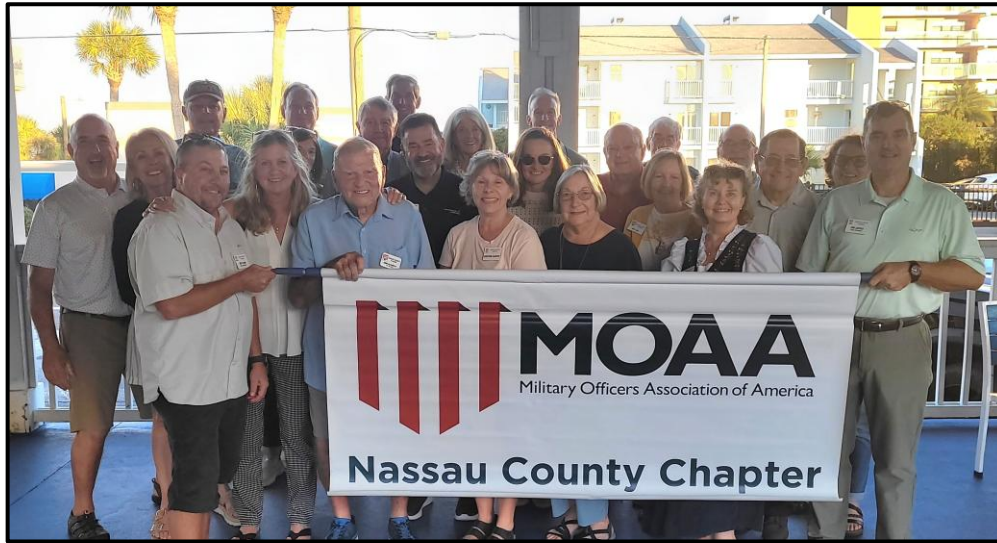


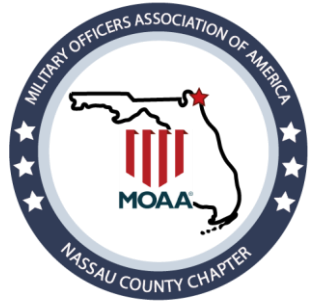


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Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie

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General Meeting – 18 Nov 2025



Call to order:

- **New Members and Guests**
(New Members: Signup for the Legislative Action Center)

Happy 250th Birthday USMC – 10 Nov

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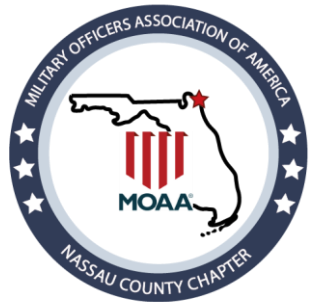


Pledge of Allegiance



"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

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Invocation



Jim Mackowski
CDR USN (Ret)

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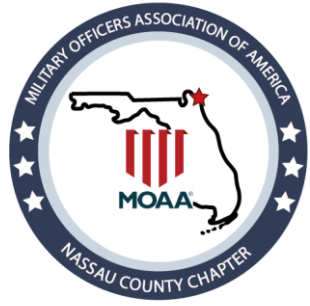
POW/MIA Moment of Silence



-
- The table is round – to show our everlasting concern.
 - The tablecloth is white, symbolizing the purity of their motives when answering the call to serve.
 - The single red rose reminds us of the lives of these Americans...and the loved ones and friends who keep the faith, awaiting answers.
 - The yellow ribbon symbolizes our continued uncertainty, hope for their return and determination to account for them.
 - A slice of lemon reminds us of their bitter fate, captured or missing in a foreign land.
 - A pinch of salt symbolizes the tears of our missing and their families.
 - The lighted candle reflects our hope for their return.
 - The glasses are inverted - to symbolize their inability to share a toast. The chair is empty – they are missing.

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Lunch

MOAA is a politically non-partisan organization

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South China Sea

Potential Maritime Flash Point for Conflict

Guest Speaker – Tony LaVecchia



Regional Objectives: China – U.S.

China's Indo-Pacific objectives include **asserting territorial claims**, particularly in the South China Sea, and achieving **national reunification**, with a focus on Taiwan. Beijing also aims to **increase its economic and strategic influence** through infrastructure projects, resource acquisition (like minerals and fisheries), and building regional partnerships and connectivity, while **challenging U.S. dominance**.

