



# STILL SERVING

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

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## RETIREEES, IT'S YOUR DAY, OCTOBER 25

An Air Force salute to all military retirees and their families is scheduled for Saturday, October 25, at the Joint Base Andrews Club. Hosted by the 11th Wing, working with Retiree Activities Offices at Andrews and Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, the annual event alternates between the two bases. The 7-hour program opens with a health fair at 7 a.m. and offers a buffet lunch. Lt. Gen. Sam Cox, the Air Force deputy chief of staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services will be the keynote speaker. A tentative agenda is on Page 12.



General Cox

Col. John Moser, RAO director since 1995, said the agenda “reflects comments received from our constituency. They want to know where the retiree program is going, updates on construction of a new clinic at Andrews, the future of commissary stores and why casualty assistance is such an important part of a military career... We will address all of these issues and provide flu shots as well,” he said.

Ballroom presentations begin at 9:15. They will include reports on the status of Capitol Hill legislative issues affecting military retirees. Similar information will cover changes in Tricare benefits and legal assistance available to retiree families. Do you have a current will?

General Cox is completing his first year as the Personnel chief. An Air Force Academy graduate, his previous assignments include Commandant of Cadets at the school and commander of Dover AFB, Del. He came to the Pentagon following positions with the U.S. Transportation Command at Scott AFB, Ill.

Both Andrews and Bolling have experienced changes of command since last year's Retiree Day. Maj. Gen. Darryl Burke is the new commander of the Air Force District of Washington and Col. Bradley Hoagland assumed command of the 11th Wing. Navy Capt. Frank Mays commands JBAB and his deputy is Air Force Col. Kendell Peters. Colonel Moser sees the Retiree Day program as an opportunity to introduce the new staffs and make them aware of the valuable resources available among retiree members in the National Capital Area.

## NEW VA SECRETARY ON THE JOB

Robert A. McDonald is the new Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Prior to joining VA, Secretary McDonald headed the Procter & Gamble Company. An Army veteran, Secretary McDonald served with the 82nd Airborne Division; completed Jungle, Arctic, and Desert Warfare training; and earned the Ranger tab, the Expert Infantryman Badge, and Senior Parachutist wings. Upon leaving military service, Captain McDonald was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. He graduated from the West Point in the top 2 percent of the Class of 1975. He added an MBA from the University of Utah in 1978. In his first message to VA employees, he said he was “immensely



Secretary McDonald

fortunate to work in an organization with the noblest and most respected mission in government -- serving this nation's veterans. We have strong institutional values -- integrity, commitment, advocacy, respect, and excellence. We will all need to depend on and live by our values as we rise to meet the challenges ahead... I recognize that the last few months have been difficult -- and the days ahead will not be easy... I want to hear your ideas for improving the department, and I will not tolerate those who stifle initiative, seek to punish people who raise legitimate concerns or report problems, or lack integrity in word or deed. Trust is essential in everything we do.”

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# THANK YOU, COLONEL MOSER



Colonel Moser

For almost two decades *Still Serving* readers have turned to this space each issue for a peek at the inner workings and nuts and bolts of the Air Force retiree program and how it was being implemented in the National Capital Area. The product you hold in your hands is but one of the achievements Col. John Moser perfected to benefit military retirees and their families.

He operated without a budget. “We’re volunteers,” he said, “a non-profit organization.” He led one of the most successful programs among 106 Air Force Retiree Activities Offices (RAO). He joined the Bolling staff in 1995. His Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) programs featured the likes of present and past Secretaries of the Air Force and Chiefs of Staff. Sharing the spotlight with the RADs is the dental screening program.

Working with the director of Residency Training at the Dental Clinic, screening examinations for retiree members more than doubled during his tenure.

It was not unusual for an incoming wing commander to be unaware of an “RAO.” This was short-lived. Colonel Moser reels off names of former wing commanders now wearing stars. “Just a good teacher, I guess,” he says. He expanded his curriculum to include Navy brass with the designation of Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling in 2010. When the RAO at Andrews found itself without a director several years ago, Colonel Moser hardly hesitated before adding it to his “to do” list. “We’re all part of the 11th Wing,” he said.

One of his few disappointments is how you received this issue of *Still Serving*, by calling it up on a website after years of having it mailed to your home address. Postal rates doubled the printing costs and it was an early budget target. He had some consolation in that he cajoled enough people to delay the inevitable by a year.

But, all good things eventually end and it was with deep regret that he submitted his resignation as RAO director in September. A World War II veteran, he was advised to enjoy his Golden Years at a slower pace.

## Happy Veterans Day

By Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel

The American people set aside Veterans Day each year to honor all who have served our country in uniform. In quiet tributes and grand parades, at community centers and war memorials, Americans of all backgrounds come together on November 11th to celebrate the men and women who have fought to keep our country strong and free. For those who served and those still serving, Veterans Day is a time to reflect on their own experiences, and to acknowledge their enduring bonds with each other. Every generation has faced its own set of challenges, but the millions of men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces are united by their common duty and uncommon courage. Like generations before them, America’s newest veterans are poised to help our nation thrive and prosper in the 21st century. They are professionals who have mastered advanced technologies, honed their leadership skills, and demonstrated character, courage, and a profound sense of duty. From the oldest veterans to the men and women currently serving our nation, all Americans who have served in uniform deserve the nation’s appreciation and respect on this uniquely special American Day.



