



**MILITARY & VETERAN  
ORGANIZATION  
TASK FORCE**  
ADVANCING THE MILITARY COMMUNITY

# MVO TASK FORCE CONNECT

Volume 27, February 2026



Building  
partnerships



Supporting our  
Veteran Business Owners



Identifying training  
opportunities



Creating valuable  
networking relationships



## IN THIS ISSUE: NEW MVO TASK FORCE MEMBERS



LEGAL HELP FOR VETERANS, PLLC



VETERANS  
RADIO

FEATURED MVO TASK  
FORCE MEMBER



GLOBAL  
CHAMBER®

Continuing  
Keith King's Legacy:  
"When corporations  
partner with Veteran-  
owned businesses,  
everyone wins."

## Welcome to the MVO Task Force Connect!

This edition is dedicated to our **Founder and CEO, Keith King**—a man who lived life to the fullest while embracing his greatest passions: his family, the National Veteran Business Development Council, and his unwavering dedication and loyalty to our military Veterans.

From the day he raised his right hand and enlisted in the armed forces, through his service in Vietnam, and into the present, Keith never stopped fighting or giving 100%. He was driven by a singular mission: to ensure a better life by creating meaningful opportunities and carving pathways for Service-Disabled and Veteran-Owned Businesses (SD/VOBs) to succeed. His perseverance was legendary. Keith was truly a force of nature, and there will never be anyone like him.

I am truly honored to have known Keith. His guidance and mentorship saved me in many ways, and I am forever grateful. Keith played a pivotal role in the outstanding success of the MVO Task Force, due in large part to his continuous belief in all that we do and have done. None of this would have been possible without his support.

As 2026 moves forward, the MVO Task Force continues to expand. Now more than 90 organizations strong, we are proud to welcome Legal Help For Veterans and Veterans Radio into the fold.

**Legal Help For Veterans** serves those who have served by providing experienced, compassionate, and results-driven legal advocacy for Veterans navigating the VA disability benefits process.

**Veterans Radio** is dedicated to giving Veterans a voice by advocating for their needs, educating communities, and amplifying the voices and stories of those who have served. Through meaningful storytelling, insightful interviews, and weekly conversations, Veterans Radio helps preserve the freedoms enjoyed by all.

On February 5, 2026, NVBDC's Services Committee will host the **Unlocking Global Opportunities Resource Webinar featuring the Global Chamber**. This is a must-attend event for SD/VOBs interested in expanding internationally. Attendees will meet the Global Chamber—an organization that serves as a gateway to thousands of businesses worldwide—providing connections and resources to support your global growth journey.

Together, we can achieve more for America's Heroes.

**LTC (Ret) Kathryn M. Poynton**  
Director, Military & Veteran Organization (MVO) Task Force  
NVBDC Board of Directors

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★★★★ In Memoriam ★★★★★



## Keith King

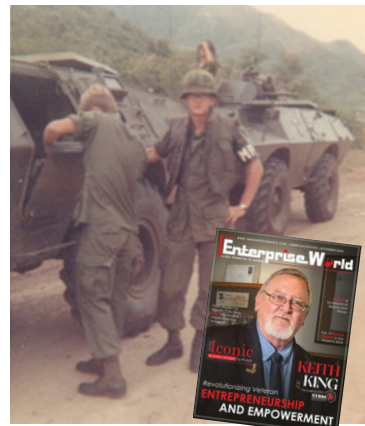
Founder & CEO, National Veteran Business Development Council (NVBDC)

NVBDC mourns the passing of its Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Keith King—a Vietnam Veteran, tireless advocate for Veterans, and visionary leader whose life's work transformed opportunities for Veterans and their businesses nationwide and around the world.

Keith believed that empowering Veterans went beyond job placement and extended to long-term economic stability through entrepreneurship:

“NVBDC views entrepreneurship as another form of employment and believes that helping our Veterans succeed in business helps them, their families, and the communities in which they reside.”