The United States' regional Indo-Pacific objectives center on advancing a "**free and open Indo-Pacific**" through pillars of economics, governance, and security. Key goals include promoting market-based economics, reinforcing alliances, enhancing security, supporting democratic institutions, and upholding international law, particularly freedom of the seas and skies. The overarching aim is a region where nations are independent, strong, and prosperous, free from coercion, and where shared domains are governed lawfully.



Makalapa
Consulting

South East Asia





China – First Island Chain

China's "first island chain strategy" is centered on its goal of breaking through the string of islands—including Japan, Taiwan, the Philippines, and Indonesia—that forms a barrier to its access to the Pacific Ocean. China views this chain as a strategic containment line by the U.S. and its allies, and its strategy involves strengthening its military to overcome this barrier and project power globally. The military's focus is on Anti-Access/Area Denial (A2/AD) capabilities, which aims to limit the ability of foreign forces to operate near its coast.





China – Second Island Chain

China's "second island chain strategy" refers to its increasing military and economic efforts to push past the first island chain to project power through the second island chain, which stretches from Japan to Guam and Micronesia. This is a strategic objective for China to gain influence in the mid-Pacific and secure its maritime access beyond the first chain.





SCS Basis for Claim - China

- **Historical rights:** China claims that its historical records prove its sovereignty over the islands, alleging that Chinese fishermen and explorers used and managed the Spratly and Paracel Islands for centuries. Some records are cited as far back as the Han dynasty (206 BCE–220 CE).
- **Nine-dash line:** The "nine-dash line" is a demarcation that first appeared on Chinese maps in 1947. The line extends hundreds of miles south and east from China's Hainan province and encompasses most of the South China Sea, including the Spratly Islands. China has used this map to assert control over the region.





SCS Nation State Claims

- **China and Taiwan:** Claim the entirety of the Spratly Islands.
- **Vietnam:** Claims the entirety of the Spratly Islands and controls the most features within the archipelago.
- **The Philippines:** Claims some of the islands nearest to The Philippines.
- **Malaysia:** Claims three islands and four groups of rocks in the southern part of the Spratlys.
- **Brunei:** Claims a single reef well south of the main group, but primarily asserts a claim through its exclusive economic zone (EEZ).



