



STILL SERVING

Published by 11th Wing Retiree Activities Offices, National Capital Area

June 2014

STILL SERVING JOINING DIGITAL WORLD

Baseball legend Satchel Paige warned, "Don't look back, something might be gaining on you." Ole Satch was right on the money. A year ago, it appeared that increased mail costs would limit distribution of this publication to the Internet. Col. John Moser, director of Retiree Activities Offices at Andrews and Bolling refused to "look back," and was able to negotiate another year of home mail delivery to nearly 30,000 Air Force retirees and surviving spouses in the National Capital Area. But the budget staff not only looked back, it looked ahead and concluded that increased costs of *Still Serving* mail delivery to be among necessary cuts in operational expenditures. Thus, effective with our October issue, newsletter readers will remain informed on subjects of interest to the retiree community through the magic of cyberspace. Those without home computers are encouraged to seek assistance of friends, family members and public outlets such as neighborhood libraries and senior centers. *Still Serving* will be provided on line during the first week of February, June and October. Plans call for additional "bulletins" to be made available in intervening months on the same electronic outlets. *Still Serving* remains available through the Andrews website -- Andrews.af.mil -- linking to "Retiree Activities Office," through the courtesy of the 11th Wing Public Affairs Office. At Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, the Navy Public Affairs Office makes *Still Serving* available through its page on DoD's video center -- tinyurl.com/jbabnews. An open invitation exists for other websites to get on board for this outreach to the area's military retiree community. Experiencing similar fiscal challenges is the *Afterburner* staff at Randolph AFB, Tex. New retirees no longer receive the national Air Force retiree newsletter by mail, nor do those living in overseas locations. All retirees are encouraged to help reduce program costs by visiting retirees.af.mil/afterburner to view the latest *Afterburner*, opting out of the mailed issues. Another good source of information for Air Force military families is the Total Force Service Center at 1 800 525-0102.



CALL-INS DAY LATE AND A DOLLAR SHORT

Publication dates and military training schedules have little in common. This hit home when the 79th Medical Wing's Advanced Education in General Dentistry program found it necessary to advance its schedule this year. Since 1994 the wing has partnered with area Retiree Activities Offices (RAO) to provide dental examinations for military retirees during June. *Still Serving* was the primary means of notification. Col. Jeffrey Denton, director of residency training, said that realignment of the training schedule made it necessary to advance this year's schedule by a month. Without the benefit of publicizing the change in this issue of *Still Serving*, volunteer staffs at the Andrews and Bolling RAOs sought other communications outlets to pass the word. Col. John Moser, RAO director, said every effort will be

made to preserve this "most appreciative outreach by the dental staff. The examinations and our annual Retiree Appreciation Day programs are our most popular events." The change coincided with the end of mailed copies of *Still Serving* in the National Capital Area due to budget cuts. "As is the case with most military and civilian communication channels, we are going to have to depend more and more on electronic means to keep our clientele informed," Colonel Moser said. "It's a team effort and requires the client to participate, if it's to be successful."

INSIDE

Proposed Budget Cuts	3
RX Pilot Program	4
E-Cigarette Concern	5
Transplant Center	8
Arlington Ladies	9
New Commissary	11

FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Col. John Moser, Director, Retiree Activities Office



Colonel Moser

This column is most difficult to write since it evinces the ending of an era. For more than 15 years, you have received *Still Serving* in your mailbox. Considerations have forced a change in transmission and this is your last “hard copy.”

We are not going out of business, we are moving forward with the times. On Page 1 are the nitty-gritty details about future digital editions -- read them carefully! Nothing else has changed -- the Retiree Activities Offices remain staffed at both Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling and Joint Base Andrews. We will continue to work with the 79th Medical Wing in offering dental examinations and our Retiree Days will still be an annual occurrence (this year at JBA on Saturday, 25 October)...WE ARE NOT GOING AWAY!

Some background: For years it has been one of my tasks to “sweet talk” the 11th Wing and, in later years, Air Force District of Washington, for funds to cover printing and mailing of *Still Serving*. These costs have escalated annually, not as much for the printing, but mailing has been most challenging. Overall costs have exceeded \$40,000 to serve our 30,000+ Retiree constituency. And there appears to be no end to increased mailing rates. Furthermore, the Defense budget took a major hit...and we are among those experiencing the “trickle down” effect.

A digitalized *Still Serving* will have the same format and contain the same information that we have been providing for these many years. All YOU have to do to stay in the loop is to download the data on your computers during the first weeks in February, June and October. It will be made available on both JBAB and JAB websites. We expect to augment this information source, as needed, with “time-sensitive” announcements of interest to all military retiree families.

So let us all become “computer literate” as we continue to stumble through the 21st Century!!!

And just a reminder -- we still need volunteers to staff our Retiree Offices. Call me at JBAB (202 767-5244) or at JBA (301 981-27260). Really, it does beat golf to make you feel good about yourselves.

