

## MOAA JAVC AT ADVOCACY IN ACTION

MOAA JAVC Member represented the chapter well at the 2024 Advocacy in Action on Capitol Hill. Chapter Secretary Darius Izad and Surviving Spouse Liaison Stephanie Rose participated with AiA teams from New Mexico and Florida working with Congressional delegations on behalf of servicemembers, veterans, and families. This year AiA covered:



**The Major Richard Star Act**, a bill supporting our combat-injured veterans that would end an unjust offset for those who lose a dollar of service-earned retirement pay for every dollar of VA disability compensation.

95% of local rental and utilities costs – a policy that’s placing a financial burden on servicemembers and families.

**The BAH Restoration Act**, a bill that reverses DoD policy capping the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) at

**Protecting TRICARE For Life (TFL)**, which remains a key issue for all MOAA members – those already covered by TFL and Medicare, along with those who’ll use the benefit when they turn 65.



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## MAY CHAPTER MEETING

Our next chapter meeting will be Tuesday 28 May at 8pm EST/ 7pm CST/ 6pm MST/ 5pm PST.

We will welcome Lt Col Travis Halleman, 39 ABW Chief of Staff to discuss cur-

rent world affairs in Eastern Europe and the Middle East

Please join us at the following Zoom link:

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85619702073?pwd=UEXhYVNrZU5LK2FH0HlnV3pYbnEwdz09>

Meeting ID: 856 1970 2073  
 Passcode: 691749

## House NDAA Offers Nearly 20% Pay Hike for Junior Members, Plus More Upgrades

By: Kevin Lilley

The main legislative driver for sustaining the all-volunteer force, and for protecting the benefits and quality of life of those who serve and have served, will approach major benchmarks in the coming weeks, and MOAA members can help ensure the bill reflects our priorities by continuing to engage with their legislators.

The House version of the FY 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) will be [marked up May 22](#), while [the Senate version](#) will be considered by subcommittees June 11-12 before a full markup that could run through June 14. While the legislation won't be in a final form after these markups, the way forward for major MOAA initiatives will be easier if they enter the process earlier.

This is one reason why

MOAA celebrated the Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement Act, a bill which will serve as the base for the House NDAA and includes [a number of proposals](#) from the House Armed Services Committee's Quality of Life Panel. Among the key improvements in that legislation, which are also reflected in the [Chairman's Mark of the House bill](#):

Reforms to the basic pay table, which will result in a [15% pay raise for junior enlisted servicemembers on top of the 4.5% raise](#) earmarked for all in uniform.

Expansion of the Basic Needs Allowance (BNA) to military families making 200% of federal poverty income levels for their region, up from the current 150%.

A series of programs designed to improve the military child care system, to include better

pay and benefits for child care providers, along with required briefings from DoD to Congress on waiting lists, shortages, and capacity issues.

Changes to the TRI-CARE referral process designed to increase access to care, with an emphasis on behavioral health care.

Expansion of benefits for military spouses that will combat spouse unemployment and provide more resources for those making PCS moves.

Markups in both chambers will allow lawmakers to expand on the above concerns and tackle other issues important to the uniformed services committee. You can help MOAA by engaging with your legislators in the coming days to ensure they are aware of key legislation which could be included in the NDAA during this process.

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## RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT: HIVES FOR HEROES

Hives for Heroes is a nonprofit that focuses on providing a healthy transition from service through sustainability and conservation. Vets and first responders with little or no beekeeping experience are welcome and will be paired with a local mentor. Local mentors will teach hands-on

training at their respective apiary. For more information, see their website at:

[www.hivesforheroes.org](http://www.hivesforheroes.org)



**HIVES FOR HEROES**

save bees - save vets

## New TRICARE Rule May ‘Risk the Health of Military Kids’

By: Karen Ruedisuel

MOAA continued its efforts to [protect military kids’ access to health care](#) at children’s hospitals by spearheading a May 8 letter from The Military Coalition (TMC) outlining concerns about slashed TRICARE reimbursement rates.

[TMC’s letter](#) urges House and Senate Armed Services Committee leadership to protect access to pediatric specialty care by ensuring TRICARE provides fair and sustainable reimbursement to children’s hospitals.

“The demand for expert pediatric care already outstripped the supply near key military installations nationwide even before [the Defense Health Agency] finalized these reimbursement cuts,” the letter states. “This rule therefore has the potential to risk the health of military kids, harm quality of life for those serving our nation, and ultimately undermine mission readiness.”

### ‘WORLD CLASS’ CARE?

DoD leadership made its health care mission clear in a recent [joint statement](#) to the Senate Armed Services Committee: “For their willingness to lay their lives on the line, our promise to Service members is to pro-

vide world-class healthcare across the spectrum of care needs to Service members and their families.”