Importance of the SCS

Natural resources

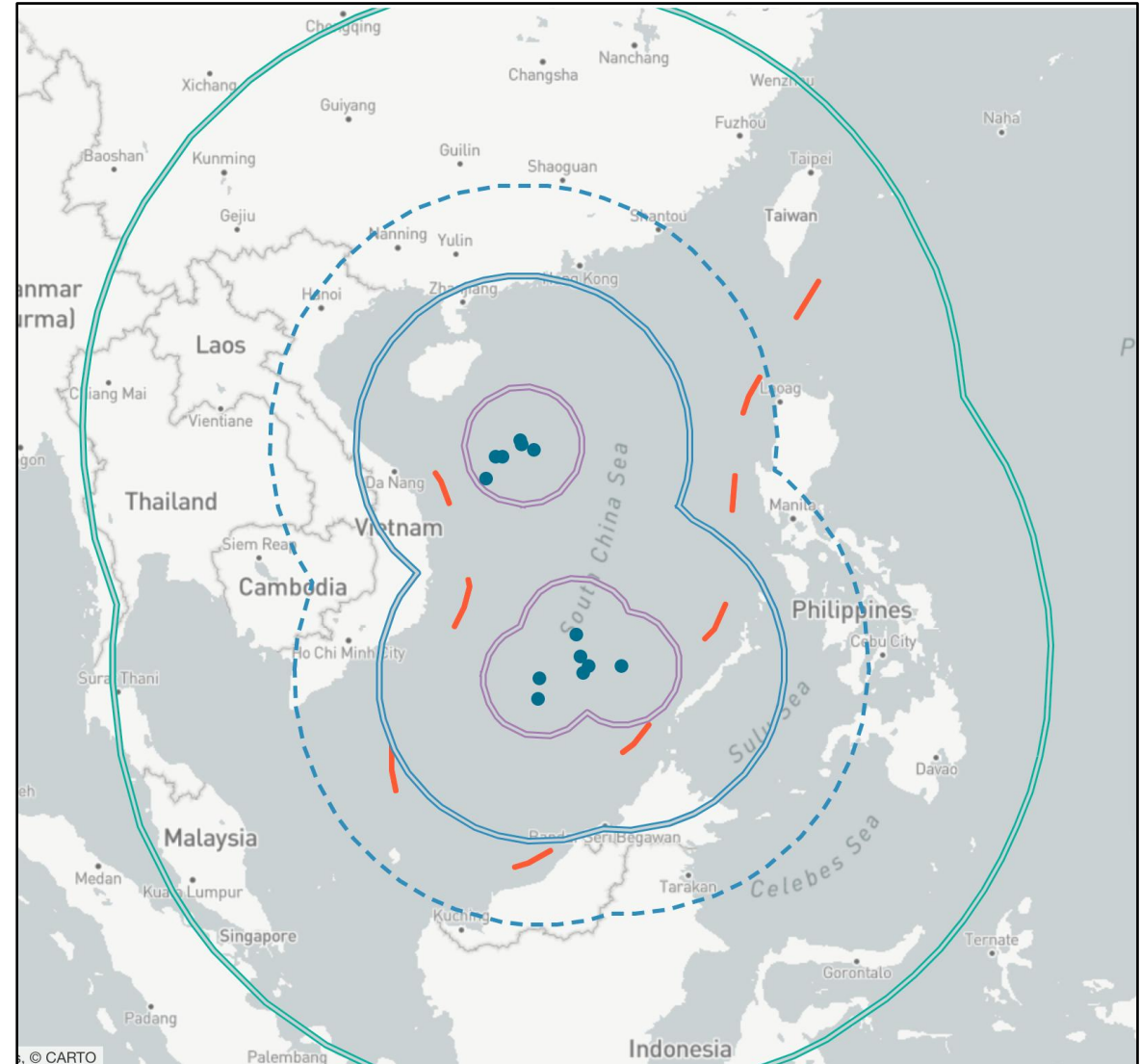
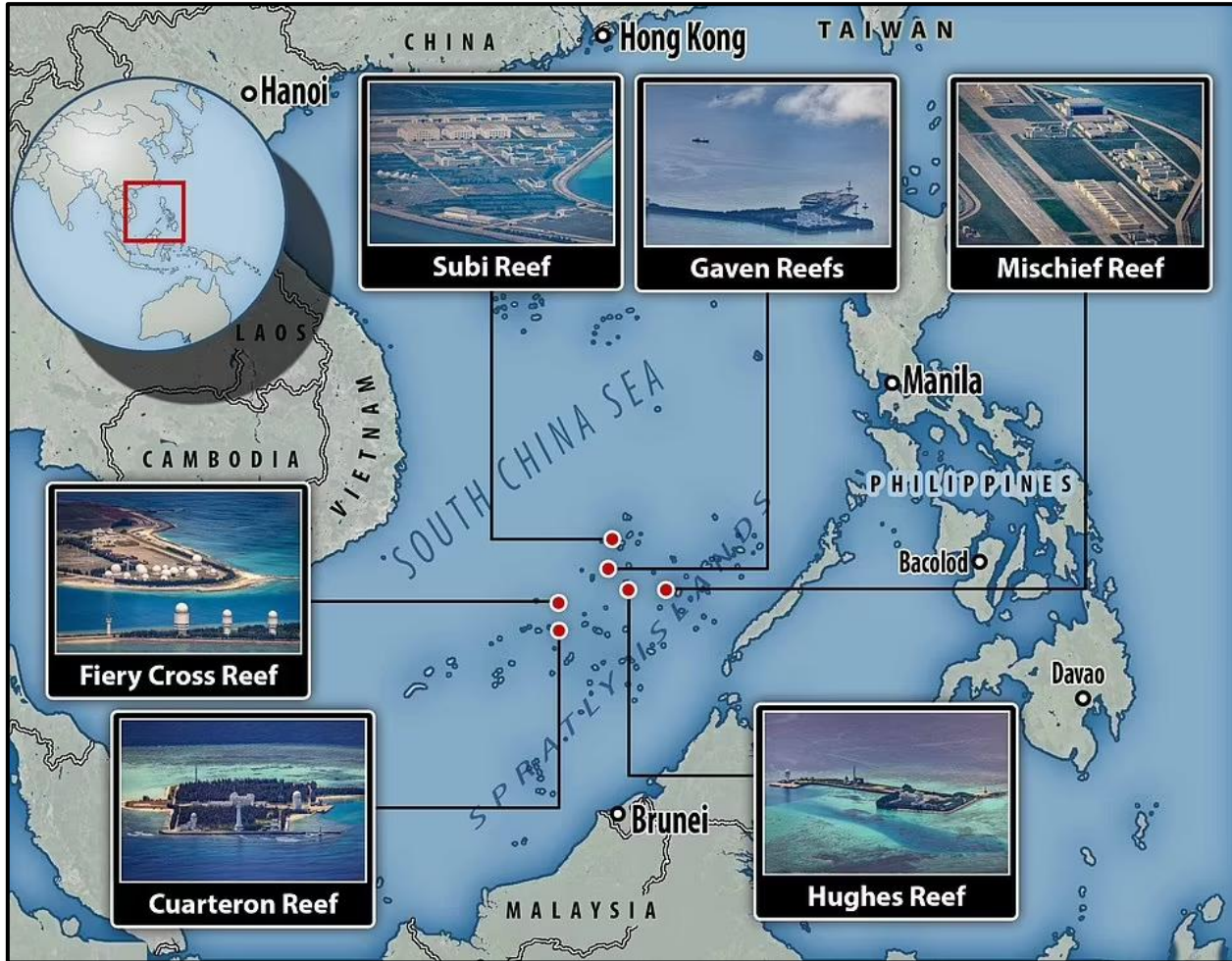
- **Oil and gas:** The region is believed to contain vast offshore deposits of oil and natural gas, which is a major driver for the sovereignty claims.
- **Fisheries:** The waters around the islands are some of the most abundant fishing grounds in the world, providing a source of livelihood for many nations.
- **Minerals:** The islands may also contain valuable mineral deposits like tin, manganese, copper, cobalt, and nickel.