Commitment to Caring

By CMSAF (Ret) Jim Binnicker
CEO, Air Force Enlisted Village

More than 40 years ago, Mrs. John D. Ryan, spouse of the Air Force Chief of Staff, saw the need for a home for retired Air Force enlisted widows. With her assistance, an apartment complex known as Teresa Village in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., was purchased. It has been home to countless retired Air Force widows and couples. Caring for our residents is our priority. Teresa Village, a two-story building without elevator service, had become a safety issue for our residents. We have sold the building. Through a lease arrangement, we will continue to manage and operate Teresa Village until mid-2015. During this period a modern apartment complex will be built at our main campus in Shalimar, Fla. It is home to Bob Hope Village (Buildings 1-4) and our assisted living and memory care community, Hawthorn House. Village 5 will have 96 apartments with modern features. Ground breaking is underway. Since our inception, back when it was the Air Force Enlisted Men’s Widows and Dependents Home Foundation, our mission has been to provide a home and care for Air Force widows. Completion of Village 5 will bring all of our residents to one campus and serve as a vision for what we will look like by 2020. We’re excited about our growth. We’re not just an apartment complex. We’re a village. We’re a family. And we’re committed to continuing our care for Air Force widows. A warm welcome awaits all visitors.



Chief Binnicker

Still Serving is published in February, June and October by 11th Wing Retiree Activities Offices at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, DC and Joint Base Andrews, Md., for military retirees and family members. Content does not necessarily reflect official views, nor is endorsed by the U.S.

Government or Department of Defense. Comments may be directed to the RAO, 20 MacDill Blvd, Suite 112, Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, DC 20032. Phone (202) 767-5244; FAX (202) 404-5342. *Still Serving* may be downloaded from www.andrews.af.mil and www.tinyurl.com/jbabnews.



PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS DETAILED

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel has proposed cuts in military spending that include further reductions in troop strength and force structure in every military service in the coming year as part of an effort to prioritize U.S. strategic interests in the face of reduced resources after more than a decade of war. President Obama's proposed Pentagon budget for fiscal 2015 reduces the Army to its smallest size since before World War II and eliminates an entire fleet of Air Force fighter planes. The budget would shrink by more than \$75 billion over the next two years -- with deeper cuts expected if sequestration returns in FY 2016. The cuts assume the United States no longer becomes involved in large, prolonged stability operations overseas on the scale of Iraq and Afghanistan. Within the Air Force, the defense budget calls for saving \$3.5 billion by retiring the A-10 Thunderbolt II fleet and replacing it with the F-35 Lightning II by the early 2020s. "The A-10 is a 40-year old, single-purpose airplane originally designed to kill enemy tanks on a Cold War battlefield," Hagel said. "It cannot survive or operate effectively where there are more advanced aircraft or air defenses." The service also will retire the 50-year-old U-2 Dragon Lady surveillance plane in favor of the unmanned Global Hawk. Hagel warned that much deeper cuts in Air Force structure and modernization will be necessary if sequestration is not avoided. "This is the first time in 13 years we will be presenting a budget to Congress that is not a war-footing budget," Hagel noted.



Sec Hagel

RETIREE COUNCIL MEETS - The Air Force Retiree Council gathered at the Personnel Center on Randolph AFB, Tex., in May, only the second meeting in four years. Scheduled annually, budget considerations canceled meetings in 2011 and 2013. Agenda presentations were scheduled by representatives of the Chief of Staff, Surgeon General, Defense Finance and Accounting Service, Army and Air Force Exchange Service, Defense Commissary Agency, Tricare, Services and the Department of Veterans Affairs. Status reports gained from the presentations were major factors in working more than 20 retiree issues submitted to the council from base Retiree Activities Offices. Subjects included anticipated increases in Tricare reimbursements, Survivor Benefit Plan and Casualty Assistance. Recommendations are forwarded to the Chief of Staff and/or members of the Air Staff. Printing deadlines precluded a detailed report on the four-day meetings. The council was established in 1972 to serve as the Chief of Staff's liaison with the retiree community. It is co-chaired with members representing 13 geographical areas within the continental United States and one representative each from the Pacific and European areas. Currently, one member at large shares his expertise in health care matters. Current co-chairs are Lt. Gen. Steve Polk and CMSAF Rod McKinley. Representing Andrews, Bolling and Dover AFBs is CMSgt. Chuck Lucas, a volunteer in the Bolling RAO.

CIRCLE THE CALENDAR - The 11th Wing's Retiree Appreciation Day is scheduled for Saturday, October 25, at the Joint Base Andrews Club. The salute to all military retirees and their families is hosted by Retiree Activities Offices (RAOs) at Andrews and Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling. Col. John Moser, RAO director, said the annual event alternates between the two bases. A health fair -- and usually flu shots -- along with ID card renewals augment ballroom presentations and vendor offerings. A special buffet lunch is also planned. The Base Exchange and Commissary normally complete the day's program with special sales. For more information, call either RAO. At Andrews, the number is 301 981-2726; at Bolling, 202 767-5244.

NEW BANK ACCOUNT? - If you've switched bank accounts and need to have your monthly retiree check deposited to your new account, you can make the change online or by mail. Either way, don't close your old bank account until you have received a monthly payment in your new account. Allow 30-45 days for the change to take effect. The easiest way to change your direct deposit bank account is myPay, the online account management system for military members and retirees. Log in at www.mypay.dfas.mil and click "Direct Deposit" on the main menu. If you don't use myPay, send your new bank account information to: Defense Finance & Accounting Service, US Military Annuity Pay, P.O. Box 7130, London, KY 40742-7130. The address for annuitants is DFAS, US Military Annuity Pay, P.O. Box 7131, London, KY 40742-7131.

