

|                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| April Speaker.....         | 2  |
| March Speaker Report ..... | 3  |
| Donations .....            | 6  |
| Legislative Affairs .....  | 9  |
| Calendar .....             | 15 |
| Financial News.....        | 17 |
| Military News.....         | 19 |
| VA News*.....              | 27 |
| Military Birthdays .....   | 32 |
| Members Application.....   | 38 |

**CCMOAA**  
**Monthly Breakfast**  
**Meeting**  
 Second Saturday  
 of the Month  
 January - May  
 September - December

### NEXT MEETING:

Saturday, April 12  
 10 a.m.

Cape Royal  
 Golf Club  
 11460 Royal Tee Circle  
 Cape Coral

Cost \$12  
*(Prefer exact change please)*

*Breakfast Reservations to:*  
 Cindy Nolan  
 capecoralmoaa@gmail.com  
 618-580-2368

PLEASE WEAR YOUR  
 NAMETAG  
*(If you need one, contact  
 Gary Nolan)*



# CAPE CORAL COMMUNICATOR

April 2025

Volume 6 • Issue 4

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

**Col Gary Nolan, USAF (Ret)**

April's breakfast meeting will be on April 12, at 10 a.m., Cape Royal Golf Club.

Our guest speaker will be U.S. Navy Chief Joey Alonso, commander of the Gulf Eagle Division of the U.S. Navy Sea Cadet Corps of Punta Gorda. Alonso retired in 2008, serving 22 years as a Navy Intelligence specialist. After retirement, he worked for several District of Columbia



Beltway agencies until starting his own consulting firm in 2016.

Your chapter has been busy over the last month. We issued two \$2000 scholarship checks to JROTC students from last year. We also donated \$500 to Mariner HS JROTC air rifle team to attend national championship at Camp Perry OH. We also donated \$1900 to Lee County JROTC program to cover costs for trophies and awards for their annual Drill Meet.

Please RSVP to Cindy by April 9th at capecoralmoaa@gmail.com or call 618-580-2368. "Never Stop Serving"

## CAPE CORAL MOAA BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

**March 8, 2025, Cape Royal Golf Community**

President Gary Nolan called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. with 21 present for breakfast.

Our guest speaker was Mercedes Price-Harry, the Lee County GOP Chair.

Ron Wilsach attended as a guest. Following the invocation and pledge, led by Cyndi Nolan, Marilyn Stout introduced the speaker, who later spoke to the members for 45 minutes about various pressing city issues and ongoing projects. Her description of her introduction to politics and the issues that eventually led her to head the Lee County Republican Party was quite intriguing.

After the presentation, President Nolan asked for committee reports. Secretary Gary Peppers, as Finance Committee Chair, reported that CCMOAA's invested funds stood at \$41,666. That reflected a \$5,000 transfer of funds into our checking account to cover convention reimbursements, two scholarships of \$2,000 each that had recently been

claimed, and \$2,000 to pay for the JROTC drill competition trophies. Recent market performance had also reduced our holdings by about four percent since the last report.

With no other business issues to discuss, President Nolan adjourned the meeting at 11:18 a.m.

**Lt Col Gary Peppers, USAF (ret)**  
**Chapter Secretary**

## TREASURER'S REPORT

**CAPT Timothy Cook, USN (Ret)**  
**February 26, 2025 – March 28, 2025**

Beginning Balance: Feb. 26, 2025:..... \$1,014.76

### Deposits:

TOTAL DEPOSITS:.....\$7,000 (RJ transfer)

### Expenses:

Tom Wagner (FCoC Conference) .....\$715.78

M. Leon Vara (Scholarship) ..... \$2,000.00

T. Olsen (Scholarship)..... \$2,000.00

Trophy Case (JROTC) ..... \$1,900.00

Gary Nolan .....\$500.00

(Reimbursement Rifle Team donation)

TOTAL EXPENSES:..... \$7,115.78

Ending Balance: March 28, 2025:.....\$898.98

**PRESIDENT:**

Col Gary Nolan  
US Air Force (Retired)

**VICE PRESIDENT:**

COL Tom Wagner  
USAR (Retired)

**SECRETARY:**

LtCol Gary Peppers  
US Air Force (Retired)

**TREASURER:**

CAPT Timothy Cook  
US Navy (Retired)

**BOARD MEMBER:**

(at large)

COL Bill Deile  
US Army (Retired)

**FINANCE:**

LtCol Gary Peppers

**CHAPLAIN:**

Cindy Nolan

**WAYS & MEANS:**

Col Gary Nolan

**SPEAKER PROGRAMS:**

Marilyn Stout

**WEBMASTER:**

COL Tom Wagner  
USAR (Retired)

**HISTORIANS:**

LtCol Gary Peppers

**LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS:**

COL Tom Wagner

**PERSONAL AFFAIRS:**

(Vacant)

**VETERANS AFFAIRS:**

(Vacant)

**MEMBERSHIP:**

Col Gary Nolan

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS:**

(Vacant)

**PARLIAMENTARIAN:**

Marilyn Stout

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:**

Capt Larry Atkinson  
US Air Force

**TOPS:**

(Vacant)

**SURVIVING SPOUSES:**

(Vacant)

**FCOC SW AREA VP:**

Col Gary Nolan

# April Speaker

## Sea Cadet Commander Joey Alonso to speak at April 12 Cape MOAA meeting

U.S. Navy Chief Joey Alonso, commander of the Gulf Eagle Division of the U.S. Navy Sea Cadet Corps of Punta Gorda will be the speaker at the April 12 breakfast meeting of the Cape Coral MOAA. The meeting will be at 10 a.m. at the Cape Royal Golf Club, 1460 Royal Tee Circle in Cape Coral.

Alonso retired in 2008, serving 22 years as a Navy Intelligence specialist. After retirement, he worked for several District of Columbia Beltway "three letter" agencies until starting his own consulting firm in 2016.

The chief's Sea Cadet career started in 2013 as commanding officer of Training Ship "John S McCain," in Washington D.C. His son, Matthew, started as a league cadet at the same time and graduated from Sea Cadets in 2019 as a chief petty officer.

Alonso most recently served as commanding officer of Annapolis Division, which drills at the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD. In 20 months, he led Team Annapolis from 16 cadets to over 50, earning the USNSCC Chairman's Award for Recruiting and Retention.

He holds a master of business administration degree, master of education degree, bachelor of science in Workforce Education and Training Development degree, and he's most proud of his associates degree in Automotive Technology that he recently earned with Northern Virginia Community College.



**Chief Joey Alonso, USN (Ret) and his son, Matthew**

Alonso is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP) and is a licensed middle and high school teacher in Virginia. He was also a middle school girls volleyball coach, leading his team to the Loudoun County (Virginia) Championship in 2020.

He is a Rotarian and active member of the Punta Gorda Rotary Club.

Alonso lives in Punta Gorda with his wife, Kathie. They share their home with four rescue dogs, Hardy, Eddie, Maggie, and Lucy. Their son, Matthew, is a senior at Virginia Commonwealth University of Richmond, VA, and

their daughter, Molly, is a sophomore at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI.

### Sea Cadet Corps

The United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps (Sea Cadets) is the Navy's youth development program.

It gives young Americans skills, knowledge and confidence through a variety of training opportunities. Sea Cadets wear uniforms, work as teams in a disciplined environment and adhere to the Sea Cadet's core values of honor, respect, commitment and service.

Sea Cadets is open to  
(Continued on next page)



**Marvin C. Harris  
Newsletter  
Communications Award**  
**FIVE STARS**  
2003, 2018, 2019,  
2020, 2021, 2022, 2023  
& 2024



**FIVE STARS**  
**Chapter Excellence  
Award**  
2006, 2008, 2009,  
2010, 2011, 2012, 2018,  
2019, 2020, 2023 &  
2024



**FOUR STARS**  
**Chapter Excellence  
Award**  
2005, 2007, 2013,  
2016, 2017 & 2021

(Continued from previous page)

young men and women aged 10 to 18. The organization is supported by the U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard, and the cadets train on naval bases and other military installations.

Sea Cadets gain unique and valuable experiences that incorporate hands on learning and teamwork. The diverse program includes seamanship, sailing, aviation, security, building robots, medical, STEM, SCUBA, submarines, photography, culinary, special forces training and an International Exchange Program.

Locally, Gulf Eagle Division strives to develop qualities of self-discipline, self-responsibility and leadership in a fun but challenging environment. Gulf Eagle cadets do not receive "participation trophies;" rather, they learn to work and succeed as a team and face challenges to help them develop sound decision-making skills and putting others before themselves.



They have lots of fun and make lifetime friends with their unit shipmates and other cadets they meet from around the world. Alonso and a group of sailors, former Sea Cadets, and adult volunteers, hold drills one weekend a month – typically from 8 a.m. 3 p.m. both

Saturdays and Sundays.

Gulf Eagle Division offers assistance to help offset costs. It is a 501(c)3 and raises money to help pay for uniforms, training/travel costs and assist families who are unable to cover the overall costs of the program.

## Cape Coral Communicator Member Profiles

The Cape Coral MOAA newsletter strives to regularly publish a profile on each of our members.

An online Microsoft Word form can be found on the CCMOAA Website at: [www.capecoralmoaa.org](http://www.capecoralmoaa.org). Members are encouraged to download the form, fill it out and return it to newsletter editor Larry Atkinson at [publisherlarry@gmail.com](mailto:publisherlarry@gmail.com).

For those who would rather just fill out the form by hand, copies of the questionnaire will be available at each monthly breakfast meeting.

We also request that photos be provided, including a current photo, one in uniform while in the service and any other photos you think other members might enjoy seeing.

# March Speaker Report

## Price-Harry urges citizens to get involved with local politics

Mercedes Price-Harry, the newly elected chairwoman of the Lee County Republican Party, delivered a passionate and personal speech at the Cape Coral MOAA breakfast meeting on Saturday, March 8, 2025.

As the first woman to hold the position, she spoke about her journey from political apathy to conservative activism and called on the community to step up in shaping the future of local and national politics.

Price-Harry, the daughter of a Marine Corps warrant officer, described how her military upbringing shaped her values and worldview. Having grown up in various locations, including Georgia and South Carolina, before settling in Cape Coral more than 20 years ago, she recalled how patriotism was deeply ingrained in her household. However, she admitted that politics was not a significant topic of discussion in her youth. "We loved America, but we weren't political," she said, adding that her early views were largely shaped by media narratives.

Her political transformation came in her early 30s, particularly during the rise of Barack Obama. Initially excited about his candidacy, she began researching his policies and



background, which led her to question her own beliefs. "I realized that government should not be the answer to all of our problems," she said. "That's when I started digging deeper and discovered that my values aligned with conservatism."

Her involvement in politics started with grassroots activism. She joined the Cape Coral Republican Club and later became involved with the Tea Party movement, where she helped organize events and campaigns. Over time, she recognized the importance of the Republican Executive Committee, describing it as the "business" side of politics. "Clubs are great for activism, but the Executive Committee is where we cultivate leaders and shape the future of our party," she explained.

Price-Harry emphasized the need for Republicans to be engaged beyond just election

day. She expressed frustration with smear campaigns in local elections, arguing that such tactics harm the party and discourage good candidates from running. "We need to create an environment where the best candidate wins, not the one with the biggest budget or the best consultant," she said. "That starts with community

involvement."

One of her major concerns is the role of parents in education. She described her experience fighting against policies she felt were harmful to children in local schools, including controversial curriculum changes and mandates. "When I attended school board meetings, I was shocked to see only a handful of parents actively involved," she said. "If we don't show up, decisions will be made without us."

As chairwoman, Price-Harry outlined her top priorities: Increasing voter education, fostering transparency in candidate selection, and building a stronger network of precinct leaders. She stressed that every political movement starts at the local level. "The people running for Congress or governor today started as local leaders," she said. **(Continued on next page)**

# March Speaker Report *(continued)*

(Continued from previous page)

"If we don't pay attention to city councils and school boards, we'll wake up one day wondering how we got here."

She also took a firm stance against what she called "consultant-driven politics," arguing that too many campaigns are controlled by political insiders rather than genuine community leaders. "We need to be recruiting and supporting candidates who actually understand and care about their communities, not just those who can afford expensive campaigns," she said.

Price-Harry encouraged audience members to get involved with the local Republican Party, whether through volunteering, attending meetings, or running for office themselves. "If it's not us, it's

them," she said, emphasizing the need for conservatives to take an active role in shaping policy and leadership.

