COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY SAN DIEGO MILITARY AND VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

MEETING NOTICE: In Person North Central Live Well Center 5055 Ruffin Road, 2nd Floor Conference Room, San Diego CA 92123 Phone (858) 694-3222

Public Video Viewing/Comment Option:

https://sdcounty-ca-gov.zoom.us/j/85090539236

December 18, 2025 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

		AGENDA
1:00 - 1:01	1.	Call to Order
		Pledge of Allegiance
1:02 - 1:03	3.	Roll Call
1:03 - 1:05	4.	Action Item: Approval of October 16, 2025, Meeting Minutes

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- 1:05 1:15 5. Guidelines for Public Comment on Items not listed on the agenda:
 - Members of the public may request to speak about any issue within the purview of the Board.
 - Each speaker will be limited to three (3) minutes.
 - ➤ Board members may not discuss or take action on issues raised during public comment unless the issue is listed in this Agenda.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEMS 1:15 - 1:306. Discussion Item: New Community Connections: SDMVAC Council Members share community events they had recently attended. Discussion Item: Report from Ad Hoc working groups regarding edits to working group 1:30 - 1:507. charter and their meeting schedule, All San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council Members 1:50 - 2:20Presentation Item: Camp Pendelton 2025 Veteran and Retiree Expo; Dan Whitley, 8. Colonel US Marines (Ret) MCB Camp Pendelton Community Planning Liaison Officer 2:20 - 2:40Discussion Item: Veteran serving nonprofits which could be strengthened by board 9. training beyond those who have presented to SDMVAC in past three years. Chair Jude Litzenberger

2:40 – 3:00 10 **Discussion Item:** Suggested topic for future meetings: All San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council Members

ADJOURNMENT/ NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting will be held on February 19, 2026, 1:00 – 3:00 pm, at 5055 Ruffin Road, 2nd Floor Conference Room, San Diego, CA 92123.

ASSISTANCE FOR THE DISABLED:

Agendas and records are available in alternative formats upon request. Contact the San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council Meeting staff contact at (858) 694-3222 with questions or to request a disability-related accommodation. To the extent reasonably possible, requests for accommodation or assistance should be submitted at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting so that arrangements may be made. Additional information can be found on the San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council (SDMVAC) website:

https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/ssp/veterans advisory council.html

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY SAN DIEGO MILITARY AND VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL (SDMVAC)

Held In Person North Central Live Well Center 5055 Ruffin Road, 2nd Floor Conference Room, San Diego CA 92123 Phone (858) 694-3222

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https://sdcounty-ca-gov.zoom.us/j/82446012368

SDMVAC Meeting Minutes October 16, 2025

Members Present
Paula Jansen
Jude Litzenberger
David McCulloh
John Paul Sullivan
Philip Kendro
Robyn Nolin

Staff Present Amy Klock, OMVA Ray Flores, OMVA

<u>Guests</u> Kristian Kennedy Matt Jackson

Members Absent

Mark Gracyk Danny Jackson

- 1. Meeting called to order at 1:01 pm by Jude Litzenberger, Chair
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance
- 3. Roll Call
 - SDMVAC present members noted above.
- 4. The August 21, 2025, meeting minutes were approved by the six Council members present.
- 5. Public Comments:
 - No public comment

