

# SHIFT COLORS

The  
Newsletter  
for Navy  
Retirees

Volume 57 Issue #2

Navy Personnel Command

Fall 2011

## Shift Colors continues online

With budgets dwindling throughout the military, the Navy made the tough choice to put its retiree publication, *Shift Colors*, online only in 2008. However, many long-time readers did not know of the change so the Navy's Retired Activities Office, the Secretary of the Navy Retiree Council and the staff of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Reserve Affairs were able to secure funding to publish one final issue.

"Ever since *Shift Colors* initially went online only, we've been fighting to get it back in print. Failing that, we fought to at least get one last issue out to let people know that the newsletter is still out there and can be accessed on the Internet," said Todd Pike, head, Navy Retired Activities. "This printed issue is our chance to let our entire audience know of the change. It may be the last issue we print."

*Shift Colors* can be accessed online at [www.shiftcolors.navy.mil](http://www.shiftcolors.navy.mil).

"There you will find the same newsletter you used to get in the mail available to download," said Pike. "You will also find the content available on easy-to-access web pages. There is even a section where 'hot news' that is important to the Navy retiree community is posted."

For more information, visit the *Shift Colors* website, the Navy Retired Activities website at [www.npc.navy.mil/support/retired\\_activities/](http://www.npc.navy.mil/support/retired_activities/), or call the Navy Personnel Command Customer Service Center at 1-866-U-ASK-NPC (827-5672).



Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Walter M. Wayman

### Rendering honor...

**Aviation Ordnanceman 3rd Class Alexis Johnson, from Omaha, Neb., serves as a member of the rifle guard aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) during a burial at sea. The John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group is on a scheduled western Pacific Ocean and Arabian Gulf deployment.**

## SECNAV Retiree Council report released

The Secretary of the Navy Retiree Council met at the Washington Navy Yard May 2-6 to discuss Navy and Marine Corps retiree issues and provide a report to the Secretary of Navy regarding the most pressing matters raised.

The following is a summation of the six issues included in this year's report:

**Issue:** Use *Shift Colors* to communicate with and realize significant budget saving through the Navy's "recruiters for life" – its retired community.

**Summarized position and desired outcome:** The council members feel that *Shift Colors* is a necessary me-

dium to communicate with the retiree community and that the Navy could realize a drastic savings by educating the audience about the benefits of using the mail order pharmacy and switching to direct deposit. The council recommends that the newsletter be sent out to those retirees who are not signed up for e-mail delivery at least once a year.

**Issue:** The Navy has only one paid Retired Activities Office (RAO) Regional Program Coordinator (RPC). There should be more.

**Summarized position and desired**

See COUNCIL, Page 10

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## Shift Colors

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### Diving for mines...

**Able Body Seaman Omar Albury finds an inert training mine on the sea floor utilizing a circle search line during joint diving search operations with Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit (MDSU) 2. MDSU-2 is participating in Navy Diver-Southern Partnership Station, a multinational partnership engagement designed to increase interoperability and partner nation capacity through diving operations.** (Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Jayme Pastoric)



# From the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy



*Shipmates,*

It is with some significance that I am writing to you in this special edition of *Shift Colors*. What makes this issue different? It is possibly the last edition of *Shift Colors* we will print. When we ceased printing three years ago, there was no advance notice, no opportunity to let you know that this resource was going to continue online only. So, with this issue we finally have our chance to tell you that after this printing, *Shift Colors* may only be available to you on the Internet.

It's convenient: Just log on at

[www.shiftcolors.navy.mil](http://www.shiftcolors.navy.mil) and you

can find this and past issues. You can also find instructions to sign up for e-mail delivery.

Navy leadership preferred that we were able to keep mailing this resource. Unfortunately, given our current and projected budgets, it's not possible. I ask those you who have computers to help out your Shipmates who may not have access. If you don't have a computer, contact your family, a fellow retiree or nearest Retired Activities Office (RAOs) for assistance with accessing Shift Colors online. Resources are available at almost all local libraries and within our Fleet and Family Support Centers.