Strategic location

- The islands are situated along major commercial shipping routes, giving countries in the vicinity a way to monitor and potentially control maritime activity.
- The ability to project military power from the islands is a significant strategic advantage.



China Militarization of SCS Islands





China Maritime Gray Zone Tactics

Gray zone tactics are coercive, non-military actions that fall between peace and war, used by state and non-state actors to achieve political objectives without triggering armed conflict.





Why the SCS Matters – Economics / Trade

- Approximately **1/3 of world-wide maritime trade** transits the SCS.
- 3-5 Trillion (USD) of world-wide trade transits the SCS annually.
- Over 40% of Japanese trade transits the SCS, nearly 100% oil imports.
- Approximately 60% of PRC trade transits the SCS annually.
- Approximately 6% of U.S. trade transits the SCS annually, \$1.2T in value.



United States Position on the SCS

The United States takes no position on sovereignty disputes in the South China Sea but opposes China's expansive maritime claims and assertive actions, which it considers unlawful.

Key aspects of the U.S. position:

No territorial claims: The U.S. does not claim any territory in the South China Sea.

Opposition to unlawful claims: The U.S. rejects China's claims to areas like Mischief Reef, Second Thomas Shoal, and waters within the Vanguard Bank (off Vietnam), and the Luconia Shoals (off Malaysia).

Support for allies: The U.S. reaffirms its mutual defense treaty obligations with the Philippines, stating it extends to armed attacks on Philippine armed forces, public vessels, or aircraft—including its coast guard—in the South China Sea.

Freedom of navigation: The U.S. promotes freedom of navigation and overflight and conducts Freedom of Navigation Operations (FONOPs) in the region.

Peaceful resolution of disputes: The U.S. urges all parties to resolve disputes peacefully and based on international law.

Concern over China's actions: The U.S. condemns what it views as coercive and dangerous actions by China, such as unsafe maneuvers and the use of water cannons against Philippine vessels.