**Keith's journey began with his service in the U.S. Army.** In 1969, he enlisted and completed Military Police Advanced Training before being deployed to Vietnam, where he served as a Specialist E-4 and M-60 machine gunner with the military police in the Central Highlands—protecting ammunition convoys along dangerous routes in support of American troops. He received multiple service medals, including the Vietnam Service Medal with two bronze stars, the Vietnam Campaign ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, and the National Defense Medal, before being honorably discharged.



legislative experience, adjudicating thousands of VA claims and successfully lobbying for laws to benefit Veterans. He served in leadership roles at every level—nationally, statewide, and locally—helping Veterans transition back into civilian life and access the support and opportunities they deserved.

Inside NVBDC, Keith was more than a founder—

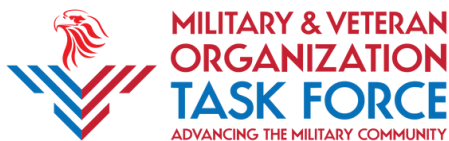
he was the heart of the organization's mission. He cultivated a culture of integrity, service, and purpose that drew people together as a community committed to empowering Veteran entrepreneurs. He mentored staff, cultivated leaders, and inspired those around him to expand their vision and deepen their impact. Many who worked alongside Keith credit him not only with

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His commitment to service did not end with his uniform. Over more than four decades, Keith became a national leader in Veteran advocacy, with deep

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their professional growth, but with shaping their values, strengthening their confidence, and reinforcing their commitment to service and community.



One of Keith's most intentional and enduring visions was the creation of the **NVBDC Military & Veteran Organization (MVO) Task Force**, a military and Veteran community built to empower Service-Disabled and Veteran-Owned Businesses (SD/VOBs), connect them with trusted resources, and provide access to synergistic opportunities across the greater military and Veteran ecosystem.



*Keith King and Kathryn Poynton, Director, MVO Task Force.*



*Keith King and Annette Stevenson, Board of Directors.*

**Keith understood that meaningful engagement with SD/VOBs could not be achieved through traditional channels alone.** It required authentic relationships and deep trust within the military and Veteran community. With that insight, the MVO Task Force was designed to unite leading military and Veteran organizations, creating pathways for SD/VOBs within communities and networks that NVBDC would not have otherwise been able to reach.

The Task Force stands as a powerful example of Keith's ability to see gaps, build bridges, and turn vision into lasting impact, a mission that the current team is deeply committed to carrying forward.



*Keith King and the NVBDC team in South Carolina at Nationals.*

Another of Keith's enduring contributions was **positioning NVBDC for a global future.** He cemented its international standing by advancing initiatives that opened new pathways to global markets, formally solidified through NVBDC's public agreement with the **International Trade Administration (ITA)**—a milestone that unified the organization and reinforced its role on the international stage through the MVO Task Force.



*Public signing of the agreement between NVBDC Founder & CEO Keith King and ITA Deputy Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Field Kende Yamaguchi.*

Keith's impact extended far beyond the walls of NVBDC. In 2013, recognizing a critical gap in the support available to Veteran-owned businesses, he made the difficult decision to suspend his successful business and focus on building a certification organization that corporate America would respect and trust. With the help of Veteran leaders and corporate partners, **he developed and launched the nation's first third-party certification program for SD/VOBs.** This platform has opened doors to corporate and government supply chains and market opportunities worth billions.

**Under Keith's leadership, NVBDC grew into the leading certifier of SD/VOBs in the country,** built on rigor, credibility, and mutual trust between Veteran businesses and corporate supply chains. Through his efforts, thousands of Veteran entrepreneurs so far have gained access, recognition, and opportunity—transforming businesses, families, and communities.

What set Keith apart was his unwavering belief in the people he served. He listened deeply, showed up when it mattered most, and encouraged others to believe in themselves even before they recognized their own potential. His influence reached Veterans, families, corporate leaders, government officials, policymakers, and community partners alike, leaving a lasting imprint wherever he went.

Keith King's legacy lives on through the people he mentored, the institution he built, and the many lives he changed. NVBDC reflects his vision, but his true legacy is found in the confidence he instilled, the opportunities he created, and the futures he helped secure for our nation's heroes.