Her speech resonated with many attendees, who expressed appreciation for her message of unity and grassroots activism. The event concluded with a Q&A session, where she addressed topics ranging from

national security to economic policies and local governance.

As she embarks on her leadership role, Price-Harry remains committed to fostering a strong and engaged Republican community. "America is worth fighting for," she said in closing. "We just have to be willing to step up and do it."



Cape Coral MOAA Vice President Tom Wagner (left) and President Gary Nolan presents a MOAA Tervis mug to Mercedes Price-Harry in appreciation for speaking at the March meeting.

**The Florida Council  
is on facebook!**

**facebook @ MOAA Florida Council of Chapters**  
Information, News, & Updates for MOAA Members in Florida



- Legislative Advocacy across the State
- Our Philanthropy and Community Service Activities
- Council Events and Activities
- Find a Chapter Near You

Be sure to Follow and Like Us!

**ARTICLE/PHOTO  
SUBMISSION  
DEADLINE FOR  
THE  
MAY 2025 ISSUE:  
*April 26, 2024***

Please submit articles in a Word Document and photos in JPEG format  
Email to: [publisherlarry@gmail.com](mailto:publisherlarry@gmail.com)



# Cape Coral MOAA Donations

## Cape Coral MOAA donates \$1,900 to Lee County JROTC Drill Meet

The Cape Coral MOAA Chapter donated \$1,900 for trophies and awards for the March 1 Lee County JROTC District Drill Championships, held at Cape Coral High School.

Sixteen Lee County High School teams competed in the event, which was won by Mariner High School by earning the most first place trophies, with Cape Coral High School in a close second place.

High School JROTC drill teams participating were from the following high schools: Mariner, Island Coast, North Fort Myers, Oasis, Ida Baker, Cape Coral, East Lee, Lehigh, Gateway, Riverdale, Dunbar, Fort Myers, South Fort Myers, Cypress Lake, Bonita Springs and Estero.

The top three teams in each event qualify for the Florida State Championship competition.

Mariner, North Fort Myers, Cape Coral, Oasis, South Fort Myers, and Lehigh each had one or more events qualified for the state championship. Mariner had a total of 19 events.

“Unfortunately, the federal government froze the JROTC budget in mid-March and a decision was made to cancel the state championship this year due to a concern of funding,” said MAJ Bryan Williams, department chair and JROTC senior Army instructor of Mariner Leadership Academy, Mariner High School.

However, Mariner and Cape Coral will both be competing in the Army National Championship in Daytona on



May 2 through 4. Teams from all over the country will compete at this prestigious event.

“Community partners and supporters, particularly our veteran organizations, are vital to the Lee County JROTC program,” said MAJ Williams. “While sponsoring trophies may not seem significant to some, awards and recognition complete the process of teaching young people how to achieve excellence in their lives. JROTC teaches young people critical life skills such as discipline, commitment, teamwork, effective communication, personal accountability and so much more. Special Awards help to motivate Cadets and provide incentives for them to follow through with their commitments.”



# Vietnam Veterans

## Governor DeSantis declares Vietnam Veterans Day in Florida

Gov. Ron DeSantis has signed the annual Vietnam War Veterans Day in Florida proclamation, honoring the Sunshine State's more than 423,000 Vietnam Veterans. We honor all Vietnam Veterans and their families and recognize the enormous contributions they continue to make to our state.

With that many Vietnam veterans here, it is very likely that one in three veterans you meet in the Sunshine State is a Vietnam veteran.

To thank and honor veterans of that war on behalf of a grateful nation, the State of Florida has erected a Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Tallahassee next to the Capitol building. In addition, Florida honors its Vietnam veterans annually during Vietnam Veterans Day each March 29.

The Florida Legislature has enacted laws in which honorably discharged veterans who, as a result of being inducted into any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces and unable to complete their high school education, can be awarded a State of Florida High School Diploma. For more information, call (850) 245-0446 or visit: [www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/veterans-diplomas.html](http://www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/veterans-diplomas.html)

Approval for a Vietnam Veterans license plate has passed and you can find out about the license plate here <https://www.flhsmv.gov/motor-vehicles-tags-titles/>

[personalized-specialty-license-plates/](#)

Eligible Vietnam veterans are encouraged to enroll in health care through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs if they have not already done so. The VA recognizes that service in Vietnam may have exposed veterans to certain

cancer causing chemicals and other health problems as presumptive diseases related to exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides. Florida wants those veterans to be identified, treated and compensated for any effects they may be having as a result of exposure. Call (727) 319-7440 for more information.



RON DESANTIS  
GOVERNOR

### VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY IN FLORIDA

WHEREAS, throughout the history of the United States, patriotic men and women have taken up arms and sworn an oath to defend our nation, establishing an honorable tradition of dedicated service; and

WHEREAS, more than 3 million men and women served in the Vietnam War with more than 58,000 making the ultimate sacrifice, more than 304,000 wounded, and over 1,577 still unaccounted for, including 53 from the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, Florida is recognized as the one of the most military- and veteran-friendly states in the nation, with 1.4 million veterans calling the Sunshine State home; and

WHEREAS, Florida is home to more than 423,000 Vietnam-era veterans, making it the second largest population of Vietnam veterans in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the patriotism of those in uniform who continue to defend the timeless truths and great freedoms upon which our nation was founded continue to make our state and nation proud and serve as an inspiration for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, we will always honor the legacy of our Vietnam veterans who served, were wounded, or lost their lives in battle and can never repay our debt of gratitude for the courage they demonstrated; and

WHEREAS, this eighth annual Vietnam War Veterans Day is an opportunity to honor all Vietnam veterans and their families and recognize the enormous contributions they continue to make to our state.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing March 29, 2025, as *Vietnam War Veterans Day in Florida*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March, in the year two thousand twenty-five.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ron DeSantis".  
Governor

THE CAPITOL  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399 • (850) 717-9249

## Hope Florida: A pathway for patriots reaches 1,000 vets served

The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs announces its Hope Florida: A Pathway for Patriots initiative, has served more than 1,000 Florida Veterans and their families since the program was stood up in the state agency in late 2023.

The innovative program created by First Lady Casey DeSantis leverages Hope Navigators to guide Floridians through personalized paths to prosperity and economic self-sufficiency. By fostering collaboration between private sector, faith-based organizations, nonprofits, and government entities, the initiative breaks down traditional community barriers to maximize support and uncover opportunities.

### General Program Highlights

Since its inception in 2021, Hope Florida has achieved remarkable results:

- Over 150 Hope Navigators deployed statewide
- More than 115,000 Floridians referred to assistance
- Established 5,600 community partners, including 2,000 faith-based organizations



HopeNavigators@fdva.fl.gov

833-GET-HOPE

*FDVA Hope Navigators have been deployed in hurricane impacted areas helping to bring normalcy to those in need. Hope Florida brings together the vast resources of our community to create a seamless network of support. When you call (833) GET HOPE, you'll be connected to a caring Hope Navigator, ready to guide you on an individualized pathway to achieve prosperity, economic self-sufficiency and hope. Hope Florida serves our state's Veterans among many others.*

- Helped 30,000 Floridians reduce or eliminate reliance on public assistance

"Our team of Hope Navigators is incredibly honored to have made a meaningful impact on the lives of more than 1,000 Veterans and their families," said FDVA Hope Florida Director Holly Bernardo. "By providing unwavering support, we are empowering them to build a future filled with prosperity, stability, and hope."

### Veteran Success Story

U.S. Air Force Veteran Christopher Serville, who served honorably for 16 years, exemplifies the program's transformative potential. "Through the Hope Navigator from the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs Hope Florida

program, my family was given the freedom and hope we desperately needed. It kept us together, preventing us from becoming just another statistic falling through the cracks," Serville explained. "I am thankful for their support. I avoided homelessness and even established a community garden through our local church. My spouse has since referred three other families to Fort Freedom, each finding similar success. This program gave us a second chance, and I'm forever grateful."

### Contact Information

For more information about Hope Florida: A Pathway for Patriots:

- Email: HopeNavigators@fdva.fl.gov
- Phone: 833-GET-HOPE (438-4673)

## Advocacy Playbook: What you should know about MOAA's key issues

*(This article by MOAA staff originally appeared in the April 2025 issue of Military Officer, a magazine available to all MOAA Premium and Life members. Learn more about the magazine [here](#).)*

A military spouse waited several weeks for an appointment with her primary care manager (PCM) to get help for her dislocated shoulder at a military treatment facility, then had another delay before finally starting civilian physical therapy weeks later after a fight to be seen in the network, she told a military spouse group on Facebook.

She faced more delays when the orthopedic care provider she needed to see wouldn't treat her until she had an MRI, and that wasn't available for at least two more months, the spouse wrote in her message. She said she had been calling continually since her PCM visit to be sent within the network for the MRI, but she was referred from one person to another with no resolution.

Out of frustration, the spouse, whose identity information is withheld, sought advice on social media from fellow military spouses about whether she should switch from TRICARE Prime to TRICARE Select as open season approached in November to see if that would improve her care. She asked the spouse group, would Select make it easier to get care, or is this just the way it is everywhere?

Delays and lack of transparency in cases like



this spouse's are among the reasons MOAA is fighting hard to improve access to care for beneficiaries, said Karen Ruedisueli, MOAA's director of Government Relations for health affairs.

Health care access is one of the five key priorities for MOAA's Advocacy in Action campaign for 2025.

A focus of the campaign will be MOAA advocates going to Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., the week of April 7, when MOAA members from across the country will join MOAA staff for a series of events. Visits to congressional offices will be Wednesday, April 9.

MOAA members and their networks, whether in Washington or remote and at home, are encouraged to contact their lawmakers, and the military legislative leaders in the lawmakers' offices, to build momentum for MOAA's efforts on the priority topics.

[\[ADVOCACY IN ACTION: All the Details on MOAA's Spring Campaign\]](#)

Here are this year's five key advocacy topics, why they matter, and what actions MOAA is asking for:

### Improve Access to Health Care

**Why it matters:** DoD and Congress have acknowledged longstanding problems with access to care within the Military Health System (MHS), yet beneficiaries lack a consistent, effective, and well-understood system for reporting access challenges and getting help navigating the MHS.

#### Key facts:

- The new MHS stabilization strategy seeks to recapture 7% of beneficiary care back to military hospitals and clinics that are struggling with staffing challenges.

- TRICARE policy prohibits beneficiaries from changing TRICARE plans to move care to the civilian network except during the annual open enrollment season or after qualifying life events.

- Challenges related to the new TRICARE West Region contract underscore the need for more effective beneficiary assistance with barriers to access.

"Military families need help when they encounter barriers to access — whether that's appointment line phones that go unanswered, failure to refer care to the network when an MTF can't meet access standards, or gaps in the TRICARE network," Ruedisueli said.

*(Continued on next page)*

# MOAA Legislative Affairs *(continued)*

*(Continued from previous page)*

“A digital platform would connect beneficiaries with direct help to navigate the MHS and improve visibility to access challenges so fixable problems can be addressed,” she said. “The need for such a system has never been more obvious.”

[ISSUE PAPER: [Military Health System Access](#)]

The ask: MOAA urges Congress to pass legislation establishing an MHS digital access assistance platform to:

- Help military families navigate the MHS by routing their issues to the appropriate contacts for assistance.
- Improve oversight and accountability of the MHS by providing visibility to access problems.
- Ensure fixable systemic MHS barriers to access are addressed.

## Support Family Caregivers

When Andrea Sawyer’s husband returned from an Iraq deployment in 2007, he wasn’t the same person she had known since they were in high school. Outwardly, he appeared unharmed, but his combat wounds were the kind that aren’t visible.

“Because my husband had mental health and TBI [traumatic brain injury] issues, but he appeared physically fine, people did not understand what the issues were,” Sawyer,

pictured, told Military Officer in a January interview.

During months in the warrior transition unit, it became clear he would be medically retired from service and needed help managing life.

She became his caregiver, single-handedly meeting their family’s needs and tending to her husband’s challenging mental and physical health conditions. She gave up her professional career in education to be a full-time family caregiver for her husband while raising their two young sons.

“I lost my professional identity, my personal income, and my access to contribute to Social Security and my personal retirement accounts,” she said. “I suffered health issues because I would miss my appointments to take him to his appointments.”

She found one of the struggles in caregiving is having to fight for the authority that, by necessity, goes with the role.



