



RETIREE NEWSLETTER

**Retiree Activities Office (RAO), Travis AFB, California
Summer 2018**

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Acknowledgement

Articles appearing in this newsletter are compiled from local sources, newsletters received by this RAO and from other military sources. Information has been edited and reprinted for the benefit of our retiree population. No commercial gain is derived for this publication. News items are current as of their use in this newsletter. Please advise of any errors, omissions, or suggestions for improving our newsletter.



Focus of the Retiree Activities Offices

Our customers are retired American service members and their dependents. They have earned our respect, and their retirement benefits, by dedicating their lives to the preservation, protection and defense of the Constitution of the United States of America. They have sweated and bled in distant lands, foregone the stability and pleasures of family life, and followed the orders given to them without regard to personal cost. They should take great pride in their accomplishments. In addition, they are entitled to the fulfillment of the contract drawn with our country. At the Retiree Activities Office, we take great pride in supporting the fulfillment of this contract. It is our mission to maintain open communication and to ensure they receive the superb service and respect they so rightfully deserve. Our primary focus shall remain on mission accomplishment, compassionate care of retirees and their families, and the drive to constantly improve and excel.

FROM YOUR RAO DIRECTOR

The Retiree Activities Office (RAO) wants you!

Are you retired military? Got some spare time on your hands? Got that “honey do list” completed? Driving your spouse crazy by being home all the time? Do you want to get out of the house for a few hours a week? Do you like to help others? If you answered yes to any of these questions, we have a place for you.

We remain at a low level of staffing in our Medical RAO operations at DGMCC. This renewed recruiting appeal is to retirees, their spouses, active duty members with availability and their spouses, as well. Current commitment would be based on areas where need is most acute. Qualifications include a sincere desire to serve and assist retirees and their families (see the Focus of the Retiree Activities Offices above). Comprehensive knowledge of all retiree issues is not a prerequisite to becoming a volunteer, but a willingness to learn and the courage to reach out for answers and solutions on behalf of retirees is essential. After a brief period of on the job training, volunteers will work independently during their assigned service periods.

Call or email me or Bunny Dominguez (see contact info above) to talk about your entering into this challenging and satisfying mode of “Still Serving.”

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DID YOU KNOW: Your Travis AFB RAO has many publications available for free. These publications include: 1. Summary of VA Benefits for Disabled Veterans. 2. Retiree Survivor’s Guide to Benefits, 3. DFAS Guide to Survivor Benefits, 4. Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents, and Survivors, 5. Grieving Guide. Stop by and pick some up.

DID YOU KNOW: Most military installations around the world have a web site. Just google that installation and their web site will be listed. You can then go to that web site to get the latest news about that installation. Also, most, if not all, USAF bases have a Retiree Activities Office (RAO) which publish a newsletter much like this one. There should be a link to the RAO newsletter on that base's web site. You can use that link to avail yourself of many important or "good to know" details about that base and the surrounding area, should you want or need to visit.



A CHANGE IS HERE

There is a new way dependent ID cards are renewed. The “e-ID Card Online Renewal Process (for Dependents) has been changed y so please be prepared. The process includes the following steps:

- a. You will need access to a device that has internet connection (i.e., a computer, smart phone or tablet)***
- b. A way to take a Passport Photo – either a smart phone or camera, or a local store that does passport photos such as Walgreens, CVS, or Costco, etc.***
- c. A way to upload a Passport Photo – to an online webpage-you can either use a smart phone, computer, or scanner.***
- d. Two forms of ID – Names must match and not be expired (this means you cannot use your expired military ID card as one of these two forms of ID) The same forms of ID that you submit with this application must be the ones presented to customer support technician at the Military Personnel Flight (MPF) when you go to pickup your ID card. Note: If you have had a name change, and your name does not match what is on your form of ID, you will also need to provide evidence of your name change.***
- e. Lost ID Letter – If applicable.***

The web site will be: <https://www.travisfss.com/idcards>. You should probably become familiar with this process before you must renew an ID Card. The website will require to you create an account with a Log On and a Password.

Upcoming Events

The REAL ID Act Impacts Californians

Beginning October 1, 2020, the federal government will require our driver license or ID card to be REAL ID compliant *if* you wish to use it as identification to board an airplane or enter military bases and most federal facilities. A U.S. Passport, passport card, military ID or another form of TSA-approved ID will also be accepted if you do not have a REAL ID

The California DMV began offering the optional REAL ID driver license or ID card on January 22, 2018. Consumer can apply for a REAL ID by providing the DMV with proof of identity (certified U.S. birth certificate, U.S. or foreign passport, employment authorization document, permanent resident card), California residency document (e.g., utility bill) with current address, and proof of your social security number.