**We extend our deepest condolences to Keith's family, friends, colleagues, corporate members, partners, and the global Veteran business community as we mourn his passing.** While he is no longer with us, his mission endures—in NVBDC, in every certified Veteran-owned business, and in the countless lives he touched.



Those wishing to honor Keith's memory may donate to Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs, an organization that supports Veterans and individuals with medical needs through trained service dogs:  
[medicalservicedogs.org/general-donations](https://medicalservicedogs.org/general-donations)

**LEGAL HELP FOR VETERANS & VETERANS RADIO**

Volume 27, February 2026



**JIM FAUSONE,**  
LEGAL COUNCIL AT LEGAL HELP  
FOR VETERANS AND DIRECTOR OF  
VETERANS RADIO



**LEARN MORE**



**JIM FAUSONE: ADVOCATING FOR VETERANS THROUGH LAW AND MEDIA**

For many Veterans, the battles continue after service—navigating complex benefits systems, understanding their rights, and finding trustworthy information that reflects their lived experiences. **Jim Fausone** has dedicated his career to addressing those challenges through two separate organizations—**Legal Help For Veterans** and **Veterans Radio**—each serving Veterans in a distinct but equally important capacity.

Fausone is a Veterans disability attorney and former service member, bringing firsthand perspective to the challenges Veterans face after leaving the service. Across his work, Fausone is grounded in a clear understanding of where Veterans most often encounter barriers. A denied VA disability claim can halt progress, even when a condition is clearly service connected. At the same time, misinformation or limited access to credible resources can prevent Veterans from fully understanding their options. Through legal advocacy and Veteran-focused media, Fausone works to address these gaps from different angles.

**Legal Help For Veterans: Navigating the VA Disability System**

Based in Northville, Michigan, Legal Help For Veterans is dedicated solely to representing Veterans in VA disability matters. As partner and owner, Fausone leads a national practice that assists Veterans from all branches with new claims, appeals, and requests for increased disability ratings—often after a Veteran has already received a denial from the VA.

**“Many Veterans are denied not because they’re ineligible, but because critical evidence was never fully developed,” Fausone explained.**

The firm’s work begins with a detailed review of military service records and medical documentation to identify service connections that may have been overlooked or undervalued. When records are incomplete or unavailable, the team works directly with Veterans, spouses, and fellow service members to develop supporting evidence. This can include medical opinions and “buddy statements” that help demonstrate how a condition originated during service and how it continues to affect daily life.

Legal Help For Veterans’ multidisciplinary team includes attorneys, paralegals, nurses, and support staff who understand both the legal and medical dimensions of VA disability claims.

**This experience allows the firm to translate a Veteran’s lived experience into the precise documentation and language required by the VA**—reducing confusion and administrative burden for Veterans and their families.

**For more than 25 years, the firm has helped thousands of Veterans secure millions of dollars in compensation.** What began as assistance for a single Veteran friend has grown into a national practice managing thousands of active claims. Despite that growth, the firm’s mission remains focused on ensuring that Veterans with service-connected conditions receive fair and accurate benefits.

Education is also a core component of the firm’s work. **Legal Help For Veterans provides more than 20 free eBooks** covering topics such as hearing loss, orthopedic conditions, caregiver rights, Aid & Attendance, the PACT Act, and property tax benefits. These resources are designed to help Veterans and families better understand the VA system—whether or not they ultimately pursue legal representation.



**A few of the many eBooks offered by Legal Help For Veterans**

As Fausone often emphasizes, **“Veterans protected us through their service, and it’s our responsibility to protect their rights when they come home.”**

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**LEGAL HELP FOR VETERANS & VETERANS RADIO**



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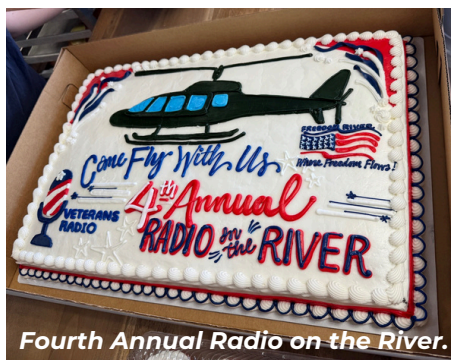


Radio Hosts Jim and Dale in the studio.