PHARMACY PILOT PROGRAM UNDERWAY

Tricare for Life (TFL) beneficiaries are being asked to enroll in Tricare's Pharmacy Home Delivery or use a military pharmacy for some prescriptions. TFL is secondary coverage for beneficiaries in the United States and U.S. territories who have Medicare Parts A and B coverage. The pilot program, mandated by Congress, requires TFL beneficiaries to get certain medications through home delivery or at a military pharmacy for refills of maintenance medications taken for chronic conditions. As part of the program, Tricare will not pay for these medications obtained from a retail pharmacy. The 5-year program does not include medications for acute conditions taken for a limited time, such as antibiotics or pain medications or any generic medications nor generic drugs. Beneficiaries may opt out after filling an affected prescription through home delivery for one year. Beneficiaries are notified if they obtain a medication covered under the program. They have two "courtesy fills" at a retail pharmacy before they become responsible for the entire cost of their medication. Beneficiaries may call the Tricare pharmacy contractor (Express Scripts, 1 877 882-3335) to switch to home delivery or with questions about their medications. New prescriptions may be required to switch to a military pharmacy. Some may be exempt, including those with other prescription drug plans or those living overseas. Nursing home residents may contact Express Scripts for a waiver from the pilot program. Home delivery offers a 90-day supply of medication with no copays for generic drugs and \$13 for brand-name drugs. Switching from a retail pharmacy to home delivery can save beneficiaries up to \$152 annually for each prescription, officials said. Additional savings may be gained with prescriptions for generic medications, they added.



HOME DELIVERY SAVINGS - The Defense Department Inspector General's office has determined it is cost-efficient for beneficiaries to receive prescription medications through home delivery. The mail-order program saved the government 16.7 percent -- nearly \$67 million -- in the third quarter of fiscal year 2012. The audit compared what the government spent on prescription drugs through home delivery and what the cost would have been at retail pharmacies. Express Scripts reported that home delivery offers a 99.99 percent prescription fill accuracy rate. Beneficiaries receive a 90-day supply through the mail and have no copayment for generic formulary medications and a \$13 copay for brand-name formulary medications. At retail network pharmacies, beneficiaries pay \$5 for a 30-day supply of generic formulary medications and \$17 for brand name formulary medications. For more information, visit www.tricare.mil/homedelivery.

MENTAL HEALTH HELP - Making sure people know where to turn for help during a time of crisis is the continuing goal of the Defense Department's suicide prevention program. DoD has a "plethora" of resources that are specific to service members and their families who have thoughts of suicide. The Pentagon has worked for several years to erase the stigma of seeking help for mental health issues, and it appears to be paying off. "We're seeing more people access help through the Military Crisis Line, and an increase in users for mental health help across the department," a spokesman said. Trained counselors are available 24/7 at 1 800 273-8255. In addition, help is available at www.veteranscrisisline.net/ActiveDuty.aspx, with access to counselors in person and through online chats and text messaging. The Department of Veterans Affairs also offers help. A Veterans Crisis Line at 1 800 273-8255 is available 24/7 for those who need to talk to a mental health professional.

MORE ONLINE SERVICE - "Online" is a convenient way to manage nearly everything; there's online bill-pay, online education and online banking. Tricare has offered online enrollment for Prime for several years and has added online enrollment for its Dental Program and Retiree Dental Program. Beneficiaries can also enroll on the Beneficiary Web Enrollment (BWE) website: www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/bwe. To log in, beneficiaries can use a Common Access Card, a Defense Finance and Accounting Service myPay login identification and password, or a Department of Defense Self-Service Logon. The BWE website is a secure portal that also allows Tricare beneficiaries to update personal information in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, add or delete family members to their Prime coverage, request new enrollment cards, change primary care managers, transfer coverage when they move and much more. For information about the BWE website, visit www.tricare.mil/bwe. For information about Tricare's dental programs, visit www.tricare.mil/dental.

E-CIGARETTES CREATE CONCERNS

Electronic cigarette use is a popular alternative to traditional cigarettes, but the upward trend is of concern to Air Force health care providers. The battery-operated products -- known as e-cigarettes -- are designed to deliver nicotine, flavor and other chemicals as a vapor that is inhaled by the user. "Airmen are using e-cigarettes at a level comparable to the civilian adult population," said Col. (Dr.) John Oh at the Air Force Medical Support Agency, citing data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. While e-cigarettes have been advertised as a safer alternative to conventional cigarettes, studies have found potentially harmful ingredients in the product, including nitrosamines, diethylene glycol and animal carcinogens, according to Dr. Oh. He cautions airmen against using e-cigarettes. "Not enough is known about the long-term safety of e-cigarettes to definitely state that they are safe," he said. The Food and Drug Administration categorizes e-cigarettes as a tobacco product. Regulatory guidance, however, is pending, so e-cigarettes are marketed without any of the restrictions of conventional cigarettes. They may also be sold to minors. Air Force policy includes e-cigarettes under the definition of tobacco, the first military service to do so. The Food And Drug Administration says it will start regulating the expanding E-cigarette market.

OBESITY, TOBACCO ILLS STUDIED - The Defense Department has teamed with the White House, industry, medical communities and installation leaders to assess obesity and tobacco programs for the total workforce. During the summer months, evaluations were made at 13 installations to gauge their implementation of a healthy base initiative. Such factors as healthy commissary offerings, ease of exercising, choices for healthy meals and availability of healthy snacks in vending machines were considered. Participating installations in the National Capital Area were Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.; the Defense Logistics Agency, Fort Belvoir, Va.; and Defense Health Headquarters, Falls Church, Va. National obesity has spiraled since 1990. In 2010 about 40 percent of the states were obese, with average body mass index of 30 percent or higher. One of the primary reasons for men and women being forced to leave the military is failure to meet fitness and weight standards. Tobacco use, while on a fairly steady decline across the United States, still costs DoD \$1.6 billion in medical care costs.

