

CHAPTER REPORT

DATE: 31 Dec 2025

2nd Half of 2025

CHAPTER: SENCLAND. NC-07

MAILING ADDRESS: SENCLAND Chapter MOAA, P.O. BOX 10015, Wilmington, NC 28404

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PRESIDENT'S NAME: James "Allan" Turner (Note: On 6 Jan 2026 Michael J. "Mike" Apicella becomes Chapter president)

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Membership Numbers within NCCOC										
Chapter Number	Chapter Name	Regular Members	Surviving Spouses	Active Duty	Satellites	Total	C/M	Gains over Losses	MOAA National	Honorary
NC-7	SENCLAND	243	22	7	0	247	243	-3	240	4

MEMBERSHIP DUES: \$20 Regular \$15 Surviving Spouses

FUNDRAISING SOURCES & PROJECTS:

Members' donations for the Scholarship, Veteran Student Grants and Outreach programs

50/50 Raffles at luncheons and special events

Outreach Program Grants from National MOAA and the NC Council of Chapters

FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS: Luncheon meetings every month except July and August. There are also periodic Special events.

AVERAGE MEETING ATTENDANCE 75

Monthly Luncheons: Luncheons are held the first Tuesday of each month at the Bluewater Grill, Wrightsville Beach except for May when we meet at an Oak Island restaurant. Monthly Luncheon attendance remains high due in part to the high quality of speaker presentations at each luncheon and attractive venues. During this reporting period our monthly luncheon speakers and presentations were: CAPT Frank Michael, USN (ret): National MOAA Updates, Cameron Kinard: Fort Fisher State Historic (Civil War) site and museum, Dr. Robert McKenzie - COL, US Army (ret): Veteran mental health and PTSD treatment and at the Holliday Luncheon the Cape Fear Chordsmen: Holiday musical entertainment and Fellowship.

ANNUAL PICNIC: The Chapter held its annual picnic at a County Park in Wilmington on 6 June 2025. Seventy-five members and guests attended and scholarships were awarded to five recipients.

SPECIAL EVENTS: In August, thirty-four members and guests enjoyed a tour of Wilmington's Cameron Art Museum galleries and also shared light refreshments at the

Museum's Café. In October thirty-two members and guests participated in a guided walking tour of the recently restored Fort Fisher Civil War site earthen mounds and tunnels. That was followed by a self-guided tours of the remodeled and expanded gallery of artifacts. The construction of the new Ft Fisher Museum was a project that was started by SENCLAND's former President, BGEN Jim Carper, USA (Ret).

ROTC/JROTC UNITS SUPPORTED: ROTC: None JROTC: 19

HOW DO YOU SUPPORT?

Leadership Awards: This year we provided JROTC Leadership Medals at all 19 of the schools we support. Twelve Chapter members participated in the award ceremonies.

JROTC Scholarships: In 2025 we awarded a total of \$3,000 in scholarships to **six** JROTC cadets. The scholarships were presented at our Annual Picnic in June. The recipients and their guests (usually their parents) were all guests of the Chapter. Photos are on the Chapter's website.

LTC Leeroy "Lee" Hanna, USA (Ret.) has served as the Chapter's JROTC Leadership Awards and Scholarship Committee Chairman since 2015. In January 2026 Commander Dave Everette, USN (Ret.) will assume Committee Chairmanship. During the 10 years of Lee's tenure the Chapter presented 200 MOAA JROTC Leadership awards to all 19 of the schools we support. The Chapter's JROTC Scholarship presentations date back to 2002. LTC Robert Jones, USA (Ret.) conceived the idea of presenting scholarships to high school students in our catchment area. Since the scholarships started in 2002, SENCLand MOAA has awarded \$124,200 in scholarships. These were presented to a total of 103 students in 18 different high schools. During the last 10 years the Chapter presented 62 scholarships totaling \$63,200 to students at 13 schools.

OTHER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS:

Veteran Student Education Grants: Our Chapter has awarded Veteran Student grants since 2017. During 2025 the Chapter distributed a total of \$5,000 in Veteran student grants. In March \$500 was awarded to a young, disabled veteran US Army paratrooper at UNC Wilmington (UNCW). Our grant along with contributions from other veteran organization made it possible for him to continue his educational aspirations. The remainder of our available funds were dispersed during the local Veterans Day celebrations with \$1,500 in grants to three veterans at UNCW, \$2,000 in grants to four veterans at Cape Fear Community College and \$1,000 in grants to two veterans at Brunswick Community College. This brought our 2025 total to \$5,000 for ten veterans in 2025. We are proud that two of these Grants were made on behalf of Brigadier General James Carper (Ret.), NC National Guard and honored former SENCLAND Chapter president. We are proud of our success, but it is important to note that the available funding is a small token against the total need.