Secretary Hagel

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# RETIREE COUNCIL BRIEFS CHIEF

The [Air Force Retiree Council](#) provides the link between members of the Air Force retiree community -- more than 695,000 retirees, spouses and surviving spouses living throughout the world -- and the Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III. Council co-chairmen are General Welsh's liaison with the retiree community and work directly for him. Current co-chairmen are Lt. Gen. Steven R. Polk and CMSAF Rodney J. McKinley, both retired. Comprised of the two co-chairmen and 16 members representing retirees by geographical areas in the United States and overseas, the council is scheduled to meet annually at the Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph AFB, Tex. Last year's meeting was canceled because of budget considerations. The co-chairmen reported this year's findings to General Welsh in September. Subjects included maintaining the commissary benefit; continued support for printing and mailing of the [Afterburner](#); enhanced support for Defense Finance and Accounting retired and annuity pay customers, including promoting [myPay](#) accounts for self-service; support for legislative issues, specifically eliminating offset between the Survivor Benefit Plan and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation; paid-up SBP premiums for retirees at age 67 versus 70; full pay for the month that a retiree dies; concerns about rising Tricare costs and reduced Medicare/Tricare for Life reimbursement. General Welsh assured the co-chairs that he strongly supports the retiree community and expressed his sincere gratitude for the tireless efforts of our Air Force retiree community, General Polk said. "He acknowledged and boasted about the countless hours retirees volunteer each year in support of our bases." Retiree Activities Offices stepped into the spotlight this year when their support by the installation commander became part of the Air Force Inspector General's inspection checklist.



General Welsh

**HELP YOUR SURVIVORS** - Sometimes the most difficult conversations to have are the most important, like preparing your loved ones for your death. Talking to your family about this topic beforehand shows that you care, and it will help to ease financial burdens they may face. Military retirees can have beneficiaries for their arrears of pay (AOP), and if they have elected coverage under the Survivor Benefit Plan, they will have an SBP beneficiary as well. Ideally, you've designated your beneficiaries for any arrears of pay that may be due. When no beneficiary is named, the payment is made in the "Order of Precedence." It can take months to locate survivors and identify who comes highest in the Order of Precedence. Having a current beneficiary designation on file with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service is important. Designating a sole beneficiary in your will does not automatically make that person your AOP beneficiary. Entitlement to your military retirement ends when you die. Most banks will automatically deduct overpaid funds without warning, which can be troublesome, especially if you share a joint account. Your beneficiaries should know that sometimes there is no money due. It just depends how up to date the account was kept. Talking about it might be difficult. Don't put it off. Have a conversation today. For more information, call DFAS at 1 800 321-1080.

**SWITCHED BANKS?** - If you've switched bank accounts and need to have your retired pay deposited to the new account, you can make the change online or by mail. Either way, two tips to avoid disruptions in pay: only close your old bank account AFTER you have received one monthly payment to your NEW account. Allow 30-45 days for the change to take effect. myPay is the quickest and easiest way to change your direct deposit bank account. If you can't use myPay, send your new bank account information to: Retirees, DFAS, US Military Annuity Pay, P.O. Box 7130, London KY 40742-7130; Annuitants, DFAS, US Military Annuity Pay, P.O. Box 7131, London KY 40742-7131.

**BURIAL MEDALLION** - Veterans Affairs offers bronze medallions to attach to privately purchased headstones or markers for veterans not buried in a national or state veterans' cemetery. The medallion is furnished instead of a traditional government headstone or marker for veterans whose death occurred on or after Nov. 1, 1990. It signifies the veteran's branch of service. Next of kin receive the medallion, along with a kit for the family or staff of a private cemetery to affix the medallion to a headstone or columbarium niche cover. Veterans discharged under conditions other than dishonorable, their spouses and dependent children can be buried in a VA national cemetery. Burial benefits include a burial flag, Presidential Memorial Certificate and a government headstone or grave marker. VA operates 131 national cemeteries in 39 states and Puerto Rico and 33 soldiers' lots and monument sites. More than 3 million veterans are buried in VA national cemeteries. Information on VA burial benefits can be obtained at [www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov) or by calling 1 800 827-1000.



# NURSE ADVICE LINE CAN BE SHORTCUT

Tricare beneficiaries in the United States can access the Nurse Advice Line to receive health care guidance and advice. The service offers professional help by phone at a moment's notice. "Our mission at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center is to provide patient-friendly access to high quality health care for all we are privileged to serve -- service members and their families [and] our retirees and their families," said Army Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Jeffrey B. Clark, the center's director. "The Nurse Advice Line provides patient-friendly access to high-quality medical information, guidance for self-care, and appointments, if necessary, for those we are privileged to serve. This is a benefit for our patients and for our mission success." The advice line is manned by a team of registered nurses -- available 24/7 -- prepared to answer questions about a variety of acute health care concerns. A nurse will help beneficiaries decide whether self-care or seeing a health care provider is the better option. Beneficiaries are routed to the appropriate nurse, who will follow up when necessary or requested. Same-day appointments with a primary care manager are available for Tricare Prime beneficiaries who are enrolled at military treatment facilities. Included are Tricare For Life patients. If a same-day appointment is not available, officials said, the Nurse Help Line will redirect the beneficiary to the closest urgent care center without co-pays. To contact the Nurse Advice Line, call 1 800 874-2273 and select Option 1.



