



"THE TRAIL BLAZER NEWS"

The Military Order of the World Wars -- MOWW
Colonel Billie L. Stephens Apache Trail Chapter 207
Serving Youth, Community and Nation for 32 Years
<https://www.facebook.com/apachetrails/>

May 2021
Volume 31, Issue 3

Commander's Corner Since the March 2020 CDC declaration of the COVID-19 nation-wide pandemic, our chapter has experienced significant changes. In November 2020, we held our first ever virtual chapter meeting, via the ZOOM platform. Holding 6 on-line ZOOM chapter & Staff meetings, we have experienced a much decreased attendance by members. Our 27th Massing of the Colors at Marcos de Niza High School, was cancelled. December 2020 we acknowledged **Honor House** graduates with a donation in lieu of hosting them as holiday guests. No awards ceremonies were attended by chapter members during our annual Spring 2020 & 2021 ROTC/JROTC Awards season. No or very few In-Person ceremonies, were held by schools while we emphasized the safety of our chapter members.

Two of our chapter members have assumed key Region XIII positions: COL Christine Mahon is the new **Region XIII VCinC**, & Mr. Chuck Mackey is the **Region XIII Scout Coordinator**. Congratulations & Thanks to both for their continued willingness to serve. Because of Mr. Mackey's initiative, our chapter has much more visibility with the **Arizona Grand Canyon Council**. His ideas in extending our chapter reach are much appreciated.

Chapter members have aided our AZ communities through **significant volunteerism**. In June 2020, Mrs. Diane McDowell with COL Patricia Little, MAJ Lew White & Mrs. Judy Lewis, sewed much-needed face masks for health care staff at the AZ State Veterans Home. COL Christine Mahon has given over 1,500 COVID-19 vaccinations to AZ residents since February 2021, & continues to do so. Our chapter donated funds to support a **Veterans 1st** initiative in March & April 2021, spearheaded by COL Mahon & COL Little Upah. It supported Native American Women Veterans. MSgt Jeanne Erickson has sewn over 200 masks for the **Navajo Nation** & donated much needed items in support of the Veterans First initiative. Our chapter also contributed funds to a **Region XIII** initiative, donating funds to the Navajo Nation for COVID-19 relief, collaborating with our AZ sister chapter, in February 2020. Thanks to All for your time and effort!

The **2020 AZYLC was cancelled** with input from all 5 AZ chapters to COL Dick Minor, AZYLC, Inc. Director. Recent e-mail indicates a potential June 2021 AZYLC. Thanks to LTC Patrick C. Stolze, 12 East Valley students have shown interest in attending if it is held. Commanders have cited inability to properly screen students, for leadership potential to attend YLC. Schooling has been conducted variably at all 23 schools via ZOOM, hybrid or restricted In-person. **Pearl Harbor Day & Veterans Day** celebrations were cancelled throughout the valley in 2020.

Thanks to all chapter members who volunteered, donated and ZOOMed during this most challenging year. If not for your combined efforts, our chapter remains vital locally & nationally, in support of our Preamble.

Enjoy your Summer!



- ◆ **"The Silent War Between East & West--The War of Information."**
Major Robert W. Hull, USAF, Ret.
- ◆ **Scottsdale Fire Officer of the Year**
Captain Jeff Perry
- ◆ **"Best Practices"**
Officer Review,
Most Outstanding JROTC Cadet 2021
- ◆ **2021 Girl Scout Gold Awardees**

Homeland & National Security Programs

27 March 2021

Chapter ZOOM Guest Speaker

Major Robert W. "Bob" Hull, USAF, Ret.

"The Silent War Between East and West--The War of Information"



On 27 March 2021, fifteen chapter members participated via ZOOM, Major Hull's presentation on Russian New Generation Warfare (RNGW), where the main battle space is in the mind. Using open or unclassified sources, Maj Hull defined and exemplified what the war of information is, and why we should care. The aggressive nature of Russia's cyberattacks on the United States and all countries around the world was profiled.

Russia's contention is the United States started this information warfare through our free speech via television, radio and the Internet. The United States has a "significant presence in the airwaves" where, according to Russia, the US executes silent warfare on Russia. He countered that we are not the only country preyed upon. Bulgaria recently caught Russian spies. (["Bulgaria arrested six people allegedly spying for Russia inside NATO. One spy was nicknamed 'The Resident.'" 31 March 2021](#)) Major Hull emphasized, "Cyberattacks are used to destabilize governments and foment discord all around the world."

