



TCC Meeting 4/5 March

Legislative

Feedback

April 11-22 is the congressional working period in home districts



TCC Legislative Topics

- **National Campaign – Larry Petrash**
 - **Advocacy in Action**
- **State Campaign – Ginger Simonson**
 - **Texas Legislative Advocacy**

April 11-22 is the congressional working period in home districts



National Status 2022

- **National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)**
 - Approved 27 December 2021 - \$777.7B
- **Continuing Resolution Act was implemented to prevent Government shutdown – Three times**
 - **Impacts:**
 - Delayed start of new programs
 - Delayed program funding increases
 - Reduced periodic of time for program execution
- **Omnibus Bill Approved – 11 March 2022**
 - \$1.5 trillion, plus \$13.6 billion in aid for Ukraine
 - Includes \$782 B in the Defense Appropriations Bill (DAB)



Advocacy in Action

- **Advocacy in Action (AiA): Preparing for 2023**
 - **Member based Advocacy program to contact elected officials and their staff members**
 - **Present the fundamentals of MOAA**
 - **Introduce top MOAA Advocacy priorities**
 - **Encourage support**



Advocacy in Action (AiA)

- **The 2022 AiA event will be held virtually from April 1-29.**
 - **Based on Capitol Hill security measures and nationwide health challenges, we will again exercise appropriate measures of caution to bring our messages to legislators via virtual engagements.**
 - **However, there may be opportunities to engage your legislators in person (safely) when they are home during Congress' spring break (April 11-22).**



2022 Advocacy in Action April 1-29 (Virtual)

- **Support the Major Richard Star Act (concurrent receipt for combat-injured servicemembers)**
- **Reduce TRICARE Mental Health Copayments**
- **Enact a 4.6% Military Pay Raise in the FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)**

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Advocacy in Action 2022 Team Leader Preparation Checklist and Key Events

Complete	Due Date	Responsibility	Tasks/Key Events
<input type="checkbox"/>		Team Leaders & MOAA	Complete team assignments and send team member names and emails back to MOAA
<input type="checkbox"/>		MOAA	Advocacy in Action 2021 private participant site launch date
<input type="checkbox"/>		MOAA	List of Congressional Schedulers and Members of Congress information sheets posted to Advocacy in Action 2021 private participant site
<input type="checkbox"/>		Team Leaders	Begin scheduling appointments with Members of Congress
<input type="checkbox"/>		All Participants	Virtual Training Webinar
<input type="checkbox"/>		MOAA	Virtual Training Webinar recording posted to Advocacy in Action 2021 private participant site
<input type="checkbox"/>		Team Leaders	Finalize appointments with Members of Congress
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 – 29 April	All Participants	Advocacy in Action 2021
<input type="checkbox"/>		MOAA	Mid-event update article
<input type="checkbox"/>		Team Leaders & All Participants	Complete Congress Meeting Notes and Congressional Feedback Forms on private participant site (Following each meeting with a Member of Congress)
<input type="checkbox"/>		Team Leaders	Send Thank You Notes to Members of Congress and Share Follow-Up Actions with GR Team



Recommended Sequence of Events for Advocacy in Action Meetings

- **Team Leader thanks Rep./Staff for meeting and introduces himself/herself (brief description of military service and why he is a MOAA member).**
- **Team Leader provides 2-minute overview on MOAA National**
- **Team Leader passes baton for Overview of their Issue (and a brief description of military service and why they are MOAA members)**
 - **Support the Major Richard Star Act (concurrent receipt for combat-injured servicemembers)**
 - **Reduce TRICARE Mental Health Copayments**
 - **Enact a 4.6% Military Pay Raise in the FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)**
- **Team Leader reviews any info/materials promised, lets Rep./Staff know when they will be provided; asks if there are any further questions; asks if Rep./Staff will commit to supporting any pertinent legislation or sign on as a co-sponsor. Thanks staff for their time.**



MOAA Elevator Speech

- **MOAA is the nation's largest association of military officers. We are an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization. We have over 350,000 members, with over 33,000 members in Texas.**
- **At the National level, we play an active role in military personnel and family matters; leaving equipment modernization and policy advocacy to other organizations.**
- **We are particularly interested in proposed legislation affecting the career force, the retired community, and veterans of the uniformed services. MOAA's purpose also has grown to include career transition assistance, military benefits counseling, educational assistance to children of military families (to include enlisted), and strong involvement in military professionalism activities.**
- **Here in Texas, we are organized into 17 Chapters where we work with other Veteran Service Organizations to help fellow servicemembers, Veterans and their families. Our members also advocate on Veterans and family issues during the state's biennial legislative session.**

Talking Points Major Richard Star Act

This bill allows a veteran with a combat-related disability and fewer than 20 years of creditable service to receive retirement pay, without reduction, concurrent with disability compensation.