“I was constantly having to justify my existence to new providers. And in a lot of cases ... I had more medical information than they did about some of the conditions that he had,” Sawyer said. “It was a level of frustration that is hard to describe. In the beginning, and even now, I had people challenge my role

in communicating for him in a medical setting.”

[TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your](#)

[Lawmakers to Honor Veteran Caregivers](#)]

Sawyer started out with little guidance in filling this role for a veteran who is unlikely to recover, be independent, or hold a job again and has difficulty expressing his health needs. She did research, learned the challenges common to millions of caregivers across the nation, and got involved in advocating for caregivers.

Now Sawyer is advocacy director with the Wounded Veteran Family Care Program at the Quality of Life Foundation, working to promote legislation called the Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act. She, often alongside MOAA, leads informational round tables and testifies on Capitol Hill on what caregivers need to rebuild lives and livelihoods.

The legislation would provide a path and allow for funds for caregivers to renew lapsed professional certifications so they can return to the workplace when the time comes. It would also study a pathway for VA paid caregivers, through the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers, to be able to contribute to Social Security and their own personal retirement accounts if the only income in the home is unearned income (Social Security, DoD combat-related medical retirement, VA disability, and current VA caregiver income).

“This bill is absolutely essential to help provide economic security in the later years for those family caregivers, be they related or not, who take on the role of caring for our veterans,” *(Continued on next page)*

# MOAA Legislative Affairs (continued)

(Continued from previous page)

Sawyer said. MOAA also supports the Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act and its reintroduction in the new Congress.

[ISSUE PAPER: [Veteran Caregivers](#)]

**Why it matters:** Veteran caregivers provide essential care for aging and disabled veterans, often at the expense of their own financial security, mental health, and career aspirations. These caregivers deserve tangible resources to support their vital role within veterans' families and communities.

**Key fact:** Nearly 3 out of 4 veteran caregivers — 74% — are caring for veterans age 60 or older, yet their stipends are classified as “unearned income,” preventing contributions to Social Security or retirement accounts.

“Veteran caregivers make tremendous sacrifices, often putting their futures on hold to care for those who have served,” said Cmdr. René Campos, USN (Ret), MOAA’s senior director of Government Relations. “They deserve meaningful support to rebuild their careers, plan for retirement, and protect their mental health. We must act to ensure they are not left behind.”

**The ask:** MOAA urges Congress to pass the Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act to:

- Enhance education, employment, and retirement opportunities for caregivers.
- Address the significant economic and emotional

challenges they face.

- Empower caregivers to achieve financial security while reducing the government’s long-term economic burden.

## Expand on ‘Ending the Wait’ Efforts

**Why it matters:** Veterans exposed to toxins during service face decades-long delays for acknowledgment and care. The current system leaves veterans and their families waiting far too long for the benefits and support they need and have earned.

[READ THE REPORT: [Ending The Wait for Toxic-Exposed Veterans](#)]

### Key facts:

- Since the end of World War I, the VA has acknowledged 30 types of toxic exposures. Just over half of them (16) resulted in establishing a presumptive condition.
  - For all acknowledged exposures, the average time between the first year that veterans were exposed to an acknowledgment from VA is 31.4 years.
  - For the subset of 16 toxic exposures that have presumptive conditions, the time from acknowledgment to the establishment of a presumptive, as marked by a concession of exposure, is 2.4 years, on average.
  - When looking at the overall timeframe, it takes an average of 34.1 years after the first incidence of military toxic exposure to the establishment of a presumptive.
- “Thirty-four years is far too long for veterans exposed to toxic substances to wait for

acknowledgment and care,” said Jeff Goldberg, MOAA’s director of Government Relations for veteran and retired affairs. “These delays are unacceptable and a failure to uphold our commitment to those who served. Congress must act now to eliminate these barriers and deliver the care toxic-exposed veterans have earned.”

[RELATED: [The Push for a More Perfect PACT Act](#)]

The ask: MOAA urges Congress to pass legislation to:

- Establish a classification system for toxic exposures to fill evidentiary gaps.
- Strengthen the legal frameworks for the presumptive-making process.
- Expand research, monitoring, and oversight to advance scientific understanding of toxic exposures.
- Eliminate legal barriers preventing veterans, families, and survivors from accessing toxic exposure benefits.

[TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Lawmakers to Deliver Toxic-Exposed Veterans the Care They’ve Earned](#)]

## Keep Focus on Military Housing

**Why it matters:** Thousands of servicemembers live in substandard barracks plagued by mold, pests, sewage overflows, and broken safety systems. Despite recent legislative action, a \$137 billion backlog in deferred maintenance persists, and servicemembers continue to face unsafe and unacceptable conditions. Transparency is

(Continued on next page)

# MOAA Legislative Affairs (continued)

(Continued from previous page)  
essential for accountability and sustaining efforts to improve unaccompanied housing.

**Key facts:**

- Many barracks fail to meet DoD standards for privacy, space, and quality, with health and safety risks reported across installations.
- DoD lacks reliable assessments and funding transparency for unaccompanied housing (UH), hindering oversight and improvements.
- Pest infestations, mold, and sewage issues often leave servicemembers responsible for their own pest control and hazardous material removal, according to the Government Accountability Office.

[TAKE ACTION: [Ask Congress to Address Hazardous Unaccompanied Housing Conditions](#)]

“No servicemember should live in barracks plagued by mold, pests, or broken systems,” said Cory Titus, MOAA’s director of Government Relations for currently serving affairs. “These conditions undermine the well-being and dignity of those who serve. Improving unaccompanied housing must remain a priority to ensure servicemembers have safe and healthy places to live,” said Titus, a former Army captain.

**The ask:** MOAA urges Congress to require DoD to:

- Provide transparency on funding for barracks maintenance and improvements.
- Empower lawmakers to identify and address UH

challenges in their districts and states.

**Promote the Military Spouse Hiring Act**

**Why it matters:** Military spouses face a staggering 21% unemployment rate — five times the national average — due to frequent relocations and limited job opportunities near remote installations. This creates financial strain for military families, impacts military readiness, and contributes to servicemember retention challenges.

**Key facts:**

- Military spouses relocate every two to three years, on average, making it challenging to find and maintain consistent employment, even though the spouses are often highly educated and skilled.
  - Despite significant investments in addressing this crisis, the more than 20% unemployment rate has persisted for over a decade.
  - One approach to addressing this issue that remains untested is incentivizing businesses to hire military spouses. When veteran unemployment spiked, the multipronged approach to solving the problem included adding a target group to the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC). From 2019 to 2023, more than 630,000 veterans were hired under WOTC, demonstrating the program’s success in reducing employment barriers.
  - Financial strain caused by spouse unemployment is a significant factor in servicemembers’ decisions to leave the military.
- “Military spouses bring

unmatched resilience, skills, and dedication to the workforce, but frequent moves make steady employment difficult,” said Jennifer Goodale, MOAA’s director of Government Relations for military family and survivor policy. “A targeted tax credit would encourage employers to hire these talented individuals, providing stability for military families and strengthening the communities where they live.”

**The ask:** MOAA urges Congress to add military spouses as a target group under WOTC to:

- Lower the military spouse unemployment rate.
  - Offset hiring and onboarding costs for employers and fill vacant positions with highly skilled workers.
  - Increase military family financial stability and improve servicemember retention.
- MOAA members can help lawmakers and their staffs understand the challenges the military community faces and how vital these reforms will be.

Visit [MOAA’s Legislative Action Center](#) to contact your elected officials. By reaching out and making a connection, we can collectively send a powerful message to Capitol Hill.



# MOAA Legislative Affairs

## Cape Coral MOAA members urged to use MOAA's system to contact Congress members

Only 11 Cape Coral MOAA Chapter members are signed up for the MOAA Legislative Action Center, and our chapter is organizing an effort to get more members involved.

To have more members contacting Congress members on issues that the national MOAA is emphasizing, Cape Coral MOAA Vice President Tom Wagner has put together some graphics to illustrate how to sign up and use the system MOAA. They are included along with this story.

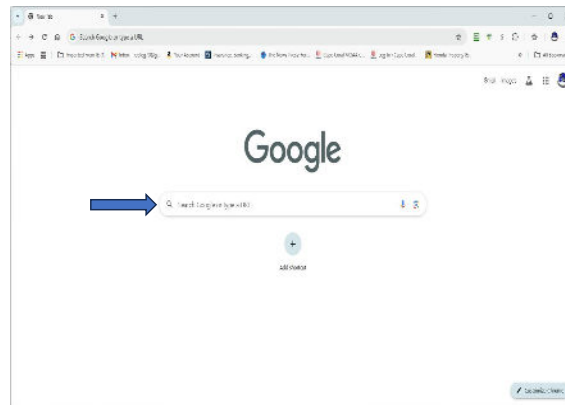
While the site will create a form letter that a member can sign and automatically send to his or her members of Congress, the form can also be customized to add anything the sender would like to add.

MOAA is one of the most effective lobbying organizations at the national capitol and members who contract their Congress members on issues of interest to MOAA can make a real difference in Washington, D.C. legislation.

The officers and board of directors of Cape Coral MOAA Chapter urge all members to sign up and use this simple system to assist MOAA in its lobbying efforts on Capitol Hill.

### Guide To Access the MOAA Legislative Action Center (LAC)

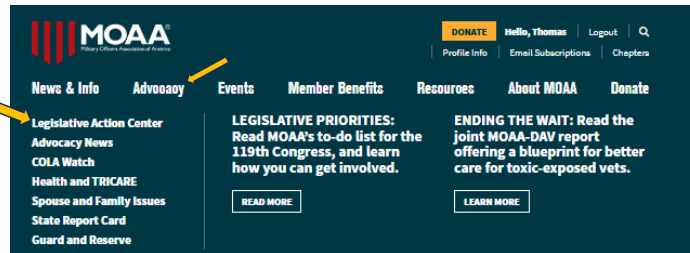
Open your browser and type in the search box then press enter. Or click on this link: <https://moaa.org/>



The main MOAA page will open. Then navigate to the "ADVOCACY" tab and click on it.



A dropdown list will appear. Click on the "Legislative Action Center" tab.



A new page will open. Bills that are "Active" appear on this screen. You can send letters to you legislators by clicking on the "write" button(s) next to each bill. See next page.

A sign-up form for each bill you choose will open. Enter your information into each field and click on "Sign Up-Take Action"

Ask Congress to Address the Hazardous Unaccompanied Housing Conditions Rampant in the Military

A pre-written letter to your legislator(s) will appear. Note that your name appears as the signatory. Click "SUBMIT". If the bill requires support from more legislators, a second (or more) letters will appear pre-addressed with your signature on each letter. Note that once you send your first support letter, your signature line will pre-fill with each additional support letter you send.

Urge Your Representative to Cosponsor the Support Military Families Act

Act Now

After you have submitted the letter(s), this screen will appear:

Urge Your Representative to Cosponsor the Support Military Families Act

## Bipartisan bill would restore basic housing allowance to 100 percent

By MOAA Staff

A House bill introduced March 6 would restore a critical housing benefit for servicemembers and their families, reversing a decade-old law that cut the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) for all in uniform.

The BAH Restoration Act ([H.R. 1956](#)), introduced by Reps. Marilyn Strickland (D-Wash.) and Don Bacon (R-Neb.), would ensure the benefit covered 100% of housing-related expenses.

A 2015 law allowed DoD to reduce the benefit by one percentage point per year through 2019; it now covers 95% of expected housing costs. Financial surveys show most servicemembers not only pay the difference out of pocket, but pay even more than DoD estimates, with 73% reporting spending \$200 or more per month on housing costs.

[TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Lawmakers to Support the BAH Restoration Act](#)]

A similar bill is expected to be introduced in the Senate by Sen. Raphael Warnock (D-Ga.). The act was introduced last session and was part of MOAA's 2024 Advocacy in Action efforts; partial funding for BAH restoration was included in the House version of the FY 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) but was not part of the final legislation.

"As we look to sustain the power of the all-volunteer force into the future, we recognize the continued strain on our servicemembers and their families, especially among junior enlisted personnel," said MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), in remarks supporting the bill. "Ensuring there is adequate affordable housing for those who serve our nation, a benefit they earn through their service, is essential to ensuring our defense, security,



and prosperity – and it's our duty as a nation to fully support them in return for their service."

Restoring BAH was one of a series of recommendations included in the [House Armed Services Committee's Quality of Life Panel Report](#), released in April 2024. Bacon – a MOAA member and retired Air Force brigadier general – chaired the HASC panel.