Russia has collaborated with China on a "Great Firewall." With the flip of a switch, both these countries can shut down their respective Internets, effectively shutting their people off from the world. *Russia Today*, Russia's state-controlled international television network, funded by Russian taxes, is registered as a foreign agent (Foreign Agents Registration Act--**FARA**) in the United States. Major Hull detailed *Silent Warfare Concepts*: Propaganda; Psychological Warfare; Hybrid WF; Active Measures; New Generation WF, the main battle space being in the minds of the American population. A major consideration is when to declare cyberwarfare is called war, when there is no physical encroachment as in traditional warfare.

Examples of Active Measures: disinformation, deception, sabotage, destabilization, espionage, hacking & otherwise manipulating the data or information. The problem is information through the Internet & over the airwaves, is uncontrolled & everywhere. Information can be stolen, fake information planted. Allegiances to radical groups such as the Night Wolves, a Russian motorcycle group in the United States, which has strong connections to Putin, are prevalent. [Night Wolves - Wikipedia](#) They work to co-opt young angry men and were sanctioned in the United States in December 2014.

The SolarWinds hack was an intern who did not change his password allowing Russian hackers cyber access. *"In mid-December 2020, the biggest cyber intrusion known to date was discovered in the United States, the world's leading cyber power. The global reach of the incident, and the nature and number of affected US government agencies – most notably the US Energy Department which controls the National Nuclear Security Administration – is unprecedented."* www.chathamhouse.org So what can citizens do? "We are legally not able to respond tactically," says Major Hull. From an intelligence position, we do not want to show our technology in proving it was them. The American public can not believe everything they see, hear, read in social media & the Internet. The latest blog from a basketball or movie star should be vetted. Education & a strong dose of critical thinking regarding your regular news sources in highly recommended. *Thank You Major Hull!*



Law & Order Program

**24 April 2021
Chapter ZOOM
Luncheon Meeting**

**Fire
Officer of
the Year
2021**

**Captain
Jeff Perry**



Retiring in October 2021

with 39 years of service to our communities, Captain Jeff Perry was our guest speaker.

Starting in 1983, he worked in the East valley (Mesa, Queen Creek, Gilbert eventually landing in Scottsdale).

In 2005, the City of Scottsdale migrated to a city-owned fire department of which he became a part. Promoted in 1990 to Captain, his career was sparked by his father being a fire fighter in Denver for 33 years. Through high school & college he completed his EMT certification & earned a Fire Science degree. Nominated by a good number of his peers & a letter of support from the Deputy Fire Chief, Captain Perry was selected as the City of Scottsdale, Fire Officer of the Year 2021.

With the on-set of COVID-19, Captain Perry stated, 45 fire personnel have been infected & though not losing anyone, the work loaded has doubled with no out days for months, mandatory over time & more shifts. The mental & physical toll has been ameliorated by the Scottsdale Fire Department & the City, “doing a good job with easy access to mental health professionals via ZOOM.” Compliance with CDC guidelines has been easier, he stated, with social media, compared to the H1N1 & SARS epidemics in the past. He acknowledged citizens are now experiencing pandemic burnout.

Recruiting has not been a problem. City of Scottsdale has held back-to-back academies, which have become year-round due to upcoming retirements. A list of 25 to 50 candidates is compiled every two years & new hires are drawn from this pool. Scottsdale Fire progression for new candidates: 1) Red Shirt status for a one-year probationary period. Academies last 16-18 weeks depending on the city program they apply to—Phoenix; Glendale; Mesa & Scottsdale; 2) Scottsdale Fire truck duty with 3 months/engine evaluations & ER calls—3 months on a ladder truck, & 3 months as a Rover filling in on the engine & ladder. He stated South Scottsdale is very busy & N. Scottsdale not so much. This exposes new recruits to a variety of types of calls. Once the candidate has completed this regimen, they can select Technical Rescue, Hazardous Materials, Aircraft Rescue, EMT or Training. Through the ranks they can rise from Captain, to Bn Chief, Deputy Chief to Chief. He emphasized military veterans make excellent new hires, understanding Chain Of Command and having a strong work ethic.

Captain Perry Thanked chapter members. He and other fire staff are approached often in public Thanking them for their service. Supporting fire fighter initiatives in the AZ Legislature is very helpful & appreciated. **Senate Bill 1451** signed by Gov. Ducey, expands Fire Fighter’s Protections, especially covering cancer diagnoses. Chapter members are encouraged to call our State legislature in support of Fire Fighter initiatives.