- 6. **Discussion Item:** New Community Connections: SDMVAC Council members share community events they have recently attended. Robyn Nolin, the new SDMVAC member at large for seat 8 and U.S. Army veteran, was introduced. Updates were shared by Philip Kendro on Navy League activities and the Miramar Air Show, David McCulloh on the CalVet Leadership Summit 2025 (Nov 2, Gaslamp Quarter), Paula Jansen on Double Ten Day (Oct 10), John Paul Sullivan on their feeding program and post-traumatic care, and Jude Litzenberger on veterans transitioning programs. The chair announced the Self-Sufficiency Director's upcoming retirement in November.
- 7. **Action Item:** SDMVAC Annual Report 2024–2025, All San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council Members. Chair Jude Litzenberger moved a motion to approve the SDMVAC Annual Report 2024–2025, which was approved by all members present.
- 8. Action Item: Veterans Day/ Week Events, Member Participation Representing SDMVAC: All San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council Members. Council member Philip Kendro provided an overview of upcoming Veterans Day and Veterans Week events, encouraging all San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council (SDMVAC) members to participate and represent the council. He highlighted key events, including the CalVet Networking Event (Nov 2), SDMAC event (Nov 5), Marine Corps Celebration at Broadway Pier (Nov 6), Mt. Soledad Veterans Day Event (Nov 8), San Diego Veterans Parade (Nov 11), and the Influencer Day/MAD Economic Study event (Nov 12). Council member Robyn Nolin also mentioned additional events, including the Veterans Golf Tournament in Santee on November 6. David McCulloh shared several North County events he plans to attend on November 11, including the Army and Navy Academy Veterans Day Military Review in Carlsbad, the Encinitas Veterans Day Ceremony at American Legion Post 416, the North County Vet Fest and Parade in Escondido, the Oceanside Veterans Day Ceremony, the San Marcos Veterans Day event, and the Vista "Salute to Service" Ceremony. Paula Jansen added that Poway will host a Veterans Day Ceremony at Poway Veterans Park on November 11. John Sullivan added the Alpine Veterans Ceremony at the VFW, and Chair Jude Litzenberger shared that there will be an LGBT event in Hillcrest on November 6. Members were encouraged to attend and support these events on behalf of SDMVAC.
- 9. Presentation Item: San Diego Non-Profit Collaboration During Government Shutdown; Tracy A. Owens, LCDR, USN (RET.) Senior Program Manager of Support the Enlisted Project (STEP). Tracy Owens discussed how local non-profits, including STEP, collaborate to support service members and their families during government shutdowns, providing resources and emergency assistance, and emphasized the importance of community partnerships to maintain continuity of services.
- 10. **Discussion Item**: Proposal to Create a San Diego County MILVET Community Calendar, Chair Jude Litzenberger. Chair Jude Litzenberger proposed creating a centralized MILVET Community Calendar for San Diego County to consolidate military and veteran events, improve communication among organizations, and enhance community engagement.

- 11. **Action Item**: Motion to Adopt Proposed Ad Hoc Workgroup Guidelines: Chair Jude Litzenberger. Chair Jude Litzenberger presented the proposed Ad Hoc Workgroup Guidelines and motioned for their adoption to provide structure and clarity for council workgroup operations. The council also finalized the members for each workgroup charter as follows: Food Security: David and Robyn; Housing: Paula; Education: Phil and John; Employment: Phil and David; Healthcare: Robyn; Legislation: Paula and John.
- 12. **Discussion Item**: Suggested topic for future meetings: All San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council. David recommended inviting Dan Whitley, Community Liaison at Camp Pendleton, to provide insights into a future meeting. Chair Jude Litzenberger encouraged members to invite other organizations to present at future meetings, emphasizing the value of diverse perspectives to support the military and Veteran community.

ADJOURNMENT/SET NEXT MEETING:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:59 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on December 18, 2025.



County of San Diego

SAN DIEGO MILITARY AND VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL

5055 RUFFIN RD. SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92123 TELEPHONE (858) 694-3222 FAX (858) 573-7381

October 16, 2025

Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer, Chairwoman San Diego County Board of Supervisors 1600 Pacific Highway San Diego, CA 92101

SAN DIEGO MILITARY AND VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL (SDMVAC) ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024/2025

Dear Chairwoman Lawson-Remer,

Attached is the San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council (SDMVAC) annual report of activities and accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2024/2025.

The SDMVAC would like to thank the Board of Supervisors and the staff of the Health and Human Services Agency for their support and cooperation during the past year. We advised your Board and the Health and Human Services Agency in identifying and addressing the needs of Veterans in San Diego County. We believe that our input made a positive contribution to the policy decision process in each instance.