While our methods of providing support evolve, the level of support remains the same; we are committed to you just as you are committed to us. The Navy's Retired Affairs Office works diligently to ensure that RAOs remain staffed and that your needs are addressed by senior leaders. Recently the 2011 Secretary of the Navy Retiree Council met in Washington to assess the issues most pressing to our retired members. You'll find a synopsis of that report in this issue and a downloadable copy of the report at [www.shiftcolors.navy.mil](http://www.shiftcolors.navy.mil).

The Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Reserve Affairs) staff is also seeking your input on a Retiree needs survey accessible at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KK32K98>. This is a very quick, 10-question survey developed to help DASN (RA) better prioritize and represent

your interests. They are working hard along with the Navy Retired Affairs Office to publish Shift Colors and meet the other retiree requirements/priorities.

Our online presence is the future of communication from the Navy to our retirees. Both through the Shift Colors website and on Facebook (at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Navy-and-Marine-Corps-Retirees/134031983278683>, or by searching Navy and Marine Corps Retirees). Remember, how we do things may change, but we are Navy for life!

I can say without reservation that I certainly appreciate your service and the fact you've laid the foundation for us in uniform today.

Fair winds and following seas,

HOOYAH Shipmates!

*Rick D. West*

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy



# Hiring vets makes positive investment, general says

By Lisa Daniel

*American Forces Press Service*

Hiring military reservists and veterans is a positive investment for America, the deputy director of U.S. Army Reserve Command told federal hiring officials July 27.

Reservists and veterans have a “vast resource of capabilities” that provides a distinct hiring pool for federal civilian jobs, Army Maj. Gen. Jon J. Miller said at the Veterans Employment Symposium, held in Washington D.C. by the departments of Defense, Veterans Affairs, Labor and Homeland Security, and the Office of Personnel Management. The purpose of the symposium was to help federal hiring officials improve practices for hiring veterans.

Miller highlighted the Employer Partnership of the Armed Forces, which the Defense Department created in 2008 to help separating service members, veterans and reservists find jobs.

“The Employer Partnership career portal is like a Monster.com, but tailored for the military,” Miller said. “Not only can job seekers find positions they are looking for, but em-



Photo by Army Lt. Col. Matthew J. Leonard

**Army Maj. Gen. Jon J. Miller, deputy commanding general of U.S. Army Reserve Command, tells federal human resource managers how the Employer Partnership of the Armed Forces program can help them find qualified veteran candidates for jobs. The event was the Veterans Employment Symposium, held July 27, in Washington, D.C.**

ployers can also reach in and find the quality candidates they need.”

Service members are trained in a wide spectrum of disciplines, Miller noted, including health care, transportation, logistics, public safety, engineering, construction and many others.

Navy Vice Adm. Kevin McCoy, commander of Naval Sea Systems Command, told symposium partici-

pants about the command’s focus on hiring wounded warriors. The command began its efforts two years ago, hiring 84 wounded warriors in fiscal 2009. Last year, the command hired 283 wounded warriors, and has hired 337 so far this year, he said.

McCoy has called hiring wounded warriors “a moral imperative.” On July 22, he signed an agreement, along with Gen. Ann Dunwoody, commander of U.S. Army Materiel Command, to partner in hiring veterans with service-connected disability ratings of 30 percent or more.

“It is not about what we can do for them, but what they can contribute to making our missions successful for the warfighter,” he said. “These wounded warriors will be able to translate their battlefield experience into our work, which is supporting the warfighter — a job they know well.”

Existing civilian hiring procedures do not connect wounded warriors to jobs, McCoy said, and it is not enough to pull from a list of qualified names. Rather, he said, hiring officials “have to be where warfighters are, rather than waiting for them to come to you.”

## Deadline approaches for retroactive stop loss pay

The 2009 War Supplemental Appropriations Act established Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay (RSLSP), providing \$500 for each month/partial month served in stop loss status. Service members, veterans, and beneficiaries of servicemembers whose service was involuntarily extended under Stop Loss between Sept. 11, 2001 and Sept. 30, 2009 are eligible for RSLSP.

To receive this benefit, those who served under stop loss must submit a claim for the special pay. Throughout the year, the services have been reaching out to servicemembers, veterans and their families through direct mail, veteran service organizations, and the media. But there is still money left to be claimed, and the deadline is approaching. The average benefit is \$3,700.