*From our Friends at Defense Finance and
Accounting Service (DFAS)*

Do you want to get your Retiree Account Statement in an electronic form? Just log onto: <https://mypay.dfas.mil> You will be able to set up an account by answering some questions and establishing a password. Then you can get your electronic Retiree Account Statement each month and your 1199R at year's end. They even send you a monthly reminder that the statement is available.

Here are some quick ways to contact DFAS.

Mail

For Retirees:	For Annuitants, beneficiaries, and survivors	For claims for non-receipt of payment
Defense Finance and Accounting Service U.S. Military Retired Pay 8899 E. 56 th Street Indianapolis, IN 46249-1200	Defense Finance and Accounting Service U.S. Military Annuitant Pay 8899 E. 56 th Street Indianapolis, IN 46249-1300	Defense Finance and Accounting Service Cleveland Center 1240 East Ninth Street Attention: 19 th Floor Vault Cleveland, OH 44199

Fax

Retired Pay: 800-469-6559

Annuitant/Survivor Pay: 800-982-8459

Claims for non-receipt of payments: 216-522-6358 or 216-22-6358

Phone

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

Toll Free: 800-321-1080

Local: 216-522-5955

DSN: 580-5955

For Quicker Service:

myPay Questions	VA Related Questions	1099R Reissue (Telephone Self-Service)
Assistance with accessing your myPay Account Please call	Please call Veterans Affairs 800-827-1000 Or http://www.va.gov/ http://www.va.gov/	You can access your 1099R using myPay https://pay.dfas.milmypay.aspx?FLPS=LES%7/EDCPS If you do not have a myPay account, request a copy by calling 800-321-1080 . <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Press 1 then,• Press 1 to receive a 1099R

800-332-7411 Press option 6 for assistance accessing your myPay account		
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To speak with a Customer Service Representative, use the voice or touchtone prompts below:

If Reporting a Death or Following –Up on a claim:	For questions about a Retired Pay matter:	For Annuitants (someone receiving a death benefit from a deceased military retiree) with questions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dial 1-800-321-1080, • Press 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dial 1-800-321-1080 • Press 5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dial 1-800-321-1080 • Press 3

VA News

For those of you who are connected to the internet, you can get a wealth of information by logging on to: www.va.gov. This site has links to Health, Benefits, Burials and Memorials, About VA, Resources, News Room, Locations, and Contact Us.

Some of the quick telephone services include:

VA Crises Line: 800.273.8255 (Press 1)

Benefits: 800-827.1000

Health Care: 877.222.Vets (8387)

VA Inspector General: 800.488.8244

Some of the news from their News Room include: Exploring Alternative Treatments for TBI and PTSD; VA and Humane Society of United States Announce Partnership; White House VA Hotline Now Fully Staffed; Rollout and Application Process for New Veterans ID Card. And more. Go to Va.gov and check them all out.



The latest from the Social Security Administration

Your Social Security Statement is now at your fingertips:

Have you ever received a Social Security Statement in the mail? You know, the one that shows all the earnings you've had each year and how much you could receive per month in Social Security benefits when you retire? The Statement contains crucial information workers need to plan for a comfortable retirement. Now, thanks to my Social Security, this information— and so much more— is only a few minutes away!

Your personal my Social Security account is secure and gives you ready access to your earnings records, Social Security benefit estimates, and printable Statements. Those who already receive benefits can view their payment history, current status, and manage their benefits.

To open a personal my Social Security account, go to www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount and select “Create an Account” to get started. You must be 18 years old, have a valid Social Security number, U.S. mailing address (or a military address if deployed overseas), and an email address.

In some cases you may have to contact your local Social Security office to open a my Social Security account.

Once registered, you can:

- * Verify your earnings history;
- * View estimated Social Security benefits based on your past earnings;
- * View Social Security and Medicare taxes you've paid over your lifetime,

- * Print your current Social Security Statement; and
- * Request a replacement Social Security card (in some states)

If you're currently getting benefits, you can:

- * View benefit payment information;
- * Change your address and phone number;
- * Start or change electronic payments;
- * Get a replacement Medicare card;
- * Get a replacement 1099 for tax season; and, * Get a benefit verification letter.

When you sign up for a personal my Social Security account, we use a secure authentication process to protect the privacy of your identity and your Social Security Statement information. In addition to your unique username and password, you can also further protect your my Social Security account with a secure code texted to your phone every time you log in.

