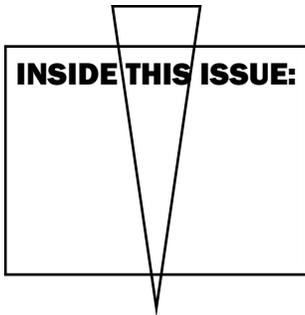


SEMPER FIDELIS

MEMORANDUM FOR RETIRED MARINES



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Concurrent receipt pay becomes reality

Military retirees will begin receiving both retired pay and Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) disability compensation as the DVA disability offset is phased out. Previously, the offset reduced the amount of the military retiree's pay by an amount equal to any disability payment received from the DVA.

Legislation authorizing concurrent receipt of both forms of compensation was signed by President George W. Bush on 24 November 2003. The legislation will deliver billions to more than 200,000 disabled military retirees and took effect in January. Public Law 108-136 (Sections 641 and 642 of Public Law) authorizes a 10-year, phased elimination of the DVA disability offset to retired pay. This will affect members with non-disability retirements, without regard to years of service. Those who retired as a result of a service-related disability are also eligible. These members must have at least 20 years of qualifying service. In all cases, the retiree must be rated at least 50% disabled by the DVA. Today, more than 200,000 military retirees meet the criteria required to receive an increase in their retired pay.

See Concurrent Receipt, Page 11, Col.1



OMB halts plan to raise retiree drug costs

The plan to increase retiree cost shares for the TRICARE pharmacy benefit and initiate retiree copays for drugs obtained in military hospitals and clinics is off the table - at least temporarily. This follows a recent report that the Office of Management and Budget was pushing a budget proposal that envisioned significantly increasing retiree cost shares for the TRICARE pharmacy benefit and initiating retiree copays for drugs obtained in military hospitals and clinics. The Military

Officer Association of America officials announced recently that the OMB has elected to shelve the proposal after strong objections from the Defense Department and a number of military associations.

In return, the Pentagon has agreed to study the copay issue, and then make any recommendations on this subject next year for the fiscal year 2006 budget. The OMB decision defers any budget action until after the November election, which means any recommended change would not come before October 2005, according to MOAA officials.

A Message from the...
Head, Retired Activities Section
(MMSR-6):

Dear Readers,

As we welcome in the New Year, I trust all had a safe and healthy holiday season. As you know, the National Defense Authorization Act of 2004 was signed into law on 24 November 2003. Public Law 108-136 authorizes a 10-year, phased elimination of the Department of Veterans Affairs disability offset to retired pay. While concurrent receipt is now a reality, many specific rules and procedures have not yet been established. Officials at the Department of Defense are now drafting regulations, but the process could take months. **All compensation will be paid retroactive to 1 January 2004.** Please review the information contained on concurrent receipt on the cover page of this publication.

The Secretary of the Navy's Retiree Council convenes 5 to 9 April 2004. Likewise, I would like to extend my appreciation for those who requested consideration for appointment to the RC, as this Headquarters selected for two enlisted vacancies. To review such talent via the application process was truly an honor for our selection board. As we evaluated each application, it was motivating to know that society benefits greatly from our retired Marines. **Thank you for those professional applications!** Our selection to Co-Chair is SgtMaj Jim Lewis, USMC (Ret.). Those of you who have darkened Jim's hatch understand fully the caliber of Marine we are sending into battle. He's a warrior and gunfighter. Equal to the challenge is SgtMaj A.R. Roberts, USMC (Ret.). SgtMaj Roberts résumé reads like a war novel from his work as Vice Chairman of the South Carolina Veterans' Trust Fund "appointed by the Governor of South Carolina" to his active participation in Disabled Veterans of American. Congratulations to you both!

To protect your privacy, the Treasury Department no longer prints social security numbers on paper checks. This change took effect in January.

Semper Fi,

Wesley R. Combs

MR. WESLEY R. COMBS
 Separation and Retirement Branch, MMSR-6
 Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps
 DSN: 278-9091, (703) 432-9081, 1-800-336-4649
combswr@manpower.usmc.mil

Has Your Dependent ID Card Expired?

While the status of a retired Marine's identification card remains indefinite, that is not the case for his or her family members. ID cards for family members will expire after four years with the exception of college students. ID cards for college students expire when they reach 23. Incapacitated family members must be established as such before they reach 21. Do not let time pass you by before renewing an ID card for a family member. After years of inactivity, your data may be purged from the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). You will then have to resubmit documents to reestablish eligibility. Misplaced documents may be costly and time consuming to obtain. If the ID cards for your family members are not current, contact your nearest DEERS/Realtime Automated Personnel Identification System (RAPIDS) Center or MMSR-6 for assistance.

The Retired Marine's ID Card

As stated above, a retired Marine's ID card is issued indefinitely; however, a retired Marine may have to update his or her ID card if it was lost, stolen, or damaged or due to a change in status (i.e., Reservists awaiting pay at 60, name change due to marriage, divorce, or as requested by the Marine). A photo ID is required.

ID Cards By Mail

If you live less than 300 miles from an ID card issuing site, you must have your card processed at the nearest location. If you live more than 300 miles from a site, however, your card will be processed by mail. ID cards by mail are also processed for applicants due to disability or inability to travel. An 8x10 photo (color is preferred) is required to have an ID card processed by mail. Contact MMSR-6 for more information.

DEERS Support Office

- ☆ Write: Attn: COA; 400 Gigling Rd., Seaside, Calif. 93955
- ☆ In Alaska and Hawaii call: 1-800-527-5602
- ☆ Other areas call: 1-800-538-9552
- ☆ Fax: (408) 655-8317

Submit address changes to update DEERS:

<https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/swg/owa/webguard.login?app=9012&rule=02>

E-Mail: addrinfo@osd.pentagon.mil

Locate your nearest DEERS/RAPIDS Center online: Visit <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsi>. The RAPIDS Sites Locator provides a listing of the three nearest sites. If you do not have online access, contact MMSR-6.

Semper Fidelis Directory Pages

While requests for inclusion in this column are accepted from non-profit organizations, we will run as space permits. Report incorrect information to the Editor (MMSR-6).

☆ ASSOCIATIONS:

AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR ORGANIZATION:
(817) 649-2979 www.axpow.org
E-MAIL: axpow@sbcglobal.com

CHINA MARINE ASSN: (410) 742-0930
E-MAIL: ag-gunner@juno.com

DRILL INSTRUCTORS ASSN: (619) 688-0864
FAX: (619) 688-9631, E-MAIL: natdiass@k-online.com
4085 Pacific Hwy., San Diego, Calif. 92110

FLEET RESERVE ASSN: 1-800-FRA-1924
FAX: (703) 549-6610, www.fra.org

KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSN: (703) 522-9629
P.O. Box 10806, Arlington, Va. 22210, www.kwva.org

MARINE CORPS ASSN: 1-800-622-1775
715 Broadway, Box 1775, Quantico, Va. 22134
www.mca-marines.org

MARINE CORPS AVIATION ASSN: 1-800-280-3001
www.flymcaa.org

MARINE CORPS COORDINATING COUNCIL OF OKLAHOMA, INC.
1420 Evergreen Cir., Midwest City, Okla. 73110, E-MAIL:
OklahomaMarines@cox.net, www.OklahomaMarines.org

MARINE CORPS ENGINEER ASSN: (910) 346-8803
P.O. Box 566, Jacksonville, N.C. 28541
E-MAIL: www.ggg@aol.com

MARINE CORPS FOOD SERVICE ASSN INC:
(501) 982-8930, www.usmcfssa.com
1001 McArthur Dr., Jacksonville, Ark. 72026

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE: 1-800-MCL-1775
www.mcleague.org

MARINE CORPS MUSICIANS ASSN: (661) 821-1683,
E-MAIL: jazjoz@sierraatel.com

MARINE CORPS MUSTANG ASSN INC: 1-800-321-USMC
E-MAIL: topmustang@aol.com

MARINE CORPS RECRUITERS ASSN: (972) 625-0720, (352)
726-5622, E-MAIL: dandodie@earthlink.net or
spinelli@atlantic.net, www.marinerecruitingassoc.org

MARINE CORPS RESERVE ASSN: 1-800-927-6270
(703) 630-3772, E-MAIL: gygreen@aol.com

MARINE EMBASSY GUARD ASSN: www.embassymarine.org

MARINE EXECUTIVE ASSN: (703) 734-7974
www.Marineeca.org

NAVY MUTUAL AID ASSN: 1-800-628-6011
(703) 614-1638, www.navy mutual.org
E-MAIL: info@navymutual.org

SECOND MARINE DIV. ASSN: (910) 451-3167 www.2marine.com
P.O. Box 8180; Camp Lejeune, N.C. 28547

TANKERS ASSN: (760) 439-7435
FAX: (760) 439-7451, www.mcta2000.org,
E-MAIL: xsecmcta@juno.com
P.O. Box 3077; Oceanside, Calif. 92051

THIRD MARINE DIV. ASSN: www.caltrap.com
P.O. Box 254, Chalfont, Pa. 18914-0254, (215) 822-9094

VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS: www.va.gov/vso

VIETNAM HELICOPTERS ASSN: (540) 364-9424
www.popasmoke.com

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC. (202) 628-2700
www.vva.org, E-MAIL: 71154.702@compuserve.com

WOMEN MARINES ASSN: 1-888-525-1943
www.womenmarines.org
P.O. Box 1907; Woodbridge, Va. 22195
E-MAIL: WMA@womenmarines.org

1ST MARINE DIV. ASSN: (703) 803-3195
14325 Willard Rd., Ste. 107, Chantilly, Va. 20151-2110
(703) 803-3195, E-MAIL: oldbreed@aol.com
www.1stmarinedivisionassociation.org/

☆ DENTAL, HEALTH AND MEDICAL CARE:

FEDERAL LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE PROGRAM:
1-800-582-3337, www.ltcfeds.com

MEDICARE: 1-800-633-4227, www.medicare.gov

NATIONAL MAIL ORDER PHARMACY: 1-800-903-4680
www.tricare.osd.mil

The TRICARE Information Call Center operates Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., EST (excluding federal holidays). Please be aware that all calls are answered in English only. TRICARE Management Activity National toll-free numbers are:

SENIOR PHARMACY PROGRAM: 1-877-363-6337
TRICARE FOR LIFE: 1-888-363-5433
TRICARE ONLINE: 1-866-363-3932

TRICARE CUSTOMER SERVICE: (703) 681-1770
Obtain assistance in resolving beneficiary problems
www.myTRICARE.com

TRICARE HELP ELECTRONIC MAIL SYSTEM:
TRICARE_Help@amedd.army.mil

TRICARE RETIREE DENTAL PROGRAM: 1-888-336-3260
www.ddpdelta.org

TRICARE SENIOR PHARMACY PROGRAM: 1-877-363-6337

TRICARE SUPPORT OFFICE: www.tricare.osd.mil
E-MAIL: tricare-on@csdmail.Medcom.amedd.army.mil

TRICARE NORTHEAST, REGION 1: 1-800-308-3518
(Northern portion of Va., eastern portion of W. Va., Md., Del., N.J., Pa., N.Y., Conn., R.I., Mass., N.H., Vt. And Maine)

TRICARE MID-ATLANTIC, REGION 2: 1-800-931-9501
(Southern Va. and all of N.C.)

TRICARE SOUTHEAST/GULFSOUTH REGION 3/4:
1-800-333-5331 (Al., eastern Ark.-near mid-south Mil-
lington, Tenn.-Fla., Ga., La. Eastern and Miss., S.C. and
Tenn.)

TRICARE HEARTLAND, REGION 5: 1-800-941-4501
(Ill., Ind., Ky., Mich., Ohio, W.Va., Wisc. and St. Louis
area of Mo.)

TRICARE SOUTHWEST, REGION 6: 1-800-406-2832
(Ark., La.-western-, Okla., Texas-except El Paso)

TRICARE CENTRAL, REGION 7/8: 1-888-874-9378
(Ariz.-except Yuma-, Colo., Idaho-except Northern Idaho-
Iowa, Kan., Minn., Mo.-except St. Louis-Mont., Neb.,
Nev., N.M., N.D., S.D., Texas-El Paso area only-Utah and
Wyo.)