Questions

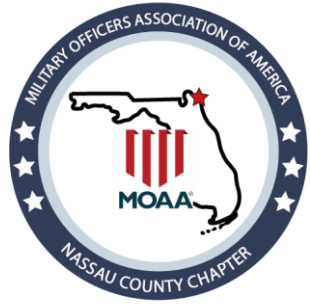
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President's Report

- **Board of Directors Update**
 - **Sponsoring Exhibit Honoring the Contributions of African-American Soldiers at Fort Clinch**
 - **Funding provided by Kevin Connelly**

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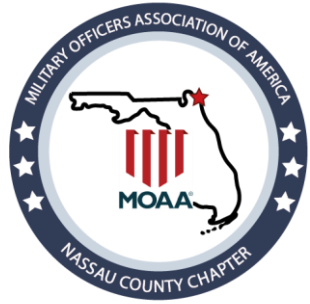
President's Report

- **It's official chapter legislative statistics will be a grading criteria in 2026 for Levels of Excellence Awards**
 - **LAC Sign Up Percentage – Will be Graded**
 - **Calls to Action – Will be Graded**

<https://moaa.quorum.us/home2/>



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President's Report

- **FCoC Leadership Training Seminar & Convention**
 - **29 – 31 Jan 2026 at the Rosen Centre in Orlando**
 - **Registration is open at: <https://flmoaa.org/events/>**
- **My Ask: Attend at least “ONE” LTS/C**

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| - Training on a host of topics | - Military Dining Out | - Casino Night |
| - Rooms \$159/night | - Two Dinners Included | - Universal Studios Outing |
| - Spouse Event / Golf Outing | - VA Rep On Sight | - Legislative Updates |
| - Keynote Speaker | - MOAA Updates | - Vendors On Sight |

**** \$40 Registration Fee (Includes two dinners and hospitality suite snacks and drinks ****

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President's Report

- **Chapter Christmas Party**
 - **12 December / 1730 Drinks / 1830 Dinner**
 - **Gift Baskets**
 - **\$40 / Person...pay Bob or pay online**
- **Keep an eye out for the Evite from Lou**



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Mission Area Update

- Advocacy -



- **CALL TO ACTION**

- **Some Servicemembers, Retirees, And Their Surviving Spouses, Are Going Without Pay**

(LOE #2 Participation)

- **Legislative Action Center Chapter signed up : 44% (Not Good)**

- **Sign Up at: <https://moaa.quorum.us/home2/>**

(LOE #2 Participation)

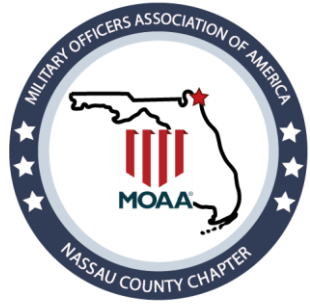
LOE #1: Membership

LOE #2: Participation

LOE #3: Funding

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Mission Area Update

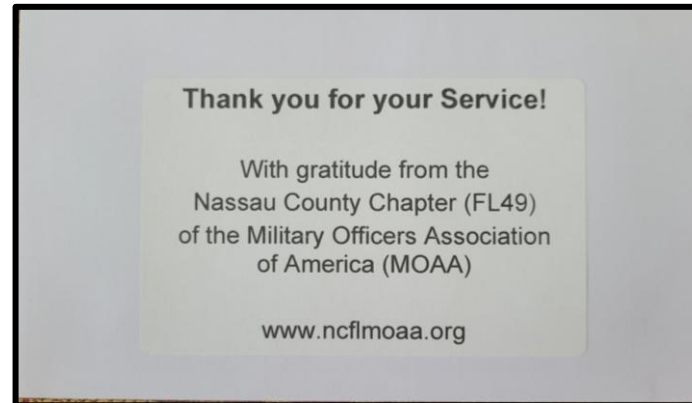
- Philanthropy & Community Service -



- **NSB Kings Bay Commissary Gift Cards**

- Food assistance for junior enlisted personnel/families (E1 – E4)
- 130 - \$25 gift cards distributed at 15 Commands at NSB
- 92 – USN, 28 – USMC, and 10 USCG
- Gift cards distributed by Senior NCOs

(LOE #2 Participation)



LOE #1: Membership

LOE #2: Participation

LOE #3: Funding

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Mission Area Update

- Philanthropy & Community Service -

- **Donation Drive – Callahan Winn-Dixie, 1 Nov**

- **Very Successful Event – \$1,599 in Donations**
- **4 x persons donated \$100**
- **1 x potential member recruited**
- **6 x member volunteers participated**

(LOE #3 Fundraising, LOE #2 Participation, LOE #1 Membership)



LOE #1: Membership

LOE #2: Participation

LOE #3: Funding

Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie

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Mission Area Update - Philanthropy & Community Service -



