

Source: US Chess Federation

<https://www.uschess.org/index.php/Press/NATO-Championships-Set-for-Quebec-in-September.html>

## NATO Championships Set for Quebec in September

February 7, 2014

If you are interested in playing in the NATO Championship from 8-12 September in Quebec, Canada, please contact Colonel David Hater at dhater1@aol.com. Note that the Department of Defense no longer funds participation in this tournament so players should expect to pay all their own transportation and tournament expenses. Eligibility rules and details on how the team are below. Colonel Hater is also available to answer any questions.

The deadline to self-nominate for consideration for a spot on the team is June 1st, 2014. We expect the team would be announced no later than the end of June and acceptance and payment of entry fee would be due not later than July 20th, 2014.

**Memorandum for:** Active Duty, Reserve, and Select Retired Member of the US Armed Forces, and DoD Government Civilians

**Subject:** The U.S. Team for the annual NATO Chess Championships (Draft #2)

1. **Purpose.** To prescribe the procedures the U.S. military chess community will use to identify and select the 8-Player team that represents the U.S. Armed Forces in the annual NATO Chess Championships (NCC). The NCC usually occurs in September or October.

2. **Team Composition.**

a. Team Size. Under current NCC rules, each NATO nation's Armed Forces team may consist of a maximum of 8 players. Additionally, each team may send up to three (3) more players who meet the criteria described in paragraph 2b.

b. SPECIAL EXCEPTION. An exception to the rule in paragraph 2a occurs when a player has participated in at least eight (8) previous NCCs. Players meeting this criteria are eligible to participate, if allowed by the Event Organizer (e.g. the host nation). This "exception" can vary from year-to-year, as it is the Event Organizer's prerogative based on the venue (size of the playing area) and other factors. The rules are the same for all NATO nations. Players meeting this exception do not count against the 8-player size of a nation's contingent, nor are they required to meet the specifications of paragraph 4 (Selection of Players).

c. Team Captain. The US contingent will select its own Team Captain by agreement among the participating players. The Team Captain may or may not be the most "senior" person in military rank, as another player may have significantly greater NCC experience. The Team Captain will identify him/herself by email to the Chair of the Military Chess Committee no later than 60 days before the next NCC.

3. **Player Eligibility.** Players should be expected to be asked to provide proof of their eligibility.

a. USCF Membership. All players must be current members of the USCF at the time they are selected for the tournament, and must maintain their membership through the date of the NCC. Players also must have a FIDE ID number, which usually is obtained from having participated

previously in a FIDE-rated tournament. Players without a FIDE ID number can request a number by contacting the FIDE Associate in the USCF Office (see [www.uschess.org](http://www.uschess.org)).

b. **Employment.** All players must be members of the Active Component or Reserve Component of the U.S. Armed Forces. Retirees also are eligible if their retirement date was no more than one year before the NCC. DoD Civilian employees are eligible, and retired DoD Civilians have the same retirement criteria as military players.

**4. Selection of Players.** The intent of these procedures is to facilitate selecting and fielding the strongest possible U.S. Armed Forces team. The U.S. team will contain up to eight (8) players identified using the criteria below.

a. **USCF or FIDE Rating.** This criteria will be used to determine up to 6 of the 8 positions on the U.S. Team. A player's "rating" is the highest of his/her FIDE or USCF Regular Rating within the previous year that ends three months before the next NCC. For example, if the next NCC Tournament begins in September, then the "Rating Year" is from July of the previous year through June of the current year. For FIDE ratings, the rating is the rating shown on a player's "Monthly Progress Chart" on the FIDE web site ([www.fide.com](http://www.fide.com)). For USCF ratings, the rating is the rating published in the monthly USCF Rating Supplement ([www.uschess.org/msa](http://www.uschess.org/msa)). Ratings after the 3-month cut-off date cannot be used to bump another player from the Player List. Blitz or Quick Ratings do not count.

b. **Team Captain / Military Chess Committee Nominations.** The Team Captain and Military Chess Committee reserve the right to appoint the remaining two (2) positions on the U.S. Team. If this appointment process is not used, then the rating criteria above will apply to determine the remaining 2 players.

c. **Participation in the annual US Armed Forces Open (USAFO) Chess Tournament.** The USAFO is held Columbus Day weekend each October. Participation in the USAFO demonstrates a player's commitment to Military Chess.

d. **Service-level Chess Championships.** If a military service holds its own Service-level championship tournament (e.g. the Air Force Open Chess Championships), participants are eligible for the same 50 point bonus described above. The Military Chess Committee Service-level Championships be "open" as opposed to "invitational."

e. **BONUS POINTS for Player's USCF or FIDE Ratings.** Because the intent of the selection criteria is to "reward" players who are active in tournaments, especially military tournaments, the following "bonus points" can be added to each player's rating.

The maximum number of points any player can receive is 150. A player's "Adjusted Rating" becomes the rating used for selection purposes. Players are responsible for identifying their eligibility for all Bonus Rating Points.