TRICARE SOUTHERN CALIF., REGION 9 AND GOLDEN STATE
REGION 10: 1-800-242-6788 (Calif.)

TRICARE NORTHWEST, REGION 11: 1-800-404-2042
(Ore., Wash., and Idaho-northern to include Boundary,
Bonner, Kootenai, Benewah, Latah and Shoshone coun-
ties)

TRICARE PACIFIC: 1-800-242-6788 (Alaska and Hawaii)

TRICARE LATIN AMERICA: 1-888-777-8343 (Panama, Central
America and South America)

TRICARE KOREA: 003-081-10332 (U.S. call 1-800-917-9172
or from wherever 800 service is available)

TRICARE EUROPE: 1-888-777-8343 (Europe, Africa, Middle
East, Azores and Iceland)

TRICARE PACIFIC: 1-800-777-8343 (western Pacific)

☆ **EDUCATION AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:**

COLLEGE OPPORTUNITIES ONLINE: (202) 502-7300
<http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cool>

FEDERAL STUDENT AID INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER:
1-800-USA-LEARN, www.ed.gov

VA EDUCATION CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICE: 1-888-442-4551
www.gbill.va.gov

MARINE CORPS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION: 1-800-292-7777
FAX: (609) 452-2259, P.O. Box 3008, Princeton, N.J.
08543-3008, E-MAIL: mcsf@marine-scholars.org
www.marine-scholars.org

☆ **FOUNDATIONS:**

DEVIL PUPS INC: (805) 497-9810, www.devilpups.com
340 N. Westlake Blvd., Ste. 260
Westlake Village, Calif. 91362-7036

FISHER HOUSE FOUNDATION, INC: www.fisherhouse.org
1-888-294-8560, FAX: (301) 294-8562
1401 Rockville Pike, Ste. 600; Rockville, Md. 20852
E-MAIL: FisherHouse@aol.com

FLYING LEATHERNECK HISTORICAL FOUNDATION:
(858) 693-1723, www.flyingleathernecks.org
E-MAIL: flhf@flyingleathernecks.org

HOSPICE FOUNDATION OF AMERICA: 1-800-854-3402
FAX: (202) 638-5312, www.hospicefoundation.org
2001 S St., N.W. #300; Washington, D.C. 20009

MARINE CORPS HERITAGE FOUNDATION: 1-800-397-7585
(703) 640-7961 www.marineheritage.org
E-MAIL: info@marineheritage.org

MARINE CORPS VIETNAM TANKERS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION:
(253) 835-9083, 707 S.W. 350th Ct.; Federal Way, Wash.
98023-8104, E-MAIL: USMCVTFoundation@aol.com

MARINE CORPS UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION: www.mcu.org
(703) 640-6835, 1-888-368-5341, FAX: (703) 640-6177
P.O. Box 122; Quantico, Va. 22134-0122
E-MAIL: mcuf@mcuf.org

MARINE TOYS FOR TOTS FOUNDATION: (703) 640-9433
FAX: (703) 640-0917, www.toysfortots.org
P.O. Box 1947; Quantico, Va. 22134
E-MAIL: murrayba@nt.quantico.usmc.mil

☆ **HEADQUARTERS USMC AND DEFENSE-RELATED SUPPORT:**

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOMES: www.afrh.com

- AFRH-G, 1800 Beach Dr., Gulfport, Miss. 39507-1597
1-800-332-3527, (228) 896-4026, FAX: (228) 897-4013
E-MAIL: publicaffairs@gulfport.afrh.gov
- AFRH-W, 3700 North Capitol St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20317-0001
1-800-422-9988, (202) 730-3337
E-MAIL: publicaffairs@dc.afrh.gov
Home Guest House Reservation Line: (202) 730-3044

ARMY AND AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE (AAFES):
1-800-527-2345 (questions about eligibility)
www.aafes.com, www.usmc-mccs.org

BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS (BCNR):
(703) 614-1316
CMC, 2 Navy Annex; Washington, D.C. 20370-5100

COLD WAR CERTIFICATE: <http://coldwar.army.mil>
4035 Ridge Top Rd., Ste. 400, Fairfax, Va. 22030
FAX: 1-800-723-9262 or (703) 325-2167

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA):
www.usdoj.gov/oip/foia_updates/Vol_XVII_4/page2.htm

LEATHERNECK MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES:
1-800-336-0291, ext. 315, (703) 640-6161, ext. 315
P.O. Box 1775; Quantico, Va. 22134
E-MAIL: leatherneck@mca-marines.org

MARINE CORPS CASUALTY ASSISTANCE (MRC):
3280 Russell Rd.; Quantico, Va. 22134-5103
1-800-847-1597, (703) 784-9512
www.usmc-mccs.org (select "Casualty Assistance")

MARINE CORPS MARATHON: 1-800-RUN-USMC
(703) 784-2225, www.marinemarathon.com
P.O. Box 188; Quantico, Va. 22134

MARINE CORPS MILITARY AWARDS (MMA): (703) 784-9206/07
3280 Russell Rd.; Quantico, Va. 22134-5103

MARINE CORPS RECORDS CORRESPONDENCE (MMSB-12):
1-800-268-3710, (703) 784-3920/4646/5616
2008 Elliot Rd.; Quantico, Va. 22134-5030

MARINE CORPS INACTIVE RESERVE (MMSR-5):
3280 Russell Rd.; Quantico, Va. 22134-5103
1-800-336-4649, (703) 784-9306

MARINE CORPS RETIRED LIST MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT
SECTION (MMSR-7):
3280 Russell Rd.; Quantico, Va. 22134-5103
1-800-715-0968, (703) 784-9317

MCJROTC PROGRAM: (703) 784-3705, FAX: (703) 784-4050
Commanding General
Training and Education Command C 469, MCCDC
3300 Russell Rd; Quantico, Va. 22134-5001
www.tecom.usmc.mil/jrotc
E-MAIL: duffypc@tecom.usmc.mil

MARINE CORPS AVIATION RECONNAISSANCE ASSN. INC:
<http://business.quadlink.net/adirondack/mcara>
E-MAIL: wcrbillmar@aol.com

MARINE CORPS GAZETTE: 1-888-237-7683
(703) 640-6161, E-MAIL: gazette@mca-marines.org

MARINE CORPS MUSEUM, MARINE CORPS HISTORICAL CENTER
(202) 433-4534
Bldg. 58, Washington Navy Yard, 1254 Charles Morris
St., S.E., Washington Navy Yard, D.C. 20374-5040

MARINE CORPS 8TH AND 1 PARADE: (202) 433-6060

MARINES' MEMORIAL CLUB: 1-800-5-MARINE
www.marineclub.com, E-MAIL: member@marinclub.com

MARINE MILITARY EXPOSITION: (703) 488-2700
www.marinecorpsexpos.com, Dulles International Airport
P.O. Box 17413, Washington, D.C. 20041

NAVY-MARINE CORPS RELIEF SOCIETY: (703) 696-4904
FAX: (703) 696-0144
801 N. Randolph St., Ste. 1228; Arlington, Va. 22203

SOCIAL SECURITY: 1-800-SSA-1213, www.ssa.gov

U.S. ARMY EUROPE RETIREMENT SERVICES:
www.1perscom.army.mil (Select "USAREUR Ret. Svcs.")

☆ **MARINE CORPS TEMPORARY LODGING FACILITIES:**

MCLB ALBANY - (229) 639-5614
MCAS YUMA - (928) 269-2262, FAX: (928) 269-6639
MCLB BARSTOW - (760) 577-6418, FAX: (760) 577-6110
MCB CAMP PENDLETON - (760) 725-5304/5194
FAX: (760) 725-5609
MCAS MIRAMAR - (619) 271-7111, FAX: (619) 695-7371
RESERVATIONS: 800-628-9466
MCAGCC TWENTYNINE PALMS - (760) 830-6573/6583
FAX: (760) 830-1647
MCB HAWAII - (808) 254-2716
MCB CAMP S.D. BUTLER - (760) 577-6418
FAX: (760) 577-6110
MCB CAMP LEJEUNE - (910) 451-3041, FAX: (910) 451-9605
MCRD PARRIS ISLAND - (843) 228-2967, FAX: (843) 228-4808
MCAS BEAUFORT - (843) 522-1663, FAX: (843) 522-1663
MCCDC QUANTICO - (703) 630-4444, FAX: (703) 630-4499
RESERVATIONS: 1-800-965-9511

☆ **PAY ISSUES (RETIRED MARINES AND ANNUITANTS):**

DEFENSE FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING SERVICE: www.dfas.mil

Retired Marines (7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Mon.-Fri., EST)

DFAS, U.S. Military Retirement Pay
P.O. Box 7130, London, Ky. 40742-7130
CASUALTY REPORTING: 1-800-321-1080
CUSTOMER SERVICE: 1-800-321-1080
FAX: 1-800-469-6559 (no voice communication)
OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES: (216) 522-5955

Special Compensation for Severely Disabled:

DFAS, P.O. Box 998011
Cleveland, Ohio 44199-8011
(216) 522-6170, 1-800-321-1080
FAX: 1-800-469-6559

Annuityants:

DFAS, U.S. Military Annuity Pay, P.O. Box 7131
London, Ky. 40742-7131
CUSTOMER SERVICE: 1-800-321-1080
FAX: 1-800-982-8459

☆ **STEPS TO TAKE IN THE EVENT OF A MARINE'S DEATH**

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY: (703) 695-3255
(703) 697-9486, www.arlingtoncemetery.org

DFAS CASUALTY REPORTING: 1-800-321-1080

NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION: 1-800-827-1000
www.va.gov/cemetery/index.htm

TRAGEDY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR SURVIVORS, INC:
1-800-959-8277, www.taps.org

VA BENEFITS AND ASSISTANCE: 1-800-827-1000, www.va.gov

VA INSURANCE CENTER: 1-800-669-8477

☆ **TRAVEL PLANNING:**

AIR MOBILITY COMMAND (SPACE-A TRAVEL):
<http://public.amc.af.mil/SPACEA/spacea.htm>

ARMED FORCES RECREATION CENTER, EUROPE:
www.afrc europe.com
E-MAIL: vacation@afrc.garmisch.army.mil

ARMED FORCES RECREATION CENTER, FLA:
Shades of Green (located on Walt Disney World property)
1-888-593-2242, (407) 824-3600, www.shadesofgreen.org

ARMED FORCES RECREATION CENTER, HAWAII:
1-800-367-6027, FAX: 1-800-HALE-FAX

ARMED FORCES RECREATION CENTER, KOREA:
011-82-2-790-0016, FAX: 011-82-2-790-1576

ARMED FORCES RECREATION CENTER, TOKYO:
011-822-790-0016, FAX: 011-822-792-0036
www.thenewsanno.com

ARMED FORCES VACATION CLUB: www.afvclub.com
1-800-724-9988 (to book a space-available unit you will need
account #7033-0000 and installation #227)

FORT RICHARDSON SEWARD RESORT, ALASKA: 1-800-770-1858
www.usarak.army.mil/framwr/seward.htm

NAVY LODGE WORLDWIDE RESERVATIONS CENTER:
1-800-NAVY-INN, www.navy-nex.com/lobby

STATE DEPARTMENT TRAVEL WARNINGS: <http://travel.state.gov>
Hotline for American Travelers: (202) 647-5225

☆ **SECRETARY OF THE NAVY RETIREE COUNCIL MARINE CORPS
AND NAVY REPRESENTATIVES:**

LTGEN MATTHEW T. COOPER, USMC (RET), CO-CHAIR
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7720 El Camino Real, #B206, La Costa, Calif. 92009
(760) 591-1390, E-MAIL: Paul@teamS3.com

PNC(SW) DAVID F. ELLISON, USN (RET)
969 W. Main Rd. #4404, Middletown, R.I. 02842-6364
WORK: (401) 841-2661, HOME: (401) 849-1747
E-MAIL WORK: 03@swos.navy.mil
E-MAIL HOME: ellisond@cox.net

