

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



Retiree Office  
300 Tanker Road #4210  
Coraopolis, PA 15108-4210  
Phone: 412-776-7587 or  
412-776-7538, Fax: 7441  
[BJKRIBERNEY@MSN.COM](mailto:BJKRIBERNEY@MSN.COM)

Office Hours: Thursdays 0800 – 1200



**“In the New Year, May your days be as glittery as diamonds, may your friends be as good as gold, may your heart stay as green as plants and may your soul remain as pure as Pearl. Have a Blessed New Year 2015.”**

**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). *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:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in January, April, July, and October

**When:** CY 2015 - **January 19<sup>th</sup>**, April 20<sup>th</sup>, July 20<sup>th</sup>, and 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

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 January 19th!*

**112<sup>th</sup> Reunion:** The 112<sup>th</sup> Reunion is held on the 112<sup>th</sup> day (April 22, 2015) of the year, which is soon approaching. More details will follow in the next newsletter. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

**Retirements:** Congratulations to our recent retirees who retired from October 2014 through December 2014. Please do not hesitate to contact the Retiree Office, if you need assistance.

Rank	Last Name	First Name	Retired
------	-----------	------------	---------

**OCT 2014**

LTC	MCGANN	BRYAN	30-OCT-14
MSG	BARKEY	STACEY	05-OCT-14
MSG	KENNEDY	DANIEL	01-OCT-14
TSG	COLLINS	PATRICK	01-OCT-14
TSG	STACK	JAMES	13-OCT-14

**NOV 2014**

LTC	SANDALA	DAVID	01-NOV-14
MSG	JORDAN	LINDA	18-NOV-14
TSG	JOHNSON	JEFFREY	30-NOV-14

**DEC 2014**

LTC	COTOIA	SCOTT	31-DEC-14
TSG	BURD	PHILIP	01-DEC-14
TSG	ARMOUR	THOMAS	31-DEC-14
SSG	DELIA	DANTE	30-DEC-14

**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.

CMSgt George P. Rimmell - 22 Oct 2014 - Age 84 – *171ARW Maintenance Control*  
<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/postgazette/obituary.aspx?pid=173005215>

SMSgt Leo H. Averbeck, Jr. - 26 Oct 2014 - Age ?? – *112TFG Security Police & OPS*  
<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/postgazette/obituary.aspx?pid=172973120>

Maj Stephen E. Medley – 03 Nov 2014 - Age 60 – *171ARW Vehicle Maintenance/Supply*  
<http://www.costonfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Stephen-Medley/ - !/Obituary>

MSgt Richard C. Hoyle - 05 Nov 2014 - Age 88 – *112TFG Crew Chief*  
<http://obituaries.triblive.com/listing/246559/Richard-C-Hoyle/>

MSgt Robert P. Wawrzyniak - 10 Dec 2014 - Age 83 – *112TFG Maintenance Control*  
<http://obituaries.triblive.com/listing/248164/Robert-P-Wawrzyniak/>

TSgt Charles D. Hewlett – 28 Dec 2014 – Age 73 – *171ARW Civil Engineering*  
<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/postgazette/obituary.aspx?pid=173672818>

## **2015 Cost of Living Adjustment:**

Based on the increase in the Consumer Price Index, there will be a 1.7 percent Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for most retired pay and Survivor Benefit Plan annuities. Retirees will see the change on their Dec. 31, 2014 payment and annuitants on their Jan. 2, 2015 payment.

## **2014 Tax Year 1099R:**

### **When Will Your Form 1099R Become Available?**

The IRS Forms 1099R for the 2014 tax year will become available online in mid-December 2014. You will be able to access yours on [myPay](#).

DFAS will also mail hard copy versions of the 1099R to those of you who have chosen that option. Please keep in mind that hard copy versions of the 1099R are issued later and will take a while to reach you. If you have elected hard copy, you may not receive it until mid-January 2015.

Please note that 1099R's are ***NOT automatically issued for deceased members***. If you want to receive a 1099R on the behalf of a member who passed away, a certificate of death must be on file, and you must request that a 1099R be issued. If you would like to make this request, or have questions regarding a 1099R for a deceased member, please contact us using one of the methods described below.