Activity or Bonus Factor	Bonus Rating Points	Remarks
Active Duty Service Member	50 Points	Includes Reserve Component Soldiers who are mobilized
Serving in the <u>Reserve</u> Component (RC)	25 Points	Does not apply to RC Soldiers who receive the 50 Active Duty points
Participated in the most recent US Armed Forces Open (USAFO)	25 Points	Played at least 4 Rounds
Participated in at least three USAFOs in the past five years	50 Points	Played at least 4 Rounds in each event counted.
Participated in at least one NATO Chess Championship within the previous three years	50 Points	
US Government Civilian who is a Military Retiree	25 Points	Does not apply to Government Contractors.
Participation in USCF or FIDE rated tournaments within the past year Rating Year	10 Points per event, max 50 Pts	An event is 3 or more Rounds. Rating Year defined in Para 4a
No USCF or FIDE rated tournament activity in the past Rating Year	Minus 25 Points	
Certified USCF Tournament Director who has directed at least three events in the Rating Year	10 Points	

**5. How to get Selected.** The Military Chess Committee does not select the players. Rather, the process is one of self-nomination among colleagues who desire to play in the next NCC.

a. Who to contact. The best way to self-nominate is to contact the Team Captain of the previous year's U.S. NCC team. That person probably knows who is assembling the coming year's team. To find last year's NCC team captain, contact the USCF Membership Services and ask for the contact information of the Chair of the Military Chess Committee. The Chair can assist a player in contacting the right person involved with building the team.

b. Self-Nomination and Cut-off Date. Players must self-nominate and provide proof of their eligibility and rating (including Bonus Points), by the 1st of the month that is three (3) months before the next NCC. For example, if the NCC is scheduled for September, then eligible players must self-nominate by June 1st.

c. List of Selected Players.

1) No later than 60 days before the NCC, the Team Captain will provide the Chair of the Military Chess Committee with his/her list of players (see example format below). The Military Chess Committee recommends the Player List contain several Alternates to cover instances where a primary Team Member decides to withdraw his/her name.

2) The Team Captain will sort the Player List according to FIDE/USCF Rating or Adjusted Rating sequence. Players who meet the Special Exception criteria in paragraph 2a (8-time or more participant in the NCC) will be shown at the bottom of the Player List, regardless of their rating.

Player List (example)

Sequence	Name	USCF ID	FIDE ID	Highest USCF Rating	Highest FIDE Rating	Adjusted Rating	Remarks
1	Jones, Samuel L.	12345678	092135	2150 Jan 2014	2083 Mar 2014	2225	Army, Active Duty, participated in last USAFO, Entry Fee PAID. (75 Bonus Pts)
2	Kilroy, Joseph P. TEAM CAPTAIN	13458776	561234	2115 Feb 2014	2137 Nov 2013	2187	Air Force, Retired Jan 2014, participated in USAFO, Entry Fee PAID. (50 Bonus Pts)
3	Dominguez, Samantha	12638411	783456	2145 Mar 2014	1990 Oct 2013	2170	Navy, Reserves, did not participate in USAFO, Entry Fee NOT PAID. (25 Bonus Pts)
(intentionally blank)							
10 2 <sup>nd</sup> Alternate	Johnson, Jonathan	12799991	684512	1830 Nov 2013	None	1885	DoD Civilian, retired military, did not participate in USAFO, 3 tournaments in the past year. (55 Bonus Pts)
(intentionally blank)							
14 Pre-Qualified	Lover, Julius O.	1988761	2345098	n/a	n/a	n/a	USMC, participated in at least 8 NATO Chess Championships. (Does not need Bonus Pts)

3) The Chair of the Military Chess Committee will arrange to have the Player List published on an appropriate page of the USCF Web Site. The list is considered final unless changed by agreement between the Team Captain and the Chair of the Military Chess Committee. The Chair is obligated to “validate” the Team Captain’s proposed change(s) and to have the published list update on the USCF web site.

6. **Costs.** There is no guaranteed source of funding from the USCF or any DoD organization. Eligible players should assume they will fund their own travel and entry fees. The Entry Fee for the NCC usually includes lodging and meals.

a. **Entry Fee Deadline.** The U.S. Team Captain will establish and notify players of the deadline for payment of required NCC entry fees. Normally, these fees are payable directly to the Team Captain; s/he has the responsibility to get them to the Event Organizer. Players should expect that *Entry Fees are non-refundable* except in the most extreme cases (e.g. military deployment, family emergency).

7. **Appeals Process.** Players who wish to appeal their eligibility requirements or the names on the Players List should contact the Chair of the Military Chess Committee. Appeals received less than 45 days prior to the start of the NCC probably cannot be acted upon, especially if they impact the travel and costs of a player already on the list.

8. **Point of Contact.** The point of contact for this document is the Chair of the Military Chess Committee. S/he can be reached through the USCF Office at 931-787-1234.