- **Veterans Day Parade - 11 Nov**
 - **Community Service / Chapter Visibility**
 - **16 Members Participated**
(LOE #2 Participation, LOE #1 Membership)



Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie



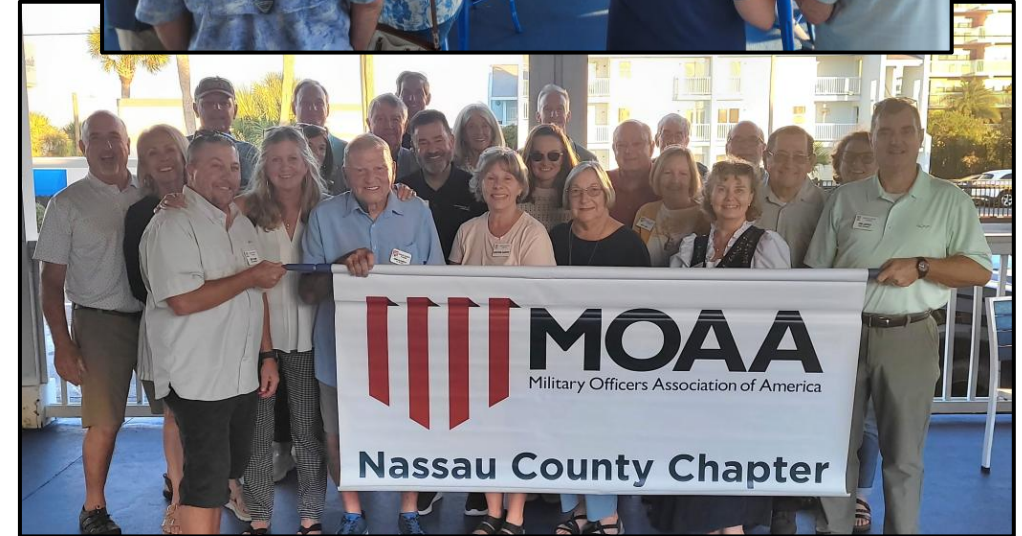
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Mission Area Update

- Camaraderie -



- **Officer Call 21 October – The Surf**
(LOE #2 – Participation)
- **Christmas Party – 12 December**
(LOE #2 – Participation)



LOE #1: Membership

LOE #2: Participation

LOE #3: Funding

Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie

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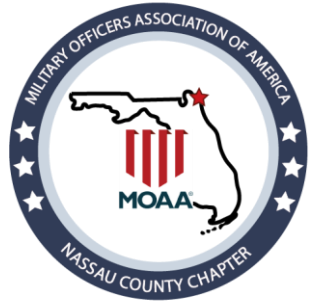


Treasurer's Report

Bob Bell, CAPT USN (Ret)

- **Account reconciled with First Federal Bank**
- **Collecting Dues for 2026**

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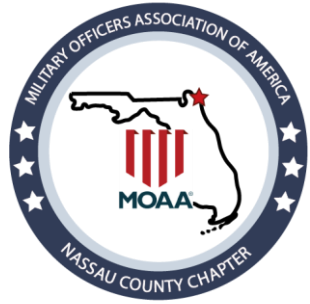
Upcoming Events



-
- 12 Dec: Christmas Party - 1730 cocktails, 1830 dinner**
 - 13 Jan: Chapter Meeting – 1130, Guest Speaker: Tony LaVecchia, Chapter Update**
 - 29/31 Jan: FCoC Leadership Training Seminar & Convention (LTS/C) – Orlando, FL**
 - 10 Feb: Chapter Meeting – 1130, Guest Speaker: Gary Powers, Cold War Lecture**

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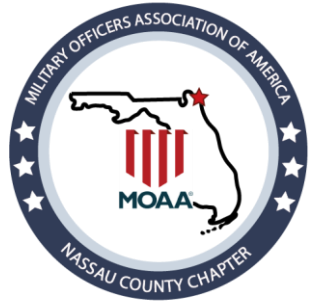


Q & A

Saved Rounds / Questions / Comments

Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie

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General Meeting – 18 Nov 2025



-
- **Be a Recruiter** – Get one person to join our Chapter
 - **Participate** – Call to Action / Donate / Attend MOAA Events

Adjourned

50-50

Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy & Community Service – Camaraderie