"Our servicemembers and their families should not have to struggle to find and afford housing," Bacon said in a press release accompanying the legislation. "When they volunteer to put their lives on the line for their country, we should be able to guarantee that they will have access to clean and comfortable housing within the allowance they are given."

Strickland, who also serves on the HASC, called attention to servicemembers struggling to find

affordable housing at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., where they "are priced out of options to live near the bases, putting a strain on military families."

Restoring the benefit, she added, "provides servicemembers and their families with stability and shows that meeting their basic needs is a national security priority."

The legislation has support from military and veterans service organizations including the Military Family Advisory Network, Blue Star Families, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and National Military Family Association.

Ask your lawmaker to support the BAH Restoration Act today, and visit our Legislative Action Center to learn more about other ongoing MOAA legislative priorities.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### Cape Coral MOAA Board Meeting

10 a.m.  
Thursday, April 10  
Cape Royal  
Golf Club  
*All members are welcome*



#### About CCMOAA

*Serving All Military,  
Veterans, & their families  
in the Cape Coral area  
... and beyond!*

Members of the Cape  
Coral Chapter of the Military  
Officers Association of  
America, P.O. Box 100508,  
Cape Coral, FL 33910-0508,  
publish the Cape Coral  
Communicator monthly,  
except June, July and August.  
The Chapter is a non-profit,  
non-partisan, and tax-  
exempt IRS 501(c)(3) and  
a 501(c)(19) organization,  
affiliated with National  
MOAA and the Florida  
Chapter of Councils, MOAA,  
not associated with the  
Department of Defense.  
The views expressed do  
not necessarily reflect the  
views of MOAA, the Florida  
Council of Chapters, this  
Chapter, or DOD.

# APRIL Calendar of Events

| SUN                            | MON                                                        | TUES                     | WED                                                   | THUR                                      | FRI                          | SAT                                           |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
|                                |                                                            | 1                        | 2                                                     | 3                                         | 4                            | 5<br><i>Gold<br/>Star<br/>Spouses<br/>Day</i> |
| 6                              | 7                                                          | 8                        | 9                                                     | 10<br><i>CCMOAA<br/>Board<br/>Meeting</i> | 11                           | 12<br><i>CCMOAA<br/>Breakfast<br/>Meeting</i> |
| 13<br><i>Palm<br/>Sunday</i>   | 14<br><i>Air Force<br/>Reserve<br/>Birthday<br/>(1916)</i> | 15<br><i>Tax<br/>Day</i> | 16                                                    | 17                                        | 18<br><i>Good<br/>Friday</i> | 19                                            |
| 20<br><i>Easter<br/>Sunday</i> | 21                                                         | 22                       | 23<br><i>Army<br/>Reserve<br/>Birthday<br/>(1908)</i> | 24                                        | 25                           | 26                                            |
| 27                             | 28                                                         | 29                       | 30                                                    |                                           |                              |                                               |

## TRICARE Toolkit: The TRICARE prime travel reimbursement benefit outlined

By: Kate Horrell

(MOAA's TRICARE Toolkit provides insight and tips for navigating your TRICARE benefits. Have a question or suggestion for an upcoming column? Email [beninfo@moaa.org](mailto:beninfo@moaa.org). Read other TRICARE Toolkit columns at [MOAA.org/tricaretoolkit](http://MOAA.org/tricaretoolkit).)

While TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Select generally have similar benefits, one benefit is unique to TRICARE Prime: payments for travel to receive medically necessary specialty care that isn't available locally.

The travel benefit is available to all family members and retirees who are enrolled in TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Prime Remote and live within the 48 contiguous states. It is not available when using TRICARE Select, and there's a different program for overseas.

The medical care must meet specific criteria. Care must be deemed medically necessary. A suitable specialist must not be available within 100 miles of the patient's primary care manager. A referral from the primary care manager and prior authorization from TRICARE are required.

[LEARN MORE: [TRICARE.mil/primetravel](http://TRICARE.mil/primetravel)]

If eligible, TRICARE will cover plane or train tickets or mileage reimbursement for car travel and necessary tolls and parking fees.



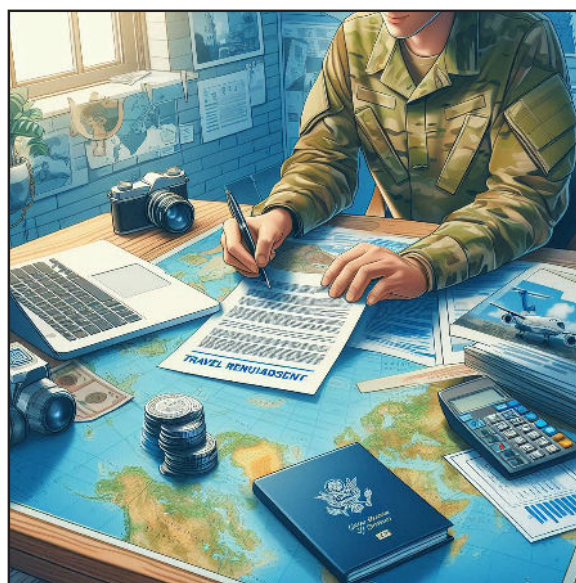
The program might also cover expenses related to meals and lodging. Reimbursement might not fully cover all out-of-pocket costs. For example, lodging reimbursements might be limited per diem allowances, and meal reimbursements might have daily limits.

To use this benefit, beneficiaries must coordinate with their TRICARE regional contractor for pre-authorization. The contractor verifies the care qualifies

for travel reimbursement and provides instructions on filing a travel reimbursement claim. After traveling, beneficiaries must submit receipts for all claimed expenses, including lodging and meal receipts if applicable.

[RELATED: [Does the Smaller TRICARE Pharmacy Network Put Your Health Care at Risk?](#)]

The TRICARE Prime travel benefit is a valuable program for military families needing access to specialized care far from their local area. Beneficiaries should consult with their TRICARE regional contractor to ensure they understand and follow the guidelines for accessing this benefit effectively.



## On investments: Take a deep breath

**By: Lila Quintiliani**

If you've been anywhere near a television, computer, or phone these last few weeks, you'll have noticed a rather volatile stock market. One week, the S&P 500 dropped 1.4% and entered what is known as a market correction – a 10% drop in stock prices that occurs after a recent high.

People are concerned, and rightly so – no one likes seeing their retirement and investment accounts suddenly shrink.

It's normal to feel some anxiety about your finances. But take a deep breath – there is no need to rush into any decisions. Thoughtful planning always leads to better outcomes in the long run.

For those who have 15 or more years until retirement, it's important to understand that you have plenty of time for the market – and your investments – to recover. History has shown that recoveries inevitably follow declines.

Investing for the long term is the way to go. The adage “time in the market is better than timing the market” is true: You can't predict when markets will rise and fall, but if you stay invested, then you can ride out the volatility and take advantage of the dips, treating them like fire sales.



Investments are inherently risky, but you can mitigate the risk by diversifying and holding a mix of different types of stock funds, bonds, and cash.

[MORE FROM MOAA: [3 Steps to Stay Sane in a Volatile Market](#)]

If your employer has “target date” retirement funds, like the [Lifecycle Funds in the Thrift Savings Plan](#), then the fund managers are making appropriate adjustments to your portfolio allocation based on your age and your retirement horizon.

Those within 15 years of retirement who haven't adjusted their allocations to account for aggressive investments have harder decisions to make. You have less time for a comeback.

Take a deep breath, think through the best way ahead, and seek help if needed.

If you have a financial advisor, reach out: This is what you are paying them to do – provide educated financial advice. If you don't have a financial advisor, consider finding one before taking any drastic action.

[MORE FROM MOAA: [How to Find a Financial Planner](#)]

If you are active duty military, every family readiness center has an accredited financial professional on staff. They can't create a financial plan for you, but they can help educate you and (hopefully) ease your worries. Some installations may have the bandwidth to see retirees, as well.

Above all, don't panic. Don't check your portfolio every day. And maybe stay away from the news channels for a bit.

MOAA's Financial Calculators Whether you're planning for retirement, buying a home, managing your investments, or more, these tools can help you make informed decisions.

[ACCESS THE CALCULATOR](#)

## Your guide to TSP investments

*(This article by Kimberly Lankford originally appeared in the March 2025 issue of Military Officer, a magazine available to all MOAA Premium and Life members. Learn more about the magazine [here](#).)*

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) has long been known as a low-cost way to save for retirement in a tax-advantaged account, offering investing options that aren't available anywhere else. Recent changes make it even better.

Here's how to make the most of the TSP investments and how to build your portfolio.

[RELATED: [Thrift Savings Plan Planning to Unveil Roth Transfer Option in 2026](#)]

The TSP includes three funds that invest in stocks and two that focus on fixed-income investments:

- C Fund: Large-company stock index fund, designed to match the performance of the S&P 500 index
- S Fund: Small-company stock index fund
- I Fund: International stock index fund
- F Fund: Fixed-income index fund, tracking the Bloomberg U.S. aggregate bond index
- G Fund: Government securities investment fund

The TSP also offers lifecycle funds (L Funds) that create portfolios of the five funds based on your investing time horizon, in five-year increments. The investments are automatically shifted as your withdrawal date gets closer.

Changes and Options

"The TSP makes things easy, and the descriptions are pretty true to form," said Lt. Col. Patrick Beagle, USMC (Ret), CFP®, owner of WealthCrest Financial Services in Springfield, Va. "With the recent revamp of the index tracking in the I Fund, it has improved even more."

In the past, the I Fund invested only in companies from developed countries, but the benchmark changed in 2024 to add developing economies, too.

"Now it includes emerging markets, which is an important part of a diversified portfolio," said Lt. Col. Amy King, USA (Ret), CFP®, Instar Financial Planning in Fallston, Md.

[RELATED: [What's Changing for Your Retirement Contributions in 2025 and Beyond?](#)]

**One special TSP option is the G Fund.**

"The G Fund is unique," said Col. Curt Sheldon, USAF (Ret), CFP®, in Alexandria, Va., and a MOAA Life member. "The fund buys government bonds that are only issued to TSP."

The G Fund tends to have higher yields than stable value funds offered by other employer plans because it can invest in longer-term bonds, King said.



Even though the G Fund can be a good place to invest the cash portion of your portfolio, King warns against keeping too much long-term money there, which might not keep up with inflation.

[RELATED: [Older Veterans File These Types of Financial Complaints Far More Often Than Non-Vets](#)]

**How to Create a Portfolio**

When deciding how much to invest in the TSP funds, consider when you need the money.

"It's all based on your investment time horizon, risk tolerance, financial goals, and cash flow needs," said King.

If you won't need the money for a long time, she recommends investing most in the stock funds, but keeping some in the F Fund and G Fund, too.

"Diversification is really key," King said.

If you receive military retirement pay, you may feel comfortable investing more

## Stephen Feinberg confirmed as deputy secretary of defense

The Senate voted Friday to confirm Stephen Feinberg, a billionaire investor, as the deputy secretary of defense, instilling the top two civilian leaders in the Pentagon as the administration prepares drastic changes to the military.

The 59-to-40 vote margin was wider than that for Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, who required Vice President JD Vance to cast a [tie-breaking vote](#) in January. Still, it was a narrower-than-usual share for the Pentagon's No. 2 position, which, like the secretary, usually receives bipartisan support.

Feinberg is the CEO of Cerberus Capital Management, a firm heavily invested in American defense programs. He has promised to use



his experience as a business leader to reform the Pentagon's dense bureaucratic rules for buying weapons and other equipment — a biparti-

san priority in Washington.

Still, in his February confirmation hearing, Feinberg faced sharp questions from Democrats concerned about the administration's planned cuts to the military. Hegseth has pledged to reduce the Pentagon's civilian workforce by 5% to 8% and started laying off employees already. The secretary is also reshuffling some \$50 billion each year in the defense budget toward some of his higher priorities.

The deputy secretary manages the Pentagon's day-to-day work, and Feinberg would be heavily involved in both workforce reduction and budget reshuffling, even as those efforts face confusion.

## Phelan confirmed as Navy Secretary

The Senate has confirmed John Phelan as the new Secretary of the Navy on March 24, marking him as the seventh non-veteran to hold this position in the past 70 years.

Phelan, who founded Rugger Management LLC, received a 62-30 vote, with most of his support coming from Republican senators. ? He is expected to assume his duties in the coming days.