SERVICE CENTER CHANGES - Administrative walk-in services at 189 Tricare service centers in the United States ended April 1. Service centers overseas are not affected. Beneficiaries can accomplish administrative tasks online at www.tricare.mil. The change does not affect Tricare medical benefit or health care service. The change is expected to save an estimated \$250 million over the next five years. About half of visits to the centers in hospitals or clinics were for in- and out-processing and requests to change primary care providers, officials said. Others involved billing-related questions. The Tricare website receives about 38,000 hits per day. Tests were run to ensure that the website and call center can handle the expected increase in volume. The service centers, staffed by contractors, were opened in the 1990s. For more information, call the Northern Regional office at 1 877 874-2273.

AUTISM PILOT PROGRAM - A congressionally mandated pilot program enhances an existing Defense Department program that provides care and treatment for military children with autism. An estimated 8,500 children of active-duty military families have a form of autism. An expansion of services through the autism pilot program will also allow retirees and their families to receive ASD benefits. There's no change in benefits to anyone enrolled in the basic medical program that began last year. The pilot program was developed by crafting requirements through consulting with experts in the field and advocacy groups to find validated tests and the best strategy for focusing on what would be the right care at the right time. There is "an expanding need and recognition" of military families with children who have autism, according to a spokesman. "We continually try to improve ... [and] expand our network of providers. I think we have one of the most robust networks available," he added.

NURSE ADVICE LINE - A Tricare nurse advice line is expected to be activated this summer. Beneficiaries will have toll-free access to registered nurses 24 hours a day. They will answer questions and help with decisions regarding self-care at home or when it is time to see a health care provider. Check with www.tricare.mil for more information on this new health care benefit.

LOTS OF RX ABUSE - A national survey on drug use found that Americans are twice as likely to regularly abuse prescription drugs as they are to regularly use cocaine, hallucinogens, heroin and inhalants combined. The same study found more than 70 percent of people abusing prescription pain relievers got them through friends or relatives, often without their knowledge.

SHORT SERVINGS

Process Changes for MOH - The 2014 National Defense Authorization Act changed the process for awarding the Medal of Honor for valor in combat. The bill lifted a restriction that prevented a service member from earning multiple Medals of Honor. Military services now have three years from the combat action to recommend an individual for the MOH, and five years from date of the action to present the medal. Previously, time limits varied among the services.

Service Recognized - Pennsylvania military veterans can have their service noted on state driver's licenses, without an additional fee. It will help identify people as veterans, an official said, giving them quicker access to social and legal programs designed for military veterans.

Army Museum Delayed - Part of the Army's extensive collection of military art -- much of it by renowned painters and illustrators -- is waiting for the future National Museum of the United States Army to open at Fort Belvoir, Va. The Army Historical Foundation has raised \$76 million of the \$175 million it needs. The museum is expected to open in 2018.

Stamp Honors Airman - C. Alfred Anderson, chief flight instructor of the legendary Tuskegee Airmen and hailed as the "Father of Black Aviation," is immortalized on a U.S. Postal Service stamp. The 70-cent stamp is the 15th in USPS's "Distinguished American Series."



ID Operations Consolidated - The Defense Department is consolidating responsibility for recovering and identifying remains of America's war dead. It seeks to increase the number of identifications and provide greater transparency for their families. An armed forces medical examiner will be the sole DoD identification authority and oversee operations of the central identification laboratory in Hawaii and those in Omaha, Neb., and Dayton, Ohio.

Huge Solar Farm - Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., operates 16.4-megawatt solar photovoltaic panels, largest on any DoD installation. The solar farm can produce enough energy annually to power 3,000 homes and save 20 million gallons of water. The solar energy provides about 35 percent of the base's electricity needs, and is expected to reduce base utility costs by about \$500,000 annually.

Early Outs Halted - The Air Force has halted processing applications for Temporary Early Retirement Authority and voluntary separation pay "while sustainment requirements for projected force reductions are reviewed." The FY2013 Defense Authorization Act included plans to reduce Air Force strength to 328,000 by 2017.

Accessions Met - All services met or exceeded their numerical accession goals for fiscal 2014 through February. Air Force met its goal of 11,011 accessions. Four of the six reserve components met or exceeded their goals. Air National Guard met its goal of 3,926 accessions; Air Force Reserve added 2,707 members, 120 percent of its goal. Current trends are expected to continue.

Dover Galaxies - From the Galaxy to Super Galaxy, Dover AFB, Del., has seen them all. The C-5 aircraft have been in service for more than 40 years. With the addition of the C5M, service is expected to continue for 40 more years. Compared to the C-5 Galaxies, the C-5M Super Galaxies have greater dependability and efficiency, dropping operating costs of the heavy strategic lift aircraft.



Expedited Service - Social Security claims from veterans with a VA disability compensation rating of 100 percent permanent and total can receive expedited decisions, in the same way the agency handles claims from wounded warriors. Veterans must provide Social Security with a copy of their VA disability rating. The rating only expedites claims processing and does not guarantee approval for Social Security disability benefits.

Refueling Milestone - Female pilots, boom operators and maintainers from Fairchild AFB, Wash., completed the first all-female air refueling mission. Although it is not uncommon to have an all-female mission, it was fitting for the crew to be able to commemorate a significant aspect of the Air Force heritage and the growth of the female role in today's military.