Source:

<http://www.chessblog.com/2014/05/june-1-last-date-to-apply-for-us-nato.html>

Tuesday, May 27, 2014

June 1 Last Date to Apply for the US NATO Chess Team



Hello chess friends, Col. David Hater's announcement on the US Chess Federation website calls for a chess players for a very special team selection. The U.S. will be sending a military chess team to the NATO Championship in Quebec from 8-12 September 2014. Individuals must be selected for the team and must pay their own expenses. For further information and to apply, please contact Colonel David Hater at [dhater1@aol.com](mailto:dhater1@aol.com). Applications must be received by 1 June.

From Alexandra Kosteniuk's

[www.chessblog.com](http://www.chessblog.com)

Also see her personal chess blog

at [www.chessqueen.com](http://www.chessqueen.com)

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<http://www.uschess.org/index.php/September/USA-Wins-Bronze-Medal-at-25th-NATO-Chess-Championship.html>

Source:

[https://www.army.mil/article/132764/fort\\_meade\\_chess\\_enthusiasts\\_prepare\\_for\\_international\\_competition](https://www.army.mil/article/132764/fort_meade_chess_enthusiasts_prepare_for_international_competition)





FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. (August 28, 2014) -- Col. David Hater and Air Force Master Sgt. Robert Keough may be two of the most boisterous and outgoing chess players to compete at this year's NATO Chess Championship.

Defying the introverted chess player stereotype, Hater, who works as assistant chief of staff at U.S. Army Cyber Command, and Keough, who is newly assigned to Fort Meade, view chess as a highly competitive sport that brings together international armed forces.

"I started playing when I was very young," said Keough, who was part of the U.S. silver medal NATO team in 2002. "I liked the competitive aspects. I liked winning tournaments."

At this year's NATO Chess Championship from Sept. 8-13 in Quebec City, 11 countries and 66 competitors will be present. The U.S. chess team, with a third-place ranking, plans to medal.

"We've got two masters [ranked higher than 2,200] and four experts [ranked higher than 2,000], which I think is the strongest team we've ever had," Hater said.

Regardless, Hater said that everybody on the team would have to play the "tournament of his life" for the U.S. to win gold.

"Most years we would have no chance of beating Germany [the top seed]," Hater said. "This year we are certainly not expected to, but it would not be totally outside the realm of possibility. I mean it would be an upset, but at least we can think about an upset."

The official NATO Chess Championship began in 1989 with only four countries, including the U.S., represented at the tournament. The tournament was funded by the Department of Defense until 2011, but due to budgetary constraints, the U.S. no longer sponsors a team, said Hater.

Motivated by his love of chess, Hater decided to form his own team to represent the U.S. He worked with representatives of the NATO Chess Championship, the U.S. Chess Federation military chess committee and the Army to determine the proper protocol for creating a team.

"This year, everybody's traveling on their own dime," Hater said. "I worked through the military chess committee and we came up with a mathematical formula [for who should be on the NATO Championship Team], and it was objective. I weighted [players'] national ranking the highest, although there were some other factors."

As a nine-time NATO Chess Championship competitor and the U.S. team captain, Hater wanted to make sure the process through which he determined the team was as objective and transparent as possible.

"[Hater] actually put out [an advertisement for the team] on uschess.org, which is the United States Chess Federation's website," said Keough, a six-time NATO Chess Championship competitor who recently placed second in the Atlantic Open chess tournament in D.C.

"If you're a military player, you don't have to be active duty; you can be Reserve as well."

To prepare for the tournament, Hater and Keough will continue to study the strategy of top competitors.

"We may want to look at games that their opponents have played," Hater said. "So just like in the NFL where they watch film of their opponents, we like to do the same thing if we can get it."

Hater said that along with preparing for the tournament, as team captain he has other responsibilities, such as relaying the nuances of the tournament to his team and representing his players in disputes.

However, Hater said he impresses upon his team that "they are all ambassadors of the U.S." in this tournament.

With the tournament less than two weeks away, Keough said there are only so many realistic preparations the team can make due to the large number of participants at the tournament.

"We can't prepare for the [many] players who are going to be there," Keough said. "We don't even know who we're going to play. So what we'll do to alleviate that is, every one of us will have a laptop with chess programs and chess databases. And we'll have access to information so that if we can get a round pairing early enough when we get an opponent, then we'll look up their games and try to find a weakness in their opening repertoire."

"Our top seed is already looking at Germany's top seed," Hater said. "Everybody's preparing."

Editor's note: If you are interested in learning to play chess, email Air Force Master Sgt. Keough at [robkeo@hotmail.com](mailto:robkeo@hotmail.com).

Source:

<https://ca.usembassy.gov/a-chess-game-with-nato-representatives/>

## A Chess Game with NATO Representatives

Consul General VanKoughnett meets with the U.S. team participating in the 25th annual NATO Chess Championship, being held in Quebec from September 8 to 12. This is the first time the NATO championship has been held in North America. Eleven NATO member countries are competing.

