

RETIREE OFFICE NEWS – 171st ARW



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“Then join hand in hand, brave Americans all! By uniting we stand, by dividing we fall.” ~ John Dickinson

Email Addresses: If you would like to hear about upcoming retiree news and events, please provide your email address to Bonnie Kriberney at bjkriberney@msn.com. *There are approximately a dozen non-deliverable emails that are being returned. Don't forget to keep me informed, if you change your email address/provider.*

Retiree Lunch: 3rd **Monday** in January, April, July, and October

When: CY 2015 - **July 20th**, and October 19th

Where: Golden Corral, 900 Park Manor Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15205
(Near Mall at Robinson) (412) 788-1776

“Don't forget to ask for your military or senior discount!!!”

Time: 1100 hours

Guest Speakers: The Office of the Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans' Affairs will provide a briefing. One of the speakers is one of our own, Retired 171ARW, Lt Col Chico G. Ficerai.

Subject: “Awareness of Benefits available to Veterans and their Spouses”. Spouses are encouraged to attend. A highlight of the briefing is the recent big news on disability benefits available for Air Force Personnel Exposed to Contaminated C-123 Aircraft. There are so many Veterans and spouses who are not aware of the endless benefits available to them. Some include:

- Federal, State, and County veteran and spouse benefits
- Gulf War Bonus for PA residents who served
- Veteran and widow pensions

Come join the fun and catch up with old friends over a delicious lunch.

Hope to see you all at the next Retiree Luncheon on July 20th!

112th Reunion: The 112th Reunion was held on the 112th day (April 22, 2015). I wasn't available to attend, but heard there was great turn out, around 100 in attendance.

Retirements: Congratulations to our recent retirees who retired from January through June 2015. Please do not hesitate to contact the Retiree Office, if you need assistance.

Rank	Last Name	First Name	Retired
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JAN 2015

CMS	KING	MONICA	01-JAN-15
MSG	BIRD	CHRISTOPHER	30-JAN-15
MSG	DANIEL	KEVIN	20-JAN-15
MSG	GIFT	JON	11-JAN-15
MSG	KOSHUTE	JAMES	01-JAN-15
MSG	KRIGAR	FRANK	01-JAN-15
TSG	CARNEVALE	JOSEPH	12-JAN-15

FEB 2015

LTC	JACKSON	THOMAS	04-FEB-15
CMS	MCKEE	RICHARD	16-FEB-15
MSG	KUNDLY	MICHAEL	28-FEB-15
SSG	DESANTIS	ROBERT	26-FEB-15
SRA	STEPHENS	JOHN	28-FEB-15

MAR 2015

MSG	COSTELLO	WILLIAM	25-MAR-15
TSG	GREENAWALT	DAN	27-MAR-15
TSG	POTSKALSKI	ERIC	12-MAR-15
SSG	GLESSNER	JOSHUA	08-MAR-15

APR 2015

SMS	HONZA	PAUL	07-APR-15
MSG	BARR	STEVEN	01-APR-15
TSG	MANG	BYRON	30-APR-15
TSG	SQUICQUERO	THOMAS	07-APR-15

MAY 2015

SMS	DUNLAP	ROY	01-MAY-15
MSG	BROWN	CARDELL	04-MAY-15
TSG	LUCCI	GIACINTO	04-MAY-15

JUN 2015

SMS	MCBANE	JULIE	01-JUN-15
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Sympathies: We extend 'Our Deepest Sympathy' to the families and relatives of the following retirees who passed away. Please inform our office if you hear of the passing of one of our fellow 171st, 112th, or 258TH members. Click on each name to view the obituary.