VA Backlog Reduced - The backlog of pending VA disability compensation claims has been reduced by 44 percent -- more than 267,000 claims. On average, veterans are waiting 119 days less for a decision than they were a year ago.

HOUSING GRANTS FOR VETERANS

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has about \$600 million in grants for non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives that serve veteran families occupying permanent housing. The Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program is designed to assist very low-income veteran families who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless. It uses a housing first model, an approach which centers on providing homeless veterans with permanent housing quickly and VA health care, benefits and services as needed. Grantees secure a broad range of other services for participants, including legal assistance, credit counseling and housing counseling. Grantees also offer temporary financial assistance for short-term assistance with rent, moving expenses and emergency expenses. VA is offering \$300 million in FY 2014 funds and \$300 million in FY 2015 funds, subject to available appropriations. VA will make awards based on a national competition. In FY 2013, VA awarded approximately \$300 million in SSVF grants. They served some more than 100,000 veterans and family members. A Housing and Urban Development report last year estimated there were 57,849 homeless veterans on a single night in January, an 8 percent decline since 2012 and 24 percent less than in 2010.



CLAIMS EXPEDITED - A new initiative between Defense and Veterans Affairs departments has produced technology to help VA expedite disability claim decisions. The DoD medical records are available to VA for service member claimants who have separated from the military since Jan. 1, 2014, through an electronic repository. The repository produces a digitized record that includes scanned and existing digital content from a service member's electronic health record. When a separated service member files a claim, a VA claims adjudicator sets up a claim which makes an automated request for the record.

NEW HEALTH ID CARD - Veterans Affairs has a new Veteran Health identification card, distinguished by additional security features and a different look and feel. The card displays the veteran's member ID, a unique identifier and a Plan ID. It displays the emblem of the veteran's branch of service and features "VA" in Braille to help visually impaired veterans. It also includes VA phone numbers and emergency care instructions. The card replaces an identification card introduced in 2004. For more information, go to www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vhic or call 1 877-222-8387.

INCOME REPORTS REDUCED - The annual requirement for most veterans enrolled in VA's health care system to report income information has been eliminated. Instead, VA will automatically match income information obtained from the Internal Revenue Service and Social Security Administration. Some veterans applying for enrollment for the first time are still required to submit income information. There is no change in providing no-cost care to indigent veterans, those with catastrophic medical conditions, those with a disability rating of 50 percent or higher, or for conditions that are rated as "service-connected." Veterans should continue to use the health benefits renewal form to report changes in their personal information, such as address, phone numbers, dependents, next of kin, income and health insurance. For more information, call 1 877-222-8387.

LIMITED PENSION BENEFITS - The VA pension program helps war veterans with low incomes and their families with a tax-free supplemental income benefit. Eligibility is limited to either totally disabled veterans, aged 65 and older, living in a nursing home, receiving skilled nursing care and meeting income requirements. Payments are made to bring the veteran's total income, including retirement or Social Security income, to a level set annually by Congress. Unreimbursed medical expense may reduce countable income. Additional money is paid if veterans are housebound or unable to care for themselves.

VIRTUAL WALL AVAILABLE - The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, near the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, honors those who died in the Vietnam War. The Virtual Wall brings the memorial to your home. For a complete run-down on its many memorial pages, go to www.virtualwall.org.

TRANSPLANT CENTER AT WALTER REED

Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda is the only transplant center in DoD's health care system certified by the United Network for Organ Sharing. Eligible patients include Tricare beneficiaries and Veterans Affairs patients enrolled at the Washington VA Medical Center. Patients with end-stage organ disease are encouraged to "dual-list" in more than one region at the same time. This process allows patients to be listed at a transplant center close to home in addition to Walter Reed. The average wait-list time at Walter Reed for a kidney transplant is significantly lower than the national average, according to the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients. Besides kidney transplant services, Walter Reed transplant surgeons collaborate with the University of Maryland in Baltimore for liver and pancreas transplant, and Georgetown University for pediatric transplant services. For more information, call the Organ Transplant Service at Walter Reed at 301 295-4331 weekdays, or by e-mail to ArmyNavytransplant@med.navy.mil.

VETERANS RETIREMENT HOMES - The Armed Forces Retirement Home's (AFRH) two campuses in Washington and Gulfport, Miss., offer model retirement communities designed for male and female residents to maintain an independent lifestyle. Military retirees from each service branch are eligible to live at the homes. One requirement is that at least one-half of the veteran's active service cannot have been commissioned service, other than as a warrant officer or limited-duty officer. Applicants must be at least 60 years of age. There are no initiation or registration fees. For complete eligibility requirements and to receive an informational brochure, contact the AFRH Marketing Office at 1 800 422-9988, or write to AFRH, PAO/Marketing, #1305, 3700 N. Capitol St. NW, Washington DC 20011-8400.

WORLD WAR I REMEMBERED - This year marks the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I. It began in July 1914 with the assassination of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand. This triggered an interconnecting network of alliances, bringing in the empires of Europe, England, France and Russia against Germany, the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the Ottoman Empire. About 16.5 million people were killed in the war. The United States entered the war on April 7, 1917. More than 4 million men saw service, of which 116,516 died. Another 205,690 were wounded. For many African-Americans, service in France was their first taste of an environment without Jim Crow laws. World War I was the first time masses of American women entered the workforce. There were nurses, "yeomanettes," telephone operators, Red Cross workers, "Doughnut Dollies" and women working in factories. At the end of the war, women had the vote. Some historians call The Great War Act 1 of a greater war that includes World War II and the Cold War. Fascism grew out of the experiences in the war. Revolution took hold in Russia, and the Soviet Union was born. The Versailles Peace Treaty set the stage for Act 2 in 1939. World War I set the stage for the rest of the 20th century. It destroyed the German Empire, the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Russian Empire and the Ottoman Empire. It also called for a Jewish homeland in the Middle East by the Balfour Declaration.