### General Procedure

Individuals who meet eligibility criteria may submit an application until and October 21. By law, there is no autho-

rization to make payments on claims that are submitted after October 21, 2011.

Eligible members should visit their specific service’s website and submit their application online; online submission provides a claim number, allows for automated status updates, and provides a means for the military service to contact the applicant.

If eligible members do not have Internet access, they should print, complete and sign Department of Defense Form 2944, Claim for Retroactive Stop Loss Payment. Next, choose the appropriate method for submitting the claim form and available supporting documents based on your service specifications. This information can be found on your service’s stop loss website.

### Tell a Friend

If you know someone who separated/retired and may be eligible, remind them to submit a claim before the deadline!

# Direct deposit: puts money in retirees' hands sooner

## Patriotic or personal, whatever the reason, direct deposit benefits everyone

*Courtesy Defense Finance and Accounting Service*

Having a paycheck electronically deposited into a bank account is the quickest and safest way to be paid. Nevertheless, every month more than 20,000 military retirees paid by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service receive a paper check in the mail. Those same retirees would receive their pay up to a week sooner if they enrolled in direct deposit.

"Direct deposit is the best possible solution for most retirees because it puts their money in their hands almost immediately after their pay is processed," said Tom McKenna, DFAS Retired and Annuitant Pay Director. "It also eliminates the risk of a check being stolen or lost in the mail."

McKenna added that it can take up to six weeks to replace a lost or stolen check.

DFAS spends approximately \$2.2 million a year printing and mailing checks

to military retirees and Survivor Benefit Plan annuitants. This money could be used elsewhere to support America's service men and women.

"Enrolling in direct deposit frees up money to use in direct support of the uniformed warfighters," said McKenna. "Whether it's for patriotic reasons or practical ones, I encourage all of our members who are receiving paper checks to sign up for direct deposit."

### Use myPay to Start

Starting direct deposit is easy using myPay, the official online account management system for military retirees and annuitants. myPay is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week from anywhere in the world.

1. Have the following information on hand: bank routing number, account number and type of account (checking or savings).

2. Go to <https://mypay.dfas.mil> and log into your account.

3. Agree to the terms of the User Agreement.

4. On the Main Menu page, click the "Direct Deposit" link.

5. Enter your bank routing number, account number and the account type (checking or savings).

6. Click "Accept/Submit."

7. Confirm that the information you entered is correct before exiting or returning to the Main Menu.

Members who have never used myPay or don't remember their passwords should click "Forgot or Need a Password" to get started.

Direct deposit enrollment and account changes take three to five business days to appear in myPay.

### Mail or Fax Direct Deposit Form

Members who are unable to use myPay can submit their requests by mail or fax. However, these changes take approximately 30 days to process. Members should complete an SF 1199A Direct Deposit Enrollment Form (available at [www.dfas.mil/dfas/retiredmilitary/forms.html](http://www.dfas.mil/dfas/retiredmilitary/forms.html)) and mail or fax it to:

DFAS U.S. Military Retired Pay  
P.O. Box 7130  
London, KY 40742-7130  
Fax: (800) 469-6559

## Who should I contact; DFAS, VA or my branch of service?

### DFAS Retired and Annuitant (R&A) Pay

DFAS R&A Pay is primarily a payroll office. We establish and maintain military retired pay and annuity accounts, and issue monthly payments to both military retirees and their eligible survivors.

- \* Regular and Reserve Retirement payments
- \* Temporary and Permanent Disability Retirement payments
- \* Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay
- \* Combat Related Special Compensation payments
- \* Survivor Benefit Plan

Contact DFAS at (800) 321-1080.

### Department of Veterans Affairs

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides services to former members of the military, not just those who are retired from the military.

If you are disabled, the VA establishes your level of disability compensation, and handles any changes or updates. These include:

- \* Additional benefit for veterans service injuries

\* Ratings for service-connected disability codes

\* Ratings for Special Monthly Compensation

\* Individual unemployability ratings

\* Re-rating you if you feel your disability has increased

The VA also administers pensions, educational programs, home loans, life insurance, vocational rehabilitation, survivors' benefits, medical benefits and burial benefits.

If you have questions or concerns about any of these topics, please contact the VA at 800-827-1000.

