



# Analyzing Afghanistan

*National Security and Homeland Security*

## AFGHANISTAN EXIT AND WITHDRAWAL REPERCUSSIONS

By LtCol Michael W. Menefee, USMCR (Ret)

Our government announced plans to withdraw American forces from Afghanistan by 31 August 2021, after 20 years of conflict, despite common knowledge that announcing withdrawal plans and dates to one's enemies is a tactical and strategic mistake. When decision-makers ignore warnings from the intelligence community, the repercussions and unintended consequences can be far reaching. Our NATO allies could limit or restrict future political, military, or diplomatic support, if they perceive they can no longer trust the commitment of the US.



Technology is one of our country's *force multipliers*. Technology advantages allow us to reduce the size of our forces in harm's way and allows our economy to focus on other areas. US defense contractors spend billions of dollars in research and development (R&D). Without our technology advantage, the US will have to spend even more to protect the country.

The US left behind an estimated \$90 billion of equipment (including vehicles, drones, artillery, automatic weapons, rifles, handguns, trucks, night-vision goggles, artillery pieces, airplanes, and



helicopters).

The monetary value of that equipment is more than enough to build seven new *Abraham Lincoln* aircraft carriers -- or 100 new F-35 strike fighter aircraft. China, Russia, Iran, and other adversaries will soon acquire this equipment and reverse engineer it. They will be able to leapfrog dozens of years forward in R&D advances made by US defense companies when they reverse engineer the 33, state of the art, UH-60 *Blackhawk* helicopters, now in Taliban possession.

In addition to gaining new industrial technology, they will be able to manufacture this equipment for significantly reduced costs, undermining our defense companies. Large defense contractors will lose valuable international contracts resulting in loss of jobs and further innovation. Special Ops forces say "*we own the night*" because of our night-vision equipment. Over 16,000 of these devices are now in the hands of the Taliban.



Islamic terrorists are eager to use drones, and night vision equipment to infiltrate the US. This equipment could also be used in Pakistan to obtain nuclear weapons for possible use against Israel, India, or the US. The Chinese are likely to challenge the US Navy in the South China Sea, and US interests in Africa, Central and South America, and the Middle East. They may try to invade Taiwan. Russia may test the resolve of the US in Europe, especially in Ukraine.



Iran is likely to test US determination in the Middle East using newly acquired US helicopters, night vision devices, and

drone technology.

In the enormously successful 1991 Gulf War, General Norman Schwarzkopf demonstrated the inestimable value of good leadership. The Afghanistan War did not have such a general. Multiple administrations, generals, intelligence officials and diplomats share the blame for our exit from Afghanistan.

This military and political failure is a direct result of top decision makers – civilian and military, not our troops, who fought with tremendous courage and valor. The impact and repercussions from our withdrawal and surrender to a third world terrorist organization will have long-lasting negative effects. It took the US over 15 years to recover from the negative effects of the Vietnam War, and unless there are drastic changes, the negative effects of Afghanistan may take even longer to recover.

### Quarterly National Security Briefings

The Dallas Chapter of **MOWW**, the Seidel Chapter of **AFA**, and the Dallas Council of **NLUS**, have joined forces in support of strategic briefings on contemporary military topics.

The inaugural National Security Briefing featured **Fleet Admiral Patrick Walsh**. It was a roaring success and a *lucrative fundraiser* for the sponsoring chapters.

Please continue to support this outstanding program.



The second briefing in the 4-part series will be on **September 12, at 4 pm**, at the Heritage Ranch Country Club, 465 Scenic Ranch Circle, McKinney, TX. The topic will be the **Middle East**, a region which presents an increasingly thorny set of strategic challenges to the United States. Our discussion will feature two outstanding speakers with broad experience in the area.

#### Ambassador (Brigadier General, Ret) Jim Smith



Jim Smith

was ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from 2009 to 2013. Prior to his diplomatic service, Jim served 27 years in the U.S. Air Force as an F-15 pilot and Wing commander. He flew combat missions in the Middle East, retiring in 2002. Currently, he serves as CEO of Crosswinds Strategic Consulting, focusing on business, education, healthcare and women's initiatives in the Middle East.

**Steve Slick, PhD**, is Director of the University of Texas, Austin's Intelligence Studies Project and clinical professor at the LBJ School of Public Affairs. Before joining the LBJ School, Steve served for 28 years in the CIA's clandestine services. He served as Station Chief and representative of the Director of National Intelligence in a Middle Eastern Capital. He was formerly on the staff of the National Security Council.