DIGITIZED RECORDS STORED - The Defense Imagery Management Operations Center at March ARB, Calif., is digitizing, storing and providing access to hundreds of thousands of historical images. It is DoD's central repository for visual imagery. In addition to its digital archive, the agency has a massive backlog of images on physical, analog media that ranges from photographic negatives and slides to films and VHS tapes. The center is where analog visual imagery assets are shipped and processed. Images are often found in obscure places on bases as they close or as offices move. Regardless of condition, images are never destroyed. Everything is assessed, barcoded and stored for later digitization and shared with the National Archives. A study found it would take up to 50 years and at least \$25 million to digitize the current analog holdings with available government resources. A new contract shortens that period to five years at a fraction of the cost. A fee-based system offsets the cost of providing public access to the imagery. The arrangement is similar to one made by the National Archives with Ancestry.com, which charges a fee for access to certain federal records in exchange for digitizing, categorizing and storing those records.

AWARDS PROGRAM STUDIED - Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel wants a comprehensive review of the military decorations and awards program, seeking to capture lessons learned from 13 years of combat. The review is to be completed by June, 2015. The review will focus on ensuring that the awards program appropriately recognizes all levels of combat valor, as well as the service, sacrifices and actions of all our service members, a spokesman said. It will examine the processes and procedures of how medals for valor are nominated in order to determine whether they can be improved or streamlined and help make the overall awards process more timely. Some awards and decorations are service-specific, and others cut across the military. Joint military operations have become the norm, as demonstrated in Iraq and Afghanistan. Hagel wants the panel to examine how the services submit and evaluate and decide on major combat awards. He would like to get a better sense of what discrepancies there may be between the services, and do those discrepancies need to be closed, the spokesman added.

ARLINGTON LADIES ALWAYS THERE

The Arlington Ladies attend funerals of members of the United States armed forces buried at Arlington National Cemetery. The group has attended nearly 30,000 funerals. In 1948, Gladys Vandenberg, wife of the Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Hoyt Vandenberg, noted some funerals were held without any family members present. A chaplain and a military honor guard were the standard attendees. She formed a group of members of the Officers' Wives Club to attend all Air Force funerals. In 1972, the Army followed suit as did the Navy in 1985. The Marines send a representative of the Marine Commandant to every funeral. Originally, the women attended funerals alone. Escorts were eventually added from the Army's 3rd Infantry Regiment. The ladies all speak fondly of those who serve in the Ceremonial Guard, the Old Guard and the Honor Guard as escorts, pallbearers, buglers, members of the rifle party; and the musicians in the military bands who assist in the funerals. Generally, each volunteer works one day a month. On one day, a volunteer attended four funerals. "It's so beautiful, so elegant, so perfect," she said. "There is so much history and beauty around you -- it takes the sadness away." The ladies initially consisted primarily of military wives, but now include military daughters and even a gentleman. Currently, there about 50 volunteers who attend an average of 70 funerals a month.



DoD Photo
Arlington Lady Paula McKinley, right, comforts family at Arlington funeral service.

FUNERAL ASSISTANCE - The Department of Veterans Affairs has opened an online funeral directors resource kit. Funeral directors may use the kit when helping veterans and their families make burial arrangements in VA national cemeteries or in Arlington National Cemetery. The website enables helps families plan burials and apply for VA memorial benefits. Videos are available in English and Spanish. The website is available at www.cem.va.gov/cem/funeraldirector.asp. VA maintains 3.2 million gravesites in 131 VA national cemeteries. More than 118,000 veterans and family members were interred in fiscal year 2012. Information on VA burial benefits can be obtained from national cemetery offices, from the Internet at www.cem.va.gov or by calling VA at 1 800 827-1000. To make burial arrangements at a VA national cemetery, call the cemetery scheduling office at 800 535-1117. For information about interments at Arlington NC, call 1 877 907-8585.

PAST CMSAFS HONORED - Former Chief Master Sergeants of the Air Force (CMSAF) were honored with a positional colors ceremony at the Air Force Senior NCO Academy at Maxwell AFB, Ala. Current CMSAF Air Force James A. Cody presided. "This is an opportunity to highlight the enlisted force," Roy said. "It's a great day to celebrate the advancement of a professional enlisted force, because to me that's what this flag represents." The first presentation went to the first CMSAF, Paul Airey, who was represented at the ceremony by his son, Dale Airey, a retired chief. Sam Parish, No. 8 CMSAF, spoke of his faith in the future of the enlisted force. Other former CMSAFs in attendance were Rod McKinley, Gerald Murray, Jim Finch, Eric Benken, Gary Pfingston (represented by his widow, Marsha), Jim Binnicker, Jim McCoy and Bob Gaylor.

