



Los Alamitos Area Chapter News

Military Officers Association of America
P.O. Box 665, Los Alamitos, CA 90720

FEBRUARY 2026



Los Alamitos Area Chapter Web Presence: <https://www.MOAA.org/chapter/losalamitosarea>

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Surviving Spouse Corner: MOAA'S SURVIVING SPOUSE RESOURCES

MOAA continues to champion the issues of the surviving spouse community while providing expert guidance for financial and retirement planning for its members.

Questions? Contact MOAA's Member Service Center at (800) 234-6622, or find MOAA on [Facebook](#), [X](#), and [Instagram](#).

The Surviving Spouse Advisory Council strongly encourages all surviving spouses to participate at both the National and Chapter level.

Chapter Membership offers surviving spouses an opportunity to engage at the MOAA grassroots level and experience camaraderie with other military members. While some are content to attend chapter functions and socialize, other surviving spouses choose to continue serving through their chapters and engage in roles such as Surviving Spouse Liaisons, Project Leader, or one of the Chapter Officers.

Quite a few of our Councils and Chapters are successfully led by surviving spouses! We often hear from surviving spouses that participating in the local chapter was one of the best things they did during their survivor transition.

To locate a chapter near you, contact the MOAA Member Service Center at (800) 234-6622 or use the MOAA Chapter Locator.

Surviving Spouse Liaison

Surviving Spouse Liaisons work at the Council and Chapter level to ensure fellow survivors remain connected to the military family and participate in local and national programs and advocacy efforts. Learn more about the position at this link, and learn more about the Surviving Spouse Liaison Excellence Award, including the nomination process, at this link.

Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter

The MOAA Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter was founded in 2018. Interested in applying? Download membership materials [here](#). You can also join MOAA's Surviving Spouses Facebook group.

MOAA'S MEMBER-ONLY SURVIVING SPOUSE PUBLICATIONS

- **Preparing for the Loss of a Military Spouse**
- **Legislative Action Guide**
- **Survivor's Checklist: First Steps for Moving On**
- **Your Guide to Military Burials**

MOAA--Los Alamitos Area Chapter Luncheon Coupon

February 26th Luncheon is to be held at the Navy Golf Course, 5560 Orangewood, West of Valley View, Cypress, CA.

Social: 1130-1200 **Lunch:** 1200-1300 **Program,** if scheduled: 1300-1400

Circle ONE: California Hamburger Fish & Chips Fire Grilled Chicken Sandwich California Burrito Chicken Caesar Salad.

(BE SURE TO CIRCLE YOUR SIDE FOR SANDWICHES: Regular FF Fruit Salad Sweet Potato FF Cole Slaw Cottage Cheese)

\$ 25 each! (Check payable to the Los Alamitos Area Chapter.)

LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS.

Name/s _____ Guest/s _____ (spouse is not guest)

Mail Check to: Bill Eveland, 3729 Nipomo Ave., Long Beach, CA, 90808; phone 562-425-3434

[Please have your reservation in by Feb 19th - Call me if you must!]

*****Remember*****

Chapter Executive Board Meeting: Tuesday, February 3rd at 0930 in the Retired Activities Office, NWSSB

**Recruiting Off to 'Strong Start' for Fiscal 2026, Pentagon Says
DECEMBER 23, 2025**

All active-duty forces met their fiscal 2025 recruiting goals, according to DOD. Most of the reserve components also met their goals, with the exception of the Army Reserve, which met 75% of its goals.

According to DOD, the branches met the following recruiting goals:

- The Army achieved 101.72% of its goal of 61,000 recruits, recruiting 62,050.
- The Navy achieved 108.61% of its goal of 40,600 recruits, recruiting 44,096.
- The Air Force achieved 100.22% of its goal of 30,100 recruits, recruiting 30,166.
- The Space Force achieved 102.89% of its goal of 796 recruits, recruiting 819.
- The Marine Corps achieved 100% of its goal of 26,600 recruits, recruiting 26,600.

