

Newsletter of the Hawaii Aloha Chapter, Affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America,

a nonpartisan, nonprofit veterans' association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and ensuring our nation keeps its commitments to currently serving, retired, and former members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors.

Hawaii State Chapter — Chartered **23 July 1959**; Aloha Chapter — Chartered **27 January 2000**

Hawaii Aloha Chapter — Established **1 May 2015**

Both the national Military Officers Association of America and the Hawaii Aloha Chapter are non-partisan organizations

Volume No. 10, Issue No. 3 <http://www.moaa-hawaii.org> September, 2024

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President's Message



Our MOAA chapter is facing possible dissolution due to a lack of attendance and participation at meetings and activities. To help resolve this problem, the membership, at the recommendation of the chapter board, voted to change the meeting days from once a month to every other month. Nearly a year has passed since that policy was implemented and attendance at our meetings continues to decline. Our July meeting had only 13 in attendance, and a majority of those were board members and their wives. Therefore, it would appear that the change of meetings to every other month is not working.

After the chapter meetings to be held on 20 September and 8 November, the board will discuss and vote on whether or not it should recommend to the membership that we dissolve the chapter. If the board feels dissolution is appropriate, the membership will be notified of this decision at the 15 December Christmas Brunch or later in the year, whichever seems appropriate. At some point the membership in turn will take a final vote on whether or not the board's decision to dissolve the chapter is appropriate.

I hope that participation in the final chapter events of the year will be more robust, and that the board will not have to move forward with such a drastic step.

- Fred

September 2024 General Membership Meeting and Lunch

The next Hawaii Aloha Chapter general membership meeting and lunch will occur on Friday, 20 September, at 11:15 AM. As usual, we'll be at the Oahu Veterans' Center in Salt Lake, and A Catered Experience will provide the food. Our guest speaker will be our very own Tom Stirling, who will speak on Estate Planning. A reservation form is attached at the end of

this newsletter. Please fill it out and mail it to our mailbox, along with a check for the appropriate amount, by Friday, 13 September.

Future Events

Our Annual General Membership Meeting will be held on Friday, 8 Nov. at 5:30 PM, at the Tradewinds Club on Hickam Field, where we'll enjoy a Mongolian BBQ dinner. Our special guest will be Dena Kilgore, Program Director, Council and Chapter Affairs, MOAA. At this meeting, we will also vote in three new Board members. And, our annual Christmas Brunch is scheduled for Sunday, 15 Dec, 10:00 AM, also at the Tradewinds Club.

Our Previous Meeting



Our July general membership meeting went well, despite having only about a dozen folks attending. Our guest speaker was Pat Bemis from AARP, and she gave a great presentation on "The Six Pillars of Brain Health," describing how a healthy lifestyle helps you take control of brain health. Check out <https://stayingsharp.aarp.org/about/brain-health/the-science/> for more info.

Hawaii Military Appreciation Day Event

This year's Hawaii Military Appreciation Day event will be held on Saturday, 14 September 2024, 8 AM-12 PM, at the Soldier Support Center, Bldg 750, 673 Aures Avenue, Schofield Barracks. There will be a Health Expo featuring Medical and Dental Services, along with Health and Wellness classes. Participating services include TRICARE West, DEERS, the VA, Retirement Services Office, USO, Desmond Doss Health Center, Legal, and the YMCA. For more info call (808)-655-5384 OR EMAIL: armyhiarc@army.mil.

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 Uniform 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.

5. Simple Scheduling. Speaking of the schedule: Congress never misses its summer August recess. It's reasonable to expect them to stick to their *whole* schedule, which includes passing a full budget before Oct. 1.

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.

Let them know the status quo of costly CRs isn't acceptable – not when we need to invest in the quality of life for our all-volunteer force, and when our national debt is mounting.

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

MOAA Chapter Honors Its Namesake's D-Day Legacy

Submitted by the General Omar N. Bradley Mid-Missouri Chapter

Members of the [General Omar N. Bradley Mid-Missouri Chapter](#) participated in a community wreath-laying ceremony in Moberly commemorating the 80th anniversary of D-Day in June.

"Wreaths have been laid all over the world to remember and honor the courage and sacrifice of those men and women who made the D-Day mission successful," said Chapter President Lt. Col. Walter P. Lantzy III, USA (Ret), during the ceremony. "We are pleased to be able to do the same here in a place Gen. Omar Bradley loved so much."

Bradley was a field commander for American forces during Operation Overlord, and on June 6, 1944, he oversaw the first American landings on Normandy's beaches.