The SDMVAC looks forward to another productive year of service for the Board of Supervisors and the Veterans of San Diego County in the coming year.

Respectfully

Jude Litzenberger, 2024/2025 Chair

San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council

cc: Supervisor Monica Montgomery Steppe, Vice-Chair

Supervisor Paloma Aguirre - Chair Pro Tem

Supervisor Joel Anderson Supervisor Jim Desmond

Kim Giardina, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, HHSA

Rick Wanne, Director, Self-Sufficiency Services

Alberto Banuelos, Assistant Director, Self-Sufficiency Services

Ray Flores, Military and Veterans Affairs Officer, OMVA

San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council (SDMVAC) 2024 Annual Report to the County Board of Supervisors

August 2025

In accordance with the County Administrative Code, Article XLVIII, Section 820 the San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council (SDMVAC) submits the following report of activities and accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Background:

The Board of Supervisors of the County of San Diego sets the policy of the County to take a leadership role in identifying and addressing the needs of Military Veterans. In order to fulfill the tasks related to this, the Board established a San Diego County Military and Veterans Advisory Council. The Council shall function as an independent body in carrying out its duties and responsibilities, reporting directly to the Board of Supervisors, as well as the Chief Administrative Officer.

The plan for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 was to advise the Board of Supervisors on goals and objectives relevant to the County of San Diego Office of Military and Veterans Affairs (OMVA) Department.

Membership and Organization:

The SDMVAC consists of nine volunteer citizens who are appointed by the Board of Supervisors. Five members are appointed by the Board of Supervisors, with each Supervisor nominating one Council Member from their respective District. Four members are appointed by the Board of Supervisors, as Members-at-Large. A Chair and a Vice-Chair are elected on odd-numbered years and serve a two-year term.

Jude Litzenberger (Member-at-Large) was elected as the new Chair and Danny Jackson (D3) was elected as the new Vice-Chair, in August 2023.

The SDMVAC started the Fiscal Year with two membership vacancies: District 5, Seat 5 and Member at Large, Seat 6. In May 2025, Jaime Yslas, who held the position of District 1, Seat 1, resigned from the Council. Following his departure, two new members were appointed: David McCulloh filling Seat 5 for District 5 on April 22, 2025, and John Paul Sullivan filling Seat 6 for Member at Large on June 24, 2025.

SDMVAC meetings were regularly announced to the public via the Clerk of the Board and SDMVAC websites. Meetings were also broadcast via Zoom for virtual public and staff participation.

Focus and Oversight:

This year, budget constraints made clear the importance of healthy nonprofits in meeting more needs of the military/ Veteran community in the future. The Council continued to look at the health of the County's military veterans including the nonprofit organizations who play an important role in caring for them. The Council invited presentations from a number of key nonprofits asking questions that provided a good sense of what was working and what needed attention. The primary focus areas of the SDMVAC in Fiscal Year 2024-2025 were

- Service Delivery to Veterans
- Local Military and Veterans Events
- Community Outreach to Veterans and their Family Members

Collaboration with different Veteran services organizations.

The Council identified the need to have workgroups/ad hoc committees to look deeper into activities that affect the health and full participation of the military/veteran population. The Council is establishing working groups that address Education, Employment, Food Security, Housing, Healthcare, and Legislation. Each working group will monitor progress and anticipate challenges in these areas to provide more accurate information regarding the health of San Diego County active-duty military, veterans and their families to support the Board of Supervisors.