CAPT VERTREES HOLLINGSWORTH, M.C., USN (RET)
40 Surry Circle South, Pinehurst, N.C. 28374-8427
WORK: (910) 907-9157, FAX: (910) 907-9277
HOME: (910) 215-9612
E-MAIL WORK: d.hollingsworth@na.amedd.army.mil

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P.O. Box 1502, Grantham, N.H. 03753-1502
HOME: (603) 863-5731
E-MAIL HOME: joanhuber@aol.com

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HOME: (218) 663-7622
E-MAIL HOME: lrakleslie@aol.com
Winter: 1724 Ivalea Circle, Navarre, Fla. 32566
HOME: (850) 936-4666

CAPT JOHN J. MCDONALD, JR., USN (RET)
PSC 517 Box RS/AC, FPO AP 96517-1000
HOME: 011-63-45-888-6952
EFAX: (707) 982-0929, E-MAIL WORK: jacksubic@aol.com

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**Marriage or divorce?
Check your Social Security Number!**

The Internal Revenue Service reminds newlyweds and the recently divorced to make sure names on their tax returns match those registered with the Social Security Administration. A mismatch between a name on the tax return and a Social Security number could unexpectedly increase a tax bill or reduce the size of any refund. For newlyweds, the tax scenario can begin when the bride says, "I do" and takes her husband's surname, but doesn't inform the SSA about the name change. If the couple files a joint tax return with her new name, the IRS computers will not be able to match the new name with the SSN. Similarly, after a divorce, a woman who had taken her husband's name and had made that change known to the SSA should contact the SSA if she reassumes a previous name. It's easy to inform the SSA of a name change by filing Form SS-5 at a local SSA office. It usually takes two weeks to have the change verified. The form is available at your local SSA office. You may also visit the agency's web site, www.ssa.gov or call 1-800-772-1213.

Generally, taxpayers must provide SSNs for each family member claimed on the tax return. For adopted children without SSNs, parents may apply for an adoption taxpayer identification number, or ATIN, by filing Form W-7A with the IRS. The ATIN is used in place of the SSN on the tax return. The form is available online at www.irs.gov, or call the IRS at 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).

One Stop Source for Recalls

The new web site at www.Recalls.gov provides links to all federal agencies with statutory authority to issue recalls, including the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Food and Drug Administration, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Online visitors can easily find information about all federal government recalls—regardless of the jurisdiction of the agency or the nature of the recall.

Recalls.gov is a convenient portal to important safety information covering consumer goods, automobiles, boats, drugs, cosmetics and environmental products. Consumers can get the latest recall information, report a dangerous product, or learn important safety tips. More information is available at www.Recalls.gov.

Military Records

DD Form 214s and Medical Records

**NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER
MILITARY PERSONNEL RECORDS**
9700 Page Blvd.; St. Louis, Mo. 63132-5100
(314) 801-0800, Fax: (314) 801-9195

A veteran or next-of-kin of a deceased veteran may initiate an online request for a DD 214 by visiting: <http://www.vetreccs.archives.gov>.

NOTE: Online submissions must be followed up with a signature that is mailed in by the veteran or next of kin. For those without online access, you may submit your request by writing a letter. Provide the veteran's full name, SSN, mailing address, daytime telephone number, applicable service number, branch of service, dates of service, type of information needed (e.g., DD 214, medical records), reason for the request and the veteran's or next of kin's signature on the request.



**Do Not Send MMSR
Certified Mail!**

Necessary Signatures
May Cause Delays

Certified mail requires that the person you designated on the envelope must sign it. If the individual is unavailable when the mail is delivered, the mail is then forwarded to the Quantico Post Office for signature and pickup. To avoid delays in processing your request, use the following format:

ATTENTION (RANK/NAME)
Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps (MMSR-6)
3280 Russell Road, Quantico, Va. 22134-5103

Eldercare Locator

Since 1991, the Eldercare Locator, a nationwide toll-free service, has helped older adults and their caregivers find local services for seniors. The U.S. Administration on Aging is now pleased to make part of this service available online at www.eldercare.gov so that consumers can easily link to the information and referral services of their state and area agencies on aging.

If you do not have online access, you may contact the Eldercare Locator at 1-800-677-1116. The Eldercare Locator operates Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Eastern Time.

TRICARE News

DoD eliminates TRICARE Standard non-availability statements

Under the 2002 National Defense Authorization Act, the Department of Defense military health system eliminated the requirement for TRICARE Standard beneficiaries to obtain a non-availability statement on 28 Dec. 2003. This change in policy allows Standard beneficiaries to receive inpatient care at civilian hospitals without obtaining prior approval from their military treatment facility. An exception in the law continues the requirement for an NAS for non-emergency inpatient mental health care services.

In discussing the NAS elimination, Dr. William Winkewerder, Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, said, "With this change in policy, beneficiaries now have the freedom to choose a military treatment facility or a civilian facility, without any extra paperwork. However, I urge TRICARE beneficiaries to still look to the Military Health System as their first choice for health care because I believe the services we offer are second to none." Before the change in NAS policy, it was necessary for TRICARE Standard beneficiaries to first obtain an NAS from their MTF. An NAS indicates that care is not available from the military facility and authorizes care at a civilian facility. Under the 2002 law, an MTF may request a Departmental waiver of the elimination policy requirement in certain specific, but limited, circumstances. However, such limited MTF waiver requests do not apply to maternity services, unless the affected beneficiary began her first prenatal visit before the 28 Dec. NAS elimination date.

Maternity patients should check with their local MTF to compare maternity services with those available in civilian facilities. The Military Health System recently implemented a Family-Centered Care program that offers enhanced services and recognizes the unique needs of military families in today's climate of increasing deployments and high operations tempo. Online users may visit the enhanced MTF maternity services at www.tricare.osd.mil/familycare/default.cfm.

The need for an NAS for non-emergency inpatient mental health care applies only to beneficiaries who use TRICARE Standard or Extra, who are not Medicare eligible and who have no other health insurance that is primary to TRICARE. DoD does not require preauthorization for TRICARE beneficiary inpatient mental health care when Medicare is the primary payer.

Should an MTF be granted a NAS waiver under the new law, a notice must be published in the Federal Register to inform beneficiaries that a NAS is required for a certain procedure. The MTF, Services, and TRICARE Management Activity will notify affected beneficiaries if this occurs. Beneficiaries with online access may check the TRICARE web site at www.tricare.osd.mil if they are seeking

an inpatient service and want to know if their nearby MTF applied for a NAS waiver. They also may contact the beneficiary counseling and assistance coordinator/health benefits advisor at their nearby MTF for more information. Before seeking care at a civilian facility, the Military Health System urges beneficiaries to check with their nearby MTF to compare services and answer any questions. Even if the MTF could not provide needed services in the past, the facility's staffing levels or capabilities may have changed, and they might now be available at the MTF.

VA News

Veterans Benefit Act of 2003 affects some surviving spouses

A recently passed law may provide income for thousands of unknowing surviving spouses of military retirees and other veterans. Public Law 108-183, the Veterans Benefit Act of 2003 signed into law by President Bush on 16 Dec. 2003, allows survivors of members who died of service-connected causes to retain Dependency and Indemnity Compensation if they remarry after reaching 57. Previously, surviving spouses lost this entitlement if they remarried at any age. The only provision to regain the benefit was if the latter marriage ended in death or divorce. Also, those who have already remarried (and were 57 or older when they did so) have until 16 Dec. 2004 to apply for reinstatement of their DIC benefits. The current entitlement is \$967 a month. So far, this law has received little publicity. Those eligible should apply as soon as possible as there was no mention that payments are retroactive. Contact the VA at 1-800-827-1000 for more information. Those with Internet access may download VA Form 21-686c at <http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/21-686c.pdf>.

VA seeks volunteers to inventory its cemetery memorials

The VA is looking for volunteers to research and photograph monuments in its 120 national cemeteries and 33 soldiers' lots. "We have a large number of cemetery memorials, large and small, remaining to be inventoried," said Secretary Principi. "The efforts of dedicated volunteers will assist VA in maintaining all national cemeteries as national shrines." When the VA's memorials inventory project began in May 2002, it was estimated that 300 memorials would be found in national cemeteries and soldiers' lots. To date, nearly 800 memorials have been identified with help from over 220 volunteers. Approximately 300 memorials in 20 states remain to be documented and the VA will continue to recruit volunteers for the project until all are documented. The VA provides volunteers with project instructions, survey questionnaires and film. Volunteers take measurements and photographs, re-

cord inscriptions, make notes on a monument's condition and conduct historical research. The project has attracted a wide range of people, including students, teachers, scout groups, active and retired military members, scholars, history professionals and enthusiasts. The information obtained from the project will be made available to the public through the Smithsonian Institute's art inventory database.

The VA is now in the largest expansion of the national cemetery system since the Civil War. Three national cemeteries have opened since 2000, and five more national cemeteries are now being built. For more information about the project or to volunteer, contact historian Darlene Richardson at (202) 565-5426 or e-mail nca.memorials@mail.va.gov.

VA to gain six new cemeteries

With a recent authorization to establish six new national cemeteries by 2008, the VA has begun the largest expansion of these national shrines since the Civil War. "Under President Bush's leadership, the VA is on the path to meet the burial needs of America's aging veterans," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi. He said the VA will continue to provide America's veterans with a dignified and respectful final resting place, now and in the future.

The National Cemetery Act of 2003 authorizes the VA to establish new national cemeteries to serve veterans in the areas of Bakersfield, Calif.; Birmingham, Ala.; Jacksonville, Fla.; Sarasota County, Fla.; southeastern Pennsylvania; and Columbia-Greenville, S.C. All six areas have veteran populations exceeding 170,000, which is the threshold the VA has established for new national cemeteries. Each new cemetery will require 200 to 250 acres to serve the current and future burial needs of veterans. Development of these new national cemeteries will provide more veterans with a burial site within 75 miles of their residences.

The VA manages the country's network of national cemeteries with more than 2.5 million gravesites at 120 national cemeteries in 39 states and Puerto Rico, as well as in 33 soldiers' lots and monument sites. For more information on VA burial benefits, call 1-800-827-1000 or visit the VA web site at www.va.gov or www.cem.va.gov.

VA and DoD select eight medical demonstration sites

The VA announced the selection of eight medical sites to participate in demonstrations with nearby Department of Defense (DoD) medical facilities. These demonstrations will test the capabilities of the two departments to provide a seamless delivery of benefits and services to military members and veterans by sharing

information and other efficiencies. "This is an important step toward reaching President Bush's goal of improving service to our active-duty and veteran populations by enhancing our ability to work together," said Secretary Principi. "It's an example of our joint efforts to knock down the walls between our two departments." Mandated by the Fiscal Year 2003 National Defense Authorization Act, the demonstrations will test three separate areas: budget and financial management, staffing and assignment, and medical information and information technology systems.

"These demonstration projects reflect the determination and desire by those in both the military and VA health care systems to improve the delivery of care for our beneficiaries," said Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs. He explained that the demonstrations will "enhance the quality, efficiency and effectiveness for the delivery of benefits and services to veterans, service members, military retirees and their families." The DoD/VA Health Executive Council selected the sites from a list of hospitals that volunteered to participate. These projects will operate through fiscal year 2007. The budget and financial management demonstrations will be conducted at:

- ☆ Tripler Army Medical Center and VA Pacific Islands Health Care System, Hawaii and Air Force 3rd Medical Group and Alaska VA Health Care System in Anchorage, Alaska.

Staffing and assignment demonstrations will be at the following locations:

- ☆ Madigan Army Medical Center and Puget Sound VA Health Care System, Seattle/Tacoma;
- ☆ Eisenhower Army Medical Center and Augusta VA Health Care System, Augusta, Ga. and Langley Air Force Base 1st Medical Group and Hampton VA Medical Center, Hampton, Va.