**QUIT SMOKING RESOURCES** - Cigarette smoking causes one of every five deaths in America, says the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Tobacco use is also the major cause of preventable disease-related illness and death in the United States. However, quitting tobacco can be a struggle, that's why Tricare has resources available for those ready to quit. [Quit Tobacco, Make Everyone Proud](#) is a campaign to help military personnel, family members and retirees kick the habit. The campaign's website [www.ucanquit2.org](http://www.ucanquit2.org) offers online resources via a 24/7 online chat messenger, cigarette smoke facts, a help locator and a personalized outline to help smokers in their efforts to quit. Beneficiaries who want to quit or who've relapsed can call to talk with a trained smoking cessation coach who will assess their cessation process and recommend appropriate treatment and the resources to quit smoking or remain smoke free.

**DENTAL COVERAGE** - The [Tricare Retiree Dental Program](#) (TRDP) offers comprehensive dental coverage to retired service members and family members, retired National Guard and Reserve members and family members, Medal of Honor recipients and family members and survivors. Coverage includes diagnostic and preventive services, like exams and cleanings, at 100 percent. Emergency services and basic restorative services, like fillings, are covered at 80



percent. The annual deductible is \$50 per person, each benefit year, and \$150 per family per benefit year. The annual maximum benefit is \$1,300 per person per year for enhanced enrollees. The annual maximum for orthodontia is \$1,750. Premiums must be deducted through a monthly allotment from retirement pay. Electronic payment is available only as an alternative for beneficiaries who do not receive retired pay or whose retired pay is insufficient to cover the allotment amount. There is a 12-month commitment for initial

enrollments. After a year, beneficiaries can continue on a month to month basis, if no additional family members have been added to the plan. If a beneficiary and spouse are already enrolled, adding a child or any other family member resets the 12-month period. For full information, visit [www.tricare.mil/TRDP](http://www.tricare.mil/TRDP).

**AUTISM PILOT EXTENDED** - [Tricare's Applied Behavior Analysis](#) (ABA) Pilot has been extended through Dec. 31, when beneficiaries will transition to the new [Tricare Autism Care Demo](#) (ACD). This ensures no beneficiaries receiving ABA will have a gap in coverage. Tricare will use the time to polish the program and educate affected beneficiaries. It also allows Tricare to transition beneficiaries in each of the three current ABA programs to this unified benefit. Beneficiaries don't need to do anything. They will transition seamlessly to the ACD. For more about ABA coverage, visit [www.tricare.mil/ACD](http://www.tricare.mil/ACD).

# BLOOD PROGRAM IN VITAL ROLE

The [Armed Services Blood Program](#) (ASBP) has served as the sole provider of blood for the United States military since 1962. As a tri-service organization, it collects, processes, stores and distributes blood and blood products to service members and their families. It is one of four national blood collection organizations. ASBP shares donors on military installations where there are no military blood collection centers. Navy Capt. Roland Fahie, ASBP director, said “Though we’re at war, we have to make sure the blood supply remains safe even in conditions which can be austere. We support surgeries around the world, wherever blood is needed, in whatever type or amount and in the right amount of time.” But he emphasized that all donor centers and transfusion services are governed by strict adherence to medical restrictions in accordance with Food and Drug Administration guidance. ASBP resources are pre-positioned globally to ensure rapid response from casualty receiving and hospital ships, aircraft and other locales. “We’re the only distribution system that’s going to get you blood on the battlefield,” Fahie said. “Donations impact our mission of being able to support the warfighter anywhere,” he added. While most healthy adults are eligible to give blood, some people may be deferred from donating temporarily or permanently. A temporary deferral should not discourage donors from coming back, Fahie said. For more information, call the blood donor center at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center at 301 295-2109.

**RX PILOT PROGRAM** - The Tricare For Life (TFL) Pharmacy Pilot has been underway since March. Medicare-eligible beneficiaries who have not moved their maintenance prescriptions to Home Delivery or a military pharmacy may have to pay the full cost of their medication if they fill their prescription a third time at a retail pharmacy. Maintenance medications are those taken regularly for a chronic condition. Beneficiaries, who get two “courtesy fills” at a retail pharmacy, receive a letter explaining the pilot. If they continue to receive their maintenance medications at retail, they may have to pay the full cost of the medication. Switching from retail to Home Delivery can save beneficiaries as much as \$152 a year for each prescription. To switch, beneficiaries can call Express Scripts, the Tricare pharmacy contractor, at 1 877 882-3335; visit the Express Scripts website, [www.express-scripts.com/tricare](http://www.express-scripts.com/tricare); ask their provider to electronically prescribe directly to “Express Scripts Mail Pharmacy” or mail in a registration form and hard copy of their prescription. Beneficiaries who choose to use a military pharmacy should first call to make sure their medication is available. For more details on the pilot program, visit [www.tricare.mil/tflpilot](http://www.tricare.mil/tflpilot).