## USA Wins Bronze Medal at 25th NATO Chess Championship

By Colonel David Hater, US Army

September 22, 2014



*The Opening Ceremony, Courtesy Public Affairs Office, 2nd Division of Canada*

USA's Military Chess Team placed 3rd at the 25th NATO Chess Championship from 8 to 12 September 2014 in Quebec City, Canada, one of the most beautiful cities in the world. This year's 25th anniversary event was significant as the championship was held in North America for the first time. Seventy Four players from eleven NATO countries were graciously hosted in the magnificent Citadelle de Quebec by the Canadian Royal 22nd Regiment which is celebrating its centennial anniversary in 2014. In addition to the chess competition, participants were treated to a week of exciting festivities including an opening day parade ceremony and a closing awards banquet at the Parliament Building in Quebec City.





The NATO Championship is a 7 round individually paired Swiss open to each of the 28 NATO countries. Teams consist of 6 players and the top 4 scores determine the team's score. Countries may send two additional players as team officials. These players play in the tournament forming a NATO team of "housemen" but do not count for their country's score.

The 2014 USA delegation was comprised of:

**FM Private Dharim Bacus**-2311-82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, NC

**NM Captain Arthur Macaspac**-2102-3rd Battalion, 85th Infantry, Fort Drum, NY

**Colonel David Hater (pictured below)** -2090-Army Cyber Command, Fort Meade, MD



**Master Sergeant (MSgt) Robert Keough**-2061-Fort Meade, MD

**Petty Officer Enrico Balmaceda**-2050-Navy Consolidated Brig Miramar, Miramar, CA

**Lieutenant Colonel Jon Middaugh**-1791-Army National Guard

**Staff Sergeant (retired) John Farrell**-2048-HQs, Marine Corps, Pentagon, Washington, DC

**Lieutenant Colonel Charles Musselman**-1965-AFROTC Det 410, University of St. Thomas, MN



*IM Lieutenant Lorenz Drabke, Courtesy Public Affairs Office, 2nd Division of Canada*

The first six players scores were designated as the USA team while the other two members of the delegation played under the American flag, but their scores could not be added to the team total. Chief Petty Officer Albertryan Hernandez, U.S. Navy was also due to play but his wife gave birth to their first child the day before the tournament started. Congratulations to Chief Hernandez on the birth of his daughter!

As usual, and as predicted by rating, Germany won the tournament. Germany has played in 24 of the 25 NATO Championships winning the event 21 times and was the runner up twice! This year they scored 21.5 points to Poland's 20 points based on the combined scores of the top four players from each team in the seven round event. Though it may have seemed like a foregone conclusion, this was a very hard fought event. Germany and Poland switched places at the top of the podium throughout the week and head to head matchups in the final round allowed Germany to emerge victorious.

The U.S. team entered the tournament with particularly high hopes this year after fielding a strong team with our top four players bringing an average rating of 2141. This was second behind Germany's average top 4 of 2289 and just ahead of Poland at 2127. While USA brought an A-team this year, it was no easy feat for the team to secure a spot on the podium. The bronze medal was not decided until the final round in which Team USA finished with a team score of 17.5, edging out Denmark and Hungary by a full point. In the NATO Championship's 25 year history, USA has achieved medals only three times (1989, 2002, 2014). Hopefully, it won't be another decade before we are again in the winner's circle!



*Wells vs Drabke, Courtesy Public Affairs Office, 2nd Division of Canada*

The individual winner was Germany's IM Lieutenant Lorenz Drabke (2467). Again this may not have been a surprise since he outrated the field by 150 points and he has won this tournament 5 times including the last three years in a row. Still, he tied for first with Poland's Dariusz Sycz, both at 6-1. Drabke beat Sycz in their individual game, but ceded draws to Hungary's Gusztav Oltean and Poland's Sypien Mateusz. Drabke counts as his best game his win over Denmark's FM Private Finn Pedersen. (2277)

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Captain Macaspac (2102), finished with 4.5 points as the best US scorer finishing in the 10th to 18th place tie. Only a last round loss prevented Macaspac from achieving an individual medal. His 5th round game versus Denmark's Private Jan Nielsen (2083) was a critical encounter allowing USA to edge out Denmark.

Private Dharim Bacus (2311), U.S. Army, coming into the tournament as the second seed at 2311, also finished in the tie for 10th place with three wins and three draws. His 5th round loss to third seed, FM Mark Helbig (2289) from Germany was a tough result for USA, but the two FM's produced an excellent game.

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The other top finisher for Team USA was Master Sergeant Keough (2072), who also scored a personal best 4.5 points this year. Having also been a member of the 2002 USA team, he is the only USA player to have been awarded two NATO Championship medals. His best game was against Polish Team Captain Major Slawomir Kednierski (2024).

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Four other Team USA players were close behind the team's top finishers with individual scores of 4.0 points. Petty Officer Balmaceda's (2072) win over Netherlands's Team Captain Ard Dekker (1922) was

crucial in the USA final round score.

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In the final round, USA's extra players that competed as part of separate NATO teams won key matches against close rival team opponents to help secure the bronze medal for Team USA. Lt Col Charles Musselman (1965), defeated Denmark's Private Gert Aagaard (2053) while Staff Sergeant (retired), John Farrell (USA 2048), defeated Hungary's team captain Lieutenant Colonel Csaba Csizmadia (1870).