MSgt James D. Hookey, Sr. – 15 Jan 2015 – Age 83 – 112TFG Munitions
<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/observer-reporter/obituary.aspx?pid=173882713>

CMSgt Chester "Chet" Cook – 06 Feb 15 – Age 67 – 171ARW
http://www.hastingsfuneralhome.com/tribute/details/2253/Chester_Dove_Cook/obituary.html

Col Donald W. Johnston – 17 Feb 15 – Age 90 – 147FS Pilot/ 171Airlift Gp Sq Commander
<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/postgazette/obituary.aspx?pid=174216990>

MSgt Richard "Dick" Davidson – 18 Feb 15 – Age 69 – 112TFG Munitions/171ARW Flight Line
<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/observer-reporter/obituary.aspx?pid=174198688>

Anthony "Tony" Thomas – 26 Mar 15 – Age 87 – Chief of Security for the State Guards
<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/observer-reporter/obituary.aspx?pid=174509935>

MSgt William J. Corso – 13 Apr 15 – Age 88 – PaANG, Pittsburgh
http://www.timesonline.com/community/obituaries/william-j-corso/article_eaae33fe-e22a-11e4-9541-bf26c02b6878.html

??? Richard Bronder – 17 May 15 – Age 88 – Base Supply
<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/postgazette/obituary.aspx?pid=174898319>

SMSgt Paul M. Matvey – 29 Jun 15 – Age 95 – 112TFG Base Supply
<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/postgazette/obituary.aspx?pid=175196382>

MSgt Donald J. Leach – 11 Jul 15 – Age ?? – 112TFG CAM Sq, Fabrication Shop
No obituary available

Affordable Care Act, your taxes and you (Defense Finance and Accounting Service):

Under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), all Americans including all military members (active duty, retired, Selected Reserve, or Retired Reserve) and their eligible family members must have health care coverage that meets a minimum standard called minimum essential coverage or pay a fee. Your TRICARE coverage meets the minimum essential coverage requirement under the ACA.

"The term "active duty" means full-time duty in the active service of a uniformed service for more than 30 consecutive days".

Beginning in January 2016, DFAS will provide IRS Form 1095-C to all U.S. military members, and IRS Form 1095-B to all Retirees, Annuitants, former spouses and all other individuals having TRICARE coverage during all or any portion of tax year 2015. An IRS Form 1095 documents you (and your family members, if applicable) have the minimum essential coverage. More information will be forthcoming about the delivery method of these forms.

These forms will document the information that DFAS will provide to the IRS on yourself and your authorized family members. The forms will be required to be reported with your 2015 federal tax return. DFAS will provide you with IRS Form 1095 series forms no later than Jan. 31, 2016.

You can find more information about the impact of the Affordable Care Act on your federal income tax at: <http://www.irs.gov/Affordable-Care-Act>.

You can act now to make sure your forms remain secure once they are available in late January 2016 by using myPay. If you do not have a myPay account, go to <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx> and follow the instructions under the left column for 'New User'. Look for the link to "Turn On/Off Hard Copy of IRS Form 1095" in your account and select Electronic Delivery Only. Your information will remain safe and secure until you need it. You will have the option to View, Print or Save your 1095 in PDF format. This will save you time in comparison to the U.S. Postal Service which will take approximately 7 - 10 business days for delivery.

MyPay protects against identity theft and is more secure than regular mail by allowing you to access your tax statements securely online. Finally, myPay matches the industry standards for the highest level of encryption and security to protect all myPay users.

If you have questions about logging into myPay and/or making changes to your electronic elections in myPay, contact the DFAS Centralized Customer Support Unit at 1-888-DFAS411 or 1-888-332-7411, Option 5.

Register Your Family in DEERS:

Not adding your family to Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) can affect their access to health care, submitted claim forms and now, your income tax reporting. This tax season, the Department of Defense (DoD) will report health care coverage of its service member and their dependents to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). This report allows the IRS to determine which families had minimum essential coverage as required by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). Those who have not met the MEC requirement will be required to pay a fee. For tax purposes, individuals and family members are identified by their Social Security Numbers (SSN), which must be correct in DEERS.