Governor Ducey Signs Legislation Supporting Firefighters With Cancer | Office of the Arizona Governor (azgovernor.gov)

Congratulations Captain Perry!



Most Outstanding JROTC Cadet Award Program

LTC Patrick C. Stolze, USA, Ret.

Editor's Note: This article was submitted for publication in *The Officer Review*. Thanks to LTC Stolze for profiling this program he established 9 years ago, which is unique to the Apache Trail Chapter and MOWW.

In 2013, the COL Billie L Stephens - Apache Trail Chapter initiated the Most Outstanding JROTC Cadet Competition. This competition has enjoyed continued success for nine years and even with the COVID-19 restrictions this year, we were still able to conduct it.

The objectives of this competition were:

Recognize the top JROTC Cadets in the East Valley.

Familiarize JROTC Instructors, Cadets and Family Members with MOWW.

Encourage JROTC Senior Instructors to become more involved in MOWW Activities. ie. MOC & YLC. Encourage JROTC Senior Instructors to join MOWW.

Our target audience has been the Cadets in the 23 JROTC Programs within our East Valley footprint. We are already presenting the annual MOWW Award of Merit to a deserving cadet from each of these programs. I follow a Milestone List in order to accomplish those subtasks to get things done on a timely basis such as" ordering the Bronze Patrick Henry Award; and having the winning cadet's name and presentation date engraved on the plate. I briefed the Chapter Commander and Staff at a Staff Meeting in order to gain their approval initially and annually, thereafter, to secure the funds to carry out this project.

The Awards that we present are:

1ST Place: A Bronze Patrick Henry Award plaque, Certificate, and Medal plus \$100.00 Cash.

1ST Runner-Up: A MOWW Certificate of Appreciation and \$50.00 Cash.

2ND Runner-Up: A MOWW Certificate of Appreciation and \$25.00 Cash.

Other Nominees: A MOWW Certificate of Appreciation.

The first year we attempted this we secured two nominees. We had six nominees for the 2020 competition. We were fortunate to get the competition in prior to the COVID-19 restrictions shutting everything down. The restrictions imposed by the School Districts reduced our number of nominations in half this year. I send out a Competition solicitation email on February 1st. It includes the rules for the Cadet Nomination packet that the Instructor and Student must follow as well as the Evaluation Criteria & Scoring Matrix. The consideration period closes on February 28th.

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Most Outstanding JROTC Cadet Award Program-- Continued

The rules for the Competition include: 1) Essay, Biography, and Instructor Recommendation must not be longer than one page incorporating Times New Roman and 12 point font. 2) Essay and Bio must be the Cadet's own work. 3) The entire packet is paper, not electronic. The Selection Board normally consists of three Companions (at least one with JROTC Instructor experience) and meets following the March Staff Meeting. I announce the winners the next week. This allows plenty of time to have the PHA-Br plaque ready for one of our Companions to present at the winner's JROTC program's Award Ceremony.

For a number of years, our Chapter Treasurer, LTC (Ret) David Lynch, and I have visited the JROTC programs to deliver the annual Award of Merit. We take the opportunity to discuss our other MOWW events that they and their cadets may participate in the Most Outstanding JROTC Cadet Competition, the Massing of the Colors Ceremony, and the Youth Leadership Conference. Lastly, we ask the Senior Instructor to consider joining MOWW and leave an Application. I send an email announcing the three winners to those Senior Instructors who submitted nominees, but also to the other JROTC Instructors who didn't send a packet so they can see what they missed.

I send a letter of Congratulations to the winning Cadet's family inviting them to our Chapter's Membership Luncheon in May. At that Chapter Membership Meeting, the Chapter Commander recreates the presentation of the PHA Bronze Plaque, Certificate and Medal and Cash Award for all Companions as well as presents the Cadet the MOWW Leadership Coin.

For 2021, we were able to get the Competition in even with the COVID-19 restrictions because We accepted everything electronically; We eliminated the MOWW Events in the scoring criteria to make it fairer across the board. We limited the Selection Board to just myself due to COVID-19 concerns. The Instructors were okay with this since they know that I was a JROTC Senior Instructor for nineteen years. We presented the winning Cadet his award at his school (outside) with only his JROTC Instructors (one was his father) and a photographer present.