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Source:

<https://www.chessmaniac.com/armed-forces-chess/>

Saturday, October 11th, 2014

Armed Forces Chess

Originally, the U.S. Armed Forces Chess Championship was an individual round robin semi-invitational event, run by the military. Any active duty personnel could apply, and the top rated (usually over 1800) were selected if their unit would let them go. Thomas Emery (1896-1975) donated the trophy and Lt Col Ed Edmondson helped get it off the ground. Emery was a millionaire who was a member of the Marine Corps during World War I. He helped support master chess and armed forces chess.

In 1959, Thomas Emery and Col. John D. Mathas co-founded the US Armed Forces Chess Championship.

In May 1960, the first U.S. Armed Forces Chess Championship (USAFCC) was held at the American Legion Hall of Flags in Washington, D.C. There were 12 invited participants. Air Force Captain John Hudson (1930-2012) and Army SP4 Arthur Feuerstein (1935- ) tied for 1st place. Feuerstein was four times New York state champion and was serving in the US Army in France at this time. Hudson was a bombardier-navigator on B-52 bombers and a former US Amateur champion (1956). He also won the Louisiana State Championship in 1952 and the California State Open in 1965.

In 1960, Eduard Gufeld (1936-2002) won the USSR Armed Forces Championship.

In 1961, Hans Kmoch wrote a 68-page pamphlet on the chess games of the first Thomas Emery Armed Forces Tournament, published by the American Chess Foundation.

In September 1961, Air Force Captain John Hudson won the 2nd US Armed Forces championship. The tournament was sponsored by the US Chess Federation, the American Chess Foundation, and the USO.

In October 1962, Army SP4 Roy Mallett won the 3rd US Armed Forces championship.

In October 1963, Air Force Chief Master Sergeant Irwin Lyon won the 4th US Armed Forces championship. This was the first year that the Coast Guard was represented in this annual event.

In November 1964, Air Force 1st Lieutenant Donato Rivera de Jesus won the 5th US Armed Forces championship on tiebreaks over Army Pvt Bruce Albertson. Rivera played for Puerto Rico in the Varna Chess Olympiad in 1962.

In November 1965, Air Force Airman David M. Lees (1943-1996) won the 6th US Armed Forces championship. The event was held at the American Legion's Hall of Flags in Washington, D. C. He also won the Texas State Championship in 1965.

In 1966, Army SP4 Chester Wozney won the 7th US Armed Forces championship.

In 1967, Army SP4 Michael Senkiewicz won the 8th US Armed Forces championship. He was also a world class Scrabble player, backgammon player, and poker player. He played for the British Virgin Islands in the 1988 chess Olympiad, scoring 9 out of 12. He was once ranked 35th in the nation in chess.

In October 1968, Army SP4 Charles "Charlie" Powell (1944-1991) won the 9th US Armed Forces championship. He was 7-time Virginia champion and beat Bobby Fischer in a simul.

In November 1969, Army PFC Steven Hohensee won the 10th US Armed Forces championship, held in the American Legion's Hall of Flags.

In 1970, Air Force Major John Hudson won the 11th US Armed Forces championship.

In 1971, Air Force 1st Lieutenant Brendan Godfrey won the 12th US Armed Forces championship. Now Dr. Godfrey is Director of the Air Force Office of Scientific Research.

In 1972, Coast Guard Lieutenant Zaccarias Chavez won the 13th US Armed Forces championship. He appeared on the front cover of the December 1972 issue of Chess Life & Review.

In 1973, Air Force Sergeant Don Sutherland won the 14th US Armed Forces championship. He won the California State Chess Championship in 1965 and Colorado Championship in 1973.

In 1974, Air Force Sergeant Richard Bustamante won the 15th US Armed Forces championship.

In 1975, Air Force Sergeant Charles Unruh won the 16th US Armed Forces championship.

In September 1976 Army E4 Russell Garber won the 17th US Armed Forces championship, held in the American Legion's Hall of Flags.

In October 1977, Air Force Captain Robert Bond won the 18th US Armed Forces championship.

In September 1978, Air Force Captain Robert Bond won the 19th US Armed Forces championship. The event was held at the American Legion Hall of Flags in Washington, D.C. The event was sponsored by the American Chess Foundation.

In 1979, Army SP4 Michael Fletcher won the 20th US Armed Forces championship

In 1980, Army SP4 Michael Fletcher won the 21st US Armed Forces championship.

In 1981, Airman 1st Class Timothy Brown won the 22nd US Armed Forces championship. He won the Arizona championship in 1976.

In 1982, Air Force Sergeant Timothy Brown won the 23rd US Armed Forces championship.

In 1983, Air Force Senior Airman Emory Tate, Jr. (1958- ) won the 24th US Armed Forces championship. He would later win the Armed Forces championship 5 times and become an International Master, rated over 2450.

In 1984, Air Force Sergeant Emory Tate won the 25th US Armed Forces championship. He won the first Haskell Small Award for top individual honors.