Steve Slick



- 1 September HPM John D. Lester
- 1 September CPT Weldon W. Nash, Jr
- 5 September WO Billy W. Franklin
- 7 September MS Kathleen L. Spangler
- 8 September LTC Jerry B. Jochum
- 8 September LT Derrick W. Watson
- 10 September Mr Spencer J. Adams
- 10 September COL Jeffrey W. Gault
- 13 September LCDR Harry Chris
- 13 September Mrs. Maurine P. Dickey
- 13 September Capt Curtis L. Frisbie
- 13 September COL Gary D. Jackson
- 13 September CDR Kurt Richter
- 15 September LCDR David Minton
- 16 September CPT Robert E. Sanders
- 17 September LTC Milton C. Henderson
- 17 September Mr John R. Warterfield
- 18 September LTC Kenneth W. Boatman
- 18 September Col Bennett W. Cervin
- 18 September LTC Kaaren J. Teuber
- 19 September CAPT David L. Love
- 19 September LTC Donald R. Willis
- 21 September LT Curtis Baggett
- 21 September LT James W. Crysdale
- 21 September Lt Col Bryan Maupin
- 21 September Mr Aaron K. Schmidt
- 24 September MAJ James S. Angelino
- 25 September GEN Gordon Sullivan
- 28 September Mr Christopher Neumeier
- 29 September Mr Andrew Warner
- 30 September CPT James Grogan



# Your Chapter in Action, August 2021



Jeff Butcher delayed his departure to attend the National MOWW Convention, to have the opportunity to explain his last-minute decision to ask **Paul Brown** to be the Guest Speaker at our August Luncheon. Paul proceeded to knock it out of the park, detailing the alarming need to upgrade our nation's decrepit missile defense system.



Jeff asked Past Chapter Commander **Don Munson** to introduce our August Speaker. Don leaped at the chance to pay tribute to a mentor and friend, who needed no introduction. Paul has been the glue that bound the chapter ever since his induction in 2013. His record of successes in all phases of our Preamble's charges, kept us the **Best in the Nation**.



Despite lingering anxieties regarding the new and more virulent **Delta** strain of the Corona virus, more than **fifty** Companions attended the August Luncheon. Many chapters would gladly welcome such a large attendance figure, but the Dallas Chapter frequently attracted 50% more than that, on a regular basis, prior to COVID restrictions. As students begin returning to school and downtown businesses recall their home-bound employees, we look forward to achieving "standing room only" crowds, once again, in the coming months.

**Notice: Next Commander's Staff Meeting will be held Thursday, 16 Sep 2021 at 1:30 p.m., in the Frontiers of Flight Conference Room, 6911 Lemmon Ave., Dallas, TX, adjacent to Love Field.**



## Food for Thought

In the Book of Kings, we are told of the prophet Elisha, who instructed a man to distribute food to the people, to which the man objected. Such little food could never feed the multitudes who had assembled.

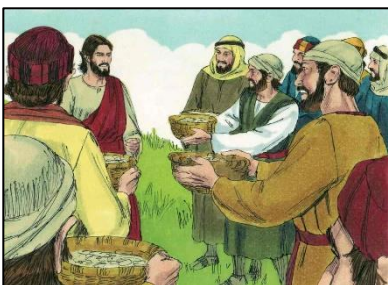
When Elisha repeated his instruction, the man obliged and distributed the food. Not only were the multitudes fed; there was food left over.

A similar story played out eight centuries later, when Jesus of Nazareth fed 5,000 people with just five loaves of bread and two fish, again with food left over to fill 12 baskets. (John 6: 1-15)

While we could explore at length the symbolism of the 12 baskets, we can also take from these accounts that God's love and provision are inexhaustible. They never run out.

To struggle with sin is to be human. Yet when we come to God humbly, in his great mercy, He looks not upon our sin, but on our hearts' needs and desires.

*Jamie Malakoff*  
*Chapter Chaplain*



## Wreaths Across America

### Your Chance to Excel

Barbara Butcher has announced her resignation from all future committee commitments. She will be sorely missed.

In the past few years, she chaired or served on more committees than most Companions have after decades of membership.

Two years ago, she volunteered to Chair the drive to place Christmas wreaths on the headstones of veterans at the National DFW VA Cemetery in southern Dallas.

She established a goal to raise enough money to purchase **200** wreaths. She beat that goal by more than 100.

Last year, she raised her goal to **400** wreaths. She beat that goal by more than 200.

Without realizing it, we have had the pleasure of being in the presence of an angel.



The chapter is now looking for a volunteer to replace Barbara as the Chair of our **2021 Wreaths Across America** program.

(The primary activities occur in November and December).

For more information about what is involved in the *Wreaths Across America* drive, contact Don Munson at don.munson@tx.rr.com or 972-971-1413.

If you would like to serve on this year's staff as our Junior Vice Commander, contact our Chapter Commander:

[Michael.menefee@ampf.com](mailto:Michael.menefee@ampf.com)

## Command and Staff, FY 2021

### Commander

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