OTHER CHAPTER ACTIVITIES:

Cheddar Up: The Chapter began use of *Cheddar Up* in June 2025 to collect payments for donations, nametags, and the annual "scholarship awards" picnic because payments were required in advance for picnic attendees. *Cheddar Up* was also used to prepare the RSVP list of picnic attendees. The Chapter also began accepting credit card payments at events, and autopayment capability for dues and donations has been set up. In 2026 we plan to expand usn of Cheddar Up to collect annual Chapter Dues. *Cheddar Up* has been positively received by Chapter members.

Community Outreach Program: In 2025 the SENCLAND Community Outreach Program awarded five grants totaling \$3,500 to deserving veterans or their families in need of financial assistance in

Wilmington and surrounding areas. The purpose of the grants consisted predominantly to assist Veterans with housing and health needs. Funding for the program came from Chapter member donations totaling \$1,500, a Grant from National MOAA of \$1,750, and a \$333 Grant from the NC Council of Chapters for a total budget of \$3,583. Although we have depleted our funds for FY 2025, we are working on several grants for FY 2026. Leon Rooks becomes this Committee's Chair in January 2026.

Legislative: SENCLAND's Legislative Affairs Chairman Barry Coyle and his Committee members continuously track the progress of federal and state legislation of interest to Chapter members and prepare monthly Legislative Notes and updates for the Chapter newsletter and Website, and briefings at luncheons. The Legislative Chair shared information with other Chapter and Council Legislative Chairs regarding progress on NCCOC 2025 legislative priorities. He also encouraged all Chapter members to sign up for the MOAA Legislative Action Center. On 26 August our Legislative Affairs Chairman briefed Congressman Rouzer's (R-7th) District Director, Chance Lambeth, on MOAA's Summer AIA topics, which are: finally passing the Richard Starr Act; passing the Military Spouse Hiring Act; and improved TRICARE access. In September and October, the Legislative Committee provided information regarding local Municipal elections and encouraged Chapter members to participate.

Surviving Spouse Liaison: Marco Vialpando is the SSL and maintains contact with the Chapter's 28 surviving spouse members via email or telephone. The SSL provides Surviving Spouse information in each edition of the newsletter. Additionally, he provides updated information on topics he deems important enough that the Surviving Spouses should have. An example is the updated information on when the "indefinite" ID cards need to be replaced, which is not by 31 December 2025.

Benefits & Resource Support: The Chapter is kept up-to-date on changes in policies and processes on claims and benefits; such as the PACT Act and Water Pollution at Camp LeJeune.

NC Council and National MOAA participation: The Chapter's President attends monthly Council meetings via Zoom. In addition, three Chapter members support the Council's Legislative, Recruiting & Retention and Wellness programs. Former Chapter President, Ken Klassen is the Council's 1st Vice President. Captain "Tank" Michael, MOAA's Chapter Affair Director was the guest speaker at the Chapter's September luncheon.

Wellness Committee / Chaplain: Our Wellness Committee provides the invocation at all luncheon meetings. They also contact members and their families or friends experiencing illness, hospitalization, or Hospice admission. Our Chaplain sends get-well cards and sympathy cards and phone calls on behalf of the Chapter membership and visits members who are going through rehabilitation in hospital or at a separate campus. In some instances, the Committee has provided transportation to visit medical appointments. We work with Lower Cape Fear Life Care to present a branch of service certificate along with appropriate service pin to the members' families. The Chaplain monitors obituary notices, keeps records of welfare activities and keeps the Chapter president and Board informed of membership welfare concerns.

Newsletter, Website & Facebook: Our Chapter received MOAA's Col. Marvin J. Harris Communication award for the 10th consecutive year (nine at the 5-Star Level). This award recognized SENCLAND for its exemplary communications with the monthly newsletter, the Chapter's website at www.sencland.org and its Facebook Page: *SENCLAND Chapter*.

Newsletter: The Chapter's Newsletter, *The Sentinel*, contains a message from the president, news and photos from recent Chapter meetings/luncheons, schedules of upcoming programs, legislative and

membership updates, a member's profile, and other news of interest to our members. Current and recent issues are also posted on the chapter's website. Each issue is about 20 pages in length and is sent to all members by either e-mail or USPS.