After nine years of sponsoring this competition, we need to double the Cash Award to continue to motivate the JROTC Instructors and Cadets to participate. Additionally, we need to award a Certificate of Achievement and a \$25.00 Cash Award to those nominees who don't finish in the top three. We must also send a Certificate of Appreciation to all Senior JROTC Instructors who submitted a nominee. Finally, I send a proposed article of this event to the Chief of Staff for consideration in publishing in *OFFICER REVIEW*. A copy also goes to the Chapter Newsletter Editor...In spite of the COVID-19 handicap, it has been imperative to carry on with this competition because certain highly motivated JROTC programs and outstanding cadets have performed exceedingly well and creatively. Recognizing these deserving cadets is vital. We will strive to have seven or more nominees next year.

Girl Scout Program

Congratulations to nine (9) East Valley girls who earned their Girl Scout Gold Award. The virtual **Arizona Cactus Pine Council ceremony** was held on 27 March 2021. Thanks to **MSG Jeanne Erickson, Girl Scout Program Chair**, for her continued selfless service on behalf of our chapter.



2021 Girl
Scout
Gold Award

Read more about their individual projects (*Click on this link*):
19 Local Girl Scouts Earn Gold Award, Most Prestigious Award in the World for Girls - HMA PR

Cayton Hale, **Chandler**: *"Beat the Heat."*

Hannah Barsema, **Mesa**: *"Peanut Butter and Jelly Back to School Drive."*

Robin Bozik, **Chandler**: *"Stigma Ends Here."*

Jane Spellman, **Tempe**: *"American Flag Retirement."*

Megan Rziha, **Chandler**: *"Camp Field Improvement."*

Ainsley Snyder, **Gilbert**: *"Rainwater Recycling Garden."*

Chloe Stoops, **Gilbert**: *"Women in STEM."*

Rhiannon Ridley, **Gilbert**: *"Giving Care To Memory."*

Victoria Thurman, **Tempe**: *"Healing Art."*



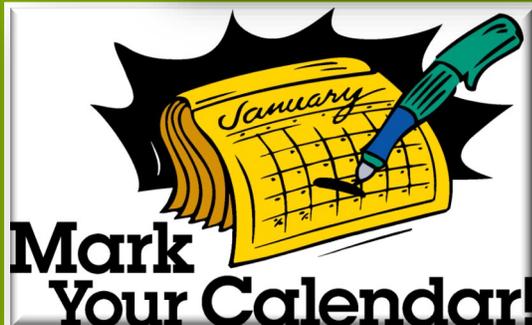
Ainsley Snyder



Chloe Stoops



Rhiannon Ridley



New IRS New Tax Deadline--May 17, 2021

22 May 2021/Saturday--ZOOM Monthly meeting. ADVS Deputy Director John Scott.

Chapter Summer Hiatus June, July & August—**No** Chapter luncheons or Staff meetings until September 2021.

Self Care



Healthy Ways to Cope with Stress

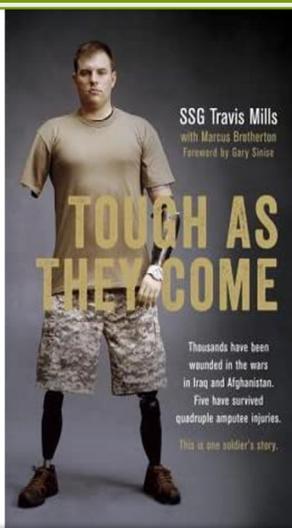
Surgeon's Corner

Source: CDC

Ideas to help combat cabin fever from the CDC.

- **Take breaks from watching, reading, or listening to news stories,** including those on social media. It's good to be informed, but hearing about the pandemic constantly can be upsetting.
- Consider limiting news to just a couple times a day and disconnecting from phone, tv, and computer screens for a while.
- **Take care of your body.**
- Take deep breaths, stretch, or meditate external icon.
- Try to eat healthy, well-balanced meals. Exercise regularly. Get plenty of sleep. Avoid excessive alcohol, tobacco, and substance use.
- Continue with routine preventive measures (such as vaccinations, cancer screenings, etc.) as recommended by your healthcare provider.
- Get vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine when available.
- **Make time to unwind.** Try to do some other activities you enjoy.
- **Connect with others.** Talk with people you trust about your concerns and how you are feeling. **Connect with your community- or faith-based organizations.** While social distancing measures are in place, try connecting online, through social media, or by phone or mail. **Helping Others Cope** Taking care of yourself can better equip you to take care of others. During times of social distancing, it is especially important to stay connected with your friends and family. Helping others cope with stress through phone calls or video chats can help you and your loved ones feel less lonely or isolated.