**DHA MARKS FIRST YEAR** - Completing its first year, the [Defense Health Agency](#) has saved money and standardized health care in the Defense Department, said Dr. Jonathan Woodson, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs. The agency was set up to establish common business processes and clinical practices for the Army, Navy and Air Force. Located in Falls Church, Va., DHA is headed by Air Force Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Douglas Robb. As the cost of health care continues to rise, Woodson said, DoD must leverage efficiencies, technology and standardization in order to continue to provide affordable, high quality health care for service members and their families. In 2001, DoD’s overall Military Health System budget was about \$19 billion, he said, and by 2012 it grew to about \$54 billion. Service members and their families won’t notice much change, he said. Patients can count on more consistency, more depth in the programs, and more availability of care, Woodson added. The agency is scheduled to be fully operational by the end of 2015. Each service maintains its unique mission requirements.



Lt Gen (Dr) Robb

**NEW WILFORD HALL** - Construction of the 59th Medical Wing’s new [Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center](#) at Lackland AFB, Tex., continues with an expected completion date in fiscal 2016. The 681,000-plus square-foot, state-of-the-art treatment center will replace the existing medical center, which opened in 1957. Serving more than 55,000 patients, Wilford Hall will continue its tradition as the Air Force flagship medical facility for outpatient care. It will be DoD’s largest outpatient ambulatory surgical center. It will feature four wings, housing more than 25 outpatient clinics and clinic services.

**AID TO HOMELESS** - Approximately \$300 million in VA grants will help approximately 115,000 homeless and at risk veterans and their families. More than 300 grants are shared in all 50 states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Private non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives provide services to low-income veteran families (those making less than 50 percent of the area median income) living in – or transitioning to – permanent housing. Temporary financial assistance may be available for rent payments, utility payments, security deposits and moving costs. VA committed over \$1 billion in FY 2014 to strengthen programs that prevent and end homelessness among veterans.

# SHORT SERVINGS

**COLA Check** - The consumer Price Index reported inflation through September, raising the possibility of an increased cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) in January retiree checks. Final calculations will be announced later this month. Best guess: around 1.8 percent. This year's increase was 1.5 percent.

**Lounge Opened** - A family lounge has opened in the passenger terminal at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. Work began in 2013 as part of an Air Mobility Command plan to standardize its passenger terminals. The lounge includes a large play area, jungle gym, quiet nursing room, and a secluded business center.

**Really Snail Mail** - Fred Minnick, who was born June 12, 1894, received notice to register for the military draft at Kennerdell, Pa. (Pop. 247). The notice listed his birth in 1994. He died April 20, 1992.

**Colonel Fisher Dies** - Col. Bernard Fisher, first recipient of the Air Force-designed Medal of Honor, died Aug. 16. He was 87. In 1966, then-major Fisher landed his A-1E Skyraider on a Vietnamese airfield controlled by the enemy, pulled his downed wingman aboard, amid a hail of gunfire and escaped. He retired from the Air Force in 1974. His other decorations include the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross and Bronze Star Medal.



Col Fisher

**Consumer Complaints** - The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau accepts complaints on problems with gift cards, benefit cards, and general purpose reloadable cards. Also, complaints about debt settlement services, credit repair services, pawn and title loans. Go to [www.consumerfinance.gov/complaint](http://www.consumerfinance.gov/complaint); call 855-411-2372 or write to CFPB, P.O. Box 4503, Iowa City, Iowa 52244

**Top Baby Names** - Noah is the most popular name for boys, unseating Jacob and becoming the first new name to top the list for boys since 1960. Sophia remains the most popular baby name for girls, where it has reigned for three years. The top baby names are based on Social Security card applications for newborns.

**Senior Veteran Honored** - The oldest living female World War II veteran, 108-year-old Lucy Coffey, served with the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. She was an Honor Flight guest in Washington to see the Wild War II Memorial and visit with the president and vice president.

**Noted Navigator Dies** - Maj. Theodore Van Kirk, navigator on the B-29 Enola Gay that dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, during World War II, died July 28 in Stone Mountain, Ga. He was 93. His decorations from 58 combat missions include a Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross and 15 Air Medals.



**CAP Members Honored** - The Congressional Gold Medal honors the Civil Air Patrol for its service during World War II. Founded Dec. 1, 1941, more than 120,000 members patrolled the nation's borders, looking for German U-boats, towing targets for military training, conducting search and rescue missions and providing disaster relief. At least 59 CAP members were killed in the performance of their missions. Fewer than 100 World War II veterans are alive today.



AFSA Photo

Former CMSAFs address Air Force Sergeants Association, representing more than 250 years of Air Force experience. (L-r), Bob Gaylor, Jim McCoy, Sam Parish, Jim Binnicker, Dave Campanale, Eric Benken, Jim Finch, Jim Roy.



# GI BILL MARKS 70TH ANNIVERSARY

The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 -- the "GI Bill" -- is observing its 70th anniversary. Enacted on June 22, 1944, the law provided a wide range of benefits for veterans returning from World War II, including low-cost home loans, education and vocational training. Today, a new group of veterans is accessing the Post-9/11 GI Bill and other education benefits. Roughly 8 million out of 16 million World War II Veterans used the GI Bill education benefit. Subsequent legislation expanded and extended similar benefits to generations that followed. Passage of the Post-9/11 GI Bill covered the newest generation of veterans, including activated members of the National Guard and Reserve components. VA provides a variety of education and training benefits for veterans pursuing a wide range of education goals -- including certificate programs, post-secondary degrees and work-study programs. VA's housing benefits, which began as part of the original GI Bill, include programs to help veterans purchase, repair, retain, and adapt homes. Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program, career counseling, training, employment, and job-placement services are provided to transitioning service members and service-disabled veterans.