**Veterans Radio: Veteran-Centered Information and Storytelling**

Separate from his legal work, Fausone also serves as director of Veterans Radio, a long-running broadcast platform based in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Veterans Radio was created to address a different challenge facing the Veteran community: the lack of accurate, Veteran-focused coverage in mainstream media.

Veterans Radio produces weekly programming distributed across AM/FM radio in Michigan and California, online streaming, and podcast platforms. **Alongside host Dale Throneberry, a Vietnam Veteran and the show's founder, Fausone helps guide conversations that reflect the breadth of the Veteran experience.** Topics include military service and transition, benefits navigation, health care access, housing insecurity, Veteran-owned businesses, and military history.



Fourth Annual Radio on the River.

**Tune In to Veterans Radio**

Veterans Radio full episodes are available online and via most major podcast platforms, or you can listen live on AM/FM affiliate stations **WAAM 1600 AM/92.7 FM** (Sundays at 5 p.m. ET), **92.7 FM The Answer/WDTK 1400** (Saturdays at 12 p.m. ET and Sundays at 5 p.m. ET), and **KMET 1490 AM/98.1 FM** (Mondays at 12 p.m. ET). Full episodes, live streams, and current broadcast schedules are available at [VeteransRadio.org](http://VeteransRadio.org).

A defining principle of Veterans Radio is education over opinion. The program regularly features military authors, historians, nonprofit leaders, and subject-matter experts who can explain complex or underreported issues—such as PTSD, traumatic brain injury, or benefits eligibility—in a clear, accessible way. The goal is to provide Veterans with information they can trust, without political framing or commentary.

With more than two decades on the air, Veterans Radio has earned a reputation as a trusted voice within the Veteran community. In 2024, the organization was recognized as NVBDC Media Partner of the Year, reflecting its sustained commitment to accurate reporting and meaningful Veteran engagement.

**Two Roles, One Commitment**

Together, Legal Help For Veterans and Veterans Radio reflect Fausone's long-standing commitment to the Veteran community.

**Through these distinct roles, Fausone contributes to the Veteran ecosystem in complementary ways—supporting Veterans as individuals navigating complex systems and as a community seeking visibility, understanding, and reliable information.**



Radio on the River Live Event.



**Request Legal Assistance**

Veterans seeking support with VA disability claims—or looking for educational resources and free eBooks on VA benefits, caregiver rights, the PACT Act, and more—can visit [LegalHelpForVeterans.com](http://LegalHelpForVeterans.com). To speak with the Legal Help For Veterans team, call **1-800-693-4800**.

LEARN MORE



JOIN NOW





**JOHN OLESON,  
APPOINTED INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
OFFICER, NVBDC**

Oleson brings decades of executive leadership and a deep commitment to Veteran entrepreneurship.

A U.S. Air Force Veteran and retired Lieutenant Colonel, Oleson's career spans military service, senior leadership roles at enterprise organizations, and ongoing strategic advisory work across healthcare, technology, and professional services.

**LEARN MORE**

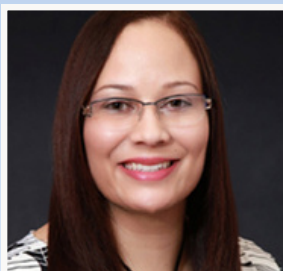


## NATIONAL VETERAN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL ANNOUNCES INTERIM CEO AND STRATEGIC PATH FORWARD

The Board of Directors of the National Veteran Business Development Council (NVBDC) announced the appointment of **John Oleson as interim chief executive officer**, reaffirming the organization's commitment to stability, growth, and mission continuity, following the passing of Founder and CEO, Keith King.

