



## May 2024 - #011

# CDCA Newsletter

### 1. CDCA 2023 Update

CDCA held an in-person Defense Communities Summit October 17 in San Diego. We had more than 50 in attendance, including Rear Admiral Rosen (CNRSW) and Brigadier General Woodworth (MCI West). Looking ahead, we are excited about the future possibilities for our community. The success of Summit has inspired us to continue organizing enriching experiences that bring us together for collaboration and communication.

Watch for more updates on upcoming events and activities. Thank you for being a valued member of our community, and we look forward to sharing many more adventures with you!

### 2. California 2023/2024 Legislation

Of 23 bills with impact to the California military community, 11 were approved by the Governor, one died and 11 remain in the legislative process as “two year” bills. The three bills of interest to CDCA (AB 46, AB 444 and SB 811) remain in the legislative process.

The following is a comprehensive list of California bills affecting the military and veterans. The legislative status as of the end of the legislative year is provided. Detailed descriptions of the legislation are readily available in the September 2023 CDCA newsletter. Note that January 3, 2024 was the last day for each house to pass bills introduced in 2023, according to the legislative calendar.

#### **ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 3 Offshore Wind Energy**

Approved by Governor October 7.

#### **ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 13 Election Day Holiday: Voting by Mail**

From committee: Without further action pursuant to Joint Rule 62(a). March 20. Inactive.

**ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 46 Military Services Retirement and Surviving Spouse Benefit Payment Act**

In committee: Held under submission. September 1 (“Two year bill”). Active bill: In committee process.

**ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 284 Annual Report: Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program**

Active bill: In committee process.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 293: Lifetime Hunting and Sport Licenses: Gold Star Family Members**

In committee: Held under submission. May 18. Active bill: In committee process.

**ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 298 Monument to Blind Veterans**

Approved by Governor October 4.

**ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 322 Veteran and California National Guard Supplemental Orientation Act of 2023**

Approved by Governor October 13.

**ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 398 Voting: Replacement Ballots**

Approved by Governor October 10.

**ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 444 California Defense Community Infrastructure Program**

In committee: Held under submission. September 1. Active.

**ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 684 County Veterans Services Officers: Additional Resources**

In committee: Held under submission. May 18. Active.

**ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 714 Pupil Instruction [child of military family]**

Approved by Governor October 7.

**ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 883 Department of Defense SkillBridge Program**

Approved by Governor October 7.

**ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 953 Voluntary Vessel Speed Reduction and Sustainable Shipping Program**

In committee: Held under submission. September 1. Active bill: In committee process.

**ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 1097 Credit History of Persons Receiving Government Rent Subsidies**

Approved by Governor October 7.

**ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 1143 Military: Lending Protections**

To Assembly Banking and Finance Committee March 3. Active bill: In committee process.

**ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 1605 Military Services Access: United States Space Force**

Approved by Governor September 1.

**SENATE BILL NO. 73 Voluntary Veterans’ Preference**

To Assembly Judiciary Committee June 21. Active bill: In committee process.

**SENATE BILL NO. 82 Property taxation: disabled veterans’ exemption: eligibility letters**

Approved by Governor October 11.

**SENATE BILL NO. 228 Civilian Youth Opportunities Program**

Approved by Governor October 10.

**SENATE BILL NO. 267 Credit History of Persons Receiving Government Rent Subsidies**

Approved by Governor October 11.

**SENATE BILL NO. 726 Property Taxation: Exemption: Disabled Veteran Homeowners**

To Assembly Appropriations Committee. September 1. Active bill: In committee process.

**SENATE BILL NO. 811 Teacher Credentialing: Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact**

To Assembly Education Committee. June 15. Active bill: In committee process.

**SENATE BILL NO. 838 Victim Compensation: Use of Force by a Law Enforcement Officer**

To Senate Appropriations Committee. May 18. Active bill: In committee process.

**SENATE BILL 1401 Family Child Care Home United States Armed Forces** Submitted

February 16, 2024.

