

MOAA'S CRISIS RELIEF PROGRAM

Did you know the MOAA Foundation has a crisis relief fund?

With hurricane season upon us and natural disasters affecting many currently serving and veteran families, MOAA Foundation's Crisis Relief Fund is available to help. If you have suffered a financial setback due to a crisis situation or a FEMA-related disaster and are one of the following of any rank in the U.S. uniformed services:

- Currently serving military personnel (including National Guard and Reserve)
- Spouses of currently serving personnel
- Veterans
- Surviving spouses
- Military and veteran caregivers

The Crisis Relief Program can provide you up to \$1,000 in financial assistance for:



- Housing (rent, mortgage, housing assistance, repairs, groceries, etc.)
- Auto loan/lease/repair
- Utilities (electric, water, heat, internet/cable, cell phone)
- Bills, including credit card, medical, and insurance.

To learn more about this great resource from the MOAA Foundation, please take a look at:

[The MOAA Foundation Crisis Relief Program - MOAA Charities \(smapply.us\)](https://www.moaa.org/charities)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Crisis Relief Program</i>	1
<i>Chapter Meeting</i>	1
<i>Summer Advocacy</i>	2
<i>Resource Spotlight</i>	2
<i>Budget Failure</i>	3
<i>After The JAG Corps</i>	4
<i>August Opportunities</i>	4

AUGUST CHAPTER MEETING

Our next chapter meeting will be Tuesday 27 August at 8pm EST/ 7pm CST/ 6pm MST/ 5pm PST.

We will welcome Emily Cabanatuan and Sarah Nicholson from USAA's Government Relations Team to discuss

how USAA's advocacy team works on Capitol Hill and some of the issues and priorities they handle for the company

We look forward to seeing you there!

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82374574073?pwd=peYrKsggHafwclDMG3OT40raF5AgKj.1>

Meeting ID: 823 7457
4073
Passcode: 172484

MOAA Summer Advocacy Campaign

By: Maj Gen April Vogel

In this pivotal year for our nation's servicemembers and veterans, MOAA remains at the forefront in the fight for key legislative changes. Our spring campaign event, Advocacy in Action, saw hundreds of supporters from across the nation gathering on Capitol Hill to spotlight critical issues affecting the uniformed services and veteran communities.

MOAA is grateful to you and others who have engaged in our advocacy efforts through MOAA's Legislative Action Center. To sustain this momentum, we are urging you and our more than 360,000 members to engage with elected officials during the congressional summer recess. Legislators will be in their home states for the next month, providing a unique opportunity for personal outreach.

Key advocacy priorities:

Junior Enlisted Pay Raise: Competitive pay remains critical to the

health of the all-volunteer force, and both the House and the Senate seek to address this issue in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The House NDAA calls for servicemembers E-1 to E-4 to receive a 15% pay raise beyond the 4.5% earmarked for all in uniform. While the Senate version calls for an additional 1% increase for servicemembers E-1 to E-3 (beyond the 4.5% raise).

Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) Restoration: Access to quality housing and promoting financial wellness are important to sustaining the all-volunteer force. Restoring BAH addresses both issues. The House version of the NDAA would restore BAH to 100% for FY 2025 – a move toward MOAA's goal of full repeal of the BAH reduction, but not a permanent fix. Unfortunately, the Senate version does not address the issue.

Major Richard Star Act: Tens of thousands of combat-injured veter-

ans lose a dollar of earned DoD retirement pay for every dollar of VA disability compensation. For three years in a row, over two-thirds of Congress has supported the Star Act, which would end that unjust financial offset. Despite this vast support, neither version of the NDAA includes the bill. However, it is critical lawmakers continue to hear about this important issue, especially as we approach the start of the 119th Congress.

Your participation amplifies our collective voice in shaping policies that support our nation's servicemembers past and present, and their families. Thank you for your continued dedication to MOAA's mission.

[MOAA | Summer Advocacy in Action: Contact Your Lawmakers During August Recess \(quorum.us\)](#)

“Your participation amplifies our collective voice in shaping policies that support our nation’s servicemembers past and present, and their families.”

RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT: PORTRAITS FOR PATRIOTS

One of the toughest aspects of moving from military life to civilian life is putting your best foot forward to the civilian work force. One of the first steps is finding a good headshot for recruiters and hiring managers to see you at your very best.

Portraits for Patriots mission is to empower those who have

honorably served our nation to feel confident in their personal brand as they transition to the American work force.

They create portfolio-quality images that showcase the strength and determination of service members, spouses, and Gold Star families, free of charge, nationwide.

Volunteer professional photographers are likely available near you through the organization's large network.

For more information and to find an appointment near you, please see:

[Portraitsforpatriots.org](https://portraitsforpatriots.org)

5 Reasons Why Short-Term Budget Fixes Are Failing Our Military and Our Nation

By: Mark Belinsky

We are on the road to another fiscal year without a full federal budget ... just like last year, and the year before, and every year [since 1997](#).

In the absence of a signed budget at the Oct. 1 start of the fiscal year, Congress has two options: Letting appropriations lapse, resulting in a shutdown, or passing a stopgap spending measure known as a continuing resolution (CR). A CR provides temporary government funding at current-year levels while lawmakers work on a budget for the remainder of the new fiscal year.