Website: The Chapter continues to improve the breadth and depth of information useful to our members and veterans. This includes links to national MOAA, Chapter events, business updates, fundraising, up-to-date calendars, veteran resources, and highlights of important news. Content organization is improved and updated regularly to ensure the website remains relevant to Chapter members. The Donations link was simplified to encourage increased donations to support Chapter mission. Additionally, Website payment links have been updated to use *Cheddar Up*. Recent additions include pages to honor Fallen Heroes and Awards to recognize Chapter achievements. Demonstrating the attractiveness of our website, visits have increased to 500 daily for an annual total of 180,000 visits. Our Webmaster has reviewed content to ensure no copyright images.

Chapter's FACEBOOK Page: The Chapter's Public Affairs Officer makes frequent postings to the Chapter's Facebook page. Subject matters include Chapter events and other topics of interest. The Chapter's presence on social media continues to increase public awareness about the SENCLAND Chapter. The Chapter's Facebook page now has 510 friends and 618 followers. There is a link to the Chapter's Facebook page on the chapter's website which contributes to a steady increase in the number of Facebook page followers

Automated Communication System: In September 2023 the Chapter launched *Constant Contact*, a commercially provided new and easier way to recommunicate with our members and for them to RSVP for Luncheons and Special Events. Constant Contact also provides useful insights into email delivery patterns. The small number of members that do not use e-mail still receive "hard copy" mail.

2025 Membership Survey:

This Survey was conducted in July and August 2025 to determine Chapter members preferences for current Chapter programs and activities and what changes or additions they might suggest. The survey was conducted using the on-line ConstantContact Survey tool, but copies were also sent to the members that do not use e-mail. We received 73 responses (30% of Chapter Membership). This excellent response rate can be attributed to the ease of responding on-line.

Use of MOAA's Near Real Time (NRT) Recruitment Lists: When National MOAA resumed this important program in late March 2025, we downloaded the missing NRTs from March 2024 to September 2025 and sent postcards to all promising leads, as well as e-mails to these that provided e-mail addresses. In addition, the Service Directors and SSL made "welcome" calls to those that provided telephone numbers. The process to download the NRTs is cumbersome and this has been reported to MOAA. In September 2025 MOAA stopped providing NRTs to the chapters because of ongoing problems with privacy. It is not known when MOAA will resume the NRT process.

Chapter Management: SENCLAND has an active succession planning process for Chapter officers and other Board positions. Our Nominating committee (Immediate Past President, Membership Chair and three Board members) identify Chapter members that have the interest and expertise for Board positions and invite them to assume Committee positions. During this period the Nominating Committee developed a full slate of all elected positions for the 2026 – 2027 period. That slate was unanimously approved during the November 2025 General Membership Meeting. In addition, the President and Board appointed new Chairs and managers for the "Programs" and "Special Events" Committees and the Surviving Spouse Program.

Chapter Challenge Coins: The SENCLAND Chapter's Challenge Coins are offered to members at \$5.00 each at monthly Chapter luncheons/meetings and other functions.

SENCLAND Embroidered LOGO Apparel: Chapter Shirts, caps and outerwear are available on-line from the Queensboro Shirt Company in Wilmington. Members can select from a variety of apparel and purchase directly from Queensboro. The Chapter receives a small commission from this source

Permanent Nametags: The Chapter provides the opportunity for members and their spouses to purchase engraved plastic nametags. The cost of the nametags is \$15 per nametag. We order new nametags each Quarter or when we have at least 10 paid orders.

National MOAA Membership: 98.4% of our current members (not including Honorary) are national MOAA members. All our new members were either already national MOAA members or subsequently joined MOAA. We encourage all Chapter members to become national MOAA members.

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Implementation of *Cheddar Up*
- Receipt of MOAA's LOE Award nine of the last ten years, seven years at the 5-star level.
- Receipt of MOAA's Col. Marvin J. Harris Communication award for 10th consecutive year, nine years at the 5-star level
- Willingness of Chapter members to volunteer for management and leadership positions.
- The ability to continue to recruit new members and retain members at a high level
- Chapter members frequently represent our Chapter in various organizations and organize or help the Honor Flight, Habitat for Humanity, Veteran's Memorial Reef, etc.

CHALLENGES:

Recruiting and retention are crucial to the success of any chapter and we will continue to monitor both closely and continue programs and policies that succeed.