Recommended Reading



DVD Documentary Trailer:

[Travis: A Soldier's Story - Watch the Official Trailer \(travisthemovie.com\)](http://travisthemovie.com)

“Thousands have been wounded in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Five have survived quadruple amputee injuries. This is one soldier’s story.”

Convergent Books, NY, c2015. *(Click on link below)*

[Travis Mills - Never Give Up. Never Quit.](#)



24 March 2021, Cadet Dylan Caldwell presented Bronze Patrick Henry plaque by LTC Patrick C. Stolze at Mesa HS.

Most Outstanding JROTC Cadet Program

LTC Patrick C. Stolze, USA, Ret.

LTC Patrick C. Stolze announced **AFJROTC Cadet Dylan Caldwell, Mesa High School** is our 2021 winner. Cadet Caldwell was presented the **MOWW Bronze Patrick Henry Award** plaque, medal & Certificate with a \$100.00 Check, by LTC Stolze on March 17, 2021.

Congratulations to **2nd Place** winner **Cadet Eduardo Ortiz, Desert Ridge HS AFJROTC** & **3rd Place** winner **Cadet Quinten Alvarez, Higley HS**

AFJROTC. Both Cadets will receive a Certificate of

Appreciation and a Check for \$50.00 & \$25.00 respectfully.

Lt Col Brian Walker, Mesa HS AFJROTC Senior Air Science Instructor, about Cadet Caldwell: *“He’s a class act and wise beyond his years. Cadet Caldwell has been a mature and steady influence on our cadets, especially during these turbulent times.”*



Congratulations!

Cadet Caldwell

Cadet Ortiz and

Cadet Alvarez

Most Outstanding JROTC Cadet Award

LTC (Ret) Patrick C. Stolze, with 2nd Place Cadet Eduardo Ortiz & 3rd Place Cadet Quinten Alvarez



Travelogue Yuma Marine Corps Air Station

LTC Allan Jeska, USA, Ret.

March 2, 2021 email

As a "snowbird," I am able to flit around and locate some "different" places here in "The Grand Canyon State."



Well, I had received a brochure from USMC Base, Yuma, AZ, and it extolled its R&R Center at Lake Martinez near the Colorado River. I wanted to see what they hinted at. I asked several of you if you had ever been there, nope!

First of all, as many USMC things, it was quite difficult to find. Lots of road construction and no signage. I had to inquire a couple of times and then wandered along.

Upon finally locating it, it consisted of several park model trailers and RV campsites out on a finger of the Lake. They did have adult boats and water toys to rent, but I wasn't impressed. (Also I learned you had to bring your own bedding and silverware?) Getting lost a few times (even with GPS)... I was Quartermaster Corps as well as Special Forces, duh. I feel that the Army Proving Ground is worth touring. They have everything, sometimes two. Commissary, PX, gas station, etc. Big operation, but not much action noted. (The gas was actually 10 cents cheaper than any in Yuma!) No problem entering with an ID card.

So, if you are down there getting your "body rebuilt" in Mexico, if is a nice day trip to go out in the desert and see what the military is doing. Hope all is fine in your A/O (Area of Operations).

I got my 2nd COVID shot from the VA (East Valley Clinic). No pain, no strain! Sorry, I am missing a few of you this winter season, but hope you are wintering well and we can get together several times soon. Be safe and enjoy each day.



Most Outstanding JROTC Cadet Program

LTC Patrick C. Stolze, USA, Ret., Program Chair

9th Year

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Apache Trail Chapter 207

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MOWW-Dept. of AZ

<https://www.mowwscv.com/>

Facebook page

[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/apachetrails/)

[apachetrails/](https://www.facebook.com/apachetrails/)

www.moww.org

- ♦ **7 May 2021/Friday, In-Person Staff Meeting @ 10:00 a.m., Goody’s Café, 1862 West Baseline Road Mesa, AZ.**
- ♦ **18 June 2021/Friday, AVHOF Patriotic Awards Luncheon.** Register: [2021 Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Patriotic Awards Luncheon Tickets, Fri, Jun 18, 2021 at 11:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)
- ♦ **31 May 2021. Memorial Day.**
- ♦ **3 September 2021/Friday, In-Person Staff Meeting. Location TBD.**