### **3. The Positive Economic Impact of Military on Our Communities**

Communities with a strong military presence have the financial benefit of stable revenue while communities with a dependency on travel, tourism, conventions and related spending face unprecedented revenue challenges for local government and citizens. You can reinforce the financial contribution of military salaries, spending and investment in your communities. A state impact report is available. Member organizations continue to assess their own communities.

The report is available at

[https://militarycouncil.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/81/2022/10/2022\\_California\\_Statewide\\_MEIS.pdf?emrc=59e8c8](https://militarycouncil.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/81/2022/10/2022_California_Statewide_MEIS.pdf?emrc=59e8c8)

### **4. Defense Spending by State**

The DoD Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation partnered with the Library of Congress's Federal Research Division to produce the *Defense Spending by State* report for Fiscal Year 2022, issued October 2023.

The top defense contractor in California is Centene Corp. at \$3.5B. Top defense personnel location is San Diego County, followed by San Bernardino and Ventura Counties. For contract spending, San Diego County (\$11.9B) leads with Ventura sixth at \$962.4M. For defense personnel spending locations, San Diego County leads at \$7.4B with Ventura county second at \$1B. See the report for details and a state by state comparison.

The report is available at <https://oldcc.gov/dsbs-fy2022>.

## **5. Department of Defense releases report *Resilient and Healthy Defense Communities*.**

The Strategy for Resilient and Healthy Defense Communities is intended to guide the Department of Defense actions to achieve the following objective: healthy, safe, functional, and resilient spaces on defense installations that enhance the quality of life and readiness of our Service members, families, and civilian workforce.

The goals (among several) include:

- (1) People living and working on Department of Defense installations thrive as part of happy, productive, and resilient communities, and
- (2) Installations are integrated with surrounding communities, providing public services and lifestyle-oriented features that build the readiness and resiliency of the total force.

A large contributor to meeting the goals is a strong partnership with other government agencies, state and local governments, academic institutions, and local community military support organizations. California Defense Communities Alliance and the local member community support organizations are an important assistance for meeting the goals.

The report is available at:

[https://media.defense.gov/2024/Feb/15/2003394891/-1/-1/1/RESILIENT\\_AND\\_HEALTHY\\_DEFENSE\\_COMMUNITIES\\_OSD008028\\_23\\_RES\\_FINAL.PDF](https://media.defense.gov/2024/Feb/15/2003394891/-1/-1/1/RESILIENT_AND_HEALTHY_DEFENSE_COMMUNITIES_OSD008028_23_RES_FINAL.PDF)

## **6. Military Resiliency: Elements and Actions for Community Groups**

By implementing the actions related to military resiliency, a community group can actively contribute to the improvement of health, livability, climate resilience, energy security, infrastructure support, and education within military installations and surrounding communities.

**A. Human-Centered Requirements for Health and Livability:** Military facilities prioritize the health, safety, and well-being of service members, their families, and civilian employees. This includes providing access to quality healthcare services, recreational facilities, and safe living environments to support physical and mental well-being.

**Action Plan:** Create Advocacy and Awareness Campaigns:

- Organize community forums, workshops, and information sessions to raise awareness about the importance of human-centered requirements for health and livability in military facilities. Engage stakeholders, including service members, families, civilian employees, and local government officials.

- Advocate for policies and initiatives that prioritize access to quality healthcare services, recreational facilities, and safe living environments within military installations. **Example:** Publicize opportunities for aviation noise mitigation via Community Noise Mitigation Program.

**B. Climate Risk Management:** Military installations assess and mitigate risks posed by climate change, extreme weather events, and other environmental hazards to ensure operational readiness and infrastructure resilience. Adaptation measures, such as fortifying infrastructure, implementing flood protection systems, and diversifying energy sources, are essential components of climate risk management.

**Action Plan:** Collaborate on Climate Risk Management:

- Partner with military installations to assess climate risks and develop mitigation strategies. Support initiatives such as infrastructure fortification, flood protection systems, and renewable energy projects to enhance resilience to environmental hazards.
- Offer expertise and resources for climate adaptation planning, including community-based approaches and data analysis to identify vulnerabilities and prioritize actions. **Example:** Publicize opportunities for funding from DoD programs such as the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program.

