

# RETIREE OFFICE NEWS – 171<sup>st</sup> ARW



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**“Fall has always been my favorite season. The time when everything bursts with its last beauty, as if nature had been saving up all year for the grand finale.” ~ Lauren DeStefano**

**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](mailto:bjkriberney@msn.com). *Don't forget to keep me informed, if you change your email address/provider.*

**Retiree Lunch:** 3<sup>rd</sup> **Monday** in October

**When:** CY 2015 - **October 19<sup>th</sup>**

**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

**Note:** Retired 171ARW, Lt Col Chico G. Ficerai from The Office of the Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans' Affairs will be bringing more handouts on Veteran Benefits, if you were unable to get one at the July luncheon.

*Come join the fun and catch up with old friends over a delicious lunch. Hope to see you all at the Retiree Luncheon on October 19th!*

## **New 171ARW Commander:**

Col. Gregg A. Perez formally assumed command of the 171st Air Refueling Wing during an Assumption of Command ceremony held on August 2, 2015. Perez entered the Air Force in September of 1987 where he was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. through Officer Training School at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. In 1992, he joined the Pa. Air National Guard as a member of the 112th Air Refueling Group of the 171st ARW located near the Pittsburgh International Airport. Perez served as Vice Wing Commander of the 171st ARW since 2013.

## **2016 Retiree Luncheons – Date Change:**

Beginning in 2016, the Retiree Luncheons will be held on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in January, April, July, and October.** This change was made because the Commissary and PX are closed on Mondays and the 171ARW off-days fall on every other Monday. We have all waited long for these benefits and don't want to lose them!

### **CY2016 Retiree Lunch Dates: All Tuesdays**

- ***January 19<sup>th</sup>***
- ***April 19<sup>th</sup>***
- ***July 19<sup>th</sup>***
- ***October 18<sup>th</sup>***

## **Retirements:**

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

Rank	Last Name	First Name	Retired
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### **JUL 2015**

MSG	RUMBAUGH	DANIEL	12-JUL-15
TSG	FAVORITE	JEFFREY	07-JUL-15

### **AUG 2015**

MSG	CAUGHEY	BRIAN	01-AUG-15
MSG	WALENDZIEWICZ, SR	DAVID	02-AUG-15
TSG	BUTLER	ADRIAN	01-AUG-15
TSG	UNDERWOOD	FREDERIC	01-AUG-15
SSG	FOSTER	JAMES	19-AUG-15

### **SEP 2015**

LTC	MICKLO	DAVID	01-SEP-15
MSG	SLEPSKY	JAMES	13-SEP-15
TSG	JONES	ROBERT	15-SEP-15
SSG	HART	THOMAS	30-SEP-15

### **OCT 2015**

MSG	DRUST	BRIAN	29-OCT-15
TSG	BLATT	KENNETH	14-OCT-15
TSG	FERRARA	PAUL	23-OCT-15
TSG	MITCHELL	REED	15-OCT-15
TSG	ROZMAN	JOSEPH	28-OCT-15

**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 171<sup>st</sup>, 112<sup>th</sup>, or 258<sup>TH</sup> members. Click on each name to view the obituary.

TSgt Raymond A. Ehle – 02 Aug 2015 – Age 66 – 112TFG  
<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/postgazette/obituary.aspx?n=raymond-a-ehle&pid=175429597&fhid=26373>

MSgt Donald J. Leach – 11 Jul 15 – Age 73 – 112TFG Fabrication Shop  
<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/postgazette/obituary.aspx?pid=175418095>

CMSgt Bradford S. Reeher – 28 Aug 15 – Age 81 – 112TFG Resource Mgmt  
<http://nollfuneral.com/obituaries/?id=76>

**Just informed on the below 2014 Obituary:**

TSgt James S. Ferguson – 13 Sep 14 – Age 75 – 171ARW NDI Lab  
<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/postgazette/obituary.aspx?pid=172486566>

**Changes coming to TRICARE Pharmacy Benefit:**

Starting October 1, 2015, a new law requires all TRICARE beneficiaries, except active duty service members, to get select brand name maintenance drugs through either TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery or from a military pharmacy. Beneficiaries who keep using a retail pharmacy for these drugs will have to pay the full cost.

Maintenance drugs are those you take regularly for a long time, such as drugs to control blood pressure or cholesterol. The law does not apply to drugs you take for a short time, like antibiotics, or generic drugs. Beneficiaries living overseas, or with other prescription drug coverage, are not affected.

The TRICARE pharmacy contractor, Express Scripts, is sending a letter to beneficiaries taking an affected drug, explaining their options. Beneficiaries can contact Express Scripts at 1-877-363-1303 to see if they are affected.

After October 1, beneficiaries still filling an affected drug at a retail pharmacy will receive another letter informing them of the change to the benefit. After that, beneficiaries have one final "courtesy" fill at a retail pharmacy. If they fill at a retail pharmacy again, they have to pay 100 percent of the cost of their medication.

TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery is a safe, convenient and low cost option to get maintenance drugs. You can get up to a 90-day supply, as opposed to a 30-day supply from a retail pharmacy. You save up to \$176 a year for every brand name drug you switch to Home Delivery. Military pharmacies offer up to a 90-day supply of drugs at zero copay, but not all drugs are available. You can check with your [local military pharmacy](#) to see if they carry your prescription.

For more information about this change to TRICARE's pharmacy benefit, visit [www.tricare.mil/RxNewRules](http://www.tricare.mil/RxNewRules).