In 1985, Army SP4 Roberto Rodriguez and Air Force Sergeant Bobby Moore tied for 1st in the 26th US Armed Forces championship.

In 1986, Army Private Richard Russell won the 27th US Armed Forces championship.

In 1987, Air Force Staff Sergeant Emory Tate won the 28th US Armed Forces championship.

In 1988, Air Force Staff Sergeant Emory Tate won the 29th US Armed Forces championship.

In 1989, Air Force Staff Sergeant Emory Tate won the 30th US Armed Forces championship.

In 1990, Mario Murillo (Navy) won the 31st US Armed Forces championship.

In 1991, Bobby Moore (USAF) won the 32nd US Armed Forces championship.

In 1992, Donato Lacno (Navy) won the 33rd US Armed Forces championship.

In 1993, Air Force Sergeant Elvin Wilson won the 34th US Armed Forces championship.

In 1994, Robert Holling (Navy) won the 35th US Armed Forces championship.

In 1995, John Hansen and Brian Richardson tied for 1st in the 36th US Armed Forces championship.

In 1996, Army Captain David Hater won the 37th US Armed Forces championship.

In 1997, Army Major David Hater and Dwaine Roberts (Marines Corps) tied for 1st in the 38th annual U.S. Armed Forces Championship.



In 1998, Air Force Sergeant Elvin Wilson and Air Force Sergeant Peter Kurucz ties for 1st in the 39th US Armed Forces championship.

In 1999, Air Force Sergeant Robert Keough won the 40th annual U.S. Armed Forces Championship.

In 2000, Air Force Sergeant Robert Keough (2029) won the 41st annual U.S. Armed Forces Championship, held in Washington, D.C.

In 2001, the US Armed Forces Chess Championship (USAFCC) was renamed the U.S. Interservice Chess Championship (ISCC).

In 2001, Sgt Rudy Tia (2126) and Joseph Kruml (2146) tied for 1st in the 42nd annual U.S. Armed Forces Championship, now renamed the Interservice championship, held at Fort Meyer, Virginia.

In September 2002, Sgt Rudy Tia (2134) won the 43rd annual U.S. Armed Forces Championship, now renamed the Interservice championship. The event took place in San Diego.

In 2003, Air Force Sergeant Leroy Hill (2068) won the 44th annual U.S. Armed Forces Championship, held at Kelly AFB in San Antonio, Texas.

In 2004, Narcisco Victoria and West Point Cadet David Jacobs tied for 1st in the 45th annual U.S. Armed Forces Championship.

In June 2004, Narcisco Victoria (2197) won the 2004 Interservice championship, held at Kelly AFB in San Antonio, Texas.

In 2005, West Point Cadet David Jacobs won the 46th annual U.S. Armed Forces Championship.

In 2005, Narcisco Victoria, Samuel Eshaure, Dan Ranario, Froilan Magpantay, Robert Keogh, and Mustapha Kahlouch tied for 1st at the 2005 Interservice championship, held in Arlington, Virginia.

In October 2006, West Point Cadet David Jacobs won the 47th annual U.S. Armed Forces Open Championship, held at the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Washington, DC.

In 2006, Narcisco Victoria (2202), Robert Bucholtz (2035), and Dan Ranario (2030) tied for 1st at the 2006 Interservice championship, held in Jacksonville, Florida.

In 2007, Navy retired Electronics Technician 1st Class Larry Larkins (2107) won the 48th annual U.S. Armed Forces Open Championship, held in Arlington, Virginia.

In 2007, Douglas Taffinger (2055), Samuel Echaure (2032), Nathaniel Ola (2027), and Jhonel Baniel (1991) tied for 1st in the Interservice championship, held in San Diego.

In 2008, Army Specialist Jhonel Baniel (1992) won the 2008 U.S. Interservice Championship, held in Tucson, Arizona.

In 2008, Larry Larkins, Doug Taffinder, Robert Keogh, and Edward Pabaland tied for 1st at the 49th annual Armed Forces Open in Bethesda, Maryland.

In May 2009, Army PFC Pieta Garrett (2220) won the 50th annual U.S. Armed Forces Championship, held at Fort Benning, Georgia.

In 2010, Lt. Col Douglas Taffinder won the 2010 US Air Force championship.

In 2010, Master Sgt. Dan Ranario (2083) won the 2010 Interservice chess championship, held at the Naval Station in Great Lakes, Illinois.

In 2010, Navy retiree Larry Larkins won the 51st annual U.S. Armed Forces Open Chess Championship (USAFOCC), held at Joint Base Andrews MD. Franco Jose and John Farrell tied for 2nd-3rd. The U.S. Air Force Academy won the 7th Commander in Chief's Trophy, which features the Service Academy Chess Championship for cadets and midshipmen.

In 2010, Albert Hernandez (2077) and Mario Vonoya (2013) tied for 1st in the 2010 Interservice championship, held at the Marine Corps Air Station in Miramar, California.