Oleson, a Vietnam-era U.S. Air Force Veteran, longtime NVBDC leader, and accomplished entrepreneur with extensive corporate and federal contracting experience, will lead NVBDC into its next chapter.

**In addition, NVBDC has strengthened its leadership and governance structure with the following interim leadership appointments:** Tammi Hart has been appointed interim senior vice president, and Robert B. Middleton II will continue to serve as treasurer. The Board of Directors will be led by Interim Chair Jim Cowper and Interim Vice Chair Jeff Copek, with the addition of newly appointed board member David Brazda. Existing board members remain Kathryn Poynton, Sid Taylor, John E. Taylor, and Annette Stevenson.



**TAMMI HART, APPOINTED  
INTERIM SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT**



**JIM COWPER, APPOINTED  
INTERIM BOARD CHAIR**



**JEFF COPEK, APPOINTED INTERIM  
BOARD VICE CHAIR**



**DAVID BRAZDA, APPOINTED  
TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Under Oleson's leadership, NVBDC is advancing a growth-focused strategy centered on strong governance, global expansion of its certification platform, and increased economic impact for Veteran-owned businesses. **Key initiatives include the expansion of International Certification and Export programs and deeper collaboration with federal and global partners** to support Veteran participation in corporate and government supply chains worldwide.

The Board remains unified behind this strategic direction, **emphasizing long-term opportunity, global reach, and continued mission alignment.** NVBDC is focused on honoring its legacy while building expanded pathways for service-disabled and Veteran-owned businesses to access corporate and government procurement opportunities.

The Board also expressed its sincere appreciation to **Brigadier General (Ret) Dick Miller and Darrol Brown** at the conclusion of their tenure, for their years of dedicated service and leadership with NVBDC. Their contributions helped build a strong foundation for the organization's continued growth as NVBDC moves forward under its current leadership.



Attendees will gain practical insight into how Veteran-owned businesses can prepare for global opportunities, leverage international networks, and explore exporting, partnerships, and global sourcing—without the noise of a sales pitch.

UNLOCKING GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES: NVBDC RESOURCE WEBINAR FEATURING GLOBAL CHAMBER

The National Veteran Business Development Council (NVBDC) continues its Resource Webinar Series on February 5 with a timely session designed to help Veteran-owned businesses move from certification to growth—this time with a global lens: Unlocking Global Opportunities with the Global Chamber.

Global Chamber is a global business platform spanning 605+ chapters across 195 countries. Global Chamber connects growth-oriented organizations to international clients, investors, partners, and resources, making cross-border business more intentional, trusted, and accessible.

Who should attend: NVBDC-certified businesses, Veteran entrepreneurs, and corporate members interested in globally capable Veteran suppliers.



Scan to Take the Three-Minute Survey:



HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF CONNECT

The MVO Task Force Connect newsletter is designed to support Veterans, military families, and the organizations that serve them—and your input helps keep it relevant.

Please take our three-minute anonymous survey to share what content you find most valuable and how we can improve. Your feedback will guide future topics, format, and featured resources.

Have a say in what Connect becomes next:



LEARN MORE



## UPCOMING EVENTS & HAPPENINGS\*

[VISIT OUR EVENTS PAGE HERE](#)

\*LISTED ARE UPCOMING EVENTS KNOWN AT TIME OF PUBLICATION. ADDITIONAL EVENTS ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE.

# FEBRUARY

**2: Helping Hands Therapeutic Horticulture Workshop**  
CTLDomGroup, Inc.

**3: Transition Circles – Financial Readiness Series: Guide to Markets**  
Meritorious

**Small Business Start-Up Orientation**  
VetBizCentral

**4: HRVCC Conroe FOB Networking Mixer**  
Houston Regional Veterans CoC

**5: Unlocking Global Opportunities Webinar Featuring the Global Chamber**  
NVBDC

**7: 2026 Women's Volleyball Winter ID Clinic**  
Central Penn College

**10: HRVCC & Cup of JoeY Networking Event**  
Houston Regional Veterans CoC

**10: Contracts & Coffee: Intro to Contracting**  
VetBizCentral

**PTA Visit Day**  
Central Penn College

**9-11: IWEC Foundation 18th Annual Conference**  
The International Women's Entrepreneurial Challenge Foundation (IWEC Foundation)