## **Do You Need to contact DFAS Retired and Annuitant Pay:**

<http://www.dfas.mil/dfas/retiredmilitary/about/aboutus/customer-service.html>

There are several ways to contact DFAS Retired and Annuitant Pay. Please include your full name, daytime phone number, social security number and signature on all written correspondence.

### **Mail**

For retirees:	For annuitants, beneficiaries and survivors:	For claims for non-receipt of payment:
Defense Finance and Accounting Service U.S. Military Retired Pay P.O. Box 7130 London, KY 40742-7130	Defense Finance and Accounting Service U.S. Military Annuitant Pay P.O. Box 7131 London, KY 40742-7131	Defense Finance and Accounting Service Cleveland Center P.O. Box 998005 Cleveland, OH 44199-1126

## Fax

Retired Pay: 800-469-6559

Annuitant/Survivor Pay: 800-982-8459

Claims for non-receipt of payment: 216-522-5898

## Phone

Customer Service Representatives are available Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Time. However, Monday is our busiest day, so we recommend calling Tuesday through Friday for shorter wait times.

**Toll-free:** 800-321-1080 (option 1)

**Local:** 216-522-5955

**DSN:** 580-5955

## For Quicker Service:

<b>myPay</b> Questions	VA Related Questions	<b>1099R</b> Reissue (Telephone Self-Service)
Please call <b>888-332-7411</b> (press 5 for assistance accessing your <b>myPay</b> account) or <a href="https://mypay.dfas.mil">https://mypay.dfas.mil</a>	Please call Veterans Affairs <b>800-827-1000</b> or <a href="http://www.va.gov/">http://www.va.gov/</a>	You can access your 1099R using <b>myPay</b> . If you do not have a <b>myPay</b> account, request a copy by calling <b>800-321-1080</b> .  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Press 1 then,</li><li>• Press 1 to receive a 1099R</li></ul>

**To speak with a Customer Service Representative**, use the voice or touchtone prompts below:

If Reporting a Death or Following-Up on a Claim:	For questions about your retired annuity pay account:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dial 1-800-321-1080</li><li>• Press 1,</li><li>• Press 4, then</li><li>• Press 1</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dial 1-800-321-1080</li><li>• Press 1,</li><li>• Press 6</li></ul>

Monday is our busiest day.

## **Automated Service**

Using our toll-free number, you can get answers to some commonly asked questions without waiting to speak to a Customer Care Representative. Automated service is available Sunday through Saturday, 24 hours a day using a touch tone.

Use the PIN and your Social Security Number to access the system.

## **Telephone Self-Service**

Our toll-free phone number offers a self-service option where you can get answers to some commonly asked questions without waiting to speak to a Customer Care Representative. Telephone self-service is available seven days a week, 24 hours a day. To use this service you will need a self-service PIN, your Social Security Number and a touch-tone phone.

If you need a self-service PIN, you may create or change your PIN from the myPay website at myPay.dfas.mil. From the personal settings option, select "Change PIN for use on systems other than the myPay web".

Use your PIN with your SSN to access information such as gross pay, net pay, deductions, taxes, allotments, SBP coverage, direct deposit, and much more.

## **Free Tax Preparation for Military:**

<http://www.military.com/discounts/free-tax-preparation-for-military.html>

Tax season is here again. And while filing for tax returns can be tricky for the average family, it can get even more complicated for military families.

Thankfully, military personnel and their families have access to a variety of tax preparation and filing services for free. Whether you choose to file taxes yourself online or you prefer some outside assistance from a trained professional, there are a variety of free options to choose from.

## **Military Installation Tax Centers**

Most large military installations worldwide offer service members and their families free income tax filing assistance through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program which is sponsored by the IRS. VITA sites have volunteers that are trained by the IRS to provide assistance with some of the more complicated military-specific tax issues, such as combat zone tax benefits.

[Click here](#) to contact your local installation for more information about location of tax centers, hours of operation, scheduling appointments, and necessary documentation.

## Off-Base Services

Liberty Tax Service is also offering Military.com members a new customer discount of \$50 off income tax preparation. [Click here](#) to print out the coupon and take it to participating Liberty offices with a valid military ID.