**SAME SEX BENEFITS** - In consultation with the Department of Justice, Veterans Affairs is providing guidance to same-sex married couples on the benefits and services to which they are entitled under current laws and regulations. The Supreme Court overturned that section of the Defense of Marriage Act which governed the definitions of "marriage" and "spouse" for federal agencies. VA has developed guidance to process claims and applications for same-sex married couples. It is processing all claims and applications involving same-sex marriages. A new website provides information to help veterans and beneficiaries understand the eligibility requirements under federal law and VA regulations. For more information, go to [www.va.gov/opa/marriage](http://www.va.gov/opa/marriage) or call 1 800-827-1000.

**CONTINUED ASSISTANCE** - Special Need Grants -- totaling \$5 million to grantees -- allows 25 organizations in 11 states to continue providing housing and necessary services to homeless veterans. Eligible are women, frail elderly, terminally ill, chronically mentally ill and individuals who care for minor dependents. The VA program promotes development and provision of supportive housing and services with the goal of helping homeless veterans achieve residential stability, increase their skill levels and income and gain greater self-determination. A 2013 survey revealed 57,849 homeless veterans, a 24-percent decline since 2010.

**EXPEDITED BURIAL PAYMENTS** - New burial regulations allow VA to automatically pay the maximum amount allowable under law to most eligible surviving spouses, without the need of a written application. Previously, burial benefits were paid on a reimbursement basis on submitted receipts. This automation enables VA to pay burial allowances to an estimated 62,000 eligible surviving spouses out of a projected 140,000 claimants for burial benefits this year. Spouses will be paid upon notice of the veteran's death using information maintained by VA. Burial allowance for a nonservice-connected death is \$300 and \$2,000 for a death connected to military service. For more information on monetary burial benefits, call 1 800 827-1000.

**INCREASED SGLI PREMIUMS** - The [Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance](#) (SGLI) program has adjusted its monthly premium rate to 7 cents per \$1,000 to maintain the program's strong financial position. Since the start of the SGLI Program in 1965, monthly premiums have decreased from 20 cents per \$1,000 to the present rate. Over the past 30 years, premiums, rates have fluctuated only 2.5 cents per \$1,000 of insurance. The group insurance industry normally adjusts premium rates when there are changes in the economy and/or changes in the number of death claims. VA uses actuaries to conduct program experience studies. For a service member with the maximum \$400,000 of life insurance, this change means an increase of \$2 a month. Individual Ready Reserve members who are drilling for points toward retirement or who do not receive pay for other reasons will be billed by their branch of service for the higher premium.

**LIFE INSURANCE MILESTONE** - The VA life insurance program is a century old. The War Risk Insurance Act, foundation for VA life insurance protection, was enacted in 1914. VA has provided life insurance for more than 57 million service members and veterans. The nation's 9th largest life insurance enterprise has six programs and supervises Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance and Veterans' Group Life Insurance. For information on life insurance policies, call 1 800 419-1473.

# REORGANIZATION ADDS 25TH AF

The Air Force plans a series of organizational reforms, designed to eliminate 3,459 positions. Costs and staff levels are expected to be reduced by 20 percent, resulting in savings of \$1.6 billion across the Air Force in the next five years, according to Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James. The [Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Agency](#) will be realigned under a new 25th Air Force, part of the Air Combat Command. The reorganization will enable ACC to meet tactical, theater, and national ISR requirements “more effectively,” said ACC boss Gen. Michael Hostag. It also provides a one-command structure for ISR airmen, which will be important as the Air Force normalizes the ISR mission into the combat air forces, he added. The ISRA commander, Maj. Gen. Jack Shanahan, will be reassigned as commander of 25th AF. Most of the ISRA organizations will become part of 25th AF. The National Air and Space Intelligence Center at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, will remain aligned with the Air Staff under the A-2 directorate. The new organization, slated to stand up this fall, will be headquartered at JBSA-Lackland, Tex. Echoing previous plans to offer voluntary separation agreements to those eligible, Secretary James said Air Force will “aggressively” pursue “reductions within the first year.”



**OLD RELIABLE C-130** - The YC-130 Hercules made its maiden flight in 1954 at the Lockheed Martin plant in Burbank, Calif., and is still in production today. It is the most modified aircraft in the Air Force. It is used for airlift, aeromedical missions, personnel and cargo airdrop, natural disaster relief missions, Antarctic resupply to the National Science Foundation, weather reconnaissance, aerial spray missions and firefighting duties for the Forest Service. The C-130 can airlift 92 ground troops, 64 fully-equipped paratroopers, 74 litter patients or 45,000 pounds of cargo. The C-130J, the latest version, was introduced in 1999. There are 145 C-130s in the active force, 181 in the Air National Guard and 102 in the Air Force Reserve.