Phelan was the first service secretary nominee announced by Trump, but the second to be confirmed, following Daniel Driscoll's approval as Army Secretary last month. ? During his confirmation hearing on February 27, Phelan emphasized the urgent need for reform and innovation within the Navy, citing issues such as extended deployments, maintenance problems, cost



overruns, delayed shipbuilding, failed audits, subpar housing, and

high suicide rates. ?

Phelan argued that his lack of military experience would be beneficial, allowing him to challenge traditional military thinking and leverage the operational expertise already present within the Navy and Marine Corps. ? He aims to take decisive action with a results-oriented approach. ?

Additionally, former Virginia Senate candidate and Navy special operations veteran Hung Cao has been nominated as the under secretary of the Navy, providing Phelan with a deputy who has significant Navy experience. ? The Navy is currently without a Chief of Naval Operations, following the dismissal of Adm. Lisa Franchetti by Trump last month.

## Hegseth reverses base renaming, restores Fort Benning name

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has reversed a recent decision to rename one of the Army's most prominent installations, reinstating the historic name "Fort Benning" to the Georgia-based military post. This marks the second time Hegseth has undone a base renaming and the first time a base name honoring a U.S. military family has been officially withdrawn.

Previously renamed "Fort Moore" in 2023, the base honored Vietnam War hero Lt. Gen. Hal Moore and his wife Julia Moore, who was instrumental in

improving how the military communicates with families after service member deaths. The name change had been part of a broader congressional mandate to replace base names associated with Confederate leaders, following nationwide calls for racial justice and reform in 2020.

David Moore, the couple's son and a key figure in the push to rename the base after his parents, expressed disappointment at the decision. "It feels like a rejection of both my father and mother's legacies," he said.

Hegseth's decision reflects

a broader rollback of the military renaming initiative, a process originally enacted over the objections of then-President Donald Trump. The initiative was seen as a response to public pressure to reexamine symbols tied to the Confederacy and institutional racism.

While the Defense Department has not released further details about other potential reversals, the move to restore the Fort Benning name signals a significant policy shift under Hegseth's leadership, just weeks into his term as secretary.



## Trump Administration relaxes airstrike authorization rules

The Trump administration has eased restrictions on the use of military airstrikes, granting greater autonomy to field commanders when targeting individuals or groups labeled as terrorists. Under the revised policy, senior military officers can now authorize lethal strikes without direct White House approval, provided the targets have been designated as terrorist threats.

A U.S. defense official explained that this change aims to streamline decision-making and enable faster responses to urgent threats, addressing long-standing concerns that previous protocols were overly centralized and led to delays.

While the Pentagon has not issued a formal announcement, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth

confirmed the new approach in a brief social media post responding to media reports. The move aligns with the administration's broader effort to enhance operational flexibility in counterterrorism operations and border security.

Since the beginning of Trump's second term, both U.S. Central Command and U.S. Africa Command have conducted multiple airstrikes targeting groups such as Hurras al-Din in Syria and ISIS affiliates in Somalia. In one high-profile mission, President Trump publicly took credit for authorizing a strike in Somaliland's Golis Mountains and even shared video footage of the operation on social media.

The revised strike policy

comes amid increased military activity along the U.S.-Mexico border, where an additional 3,000 active-duty troops are being deployed to support border security. This surge follows a January executive order labeling Mexican drug cartels as foreign terrorist organizations—an action that, combined with the new rules of engagement, provides expanded legal authority for military operations against them.

Though details remain limited, the policy shift reflects a more aggressive stance on national security and marks a significant departure from the more cautious strike approval processes under previous administrations.



## U.S. Air Force unveils first-ever unmanned fighter aircraft prototypes

At the AFA Warfare Symposium on March 3 in Aurora, Colorado, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David W. Allvin revealed that the U.S. Air Force has designated its first unmanned fighter prototypes under the Collaborative Combat Aircraft (CCA) program. These new models, developed by General Atomics and Anduril Industries, are named the YFQ-42A and YFQ-44A, respectively.

The naming follows standard Air Force conventions, where “Y” indicates a prototype, “F” designates a fighter aircraft, and “Q” stands for unmanned systems. Once these aircraft move into full production, the “Y” will be dropped.

According to Gen. Allvin, this marks a significant milestone in military aviation. “This is not just about assigning a name—it represents a shift in how we approach air dominance,” he said. The two aircraft had only been conceptual designs a few years ago, but now exist as real flying prototypes.

Designed to operate alongside manned aircraft like the F-35 Lightning II, CCAs function as “loyal wingmen,” offering support in combat while being remotely piloted or semi-autonomous. The Air Force envisions these drones flying in coordination with a single crewed aircraft, potentially expanding combat capability without requiring additional pilots or high-end technology.

In a statement, Anduril



The XQ-67A collaborative combat aircraft, top, and the Anduril Fury CCA is displayed at the Tech Expo at the Air, Space & Cyber Conference on September 17, 2024. Photos by H. Darr Beiser and Mike Tsukamoto/Air & Space Forces Association The XQ-67A collaborative combat aircraft, top, and the Anduril Fury CCA is displayed at the Tech Expo at the Air, Space & Cyber Conference on September 17, 2024. Photos by H. Darr Beiser and Mike Tsukamoto/Air & Space Forces Association

emphasized the importance of the development, highlighting the goal of delivering powerful, scalable, and cost-effective autonomous aircraft by the decade’s end. General Atomics echoed similar sentiments, noting that the YFQ-42A is engineered to complement existing and future piloted platforms, providing increased mission flexibility at a fraction of the cost.

Both companies stressed that their aircraft are built to thrive in contested airspaces and to enhance the U.S. military’s ability to maintain air superiority in future conflicts.

These developments are part of the Air Force’s broader Next-

Generation Air Dominance (NGAD) strategy, which also includes a potential new manned stealth fighter. While the decision to move forward with a manned NGAD aircraft will fall to the next Secretary of the Air Force and the Trump administration, current leadership is committed to pressing ahead with both manned and unmanned modernization initiatives.

“We are living in a dangerous and unpredictable era,” Gen. Allvin said. “The president needs every possible option available—whether that’s NGAD, CCA, or both. That’s what will ensure we remain ahead.”

## U.S. fighter jets intercept Houthi drones targeting Navy carrier group

U.S. Air Force aircraft intercepted and destroyed multiple drones launched by Houthi forces in Yemen, marking the first such engagement in over two months. The drones were aimed at the USS Harry S. Truman and its accompanying strike group in the Red Sea. The attack

began just after midnight local time on Sunday, March 16, and continued for about 12 hours.

According to a U.S. official familiar with the situation, 11 drones and a ballistic missile were fired at the naval group. While the drones were all successfully neutralized in the air by American jets, the missile landed harmlessly in the sea and posed no direct threat to the vessels.

Houthi media initially claimed they had launched a much larger barrage—including 18 missiles and a single drone—at the Truman strike group. This assault came shortly after the U.S. Navy had conducted its own airstrikes on Houthi positions inside Yemen, including attacks near

the capital, Sana'a, which local health officials said resulted in nearly 100 deaths.

In a televised speech, Houthi leader Abdel-Malik al-Houthi warned of further retaliation if U.S. operations continued. American officials responded by reaffirming their commitment to neutralize threats from the group until the targeting of maritime vessels ceases.

This latest round of violence follows renewed Houthi threats to resume strikes on commercial shipping in response to Israel's blockade of humanitarian aid to Gaza. Attacks by the group had halted earlier in January after a temporary ceasefire was reached between Israel and Hamas.

Since late 2023, the U.S. Navy has intercepted numerous drones and missiles launched from Yemen into the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, as part of efforts to protect both commercial and military vessels. The USS Harry S. Truman entered the Red Sea in December and played a central role in operations leading up to the Gaza ceasefire. That deployment included a number of strikes inside Yemen and multiple encounters with aerial threats.

In one notable incident from December 22, during a drone defense mission, the USS Gettysburg mistakenly downed a U.S. Navy F/A-18F Super Hornet. Both pilots survived, with one sustaining minor injuries.



## Boeing secures massive Pentagon contract for advanced fighter jet

In a surprising move, the U.S. Department of Defense has awarded Boeing a major contract to develop the Air Force's next-generation manned fighter jet—marking the largest and most expensive fighter program in U.S. history. The deal, estimated to be worth tens of billions of dollars, arrives at a critical moment for Boeing, which has been working to recover from multiple setbacks in both its commercial and defense divisions.

The new aircraft, tentatively designated the F-47, is being designed to operate alongside autonomous drones and will feature advanced stealth and long-range combat capabilities. It is expected to be a key asset in the U.S. military's strategy to counter rising threats from China and other global powers in the coming decades.

Boeing's selection came as a surprise to many analysts, especially given that rival Lockheed Martin—maker of the F-35—had long been viewed as the frontrunner. The decision is also noteworthy because Boeing hasn't developed a completely new manned aircraft on its



This is a photo of the Lockheed Martin F-22A Raptor that the F-47 will eventually replace

own in decades, and recent years have been marked by production issues and financial losses.

The deal is structured to ensure Boeing earns a profit during the development phase through a cost-plus agreement. This contrasts with previous fixed-price contracts that had left the company absorbing major financial losses when programs ran over budget.

While Boeing has a long history of military aviation—including jets, helicopters, and transport aircraft—its defense unit has fallen behind competitors in recent years. The company made an unprecedented \$2 billion investment to expand its St. Louis facility in preparation

for the F-47 program and has already been flight-testing a prototype.

The aircraft's name—F-47—is viewed by some as a nod to President Trump, the 47th U.S. president, who publicly announced the contract from the Oval Office and praised the fighter's design, calling it “the most advanced, most lethal aircraft ever built.”

Though the full cost of the program has not been disclosed, the Air Force intends for the F-47 to eventually replace the F-22 Raptor. For Boeing, this represents a potentially transformative win—both financially and reputationally—as it aims to reestablish itself as a leader in U.S. military aviation.

## Army releases second version of its Unified Network Plan

The U.S. Army has officially rolled out its updated Unified Network Plan—referred to as AUN 2.0—marking a major step forward in efforts to unify and modernize its tactical and enterprise networks. Building on the original 2021 version, this new plan sharpens the Army's focus on supporting multi-domain operations and implementing zero trust cybersecurity principles.

The initial goal of merging 69 separate networks into a single integrated system by 2027 remains in place. However, AUN 2.0 adjusts the timeline for enabling full multi-domain readiness to 2030, reflecting evolving operational needs and the pace of technological advancement.

Army G-6 Gen. Jeth Rey previewed the shift in priorities late last year, stating that the new strategy is designed to guide the operational use of a unified network as a key enabler of future warfare. Rey emphasized that the updated plan not only provides a roadmap for unified networking but also outlines critical capabilities required to support Army 2030 goals.



**The ultimate goal of the Army's Unified Network is to give soldiers the same network capabilities while deployed as they have at posts, camps, and stations. (Photo courtesy of the US Army.)**

A central theme of AUN 2.0 is a move toward a data-centric environment, with the plan heavily emphasizing zero trust architecture. Under this model, all users and devices are treated as potential threats unless continuously verified—a shift from older network models focused primarily on perimeter defense.

According to Rey, the plan aims to simplify access and integration across Army installations by removing bureaucratic barriers and standardizing how users connect to the network, regardless of location.

The updated plan lays out five lines of effort:

1. Build and maintain a unified network
2. Empower the force for

multi-domain operations

3. Strengthen security and resilience through zero trust

4. Reform how the Army manages network investments, policies, and governance

5. Foster continuous improvement of the network

These efforts will unfold over three distinct phases, with completion expected by the end of the decade.

Unlike previous strategies that centered on hardware and defensive perimeters, AUN 2.0 promotes agile and flexible networking capable of functioning even in contested or limited environments. The vision is to support mission needs quickly and securely through centrally managed data and standardized network principles.

## U.S., South Korea and Allies conduct joint military exercises

In a demonstration of growing multinational defense coordination, U.S. and South Korean forces recently conducted advanced joint training as part of the Freedom Shield 25 exercise. The drill featured U.S. Navy F-35C fighters from the USS Carl Vinson working alongside U.S. Air Force F-35As and Republic of Korea Air Force (ROKAF) F-35As. The exercise aimed to enhance interoperability across air, land, and sea domains.

A U.S. Air Force announcement detailed the operation, noting that jets from Strike Fighter Squadron 97 (VFA-97), based on the Carl Vinson, trained with American and South Korean counterparts from the 134th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron and the 17th Fighter Wing. The integrated mission included aerial refueling and dynamic targeting drills. One photo released showed the F-35s flying over the Carl Vinson, which had recently departed Busan following a port visit and was operating in the Sea of Japan.

