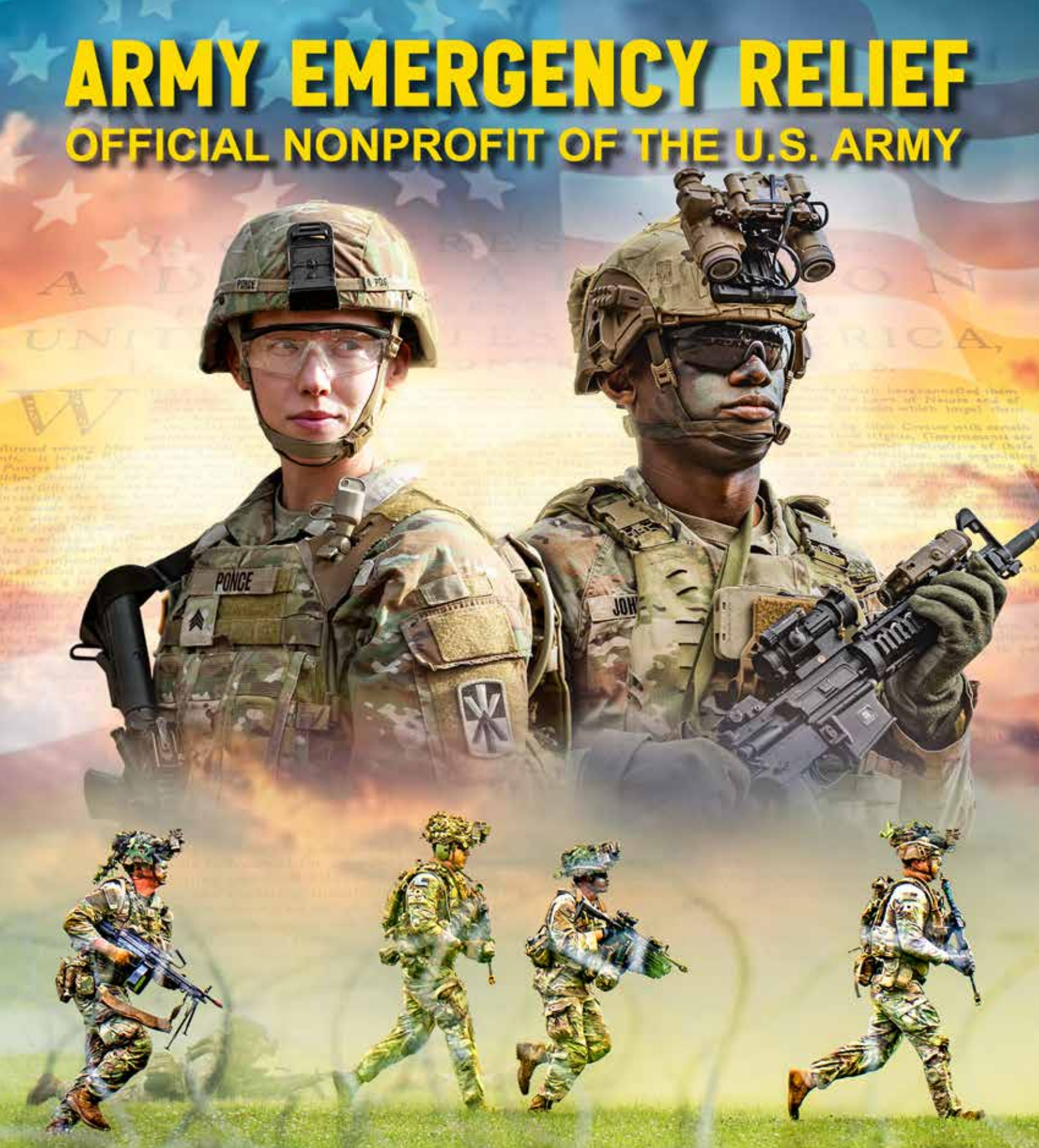
ARMY EMERGENCY RELIEF

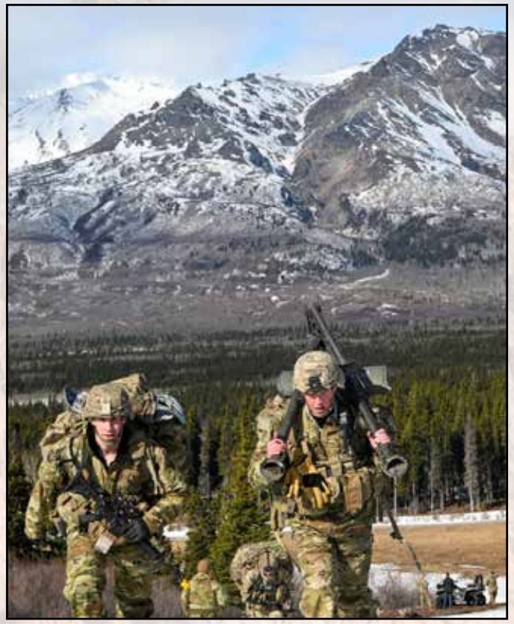
OFFICIAL NONPROFIT OF THE U.S. ARMY



IMPACT REPORT

AER's Purpose

Supporting the well-being of Soldiers, retired Soldiers and families by helping alleviate financial stress and promoting economic stability.



