Tampa AFA at MIC 2026: Good People, Great Conversations

Military Influencer Conference | September 23–26, 2026 | JW Marriott Tampa Water Street

Put veterans, military spouses, service members, entrepreneurs, and community advocates in the same room, and you're going to have some good conversations. Give them four days together in Tampa, and there's plenty to talk about afterward.

That was the spirit of the 10th annual Military Influencer Conference. Presented by USAA, MIC 2026 brought the military community together to share ideas, explore opportunities, and make connections. For Tampa AFA, it was also a chance to bring our local voice to a national gathering.

Our Own Behind the Mic

If there was a conversation worth having, Joe Muhlberger was ready to help get it started.

Joe and Veterans Corner Radio represented Tampa AFA at Podcast Alley, connecting with guests and sharing stories from across the military community. Those conversations helped bring the conference to people who couldn't be there in person.

Thanks, Joe, for representing the chapter and keeping our community informed. We're glad you were behind the mic.

Plenty to Take In

The conference offered something for nearly every stage of military life, from navigating transition and finding a new career to starting a business and supporting a military family.

Highlights included a fireside chat with the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman and "Honor Delayed," a conversation featuring Medal of Honor recipient Maj. James Capers Jr. and attorney Ben Crump. Sessions also addressed mental health, suicide prevention, government contracting, and military spouse employment.

The *Old Glory Ultra Relay* documentary screening and panel, Women of MIC Brunch, and military spouse programming added more opportunities to hear different perspectives and connect.

Between sessions, attendees could explore the MIC Marketplace, meet employers at the Lockheed Martin-sponsored hiring fair, visit VA Claims Clinics and Medical Evidence Consultations, or stop by the Authors' Corner presented by Black Rifle Coffee Company.

The biggest scheduling challenge? Deciding where to go next.

A Health Care Conversation Worth Having

CareSource Military & Veterans helped support the opening General Session and the Women of MIC Brunch. Their team includes veterans and military spouses who understand why these conversations matter to our community.

For our retirees and families, there's another reason to get acquainted. CareSource administers the **TRICARE Prime Demo**, an additional health care option for eligible beneficiaries in the Tampa service area. Eligibility depends on your beneficiary status and where you live. You can check the program's eligibility information here.

CareSource Military & Veterans is scheduled to join us in Tampa this November to share more and answer questions. Bring your questions about eligibility, providers, and how the program works for your family. We'll share the date, location, and registration details through chapter updates.

Let's Do It Again

MIC returns to Tampa **September 22–25, 2027**.

If you missed this year, put next year on your calendar. Come for the sessions, make time for the conversations, and see who you meet along the way. We'd love to have more Tampa AFA members in the room.