In 2011, the 52nd U.S. Armed Forces Open, held in Arlington, Virginia, was won by Air Force retiree Master Sergeant Dan Ranario. The top active duty player was Air Force Senior Airman Kiel Russell. The Air Force Academy won the 8th Commander-in-Chief trophy as the top academy team.

In October 2012, the 53rd U.S. Armed Forces Open Chess Championships was held on board of the USS Wasp in Norfolk, Virginia. This was the first time the event was held on a ship. Dan Ranario (2128) won the event.

In 2013, the 54th U.S. Armed Forces Open Chess Championships was held at the U.S. Army Transportation Museum at Fort Eustis, Virginia. Dan Ranario, Robert Keough, Gordon Randall, and Jon Middaugh tied for 1st place.

In October 2014, the 55th U.S. Armed Forces Open Chess Championships was held at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs.

#### NATO Armed Forces championships

In May 1978, the first unofficial NATO chess tournament was held in Aalborg, Denmark.

In October 1989, the 1st official NATO championship was held in Hammelburg, Germany. Germany took 1st place, followed by USA and Belgium. 11 NATO countries participated. The individual winner was FIDE master (FM) Niels Michaelsen of Germany. The top American participant was Emory Tate.

In October 1990, the 2nd NATO championship was held in Oslo, Norway. Germany and Norway tied for 1st-2nd, followed by Italy. The USA team tied for 4th-5th. The individual winner was FM Gunter Deleyn of Belgium.

In August 1991, the 3rd NATO championship was organized in the United Kingdom at Royal Air Force Cranwell. Germany took 1st place, followed by The Netherlands and Italy. The USA took 6th place. The individual winner was Norbert Lucke of Germany.

In November 1992, the 4th NATO championship (schachmeisterschaft) was held in the Lutzow barracks in Munster, Germany. Germany took 1st place, followed by The Netherlands. Norway and the USA tied for 3rd-4th. The individual winner was Carsten Lingnau of Germany. Top American was Bobby Moore.

In 1993, the 5th NATO championship was supposed to have been played in the United States, but they had to rescind their offer in the middle of the year due to financial reasons. It was then organized in 1994 at the Royal Military Academy in Breda, The Netherlands in November-December. Norway took 1st place, followed by The Netherlands and Denmark. The USA took 9th place. Top scorers were Lucas Van der Linden of The Netherlands and IM Jean-Rene Koch of France.

In November 1995, the 6th NATO championship was held in Gausdal, Norway. The Netherlands took 1st place, followed by Germany and Norway. The individual winner was FM Harmen Jonkman of The Netherlands. Top American was J.L. Silva.

In November 1996, the 7th NATO championship was held in Viborg, Denmark. The Netherlands and Belgium tied for 1st-2nd, followed by the United Kingdom. USA took 6th place. Andy Hammond of the UK and Fabrice Wantiez of Belgium were the top two individual winners.

In November 1997, the 8th NATO championship was held in Apt, France. Germany took 1st place, followed by France and Denmark. Hans-Walter Geberl of Germany was the top individual winner.

In November 1998, the 9th NATO championship was held in Portsmouth, England. Germany took 1st place. France and The Netherlands tied for 2nd-3rd. The USA tied for 5th-6th. FM David Gross of Germany was the top individual winner.

In September 1999, the 10th NATO championship was held in Stetten am kalten Markt, Germany. Germany took 1st place, followed by The Netherlands and France. USA tied for 8th-9th place. Top scorer was Jan Gustafsson of Germany.

In October 2000, the 11th NATO championship was held in Leopoldsburg, Belgium. Germany took 1st place, followed by France and Italy. USA tied for 7th-8th. Top scorer was IM Fabian Dottling of Germany.

In October 2001, the 12th NATO championship was held in Sanremo, Italy. Germany took 1st place, followed by Italy and The Netherlands. USA took 6th place. Top individual was FM Piero Bontempi of Italy.

In October 2002, the 13th NATO championship was held in Brest, France. Germany took 1st place, followed by the USA. Norway, France, and the UK tied for 3rd-5th place. Top individual scorers were Mark Helbig of Germany and Andy Hammond of the UK. Rudy Tia and Narciso Victoria were the top USA scorers.

In September 2003, the 14th NATO championship was held in Hovelte, Denmark. Germany took 1st place, followed by Poland and Norway. The USA tied for 10th-11th. Top scorers were Harald Borchgrevink of Norway and Christian Seel of Germany.

In August 2004, the 15th NATO championship was held in The Hague, The Netherlands. Germany took 1st place, followed by Poland and Norway. The USA tied for 10th-12th. Top scorer was Lorenz Drabke of Germany.

In August 2005, the 16th NATO championship was held in Kolobrzeg, Poland. Germany took 1st place, followed by Poland and the UK. The USA tied for 4th-5th. Top scorer was Andreas Schenk of Germany. Narciso Victoria was the top USA player.

In August 2006, the 17th NATO championship was held in Berkshire, England. Germany took 1st place, followed by Poland and Norway. The USA tied for 7th-8th. Top scorers were IM Andreas Schenk and Thomas Fiebig, both from Germany.