ANOTHER SCAM - There's a new scam going around. You get a call from someone claiming to be from the government -- maybe the IRS, maybe a law enforcement agency, or Immigration Services. The caller might have information about you -- the last four digits of your Social Security number, for example. The caller tells you that you owe money, and that if you don't pay, many bad things will happen, like freezing your assets, jail, etc. You are told to use a prepaid card. The U.S. government will never call you asking for money. No government representative -- and virtually no legitimate business -- will ever ask you to use a prepaid card or money transfer. If you receive one of these calls, the Federal Trade Commission wants to know about it. Call 877 382-4357.

MOVIES, VIDEO GAMES - The Army & Air Force Exchange Service and Red Box offer a new way to rent movies and video games. Red Box vending machines provide affordable and convenient opportunities to rent DVDs, Blu-Ray discs and video games. Red Box rentals are charged at a daily rate. New releases are added every Tuesday. Online rentals are available as well. Shoppers select their favorite movies and games at redbox.com and pick them up at the exchange. Customers return movies and video games to any Red Box kiosk location.

NATIONAL MUSEUM ADDS BUILDING

A CV-22 Osprey will be a centerpiece of a new 224,000 square-foot building at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, adjacent to Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. Construction is scheduled to be completed in mid-2015. The museum's fourth building will provide more educational opportunities and increase visitor access to the presidential



The CV-22 Osprey combines the vertical takeoff, hover and vertical landing qualities of a helicopter with long-range aircraft.

and research and development aircraft. The Presidential Aircraft Gallery will expand one of its most popular galleries. Visitors have the opportunity to view this historic collection of presidential aircraft, and walk through four of them. Included are those used by Presidents Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower and the VC-137C which carried President Kennedy's body to Washington after his assassination. President Johnson was sworn in as the new president aboard the aircraft before departure from Dallas. The museum's popular virtual tour has been updated to reflect new aircraft and exhibits in the museum's Cold War Gallery. This 360-degree, in-depth look gives online visitors the chance to "walk through" the museum galleries as they learn about more than 100 years of military aviation history. The tour, located at www.nmusafvirtualtour.com, features updated photographs of

the Cold War Gallery and Berlin Airlift exhibit. Each year more than a million visitors visit the museum. It features more than 360 aerospace vehicles and missiles and thousands of artifacts amid more than 17 acres of indoor exhibit space. It is open 24/7 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission and parking are free.

DOVER EXPANSION PLANS - Delaware is working with Dover AFB to develop a civil air terminal at the base. Officials are seeking a "turnkey" proposal that would expand the ramp area and load bearing capacity to accommodate "up to four fully loaded Boeing 747 or equivalent size cargo aircraft simultaneously." The ramp extension project would provide parking for NASCAR race-related aircraft as well as civilian air cargo planes. The same space could be "used for other aviation-related activities such as an aircraft maintenance facility, cargo facility, or other uses compatible with base operations."

BOON FOR RVERS - The 52-pad Recreational Vehicle Travel Camp at Fort Belvoir, Va., is a popular retreat for vacationers to the National Capital Area. Located along the shores of the Potomac River, the camp offers all modern amenities with its 40x15-foot wide solid concrete surfaced pads. Included are on-site water and sewer hook-ups, 20/30/50 amp electric service, coin-operated washers and dryers and wireless and cable TV. Outdoor Recreation also offers equipment rental, including hunting, fishing, hiking, biking and boating. For more information on the Travel Camp and reservations, call (703) 805-3081.

DUTCH PAY HOMAGE - The Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial, in the village of Margraten, about 6 miles from Maastricht, honors 8,301 American soldiers killed in battles to liberate Holland in World War II. The Dutch hold an annual memorial concert every September. A 13-year-old girl, accompanied by an orchestra, played 'Il Silencio' (The Silence) on her trumpet at last year's ceremony. The thematic melody is taken from an Italian cavalry bugle call used by the Russian composer Tchaikovsky to open his Capriccio Italien symphony and is often mistaken for the U.S. military bugle, "Taps." Her rendition can be heard at www.flixxy.com/trumpet-solo-melissa-venema.htm.

CIA/OSS ARTIFACTS - More than 17,000 artifacts make up the holdings of the Civilian Intelligence Agency (CIA) Museum in Langley, Va. Visitors look through the agency's storied history, from the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) to today's war intelligence. Items were received from OSS and CIA employees and their families. The museum was established in 1988 to give employees a sense of their profession. The headquarters was renamed the George Bush Center for Intelligence in 1999. It honors the only former director of the CIA to become president of the United States. Also available is a virtual museum tour at www.cia.gov/about-cia/cia-museum.

'EARLY BIRD' GONE - The "Early Bird" is no more. The Defense Department's daily compilation of published defense-related news and commentary is history. For nearly 50 years, the Early Bird and a cup of coffee marked the start to the Pentagon's workday. The Early Bird was intended to deliver defense and defense-related news to the Defense Department, but circulation soon ballooned to include White House and National Security Council officials, members of Congress and other federal agencies. By 1980, 6,500 copies of the Early Bird were printed, on average, every weekday in an onsite print plant.