Just one more way Social Security strives to provide customers with peace of mind. Learn more at

www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount

(SOURCE: *Social Security Blog Article* at <http://blog.socialsecurity.gov/your-social-security-statement-is-now-at-your-fingertips/>)

Travis AFB

Want to know what is going on at Travis? Just log on to WWW.Travis.AF.Mil There you will find links to Phone Contacts; Space A Travel (with links to all AMC Passenger Terminals Conus and Overseas); DGMC; Biographies; 60 Air Mobility Command; Retiree Activities; Questions; Fact Sheet.

If Space A Travel is on your mind and you are not connected to the Internet, you can call the Passenger Terminal at 707.424.1854 or email them at: 60aps.SpaceA@us.af.mil

With Space A Travel in mind, you can also log onto: WWW.DODLodging.net There you will find links to all DOD lodging including Air Force, Navy, Marine, Army. Check it out.

CONGRESS

Want to know what is going on in Congress that may affect you as a Veteran. Here are a couple of web sites you may want to explore:

www.congress.gov/committee/senate-veterans-affairs

or

www.congress.gov/committee/house-veterans-affairs

Both of these sites list multiple bills that are before the house or senate committees; there are too many to list here. The lists also show what status the bills have, where they are in committee, etc. If you are interested in supporting any of these bills, you can call your senator or representative by calling:

202.224.3121

When prompted you can give your state (if you want a senator) or your zip code (if you want your representative) You can then leave a voice message or state your concern to a staffer who will pass it on to your senator or representative.

Mid-Term Election: Tuesday, November 6, 2018

Get out and vote. This is your chance to make your voice heard. If you have moved since you last voted, visit the local voter registrar office and notify them. If you haven't moved and are still registered, you only have to show up at your polling place and cast your ballot. You may have already received a notice which allows you to vote by mail.

State of California

Agencies & Departments

Here is a list of telephone numbers and web sites you may find useful:

Attorney General: 800.925.5225 or 800.722.0432 (Medi-Cal fraud of elder abuse) www.ag.ca.gov

Business Oversight: www.dbo.ca.gov 866.272.2677

Contractors: www.cslb.ca.gov 800.321.2752

Consumer Affairs: www.dca.ca.gov 800.925.5210

Employment Development: www.edd.ca.gov 800.300.5616

Fair Employment and Housing www.dfeh.ca.gov 800.884.1684

Fish & Wildlife: www.wildlife.ca.gov 888.334-2258

Health Care Services (Medi-Cal) www.medical.ca.gov 800.541.5555

Insurance: www.insurance.ca.gov 856.602.8861

Managed Healthcare: www.dmhc.ca.gov 888.466.2219

Medical Board: www.mbc.ca.gov 800.633.2322

Motor Vehicles: www.dmv.ca.gov 800.777.0133

Parks and Recreation: www.parks.ca.gov 800.444.7275

Public Utilities: www.cpuc.ca.gov 800.649.7570

Resources, Recycling & Recovery: www.calrecycle.ca.gov
800.732.9253

State Auditor: www.bsa.ca.gov 800.952.5665

Secretary of State: www.sos.ca.gov 800.345.8633

Taxes: www.ftb.ca.gov 800.852.5711

Transportation: www.quickmap.dot.ca.gov 800.427.7623

Worker Compensation: www.dir.ca.gov/dwc 800.736.7401

We Request Your Assistance, Please

Please forward this newsletter to as many friends and family as you know would benefit from the information contained in it. Also, encourage your fellow military retirees and surviving spouses to provide us an email address so we can keep them informed of items of interest and especially those matters that may impact their retired lifestyle.

Thank You!

Address Changes

NOTE TO RETIREES AND ANNUITANTS:

Please DO NOT send change of address information to the Retiree Services Section at the Air Force Personnel Center (AFPC). The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) is the agency responsible for maintaining and changing correspondence addresses for retired members receiving retired pay and recipients of Survivor Benefit Plan annuities who may receive correspondence (including the *Afterburner*, News for USAF Retired Personnel) from official Air Force agencies. You'll need an email address to make this most effective. See below.

Also

If you have a myPay account with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) you will receive notices from the Air Force Personnel Center (AFPC) Retiree Services Section. For example, AFPC just recently

updated the *Afterburner*, the AF Retiree Newsletter, and sent out notice and links for access to DFAS myPay account holders.

If you don't have a myPay account, visit the DFAS website at dfas.mil to get your account started. Here is the *Afterburner* link until then:

<http://www.retirees.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-160613-012.pdf>



Attention: A worldwide retiree\veternans events schedule is available at:

<http://www.hostmtb.org/RADs_and_Other_Retiree-Veterans_Events.html.>

The events schedule includes retiree appreciation days (RAD), health fairs, resource fairs, seminars, stand downs, town hall meetings and other events that are of benefit to retirees and veterans.



A change is coming to the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP), so read the following carefully.