### Branches of Service

The Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force assist in the transition from active duty to retired life and make determinations for some entitlement programs, such as Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC).

Please contact your Branch of Service for assistance with the following items:

- \* CRSC eligibility determinations
- \* Applying for retirement
- \* Retirement orders

# TRICARE begins home delivery education initiative

*Courtesy TRICARE*

TRICARE beneficiaries who still get two or more maintenance prescriptions from a retail pharmacy should start checking their mailboxes. TRICARE Management Activity and Express Scripts Inc. (ESI) are mailing out home delivery education “alert” letters to promote pharmacy home delivery.

The alerts focus on the convenience and lower cost of home delivery versus retail pharmacies, and include information on how to switch prescriptions over. The alerts also seek to alleviate possible concerns about home delivery by highlighting safety measures and 24/7 access to a pharmacist.

The alerts are targeted to TRICARE beneficiaries who purchase two or more maintenance medications for chronic conditions at a retail pharmacy. These beneficiaries stand to benefit most from switching over to home delivery. The education alerts were mailed starting in July.

“Providing service members and their families with an affordable, quality prescription drug benefit is a vital part of TRICARE’s mission,” said TRICARE Deputy Director Rear Adm. Christine Hunter. “When beneficiaries choose home delivery, they are using their benefit wisely.”

Switching from retail pharmacy to home delivery spares beneficiaries the inconvenience of picking their prescriptions up from the pharmacy and saves them 66 percent per prescription. Home delivery is also cheaper for TRICARE. Beneficiaries switching from retail to home delivery saved the Department of Defense \$30 million in 2010.

TRICARE and ESI are engaged in an aggressive campaign to promote home delivery with great success. Growth in retail pharmacy prescriptions covered by TRICARE is only 3.4 percent in 2011, down from the historical average of 5.2 percent. Home delivery prescriptions grew 9.8 percent in 2011, almost double the historical 5.8 percent rate.

“The more TRICARE beneficiaries learn about pharmacy home delivery, the more they take advantage of its benefits,” Hunter said. “The alerts are the next step in spreading the word.”

For more information about home delivery, visit [www.tricare.mil/homedelivery](http://www.tricare.mil/homedelivery). To sign up for home delivery beneficiaries should go to ESI’s website, [www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE](http://www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE) or call the TRICARE Member Choice Center at 877-262-3390.

## States show increase in TRICARE service providers

*Courtesy TRICARE*

The Department of Defense continues to applaud the growing number of medical professionals signing up to accept TRICARE, the health care plan for members of the uniformed services, retirees and their families. For 9.6 million TRICARE beneficiaries worldwide, TRICARE relies heavily on civilian providers to supplement the health care provided by military treatment facilities.

Today, more than 325,000 providers across the United States are in the TRICARE network, with over 1 million providers accepting TRICARE beneficiaries. The Department of Defense (DoD) Survey of Civilian Physician Acceptance of TRICARE Standard shows that in Fiscal Year 2007, almost 93 percent of responding physicians in 53 areas were aware of the TRICARE program. Almost 85 percent of those physicians accepted new TRICARE Standard patients.

The campaign to increase the number of providers accepting TRICARE

patients started several years ago, led by the TRICARE Regional Office-West and TriWest Healthcare Alliance, the TRICARE-managed care support contractor serving 21 western states.