The medical information and information technology systems will be tested at:

- ☆ Madigan Army Medical Center and the Puget Sound VA Health Care System, Seattle/Tacoma;
- ☆ William Beaumont Army Medical Center and El Paso VA Health Care System, El Paso, Texas and
- ☆ Air Force Wilford Hall, Brooke Army Medical Centers and South Texas VA Health Care System, San Antonio.

Institute of Medicine creates web site for veterans

The Institute of Medicine has created a new web site with information about a variety of military-related health issues. "IOM's new website is one more tool available to veterans, health care practitioners and others interested in the well-being of our veterans," said Secretary Principi. The web site, <http://veterans.iom.edu>, has separate sections for health care issues affecting the last four major military conflicts: World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the Gulf War. At each section, visitors can read electronic versions of IOM-produced reports or purchase publications. Other sections list IOM's completed reports and reports in progress, while another area contains studies about chemical and biological agents suspected of causing health problems for military members. There is also a section with reports and information about deployment health.

VA announces 2004 insurance dividends

The VA recently announced its distribution of more than \$517 million in dividends to 1.5 million active policyholders of veterans' life insurance. Veterans will receive payments on the anniversary date of their policies, with the specific dividend amount varying according to age, type of insurance, and length of time the policy has been in force. Veterans will automatically receive their annual dividend through one of the nine payment options available to them. Dividends cover only veterans with government life insurance policies who served between 1917 and 1956. VA term insurance programs that do not pay dividends cover veterans who were discharged after 1956. The dividends represent a return of trust fund earnings on the premiums paid by policyholders throughout the years. They reflect the fact that veterans are living longer than originally predicted. Dividends are also attributable to the higher than expected yields earned by the trust funds from investments in U.S. government securities.

Only those with policies that have been kept in force when premiums were required are eligible for the payout. Inaccurate notices periodically surface in the veterans community suggesting that those who have not maintained insurance are eligible for a special dividend if they contact the VA, but this is false. Dividends are automatically sent to eligible policy holders. The largest group receiving 2004 payments will be 1.2 million veterans of World War II with National Service Life Insurance ("V") policies. Total payments are expected to reach \$416.8 million. Dividends totaling \$1.8 million will be paid to about 11,000 veterans holding U.S. Government Life Insurance ("K") policies. Nearly 200,000 Korean War era veterans who have maintained Veterans Special Life Insurance ("RS" and "W") policies can expect to receive dividends totaling \$83.9 million. Veter-

ans from the World War II era who hold Veterans Reopened Insurance ("J", "JR" and "JS") policies, currently numbering nearly 53,000, will share a \$14.7 million dividend.

Although the VA administers a special life insurance program for disabled veterans and a program offering mortgage life insurance coverage, neither pays dividends. For current active-duty service members and reservists, the VA supervises a contract with a private carrier to underwrite Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance. No dividends are paid on Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance. For more information, contact the VA Insurance at 1-800-669-8477, e-mail VAinsurance@vba.va.gov or visit www.insurance.va.gov.

Concurrent Receipt, From cover page

This legislation expands the field of eligibility for Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) to include retirees with 20 years of qualifying service, who have a combined disability rating of less than 60%. It expands eligibility for a tax-exempt payment to replace retired pay lost to the concurrent receipt ban and is open to retirees with 20 or more years of service and disabilities tied to combat or combat-related training. Reserve retirees are included; people who retired under **Temporary Early Retirement Authority** are not. While this change expands the number of veterans currently receiving CRSC from about 4,800 today, eligible retirees may not receive both concurrent receipt payments and combat-related special compensation at the same time. The act requires an annual "Open Season" to be conducted to allow veterans eligible for both concurrent receipt payment and CRSC to choose between the two options. Details on how the annual open season will be conducted will be published separately.

Because the act also repealed the authorization for Special Compensation for the Severely Disabled (SCSD), which provides veterans benefits for those with disabilities greater than 60%, about 37,000 SCSD recipients saw increases to their retired pay in Feb. 2004.

System changes are required to fully implement the legislation and will take several months to complete. Defense Finance and Accounting Service is working closely with the DVA to implement this legislation and issue the payments to all eligible retirees as soon as possible. When full implementation is completed, payments will include monies that are due retroactively to 1 Jan. 2004.

Interested military retirees with Internet access may visit *myPay*, <https://mypay.dfas.mil> and www.dfas.mil.

Medicare Part B premium penalty waived for some retirees

Although some may not be aware of it, one or more of the provisions in the "Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003," will affect many members of the retiree community in the near future and in the years to come. At the top of the list in the Act, signed into law by President Bush on 8 Dec. 2003 are three very important changes relating to enrollment in Medicare Part B. The first two changes affect persons not enrolled, or paying surcharges because they enrolled after they were initially eligible for Part B, such as those individuals who reside overseas where Medicare doesn't pay and those who thought a local military medical facility would always be available for their health needs. Uniformed services beneficiaries who would be eligible for TRICARE for Life, but are not enrolled in Medicare Part B, may enroll without penalty during a special enrollment period through 31 Dec. 2004.

Second, uniformed services beneficiaries who enrolled in Medicare Part B in 2001, 2002, 2003, or 2004 and are subject to a premium surcharge for late enrollment in Part B can get those surcharges eliminated by demonstrating that they are covered under TRICARE. While the elimination of surcharges took effect on 1 Jan. 2004, the Department of Health and Human Services must work out procedures to be followed. The third change made by the bill affects all seniors, not just uniformed services beneficiaries. The Part B premium will be tied to income beginning in 2007. Premiums for individuals with incomes above \$80,000 and couples with incomes above \$160,000 will increase.

Patriot Express restructuring affects space-available travel

Fiscal realities and limited use have led U.S. Transportation Command to restructure Patriot Express, which is the military's chartered commercial air service for transporting service members on permanent-change-of-station orders and their families to and from overseas locations. It has also been used by many military retirees to travel with their family members to overseas destinations on a space-available basis. Air Mobility Command, the air component of USTRANSCOM, manages the Patriot Express program on behalf of the Department of Defense.

Since the 1960s, Patriot Express, or a similar program, has provided regular passenger service from the United States to 27 locations in European Command, Central Command and Southern Command areas of operation. The system handles more than 340,000 passengers annually. More than two-thirds of the seats on the contracted aircraft are filled by passengers on PCS orders.

The Patriot Express system has four contracted U.S. gateway international airports: Atlanta-Hartsfield, Baltimore-Washington, Los Angeles and Seattle-Tacoma, and four passenger reservation centers, or PRCs, in Germany, Japan, Hawaii, and the continental United States. Beginning next fiscal year through fiscal 2008, the restructure will lead to fewer flights and leave from only one gateway at BWI. Duty passengers will be able to travel on commercial airlines through the General Service Administration's City Pair program.

The restructure will not only save the government millions of dollars annually, PCS travelers will gain more flexibility in planning their overseas moves, according to Capt. Billy Webb, chief of AMC passenger operations. "The restructure brings several advantages to those PCSing overseas," Captain Webb said. Commercial airlines fly into most locations served by Patriot Express, and they fly more frequently, so there are more options in scheduling flights. And, with Patriot Express, travelers need to get to a gateway terminal, which may be far from where they live. Then they have to make the connection with a Patriot Express flight. With the City Pair program, travelers, in many cases, will be able to get direct flights to their new duty location. All Patriot Express routes, except for those into locations with no commercial service or where there are force protection considerations, will be phased out over a four-year period. The restructure will mean a reduction in the number of space-available seats, but space-A travel is still available at many AMC passenger terminals on military transports. Even though Patriot Express will phase out, opportunities for space-A travel still exist on our own airlift aircraft, although not as frequently.

In fiscal 2005, the Atlanta gateway will close, and Patriot Express flights to Rhein-Main Air Base, Germany, will end. The military will also adjust the frequency and size of flights to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and Keflavik, Iceland. In fiscal 2006, service to Osan and Kunsan air bases, Korea; Kadana AB, Japan; Keflavik, Iceland; and Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England, will end. The reservation center at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, and the gateway at Los Angeles International Airport will close. Fiscal 2007 marks the end of service to three American bases in Japan: Yokota and Misawa air bases and the Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni, as well as the Japan passenger reservation center. The Seattle gateway will also close, and AMC's main PRC at Scott AFB, Illinois, will increase its operating hours. In the last phase, slated for fiscal 2008, service to Lajes Field, the Azores; Aviano AB, Italy; Rota, Spain; and Sigonella, Sicily, will end, the PRC in Germany will close, and AMC's center will begin continuous operations.

For more information on space-A travel, visit <http://public.amc.af.mil/SPACEA/spacea.htm>; those without Internet access may contact MMSR-6 and request a printed copy of the information found at the link.

Reservists get full-time commissary benefits

The signing of the 2004 National Defense Authorization Act signaled unlimited shopping privileges for Reserve component members and their families. It also signaled the end of issuing and tracking commissary privilege identification cards. Previously, Reserve component personnel, known as gray-area reservists who are awaiting pay at 60, and their families were allowed 24-commissary shopping days per calendar year and had to have their privilege cards initialed at the commissary each day they shopped. Gray-area reservists were not formerly entitled to unlimited commissary shopping until they reached 60. The average customer generally only shops twice a month, and since they are spread out all over the country the impact is very low at any one commissary. The Defense Commissary Agency operates 275 commissaries worldwide. The major benefit for Reserve members now is the convenience of being able to make a quick stop at the commissary to buy a loaf of bread and a gallon of milk, or diapers and baby food, without worrying about running out of shopping trips for the year. Unfortunately, the extended benefit may not apply worldwide. While gray-area reservists not on active duty can enjoy unlimited shopping in the United States, Guam or Puerto Rico, many overseas installations are impacted by host nation agreements that limit on-base shopping by non-active-duty personnel. When visiting or living outside the United States or its territories, Reserve personnel should always check with appropriate installation authorities about local commissary shopping privileges.

DoD official says future bright for most commissaries

To soothe anxiety among service members and their families about reports of the Defense Department closing commissaries, a top DoD official has emphasized that the department strongly supports commissaries as an important benefit of military service. In an interview at his Pentagon office, John M. Molino said, "The future of the commissary benefit is very sound, very healthy." Molino is deputy undersecretary of defense for military community and family policy, and acting deputy undersecretary of defense for equal opportunity. "The department is committed to maintain a commissary benefit," he said. Molino said the controversy goes back three years to when, shortly after arriving at the Pentagon, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld asked whether the department should be running a chain of grocery stores. "We did a detailed analysis of whether or not there were other ways to deliver the commissary benefit," Molino said. The conclusion: the commissary needs to stay as something we do within the Department of Defense, even though it is outside our core competency he said.



Even though DoD isn't searching for ways to close commissaries, there might be a location that needs to be closed. DoD doesn't want to close any commissary, but it will do so if one is draining the system to the point of affecting customer support throughout the system, Molino said. For example, DoD closed the commissary at Fort Monroe, Va., several months ago. "It's literally a 10-minute drive to the commissary at Langley Air Force Base, which is much larger, much better stocked and provides a better service," the deputy undersecretary noted. He noted that when Fort Schafter, Hawaii, was closed, a new commissary opened at Pearl Harbor, which is about a 20-minute drive away. The void at Fort Schafter was filled when the Army and Air Force Exchange Service opened an exchange market store there, Molino noted. "The people who live on Schafter are able to get the quick milk-and-bread-type items they need," he said. "They travel to the Pearl Harbor commissary for the big groceries." Noting that there are 276 commissaries around the world, Molino said 19 have been put on a "watch list." "That leaves 257 that are in good shape, operating very well and are not in danger of closing," he said. "We look at every store every year. Those that fall below the criteria for what we would otherwise call a healthy store get put on a watch list."

AAFES adds shipping charge for some online catalog orders

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service has updated its shipping policy for Internet and catalog purchases, which took effect in January, to include a shipping charge of \$4.95 on orders of \$48.99 or less. There will be exceptions to this policy. "We remain committed to offering our customers a very competitive value both online and through our catalogs," said Mike Westphal, senior vice president, Cyber. "And we have designed the new shipping policy to offer a number of opportunities for our valued customers to continue receiving free shipping. The opportunities will be offered everyday and not simply as promotions. We encourage them to keep these options in mind when placing an order."