Some Helpful Links on Veteran Benefits:

Veteran Benefits Explained:

<http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/veterans-benefits-explained.html> - 1

State Veteran Benefits:

<http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/state-veterans-benefits-directory.html?comp=1199434130166&rank=10>

The Veterans Pension Program:

<http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/veterans-pensions.html?comp=1199434130166&rank=2>

Veteran Disability Compensation:

<http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/veteran-disability-compensation.html?comp=1199434130166&rank=9>

Social Security Overview:

<http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/social-security-overview.html?comp=1199434130166&rank=8>

Congress Passes Law Creating ID Card for Veterans:

Congress has approved the creation of a veterans' identification card, making it easier for veterans to prove military service without having to produce a military service record or some other valuable document.

Both House votes and the Senate vote were unanimous. The bill now heads to the White House where President Obama is expected to sign it.

Currently, individuals needing to prove military status routinely have to provide a DD-214, a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, to prove their status. Carrying your DD-214 around is difficult and impractical. It is large, delicate, old and quite brittle and thin. Having a permanent veteran ID card would be a much simpler way of proudly proving your veteran status. Among the states that currently issue veterans ID cards are Connecticut, **Pennsylvania**, Texas, North Carolina, Virginia and Michigan, which retailers and restaurants will accept when offering veterans' discounts. For information on how to get a Veteran ID Card, see below, or see the previous article in the March 2014 Retiree News.

For more details go to <http://www.military.com/daily-news/2015/07/08/congress-passes-law-creating-id-card-for-veterans.html>

How to get a Veteran ID Card or Veterans Designation on your Drivers License in Pennsylvania:

Go to your nearest Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Center or, Veterans holding a non-commercial driver's license or identification card can immediately apply for the designation by visiting <http://www.dot3.state.pa.us/militaryCenter/> by clicking on the American Flag at the lower center page, titled "VETERANS DESIGNATION". There is no fee for the Veteran's Designation; however, qualified applicants must pay any initial issuance, renewal or duplicate driver's license or ID fees. The Veterans Designation is an American Flag with the word "Veteran" under it. Once the Veterans Designation has been added to your license or ID, it will automatically appear each time your license or ID is renewed.

Please see the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Information document on the next page for eligibility.



Drivers License Designation Information Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA)

1. Applicants must have **received a discharge document**:
 - a. DD FORM 214
 - b. NGB FORM 22
 - c. Federal VA Medical ID Card (service connected)
 - d. Retired Military ID
 - e. In cases where a discharge document was not issued, please contact the DMVA at 1-800-547-2838

* The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs does not consider an Honorable Discharge Certificate to show official character of service, therefore, the DMVA requests additional documentation, such as those listed.
2. Applicants must have a character of service **under conditions other than dishonorable**:
 - a. Honorable (HD)
 - b. Under Honorable Conditions (UHC)
 - c. General (GD)
3. If applicants have any of the characters of service listed below, **the applicant DOES NOT qualify**:
 - a. Uncharacterized – **unless** service connected disability rating from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or Reservist on Active Duty for training
 - b. Under Other than Honorable Conditions (OTH)
 - c. Bad Conduct (BCD)
 - d. Dishonorable (DD)
4. Applicants **DO NOT qualify if they are on Active Duty AND DO NOT** have a discharge document under conditions listed in #2.
5. Applicants must **self-certify**. Only the applicant may check the Veterans Designation box.
6. The DMVA will audit submissions to verify Veteran status.
 - a. If the DMVA is **unable to verify** character of service, they **will request a copy of the applicants discharge documents**, as listed in #1, to be sent to the DMVA.

Questions? Please call 1-800-547-2838

DMVA Mailing Address: ODAG-VA, Bldg 0-47 FTIG, Annville, PA 17003-5002, ATTN: DLD
DMVA Fax: 1-717-861-8589
DMVA Email: RA-MVOUTREACH@PA.GOV

NOTICE - 2016 Retiree Luncheons – Proposed Date Change:

It has been suggested we consider changing the day of the week for the Quarterly Retiree Luncheon to Tuesday, because the PX and Commissary are closed on Mondays and also every other Monday is an off day for the 171ARW if a retiree needs to get a new ID, etc. We have all waited long for these benefits and don't want to lose them! So, to allow patronage to the PX and Commissary, the Retiree Office is planning to change the **2016 Quarterly Retiree Luncheon to the 3rd Tuesday** in January, April, July, and October. After we confirm the date change with the Golden Corral, the 2016 luncheon dates will be announced in the October Retiree News.