Speakers highlighted Bradley's history in Moberly, from being born in a log cabin not far from the town to playing baseball in high school and college.

He was known as the "GI General" because of the care he showed for his troops, said chapter member Maj. Barbara Churchill, USA (Ret).

After the war, the chapter's namesake spent much of his time in Moberly, playing golf and holding a membership with the local rotary club. When he wasn't in Moberly, Bradley advocated for veterans as the head of the Veterans Administration in Washington, D.C., said Kristine Zauke, a professor at Moberly Area Community College.

During the ceremony, veterans — all members of the chapter — from the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force spoke about the importance of each branch in D-Day operations. Each veteran laid a wreath representing their branch and made remarks.

Lt. Col. Martin W. Walker II, USMC (Ret), outlined the many ways Marines assisted in Operation Overlord in 1944.

Col. David Randerson, USAF (Ret), spoke about the importance of U.S. Army Air Forces in dropping paratroopers behind enemy lines and destroying German air force resources ahead of the attack.

Capt. Ted Jacobs, USN (Ret), highlighted the Navy's role in the destruction of sea mines and other obstacles to landing troops before the D-Day attack.

Bradley played an important role in directing troops during D-Day operations, Churchill said.

In addition to the chapter members' involvement at the ceremony, Missouri Rep. Louis Riggs spoke about Bradley's leadership style and said he never raised his voice. Attendees also heard letters commemorating D-Day from U.S. Rep. Sam Graves as well as Sens. Josh Hawley and Eric Schmitt.

[The General Omar Bradley Memorial Library and Museum Inc.](#) hosted the ceremony. The nonprofit also held a showing of the film *The Longest Day* and a fundraising dinner featuring artifacts from the Randolph County Historical Society.

The day's events mark the beginning of a campaign by the General Omar Bradley Memorial Library and Museum Inc. to fund construction of a library and museum in Bradley's honor. The organization is co-chaired by Lantzy and Sarah Graff.

"I don't think it's an overstatement to say that it is the day that saved the world," Graff said. "We are proud to say that Bradley, one of our native sons, had such a large role in it."

Report Shows Spike in Scam Type That Frequently Targets Veterans, Servicemembers

By: *Kevin Lilley*

Scammers posing as government officials collected nearly twice the cash from victims in 2023 as they did the previous year, according to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), and stats for 2024 show the disturbing trend isn't letting up.

Government impersonation scams disproportionately target servicemembers, veterans, and others who regularly deal with federal entities – from TRICARE to the VA to any number of other departments and providers. TRICARE For Life beneficiaries [recently saw an uptick in fake text messages](#) from scammers posing as a health care provider, for example.

Scammers posing as government officials seeking cash payments have scored big in recent months, according to FTC data: Victims reported losing \$76 million in cash in 2023, up from \$40 million in 2022. Fraudsters collected another \$20 million in the first quarter of 2024.

The cash-payment portion of these scams is a small one – government impersonation fraud cost victims \$618 million in 2023, per the FTC – but cash-scam victims report losing more per incident than victims who use any other form of payment. The average cash-payment victim lost \$14,470 in the first quarter of 2024, the FTC reported.

Impostors seeking cash payment will gain the trust of their victim before presenting an urgent situation that requires immediate attention, often posing a threat to a loved one. The pitch is designed to make the victim act rashly – before considering that government agencies will not demand a cash payment, nor will they seek personal information via text, phone call, or social media post.

If you've been targeted by this type of fraud, you can report it to the FTC [via its website](#) or by visiting the website of the relevant federal agency:

- **VA:** [Protecting Veterans From Fraud](#)
- **TRICARE:** [Report Fraud and Abuse](#)
- **Medicare:** [Reporting Medicare Fraud and Abuse](#)

MOAA Premium and Life members can access recorded webinars with tips to avoid fraud of all types: [An Overview of Scams and Frauds](#) | [Outsmart the Scammers: How to Spot and Avoid Financial Fraud](#) | [Protecting Yourself From Cybercrime and Scams](#)

MOAA also is a partner in the [Cybercrime Support Network's Military and Veteran Program](#), which aims to protect servicemembers, veterans, and military families from falling victim to fraud. Get more resources from that organization [at this link](#).

Take Action Now

Maj. Gen. April Vogel, USAF (Ret, MOAA's Vice President for Government Relations, is asking for member support 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 MOAA 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 veterans 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.

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 established 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 [and other health care news at MOAA.org](#).