Customers who place orders using their Military Star card or include a Military Clothing Sales Store item in their order will always receive free shipping regardless of order amount. Orders of \$49 dollars or more incur no shipping charges unless the item is classified as oversized. "Oversized items require great care. We have to rely on quality shipping methods to ensure that the customer's order arrives at their doorstep in showroom condition," Westphal said. As large items require special handling and cost more to ship, an oversized shipping/handling fee will be applied.

For more information, visit www.aafes.com or call the Exchange Catalog Contact Center at 1-800-527-2345.



Legislative Updates

<http://thomas.loc.gov>

Rep. Miller (R-Fla.) introduces SBP legislation

Representative Jeff Miller (R-Fla.) has introduced **H.R. 3763**, the Military Survivor Benefits Improvement Act of 2004, according to announcements by both The Retired Enlisted Association and the Military Officer Association of America.

The TREA report noted that the measure would eliminate the current age 62 annuity reduction from 55 to 35%, phased in over a 10-year period beginning in October 2005. The bill also includes a one-year open enrollment period to allow participation for those who previously did not elect SBP coverage. A companion bill, **S-1916**, was introduced in November by Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-La.).

MOAA officials said when Rep. Miller announced his introduction of the bill, Reps. Robin Hayes (R-N.C.), Walter B. Jones (R-N.C.), Alan Boyd (D-Fla.), Ken Calvert (R-Calif.), Mike Burgess (R-Texas), Bob Filner (D-Calif.), Joe Wilson (R-S.C.) and Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas) joined him at the podium in a bipartisan show of support. There are 227 co-sponsors of this bill.

Other legislation important to members of the retiree community:

H.R. 1111 (Cass Ballenger, R-N.C.) Uni-

formed Services Divorce Equity Act of 2003: To amend title 10, United States Code, to revise the rules relating to the court-ordered apportionment of the retired pay of members of the uniformed services to former spouses. There are currently 21 co-sponsors.

H.R. 1653 (Jim Saxton, R-N.J.) to amend title 10, United States Code: To change the effective date for paid-up coverage under the military Survivor Benefit Plan from 1 Oct. 2008. When he introduced the bill, the proposed effective date was 1 Oct. 2003. However, if passed, this date would probably change in the final wording. Currently there are 40 co-sponsors.

H.R. 1726 (Henry Brown, R-S.C.) Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act: To amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the offset from surviving spouse annuities under the military Survivor Benefit Plan for amounts paid by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs as dependency and indemnity compensation. There are 37 co-sponsors.

H.R. 3474 (Van Hollen, D-Md.) Keep Our Promises to America's Military Retirees Act: To restore health care coverage to retired members of the uniformed services. There are 156 co-sponsors.

Have online access? Contact your Representative at <http://www.house.gov/writerep/> or Senator at <http://www.senate.gov/>. Others may call the legislative switchboard at (202) 224-3121.

Second Career

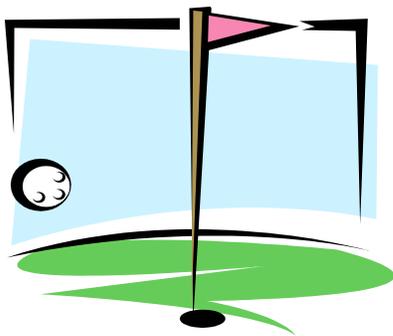
Do you have a job opportunity for a retired Marine? If so, we are looking for corporate employment opportunities only to run in this column. Include a brief job description, point of contact and send it to MMSR-6. We will run "Second Career" opportunities on a space-available basis. Neither the United States Marine Corps, nor any other component of DoD endorses the employment opportunities that are published in this column.

Project Manager - LLC is looking for residential construction managers in the Austin, Texas area. Two years experience in residential construction management and estimating required.

Building Doctor, LLC, (512) 785-5333
Attn: MSgt Jeff Radke, USMC (Ret)
117 Pin Oak Dr. Mountain City, Texas 78610
E-mail: openings@buildingdoctor.biz
URL: www.buildingdoctor.biz

National Retired Military Golf Classic

The 21st annual National Retired Military Golf Classic will be held in Myrtle Beach, S.C. from 1-5 June 2004. The Classic is the largest retired military golf event in the world and will be played on five different courses at Myrtle Beach Nation and Wildwing Golf Clubs. Only 864 men and 132 women will be accepted for this event, who will compete for more than \$125,000 in cash and prizes. Applications were mailed for those on the mailing list; applications are also available at most military golf courses in the United States. Priority will be given to those who have recently played in the Classic and a waiting list will be established once the Classic is full. For applications, call 1-800-255-4763 or 1-866-469-7853 or write: National Retired Military Golf Classic, P.O. Box 3608, Myrtle Beach, S.C. 29578 or visit www.patricia.com.



Kilauea Military Camp is not your typical Hawaiian vacation

"At 4,000 feet above sea level, the warm Hawaiian temperatures drop and each of our cottages feature a fireplace. Not your typical Hawaiian vacation." That's how Arlene Bali, marketing director, describes the Kilauea Military Camp on the big island of Hawaii. While most folks are familiar with the Hale Koa and even Camp Bellows, Kilauea isn't exactly a household word. This may change, however, as more members of the military retired community, looking for affordable vacations spots, turn to the KMC, a Joint Services Recreation Center that allows visitors to experience another side Hawaii. It's lush and tropical as well as dramatic and stark because of the all the lava activity, said Bali, who described the center as featuring 77 comfortably appointed cottages and apartments right in the heart of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. "We are near the crater's edge of the much publicized, active volcano, Kilauea," she said. Besides a fireplace in the room, there is cable TV, a mini-refrigerator, microwave, coffee-maker, hair dryer, iron and ironing board as well as an umbrella for the those unexpected showers. Cottages and apartments vary from one-, two-, and three-bedroom units. Selected units include a Jacuzzi and/or kitchen. KMC also offers an array of activities from tennis, golf, biking, bowling, hiking, guided island tours and more. There is also a café, general store, recreation lodge, meeting rooms, gas station, theater and chapel.



Eligibility is open to all active-duty military, Reserves, National Guard, retirees and Department of Defense civilian employees and their guests, with rates ranging from \$46 to \$120 per night for double occupancy.

Reservations may be made up to a year in advance except during peak season. For more information, contact:

Kilauea Military Camp
HQ Building 40, Attn: Reservations Office
Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Hawaii 96718

Callers from Oahu dial 438-6707; others (808) 967-8333
Those with Internet access may visit
www.kmc-volcano.com or e-mail
reservations@kmc-volcano.com.

MCJROTC Openings

www.tecom.usmc.mil/jrotc

The Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps is looking for a few good men and women to serve as instructors at various high schools throughout the United States. Retired officers and staff noncommissioned officers (SNCOs) are needed. Marines selected to serve in these billets will teach MCJROTC students discipline, self-confidence and the leadership skills required to successfully prepare them to meet the challenges of the future. In addition to their retirement pay, instructors will receive a stipend from the Marine Corps and the respective school system that equals their full military pay and allowances. MCJROTC instructors must be certified by the Commanding General, Training and Education Command, Quantico, Va.

Instructor vacancies are regularly added to MCJROTC's web site. You may also download application forms, review the curriculum and locations and read about the history of the program. Active-duty personnel may request certification for the Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps one year before their retirement date and by retired Marines who have been in a retired status for less than three years. There are no exceptions! For additional information, contact:

Commanding General
Training and Education Command (C 46JR)
MCCDC
3300 Russell Road
Quantico, Va. 22134-5001
(703) 784-3705, DSN 278-3705

The following instructor positions are currently vacant or are anticipated to become vacant in the near future:

Senior Marine Instructors (Officer Billets)

- ☆ ALABAMA: J.O. Johnson H.S., *Huntsville*
- ☆ ARIZONA: Ray H.S., *Kearney*;
- ☆ CALIFORNIA: Desert Hot Springs H.S., *Desert Hot Springs*
- ☆ JAPAN: Dependent School, Pacific, *Kubasaki H.S.*
- ☆ KANSAS: Northeast Magnet H.S., *Wichita*
- ☆ KENTUCKY: Holmes H.S., *Covington*
- ☆ MASSACHUSETTS: Montachusett Regional Vocational Tech School, *Fitchburg*; Salem H.S., *Salem*
- ☆ NEW JERSEY: St. Peter's H.S., *New Brunswick*
- ☆ NEW YORK: Amsterdam H.S., *Amsterdam*; Lincoln H.S., *Yonkers*
- ☆ PENNSYLVANIA: Ambridge H.S., *Ambridge*
- ☆ TEXAS: Marine Military Academy; *Pasadena H.S., Pasadena*

Marine Instructors (SNCO Billets)

- ☆ FLORIDA: Venice H.S., *Venice*
- ☆ GEORGIA: Dougherty Comprehensive H.S., *Albany*
- ☆ MASSACHUSETTS: Beverly H.S., *Beverly*; Gloucester H.S., *Gloucester*; Haverhill H.S., *Haverhill*
- ☆ NEW YORK: Lindenhurst H.S., *Lindenhurst*
- ☆ SOUTH DAKOTA: Sturgis Brown H.S., *Sturgis*

Taps

The Marine Corps wishes to extend heartfelt sympathy to the loved ones and friends of our fallen comrades. Because of the Privacy Act, we cannot release addresses of the next of kin.

Adrian, Billy M. Col Feb 77/Aug 03
 Allen, Joseph K. GySgt Dec 61/Sep 03
 Amos, Henry D. Jr. Capt Jan 70/Aug 03
 Anderson, Leonard C. Jr. MGySgt Sep 90/Sep 03
 Atkinson, Paul E. GySgt Nov 69/Aug 03
 Bauermann, Gunthar C. 1stSgt Jan 69/Aug 03
 Beaudette, Joseph H. LCpl Oct 75/Jan 04
 Beauford, Lawrence E. SSgt Aug 70/Aug 03
 Bechman, Ivan D. MGySgt Nov 69/Dec 03
 Blanchard, George A. GySgt Oct 67/Aug 03
 Boger, Charles C. CWO2 Jun 71/Aug 03
 Boone, Tad L. PFC Aug 68/Aug 03
 Bownes, Hugh H. Capt Nov 46/Nov 03
 Box, Kempereth D. CWO3 Feb 75/Jan 04
 Boyer, James L. MGySgt Sep 93/Dec 03
 Breeden, Robert E. SSgt Nov 59/Sep 03
 Britsch, Joe W. GySgt Jun 60/Sep 03
 Brown, Arthur M. Maj Aug 65/Aug 03
 Brown, Robert L. GySgt May 65/Sep 03
 Capozzoli, J.A. Jr. CWO2 Mar 64/Sep 03
 Castor, Jerry A. 1stSgt May 73/Sep 03
 Cavanaugh, Robert W. Jr. LCpl Mar 71/Sep 03
 Channell, Elden E. 1stSgt Aug 67/May 03
 Chase, Walter T. GySgt Jul 75/Aug 03
 Chepenik, Marcus P. Capt Jun 75/Sep 03
 Church, Ernest L. CWO2 Aug 68/Jul 03
 Cigoj, Robert F. Cpl Mar 67/Jun 03
 Clark, James E. WO1 Apr 56/Jan 04
 Clark, Robert W. Col Jul 62/Oct 03
 Coll, Vincent S. LtCol May 84/Apr 03
 Cooper, Joseph R. Jr. Capt May 75/Sep 03
 Crane, Harry W. SgtMaj Apr 97/Dec 03
 David, Wesley E. SSgt Mar 71/Sep 03
 Davis, Harry H. Jr. GySgt Nov 70/Aug 03
 Davis, Lionel Sgt Jul 68/Jul 03
 Davis, Raymond G. Gen Apr 72/Sep 03
 DeBall, George J. LtCol Jan 62/Oct 02
 Derrico, James A. Jr. LtCol Jun 86/Jan 04
 DeVoe, Paul L. MSgt Aug 89/Sep 03
 Divine, Billy Sgt Mar 51/Jul 03
 Doane, H.B. GySgt Sep 68/Jul 03
 Dobon, Peter Jr. LtCol Jun 83/Jan 04
 Dodds, William E. LtCol Feb 74/Aug 03
 Downes, Leslie J. Jr. LtCol Jul 82/Jun 03
 Dryden, Weldon J. Capt Aug 61/Sep 03
 Dudley, Thomas A. SSgt Jan 81/Sep 03
 Dumm, Edwin N. MSgt Aug 89/Sep 03
 Eisenhauer, G.W. Jr. CWO2 Nov 63/Aug 03