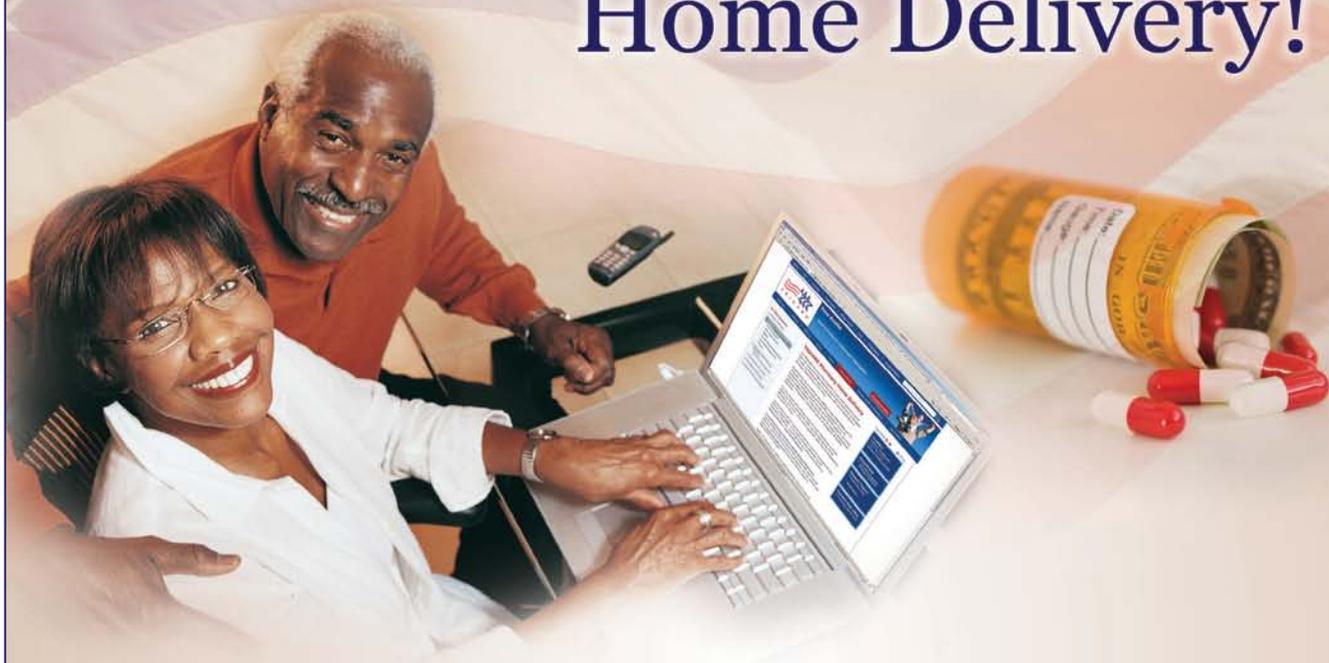
Recently, Colorado’s leadership announced the number of providers in the state increased from 4,830 to more than 7,920. Hawaii’s leadership announced the number of providers in the state increased from 2,885 to close to 4,000. At the same time, Idaho’s number of providers in the state jumped from 2,190 to more than 3,820 and Utah’s number of providers went from 2,200 to more than 3,600. The most impressive numbers thus far come from South Dakota, where the number of providers in the state increased from 900 to more than 3,000.

South Dakota’s governor, Dennis Daugaard, wrote the South Dakota State Medical Association (SDSMA) to personally express his gratitude to the health care providers for stepping up when the military families of the state have needed them the most.

“More than four years ago, Governor (Mike) Rounds reached out to the South Dakota (State) Medical Association to commend your association’s support of our military members and to ask for the association’s help in urging even more members to join the effort,” said Governor Daugaard, in a letter to the SDSMA. “Following Governor Round’s call to action, your membership responded with great professionalism and patriotism. Your actions ensure that the men and women, who dedicate their lives to serving this country and their spouses and children, have health care when and where they need it.”

More than 2 million TRICARE beneficiaries use TRICARE Standard, the fee-for-service option that provides the most flexibility for patients to see any TRICARE-authorized provider. TRICARE offers a large number of potential patients. It is also an industry leader in claims-payment timeliness. Ninety-nine percent of clean claims are processed within 30 days. Ninety percent of claims are processed within 15 days.

# Use TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery!



## Why Use TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery for your regular Medications?

- **Save 66% over picking up prescriptions at a retail pharmacy** – up to \$176 per year on some prescriptions
- Conveniently ships a 90 day supply of medication to any address in the U.S. or Fleet and Army Post Offices overseas
- **Offers automatic prescription refills** - no more last minute phone calls or dashes to the pharmacy
- **Saves TRICARE money too** – Beneficiaries switching to Home Delivery from retail pharmacies saved TRICARE \$30 million in 2010

## How to Sign up for Home Delivery



Call the Members Choice Center at  
**1-877-363-1433**



Online – Learn more and switch your prescription over at  
**[www.tricare.mil/homedelivery](http://www.tricare.mil/homedelivery)**

Contact Express Scripts Inc at  
**[www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE/](http://www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE/) or  
1-877-363-1303**



# VA launches new homelessness prevention initiative

*Courtesy Department of Veterans Affairs*

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki announced today the award of nearly \$60 million in homeless prevention grants that will serve approximately 22,000 homeless and at-risk veteran families as part of the new Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program. This initial \$60 million award will serve veteran families at 85 non-profit community agencies in 40 states and the District of Columbia under VA's new homeless prevention initiative.