**C. Energy and Water Security:** Military facilities prioritize energy and water security to sustain operations and maintain readiness in diverse environments. This includes investing in renewable energy sources, energy-efficient technologies, water conservation measures, and resilient water supply systems to minimize vulnerabilities and ensure reliable access to essential resources. Ensuring uninterrupted access to electricity and energy resources through the deployment of resilient energy systems, such as microgrids, renewable energy sources, and energy storage solutions, to support mission-critical operations and infrastructure.

**Action Plan:** Promote of Energy and Water Security:

- Collaborate with military bases to implement energy-efficient technologies, renewable energy sources, and water conservation measures. Support initiatives to diversify energy sources and ensure reliable access to water through resilient supply systems.
- Advocate for investments in infrastructure improvements that enhance energy and water security, including resilient energy systems and sustainable water management practices.
- Collaborate with military bases to deploy resilient energy systems, backup power solutions, and microgrids to ensure energy and electricity reliability. Support initiatives to minimize disruptions and ensure continuity of operations, particularly in remote or austere environments.
- Provide technical expertise and resources for the development and implementation of energy resilience plans, including grid-independent infrastructure and renewable

energy projects. **Example:** Publicize funding opportunities from DoD programs such as Defense Community Infrastructure Program.

**D. Facility Optimization, Maintenance, and Management:** Military facilities employ best practices in facility optimization, maintenance, and management to enhance operational efficiency, reduce lifecycle costs, and extend infrastructure lifespan. Regular maintenance, asset management systems, and data-driven approaches support proactive decision-making and resource allocation.

**Action Plan:** Promote Facility Optimization and Maintenance Support:

- Provide technical assistance and resources for facility optimization, maintenance, and management. Offer expertise in asset management systems, data analysis, and proactive maintenance strategies to enhance operational efficiency and reduce lifecycle costs.
- Collaborate with military facilities to implement best practices and innovative solutions for infrastructure maintenance and management.

**E. Infrastructure Support:** Advocate for and invest in infrastructure improvements that enhance the resilience of the military base, such as improved roads, utilities, and communication networks. Equip installations with 5G service, WiFi and next-generation communications networks.

**Action Plan:** Promote Infrastructure Support and Enhancement:

- Advocate for infrastructure improvements that enhance the resilience of military bases, such as improved roads, utilities, and communication networks. Support initiatives to deploy 5G service, WiFi, and next-generation communication networks to improve connectivity and operational capabilities.
- Work with local government agencies and private sector partners to secure funding and resources for infrastructure projects that benefit military installations and surrounding communities. **Example:** Support California legislation for a California Defense Community Infrastructure Program

**F. Education and Training:** Military installations provide education and training programs for service members, civilian personnel, and their families to enhance readiness, skills development, and personal resilience. These programs encompass professional development, safety training, emergency preparedness, and support services for families and dependents.

**Action Plan:** Support Education and Training Programs:

- Partner with military installations to support education and training programs for service members, civilian personnel, and their families. Offer resources and expertise for professional development, safety training, and emergency preparedness initiatives.

- Advocate for funding and resources to expand education and training opportunities, including support services for families and dependents to enhance readiness and personal resilience.

### **G. Programs and Services for members:**

- **Mental Health Support:** Offer counseling services, support groups, and workshops addressing common mental health issues such as PTSD, depression, and anxiety.
- **Family Support:** Provide resources and programs to strengthen family bonds, including parenting workshops, marriage counseling, and childcare assistance.
- **Employment:** Facilitate job training, resume workshops, and educational opportunities for military spouses and veterans transitioning to civilian life.
- **Financial Assistance:** Offer financial literacy programs, emergency financial assistance, and budgeting workshops to alleviate financial stressors.
- **Health and Wellness:** Organize fitness classes, recreational activities, and wellness programs to promote physical health and stress management.
- **Veteran’s services:** Advocate for full support for services to veterans, including retirement pay taxation equity.