[Jackson Hewitt](#) is offering a \$50 prepaid Visa Gift Card on your tax prep fees when visiting a location in person. Or get a 25% off discount on your online tax return preparation.

## Online Tax Preparation

[Military OneSource](#) provides free access to the H&R Block at Home online tax filing service for military families. This service allows military members to complete and electronically file federal and up to 3 state tax returns. This is available for active duty service members, National Guard and Reserve, and spouses. You must have a Military OneSource account. The Military OneSource no-cost online tax preparation and filing service launches January 13, 2015.

[IRS Free File](#) is a program available to taxpayers whose Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) is \$60,000 or less. This program helps you find a Free File company that's best for you out of the numerous companies that participate and offers fillable forms when preparing your own tax returns. Free file opens January 16, 2015.

[TaxSlayer](#) has a free military edition for active duty service members to prepare federal and state returns online.

[TurboTax](#) offers discounts on its software that's customized for active duty military and reservists. Servicemembers with pay grades of E1-E5 can get the software for free, while pay grades of E6 through all officer pay grades can get the software at a discounted price.

[Taxbrain](#) offers a 20% military discount when filing your tax return. Be aware the package price varies depending on answers to their questionnaire.

## Necessary Documents

Filing your taxes requires a lot of documents and personal information so make sure to collect everything you'll need before you get started. The following is a list of some of those necessary records, but if you're getting outside help, it's best to call ahead to make sure you're not forgetting anything.

- Photo ID/Military ID
- Social security cards for you and each family member claimed on the return
- Wage and earning statement(s), such as Forms W-2, W-2G, and 1099-R
- Child care costs
- Investment income forms
- Receipts for charitable donations
- Receipts for deductible expenses
- Your bank routing numbers and account numbers for direct deposit
- Last year's returns

## **Military Discounts on Cellular Phone Plans:**

Most major cell phone service providers offer military discounts on cellular and wireless plans to active duty service members, and in some cases, veterans as well. Do some comparison shopping to find the right cell phone plan for you and your family. Use the following military discounts to get the best deal to suit your needs. Please contact the cell phone provider to check your eligibility.

### **AT&T**

AT&T Wireless offers special savings to military personnel and veterans – including 15% off your monthly service and discounted rates for devices and accessories. The discount is available at your local AT&T wireless store, a military installation, or you can call Customer Service.

### **Boost Mobile**

To help deployed military personnel Boost Mobile allows service men and women to keep their accounts and phone numbers intact while deployed overseas. While enrolled in the Deployed Military Program, no service charges will be incurred and no reactivation fees will be applied when the account is restored.

### **nTelos Wireless**

ntelos Wireless offers a 15% discount to all active duty military and veterans.

### **Sprint**

The Sprint Discount Program offers active duty military personnel, National Guard, Reserves, and veterans a 15% discount off select rate plans. Sprint also offers a Military Suspend program for service personnel who are deployed. And if you're heading to Japan, U.S. military personnel receive special wireless benefits from SoftBank (the parent company to Sprint).

### **T-Mobile**

The T-Mobile Advantage program offers up to 15% off to active duty military and veterans. This discount may apply to lines and data packages. [Go online](#) or call a T-Mobile representative to see if you're eligible. The actual amount of the discount varies.

### **US Cellular**

Active duty military, National Guard, Reserve, and veterans who are U.S. Cellular customers can receive a 15% discount off their calling plan charges on individual single line and/or family plans.

## Verizon

Verizon offers discounts to service members and veterans, including 15% off plans \$34.99 or higher. There may also be discounts on data as well as 25% off accessories in some cases.

## Vonage

If you or a loved one is stationed overseas, Vonage is another way to communicate. Vonage is an Internet phone service in which you hook a box up to your high-speed Internet connection and then use your phone like a regular landline. Vonage offers military families unlimited calling to more than 60 countries and free shipping to APO/FPO addresses.

## **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 of \$125 per month which includes:
  - \$25 Monthly FEDEX charge to mail new prescriptions to the pharmacy
  - \$100 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: AskDFAS <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