



CHAPTER PRIORITIES

MOAAJAVC October Nominations & November Elections

By MOAAJAVC

MOAAJAVC leadership terms are nearing the end and elections are approaching. Our chapter leadership team consists of four officer positions and five committee chair/liaison positions.

The following chapter positions are available for nominations 1-31 October 2026: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Surviving Spouse Liaison, Legislative Liaison, Bylaws Chair, Chapter Relations Chair and Membership Chair.

What does each position do? In a nutshell, the President and Vice-President lead the chapter meetings, finalize the chapter agenda and priorities in accordance with the bylaws, advice, and vote of chapter leaders and members. The Vice-President should be ready and willing to be nominated for President at the conclusion of the President's term(s). The Chapter Relations Chairperson assists the President and Vice-President in representing the chapter at outside events. The Membership Chairperson recruits and welcomes new members and maintains the national MOAA chapter roster.

The Treasurer handles the intake and payment of chapter funds from the bank account and also files the chapter's annual non-profit organization tax return. The Secretary and Bylaws Chairperson maintain chapter records and ensure chapter meetings and votes are recorded and conducted according to chapter bylaws. The Surviving Spouse Liaison assists surviving spouses of our chapter members to access their full MOAA benefits and provides education to our members on other benefits available. The Legislative Liaison is our chief chapter advocate and helps set the chapter's legislative advocacy agenda annually.

To submit a nomination please reach out to: moajavc@gmail.com through 31 October. A voting announcement will be sent to all members on 1 November 2026 and voting will end 30 November 2026. Our chapter leaders will be announced in December and begin their two year terms on 1 January 2027.



Newsletter Highlights

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Recent Chapter News & Events



Our Chapter sponsored gift boxes at the *HomeFront Haven* military spouse deployment retreat in Virginia Beach last weekend. Special thanks to Patricia Sandoval for putting on this great event and growing it to multiple events each year. Also thanks to Stephanie Rose and the *Military Officers Association of America* (MOAA) team for supporting events like this for our deployed families!

Next Meeting: Tuesday 27 October at 8pm Eastern/ 7pm Central

Please join us on Tuesday, 27 October at 8pm Eastern/ 7pm Central/ 6pm Mountain/ 5pm Pacific as we welcome Cody Harnish, founder and lead attorney at Harnish Law, PLLC.

A graduate of UCLA and the American University Washington College of Law, Cody's career began as a U.S. Army Cavalry Scout before commissioning into the JAG Corps, where he excelled as a Trial Defense Counsel and was recognized for his exceptional skill in defending soldiers. Appointed as the Senior Complex Litigator for the Army Trial Defense Western Region, he oversaw high-profile cases and mentored defense attorneys across a vast area.

Transitioning to civilian practice, Cody continues his mission to defend those who serve our nation, achieving significant successes such as full acquittals in courts-martial and helping service members retain their careers.

Please join us on Zoom at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84325667887?pwd=7bVt51fPQsoKIRVAYZOfifOCXpGaAo.1&jst=2>

Meeting ID: 843 2566 7887
Passcode: 170870



Around the Field: JAGC/MOAA/Legal Community

TotalForce+ 1-3 February 2027, Gaylord National Washington D.C.

MOAA, the largest and most trusted military officers' association in the nation, is dedicated to turning words into action with the launch of TotalForce+. Bringing together more than 4,000 participants — active duty personnel, Guard and Reserve members, veterans, caregivers, DoW and VA leaders, and industry professionals — this conference addresses critical issues such as benefits, health care, military recruiting, and pay.

Together, we'll explore new solutions to:

Modernize Talent Management & Innovation

Optimize Leadership Development & Performance

Advance Quality of Life

Amplify the Veteran & Retiree Experience

Register: totalforceplus.moaa.org/

Guard and Reserve Retirement Benefits 27 October 2027, 1-3:30pm, Online Webinar

MOAA has launched Understanding Your Guard and Reserve Retirement and Earned Benefits – join us Tuesday, Oct. 27, from 1-3:30 p.m. Eastern for a comprehensive workshop geared specifically to Guard and Reserve issues such as:

- Retirement: How to navigate a complicated, time-consuming retirement process, file the proper paperwork, and calculate your benefit.
- Earned Benefits: How to determine which health care plan is right for you and your family, and how to maximize VA and other service-earned benefits available to you.
- Legal and Financial Topics: How to make the right choices for your Survivor Benefit Plan, and what you need to know about your protections under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA).

Register at:

moaa.org/content/events/moaa-events/

Upcoming Podcasts

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. In this episode, we hear from Andy Decker who served as a Surface Warfare Officer before becoming a JAG via the Legal Education Program. After an early retirement, Andy is charting a new course in private practice in Houston, Texas.

After The JAG Corps: Navigating Your Career Progression can be found at Apple and Spotify



Who is MOAA and why should you join us?

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading nonpartisan organization protecting the rights of military servicemembers and their families.

To them, we have made the same promise that they have made to their country:

Never Stop Serving.

Join MOAA at:

<https://www.moaa.org>

Want to take action? Do it with a mouse click at:

www.moaa.org/takeaction

MOAAJAVC 2024-2026 Board of Directors

Lt Col Brooks Rose, USAFR, President

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

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

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

CDR Zoe Kugeares, USNR, Treasurer

Maj Darius Izad, USAF, Secretary

Amber Sax, Surviving Spouse Liaison

Col Frank Yoon, USAF (Ret.) Chapter Relations Chair

CAPT Chris Mora, USNR, Legislative Liaison

Check out our Chapter Website at <https://moaajavc.org>

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.

Join us at:

MOAAJAVC@gmail.com