Erzen, Robert J. GySgt Sep 68/Aug 03
 Finch, James H. Col Dec 73/Jul 03
 Foshee, Joseph A. Jr. MSgt Jul 71/Sep 03
 Foust, Clyde W. GySgt Aug 80/Dec 03
 Francis, Richard E. GySgt May 73/Aug 03
 Freeman, Leroy W. GySgt May 65/Oct 03
 Fryer, Frederick C. 1stSgt Mar 62/Aug 03
 Gallagher, Harry K. X. PFC Jun 53/May 03
 Gangano, Abraham SSgt Oct 73/Oct 03
 Gay, David 1stSgt Jan 86/Jul 03
 Gedrich, Leonard J. MSgt Feb 70/Nov 00
 Gholson, Amon K. GySgt Sep 51/Dec 03
 Gillette, J. MSgt Jul 64/Jun 03
 Glass, Homer M. SSgt May 63/Aug 03
 Giordano, Leonardo G. GySgt Dec 69/Aug 03
 Gonzalez, Jose R. SgtMaj Jun 74/Aug 03
 Gott, Michael J. LtCol Feb 75/Aug 03
 Graham, Richard S. 1stSgt Nov 64/Sep 03
 Gulledege, Jimmie W. LCpl Dec 69/Jul 03
 Gwazdauskas, C.V. Sgt Jun 60/Dec 03
 Harper, Charles E. GySgt Jun 74/Dec 03
 Harris, John B. MSgt Apr 74/Dec 03
 Hart, Robert W. Jr. Maj Mar 68/Sep 03
 Hefty, James H. MSgt Sep 72/Oct 03
 Hicks, Norman W. LtCol Oct 70/Aug 03
 Hilliard, Robert C. LtCol Jul 69/Jan 04
 Hingst, Orion R. MSgt Nov 68/Jul 03
 Hix, Clifton L. Capt Jul 75/Aug 03
 Hoffman, Estle R. Jr. 1stSgt Jun 75/Sep 03
 Holl, Bernard T. SSgt Apr 59/Aug 03
 Hopkins, Ronald MGySgt Apr 00/Sep 03
 Horais, Walter G. Capt Apr 62/Feb 03
 Howe, Robert D. GySgt Feb 72/Jan 04
 Hudson, Louis O. GySgt Jul 59/Aug 03
 Huston, Wayne B. 1stLt Jul 68/Jan 04
 Jackson, Lauris W. CWO4 Dec 69/Aug 03
 Jarrett, Richard C. GySgt Sep 75/Aug 03
 Jenkins, Daniel J. GySgt Mar 76/Sep 03
 Jensen, Leroy W. Col Apr 76/Aug 03
 Johanson, Benjamin G. Capt Oct 79/Jul 03
 Johns, Samuel B. GySgt Feb 72/Aug 03
 Johnston, Gail C. 1stSgt Jul 71/May 03
 Kaempf, Floyd G. MSgt Jul 87/Jan 04
 Kastner, G. SSgt Mar 64/Sep 03
 Klein, Charles L. Cpl Dec 59/Aug 03
 Kopack, Andrew J. MSgt Jan 58/Aug 02
 Ladson, Victor Jr. GySgt Mar 73/Aug 03
 Langowski, Henry R. GySgt Jul 63/Sep 03
 Lawlor, John M. GySgt May 76/Aug 03
 Leffler, Allen L. 1stSgt Jul 71/Nov 03
 Long, Gary E. SgtMaj Jun 83/Sep 03
 Lutinski, Raymond J. SSgt Nov 55/Sep 03
 Magee, James T. Jr. Maj Apr 73/Aug 03
 Malenchini, Carl J. MSgt Aug 02/Dec 02
 Marshall, Robert L. Jr. Maj Jul 70/Jan 04
 Martin, Marion K. CWO2 Apr 54/Jan 04
 Martin, Thomas R. Col Sep 80/Dec 03
 Mason, William Jr. PFC Sep 53/Apr 03
 McCandless, Jimmie W. GySgt Oct 61/Jul 03
 McCluney, Frank H. Cpl Sep 68/Jul 03

McElwee, Phillip A. MSgt Oct 67/Sep 03
 McGuire, Norman E. SSgt Aug 66/Sep 03
 McKinney, George C. GySgt Apr 68/Aug 03
 McLaughlin, Richard B. Maj Jan 71/Sep 03
 McNitt, Howard E. GySgt Oct 69/Aug 03
 Meeks, Joseph R. Capt Jun 74/Sep 03
 Midgett, Marion J. SSgt May 78/Oct 03
 Milne, Harry T. LtCol Aug 60/Aug 03
 Miller, Gordon F. MSgt Jan 71/Aug 03
 Molnar, Robert J. Cpl May 52/Aug 03
 Moody, George E. PFC Mar 51/Aug 03
 Moore, Brian D. Col Jul 87/Aug 03
 Moreau, Paul L. Col Jul 83/Aug 03
 Mork, Loren A. GySgt Oct 88/Sep 03
 Morris, George J. GySgt Jun 86/Oct 03
 Morris, Harold N. MSgt Jul 61/Dec 01
 Morwood, Richard B. GySgt Oct 69/Jan 04
 Mulligan, Robert T. 1stSgt Oct 68/Aug 03
 Noble, Bruce F. MSgt Nov 92/Sep 03
 O'Connell, John P. Col Nov 71/Oct 03
 O'Buch, Milton R. MGySgt Oct 60/Aug 03
 O'Donnell, John P. GySgt Sep 88/Sep 03
 Oliva, Anthony S. GySgt Jun 59/Sep 03
 Palilla, John SSgt Apr 71/Sep 03
 Parker, George W. GySgt Jan 85/Aug 03
 Patrick, Danny M. Jr. SSgt Nov 03/Jan 04
 Peay, Donell H. Sr. SSgt Dec 73/Sep 03
 Perry, Richard P. Capt Nov 70/Sep 03
 Pettinger, Earl E. WO1 Jun 57/Aug 03
 Pittman, David B. MSgt Jul 69/Dec 03
 Poe, William V. MSgt Jun 93/Mar 03
 Poole, Glen W. MSgt May 74/Aug 03
 Poulin, Raymond L. GySgt Jun 70/Sep 03
 Quesnell, Michael J. Cpl Feb 90/Aug 03
 Ramirez, James R. GySgt Jul 74/Jul 03
 Ranieri, Angelo M. Jr. MSgt Jan 75/Dec 03
 Ratcliff, Rufus H. MSgt Oct 62/Mar 03
 Remmel, Carl G. Maj Feb 81/Dec 03
 Reynolds, Roy L. LCpl Mar 70/Aug 03
 Rogers, Garland GySgt Oct 95/Sep 03
 Rollins, Thomas E. Capt Jan 80/Sep 03
 Roth, Roy C. GySgt Aug 59/Jan 04
 Rowlison, Harold S. SSgt Sep 70/Sep 03
 Sabin, James N. Cpl Feb 69/Aug 03
 Sadowski, Edward G. GySgt Dec 63/Aug 03
 Salg, Martin O. MGySgt Jul 90/Jan 04
 Saunders, William F. Col Jul 78/Aug 03
 Schwendimann, Henry N. Maj Apr 61/May 03
 Scobba, Larry S. 1stSgt Aug 83/Dec 02
 Shelton, H.G. GySgt Jun 67/Aug 03
 Shepard, Christy E. GySgt Aug 98/Aug 03
 Slater, James J. GySgt Jul 00/Aug 03
 Slawson, John W. Jr. SgtMaj Dec 81/Aug 03
 Smith, Huell L. Jr. SSgt Jun 93/Aug 03
 Smith, Richard W. PFC Jul 70/Dec 03
 Solomon, Philip SSgt Mar 73/Aug 03
 Sommers, Richard R. SSgt Jun 92/Sep 03
 Stephens, William G. Jr. LtCol May 78/Oct 03
 Stoney, M.E. Jr. SSgt Oct 66/Jan 04
 Strutz, John J. LCpl Feb 52/Apr 03

Sudnick, Ralph M. Maj Jul 64/Dec 03
 Sullivan, Eugne J. GySgt Jun 97/Sep 03
 Swope, Charles E. Jr. Col Jun 90/Nov 03
 Symm, Bernace M. Sept 73/Feb 03
 Tagman, Francis G. GySgt Sep 83/Dec 03
 Tate, Ernest M. GySgt Jul 73/Aug 03
 Tate, Gerald GySgt Jan 73/Sep 03
 Thomas, Eugene J. Pvt Mar 69/Aug 03
 Thompson, Jesse P. III MSgt Oct 79/Aug 03
 Threat, Willie L. MSgt Jan 91/Jan 04
 Tisdale, Lonnie G. MSgt Mar 70/Aug 03
 Tuohy, William Jr. Jr. Sgt Mar 67/May 03
 Turner, Richard J. LCpl Jun 55/Aug 03
 Turner, Terry LtCol Jun 76/Aug 03
 Ulsh, Ammon J. SSgt Apr 65/Aug 03
 Van, Marion L. 1stSgt May 67/Aug 03
 Visage, Billy F. Col Aug 77/Aug 03
 Voth, Stanley B. LtCol Aug 66/Dec 03
 Weaver, Bryce P. Sgt Oct 69/Aug 03
 Weinberger, Arthur H. Col Feb 61/Aug 03
 Wells, Donald A. SSgt Jul 62/Jan 04
 Westling, David Y. Maj Jul 67/Sep 03
 Williams, Kenneth V. 1stSgt Apr 97/Oct 03
 Wilson, Jerry T. 1stLt Sep 68/Sep 03
 Wilson, Wesley Jr. SSgt Jun 73/Aug 03
 Winters, Hilary M. GySgt Feb 55/Sep 03
 Xaverius, George W. MSgt Jul 71/Aug 03
 Zakzeski, C.F. MSgt Jul 64/Jun 03

To report the death of a retired Marine who was in receipt of civil service benefits, contact:

U.S. Office of Personnel Management
P.O. Box 45, Boyers, Pa. 16017-0045
1-888-767-6738 or (202) 606-0500



How to report a death for the Taps column

Contact DFAS at 1-800-321-1080 to report a retired Marine's death. The names that you have read in the *Taps* column have been verified by DFAS. They provide recurrent death listings to MMSR-6 for inclusion here. When you notify MMSR-6 of a death for inclusion in *Taps*, you may delay the process because the death information must be verified before it can be published in *Semper Fidelis*. Because the volume of incoming death notifications to MMSR-6 may significantly delay inclusion of your loved one's name in this column, make DFAS your first point of contact.

Steps to take when a retiree dies

- ☆ **Notify DFAS of the death.** Stopping retirement pay immediately is critical to avoid indebtedness. If the retired Marine was receiving pay from another source due to a disability or civil service retirement, contact the appropriate agency to return the payment. If you fail to do this, you will have to repay it later. DFAS contact information is on page 5 under "Pay Issues."
- ☆ **Survivor Benefit Plan election.** Designated annuitants will receive notification from DFAS if the deceased retired Marine elected the SBP.
- ☆ **Update your military identification card.** Doing so will reflect the change in status to a survivor's ID card. Contact your nearest ID card issuing site or MMSR-6 at 1-800-336-4649 or (703) 784-9310.
- ☆ **Burial benefits.** The Department of Veterans Affairs provides information on burial benefits. Contact your nearest VA representative by calling 1-800-827-1000.