In the announcement, chief Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell and other leaders attributed the success to several factors, including enhanced medical screening processes for recruits.

RIO HONDO MOAA CHAPTER DISESTABLISHED

The Rio Hondo Chapter of MOAA has been disestablished. Our chapter has absorbed their treasury, and our secretary has a list of the Rio Hondo Chapter members and will be sending out invitations to join our chapter in February.

LOS ALAMITOS AREA CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP FORM

New Member Enrollment []		Renewal []		January 1--December 31, 2026	
MOAA membership number _____ (located on your MOAA Magazine cover)					
Please enroll/ Continue as a Member of the Los Alamitos Area Chapter MOAA: <u>Regular Member Officers</u> (Active, Retirees and Former officers) @ \$25.00/Year [] <u>Auxiliary</u> (Widow or surviving spouse) @ \$20.00/Year []					
Service Affiliation:	Regular []	Reserve []	National Guard []		
Present Status:	Retired []	Active Duty []	Auxiliary []	Former Officer []	
Last Name	First Name	MI	Rank	Branch of Service	
Mailing Address	City	State	Zip	Area Code / Phone Number	
Spouse's Name	(Surviving spouses indicate your MOAA No.)				
Cell Number:	_____	E-Mail Address (for Newsletter)	_____		
Mail Form to: Los Alamitos Area Chapter, MOAA, P.O. Box 665, Los Alamitos, CA 90720					

4 Tips for Managing Money After the Military

By: Lila Quintiliani DECEMBER 30, 2025

Our outlook on personal finance changes over time. In the early years of our career, we are focused on day-to-day expenses and are just beginning to save for retirement. But as we transition out of the military, we have to change our approach and become more strategic, concentrating on multiple long-term goals at once while still sticking to a budget.

That's the message from Stacy Miller, a Certified Financial Planner and wife of a retired Army officer, who founded [BayView Financial Planning](#) as part of her work to empower military, retiree, and veteran families on their path to financial security.

One of her specialties is guiding servicemembers through their transition to civilian life. She outlined that process, and looked at common financial mistakes, during a recent MOAA webinar; Premium and Life members can [watch the recording \(login required\)](#), part of their access to MOAA's [full webinar archive](#).

Whether you're nearing the end of your time in uniform or looking for guidance after leaving service, keep these four tips from Miller in mind:

1. Prep for Everything: "One thing I wish servicemembers and their families knew about post-service finances would be that preparation is the key to managing many of the things that can go sideways," Miller told MOAA. "Financial planning is so much more than just investing money. It's planning for the next big event, whether that is something *happening to you* (like transitioning out of the military) or something *happening in the world* (like a pandemic)."

2. Be Ready for a Rainy Day: "Having an emergency fund – several months of accessible cash flow – to sustain you through the tough times will keep anxiety at bay and the creditors from calling," Miller said.

3. Don't Delay: Many servicemembers wait too long to start preparing for their post-military life, Miller said. They should start by taking mandated Transition Assistance Program (TAP) classes as soon as they can, but because the quality of TAP offerings varies by duty station, she recommends seeking other resources online and in the community.

4. Don't Go It Alone: When it comes to financial programs or planning sessions, "I tell clients to bring their spouse with them whenever possible," Miller said. "In many cases, the military spouse is the financial manager of the household, so it is important that they get the information firsthand. Knowledge is power, and preparation is key to managing your finances and your anxiety through the transition."

Find more resources for achieving your financial goals at [MOAA.org/finance](#).

Here's When You Can Access Your 2025 Tax Statements

By: Kevin Lilley

Some year-end tax documents already are available via the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) myPay portal, with others set to post in the coming days. Those who receive the forms via postal mail will have a longer wait.