**Action Plan:** Coordinate and communicate about community programs supporting these functions. Engage community support organizations and support services on the needs of military members for these services. **Examples:** Support California legislation for military retirement and surviving spouse benefit income tax exclusion. Support legislation easing professional licensing for spouses including interstate compact for teacher credentialing.

## **7. Why Work Together? An argument for your participation in CDCA**

When nonprofit organizations with similar goals work together through or belong to an umbrella organization, they can significantly enhance their effectiveness and impact. Here are several ways in which this collaboration can be advantageous:

- **Collective Strength:** By joining forces, nonprofit organizations can pool their resources, expertise, and networks, creating a more powerful collective voice. This strength allows them to advocate for their shared interests more effectively at the state level. Working together, they can pursue common goals, influence policies, and bring about meaningful change.
- **Amplified Advocacy:** An umbrella organization representing multiple nonprofits can consolidate their advocacy efforts. This centralization enables coordinated campaigns, lobbying initiatives, and public awareness campaigns, maximizing their impact on legislative decisions and public opinion. Through joint efforts, these organizations can amplify their messages and create a stronger presence, leading to better outcomes.

- **Resource Sharing:** Collaborating nonprofits can share knowledge, best practices, and resources. They can exchange ideas, learn from each other's experiences, and avoid duplicating efforts. This synergy can result in more efficient use of limited resources, increased productivity, and improved program outcomes.
- **Enhanced Networking:** Belonging to an umbrella organization provides nonprofits with expanded networking opportunities. They can connect with like-minded organizations, government agencies, philanthropic foundations, and other stakeholders within the sector. This networking facilitates knowledge sharing, partnerships, and collaborations, fostering innovation and fostering collective problem-solving.
- **Increased Funding Opportunities:** An umbrella organization can help its member nonprofits access funding opportunities that may not be available to them individually. By combining their efforts, they can apply for larger grants, launch joint fundraising campaigns, and attract more significant financial support. Additionally, the umbrella organization can provide guidance and support in navigating the complex funding landscape.
- **Streamlined Operations:** Through collaboration, nonprofits can streamline their operations and reduce administrative burdens. They can share administrative tasks, such as accounting, legal compliance, and reporting, leading to cost savings and increased efficiency. This allows organizations to allocate more resources to their core mission and service delivery.
- **Collective Learning and Capacity Building:** By working together, nonprofits can engage in collective learning and capacity building initiatives. They can organize workshops, training programs, and conferences to enhance their skills and knowledge in areas relevant to their shared goals. This continuous learning improves the overall effectiveness and impact of the participating organizations.
- **Unified Messaging:** When multiple nonprofits unite under an umbrella organization, they can develop a unified messaging strategy. This ensures consistency and clarity in communicating their goals, values, and impact to stakeholders, including the public, policymakers, and donors. A coherent and well-coordinated message strengthens their advocacy efforts and enhances public trust and support.

Nonprofit organizations with similar goals can be more effective by working together through or belonging to an umbrella organization. This collaboration enables collective strength, amplified advocacy, resource sharing, enhanced networking, increased funding opportunities, streamlined operations, collective learning, and unified messaging. By harnessing these benefits, nonprofits can better represent their interests at the state level and achieve greater impact in pursuit of their shared goals.

## 8. CDCA Executive Board

Board membership is comprised of one representative from each of the Community Support Organizations and Local Government Support Organizations. The officers of the corporation and board are the Co-Chairs, the Treasurer, and the Secretary. Due to the nature of the organization



and corporation and the possible movement of people in leadership and within the membership groups, the Board of Directors has two co-chairpersons of equal status and responsibility for the purpose of continuity in the management of the corporation. The Executive Board members are the two Co-Chairpersons, Treasurer, Secretary, and two members appointed by the Board.