Please note, the **2015 Retiree Luncheons will remain on the 3rd Monday**, July 20th and October 19th.

Wright-Patterson AFB Pharmacy Prescription Pick-Up Program:

The Retiree Office currently coordinates a monthly pick-up of prescriptions from WPAFB Pharmacy for approximately 65 retirees and dependents. There are no costs for formulary medications and over-the-counter medications obtained from a Military Treatment Facility (MTF). You can check you medications by using the Tricare Formulary Search Tool online at http://pec.ha.osd.mil/fst/formulary_search_results.php. Please refer to the July 2014 Retiree News for more information on Tricare formulary and non-formulary medications.

- A yearly schedule is provided for prescriptions due dates, pick-up dates, and distribution dates.
- Prescriptions are distributed in the Retiree Office on the first Thursday of each month, unless it falls on a holiday it will be rescheduled.
- A donation of \$1 to \$2 for each prescription is requested to cover the cost of the prescription pick-up each month which includes:
 - Gas and Two Dinners (Two retirees to WPAFB, 500 miles round trip and pharmacy pick-up takes at least 12 hours)
- Retirees in the prescription program are required to take a turn driving to WPAFB Pharmacy for the prescription pick-up, no more than once a year.
- Prescriptions are distributed in the Retiree Office from 8 am to 1130 am on the first Thursday of each month, unless it falls on a holiday.

If you are interested in signing up for the prescription program, please call the Retiree Office at 412-776-7587 or stop in on any Thursday.

Donate Serviceable Military Clothing and Equipment:

Contact Brian Finnegan at (412) 915-0352 if you have outdated serviceable uniforms and equipment to donate to the Civil Air Patrol Squadron 603, located on the 911th AFRES base.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND LINKS:

171st Air Refueling Wing: <http://www.171arw.ang.af.mil/>

911th AW Casualty Assistance Office: (412) 474-8558, Fax: (412) 474-8987
Address: 911th FSS/FSMPS, 2475 Defense Ave, Bldg 316, Rm 112, Coraopolis, PA 15108
Email contact: Martin W. Patterson, <mailto:martin.patterson.1@us.af.mil>
Provides assistance to a retiree/spouse/dependent upon the passing of a retired military member or dependent in processing the required documentation and survivor benefits.

Air Force Retiree Services: <http://www.retirees.af.mil/>

AMC Space-A Travel: <http://www.amc.af.mil/amctravel/index.asp>

Department of Veteran Affairs (VA): <http://www.va.gov/> or 1-800-827-1000

Express Scripts – TRICARE Pharmacy: <http://www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE/>
Toll-Free within the U.S.: 1-877-363-1303

Retired and Annuitant Pay:

For news updates, general information, and forms: visit the Retired Pay Site, **Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) – Retired Military & Annuitants**
<http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary.html>

- Questions about your retired or annuity pay account: 1-800-321-1080, Press 1 then 4, Press 0 (zero) for operator.
- Reporting a Death or Following-Up on a Claim: 1-800-321-1080, Press 1, then Press 1 again, Enter social security number.

For specific questions: Ask DFAS <https://corpweb1.dfas.mil/askDFAS/askRA.jsp>

For discussion on retired pay issues: Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/DefenseFinanceandAccountingService?ref=ts>

Military.com/Benefits: <http://www.military.com/benefits>

Military.com free membership sign-up:
http://www.military.com/Registration/Universal_Registration_Page?ESRC=TAF.bb

myPay: <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx> or 1-888-332-7411 Option 5

TRICARE Health Insurance Coverage & Benefits Plans: <http://www.tricare.mil>
Tricare North Region – Health Net Federal Services: 1-877-874-2273
TRICARE For Life: 1-866-773-0404

Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) Retiree Assistance: 1-877-968-3778