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/HwJM3Ta0fo4>

Talking Points TRICARE Mental Health Copayments

No Texas Co-sponsors as of 28 Feb

Tricare considers Mental Health and Behavioral Health Care as Specialty Care requiring much higher copays than it does for Primary Care.

In 2018, these copays as much as doubled when mental health care was classified as specialty care.

High copays can deter individuals, especially retirees on a fixed income, from seeking or continuing mental or behavioral health care.

Over 9 million people utilize TRICARE to provide for their routine care and other health needs. This includes treatment for improving mental health through individual and family therapy, substance abuse treatment, eating disorder treatment, and other related services, including psychological testing and behavior analysis.

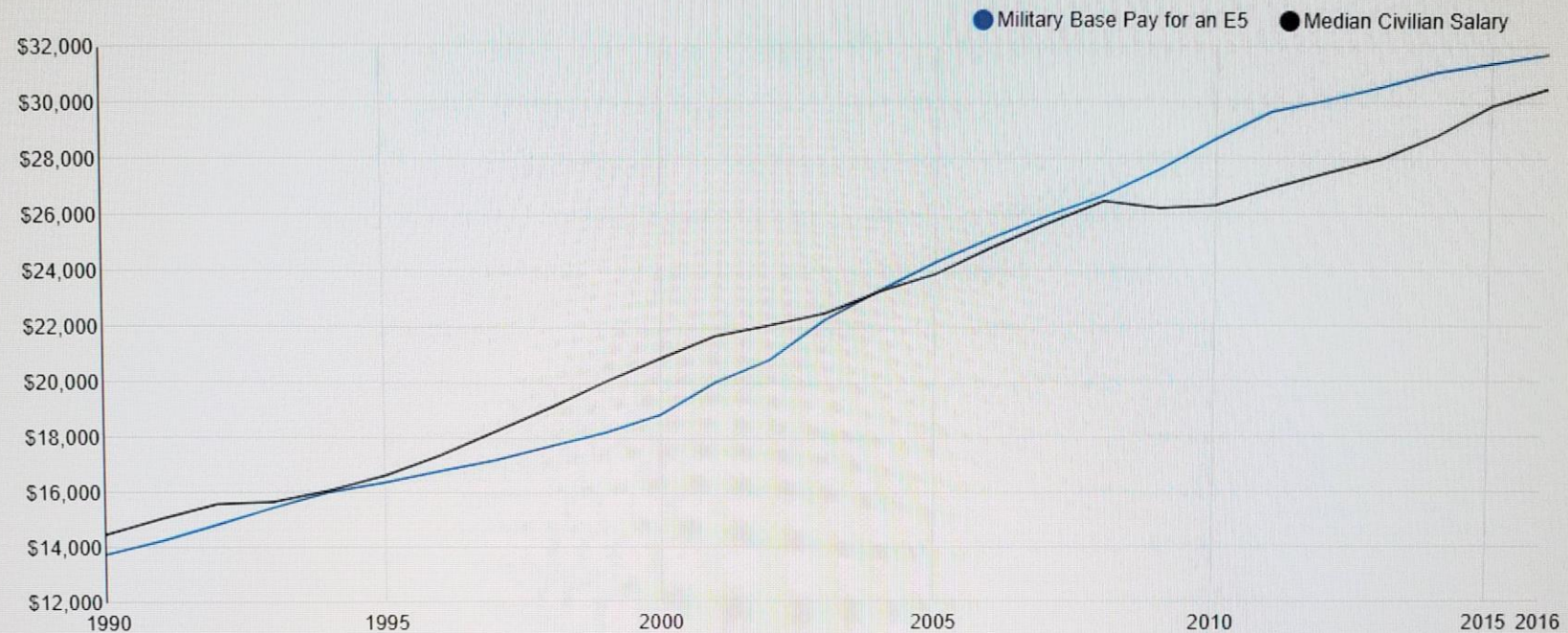
Talking Points

4.6% Military Pay Raise in the FY 2023 (NDAA)

US military force capability depends on military compensation being sufficient to attract and retain the number and quality of personnel that the services need.

The unique aspects of Military life (family separations, hazardous duty and difficult living conditions) call for competitive compensation with the public sector in order to sustain the overall quality of the force.

Comparing military and civilian salaries, 1990-2016



Lessons Learned

Congressmen/women are interested in having constituents attend

It was more effective to schedule directly with staff who you regularly work with, then through the official schedulers provided by MOAA

Helpful to have an idea of the number of military and Veterans in District.