**11: QX Convos**  
Five and Thrive

**12: Boots to Business: Selfridge ANGB**  
VetBizCentral

**14: Valentine Candle Making Experience**  
Veterans Growing America

**17: Contracts and Coffee: Obtain Your VOSB/SDVOSB Certification Pt. 2**  
VetBizCentral

**17: Transition Circles – Financial Readiness Series: Prospering Through Downturns**  
Meritorious

**18: Business & Bullets Chamber Circle**  
DFW Veterans Chamber of Commerce

**18-19: 5th Annual Global Chamber Semiconductor Summit**  
Global Chamber

**19: Meridian Vet-Working (The OG)**  
Veteran Entrepreneur Alliance

**Veterans Connect**  
Veterans Growing America

**Boots to Business/Reboot Course – NIIC**  
VetBizCentral

**21: Alumni Hershey Bears Game**  
Central Penn College



# MARCH

**3: Transition Circles – Financial Readiness Series: Your Money Story**  
Meritorious

**6: 18th Annual Warrior Benefit Sporting Clay Tournament**  
Houston Regional Veterans CoC

**10: HRVCC & Cup of JoeY Networking Event**  
Houston Regional Veterans CoC

**12: Boots to Business/Reboot Course**  
VetBizCentral

**18: Business & Bullets Chamber Circle**  
DFW Veterans Chamber of Commerce

**19: Meridian Vet-Working (The OG)**  
Veteran Entrepreneur Alliance

**21: Spring Open House**  
Central Penn College

**2026 Spring Women's Soccer ID Clinic**  
Central Penn College

**22-24: 2026 State Presidents & Legislative Workshops**  
EANGUS

**24-26: RES 2026 Annual Conference**  
NCAIED  
\*NVBDC Attending

**31: Transition Circles – Financial Readiness Series: Psychology of Investing**  
Meritorious



DO YOU HAVE NEWS TO SHARE, OR ARE YOU INTERESTED IN FEATURING YOUR ORGANIZATION IN A FUTURE ISSUE? WE WELCOME YOUR UPDATES AND INTEREST. PLEASE CONNECT WITH MVD TASK FORCE DIRECTOR LTC (RET) KATHRYN M. POYNTON • KPOYNTON@NVBDC.ORG • 703-282-6862

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# UPCOMING EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

**2026 NVBDC JROTC Fundraising Golf Classic**  
**PAINT CREEK COUNTRY CLUB**  
**TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 2026**  
 REGISTER AT: [NVBDC.ORG/EVENTS](http://NVBDC.ORG/EVENTS)

**COME MEET THE NVBDC TEAM**

**RES26 CONFERENCE**  
 RISING TOGETHER

NVBDC IS PROUD TO ATTEND RES 2026 THE PREMIER SUMMIT FOR HIGH-CALIBER NETWORKING, TEAMING OPPORTUNITIES, AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT.

**10 YEARS STRONG NVBDC CERTIFICATION** | **THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR VETERAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

**KATHY POYNTON**  
 BOARD MEMBER AND DIRECTOR OF THE MVO TASK FORCE

**ANNETTE STEVENSON**  
 BOARD MEMBER

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**23 / 26 MARCH 2026**

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**12 PM - 1 PM EST**  
**VIRTUAL & FREE**

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**6-8PM**

**CUP OF JOEY**

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Register: <https://go.hrvc.org/CupofJoeY>

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**Featured Speaker**

**Guy Timberlake**  
 Face and voice of The American Small Business Coalition (The ASBC)

**VETERANS CONNECT**

Thursday, February 19th  
**6:00 PM EST**  
 14901 Potomac Town Place,  
 Woodbridge, VA 22191

**Why attend:**

- Network with veterans, military spouses, and professionals who share your values and vision.
- Discover business, education, and employment opportunities tailored for the military-connected community.

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