CRs are, to be blunt, awful. Ask any lawmaker and they will agree. Yet Congress can't seem to find the intestinal fortitude to set partisan politics aside and keep to the schedule.

Why are these resolutions so bad for our nation in general, and our national defense in particular? Here are MOAA's top five reasons:

1. Wasted Tax Dollars.

Every CR costs taxpayers billions in misaligned money, stalled or delayed projects, and unnecessary planning to combat the shutdown threat and ever-changing funding availability. The top Pentagon official estimated the 2019 CR, for example, [cost DoD \\$19 billion](#).

2. A Poor Example.

Servicemembers are trained to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars and to uphold high standards of property accountability through inspections and measures enforced through the Uni-

form Code of Military Justice. We have all stood in formation and heard a leader state: "No one is going home until we find this lost piece of property." Maybe Congress needs to have a formation on our budget.

3. Major Disruptions. CRs force changes to training schedules. They delay operations, construction, maintenance, and congressionally mandated modernization projects. They cause civilian hiring freezes, and they increase contracting costs. As one DoD official put it: "The longer a CR lasts, the more damage it does."

4. Erosion of Trust. Placing the importance of good governance over political issues is warranted, especially when CRs add to our national debt. We would never run our own personal finances by paying late fees over and over to avoid dealing with our bills. Congress can restore some trust in the institution by sticking to the schedule.

Budget Basics

Here's a look at how the budget process is supposed to work:

January or February: The president outlines White House priorities in the State of the Union address. This is often late, no matter which party controls the White House.

First Monday in February: This is the "due date" for the administration to submit its budget request to Congress, but the release varies each year. Delays impact subsequent actions by Congress.

Mid-March: Congressional committees submit "views and estimates" to the House and Senate Budget committees in response to the administration's request. Committee leaders indicate preferences on budget matters for which they're responsible.

April 15: Congress passes a budget resolution, committing itself to broad spending levels.

May to July: Congressional committees hold budget hearings for the upcoming fiscal year.

August: Congress goes on summer recess.

Sept. 30: Congress completes its work on appropriations bills for the upcoming year.

Making a Difference

MOAA's Government Relations team has raised the CR issue to key lawmakers, but every legislator needs to hear about it from their constituents this election year.

Consider [joining our Legislative Action Center](#), where you can find contact information for your lawmakers and send pre-written messages in support of MOAA's advocacy priorities. Or use MOAA's Capitol Hotline – 866-272-MOAA (6622), a toll-free line to the U.S. Capitol switchboard – to connect with your legislators' offices and ask to speak with the military legislative assistant.

Keep up with the ongoing budget process and other key legislative issues at [MOAA's Advocacy News page](#).

"CRs are, to be blunt, awful. Ask any lawmaker and they will agree. Yet Congress can't seem to find the intestinal fortitude to set partisan politics aside and keep to the schedule."

Board of Directors

Maj Brooks Rose, USAFR, President

CAPT Ted Fowles, USCG (Ret.), Vice-President

Col Dan Rogers, USAF (Ret.), Membership Chair

Col Carol Hatstrup, USAF (Ret.), Bylaws Chair

Maj John Kalis, USAFR, Treasurer

Capt Darius Izad, USAF, Secretary

Stephanie Rose, Surviving Spouse Liaison

Chapter Website
<https://moajavc.org>

Contact us at: 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. 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 retired Air Force Judge Advocate and Griffiss Institute General Counsel, Dean Korsak, to discuss his transition and work.



<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/128-for-dean-korsak-retirement-was-just-a-ceremony/id1602234623?i=1000664893984>

AUGUST UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Savannah River National Laboratory Asst. General Counsel (Employment Law)

Aiken, South Carolina

Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) is a Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC) and multi-program laboratory applying state of the art science and practical, high-value, cost-effective solutions to complex technical problems to protect the nation.

SRNL is seeking an experienced legal counsel with primary responsibility in the area of employment law to provide advice and legal support to staff and management in support of the research and development mission. In this position, you will acquire knowledge, expertise, and responsibility in other areas spanning the broad scope of SRNL operations.

For more info:

SRNLRecruiting@srnl.doe.gov

DoD Office of Legal Policy

Washington D.C.

There is a new GS-0905-15 job opening at the Office of Legal Policy (OLP), which falls under both DoD OGC and the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. This job announcement closes on August 27, 2024:

<https://www.usajobs.gov/job/804468800>

OLP seeks an experienced, knowledgeable, and innovative attorney-adviser to draft agency policy, federal rules, and legislative proposals as well as review and provide legal advice on topics in OLP's legal portfolio. The position is located at the Pentagon, and candidates must be eligible for a Top Secret security clearance.

The attorney will predominantly practice administrative law (also working closely with

litigation counsel) and develop agency-wide policies, federal rules, and legislative proposals in areas such as:

Prohibited extremist and criminal gang activity by Service members, victim and witness assistance, military corrections, clemency and parole, military whistleblower appeals, political activities by Service members, wearing of the uniform, Military Department Review Boards, desertion and unauthorized absence, protection for Service members and their families under the Military Lending Act, and legal assistance including the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.

For additional questions, please contact:

michael.s.yedinak.civ@mail.mil