Here are two web sites you will want to visit:

www.tricare.benefeds.com

www.deltadentalins.com/fedvip

Eligibility for the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP), offered by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM), has been expanded to include certain uniformed service members. The first opportunity for you to enroll in this year's Federal Benefits Open Season, with coverage effective January 1, 2019.

There are 10 dental and four vision carriers to choose from, and some plans offering high and standard options.

Key Dates

Don't forget! The TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) ends on December 31, 2018. **You must enroll during the Federal Benefits Open Season for FEDVIP dental and/or vision coverage in 2019.**

Remember these dates:

Oct, 2018 – 2019 FEDVIP plan rates are available

Nov 12-Dec 10, 2018 – Federal Benefits Open Season

Jan 1, 2019 – 2019 FEDVIP plan year begins

FEDVIP Eligibility

In general, retired uniformed service members and their families who were eligible for the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) are eligible for Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) dental coverage and, if enrolled in a TRICARE health plan, FEDVIP vision coverage. In addition, family members of active duty uniformed service members who are enrolled in a TRICARE health plan are eligible for FEDVIP vision coverage. Coverage is effective January 1, 2019, if you enroll during the Federal Benefits Open Season.

The TRICARE.benefeds.com web site has more specific eligibility information for dental and vision coverage, and information about eligible family members

The Delta Dental web site (www.deltadentalins.com/fedvip) has some specific information on the services they offer under the FEDVIP program. Their web site has links to plan information, as well as finding a dentist.

An important reminder: The Open Enrollment Period is Nov 12 to Dec 10, 2018. You must enroll or your current dental coverage will end (if you are currently enrolled in TRDP) on January 1, 2019.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY*

***The following is courtesy U.S. Congressman John Garamendi, 3rd District of California. (He sent a flyer)**

Emergencies come in many forms, and they may require anything from a brief absence from your home to long-term evacuation. The following steps should be taken before a disaster – flood, fire, earthquake – strikes.

Have a plan

It's vital for your family to have a plan in place if a disaster occurs. How will you contact one another if separated? What are your evacuation routes? What items are essential? Help getting started is at:

www.Ready.gov/make-a-plan

Create an emergency kit

Because evacuations can happen on very short notice, you should have an emergency kit ready to grab-and-go, including three days of food and water, flashlight, batteries, cash, first aid supplies and battery-powered cell phone chargers. For more details:

www.Ready.gov/build-a-kit

Document your possessions

It's important to have proof of your valuables when filing insurance claims. Go through your home's rooms, drawers and closets and take photos, videos, or write it all down. Store documentation online to verify the existence and value of your belongings.

Get Insurance

Different types of insurance will help alleviate the financial burdens of rebuilding a home or business and replacing possessions. Flood

coverage must be purchased separately from property insurance. Talk to your insurance agent for more information.

Backup documents online

In a disaster, you shouldn't lose time gathering critical documents. Send electronic documents (and scanned paper documents) to an online cloud-based storage site or email them to yourself.

- All insurance policies
- Mortgage or rental documents
- Financial statements, account number, tax records
- Birth and marriage certificates
- Immigration or travel documents such as a Permanent Resident Card

Protect your pets

Microchip your pets and keep contact information up-to-date. This is one of the best ways to ensure that you and your pets are reunited if separated.

Always comply with law enforcement and first responders

Our law enforcement and firefighters have one job above all others to keep you safe. When asked to evacuate, please comply – and do not return home until authorized. If you are unable to help neighbors who are elderly or infirm, notify responders of their situation and location.

Text message instead

During a disaster, whole mobile networks can be knocked out by increased call volume. Officials encourage text messaging instead of phoning and also posting your location and situation on social media sites such as Facebook.

Websites to help you prepare and keep up-to-date on natural disasters.

www.Ready.gov Guide to planning ahead for natural disasters and national emergencies. Department of Homeland Security

www.DisasterAssistance.gov Access to disaster help and resources. FEMA

www.CDC.gov/disasters Type of disasters and weather emergencies. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

www.CalOES.ca.gov/for-individuals-families Tips, tricks, brochures and videos to help you and your family get prepared. Governor's Office of Emergency Services

***Can't get online for information?** Your county will immediately post emergency information on its websites and social media as soon as it comes in. If you are unable to access the internet, contact OES for critical messages.

County Offices of Emergency Services

Colusa County	530.458.0200
Glenn County	530.934.6441
Lake County	707.262.4090
Sacramento County	916.875.6900
Solano County	707.784.1600
Sutter County	530.822.7400
Yuba County	530.749.7520
Yolo County	530.406.4930

***This information provided by Congressman John Garamendi's Public Safety Resources Guide**