"This new homeless prevention program will provide additional comprehensive support to veterans who have served honorably, and now find themselves in a downward spiral

toward despair and homelessness," said VA Secretary Eric K. Shinseki. "This program expands our capacity to act before a veteran becomes homeless and to target the problem of family homelessness. These grants would not have been possible without the extraordinary partnerships forged with community organizers who are firmly committed to making a positive difference in lives of veterans and their families."

The SSVF Program, a critical element of VA's plan to prevent and end homelessness among veterans, will promote housing stability among homeless and at-risk veterans and their families. Under the SSVF program, VA awards grants to private non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives that can provide a range of supportive

services to eligible very low-income veteran families. Supportive services include outreach, case management, assistance in obtaining VA benefits, and assistance in obtaining and coordinating other public benefits. Grantees will also have the ability to make time-limited temporary financial assistance payments on behalf of veterans for purposes such as rent payments, utility payments, security deposits and moving costs.

More information about VA's homeless programs is available online at <http://www.va.gov/homeless>. A list of award recipients and details about the Supportive Services for Veteran Families program are available online at <http://www1.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp>.

## Permanent housing help coming to thousands of homeless vets

*Courtesy Department of Veterans Affairs*

U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric K. Shinseki announced that HUD will provide \$46.2 million to public housing agencies in all 50 states and the District of Columbia to supply permanent housing and case management for 6,790 homeless veterans in America.

This funding, from HUD's Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program (HUD-VASH), is a coordinated effort by HUD, VA and local housing agencies to provide permanent housing for homeless veterans.

"Over the past three years, HUD helped thousands of homeless veterans find a permanent place to call home while VA provided medical treatment, case management and other services to address their specific needs," said Donovan. "We have no greater mission than to prevent and end homelessness, especially for those brave men and women who risked their lives to protect our nation"

"This initiative will strengthen our ongoing efforts to eliminate veteran homelessness by 2015 and improve quality of life for veterans," said Shinseki. "Working with our partners at HUD and in Congress, we continue to make good progress to reduce veteran homelessness though much work remains. VA is committed to providing veterans and their families with access to affordable housing and medical services that will help them get back on their feet."

"This is a great step forward in our effort to get veterans off the streets and into permanent housing," said Senator Patty Murray, Chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs

Committee. "Growing up during the Vietnam War, I saw a generation of soldiers left behind because they weren't given the support they needed during their transition home, and I have worked to ensure that veterans today don't face a similar fate. These vouchers will provide critical support to thousands of veterans whose needs went unmet for too long, so that they will finally get the services they need and a permanent place to call home. HUD-VASH vouchers are a key reason why we are making real progress toward goals to finally end veterans homelessness."

This funding to local housing agencies is part of the Obama Administration's commitment to end veteran and long-term chronic homelessness by 2015.

The grants announced are part of \$50 million appropriated for Fiscal Year 2011 to support the housing needs of 6,900 homeless veterans. VA Medical Centers (VAMC) provide supportive services and case management to eligible homeless veterans. This is the first of two rounds of the 2011 HUD-VASH funding. HUD expects to announce the remaining funding by the end of this summer.

Homeless veterans are referred to the public housing agencies for these vouchers, based upon a variety of factors, most importantly the need for and willingness to participate in case management. The HUD-VASH program includes both the rental assistance the voucher provides and the comprehensive case management that VAMC staff provides.

Veterans participating in the HUD-VASH program rent privately owned housing and generally contribute no more than 30 percent of their income toward rent.

# VA expands outreach to women veterans

*Courtesy Department of Veterans Affairs*

More than 700 participants attended the Fifth National Summit on Women Veterans' Issues July 16-17 at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill where Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki gave remarks focused on expanding outreach to women veterans and increasing awareness of the enhanced VA benefits and services available to them.