Providing this “world-class” care must include access to children’s hospitals – indispensable regional providers of pediatric specialty care that treat the most complex pediatric cases. There is no substitute for much of this care within military treatment facilities (MTFs) or civilian general hospitals.

However, access to pediatric specialty care is threatened by a recent TRICARE policy change which applies a Medicare reimbursement model (the outpatient prospective payment system, or OPPS) to outpatient care at children’s hospitals. Until now, TRICARE policy [aligned with guidance](#) from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) that protects children’s hospitals from OPPS-related reimbursement cuts in recognition of the higher cost structure for delivering pediatric specialty care stemming from higher staff-to-patient ratios, greater costs for supplies/equipment to treat preemies to fully grown teens, and other factors.

Similar to the slashed [TRICARE retail pharmacy network](#), this is another example of a behind-the-scenes cut that could threaten access to

care for TRICARE beneficiaries.

The impact is particularly pronounced in areas with a significant military presence – such as Colorado Springs, Colo., and Hampton Roads, Va. – that have become hubs for Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) families thanks to the pediatric specialty care available at nearby children’s hospitals.

With capacity constraints across the U.S. health care system, military families already report long wait times for many types of pediatric specialty care. If children’s hospitals must cut back on their services or limit the number of TRICARE patients seen, it will compound existing access problems for military families.

Access to appropriate care for military kids plays a vital role in supporting military readiness. We cannot allow reduced reimbursements to threaten access to vital specialty care provided by children’s hospitals.

Please join us by [contacting your lawmakers](#) and urging them to protect military kids’ access to this care.

See:

<https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/61025/>

*“This rule therefore has the potential to risk the health of military kids, harm quality of life for those serving our nation, and ultimately undermine mission readiness”*

## Board of Directors

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**Chapter Website**  
<https://moajavc.org>

Contact us at: [MOAJAVC@gmail.com](mailto:MOAJAVC@gmail.com)

### *Who We Are*

*We provide opportunities for career networking, professional education, and advocacy. Our organization is non-geographic and can go with you worldwide anywhere you are stationed.*

*The Military Officers Association of America Judge Advocate Virtual Chapter is here for you. Membership is free and is open to current and former judge advocates on Active Duty, Reserve, Guard, Retired, or Honorably Separated.*

*As an affiliate of the nationwide MOAA organization, we actively participate in non-partisan advocacy on issues of key importance to military members, veterans, and their families.*

## AFTER THE JAG CORPS: Navigating Your Career Progression

*After The JAG Corps: Navigating Your Career Progression*, is a podcast for separating and retiring Judge Advocates. Each week, CAPT Tom Welsh talks to former Judge Advocates and others to learn about their respective career journeys after military service and gain insights into marketing the skills developed while in uniform. The Podcast is available on Apple, Google, and Spotify and is published each Saturday morning. This week, CAPT Welsh welcomes Army Judge Advocate and Satellite Technology Company General Counsel, Catharine Parnell

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/122-catharine-parnell-from-the-army-to-satellite-lasers/id1602234623?i=1000656018045>



## MAY UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

### Deputy Chief Counsel National Institute of Standards and Technology

The Dept of Commerce is looking for the next leader to join the Office of the Chief Counsel for the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

The Deputy Chief Counsel will manage the day-to-day operations of the office and will serve as the office's lead on CHIPS for America Research and Development programs, including the National Semiconductor Technology Center, National Advanced Manufacturing Program, Microelectronics Research Program, and a Manufacturing USA Institute focused on semiconductor manufacturing. a leader on the team responsible for all legal aspects of the more than \$100 billion in financing provided by CPO. Their work will help revitalize the domestic semiconductor industry,

protect American national and economic security, preserve U.S. leadership in the industries of the future, create good-paying jobs, and build strong communities here in the United States.

Interested candidates should send resume and cover letter to [nistcounsel@nist.gov](mailto:nistcounsel@nist.gov).

<https://lnkd.in/ecepPvQU>

### MOAA Webinar: Exploring Career Opportunities in STEM

Want to learn more? Join MOAA for a panel discussion on how to enhance your professional development in your chosen STEM field, tackle unique challenges faced by the uniformed services community on getting established, and gain insights on achieving STEM success. Panelists include:

- Jo Weech, HR Strategist and Talent Manage-

ment professional

- Philip Hicks, Senior Project Manager, Dewberry

- Brendan Curran, Senior Operations Analyst and Systems Engineer, Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory

Whether you are a transitioning servicemember, veteran, or military spouse, don't miss this exclusive opportunity to explore the right STEM career fit and posture yourself for success across a full range of industries and sectors. Register today!

<https://event.on24.com/wcc/r/4558664/66CF8D0BDD9D94B3DD7F386D6FBB77D9>