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 ensures 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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

14 Sep 24	0800	Retiree Appreciation Day (Saturday)	Soldier Support Center, Schofield Barracks
20 Sep 24	1115	General Membership Meeting, (Friday)	OVC, Guest Speaker/Topic TBD
27 Sep 24	0836	Golf Outing, Leilehua Golf Course, (Friday)	99 Leilehua Golf Course Road, Wahiawa
21 Oct 24	0910	Golf Outing, Barbers Point Golf Course, (Monday)	92-2219 Franklin D. Roosevelt Ave, Kapolei
2 Nov 24	0730	Retiree Appreciation Day (Saturday)	MFSC/RSC Bldg, next to Moanalua Shopping Ctr
8 Nov 24	1730	Annual General Membership Meeting/ (Friday)	Mongolian BBQ, Tradewinds Club, Hickam Field
11 Nov 24	1000	Veterans' Day Ceremony, (Monday)	Punchbowl
22 Nov 24	0910	Golf Outing, Klipper Golf Course, (Friday)	Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station
15 Dec 24	1000	Christmas Brunch/Party, (Sunday)	Tradewinds Club, Hickam Field
24 Jan 25	1115,	General Membership Meeting and Installation Ceremony, (Friday)	OVC, Guest Speaker/Topic TBD

2024 Hawaii Aloha Chapter Leadership

Board of Directors

(Term Expires Year Indicated)

Fred W. Brunson, CDR, USN (2025)
808-234-8481

Antoinette “Toni” Correia, LTC,
USA (2024) 808-721-0401

Wesley F. Fong, COL, USA (2026)
808-595-6127 & 808-220-5266

Mike Fricano, Col, USAF (2026)
808-386-8575

John S. S. Kim, LTC, USAF (2026)
808-988-3349 & 808-780-5901

Calvin “Kelly” Lau, MG, USA (2025)
808-373-7938

Jason C. Seal, Col, USMC (2025)
808-277-7536

Fred P. Staedel, Capt, USAF (2024)
808-445-1454

Roberta Sullivan, Surviving Spouse
(2024) 808-623-2243

Officers & Committee Chairs

President: Fred Staedel, Capt,
USAF 808-445-1454

Vice President: Mike Fricano, Col,
USAF 808-386-8575

Secretary: Roberta Sullivan,
Surviving USN Spouse;
808-623-2243

Treasurer: John Kim, LTC,
USAF 808-988-3349

Surviving Spouses: Vacant

Chaplain: Debby Fricano,
Spouse 808-386-8577

Community Affairs: John Ma, BG,
USA 808-486-4805

JROTC/ROTC: Toni Correia, LTC,
USA 808-721-0401

Legislative Liaison: Robert Lee,
MG, USA 808-486-1488

Committee Chairs & Activities

Membership: Vacant

Membership Deputy: Kathy Ebey,
Surviving USN Spouse
808-488-0743

Personal Affairs: Lou Crompton, Lt
Col, USAF 808-526-3022

Programs: Mike Fricano, Col,
USAF 808-386-8575

Publications: Vacant

Veterans Affairs: Vacant

Golf: Leslie Bise, LTC,
USA 808-625-1010

Webmaster: Bob Ranaldo
203-758-1898

Scholarship Fund Trustees

Chairman: Jason Seal, COL,
USMC 808-277-7536



Hawaii Aloha Chapter, MOAA

RESERVATION FORM

Luncheon Meeting

Catered Buffet Luncheon

1115, Friday, 20 September 2024

Oahu Veterans' Center

1298 Kukila Street, Foster Village, Honolulu, HI 96818

Lunch: Boneless BBQ Teriyaki Chicken, Breaded Fish with Tartar Sauce, Meat Jun with Sauce, White Rice, Potato Macaroni Salad, Tossed Salad with Italian Dressing, and Cake

Guest Speaker: Tom Stirling, Estate Planning

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Member: _____ → Spouse: ¶ _____

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Guest(s): _____ → _____ ¶

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Cost = \$14.50 per person → _____ x \$14.50 = \$ _____ + ¶

Donation to your Chapter's General Fund for Sustaining Operations: \$ _____ → _____ ¶

Total = \$ _____ Payable in Advance. → A firm head count is required. ¶

Please send in your reservation ASAP to arrive NLT **Friday, 13 September 2024**.

Make Checks Payable to: → Hawaii Aloha Chapter, MOAA ¶

Mailing Address: → → P. O. Box 201441 ¶
Honolulu, HI 96820 ¶

For more information, contact Mike Fricano at 808-386-8575 or HeyRef13@gmail.com ¶