The Carl Vinson Carrier Strike Group, currently operating in the region, comprises the aircraft carrier itself, Carrier Air Wing 2, the guided-missile cruiser USS Princeton, and destroyers USS Sterett and USS Ralph Johnson. Ralph Johnson is assigned to the forward-deployed Destroyer Squadron 15, based in Japan. Another destroyer, the USS William P. Lawrence, previously



**F-35 Lightning IIs from the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, and Republic of Korea Air Force flight in formation over the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN-70) during integration training for Freedom Shield 25, March 13, 2025. (ROK Air Force Photo)**

with the group, is reportedly now carrying out separate operations.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Marine Corps and Republic of Korea Marine Corps concluded a separate exercise under the Korean Marine Exercise Program (KMEP 25.1). Taking place from March 3 to 13, the training involved around 440 U.S. Marines from the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion and III Marine Expeditionary Force. The exercises, held in the Gimpo and Ganghwa areas, focused on combined operations, company-level tactics, and mountain warfare.

In a related development, the Royal Australian Air Force wrapped up its own regional security operations in the Indo-Pacific. As part of its 2025 regional presence deployment initiative, RAAF P-8A Poseidon aircraft conducted maritime surveillance missions, including joint activities with the Royal

Australian Navy's HMAS Hobart. Operations extended into the South China Sea, where the Poseidons participated in multilateral exercises alongside U.S., Japanese, and Philippine forces in early February.

The Australian Department of Defence confirmed that during one of the missions, a Chinese J-16 fighter aircraft released flares in close proximity—just 30 meters—in front of an RAAF Poseidon, an incident that drew diplomatic concern from Canberra. In response, Chinese military officials claimed the Australian aircraft had violated their sovereignty in the contested South China Sea region, prompting what they characterized as a defensive response.

These exercises underscore the growing emphasis on coalition defense readiness in the face of increasing regional security challenges.

## Latest fraud alert from VA targets medical equipment scams

*By: Kevin Lilley*

Scammers targeting VA and Medicare beneficiaries may promise free delivery of commonly used medical equipment, but will instead steal personal data and use it to bill the government for unnecessary materials.

Scams involving durable medical equipment – devices such as orthotics, wheelchairs, catheters, oxygen systems, and dialysis equipment – triggered a fraud alert from the VA in early March. A similar warning to Medicare beneficiaries went out last year from the Department of Health and Human Services.

April 8 MOAA Webinar: Protect Yourself From Identity Theft and Fraud

Join MOAA and a guest expert from the Federal Trade Commission to learn how to recognize and stop scams. This free event will help you identify threats and know who to contact for support. Can't make the event? Register and you'll receive a link to the recording. Sign up today!

[REGISTER NOW](#)



A typical scam involves connecting with a beneficiary via text, email, social media, or an online advertisement and promising to provide them with no-cost medical equipment. Scammers obtain a Medicare number or other identifying information, then use the details to bill the government for the equipment – which may or may not be delivered.

The VA also warned its employees to watch out for requests from suppliers seeking billing authorization for materials not approved by a health care provider.

### How to Stay Safe

- Do Not Engage: If you're

contacted by an unfamiliar individual offering medical supplies, delete the email or text, or hang up the phone. Medicare or VA suppliers will not contact beneficiaries directly with such offers.

- Guard Your Data: Do not provide a Medicare number or other personal information to anyone reaching out through suspicious channels. If you are unsure whether the individual is connected to your health care provider,

connect with the provider directly and confirm an existing relationship.

- Check Your Paperwork: Do not accept any medical equipment you did not expect to receive. Review your explanation of benefits or other materials from your provider – if you see items that should not have been purchased, reach out to your provider (or Medicare, or the VA) immediately.

- Report Scammers: Medicare beneficiaries can report suspected fraud [online](#) or by calling 800-HHS-TIPS (800-447-8477). VA beneficiaries can reach out to the VA's Office of Inspector General at 800-488-8244 or online.

Clinical Contact Center:

## Enhancing Veteran Healthcare



The Right Care, Right Now

**1-877-741-3400**

The VISN 8 Clinical Contact Center, or VA Health Connect, is a transformative service designed to enhance the healthcare experience for Veterans enrolled for VA care in Florida, South Georgia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. This innovative center provides a broad spectrum of 24/7/365 virtual services to ensure Veterans receive timely and efficient care, regardless of their location within VA Sunshine Healthcare Network (VISN 8).

Veterans can reach the center around the clock by calling 1-877-741-3400. They can also connect using the VA Health Chat app, available at no cost on the Google Play or Apple App stores, anytime between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays.



### Comprehensive Healthcare Services

- **Nurse Triage:** Access professional nursing advice and services around the clock. This allows Veterans to take action and immediately address health concerns with nursing staff.
- **Virtual Urgent and Tele-Emergency Care:** Telehealth technologies like the telephone, VA Health Connect, and VA Health Chat allow Veterans to consult with healthcare providers from home.
- **Prescription Renewal and Management:** The center assists with medication management, including prescription renewals and refills.
- **Scheduling Assistance:** Veterans can receive help scheduling appointments and ensuring timely access to healthcare providers and services.

### Benefits to Veterans

- **Improved Access to Care:** The center ensures that Veterans have 24/7 access to healthcare, regardless of their physical location or time constraints.
- **Increased Efficiency:** With streamlined communication and service access, Veterans can manage their healthcare more effectively and efficiently.
- **Enhanced Health Outcomes:** The center helps prevent minor issues from becoming serious health problems by providing timely medical advice and assistance.
- **Reduced Burden on In-Person Facilities:** Remote services alleviates pressure on physical VA facilities, allowing them to focus on in-person care.

Save the center's telephone number in your mobile device today so you can get quality care when you need it!

# Prioritizing Heart Health for Longevity

Heart health plays a critical role in maintaining your quality of life. But staying heart-healthy isn't just about living longer—it's about living better lives.

When your heart is strong, you have more energy to do the things you love. Whether it's playing with grandchildren, enjoying a nature walk, or completing daily chores, heart health matters. Making small, gradual lifestyle changes and prioritizing heart health can benefit everyone.

### Why It Matters

Your heart is the engine that powers your entire body. When it's not functioning well, it can lead to fatigue, shortness of breath, and other serious health problems. All of these symptoms can impact your ability to stay active and independent. Poor heart health doesn't just affect your body; it can also affect your emotional and mental health and memory. By taking steps to care for your heart, you're investing in a healthier and more fulfilling future.

### Preventing Heart Disease

Heart disease is a serious condition that can affect people of all ages. However, it becomes more common as we get older. Veterans may have additional risk factors, including post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, and depression.

Also, women have life stages that can put them at increased risk, such as pregnancy and menopause. Stress, unhealthy diets, and lack of physical activity can collectively take a toll on your heart.

Your VA health care team can connect you with VA services and resources to help you prevent heart disease. They can assess your risk level, diagnose, and provide treatment. You can take action by learning more about your heart health numbers and discussing them with your health care provider. These include:

- Blood cholesterol
- Blood pressure
- Blood sugar
- Body Mass Index



## Healthy Habits for a Healthy Heart



There may be some risk factors that you can't control, such as age and your family history. But as we grow older, we can build healthy habits to protect our hearts. Here are some tips to help you put heart health first:

- **Maintain a healthy weight.** All bodies are different. Talk to your health care provider about what healthy weight management looks like for you.
- **Move more.** Try to move your body daily, even if it's only for a few minutes.
- **Prioritize sleep.** Aim for 7-8 hours of quality sleep each night.
- **Nourish Your body.** Eat more fruits, vegetables, and whole grains. Include healthy fats such as avocados, nuts, seeds, and olive oil in your diet. Limit unhealthy fats, added sugars, and excessive amounts of salt.
- **Limit your alcohol.** For most adults, this means aiming for no more than one drink per day for women and two drinks per day for men. Adults ages 65 and older should have no more than one drink a day and no more than seven drinks per week.
- **Say goodbye to tobacco.** If you smoke, quitting is one of the best things you can do for your heart health.
- **Find your calm.** Explore ways to reduce stress like yoga, meditation, or spending more time enjoying nature.
- **Keep blood pressure in check.** Work with your health provider to manage your blood pressure, which may include medication.
- **Manage blood sugar.** If you have prediabetes or diabetes, work closely with your VA health care team to manage your blood sugar levels.

Creating new habits and making lifestyle changes can be a challenge. However, with small, gradual changes, you can experience big rewards that last a lifetime. Scan the QR code below to access a wide range of resources from your Veterans Health Library.



## Eat Smart, Live Well:

### VA's Approach to Healthy Weight Management

Aiming for a healthy weight, making wise food choices, and staying active can have a big impact on your overall well-being, helping you enjoy life to the fullest. Incorporating these healthy habits into your daily life can boost energy levels, improve mobility, and reduce the risk of illness. The good news? It's never too late to start, and the VA is here to help!

With the support of your VA health care team, the MOVE! Program, and the Healthy Teaching Kitchen (HTK), you can learn about what's best for you and your lifestyle. Even small, gradual changes can become long-lasting healthy habits.

For instance, cutting back on sugary drinks and adding more snacks with fruits and vegetables can make a difference in your daily life. You can do more of the activities you love and enjoy more moments with the people you love.



#### What is MOVE!?

VA's MOVE! Weight Management Program is designed to support you in building a healthier lifestyle and managing your weight. But MOVE! goes beyond numbers on a scale—it's about empowering you to build the skills and confidence to improve your overall health and well-being.

This program includes valuable tools, such as guided workbooks, food and activity logs, and a gallery of videos focusing on healthy behavior, nutrition, and physical activity for all ages.

You can start your wellness journey by taking the MOVE! questionnaire. This tool provides you with a personalized health report you can share with your VA health care team. You can also download the VA MOVE! Coach app to easily access these tools on the go.

If you're looking for some motivation to get started, click on MOVE! Stories for videos of fellow Veterans sharing their inspirational health journeys and transformations. Visit [www.move.va.gov](http://www.move.va.gov) to learn more.

#### Cooking with VA's Healthy Teaching Kitchen

Choosing nutritious foods is one of the most important steps you can take to improve your health. Learning to cook is a valuable way to ensure you have healthier options throughout your day. The Healthy Teaching Kitchen program equips Veterans with essential nutrition knowledge, hands-on cooking skills, and practical experience to build confidence in preparing healthy meals at home. Classes include nutrition education, meal balancing, grocery shopping, meal planning, cooking skills, and more.

These classes are taught in person at your local VA facility and online via the VA Video Connect (VVC) platform. Visit [www.nutrition.va.gov](http://www.nutrition.va.gov) and click on 'The Healthy Teaching Kitchen' for more information.



#### Watch the Video!

Check out the video "Eat Smart, Live Well: VA's Approach to Healthy Weight Management" by scanning this QR code.

# Air Force Reserve Birthday

## U.S. Air Force Reserve was formed by President Harry Truman in April 1948

The Air Force Reserve's contribution to the security of the United States and the world fulfills visions begun one hundred years ago when, in 1907, the Aeronautical Division in the Signal Corps became responsible for military "air machines," and some sixty years ago, when President Harry Truman directed in the National Security Act of 1947 that the services revitalize their reserve programs. Since its inception in April 1948, the Air Force Reserve has evolved from a mobilization-only force into an operational reserve integrated 24/7 with the active Air Force. Dedicated Citizen Airmen stand ready -- to provide combat-ready forces to fly, fight and win ... airpower anytime, anywhere!

1948 - 1968: The historical origins of an air reserve in the US military stem from the Preparedness Movement and the National Defense Act of 1916 that authorized an Organized Reserve Corps. The Air Force Reserve was formally established on April 14, 1948 by President Harry Truman who envisioned a program similar to one established during the First World War, whereby Reservists stood ready to serve during wartime.

When the Korean War erupted in 1950, the Air Force Reserve consisted of over 315,800 non-drilling and nearly 58,500 drilling Reservists in combat sustaining units, namely 20 troop carrier wings outfitted with C-46s and C-47s (later C-119s), and five light bombardment wings of B-26s. Between July 1950 and June 1953, the Air Force mobilized nearly 147,000 Air Force Reservists to active service for periods from one to three years. Five Air Force Reserve units remained on active service while another 15 units were called up to replace and fill out active units. Air Force Reservists performed



well, as demonstrated by unit citations and the recalled individuals who became fighter aces.