In September 2007, the 18th NATO championship was held in Ankara, Turkey. Germany took 1st place for the 11th time in a row. Poland and The Netherlands tied for 2nd-3rd. The USA took 8th place. Top scorer was Vytautas Vaznonis of Lithuania.

In August 2008, the 19th NATO championship was held in Brussels, Belgium. Turkey took 1st place. Germany and Poland tied for 2nd-3rd. The USA took 8th place. Top scorer was Serkan Yeke of Turkey.

In June 2009, the 20th NATO championship was held in Hammelburg, Germany. 95 chessplayers from 18 countries participated. Germany took 1st place, followed by Norway and Poland. The USA tied for 9th-11th. Top scorers were Andreas Schenk of Germany and Mateusz Sypien of Poland.

In October 2010, the 21st NATO championship was held in Koge, Denmark. Germany took 1st place, followed by Poland. Turkey and Denmark tied for 3rd-4th place. The USA tied for 7th-9th place. Top scorers were Lorenz Drabke of Germany and Fabrice Wantiez of Belgium.

In August 2011, the 22nd NATO championship was held in Kaunas, Lithuania. Turkey took 1st place, followed by Germany and Denmark. The USA took 14th place. Top scorers were Kivanc Haznedaroglu and Yakup Erturan, both of Turkey.

In October 2012, the 23rd NATO championship was held in Brest, France. Germany, Poland, and France tied for 1st-3rd. The USA tied for 8th-9th. Individual winners were FM Fabrice Wantiez of Belgium and IM Lorenz Drabke of Germany.

In August 2013, the 24th NATO championship was held in Rynia, Poland. Germany took 1st place, followed by Denmark and Poland. The USA tied for 4th-7th. IM Lorenz Drabke of Germany was top scorer. Dan Ranario was top USA scorer. In the past years, DoD fully funded the NATO championships and the inter-service championships. In 2013, the U.S. government could no longer fund chess activities. The USA team came at their own expense on their own time to participate.

In September 2014, the 25th NATO championship was held in Quebec, Canada. Germany took 1st place, followed by Poland and the USA. Lorenz Drabke of Germany and Darisz Sycz

of Poland were the top scorers. Arthur Macaspac and Dharim Bacus were the top USA scorers.

The 26th NATO championship in 2015 will be held at the Royal Netherlands Navy Barracks in Amsterdam.

In my military career (1970-1995), I won the Lackland AFB, TX and Sheppard AFB, TX chess championships in 1970. In 1971, I took 2nd in the Beale AFB, CA championship, and won the U Tapao Air Base, Thailand championships. In 1972, I won the Kadena Air Base championship in Okinawa and took 2nd in the Beale AFB championship. In 1973, I won the U Tapao RTAB championship. In 1974, I won the Anderson AB, Guam championship and won the Thailand USO championship. In 1979 I won the Lackland AFB championship and the Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio championship. In 1980, I took 2nd in the Wright Patterson AFB Ch and took 2nd in an Armed Forces invitational at Fort Harrison, Indiana. In 1981, I took 2nd in the Wright-Patterson AFB Ch. In 1982, I took 2nd in the Wright-Patterson AFB Ch. In 1983, I won the Wright-Patterson AFB ch and took second in an Armed Force invitational at Fort Knox, KY. In 1984, I won the Wright-Patterson AFB ch and won the Maxwell AFB, Alabama championship. In 1985, I won the Moffett Field Naval Air Station ch and the Sunnyvale AFS championship in California. I took 3rd in the 1985 Central Pacific Armed Forces ch in Concord, CA. In 1986, I won the Moffett Field NAS Ch, the Onizuka AFB Ch, and the Central Pacific Armed Forces championship in Concord. In 1987, I won the Moffett Field NAS Ch and the Central Pacific Armed Forces championship at Mare Island, CA. In 1988, I won the Moffett Field NAS Ch and took 3rd in the Central Pacific Armed Forces ch in Concord. In 1989, I won the Onizuka Air Force Station ch, took 2nd at Moffett Field NAS, and 4th at the Central Pacific Armed Forces Ch at Mare Island. In 1990, I won the Moffett Field NAS Ch and the Central Pacific Armed Forces ch in Concord. In 1991 I took 2nd at Moffett Field NAS and the Central Pacific Armed Forces ch at Mare Island. I took 7th in the Air Force chess championship at Andrews AFB. In 1992, I won the Kelly AFB, TX Ch, took 2nd in the Texas Armed Forces Ch at Lackland, and 7th in the Air Force Chess Ch at Andrews AFB. In 1993, I won the Kelly AFB Ch and the Texas Armed Forces Ch at Lackland. I took 7th at the Air Force Ch at Andrews AFB. In 1994, I won the Kelly AFB Ch and took 4th in the Texas Armed Forces Ch at Lackland AFB. In 1995, I won the Kelly AFB Ch and the Lackland AFB Ch.

– Bill Wall

*Posted by bill AT [Saturday, October 11th, 2014](#)*