## **Military Retiree Survivor Checklist:**

The following checklist should be reviewed by military retirees and their beneficiaries on an annual basis. This checklist is designed to equip you and your loved ones with knowledge and information that may prove helpful. While it may be impossible to truly prepare for the overwhelming emotions and dilemmas that arise with the loss of a loved one, it does help when most of the below issues have been put into place.

\_\_\_ **Create a military file** that includes your retirement orders, separation papers, medical records, etc. Make sure your spouse knows the location and telephone number of the nearest military installation.

\_\_\_ **Create a military retired pay file** that includes the pertinent information for DFAS

(This file should also include the number of any VA claim still pending and the address of the VA office being used; a list of deductions currently being made from benefits; and the name, relationship and address of the person you have made the beneficiary of any unpaid retired pay at the time of death.)

\_\_\_ **Create an annuities file.** This file should have information about the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RCSBP) or the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan (RSFPP), Civil Service annuity, etc. Additional information regarding SBP annuity claims can be obtained from the DFAS-Cleveland office at 1-800-321-1080.

\_\_\_ **Create a personal document file** that has copies of marriage certificates, divorce decrees, adoptions and naturalization papers.

\_\_\_ **Create an income tax file.** Include copies of your state and federal income tax returns.

\_\_\_ **Create a property tax file.** Include copies of tax bills, deeds and any other related information.

\_\_\_ **Create an insurance policy file.** Include life, property, accident, liability and hospitalization policies.

\_\_\_ In a secure location, **maintain a list of all bank accounts** (joint or individual). Include the location of all deposit boxes, savings bonds, stocks, bonds and any securities owned.

\_\_\_ In a secure location, **maintain a list of all charge accounts and credit cards.** Include account numbers and mailing addresses.

\_\_\_ **Maintain a list of all associations and organizations** of which you are a member. Some of them could be helpful to your spouse.

\_\_\_ **Maintain a list of all friends and business associates** who may be helpful. Include name, address and phone number.

\_\_\_ **Spend time with your spouse discussing your plans** with respect to the type and place of your funeral service. You should decide which cemetery, whether ground burial, or

cremation, etc. If your spouse knows your desires, it will resolve some of the questions that might arise at a later date.

\_\_ **Visit a local funeral home and pre-arrange your services.** Many states will allow you to pre-pay for services.

\_\_ **Investigate the decisions** that you and your family have agreed upon. Many states have specific laws and guidelines regulating cremation and burials at sea. Some states require a letter of authority signed by the deceased in order to authorize a cremation. Know the laws in your specific area and how they may affect your decisions. Information regarding Burials at Sea can be obtained by phoning the Office of Medical and Dental Affairs-Mortuary Affairs Division at (888) 647-6676 (option 4).

\_\_ Once your decisions have been made and you're comfortable with them, **have a will drawn up** outlining all your wishes.

\_\_ Insure that your will and all other **official documents are maintained in a secure location** known by your loved ones. This includes all of your **DD214s or Retirement Orders**.

\_\_ When all the decision-making and documenting is completed, **sit back and continue to enjoy life.**

### **Who should be notified in the event of my death?**

1. Defense Finance and Accounting Service A? **(800) 321-1080 or (216) 522-5955/(800) 269-5170**
2. Social Security Administration (for death benefits) - **(800) 772-1213**
3. Department of Veterans Affairs (if applicable) A? **(800) 827-1000**
4. Office of Personnel and Management (OPM) (for Federal Employees) - **(724) 794-8690**
5. Any fraternal group that you have membership with: e.g., MOAA, FRA, NCOA, VFW, AL, TREA
6. Any previous employers that provide pension or benefits.
7. Burial at Sea information A? **(888) 647-6676 (option 4)**

When all the decision-making and documenting is completed, **sit back and continue to enjoy life.**

Contact information for all retiree services:

<b>Defense Finance and Accounting Service U S Military Retirement Pay Post Office Box 7130 London, KY 40742 7130 (800) 321-1080 or (216) 522-5955/(800) 269-5170 (for deceased members)</b>	<b>Department of Navy NPC PERS-675R Retired Activities Section 5720 Integrity Drive Millington, TN 38055-6640 (866) 827-5672</b>
<b>U.S. Army Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1 DAPE-HRPD-RSO ( Retirement Services Office ) 200 Stovall St. Alexandria, VA 22332-0470 (703) 325-9158</b>	<b>U.S. Air Force AFPC/DPPRT 550 C Street W, Ste 3 Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4713 (210) 565-4663</b>
<b>U.S. Marine Corps Headquarters, USMC Manpower and Reserve Affairs (MMSR-6) 3280 Russell Road Quantico, VA 22134-5103 (800) 336-4649 Option #0</b>	<b>U.S. Coast Guard Commanding Officer (RAS) U. S. Coast Guard Personnel Service Center 444 SE Quincy St Topeka KS 66683-3591 (800) 772-8724</b>

\*\*\* Please know that this is a **basic** military checklist. You should include in your package all civilian related information not cited above that would assist your beneficiaries in carrying out your last will.

## **Pennsylvania State Veteran's Benefits:**

The state of Pennsylvania provides several veteran benefits. Click on each of the following benefits below for a brief description.

- [Veteran Housing Benefits](#)
- [Veteran Financial Assistance Benefits](#)
- [Veteran and Dependents Education Benefits](#)
- [Other State Sponsored Veteran Benefits](#)

## **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>

**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](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 911<sup>th</sup> AFRES base.

## **IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND LINKS:**

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

**911<sup>th</sup> AW Casualty Assistance Office: (412) 474-8558, Fax: (412) 474-8987**  
**Address:** 911<sup>th</sup> 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](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