One Co-Chair position (July 2023-June 2025) became vacant due to the resignation of Mark Balmert, SDMAC. David Janiec of the China Lake Alliance (July 2022-September 30, 2024) continues as Co-Chair for the 2022-2024 term. Treasurer is Sandy Person of Travis Community Consortium (July 2023-June 2025). Secretary is Gene Fisher of Regional Defense Partnership (July 2022-September 30, 2024). Member at Large is Hans Uslar of Monterey Bay Defense Alliance, selected as Co-Chair through September 30, 2024. One Member at Large position is open.

CDCA sincerely appreciates the work of Mark Balmert for guidance and leadership to the organization. His energy, insight and tireless effort greatly benefited CDCA.

## **9. CDCA points of contact**

Feel free to contact David Janiec of the China Lake Alliance or any other officer of CDCA.

The web site is [www.cadefensecommunitiesalliance.org](http://www.cadefensecommunitiesalliance.org). Twitter: @CaDefenseComm. (Take a look at these for the latest CDCA news.)

Mailing address is 1017 “L” Street #398, Sacramento, CA 95814

## **10. Tools and Resources**

OLDCC *Defense Spending by State* report  
<https://oldcc.gov/dsbs-fy2022>

California State Library report *2022 California Statewide National Security Economic Impacts Study*  
[https://militarycouncil.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/81/2022/10/2022\\_California\\_Statewide\\_MEIS.pdf?emrc=59e8c8](https://militarycouncil.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/81/2022/10/2022_California_Statewide_MEIS.pdf?emrc=59e8c8)

California State Library *2022 Counties Supplement*  
[https://opr.ca.gov/docs/20211208-2020\\_Counties\\_Supplement\\_CA\\_Statewide\\_National\\_Security\\_Economic\\_Impacts.pdf](https://opr.ca.gov/docs/20211208-2020_Counties_Supplement_CA_Statewide_National_Security_Economic_Impacts.pdf)

California Economic Data  
[https://militarycouncil.ca.gov/s\\_economicdata/](https://militarycouncil.ca.gov/s_economicdata/)

Resilient and Healthy Defense Communities

<https://media.defense.gov/2024/Feb/15/2003394891/-1/-1/1/>

[RESILIENT AND HEALTHY DEFENSE COMMUNITIES OSD008028 23 RES FINAL PDF](#)

California Legislation text and status

<https://www.legislature.ca.gov>

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## Membership

For membership, see the CDCA web site [www.cadefensecommunitiesalliance.org](http://www.cadefensecommunitiesalliance.org) or contact any Executive Board member. Community support organizations, local government support organizations and individuals may be members.

**New: Commercial Organization Membership:** Any businesses/commercial corporations that support the goals and purposes of CDCA can be a member of CDCA. There are no voting rights connected to this membership.

- Membership dues for these organizations are based on number of employees in California. Dues are established annually by the Executive Board prior to CDCA Fiscal year. There are four levels of dues based on organizations employees in California:
  - \$500.00 annually for Companies with ~50 or less employees
  - \$750.00 annually for Companies with ~500 or less employees
  - \$1200.00 annually for Companies with ~1000 or less
  - \$3000.00 annually for Companies with Greater than 1000.
- Benefits:
  - Participation in all CDCA Events.
  - Participation in planning sessions and goal setting meetings.
  - Ability to serve on advisory Committees.
  - Use of CDCA Logo in advertising their community support/outreach.
  - Receive CDCA Information and Newsletters.
  - Company logo on CDCA Website.

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## **About CDCA**

More than a dozen nonprofit organizations formed the California Defense Communities Alliance (CDCA) with the shared mission of supporting Department of Defense presence in communities throughout California while advocating on behalf of active duty and veterans in their communities. Organizations work together under the CDCA umbrella to advance collaboration and communication among the military, elected officials, and other community leaders to enhance an understanding of the many contributions Defense organizations make to California. CDCA mission is to support, promote, and represent the interests of our Defense Organizations throughout California while advocating on behalf of those that serve or have served in these organizations. CDCA will advance the collaboration and communication between the military, our elected and appointed officials, and our communities while working to enhance the recognition of the many contributions Defense Organizations make to California and our Nation.