Required documents to claim death benefits may include:

- ☆ DD 214s,
- ☆ Birth and death certificates,
- ☆ Beneficiary information (marriage license and/or divorce decree),
- ☆ Updated will and letter of instructions,
- ☆ Financial information with account numbers,
- ☆ Adoption or naturalization documents, if applicable and
- ☆ Disposition instructions for the body.

Steps to take when an annuitant dies

Notify DFAS immediately. Refer to page 5 under "Pay Issues" for contact information. Include the annuitant's and the retired member's SSN on any written correspondence to DFAS. If death notification is by telephone, have readily available the SSN of the deceased annuitant and retired member, the annuitant's date of death and the name, address and telephone number of the next of kin or other contact; also specify who will send a copy of the death certificate.

Federal hiring of military veterans increases

Hiring of military veterans across the federal civilian work force increased in fiscal 2002, the government's director of personnel recently reported. In fact, hiring of veterans in the federal work force was up more than 19% over the previous fiscal year, Kay Coles James, director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, noted in her agency's most recent annual report to Congress, dated 30 Sept. According to the OPM report, 47,510 veterans were hired government-wide in fiscal 2002, compared to 39,874 hired the year before, representing a 19.2% increase. The OPM report noted that the percentage of disabled veterans in the federal civilian work force was 4.5% in fiscal 2002, a drop of 0.1% from the previous year. However, the percentage of veterans in the federal work force with 30% or more disability in fiscal 2002 was up 1.9% over the previous year.

The Defense Department hired 21,657 veterans in fiscal 2002, representing 45.6% of all new veteran hires across the federal government that year, according to the OPM report. Non-DoD federal organizations with the highest percentages of all new veteran hires in fiscal 2002 included the Veterans Affairs Department with 23.5%, and the Justice Department with 19.7%. In OPM's fiscal 2002 congressional report, James said she was proud of federal agencies' efforts in hiring veterans.

"With our military actively engaged in the fight against terrorism, we must not falter in our commitment to the employment of these dedicated Americans," James declared. "Nor can we forget," she continued, "that disabled veterans are heroes who have paid a price so dear that it will stay with them for the rest of their lives." The federal government employed 450,100 veterans during fiscal 2002, according to the OPM report.

Need a copy of your tax return information?

Taxpayers have two easy and convenient options for getting copies of their federal tax return information - tax return transcripts and tax account transcripts - by phone or by mail.

A tax return transcript shows most line items from the tax return (Form 1040, 1040A or 1040EZ) as it was originally filed, including any accompanying forms and schedules. It does not reflect any changes you, your representative, or the IRS made after the return was filed. In many cases, a return transcript will meet the requirements of lending institutions such as those offering mortgages and student loans. A tax account transcript shows any later adjustments either you or the IRS made after the tax return was filed. This transcript shows basic data, including marital status, type of return filed, adjusted gross income and taxable income.

Request transcripts by calling 1-800-829-1040, or order by mail using IRS Form 4506-T, "Request for Transcript of Tax Form." Specify the type of transcript you are requesting. The IRS does not charge a fee for transcripts, which are available for the current and three prior calendar years. Allow two weeks for delivery. If you need a photocopy of a previously processed tax return and attachments, complete Form 4506, "Request for Copy of Tax Form" and mail it to the IRS address listed on the form for your area. There is a fee of \$39.00 for each tax period requested. Copies are generally available for the current and past six years. Forms 4506 and 4506-T are available at www.irs.gov, under "Forms and Publications," or by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).

Are you paying too much in taxes at the end of the year?

It's never too late to change your withholding. If you receive a balance due from your tax return that is too large for you to comfortably pay or have to pay a penalty you may need to reassess your tax withholding. The ideal situation is when your tax withholding matches your tax liability.



Approximately 10% of all retirees reporting taxable pension and/or Social Security income in a recent year were assessed the Under Payment Penalty by the Internal Revenue Service. Many individuals end up owing at tax time because they are not aware that taxes can be withheld from Social Security payments and pensions. Many retirees or their spouses continue to work and their withholding from those jobs may not be sufficient to cover the tax on their income from all sources.

Publication 919, "How Do I Adjust My Tax Withholding," uses different worksheets for you to determine your correct tax liability for the year. It takes into consideration tax credits/deductions and life events for you and your family. You may increase or decrease the withholding on your pension by filing a Form W-4P (W-4 for military retirees) with your servicing pay center. You can request withholding on your Social Security by filing Form W-4V with your Social Security Office. IRS publications and forms are available at www.irs.gov. For a free paper copy, call 1-800-829-3676 (1-800-TAX-Form). For additional questions, call IRS at 1-800-829-1040. Do not come up short at tax time. Do the math to determine your tax liability versus your tax payments. Complete the appropriate forms and avoid the penalty.

Tax statements available on myPay

With online access, service members, military retirees, annuitants and defense civilian employees can access their tax statements through myPay to view, save and print their tax statements from myPay at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>. For assistance, users may call myPay customer support at 1-800-390-2348. MyPay provides a secure method for users to manage their pay account information, officials said. Available around the clock, customers can make changes online, instead of contacting DFAS. Although retirees and annuitants will be able to view their statements and can print them, they should have automatically received a copy of their 1099 in the mail. This is because so very few retirees are using myPay. You need a personal identification number to access myPay. If you do not have a PIN, you may request one by clicking on the "New PIN" button under "Need a PIN" on the myPay homepage. For questions related to myPay or for assistance in obtaining a myPay PIN, call 1-800-390-2348.

"During 2003, more than 1.2 million users viewed their tax statements on myPay, and we continue to encourage users to view and print their statements online," said Pat Shine, director of DFAS' military and civilian pay services business line. "Timely access to W-2s and other tax statements is another way myPay gives users control of their pay information."

Military Retiree Appreciation Days

Beaufort, South Carolina:

The Tri-Command Retired Activities Office (RAO) will conduct its Annual Military Retiree, Spouse and Widow/Widower Appreciation Day on Friday, 23 April 2004 aboard the U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C. The festivities will begin with a meal at the dining facility with the "Marines and Sailors of Fightertown." As guests of the Commanding Officer, you will attend the MCAS "Special" Air Show featuring the U.S. Navy Blue Angels. For reservations and information call (843) 228-7351 or e-mail dorseycn@beaufort.usmc.mil by 2:00 p.m. Friday, 16 April 2004. Retirees and guests must present a valid photo ID.

Quantico, Virginia:

You're invited to the 4th Annual Military Retiree Appreciation Day at Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Va., Friday, 16 April 2004, 0730 to 1500 at Larson Gym. The agenda includes a continental breakfast, color ceremony, and a welcome aboard by the base commander. You will be able to view aircraft and equipment displays at the Air Facility. Shuttle bus service is available between the Larson Gym and the Air Facility.

Information and service booths will include representatives from the Armed Forces Retirement Home, the Base Education Office, Marine Corps Community Service Center, HQMC Military Awards and Personal Records branches, civilian personnel, legal assistance, military identification cards, space-available flights, the Marine Corps Exchange and commissary, Marine Federal Credit Union, Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society, TRICARE, Quantico National Cemetery, Semper Fit Physical Fitness Program, The Clubs at Quantico, Virginia Department of Veteran Affairs, various veterans associations and so much more!

To reserve your seat, call (703) 784-3351 or e-mail retiredactivities@nt.quantico.usmc.mil by Tuesday, 6 April 2004! Note: Unfortunately, due to political events, the event may be rescheduled; please call the above number for status updates.

Avoid Indebtedness to DFAS!

Contact DFAS to stop retired or annuitant pay upon death. If you do not, DFAS will contact the bank directly to recover any electronic payments.

This rule also applies for payments from other sources such as the VA or civil service.



Marine Corps Retired Activities Offices

MCAS YUMA ARIZONA
POC: SELDON E STONE JR.
(928) 341-5616

MCLB BARSTOW CALIFORNIA
POC: NAPOLEON DUMO
(760) 577-6533
dumonh@barstow.usmc.mil

MCAGCC TWENTYNINE PALMS CALIFORNIA
POC: PHILIP C. CISNEROS, (760) 830-7550
site0790@29palms.usmc.mil

MCB CAMP PENDLETON CALIFORNIA
POC: LAUREN SLATE, (760) 725-9791
slatel@pendleton.usmc.mil

MCRD SAN DIEGO CALIFORNIA
POC: PAT BROMLEY, (619) 524-5301
1-888-718-3027, blasf@mcrdsd.usmc.mil

MCAS MIRAMAR CALIFORNIA
POC: MARVIN MUSKAT, (858) 577-4806
ombrao@miramar.usmc.mil

MCLB ALBANY GEORGIA
POC: JAMES CAREY SNIPES, (229) 639-5277
snipesjc@logcom.usmc.mil

MCB CAMP LEJEUNE NORTH CAROLINA
POC: RANDY REICHLER, (910) 451-3212, ext. 205
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Reunions

Send your reunion requests to the Editor, MMSR-6. Incoming mail is inspected and as a result, we may not receive last-minute submissions in time for this column. Have a Navy reunion? Specify an applicable Marine detachment or send them to: Navy Personnel Command, Shift Colors (PERS-05), 5720 Integrity Dr., Millington, Tenn. 38055-0500.

Air Base Group-2 Marines (WW II), 20th reunion in St. Louis, Mo., 26-31 Oct. 2004. POC: Capt. C.M. Nelson, cmn1923@yahoo.com or Vera (Gilpin) Nelson, vgn1919@yahoo.com or 221-331 N. El Camino Real, Oceanside, Calif. 92054-1738.

Basic Class 4-65 is planning a reunion for 2004. POC: Bill Jeffrey, 315882 Rein Ct., Green Oaks, Ill. 60048, (847) 367-4986, biljoyjoe@aol.com.

China Marine Assn. in San Antonio, Texas, 1-5 Sept. 2004. POC: CWO Bill Parker, (252) 453-4124, missida29@aol.com or WO Art Goetz, (410) 742-0930; ag-gunner@juno.com.

Delta Co., 1st Bn., 3rd Marines (Vietnam) in Las Vegas, Nev., 3-6 June 2004. POC: Ray Kelley, P.O. Box 33852, Granada Hills, Calif. 91394-3852, (818) 832-8631, mgkm60@aol.com.

Delta Co., 1st Bn., 7th Mar (Vietnam 1965-66) in Sarasota, Fla., 19-21 May 2004. POC: Major D.D. Brooks, USMC (Ret), (205) 477-7595, ddbrlb@earthlink.net or Chuck Yohn, (714) 963-5445, chuckyohn@earthlink.net.

East Coast DI reunion in Parris Island, S.C., 22-25 April 2004. POC: MSgt Vic Ditchkoff, USMC (Ret), DI Assn., P.O. Box 5117, Parris Island, S.C. 29905, (843) 271-5151.

Echo Co., 2nd Bn., 3rd Marines (Vietnam 1965-69) in Beaufort, S.C., 10-13 June 2004. POC: Don Hinman, 16 Lakewood Village, Medina, N.Y. 14103-1846, (585) 798-0830, usmc2367@2rochester.rr.com.

Fox Co., 2nd Bn., 5th Marines (Vietnam) in Reno, Nev., 26 July to 1 Aug. 2004. POC: 1stSgt William B. (Sam) Henderson, USMC (Ret), 6201 Iroquois Terr., Stagecoach, Nev. 89429-9512, (775) 629-0081, deh1262@aol.com.

HMLA 267 (Camp Pendleton) in planning stages. POC: Thomas Young "Phoenix", 910 Palmer Ln., Palm Harbor, Fla. 34685, (727) 784-7764, phoenix69@uophx.edu.

H-3-1 Korea in Baltimore, Md., 22-26 Sept. 2004. POC: Jack Dedrick, 10 Donna St., Peabody, Mass. 01960, (978) 535-5451, jfdedrick@aol.com.

Kaneohe Bay Marine Corps Air Station (1956-61) is planning a reunion. POC: Oliver E. Copeland, 5309 Roberta Ln., Temple Terrace, Fla. 33617, (813) 984-8208, ocjcr@aol.com or William Chandler, 369 Lorenzo Dr., Spring Hill, Fla. 34608.