**UNIFORMS ARE DISTINCTIVE** - Having separate military services brings perspectives to the table that are the epitome of “jointness,” according to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey said that he hopes the military services retain their own unique field uniforms. There have been suggestions for the military to adopt a single field uniform. Legislators point to cost as an issue. The chairman said he believes the uniforms affect and express the unique cultures of the services. The uniforms reflect the differences in the services, the chairman said. “I have to tell you,” he added, “when I sit with the service chiefs, it is extraordinarily important and beneficial that we have four different views and that those views can be molded into military advice that we can provide to our elected leaders.” The difference in perspectives and experiences of the services are valuable, and a single viewpoint would be a disservice to the nation, the chairman said. “It is a very healthy thing to have four separate services, each proud of who they are,” he said. “Some of that pride is reflected in the uniform you wear.”

**KEEP ADDRESSES CURRENT** - Addresses on mailing labels used to send Still Serving and the Afterburner are those maintained by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS). Any changes in this information must be sent to DFAS. Label information is received by the Retiree Activities Office electronically and is not accessible by the office staff. Faulty addresses will also delay or cancel mail dispatched by DFAS. A common mistake is made when a retiree moves to a new location and maintains the same bank account. The retiree check continues to be deposited but come tax time, the retiree is upset over non-delivery of needed tax return data. Calls to DFAS (800 321-1080) resolve the problem with current mailing address. Those with myPay accounts can change their addresses online. You can FAX it to 800 469-6559 or send it to US Military Retirement Pay, P.O. Box 7130, London KY 40742-7130. Survivor Benefit Plan annuitants can also use the 800 321-1080 number. However, changes by FAX go to 800 982-8459 or mail to US Military Annuitant Pay, PO Box 7131, London KY 40742-7131.

**CRASH REMAINS IDENTIFIED** - The remains of 17 service members have been recovered from an aircraft that was lost in Alaska more than six decades ago. On Nov. 22, 1952, a C-124 Globemaster crashed en route from McChord AFB, Wash., to Elmendorf Air FB, Alaska, with 11 crew members and 41 passengers on board. Adverse weather precluded immediate recovery attempts. Search parties later were unable to locate the aircraft. In 2012, an Alaska National Guard helicopter crew spotted wreckage. Another Alaska Guard team landed at the site and found artifacts that related to the missing Globemaster. The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command conducted a recovery operation and recommended that it continue to be monitored.. In 2013, additional artifacts were recovered. The [Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory](#) used forensic tools and circumstantial evidence in the identification of 17 service members. The crash site will continued to be monitored for possible recovery of others. As identification is made, remains are returned to families for military interment services.



# PILOT LEARNS NEVER SAY NEVER

Capt. Ryan McGuire, McChord AFB, Wash., is the first airman to complete Air Force pilot training after losing a leg. A recreational boating accident in 2009 resulted in the loss of his right leg. “The days leading to the amputation were overwhelming and depressing,” he said. “I was at the lowest of low.” Entering the Air Force Academy with expectations of becoming a pilot, the thought of losing the opportunity to fly was devastating. After surgery, McGuire was asked by a soldier when he had lost his leg. “Last week,” he responded. He was surprised when the soldier told him he had lost a leg the previous year. “Seeing him in uniform, walking perfectly normal made me realize that being an amputee doesn’t define me,” McGuire said. He credits his rehabilitation to the support of his family, friends and Air Force wingmen. Faced with the possibility of being medically discharged, McGuire met a medical evaluation review board to prove he was able to continue pilot training. In 2011, he completed pilot training and C-17 Globemaster III qualification training. He has deployed and flown medical evacuation missions. “The Air Force has given me the opportunity to excel and overcome this injury,” McGuire said. “I hope to show others that they, too, can overcome an injury or a setback. I want them to know that the Air Force takes care of its people and will provide them with the tools and resources to overcome.”

**BASICS LEARN HERITAGE** - The Airman Heritage Museum and the Security Forces Museum at Lackland AFB, Tex., have consolidated into the Enlisted Heritage and Character Development Center. It is a stepping stone for a \$50 million, privately-funded museum set to open in 2017. The facility is accessible to the public and has a role in the education of Air Force recruits going through basic training. In the final week of basic, trainees visit the museum to learn 60+ years of tradition. Airmen and visitors walk through displays, describing events in Air Force history. One display features SSgt. Henry Erwin, a 23-year-old radio operator aboard a B-29 Super Fortress over Japan in 1945. A phosphorus flare exploded in his face. He held the flare between his arm and rib cage and threw it out the co-pilot’s window. His actions earned him the Medal of Honor. The future 85,000-square-foot center will be built adjacent to the parade field. It will be a joint venture of the Air Force and the Airman Heritage Foundation, a non-profit organization chartered to raise funds for the new center, expected to be completed in three years.

**SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED** - Some 600 military children are receiving about \$1.2 million in financial assistance from this year’s [Scholarships for Military Children](#) program, offered by the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA). Since its start in 2001, the scholarships have provided about \$14.5 million to more than 8,000 children of active duty, Guard, Reserve and retired service members. This year, the scholarship amount per recipient was increased from \$1,500 to \$2,000. DeCA stores accept applications from eligible children and submit them to Scholarship Managers, a national, nonprofit, scholarship management services organization. Commissary vendors, manufacturers, brokers, suppliers and the general public fund the program through donations. The Fisher House Foundation, a nonprofit organization that assists family members with temporary lodging when they visit hospitalized service members, administers the program. Application dates for the 2015 program are expected to be announced in December.



