

MEMBER OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

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MOAAJAVC members are doing tremendous work across the Active, Reserve, Guard, and Veteran space. Many of our members are out doing their duty serving the women, men, veterans, and families of the uniformed services. Many other chapter members are working hard to serve their own local communities with outstanding legal professionalism and a commitment to excellence.

As our second year comes to a close, we would like to recognize the work our members are doing out in the legal and military community. Award nominations are open until 30 November and the criteria is simple: 1. Be a chapter member and, 2.



Courtesy of Noah Wulf

Have good work in the legal and/or military/veteran community from 2024 to tell us about. Nominations are simple too. Just submit to MOAAJAVC@gmail.com.

Nominations will be judged by our independ-

ent awards committee. The recipient will be recognized at the January 2025 meeting as we kick off a third year of continued chapter growth, networking, career education, and JAG Corps camaraderie.

NOVEMBER CHAPTER MEETING

Our next chapter meeting will be Tuesday 26 November at 8pm EST/ 7pm CST/ 6pm MST/ 5pm PST.

We will welcome Judge Tom Nowak, 366th District Court Judge and USAF Judge Advocate to discuss running for elected office, preparing

a campaign and winning an election. This will be a timely discussion coming off of election season and worthwhile information if you have ever thought of running for elected office in your community.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87910284399?pwd=p98TeMQ2u4Osb4BprCsGalX1aIWMcX.1>

Meeting ID: 879 1028 4399
Passcode: 702743

Advocacy in Action: Why Playing the Long Game Matters

By: Jen Goodale

At first glance, it might seem puzzling that MOAA dedicates time and resources to bills that appear to have little chance of passing. However, this approach reflects a deep understanding of advocacy as a long-term effort requiring persistence, education, and established relationships.

The [long battle to repeal](#) the Survivor Benefit Plan-Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset, better known as the ["widows tax,"](#) is a recent example of legislation that passed as a result of such an effort.

A new Congress arrives every two years with new members, fresh priorities, and evolving dynamics. This constant turnover means the legislative landscape is perpetually shifting. What might be a low-priority issue in one Congress can gain traction in the next as new voices and perspectives come into play. By continuously advocating for important military-related legislation, MOAA en-

sures these issues remain on the radar, ready to be seized upon when the timing is right.

A significant number of elected officials and their staffers lack personal military or uniformed service experience. This gap in understanding makes it even more critical for MOAA to engage in ongoing education efforts. By persistently bringing our concerns to the forefront, MOAA helps inform and shape the perspectives of those in power. This education isn't a one-time effort; it's a continuous process, necessary for ensuring the unique challenges faced by servicemembers and their families are fully understood and addressed.

Advocacy is not just about pushing bills through: It's about finding and nurturing bipartisan champions who will carry these causes forward. This doesn't happen overnight. It takes time to build relationships, demonstrate the importance of an issue, and

convince legislators to take up the mantle. MOAA's consistent efforts lay the groundwork for these champions to emerge, ensuring that when the political climate is right, there are committed leaders ready to drive change.

MOAA's advocacy efforts are amplified when supported by the voices of constituents. Elected officials are more likely to take notice when they hear directly from the people they represent. That's why it's vital for members and supporters to get involved through MOAA's [Legislative Action Center](#). Your input not only reinforces MOAA's message but also helps to build the momentum needed to turn these long-term efforts into [legislative wins](#).

By staying engaged, persistent, and proactive, MOAA continues to work tirelessly on behalf of our uniformed services community, knowing that today's efforts lay the foundation for tomorrow's successes.

"Advocacy is not just about pushing bills through: It's about finding and nurturing bipartisan champions who will carry these causes forward."

SPOTLIGHT: CAPT. SAX FOUNDATION

The Capt. Sax Foundation is a 501(c)(3) established in 2022 to honor the memory of Capt. John J. Sax, USMC CV-22 Pilot.

The Foundation honors Capt. Sax's memory by providing scholarships to

military members, veterans, and family members to help fund the costs of training and education in the aviation career field. From college classes or flight school, to aircraft rentals and flight hours, this foundation hopes to

honor Capt. Sax by helping to alleviate the financial burden of pursuing an interest in aviation

To find out more, see:

<https://captisaxfoundation.org/>

Here's Why the NDAA Will Strengthen the Next-Gen TRICARE Network

By: Karen Ruedisueli

MOAA's work to ensure TRICARE beneficiaries will see greater access to high-quality care under the new provider contract is set to take a major step forward, with congressional oversight of the process included in both House and Senate committee reports on the must-pass defense authorization bill.

Both the Senate and House Armed Services committee (SASC and HASC) reports on the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) require assessments of the [so-called "T-5" contract](#) and how it will enhance access to network care.