Khe Sanh Veterans in Dallas (Irving), Texas. POC: Jim Wodecki, (972) 727-2997 (before 9 p.m. CT), texas@mindspring.com or Russ Turner, (636) 282-2263, rky88@prodigy.net. Visit www.geocities.com/pentagon/4867/.

Looking for Marine personnel who were stationed in Morocco (any era) for a Nov. 2004 reunion in El Cajon, Calif. POC: Lennie Brooks, (619) 442-4493, lennieb89@cox.net.

Marine Air Command and Control System (MACCS) in Honolulu, Hawaii, 25 July 2004. POC: Dick Goodlake, rgoodlake@aol.com or Edda Ashe, easeh@cos.net. Information and registration forms at <http://www.maccs-reunion.org/>.

Marine Corps Air Transport Assn., 15th reunion at Calloway Gardens, Ga. POC: Grady Loveless, (706) 882-8653, majgel@mindspring.com or Con Shuck, (972) 293-2670, conshuck@mcata.com.

Marine Corps Aviation Reconnaissance Assn. in Branson, Mo., 3-6 May 2004. Registration packet at Ozark Mtn. Sightseeing, P.O. Box 1167, Branson, Mo. 65615 or register online at www.branstonfun.com (Mention "MCARA"). More information at www.MCARA.com or PaulTKuras@aol.com.

Marine Corps Logistics Base in Albany, Ga., will host its 2nd annual Military Retiree Appreciation Day on 15 May 2004. This date coincides with Armed Forces Day. For more information, contact Retired Activities Office at (229) 639-5277.

Marine Corps Mustang Assn. in Niagara Falls, N.Y., 13-17 Sept. 2004. POC: Bill Max, P.O. Box 1314, Delran, N.J. 08075, 1-800-321-USMC, topmustang@aol.com.

Marine Detachment, U.S.S. Elokomin A0-55 in St. Augustine, Fla. Planning stages. POC: Tim Murphy, 8921 Mtn. Valley Rd., Fairfax Station, Va. 22039, (703) 679-3471, timurphy@caci.com.

Marine Detachment, U.S.S. Iwo Jima LPH 2/LHD 7 in Baton Rouge, La. POC: Robert G. McAnnally, 38B Frissell St., Hampton, Va. 23663, 1-866-237-3137, fax: (757) 723-4660, yujack@megalink.net.

Marine Detachment, U.S.S. Juneau CL-119 in Norfolk, Va., 8-12 Sept. 2004. POC: William S. Gerichten, 141 Pinelawn Dr., Kernersville, N.C. 27284, (336) 993-5415.

Marine Detachment, U.S.S. Norris DD-DDE-859 in Virginia Beach, Va., 9-13 Sept. 2004. POC: Edward Mehl, 11 Bethany Forest Dr., Dagsboro, Del. 19939, (302) 541-0685, ussnorris@erols.com.

Marine Detachment, U.S.S. Steinaker DDR-DD 863 in Branson, Mo., 29 April to 2 May 2004. POC: Bill Combs, 3856-103 LaSalle Dr., Virginia Beach, Va. 23453, (757) 416-1983, combs27@cox.net.

Marine Embassy Guard Assn., 6th annual reunion in Biloxi, Miss., 29 April to 2 May 2004. POC: David Ledbetter, (870) 352-2109 or davidl@seark.net.

Marine Raider Roundup in Reno, Nev., 11-12 May 2004. POC: Archie B. Rackerby, P.O. Box 83, Rough & Ready, Calif. 95975, (530) 273-4220.

Marine Security Guard, Mexico City (1958-62) in Biloxi, Miss., planning stages for fall 2004. POC: 1stSgt Joe Demoran, USMC (Ret), 625 Livingston St., La-Crosse, Wisc. 54603, (608) 779-4546, joede-musmc@aol.com.

Marine TD Personnel in Branson, Mo. POC: Harry Null, 1534 E. Stormy Dr., Meridian, Idaho 83642, (208) 884-3812, RedReva@aol.com or L.B. Rodgers, (910) 253-5698, LBRODGD@aol.com.

Marine 8th Defense/AA Bn. (WW II) in Arlington, Va., 4-8 Aug. 2004. POC: Mr. Vincent H. Powers, 862 Webster Ln., Des Plaines, Ill. 60016-6341, (847) 635-6090.

OCS 8/73 - TBS 2/74, 30 yrs., Lieutenants, SPCs. If interested in a reunion, contact Leo Bloschock at lbloscho@sccoast.net.

Officers Basic School Class 3-56 (Cos. E, F, G) in Arlington, Va., 20-23 May 2004. POC: Brad McDonald, (703) 536-4418, ABMCDONAL7@aol.com or Reed Phillips, (703) 780-3615, reedphil@aol.com.

Officers Basic School Class 4-55 BC (1955-56) in Quantico, Va. in June 2005. POC: Desmond F. Browne, Sr., 9818 Flintridge Ct., Fairfax, Va. 22032, (h)(703) 323-1908, (w)(540) 288-5811, d.brownesr@att.net.

PBM Mariner/P5M Marlin, 22nd reunion, in Arlington, Va., 6-9 May 2004. POC: E. Doug Anderson, 1101 S. Arlington Ridge Rd., Arlington, Va. 22202, (703) 892-5893, dandfreddy@aol.com or John Woodcock, johnjww@aol.com.

Stormy Sexton's 3/3 also BLT 3/3 (Okinawa, 1961-62) in New Orleans, La, 6-10 Oct. 2004. POC: Col. Roger Holtzapple, USMCR (Ret), 228 N. 11th St., Lewisburg, Pa. 17837, (h) (570) 524-7424, (w) (570) 524-7267, vhford@ptdprolog.net.

Third Marine Division Assn., 50th reunion in Scottsdale,

Ariz., 7-12 Sept. 2004. POC: MGySgt Bobby Biers, USMC (Ret), 6302 E. Wincomb Dr., Scottsdale, Ariz. 85254-3241, (480) 348-1890, bobbybiersusmc@cox.net.

Ticonderoga Veterans Assn. in Branson, Mo., 5-9 May 2004. POC: David "Duck" Heckadon, YN1, USN (Ret), 4616 NE 46th Terrace, Kansas City, Mo. 64117, (816) 454-7846, dianalheckadon@aol.com.

USMC Marine Security Guards (MSG), American Embassy/Saigon, Vietnam in Charleston, S.C., 6-10 Oct. 2004. POC: Michael Bertini, P.O. Box 295, Jacksonville, N.C. 28541.

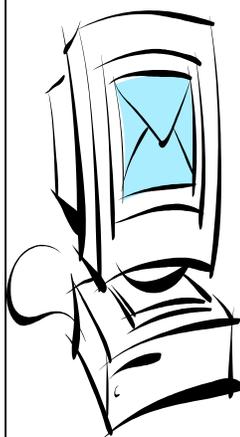
USMC Retired Postal (0160/0161) in Biloxi, Miss., 17-22 Oct. 2004. Retired, active and former postal personnel are invited. POC: MSgt Harold Wilson, USMC (Ret), 11567 Walker Rd., Logan, Ohio 43138, (740) 385-6204, crafter@voyager.net or Capt H.B. Jones, USMC (Ret), P.O. Box 100, Battiest, Okla. 74722, (580) 241-7850, bucknsandra@direcway.com

USMC Vietnam Helicopter Assn. in Reno, Nev., 8-11 July 2004. POC: No name listed, (540) 364-9424, www.popasmoke.com.

4th Marine Regiment (Corregidor-Bataan), in Orlando, Fla., 4-7 May 2004. POC: Martin Christie, 23424 Mobile St., West Hills, Calif. 91307, (818) 348-4492.

15th OCC/21st SBC (1953). If interested in a 2004 reunion, contact Clark G. Henry, (415) 337-8233, c03henry@aol.com, fax: (415) 452-9456.

26th SBC (1953-54) in Dumfries, Va. POC: William O. Lenihan, Esq., 10 Park Ave., #8B, New York, N.Y. 10016, (203) 972-7655, odonel@msn.com.



Change Your Address Online!

If you are a member of any reserve component, retired from either active duty or the reserves, on the TDRL/PDRL or a member of the FMCR, you may enter your address change online, or if you prefer, you may print and mail it to MMSR-7. Go to www.usmc.mil. Note that it may take several seconds (or even longer) before you will see ten links to the right of the slogan, "The Few. The Proud." Select the links marked, "CAREER" and "RETIRED." You should then see the link, "Update Address" in the far right column. If all else fails, you may call MMSR-7 at 1-800-715-0968 to change your address by telephone.

About DFAS

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service is the world's largest finance and accounting operation. It provides responsive, professional finance and accounting services to the men and women who defend America. In fiscal year 2003, DFAS paid about 5.9 million people, processed more than 12.3 million invoices from defense contractors, disbursed more than \$416 billion, and managed more than \$197 billion in military trust funds. For more about DFAS, visit <http://www.dfas.mil>.

How to Access the Semper Fidelis Online:

Go to www.usmc.mil. Note that it may take several seconds before ten links will appear on your screen. The links are located next to the slogan, "The Few. The Proud." Click on the link "Career," and "Retired," which will direct you to the "Retired Activities Home Page." There, you

E-Scholar

The United States Office of Personnel Management e-Scholar web site provides information on educational opportunities offered by various Federal Government agencies or partnering organizations. Visit www.studentjobs.gov/e-scholar.asp for more information.

2004 DFAS Retired Pay Dates:

2 Jan., 2 Feb., 1 March, 1 April, 3 May,
1 June, 1 July, 2 Aug., 1 Sept., 1 Oct.,
1 Nov., 1 Dec.

DFAS retired pay dates are scheduled for the first non-holiday weekday of each month.

☆

2004 DFAS Cost-of-Living Adjustment:

*(Sorry, DFAS COLA information not available at press time)
1.4% increase in January 2003*

Partial for pre-8 Sept. 1980 entrants retired during 2002: 1.4%

Partials for pre-8 Sept. 1980 entrants retired during the applicable calendar quarters:

January-March: 1.4%
April-June: 1.4%
July-September: .5%
October-December: 0%

☆

2004 Social Security Benefits:

*2.1% increase in January 2004
(for beneficiaries of Social Security and Supplemental Security Income)*

☆

2004 VA Benefits:

2.1% increase in January 2004

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Need to Update Your Address?

- ☆ **Retirees:** You may also make address changes online (turn to page 23 for instructions) or call MMSR-7 at 1-800-715-0968! *This also applies to members of the Individual Ready Reserve.*
- ☆ **Annuitants:** Call DFAS at 1-800-321-1080 to report any address changes.

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DISCLAIMER: Some of the information compiled for the **Semper Fidelis** comes from a variety of sources to include experts in their respective fields, i.e., DFAS, VA, TRICARE and OPM. Content was current at the time this publication went to press. Any delays in mailing may be due to unforeseen circumstances and we apologize for any inconvenience.--*The Semper Fidelis Staff*

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The "Semper Fidelis Memorandum for Retired Marines" is published quarterly by the Retired Activities Section to inform retired Marines and their family members on information of interest on their rights, benefits and privileges. Items in this memorandum do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Marine Corps (MMSR-6) or the Dept. of Defense.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Contact the Retired Activities Section (MMSR-6) at
1-800-336-4649 or (703) 784-9310

We provide support to retired Marines, Marine veterans, their family members and survivors. In addition to publishing the Semper Fidelis, functions include:

1. Administering the SBP, SSBP and RCSBP;
2. Providing direct and indirect support through phone calls, interviews, e-mail and formal correspondence;
3. Publishing the Marine Corps Retirement Guide;
4. Certifying applications for military ID cards for retirees, veterans and their family members;
5. Maintaining liaison with the Secretary of the Navy's Retiree Council and attending annual meetings with committee members;
6. Monitoring and supporting the Retired Marine Appreciation Days/Seminars;
7. Making initial determination of benefit eligibility (not involving pay matters) for former spouses of active duty and retired Marines;
8. Processing requests for foreign employment and
9. Interacting and coordinating with internal and external DoD, government and veterans' affairs departments and agencies about retiree issues.