



Official Publication of Central Illinois Chapter IL33,  
ROA & Heart of Illinois Chapter IL09, MOAA



(DBA Reserve Organization of America)

## PRAIRIELAND BULLETIN

Volume 30 Number 1

JAN 2026

Chapter Website: <https://www.moaa.org/chapter/heartofillinois/>



### Joint Chapters Meeting Notice CIROA IL33 & HOIMOAA IL09



**Date:** 20 JAN 2026

**Location:** Lariat Steakhouse, W. Glen Ave, Peoria, IL 61614

**Time:** 1800 Social Time  
1830 Meeting Starts; Invocation, Pledge of  
Allegiance; Order Dinner

**Program:** Cyber Protection, ILARNG

**Guest Speaker:** CPT John Thomas, ILARNG

**RESERVATIONS REQUESTED: SHORT NOTICE!!**

**BY SUNDAY, 18 JAN 26, contact MAJ Jackson at 309-676-1602 (Office), 309-657-3203 (mobile), or email: [jacksonfinancial@yahoo.com](mailto:jacksonfinancial@yahoo.com) with names and number of attendees. HEADCOUNT IS IMPORTANT FOR FOOD AND SEATING.**

*Volunteers needed to fill Leadership vacancies on the Board of Joint Chapters.*



Seals shown here are to indicate membership source, but are unauthorized by the individual services

### Meeting & Program Schedule 2025-26

20 JAN - Joint Chapters Meeting - Drones

3 FEB - Joint Chapters Board Mtng

17 FEB - Joint Chapters Meeting - Ukraine Russia War

3 MAR - Joint Chapters Board Mtng

17 MAR - Joint Chapters Meeting - TRICARE Update

7 APR - Joint Chapters Board Mtng

21 APR - Joint Chapters Meeting - ROTC Update

5 MAY - Joint Chapters Board Mtng

19 MAY - Joint Chapters Meeting - AI as a Class of Potentially Disruptive Technologies

Until further notice, Board Meetings will be held virtually by Zoom at 1900 hrs on the first Tuesday of the month, and Membership Meetings in person, at Lariat Steakhouse, 2232 W. Glen Ave., Peoria, IL 61614, on the third Tuesday of the month at 1800hrs. (Zoom available to those who can't attend in person.)



### *Remote Zoom Meeting Instructions*

To join the meeting online from home, click on link below.:

Meeting ID: 863 9521 9434

Passcode: 123123

For those without internet:

Audio only: 1-312-626-6799 or 1-309-205-3325

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86395219434?pwd=EC5FZ38F9zQcgKpbvLRWXMtRpWOlx7.1>

### **JAN Meeting Program**

We are fortunate to have found a local expert in Cyber warfare who is able to be with us, and enlighten us about this new field of warfare.

Apologies for the short response notice, about the upcoming meeting 20 Jan 26, and hope you can join us either in person, or virtually that evening. In the latter case, utilize the contact information above.

### **TAPS**

### **None to Report**

### ***JAN Meeting Guest Speaker***

CPT John Thomas, ILARNG

CPT Thomas is the OIC of the 176th Cyber Protection Team, headquartered out of Bloomington, IL.

That is a small team (about 30 personnel), who are cyber experts, trained in Cyber protection of networks.

He is also a Senior Engineer with Edward Jones.

(Our Thanks goes to LTC Justin Wilkerson, who made the contact and arrangements for this timely program!)

### **Dinner Menu for 20 JAN**

**BBQ Baby Back Ribs: 1/2 Rack \$28/**

**Full Rack: \$36**

**Chopped Sirloin: \$27**

**Pork Chop: \$35**

**Prime Rib: Petite \$35 Regular \$40**

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### ***Legislative Report***

The Military Coalition, a coalition of 33 of the leading veterans and uniformed services organizations that represent more than 5.5 million members, organized the press conference to demand an end to the government shutdown. The shutdown has been devastating for the nation's military readiness and for the veterans, service members, families and survivors in the uniformed services community.

Veterans who receive disability and GI Bill benefits and survivors who rely on survivor benefits don't know if they'll get their next check. National Guard and Reserve monthly training has been cancelled, affecting critical troop readiness and pay. Many services that military families count on daily are suspended. Veterans make up 27 percent of the federal workforce and don't know when they will get to go back to work. The 435,000 veterans in the VA disability claims backlog have to wait even longer.

Members are urged to help build on the momentum of this crisis by reaching out to their representatives in Congress and demanding action to end the government shutdown now. Despite that retirees still get paid, we owe it to our brethren to work for those that don't!

**Reginald Bernard, LTC USA Ret - Acting Legislative Chair**



### **New TRICARE Contact**

Here's how to keep receiving important TRICARE news and information!

- Add: [tricare@news.dha.mil](mailto:tricare@news.dha.mil) to your address book or safe sender list.
- Resubscribe through the new email platform. A link to resubscribe will be available on: [tricare.mil/subscriptions](http://tricare.mil/subscriptions) soon.



### **CIROA-HOIMOAA Committee Assignments:**



#### ***ROTC/JROTC***

**LTC Reginald Bernard, USA, Chair**

**LTC Steve Krippel, USA, ISU/IWU/Bradley U AROTC OIC; MAJ Paul Baumgartner, USA Asst. PMS**

**SGM David Merritt, Pekin HS AJROTC**

**1SG Holly Donald Peoria Manual Academy (HS) AJROTC**

**1Sgt Shawn Martin, Richwoods CHS MCJROTC**

**(Monthly Reports Requested)**

**NEWSLETTER: MAJ Jerry Jackson, USA**

**ESGR: LTC Dick Franzen, USA**

**Historian: Vacant**

**MEMBERSHIP: LTC Reginald Bernard (Acting)**

**PROGRAMS & Website: CAPT Bob Yonker, USN**

**LEGISLATION: LTC Reginald Bernard, USA (Acting)**

**PUBLICITY/Photos Vacant**

### **To Update DEERS**



**Call: 1-800-538-9552**

**FAX address changes To DEERS at: 1-831-655-8317**

**Mail address Changes to: Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office Attn: COA, 400 Giggling Rd, Seaside, CA 93955-6771**


**To Update TRICARE: Update addresses online: [www.tricare.osd.mil/DEERS](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/DEERS)**

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**&**  
**Heart of IL Chapter IL09**  
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## About The PrairieLand Bulletin

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MAJ Jerry D. Jackson, USA Ret, Editor/Publisher.

ROA Charter from the Congress (SEC190102)

"the purposes of the corporation are to support the development and exercise of a military policy for the United States that will provide adequate national security. ROA was for a long time the exclusive military organization created by Congress to advise Congress on military matters, with the more recent addition of MOAA., formerly known as TROA.

**Notice of Disclaimer**

Publication of articles written by individual members of ROA, CH33 and MOAA CH09 does not necessarily reflect the opinions and/or views of the chapters, or the national organizations.

Publication does not constitute an endorsement of views expressed.

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