**POSTAL CHANGES** - Changes to military postal operations are expected to save the Defense Department \$4 million annually through services comparable to those offered by the U.S. Postal Service. Most savings would be achieved by automation of the redirection process of first-class military mail. Currently, mail shipped from the United States to overseas military post offices and redirecting it is a manual operation. A new automated process offers military post office patrons the same services available at USPS offices. Customers, who fail to perform an online change of address, will not receive the new technology. Similar to the USPS change-of-address process, patrons are charged a \$1 verification fee.

**ADDED GUIDANCE** - A DoD memorandum provides supplemental guidance to military records boards to ensure consistency in considering veterans’ discharge upgrade requests related to post-traumatic stress disorder. The guidance is not intended to interfere with or impede the Military Department Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records’ statutory independence to correct errors or remove injustices through the correction of military records. It mandates liberal waivers of time limits, ensures timely consideration of petitions, and allows for increased involvement of medical personnel in board determinations.

# ‘MYSTERY SHOPPERS’ HELP AAFES

The [Army & Air Force Exchange Service](#) (AAFES) regularly seeks shoppers’ feedback on how the organization is doing in supporting their needs. As part of this effort, the Exchange Mystery Shopper program identifies a select group from each installation to go about their normal day-to-day shopping for six months and detail their experience in a series of three survey sets. Mystery Shoppers are rewarded for their participation with a \$30 exchange gift card and two movie tickets along with popcorn and drinks. If three sets of surveys are completed within a six-month period, Mystery Shoppers receive \$90 in gift cards and six movie passes. “Not only is the Exchange Mystery Shopper program a great way to improve the shopping experience, but it allows shoppers to take ownership of military shopping all over the world,” said CMSgt. Tony Pearson, the exchange’s Senior Enlisted Advisor “It’s only through the input of shoppers that we can offer the level of service our nation’s finest, and their families, have come to expect at the exchange.” Patrons can apply to become Mystery Shoppers by registering at [www.shopmyexchange.com](http://www.shopmyexchange.com). New participants are selected every six months. There are currently about 350 active Mystery Shoppers at 130 Army and Air Force installations worldwide. Exchange shoppers can also offer feedback by visiting [www.shopmyexchange.com/CustomerService](http://www.shopmyexchange.com/CustomerService), clicking on “Catalog/Internet Feedback” and “Exchange Store Feedback”. AAFES is a joint non-appropriated fund instrumentality of DoD. It is directed by a board of directors, responsible to the Secretaries of the Army and the Air Force through the service chiefs of staff. The exchange generates non-appropriated fund earnings as a supplemental source of funding for military morale, welfare and recreation programs. For more about the exchange history, go to [www.shopmyexchange.com](http://www.shopmyexchange.com).



**PRICE COMPARISONS** - Patrons can expect to find the same, or very similar, prices at Army & Air Force Exchange Service facilities worldwide. Known as pricing parity, this practice ensures exchange prices are established centrally. “While there may be some slight price differentiations that occur with items purchased locally overseas, per Department of Defense policy the exchange doesn’t increase prices in order to cover shipping or other higher operational costs,” said CMSgt. Tony Pearson, exchange senior enlisted adviser. “There may be some price differences between locations in the continental United States and overseas for categories such as gasoline, alcohol and tobacco,” said Pearson. “These prices are set based on Department of Energy benchmarks, or local surveys, established by DoD directives.” Additionally, prices for some convenience and frequently purchased items may be lower at different locations based on local promotions or surveys.

**COMMISSARY COSTS STUDIED** - There are no plans to close military commissaries, according to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey. The budget environment is forcing the department to look for savings anywhere possible, he added. The Joint Staff asked the Defense Commissary Agency for a range of options, including how the system would operate with reduced or no taxpayer subsidies. The chairman noted that military exchanges work on this system and that the same potential exists with commissaries. The commissary agency received \$1.5 billion in subsidies last year. “We haven’t made any decisions,” the chairman said. “We’ve got to drive toward greater efficiencies, and this is just one of the potential areas.” The Bipartisan Budget Act alleviated some of the sequester pressure on the department through fiscal 2015. But the Budget Reduction Act of 2011 is still law, and sequester-level spending cuts will be back in play in fiscal 2016, unless Congress changes the law. “We’re well aware of the need for acquisition reform, as well as the need to reduce unnecessary infrastructure and retire unneeded weapons systems,” Dempsey said.