During the 1950s, several legislative acts addressed concerns with the national reserve program, establishing the Ready, Standby, and Retired Reserve categories. Units were provided with full-time air reserve technician (ART) trainers and the President was authorized to mobilize a portion of the Ready Reserve to active duty without advanced congressional notification.

In the 1960s the services relied on the Reserve forces to support the Berlin and Cuban Crises. While still transitioning to new aircraft, five Air Force Reserve C-124 units along with 5,613 Reservists were mobilized for a year during the Berlin Crisis. When the Cuban Crisis intensified, Reserve aircrews flew C-119s and materiel to Key West Naval Air Station and Homestead AFB, Florida. Mobilizations followed with 14,220 Air Force Reservists and 422 aircraft on active duty by 28 October 1962.

The Air Force again called on the Air Force Reserve to participate in the Vietnam War effort. Reservists voluntarily provided direct and indirect support with few mobilizations.

Needing more strategic airlift into the Vietnam Theater, the Air Force Reserve responded by flying C-124 missions as part of their inactive duty, annual two-week training, and an additional 36 days of inactive duty days until US involvement ended in 1973. Air Force Reserve rescue and recovery, intelligence and medical specialists, aerial porters, maintainers, lawyers, and chaplains comprised the range of support provided. Desiring more augmentation from the Air Force Reserve and yet unable to procure enough new C-141s, the Air Force initiated in 1968 the associate concept whereby Air Force Reserve personnel would associate with an active duty unit equipped with new C-141s or C-9s, flying and performing maintenance together.

1969 - 1989: As the 1970s unfolded, the challenge then was to find the right mix of forces for mission effectiveness. Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird adopted the Total Force concept in August 1970 with Secretary of Defense James Schlesinger declaring it policy in 1973.

With the implementation of the Total Force Policy, the Air Force Reserve became a multi-mission force, flying the same modern aircraft as the active Air Force. Mobilization planning and operational evaluation were integrated with the corresponding active duty functions. With the same equipment and budget authority, the Air Force Reserve was held to the same readiness standards and inspections as regular Air Force units. Special operations, air refueling, weather reconnaissance, and, once again, fighter missions were added to the airlift, rescue, and mission support roles performed by the Air Force Reserve. The associate concept soon expanded to include the C-5.

Air Force Reserve participation in Air Force exercises and deployments  
(Continued on next page)

# Air Force Reserve (continued)

*(Continued from previous page)*

perfected its mobility capabilities as demonstrated throughout the seventies, most notably during the Israeli Airlift of 1973, some 630 crewmembers volunteered for Middle East missions to include flying into Tel Aviv while another 1,590 Reservists performed missions worldwide, freeing up more active crews for airlift.

The 1980s saw the modernization and expansion of the Air Force Reserve program. KC-10s joined the associate force in 1981. Fighter units obtained the more modern A-10s and F-4s, and in 1984, the Air Force Reserve received its first F-16. Operationally, the Air Force Reserve returned American students from Grenada in 1983, performed air refuelings of F-111 bombers during the El Dorado Canyon raid on Libyan-sponsored terrorists in 1986, and acted as a full partner in Operation Just Cause which ousted Panama's General Noriega in 1989-1990. Air Force Reservists also supported humanitarian and disaster relief efforts, including resupply and evacuation missions in the aftermath of Hurricane Hugo. The Reserve's continual volunteering allayed the concerns of those who believed the Air Force Reserve would not be available when really needed.

1990 - 1999: Air Force Reserve airlift and tanker crews were flying within days of Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

When ground operations commenced, Air Force Reserve A-10s operated close to the front lines along with Air Force Reserve special operations and rescue forces.

A Reservist scored the first-ever A-10 air-to-air kill. When Operations Desert Shield/Storm ended, the air Force Reserve counted 23,500 Reservists mobilized with another 15,000 serving in a volunteer capacity.

The Air Force Reserve had become indistinguishable from the active force in capability; there was no difference between an Air Force Reserve pilot and an active duty pilot, or a boom operator, or loadmaster.

In the aftermath of Desert Storm, Air Force Reservists continued to serve and were heavily involved in enforcing the no-fly zone over northern and southern Iraq as well as in humanitarian relief missions to assist uprooted Iraqi Kurds. For over six years, Air Force Reserve C-130s performed these Provide Comfort missions on a rotational

basis while F-16s and rescue HH-60s deployed to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, for the no-fly operations. In 1993, when tensions mounted in Bosnia, Air Force Reserve tanker and fighter units participated in enforcing the Deny Flight no-fly zone while airlift units ensured logistical resupply.

The Air Force increasingly relied on its Air Force Reserve component for a "steady state" of daily assistance--whether it was flying airlift channel, fire fighting, aerial spray, hurricane hunter missions, or providing highly skilled medical and aeromedical personnel. As a result, Congress sought to clarify the organizational placement of the reserves. Accordingly, in February 1997, the Air Force Reserve officially became the Air Force Reserve Command, the Air Force's ninth major command.

Between March and September 1999, Air Force Reservists volunteered and were also mobilized for Allied Force operations over Serbia and Kosovo. The involuntary recall marked the ninth time the Air Force had requested a mobilization of Air Force Reserve units and personnel since 1950. In summary, Reservists provided 150,000 mandays of support that spanned the spectrum of our missions. The Air Force Reserve once again proved itself as an adaptable and capable force, ready to perform the full range of Air Force operations on an integrated and daily basis in sync with the new Air and Space Expeditionary Force (AEF) concepts.

2000 - Present: When terrorists attacked the United States on September 11, 2001, Air Force Reservists responded in full measure. Air Force Reserve F-16 fighters flew combat air patrols (CAPs) protecting America's cities while KC-135 tanker and AWACs aircraft supported with air refuelings and security. In October 2001, the United States initiated the Global War On Terrorism as military forces entered Afghanistan to combat the Taliban in Operation Enduring Freedom. Air Force Reserve MC-130 Combat Talon aircraft became the first fixed-wing aircraft to penetrate Afghan airspace while Air Force Reserve F-16 crews, already deployed in theater for Operation Southern Watch, performed the first combat missions.

Air Force Reservists made significant contributions by flying close air support, combat delivery, rescue, strategic airlift, and air refueling

missions supporting operations in Afghanistan. They also provided B-52, special operations, aeromedical, security forces, and civil engineering support. Air Force Reserve A-10s, HH-60s and C-130s still continue to perform rotational tours in Afghanistan, and Air Force Reservists have been instrumental in building the Afghan National Army Air Corps. When war against Saddam Hussein's regime began in March 2003, Air Force Reserve combat-ready A-10, B-52, and F-16 aircrews flew numerous strike operations during the first hours of engagement and performed special operations and rescue missions. Air Reserve rescue personnel were among the first into Tallil Air Base as Reserve A-10s provided close air support. Part of the lead tanker force, Reserve tankers offloaded more than 21 million pounds of fuel to more than 1,000 aircraft. In late March 2003, fifteen C-17 Reserve associate crews supported the C-17 airdrop, which opened up the Northern Front in Iraq.

Additionally, Reservists supported Air Force unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) missions and space-based operations in Southwest Asia, providing essential data to battlefield commanders. During the combat phase (19 March-1 May) Air Force Reserve aircraft and crews flew nearly 162,000 hours and deployed 70 unit-equipped aircraft in theater while aeromedical personnel provided 45 percent of the Air Force's aeromedical crews that performed 3,108 patient movements.

The Air Force Reserve continues to expand its associate construct across the mission spectrum. Specific examples are the Air Force Reserve associating at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, flying the F-22 and the active duty associating with the C-40C at Scott AFB, and the C-5 at Lackland AFB, Texas. On the horizon, associate units will include future weapon systems such as the F-35 Lightning II and the Next Generation Bomber.

In adapting, changing, and responding these past sixty years, the Air Force Reserve has truly evolved into an operational reserve force. Dedicated Citizen-Reservists provide the world's best mutual support to the Air Force and our joint partners--to provide combat-ready forces to fly, fight and win.

# U.S. Army Reserve Birthday

## Army Reserve roots go back to 1756

The Army Reserve of today can trace its roots as a “national” or federal Citizen-Soldier force back to the French and Indian War (1756-1763) on through the Civil War (1861-1865) to the Spanish-American War and Philippine Insurrection (1898-1902).

From its birth in 1776 through the nineteenth century, the United States remained a regional power, protected from invasion by the vast expanses of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. A large standing army was not required and the nation's defense was based primarily on the militia systems of the individual states.

After the end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815, with the absence of any real foreign threat, a small standing army was all that was needed to maintain peace on the frontier between the settlers and American Indians. With the crisis of a major war, the federal government mobilized large Citizen-Soldier forces and trained them for combat operations. At the close of these conflicts the Soldiers were sent home, again leaving a small standing army.

However, by the turn of the twentieth century, the United States emerged as a world power with global trade routes and security concerns beyond the Western Hemisphere.

Consequently, during this transition, the United States Congress created an official Army Reserve organization in order to place a major portion of the nation's Citizen-Soldier establishment under federal control during times of peace, as well as war.

Financially, this was the best option for maintaining and projecting overseas a land-power force capable of facing the military might of the other world powers.

Four significant events in United States history shaped the modern Army Reserve: (1) the sinking of



the battleship Maine in 1898; (2) the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941; (3) the defeat of communism with the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989; and (4) the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 that live in infamy as “9/11” for most Americans.

### A MILITARYMANPOWER RESERVE:1908 -1945

At the end of the Nineteenth Century, a new “manifest destiny” wave carried the Americans beyond the continental United States and into the Pacific and Caribbean. Consequently, on 15 February 1898, the sinking of the American battleship Maine in Havana harbor ushered in the Spanish-American War and Philippine Insurrection (1898-1902).

Mobilization problems of the Army during these conflicts, specifically shortages of medical professionals, trained officers and non-commissioned officers, caused the national leadership to finally establish a formal structure for federal volunteers during peacetime.

Initially, in 1908 Congress created the Medical Reserve Corps, the official predecessor of the Army Reserve. Subsequently, using its constitutional

authority to “raise and support armies,” through the National Defense Act of 1916 and the sweeping changes to that law in the National Defense Act Amendments of 1920, the federal government created the Organized Reserve.

Redesignated as the Organized Reserve Corps in 1948, the new force served into the 1950s to provide a peacetime pool of trained reserve officers and enlisted men for use in war.

This manpower reserve existed as the officer cadre for as many as 27 reserve infantry divisions and 6 reserve cavalry divisions located across the nation. It also

included the Officers' Reserve Corps, Enlisted Reserve Corps, and Reserve Officers' Training Corps.

Consequently, the Army mobilized nearly 90,000 Reserve officers for World War I (1917-1919), one-third of which were medical doctors. More than 80,000 enlisted Army Reserve Soldiers served of which 15,000 were assigned to medical units.

The individual Army Reserve Soldiers were placed into newly organized units, were trained, and then deployed to the war zone. During the interwar period (1920-1940), the Army planned for an Organized Reserve force of thirty-three divisions, existing either as paper units or in a cadre status.

The years between the world wars were austere, with few opportunities for training. A contingency for service, however, was created during the Great Depression. One of President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal programs, the Civilian Conservation Corps, placed young men in barracks and military-style organizations to work in national forests and other outdoor projects. Between 1933 and 1939, more than  
*(Continued on next page)*

# U.S. Army Reserve *(continued)*

*(Continued from previous page)*

30,000 Army Reserve officers served as commanders or staff officers at the 2,700 conservation corps camps. Army

Reserve participation in the American defense effort began before the United States entered the Second World War in December 1941.

The Army began calling Army Reserve officers to active duty in June 1940. In the year that followed, the number of Army Reserve officers on active duty rose from fewer than 3,000 to more than 57,000.

During World War II (1941-1945), the Army mobilized twenty-six Army Reserve (designated) infantry divisions. Approximately a quarter of all Army officers who served were Army Reserve Soldiers, including over 100,000 Reserve Officers' Training Corps graduates.

More than 200,000 Army Reserve Soldiers served in the war. World War II signified the beginning of a new era in national security, and from that point to the present the United States took-on the role as the "arsenal of democracy" and "world guardian," a new mission in which the Army Reserve would play a major role.

## **THE STRATEGIC RESERVE: 1946-1990**

The Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, 7 December 1941, woke the American people from the century-old complacency that the United States, as an "island bastion," was eternally safe behind the "ocean moats" of the Atlantic and Pacific.

Air power had changed the strategic paradigm forever. The 1940s also witnessed the emergence of strategic bombing, rocket (missile) technology, and nuclear weapons.