"The committee is concerned about the ability of the TRICARE purchased care network to meet the health care needs of TRICARE beneficiaries," the SASC report notes. "In a November 2023 [Management Advisory](#), the Department of Defense (DoD) Inspector General reported that, in some locations, the TRICARE network is not robust or adequate enough to meet beneficiaries' needs."

The SASC report also notes that [military health system reforms](#) in the FY 2017 NDAA estab-

lished TRICARE Select and required DoD to develop an implementation plan to improve access to care for TRICARE beneficiaries.

SASC FY 2025 NDAA report language directs the Comptroller General to submit a review of DoD's oversight and enforcement of contractors' network adequacy requirements in T-5, including an assessment of the reliability of the contractors' data used in the metrics, as well as T-5 network adequacy requirements related to pediatric primary care and obstetrics care.

While MOAA understands the COVID-19 pandemic led to workforce volatility and capacity constraints across the U.S. health care system, military family feedback suggests some access problems are due to providers leaving the TRICARE network – not overall capacity shortages.

Preventing an 'Undue Burden'

The HASC also addressed TRICARE network concerns in its report accompanying its version of the FY 2025 NDAA.

"The committee believes

that our servicemembers and their families should have access to medical care that does not cause an undue burden," the HASC report states. "Recent reports of provider shortages on bases around the country are of particular concern to the committee as servicemembers and their families are traveling greater distances to access the care they need without a sufficient TRICARE network."

The HASC report directs DoD to provide a congressional briefing on T-5 by Dec. 1 to include how T-5 will ensure access to pediatric primary care and obstetrics care within the direct care system or as part of the managed care support contracts.

An evaluation of T-5 requirements by the Comptroller General's Government Accountability Office (GAO) will help determine whether T-5 will address network adequacy issues or if further action will be necessary to ensure beneficiary access to care for servicemembers, retirees, their families and survivors.

MOAA looks forward to leveraging report findings in future TRICARE advocacy efforts. Keep up with the latest on T-5 [and other health care news at MOAA.org](#).

"The committee believes that our servicemembers and their families should have access to medical care that does not cause an undue burden..."

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Chapter Website
<https://moajavc.org>

Contact us at: MOAAJAVC@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 Marine Corps Reserve Judge Advocate Mike Berry to discuss his work in non-profit civil rights arguing First Amendment cases.



<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/134-mike-berry-continuing-to-support-and-defend/id1602234623?i=1000675442256>

NOVEMBER UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (GS 12-15)

Honolulu, Hawaii

The Attorney Advisor will join a national team of civil enforcement attorneys who are charged with protecting ocean ecosystems, living marine resources, and marine sanctuaries.

The work of the Attorney Advisor will be diverse and complex. The Attorney Advisor will work with federal and state law enforcement agencies to investigate violations of marine resource conservation laws such as the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Implementation Act.

The Attorney Advisor will be responsible for all phases of civil administrative litigation including charging decisions, discovery, motions practice, and trial practice.

[USAJOBS - Job Announcement](#)

Northrop Grumman

Dulles, Virginia

Northrop Grumman seeks a lead in-house lawyer in the Space Sector to act as the Director and Division Counsel for the Tactical Space Systems Division, headquartered in Sterling, Virginia, near the Dulles airport.

Responsibilities for this Division and campus include counseling on matters associated with the pursuit, capture, and execution of U.S. Government and commercial contracts and associated operations, as well as coordinating with various legal specialists inside the company to support litigation and internal investigations, intellectual property, export, employment, and other matters impacting the business.

Succeeding in this position requires superb problem-solving skills, sound judgement and discretion, the ability to communicate and collaborate effectively with executive leadership, lead teams, ownership of issues and results, and the highest standards of integrity and ethics.

[Corporate Director Division Counsel \(northropgrumman.com\)](https://www.northropgrumman.com)

Air Force Civilian Service Attorney-Adviser (Environmental, GS-15)

San Antonio, Texas

The primary purpose of this position is to Serves as a Senior Natural and Cultural Resources Programs and Policies Attorney for the USAF JAG Corps. The applicant maintains Highest Level of subject matter expertise in Natural and Cultural Resources Law.

This position provides assistance to Air Force Civil Engineering Center, including the installations Directorate on matters involving Natural and Cultural Resources law as these affect Housing Privatization, Utilities Privatization, and Enhanced Use Lease projects.

The successful applicant provides assistance to Air Force and Department of Justice litigators on environmental, occupational safety and health, cultural and natural resources, and related real property matters in dispute in administrative, regulatory, or federal court proceedings.

[USAJOBS - Job Announcement](#)