Additionally, the issue of viable boards of directors to serve local nonprofit organizations revealed that many key organizations were having difficulty identifying, recruiting and retaining qualified board members. The Council identified a solution that would provide training for these important organizational leaders and help them create strong boards to serve in the future. The SDMVAC Chair invited Good for Others (a San Diego based impact focused nonprofit) and The Nonprofit Institute at University of San Diego to assist with expertise in identifying training options. Soon, Good for Others will fund the USD Nonprofit Institute in conducting training for the boards of nonprofits serving military/veterans. They also will build up a pool of military veterans to serve as qualified nonprofit board members in the future. The Council believes this training will strengthen both military/veteran-serving nonprofits and qualify a pool of military veterans willing to serve on other nonprofits where veterans voices will be helpful throughout the County.

During 2024-2025, the SDMVAC discussed numerous topics in the following categories:

- County Code of Conduct for Boards, Commissions, and Committees
- Establishing and Organizing Ad Hoc Subcommittees to Address Key Issues Facing Veterans: Food Security, Housing, Education, Employment, Healthcare, and Legislation
- Nominations for the 2025 SDMVAC Chair and Vice Chair
- SDMVAC Subcommittee Reviews
- Afghanistan Evacuee Update
- Community Assignments and Charters
- DOD/VA Policy Changes Regarding Gender-Affirming Care and fate of Trans Service Members
- All Chairs County Boards Meeting
- Veteran's Events
- 25/26 Proposed Operational Plan Budget

The San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council (SDMVAC) is committed to facilitating knowledge exchange and promoting collaboration effort amongst the organizations that are invited to present to the Council. The purpose is to raise visibility and awareness of their work in the community and help the SDMVAC plan for the next 20 years that best supports the Military and Veterans in San Diego. These organization includes:

- Current Initiatives and Interests in Veterans/Services in District 3
- Team Red, White and Blue (RWB)

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- Triple B Adventures
- San Diego Military, Veterans and Families Advisory Council
- VA San Diego Healthcare System
- San Diego Pro Sports Military Alliance
- California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet)
- Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
- Zero8hundred
- Support The Enlisted Project (STEP)
- VA San Diego Healthcare System
- San Diego Pro Sports Military Alliance

2024-2025 Board of Supervisors Letters Discussed by SDMVAC:

Date

No Board of Supervisor Letters were Discussed

Staff support was provided by the Health & Human Services Agency throughout the year.

ITEM #6 New Community Connections: SDMVAC Council members share community events they had recently attended

All San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council Members



ITEM #7 Report from Ad Hoc working groups regarding edits to working group charter and their meeting schedule

All San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council Members



ITEM #8 Camp Pendelton 2025 Veteran and Retiree Expo

Dan Whitley, Colonel US Marines (Ret) MCB Camp Pendelton Community Planning Liaison Officer











MCAS MIRAMAR **MCAS YUMA**







Long-term viability of bases and stations



Quality of Life for Marines, Sailors, and families.



FOCUS AREAS

Installation Protection/Make Installations Ready for a Contested Environment/Building Resiliency

Support to I MEF (Force Design) & Power Projection in a Contested Environment

Modernization

Training Range Expansion/Improvement

Barracks 2030

Enabling of Retention of Talent

Support for Total Force Fitness

Stewards of Resources (financial, environmental, energy)

LINES OF EFFORT

Training and Operations Support

Installation Protection

Facility Support

Community Services

Communications

Logistics Support

Command and Staff Support

by any generation.

During a time of dynamic change MCI-WEST is not optimized or resourced to simultaneously improve on aging infrastructure, employ a multi-layered all-domain defense and support I MEF modernization efforts in time within current programmatics, laws, policies, and processes without risk.

-OP PLAN -CRISIS CONTINGENCY -GENERATE -EMPLOY -MODERNIZE FORCES MCI-WEST is in constant execution while navigating a complex and eclectic operating environment during a time of dynamic change. The operating and threat paradigm has changed launching us into a new era that brings new threats and challenges never seen

ITEM #9 Veteran serving nonprofits which could be strengthened by board training beyond those who have presented to SDMAC in the past three years

Jude Litzenberger, Chair of San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council



ITEM #10 Suggested topic for future meetings

All San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council Members