AER is part of the U.S. Army

AER was estabished Feb. 5, 1942, and is governed by Army Regulation 930-4: Service Organizations. Its board members include the Vice Chief of Staff, Sergeant Major of the Army, retired senior officers and active-duty leaders from commands worldwide, and industry leaders.

Gary Brito
General, U.S. Army Retired
AER Chairman

Tony Grinston
SMA, U.S. Army Retired
AER CEO

GEN Christopher LaNeve
Army Vice Chief of Staff
AER Board of Directors

SMA Michael Weimer
Sergeant Major of the Army
AER Executive Committee

Assistance by the Numbers

- **Helped support over 31,000 Soldiers, retired Soldiers and their families with financial assistance**
- **Over 2,800 Soldiers received assistance for emergency leave and another more than 1,000 for emergency travel**
- **Over 18,000 Soldiers applied and received zero-interest loans**
- **Over 7,400 Soldiers were awarded grants -- highest in AER history**

Five Areas of Support

CARE DURING A CRISIS
emergency travel
funeral expenses
disaster assistance
safe travel from domestic violence
critical life events

HEALTH & WELLNESS
dental care
special-needs medical equipment
non-medical attendant travel
cranial helmets
Wounded Warrior support

SUPPORTING FAMILIES
childcare
paternity leave
immigration fees

BASIC NEEDS & HOUSING
PCS moves
food
housing
utilities
vehicle repairs
clothing
minor home repairs
appliance repair/replacement

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
spouse relicensing
recertifications
Career Skills Program support

Health and Wellness

AER assisted hundreds of active and retired Soldiers and their families with special needs and medical equipment.

Families generally enjoy strong medical benefits, but there are occasions when specialized medical equipment for dependents may not be covered. AER provides items such as cranial helmets, heavy blankets, room modifications, communication aids, wheeled mobility aids and others to those in need.

AER clearly recognizes items are costly and often does not fit into monthly budgets -- which is why most are offered as grants.

Army family can breath easier

Seven-year-old Asher, whose father is an Army recruiter, was diagnosed with a serious medical condition in early 2023. He needed a portable oxygen concentrator that provides continuous supplemental oxygen. Medical insurance only covered this requirement for adults, leaving the family to pay out-of-pocket. The cost, well over $5,000, was a large sum for the family and needed for his survival.

AER was able to step in and provide a grant, easing the family's financial burden. Today, Asher continues to need supplemental medical help, but he is a very strong-willed child who defies the odds. Army Emergency Relief was honored to help this family that protects Americans daily.

Workforce Development

Last year, AER awarded over 2,600 children and spouses with scholarships for higher education and professional certifications.

Ursano Scholarship This scholarship was established to award authorized dependents as they work toward their first undergraduate degrees. AER historically awards more than 1,600 dependent scholarships annually.

Shinseki Scholarship This scholarship assisted nearly 1,000 Army spouses with their undergraduate degree or certifications last year.

Trefry Scholarship The LTG Trefry Scholarship selects a few exceptional students from a competitive pool of applications for $5,000 awards.

"I truly appreciate the scholarship. It makes a significant difference in my ability to focus on coursework and not have to worry about working more hours or taking out student loans."

Tamia Morgan
Shinseki recipient

"Receipt of this scholarship has not only alleviated the financial burden of pursuing my education, but has motivated me to work harder and strive for excellence in my academic endeavor. This support has allowed me to focus more on my studies and engage in extracurricular activities that will contribute to my personal and professional growth."

Cole Hofstad
Ursano recipient

AER's CSSP assisted over 11,000 Soldiers since 2022

The Army Career Skills Program is a component of the Transition Soldier Life Cycle model that encourages Soldiers to capitalize on training and development opportunities throughout their military careers. CSPs provide Soldiers opportunities to participate in career and employment skills training programs during their last 180 days of military service to improve employment options upon separations.

AER's Career Skills Support Program assists Soldiers (approved by their chains of command) with costs associated with lodging, all forms of travel, tools/supplies, initial rent/deposits, utility deposits and uniform/business attire.