After World War II, the world divided into two opposing armed camps: the Soviet Union, China, and the Warsaw Pact versus the United States and its allies. The communist nations maintained armies with millions of highly trained Soldiers and stood poised to overrun Europe and Asia at a moment's notice. The entire world and global market lay open to conquest and the spread of communist dictatorships.

To face this new threat, the United States developed a "Containment Policy" to check the growth of communism over the next forty-five years.

For the first time in our history, a large military force would be required during peacetime to implement this new grand foreign policy. The units of this military force needed to be manned, equipped, trained, and ready for deployment at all times to a combat zone within a few month's notice.

The Department of Defense established a system of "unified commands" in Europe, the Far East, the Pacific, Alaska, and the Caribbean to provide strategic direction for global operations.

The old days of relying on untrained citizen Soldiers, which required nine months to a year to mobilize into deployable units, were over.

To defray the cost of maintaining such a large military force, Congress placed heavy reliance on establishing and sustaining a more combat ready Army Reserve to deploy together with the Active Army for operations worldwide.

Recognizing the importance of the Organized Reserve to the World War II effort, Congress authorized retirement and drill pay for the first time in 1948.

The Korean War (1950-1953) saw more than 240,000 Army Reserve Soldiers called to active duty. That large number reflected the Army's need for organized, trained personnel in a short period of time. More than seventy Army Reserve units served in Korea.

While the Korean Conflict was still underway, Congress began making significant changes in the structure and role of the Army Reserve. These changes transformed the Organized Reserve Corps into the United States Army Reserve (USAR).

This new organization was divided into a Ready Reserve, Standby Reserve, and Retired Reserve. Army Reserve units were authorized twenty-four inactive duty training days a year and up to seventeen days of active duty (called annual training). The president was given authority to order up to one million uniformed personnel of the reserve components from all services

to active duty.

These congressional actions were directly related to experiences gained during the activation and subsequent service of Army Reserve units in the Korean War. Acting to signify the new vital role of the Reserves to the nation's defense, President Harry S. Truman established the Armed Forces Reserve Medal by executive order in 1950. For the first time, Army Reserve Soldiers received an official award for consecutive periods of service in ten year increments.

In operations following the Korean War, the Army intended to maintain the integrity of mobilized Army Reserve units.

As a standard, officers and enlisted men were not stripped out of organized units and sent into operations as replacements. Instead, the Army attempted to mobilize and deploy fully trained and manned Army Reserve units at the outbreak of the conflict.

Thus, the lessons learned from the Korean War set the precedent for readiness of all Army Reserve organizations in future call-ups.

During the period from 1968 to 1974 and with the end of the Vietnam War (1961-1975), Congress reduced the Army end-strength from 1.5 million to 785,000 Active Duty Soldiers.

The end of the draft coincided with the announcement of the Total Force Policy in 1973. This new policy, also known as the Abrams Doctrine for Army Chief of Staff General Creighton W. Abrams, Jr., placed an increased reliance on reserve component units for rapid deployment to military operations. It called for the United States to maintain an active force capable of maintaining peace and deterring aggression across the globe. Those forces would be reinforced, when necessary, by a well-trained and equipped reserve component within a month's notice.

The effect of an all-volunteer Army and the Total Force Policy was a shift of important responsibilities and resources to the Army Reserve. The intent was to ensure that the Army would never again engage in  
*(Continued on next page)*

# U.S. Army Reserve *(continued)*

*(Continued from previous page)*

a major conflict without the reserve components.

To support this concept, after 1967 the Army Reserve became increasingly combat support and combat service support oriented, and in that same year Congress established the Office of the Chief, Army Reserve (OCAR) within the Army Staff to give Army Reserve Soldiers an official spokesman at the Department of the Army level.

However, throughout the entire Cold War period, after the Korean War, the Army Reserve was mobilized only twice; over 68,500 Army Reserve Soldiers for the Berlin Crisis (1961-1962) and nearly 6,000 for the Vietnam War during the period from 1968 to 1969.

In reality, it existed as a strategic reserve and the Active Army handled most military operations without the reserve components. This would all change with the end of the Cold War and the further draw-down of the Active Army in the 1990s.

## **THE OPERATIONAL RESERVE: 1990 - Present**

The fall of the Berlin Wall in November 1989 marked the symbolic end of the Cold War and a victory of the free world over totalitarianism.

The likelihood of the Soviet Union posing the threat it once did seemed unlikely. The world looked safer. Thus, in the post Cold War period, the United States perceived a reduced danger and sought a "peace dividend" through significant reductions in military budgets and manpower levels.

The mission for America's armed forces to remain the "world guardian," however, did not change. In fact, by this time, the unified command system had expanded to include Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East. Meanwhile, the late twentieth century experienced a revolution in military affairs through advances in information management (digital technology), which seemed to render past forms of warfare obsolete.

This new technology was significant because it allowed Soldiers to view the battlefield in real-time and enhanced logistical management to better control

supplies.

Also, throughout the twentieth century, the demands of modern warfare caused the number of combat support and combat service support specialty branches to multiply and grow in complexity, making the manning of such units more difficult.

Faced with implementing a global peacekeeping mission with a greatly curtailed military budget and active military force, Congress intended to leverage the reserve components and the new technologies to make up the difference. This required the Army Reserve to be manned, equipped and trained at levels comparable to the Active Army.

Such a capability allowed the Army components to be more versatile and function as one team on the battlefield. It was from this concept that the Army Reserve "Operational Reserve" would evolve over the next twenty years. Consequently, to improve the combat readiness of Army Reserve units, Congress mandated the creation of the United States Army Reserve Command (USARC) in October 1990 to provide for more centralized management. In addition, a major post Cold War effort to restructure the Army's reserve components culminated with the 1993 "Offsite Agreement."

This compromise stabilized force structure and end-strength reductions, so the Army could place more reliance on the reserve components for military operations.

The agreement led to the National Guard specializing in combat arms and divisional level combat support and service support, allowing the Army Reserve to specialize in combat support and service support at corps levels and above. This enabled the Active Army to maintain higher levels of combat arms troops.

Nothing epitomized this change in mission better than the amendments made in the 1990s for the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, which authorized its award for mobilization and later added an "M" Mobilization Device and numbers for each different contingency operation a Reserve Soldier was called-up to serve.

Meanwhile, the hope for world

peace was soon shattered by new crises and instabilities. Countries with their regional tensions once held in check by the bipolar superpower struggle surfaced, creating a multi-polar threat.

The period of relevant calm was shattered on 2 August 1990, when more than 100,000 of Saddam Hussein's soldiers invaded Kuwait. For forty years, the reserve component units had been a warfighting force trained and held in strategic reserve for low probability/high intensity conflicts. Now, because of massive manpower cuts, the Active Army could not deploy without the Army Reserve.

Consequently, the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq in 1990 led to the largest call-up of reserve component personnel since the Korean War for operations DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM.

Approximately 80,000 Army Reserve Soldiers provided combat support and combat service support to the coalition forces fighting Iraq in the Persian Gulf and site support to the armed forces of the United States elsewhere in the world. Of that number, over 35,000 Army Reserve Soldiers deployed to Southwest Asia.

Included in the call-up were 21,000 members of the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) who filled vacancies in units or performed other specialized duties. Army Reserve Soldiers were among the first called to active duty, and were among the last to leave the desert. Army Reserve units prepared equipment for retrograde to the United States or Europe long after the conflict ended.

Follow-on short-term contingency operations started to show a similar pattern, including Operation RESTORE HOPE (the Somalia relief expedition), where nearly fifty Army Reserve volunteers staffed a postal company. Army Reserve civil affairs and public affairs Soldiers also served in Somalia until United States forces departed in 1994. Four hundred Army Reserve Soldiers from seventeen units served in Haiti as part of Operation UPHOLD DEMOCRACY.

In 1995, forty-one volunteers served as engineers, military police and radar specialists in the

*(Continued on next page)*

# U.S. Army Reserve *(continued)*

*(Continued from previous page)*

multi-national peacekeeping force in Egypt. Army Reserve Soldiers from 1995 to 2000 made up 70 percent of the combat support and service support element 15 for the United States Army peacekeeping implementation force (IFOR), and subsequent stabilization force (SFOR) in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The total number of Reserve Soldiers mobilized for Bosnia-Herzegovina exceeded 16,000.

By the close of the twentieth century, the Army Reserve comprised almost 25 percent of the Army's total combat support and 45 percent of combat service support units.

The terrorist acts of 11 September 2001, soon after abbreviated to just "9/11", ushered in the new millennium and established a milestone in the nation's history. Over ten years of persistent conflict, with the attendant continual rotation of Army forces, required paradigm changes in the way the Army fights and generates forces.

The size of the active Army proved insufficient to the demand required.

Accordingly, both the United States Army Reserve and the Army National Guard were routinely called upon to satisfy requirements both in the Homeland and globally – but primarily in the Southwest Asia Theater of Operations, Iraq and Afghanistan. Prolonged force generation required the Army to develop a new force provision model titled "Army Force Generation" (ARFORGEN).

As a result of increased resources for training and the experience derived from multiple combat rotations, the Army Reserve achieved unprecedented levels of readiness. This confluence of events led to the Army Reserve being "dubbed" as an "operational force."

Not willing to sacrifice the decade long investment in this Army Reserve reformation, the nation now calls upon Army Reserve Soldiers to expect mobilization as a probability, not a possibility.

Business as usual, one weekend a month and two weeks in the summer, is anachronistic, representing the "old legacy" strategic reserve, not the

evolving operational, "expeditionary" Army Reserve, the seeds of which had been planted in the 1990s.

Since, 9/11 over 200,000 Army Reserve Soldiers have been activated in the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT).

Today, almost 150,000 Army Reserve Soldiers serve in over 1600 units progressing through the Army's five year, rotational ARFORGEN model.

Quite simply, the nation cannot go to war without the critical capabilities resident in the Army Reserve. Accordingly, victory can only be attained with a totally integrated, three component (active Army, Army National Guard, Army Reserve) expeditionary force capable of persistent decisive action together with the other branches of the armed forces. Army Reserve Warrior Citizens have been tested in the crucible of combat, earning their status as full partners in those operations; no longer a supplemental, strategic reserve force but rather an able and operational force upon whom the Nation must routinely call.



**FDVA**  
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
*Honoring those who served U.S.*

**HELPLINE**

- Health Care
- Education
- Earned Benefits

**FDVA.VSO@FDVA.FL.GOV**  
**727-319-7440**

To contact FDVA from anywhere in the State, call (727) 319-7440 or send an email to [FDVA.VSO@FDVA.FL.GOV](mailto:FDVA.VSO@FDVA.FL.GOV). A reminder that all services provided by the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs are free to the client.



Make sure all of your contact information is up-to-date by using this membership form

### ADD TO YOUR CONTACT LIST:

info@capecoralmoa.org

All correspondence from the chapter will come from this address only.

If you have any questions, please contact our membership chair:  
**Col Gary Nolan**

Email: capecoralmoa@gmail.com

Phone: 618-407-6945

### Websites

**Cape Coral MOAA**  
www.capecoralmoa.org

**FCoC**  
www.moaafl.org

**MOAA National**  
www.moaa.org

**Legislative Action Center**  
www.moaa.org/

# Membership

**Cape Coral**  
**Military Officers Association of America**  
**(CCMOAA)**  
*PO Box 100508, Cape Coral, FL 33910-0508*

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION • DIRECTORY UPDATE

☐ New Chapter Member

☐ Change of Address/Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
*Please Print*

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
*Please Print*  
(Spouses, Widows, Widowers are welcome as chapter members)

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Service \_\_\_\_\_

*Check appropriate boxes:*

☐ Retired

☐ Active Duty

☐ Widow(er)

☐ Associate\*

\* Associate members have the same privileges as other members, except that they are ineligible to vote.

☐ Regular

☐ Reserve

☐ National Guard

☐ Former Officer

☐ Senior NCO

MOAA National Membership No. \_\_\_\_\_ MOAA Life Member \_\_\_\_\_  
*A lifetime MOAA membership does NOT mean your chapter membership is lifetime*

MOAA National Website: <https://www.moaa.org>

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### NO FEES FOR MEMBERSHIP

☐ Scholarship Program Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Please use this form for new membership and/or updating your information.*

**Mail to:**  
CCMOAA, ATTN: Secretary,  
PO Box 100508, Cape Coral, FL 33910-0508