

# Superstition Mountain Express

MOAA®

Military Officers Association of America



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The Superstition Mountain Chapter, Military Officers Association of America Inc., is a non-profit organization, IRS tax ID# 23-7430856

<http://www.smcmoaa.org/>

There are some additional resources from our national HQ, MOAA's Scholarship Fund.

*Greetings, Members,*

*It's been said of Arizona that in order to beat the summer heat, you have to wake up in the morning, and not go outside until November 1<sup>st</sup>. Well, it's August, and we can almost see November from our house!*

*We hope to see all of you at the luncheon in September. At least it's cool at the DoubleTree-Hilton, and we can work together after lunch to assemble Judy's famous Hygiene Kits for our Veterans. They need them so badly in this heat. See you soon!*

Your Editors, Peggy Allen and Paula Anderer

# August Congratulations!



## MEMBER

## SPOUSE

## ANNIVERSARY

Austin L Foote	1
Nancy Nickerson	6
Lucian A Ferguson	12
Rebecca L Schmidt	13
Fred E Ferguson	18
Kandi Wojtsiak	20
Jerome Rosplock	28

Joseph L and Helen Goldblatt	6
Ed and Georgia Pullen	13
John J and Magdalen Kwak	18
Michael and Jan Ostermeyer	24

## *Quick Survey*

Our President, Greg Moore, has asked us to do a quick survey of our members, to see if we can help with whatever situation is preventing members from attending our Luncheons. Please e-mail your Editors at [paulaanderer10@gmail.com](mailto:paulaanderer10@gmail.com). Let us know, confidentially, if we can be of assistance in enabling your attendance. We are listing some suggested reasons below for your convenience.

I would appreciate a **ride** to and from the Luncheon.

I cannot attend due to a **health** issue, or my spouse's health.

I, or my spouse, **have trouble walking** from the parking lot to the Meeting Room.

The Luncheons have gotten **too expensive**.

The location is **too far away** from my home.

I have **other things I have to do** on Saturday.

We miss you,

Your Editors – Peggy Allen and Paula Anderer

**BULLETIN:**

We would like to thank **Ann Ferguson** for alerting us to the following information regarding McClellan AFB. Please share.

**"VA » Health Care » Public Health » Military Exposures » Potential Exposure at Fort McClellan**

*Potential Exposure at Fort McClellan*



*Photo: U.S. Army*

*Fort McClellan was an Army installation in Alabama that opened in 1917 and closed in 1999 as part of the Army Base Closure and Realignment Committee (BRAC) program.*

*Some members of the U.S. Army Chemical Corp School, Army Combat Development Command Chemical/Biological/Radiological Agency, Army Military Police School, and Women's Army Corps, among others, may have been exposed to one or more of several hazardous materials, likely at low levels, during their service at Fort McClellan. Potential exposures could have included, but are not limited to, the following:*

- **Radioactive compounds** (cesium-137 and cobalt-60) used in decontamination training activities in isolated locations on base. (Page 1 of 3)

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- **Chemical warfare agents** (mustard gas and nerve agents) used in decontamination testing activities in isolated locations on base.
- **Airborne polychlorinated biphenyls** (PCBs) from the Monsanto plant in the neighboring town.

Although exposures to high levels of these compounds have been shown to cause a variety of adverse health effects in humans and laboratory animals, there is no evidence of exposures of this magnitude having occurred at Fort McClellan.

### *PCBs and the Monsanto chemical plant*

From 1929 to 1971, an off-post Monsanto chemical plant operated south of Fort McClellan in Anniston, AL. PCBs from the plant were released into the environment, and the surrounding community was exposed.

Since the 1990s, several investigations have been conducted to characterize the exposure of Anniston residents to PCBs from the Monsanto plant. For more information on these studies, visit [Anniston Community Health Survey \(ACHS\) | ATSDR \(cdc.gov\)](#).

### *Federal agency activities, including ongoing research*

VA regularly consults with our Federal agency partners to understand whether potential public health risks existed at the base and continues to review new information as it becomes available. These Federal Partners continue to support VA in the planning for an epidemiological study on the health of Veterans who served in the Armed Forces at Fort McClellan any time between January 1, 1935, to May 20, 1999. This study is required by the Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act, Section 801. VA has begun an extensive review of historical documentation to understand the environmental and occupational conditions experienced by Veterans stationed at Fort McClellan. This data will provide insights necessary for the development of a study design that will investigate links between military service at Fort McClellan and reported health conditions among Veterans.

### *Veteran health care and compensation benefits*

VA encourages Veterans who are experiencing health issues believed to be related to their service at Fort McClellan to see their primary care provider or local environmental health clinician. There is no VA environmental health registry associated with service at Fort McClellan. (Page 2 of 3)

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Veterans may also file a claim for [disability compensation](#). VA decides these claims on a case-by-case basis.

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## **Get Email Updates**

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### **Resources**

- [PCBs Chemical Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#)
- [EPA Superfund, Anniston, AL](#)

### **Contact**

Health Care

877-222-8387

Benefits

800-827-1000

TDD (Hearing Impaired)

800-829-4833

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs | 810 Vermont Avenue, NW Washington DC  
20420

Last updated May 6, 2024

**[Learn what the PACT Act means for your VA benefits "](#)**

**<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/fort-mcclellan/>** (Page 3 of 3)

## Editor's Page



*Dedicated to the memory of Marlene Fox, our long-time Newsletter Editor.*

*"Life is not fair. Get over it!"*



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**We are so looking forward to seeing your happy faces again!**

**Just a few more weeks until the September Luncheon. If possible, please come to be with us.**

**Our President, Greg Moore, would like to assist any of you who need help with coming to the luncheon. Just get in touch at [paulaanderer10@gmail.com](mailto:paulaanderer10@gmail.com). We miss all of you who have been unable to be with us.**

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### **Superstition Mountain Chapter** Military Officers Association of America RESOURCES

Newsletter: paula\_anderer@cox.net

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