Military retirees, former spouses, and annuitants should have access to their IRS Form 1099-R via myPay as of Dec. 17, according to a DFAS news release. Other key 2026 dates for myPay forms:

- **Jan. 7:** W-2s for Army, Navy, Air Force, and Space Force Reserve members.
- **Jan. 16:** W-2s for active and reserve Marine Corps members.
- **Jan. 21:** W-2s for active Army, Navy, Air Force, and Space Force members.
- **Jan. 23:** 1099-INTs for Savings Deposit Program participants.

Dates for other IRS forms, to include those provided to civilian employees served by DFAS, are available in the news release.

Forms by Mail

Physical tax forms will be sent to those who've requested the forms as well as those who do not have a myPay account. They will be mailed by DFAS by Jan. 31, according to the release. Instructions for creating a myPay profile, or restoring lost/forgotten login information, are available on the myPay website.

If you do not receive tax materials via mail by mid-February and do not have a myPay account, use these DFAS resources to procure your forms:

- **Telephone Self-Service:** Beneficiaries can call (800) 321-1080 to request a tax form reissue. Follow the automatic prompts; you will be asked for a Social Security number as identification. Requests are processed in seven to 10 days.
- **askDFAS:** Retirees and annuitants can request a reissued form be sent to their address on file or a temporary mailing address using the online portal. Note: Reissues are not generally available until mid-February.
- **By Mail:** Detailed instructions from DFAS on requesting 1099-R forms via mail are available at the DFAS website. These requests can take up to 60 days to process.

Changing Your Address

Tax documents will be sent to the beneficiary's address on record with DFAS. Need to make a change?

Retirees: Change your mailing address online or by completing this form and returning it to DFAS at Defense Finance and Accounting Service, U.S. Military Retired Pay, 8899 E 56th St., Indianapolis, IN 46249-1200, or via fax at (800) 469-6559.

Annuitants: Change your mailing address online or by completing this form and returning it to DFAS at Defense Finance and Accounting Service, U.S. Military Annuitant Pay, 8899 E 56th St., Indianapolis, IN 46249-1300, or via fax at (800) 982-8459.

Coast Guard PPC

The Coast Guard Pay and Personnel Center (PPC) did not publish a release with its tax-form data, but will mail all W-2 and 1095-C forms by Jan. 31, according to its website, and will have printable versions of those forms, as well as 1099R forms (for retirees) available via its Direct Access system by that date.

The PPC processes payments and forms for retirees from the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps and NOAA Commissioned Corps, in addition to the Coast Guard.

The PPC requests all users who will receive tax forms via mail check to ensure their mailing address is correct in Direct Access and make any changes by Jan. 2. Updates can be made here by following the prompts under the "Self Service" menu.

Details on postal-mail dates for 1099R forms were not immediately available. Retirees, annuitants, and former spouses can follow this guidance to view, print, and save forms via Direct Access.

As with DFAS, duplicate W-2 forms will not be available until mid-February. More information on requesting duplicate forms is available on the PPC website. PPC users with questions can contact the PPC at (866) 772-8724; those with technical issues, to include password resets, can call (800) 821-7081.

Have TRICARE For Life?

Learn more about TFL

Are you new to TFL? The information in the *TRICARE For Life Handbook* will help you make the most of your TFL coverage. You'll learn about eligibility requirements, how Medicare and TFL work together, getting care, claims, and more.

Are you turning 65 soon? Check out the *TRICARE and Medicare Turning Age 65 Brochure*. You'll learn important information on when to sign up for Medicare to avoid a break in your TRICARE coverage.

Would you like the latest TRICARE news sent to you by email? Visit *TRICARE Subscriptions* to get benefit updates, news, and more.

Your family members

When you have TFL, moving isn't a TRICARE Qualifying Life Event for you. But moving is a QLE for family members who are enrolled in or eligible for TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select. Your family members should also update their address in DEERS after they move. They'll have 90 days from the date of the address change to change their TRICARE health plan.

Check out "Your TRICARE Checklist for Moving" for more information and tips for what to do when you and your family move.