**NEW CARTS OFFERED** - Four area commissaries are among 40 stores offering grocery carts designed for special-needs children. Called “Caroline’s Cart,” it enables special-needs children -- or adults under 250 pounds -- to accompany shoppers instead of pushing both a wheelchair or stroller and a grocery cart. The new carts are available at Bolling, Fort Meade, Fort Belvoir and Quantico. They have handles that swing away to allow easy access to the seat. A platform below the seat serves as a footrest. With the occupant facing the cart operator, the seat contains an adjustable harness for support. Two 8-inch wheels and four casters provide maneuverability and stability. Brakes help ensure safety while loading or unloading the passenger. Carts are located near the entrance and are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

# ENLISTED PILOTS REMEMBERED

The [Air Force's Enlisted Heritage Hall](#) at Maxwell-Gunter AFB in Montgomery, Ala., unveiled a monument to enlisted aviators who served in World War I, World War II and until 1957. "They were men, who during a time of crisis, did not shrink from service to our country, and instead they courageously fought to defend and aid those around them," said Gen. Robin Rand, head of Air Education and Training Command, who presided over the dedication ceremony. Hall staff, along with former enlisted pilots and their families, raised more than \$60,000 over 14 years to make the monument a reality. The monument depicts Cpl. Vernon Burge, the Army Signal Corps' first enlisted pilot; it honors the service and sacrifices of the nearly 3,000 enlisted pilots, more than 150 of whom were killed in action. The Enlisted Heritage Research Institute preserves the tradition of the Air Force enlisted corps and the Army's Aeronautical Division, Air Service, Air Corps and Air Forces in the development of air power. The institute features artifacts, collections, and pictorial exhibits, written and oral documentation, audiovisuals, equipment, and selected aircraft parts.



**ARMY UPGRADES LODGING** - The Army has contracted its transient lodging, which has resulted in a rate increase at most installations. No similar moves were announced by the other military services. Most have been affected by Defense budget cuts. The privatized Army lodging has resulted in construction of two new hotels at Fort Belvoir, Va. Knadle Hall is planned to open as a Holiday Inn Express this fall. Staybridge Suites is scheduled to open a year later. The hotel will offer 141 guest rooms with amenities designed for wounded warriors and their families.

**NEW CANDY BOMBERS** - Loadmasters added a sweet touch to humanitarian airdrop bundles to isolated Iraqi families. Reminiscent of retired Col. Gail Halvorsen, the "[Candy Bomber](#)" who dropped packs of candy to German children during the Berlin Airlift in 1948-49, loadmasters taped bags of candy atop airlift bundles on C-17s and C-130s. The idea started with MSgt. Stephen Brown, who attached a pack of Skittles to an airdrop bundle. "After that, everyone started making the drops a little personal with more candy, and I even think I saw a teddy bear," Brown said. A supervisor, said: "We are definitely not at the level of the Candy Bomber, but I'd give us an almost for our modern version." Candy from care packages the airmen have received were added to later airdrops.

**FOOD BANK HELP** - The Defense Commissary Agency has established a formal process covering diversion of unsellable but edible food to local food banks. The program involves 110 stateside commissaries that divert qualifying food to 77 food banks approved by the Defense Department. During fiscal year 2013, DeCA donated 638,582 pounds of food. More than 1 million pounds were delivered by mid FY14. The system differs from the annual Feds Feed Families campaign, which takes place June through August. With Feds Feed Families, commissaries serve as collection points for their installations, and all donations come from DeCA customers.

**TOP RATING FOR VILLAGE** - [Charity Navigator](#), an independent charity evaluator, has awarded the Air Force Enlisted Village at Shalimar, Fla., with a 4-star rating for sound fiscal management practices and commitment to accountability and transparency. Charity Navigator works to help charitable donors make informed decisions by evaluating the financial health of over 5,000 nonprofits nationwide. "Only one out of four earns 4 stars," said Ken Berger, president of Charity Navigator. "We're delighted," said retired CMSAF Jim Binnicker, Air Force Enlisted Village president and CEO. "This rating demonstrates that we take our fiduciary and governance responsibilities very seriously." Air Force Enlisted Village is a non-profit organization that provides a home near Eglin AFB and Hurlburt Field for surviving spouses of retired enlisted military members. For more information, visit [www.afev.us](http://www.afev.us).

**ADDED GUIDANCE** - A DoD memorandum provides supplemental guidance to military records boards to ensure consistency in considering veterans' discharge upgrade requests related to post-traumatic stress disorder. The guidance is not intended to interfere with or impede the Military Department Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records' statutory independence to correct errors or remove injustices through the correction of military records. It mandates liberal waivers of time limits, ensures timely consideration of petitions, and allows for increased involvement of medical personnel in board determinations.



# **Joint Base Andrews and Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling Retiree Appreciation Day October 25 – JBA Club**

- 7:00 Continental Breakfast
- 7-9:00 Health Fair
- 9:15 Posting of Colors, Introductory Remarks  
Maj. (Ret) Cliff Daniels, Bolling RAO
- 9:30 Maj. Gen. Darryl Burke, Commander, AFDW  
Col. Bradley Hoagland, Commander, 11th Wing
- 9:45 Legislative Update, Navy Capt. (Ret) Kathy Beasley,  
Military Officers of America Assn.
- 10:30 Casualty Assistance, Joe Sites, 11th Wg CAR
- 10:45 Legal Assistance, Capt. Vincent Romano, 11th Wg SJA
- 11:00 Navy Capt. Frank Mays, Commander, JBAB
- 11:10 Tricare, Col. (Dr) Tom Cantilina, 779 Medical Gp
- 11:45 Lunch (Tickets on sale, 9 to 11 a.m.)
- 12:30 Lt. Gen. Sam Cox, Hq USAF/A1
- 1:15 Space-A Travel, JBA Passenger Terminal
- 1:30 Closing Remarks, Major Daniels

## **ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES**

- 9:00-4:00 Special Sales, Exchange and Commissary
- 2:00-4:00 Identification Card Renewals, Building 1414