Army Career Skills Program
Create Your Future

Care During a Crisis

Emergency travel brings families together

Last summer, SFC Donald Sooga's father passed after slipping into a coma. For Sooga, who is stationed at Fort Irwin, Califonia, the total cost of getting his entire family to Hawaii was outside their normal monthly budget. Sooga made the decision to contact AER for help with airfare, lodging, and a car rental.

Sooga was able to be by his father's side and to ultimately honor his father's wishes to quitely celebrate his life along with his siblings.

Last year, AER updated its policy by providing full grants for domestic flights up to $2,000 and up to $4,000 for overseas airfare. Sooga was just one of over 1,000 Soldiers, every year, who turn to AER for assistance when traveling on emergency leave.

"My father was everything to me," said Sooga. "To the people who give money to AER, I'd like to express my heartfelt gratitude, and thank you to each and everyone of you who donates to this amazing program."

Longtime supporter received help when he needed it most

When SSG Quentin Lee's mother was diagnosed with lung cancer, he realized his place was by her side and with the high price of airfare from Hawaii to St. Louis, Lee needed immediate assistance. As a noncommissioned officer, Lee had helped one of his Soldiers during their time of need. So, Lee was reminded of AER's emergency travel assistance.

Lee applied for assistance on AER's online portal and soon boarded a flight from Hawaii to St. Louis with his wife and two kids. It was there that he met up with his siblings, kept his mother company while in the hospital and shared fried fish and spaghetti, a St. Louis special. He watched his mother spend time with his 14-month-old daughter and he reconnected with family he seldom gets to see due to being stationed in Hawaii at the time.

"(AER) is essential for mission readiness," Lee said. "If we have Soldiers in financial stress who can't get home to see loved ones, that's going to decrease mission readiness."

Lee, who is now stationed at Fort Lee, Virginia, understands AER's crucial role and plans to share his personal journey to inform fellow Soldiers about the various donor-funded programs assisting Army families.

Lee's mother is well into recovery and is back to work at the Department of Veterans Affairs. Lee continues to be a strong supporter of AER Annual Campaigns.

" A lot of people don't know the benefits or the financial situations that (AER) is allowed to help with," Lee said. "So that's my mission."

Basic Needs & Housing

Taking care of the homefront is the mission

In 2025, AER assisted more than 18,300 Soldiers in this category with food, housing, utilities, car repairs, appliance repair or replacement, home repairs, clothing, and more.

This is AER's most utilized support area, with a majority of resources going to housing costs -- from rent deposits to furniture for first-time movers.

Soldiers and families rely on AER during short-term financial hardships, and the assistance helps relieve the added stress of managing a household.

So if you are in need, please reach out to AER at assistance@aerhq.org.

Supporting Families

AER assists newest members of the Army family

AER assists families with childcare expenses, including before/after-school care or care for an Exceptional Family Member (EFMP).

Assistance is needs-based and comes as either a grant or a grant paired with zero interest loans. They are approved in three-month increments per request.

Further support includes families with immigration and naturalization filing fees for dependents as eligible expenses. Support is covered as a grant, loan, or combination of both. Our grant policy also extends to funding airfare for parental leave travel or to get home for a birth or emergency. Check out our website or online application to see if you are covered.

Financial Statements

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
(As of Dec. 31, 2025)

ASSETS	Unaudited numbers
• Cash and cash equivalents	$ 35,964,708
• Receivables and prepaid expenses	2,018,565
• Investments	300,757,329
• Loans receivable net allowance for doubtful accounts	40,318,453
• Prepaid charges and other assets	753,586
• Software, office, computer equipment, net	758,948
Total assets	$ 380,571,589

LIABILITIES	
• Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	$ 1,928,051
Net assets	$ 378,643,538
Total liabilities and net assets	$ 380,571,589

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
(For the year ending Dec. 31, 2025)

REVENUES	Unaudited numbers
• Annual/Fund Campaign	$ 11,766,641
• Contributions — nonfinancial assets	664,561
• Special events revenue, net	67,113
Grant revenue	10,000,000
Investment return	31,558,668
Total revenue	$ 54,056,983

EXPENSES	
• Program expenses	$ 26,297,202
• Supporting services	
Management and general	2,360,224
Fundraising	1,546,540
Total expenses	$ 30,202,966
• Change in net assets	$ 23,854,017
• Beginning net assets	$ 354,789,521
Ending net assets	$ 378,643,538

PROGRAM EXPENSES

Direct support	$ 20,385,054
Overhead	5,912,148
	$ 26,297,202

Contributions revenue	$ 11,833,754
Supported from investment earnings	$ 14,463,448

AER is the U.S. Army's official nonprofit and a 501(c)(3). It relies entirely on charitable donations and receives zero federal funding.

ARMY EMERGENCY RELIEF

Follow us on social media

www.ArmyEmergencyRelief.org

Platinum Transparency 2025 Candid.

Charity Navigator FOUR-STAR