BASE LODGING OFTEN OVERLOOKED

Military members, retirees and Defense Department civilians are eligible to book lodging at hundreds of military-owned accommodations all over the world. Facilities range from standard hotel rooms on military installations to campgrounds and recreational vehicle parks to armed forces recreation centers in Garmisch, Germany; Honolulu; Seoul, South Korea; and Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla. Each service, including the Coast Guard, runs its own lodging program for official travelers and offers empty rooms on a space-available basis to leisure travelers from every branch. For those willing to do a little homework, military lodging can open doors to affordable year-round getaways. Those looking for “big city” vacations can check into Navy Lodges in Seattle and San Francisco, as well as San Diego and New York. For a beach getaway, there are Navy Lodges in Gulfport, Miss., or Pensacola, Fla. In addition to the Hale Koa Hotel in Honolulu, the Army operates the Pihilaau Army Recreation Center on Oahu’s Leeward Coast and the Kilauea Military Camp mountain resort on Hawaii’s Big Island. Marines Corps facilities include villas, cabanas and cottages at Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, and the Del Mar Beach Resort, near Camp Pendleton, Calif. Ramstein AB Inn, Germany, is across the street from the passenger terminal, a gateway to many of Europe’s most popular destinations. The Nellis AFB Inn is convenient to the Las Vegas attractions. Peterson AFB Inn provides access to Colorado Springs, Colo., and the Rocky Mountains. Coast Guard facilities include the Petaluma Lake RV Park, in California’s Sonoma County and four cottages in the Florida Keys at Marathon.



SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED - Two daughters and a son of retired enlisted airmen were among 25 persons selected to receive \$1,000 scholarships through the Air Force Club Membership Scholarship Program. There were no recipients in the National Capital Area. Each of the winners also received a laptop computer and portable printer. A total of 156 entries were submitted. Each included a 500-word essay about what inspired them to be successful. For more information about the Air Force Clubs programs, how to apply for this scholarship and view winning essays, visit www.afclubs.net and click on the Club Scholarship logo.

CODE TALKERS HISTORY - Known as Code Talkers, Native Americans learned early on the advantages of their tribal tongues, using indecipherable messages to confuse the enemy. The code talker mission remained classified for decades after World War II. “Navajo Code Talkers created a code that was within the Navajo language. Even another Navajo speaker would not be able to understand it. Others tribes also coded their languages. The United States did not consider American Indians citizens until 1924. The military first enlisted American Indians to relay messages in their native languages during World War I. The program was expanded during World War II. Soldiers from the Comanche, Meskwaki, Sioux, Crow, Hopi and Cree nations took part in the effort. Out of more than 500 tribes, each with distinct languages, about 200 to 250 dialects remain in use today. The National Museum of the American Indian is one of 18 museums within the Smithsonian Institution. It has affiliate locations at the Cultural Resources Center in Suitland, Md., the National Museum on the Mall in Washington and in New York City.

PORTRAIT DISPLAY - The Air Force is highlighting 33 veterans for “service and heroism at war” in the fourth volume of Veterans in Blue. The portrait-based display hangs in the halls of the Pentagon. It honors veterans who have helped shaped the Air Force, including former A1C Herb Trimpe who enlisted in 1962 as a weather observer to retired Lt. Gen. Paul Carlton who helped develop a new method for caring for the wounded as chief of surgery at Wiesbaden, Germany, in 1983. Carlton would later become the 17th Surgeon General of the Air Force. After separation, Trimpe was an illustrator for Marvel Comics, where he drew such comics as the Hulk, Wolverine and G.I. Joe.

NEW COMMISSARY PLANNED - Construction of a new commissary at Fort Belvoir, Va., is expected to begin this summer on the site of the former exchange. The two-story building will be larger than the present one. Estimated completion date is June, 2016. The old exchange building has been demolished. A new exchange complex opened a year ago in an adjacent area. It includes the main store, food court, home and garden sales, military clothing sales, concessions and a satellite pharmacy.

Retiree Activities Office
20 MacDill Blvd.
Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, DC 20032

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE PAID
WASHINGTON, DC
PERMIT NO. 109

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

Joint Base Andrews		Activity	JBAB
Area Code (301/240)		Area Code (202)	
981-7087	Airman & Family Readiness Ctr.	767-0450	
981-1854	Air Terminal (Pax Svcs)	None	
981-9362	Casualty Assistance, SBP	767-5651	
981-2111	Chaplain	767-5900	
568-3100	Club	563-8400	
(240) 857-6512	Commissary	767-4695	
702-5500	Credit Union	562-5300	
(240) 857-2806	Dental Clinic	404-5529	
(240) 857-2888	Eye Clinic	1 888 999-1212	
568-2222	Exchange	562-3000	
1 877 729-2339	Finance Office	1 877 729-2339	
1 888 999-1212	Hospital/Clinic Appts	1 888 999-1212	
981-1776	ID Cards, DEERS	404-3281	
(240) 612-5750	Legal Assistance	767-5297	
981-6454	Library	767-5578	
981-4614	Lodging	404-7050	
(240) 857-4565	Pharmacy	404-7742	
(240) 612-4428	Public Affairs	767-4781	
981-2726	Retiree Activities Office	767-5244	
981-2001	Sec. Police (Non-emergency)	767-5000	
981-1110	Telephone Locator	545-6700	
981-4109	Tickets & Tours	433-2269	
981-0689	Visitors Center	767-8958	
National Numbers			
Total Force Service Center, Randolph AFB, Tex.		1 800 525-0102	
DEERS		1 800 538-9552	
Tricare Information		1 877 363-6337	
Tricare (North Region)		1 877 874-2273	
Tricare Mail-Order Pharmacy		1 866 363-8667	
Delta Dental		1 888 838-8737	
Defense Finance & Accounting Service		1 800 321-1080	
Social Security		1 800 772-1213	
VA Benefits		1 800 827-1000	
VA Insurance		1 800 669-8477	
Air Force Billeting		1 888 235-6343	
Army Billeting		1 800 462-7691	
Navy Billeting		1 800 628-9466	