"With more women serving in our armed forces than ever before, this summit is an opportunity to exchange ideas and focus attention on the issues and concerns unique to women veterans," Shinseki said. "Today, there are more than 1.8 million women veterans of all eras and one of VA's highest priorities is to continue to expand our services and outreach to ensure they receive the care and benefits they have earned."

This is the first time VA provided targeted training, education, and collaborative cross training for its staff responsible for providing services and benefits specifically to women veterans and their families. Participants included: women veterans, women veteran advocates from across the nation, active duty women service members (to include those in the Reserves and National Guard) VA employees who provide care to women veterans, and representatives from a multitude of veterans service organizations and nonprofit agencies. VA Medical Centers employ women veterans program managers; community-based outpatient clinics employ a women's liaison; and VA regional offices employ a women veterans coordinator.

"The number of women veterans using VA health care has doubled in the last decade," said Patricia Hayes, chief consultant of VA's Women Veterans Health Strategic Health Care Group. "This training, coupled with direct feedback from women veterans, will enable VA to continue to enhance health care and services to meet their needs."

Today, more than 200,000 women are serving in the armed forces. About 11 percent of the U.S. forces currently serving in Afghanistan and Iraq are women. Recognizing the valor, service and sacrifice of America's 1.7 million women veterans, VA has stepped up its outreach efforts to women veterans to increase their awareness of the comprehensive array of VA benefits and programs. Women veterans are entitled to the same benefits and medical care as their male counterparts, including health care, disability compensation, education assistance, work-study allowance, vocational rehabilitation, employment and counseling services, insurance, home loan benefits, nursing home care, survivor benefits and various burial benefits.

In addition, VA also has a multitude of gender specific services and programs that respond to the unique needs of women veterans, including pap smears, mammography, general reproductive health care, counseling for substance abuse, sexual trauma, depression, and evaluation and treatment for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). For more information about VA visit the website at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) and its Center for Women Veterans at <http://www.va.gov/wom-envet>.

# VA explains recent GI Bill changes to veterans

*Courtesy Department of Veterans Affairs*

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is reaching out to inform veterans of recent changes made by Congress to the Post 9/11 GI Bill that take effect in 2011.

Gen. Allison Hickey, VA undersecretary for benefits, said "The Post 9/11 GI Bill is incredibly important because it reduces the financial burdens of higher education so that veterans have an opportunity to achieve their education goals. VA believes it is important for veterans to be aware of changes to the GI Bill this year and learn more about how these changes may affect them."

"It's hard to believe how far we have all come with the Post-9/11 GI Bill the past two years," said Hickey. "Today, more than 537,000 students have received more than \$11.5 billion in GI Bill benefits to help them take charge of their future."

Changes to the Post-9/11 GI Bill which became effective Aug. 1 include paying the actual net cost of all public in-state tuition and fees, rather than basing payments upon the highest in-state tuition and fee rates for every state; capping private and foreign tuition at \$17,500 per academic year; and ending payments during certain school breaks, to preserve veterans' entitlement for future academic semes-

ters. Also, certain students attending private schools in select states can now continue to receive benefits at the same rate payable during the previous academic year.

Beginning Oct. 1, eligible individuals will be able to use the Post-9/11 GI Bill for programs such as non-college degrees, on-the-job training, and correspondence courses, and they will be eligible to receive a portion of the national monthly housing allowance rate when enrolled only in distance learning courses.

Complete information on the Post-9/11 GI Bill is available at: [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov). VA's education information phone number is: 1-888-442-4551.

**outcome:** An increase in RPCs will provide training to the RAO volunteers that link the retiree community with Navy commands. This would result in a greater retiree contribution to cost-savings programs; assistance to active duty and Reserve members with the transition to retired status; increased presence of retirees on Navy installations to improve retiree/active-duty interface and create retiree mentors and “recruiters for life;” and meet the information needs of the retiree community. The council recommends that the Navy fund four more RPCs.

**Issue:** Reverse the recoupment of retired pay for those retirees who die after the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) monthly processing date.

**Summarized position and desired outcome:** When a retiree dies after the DFAS monthly processing date, which is typically around the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month, DFAS recoups the entire payment. The surviving spouse is required to submit an array of paperwork to

DFAS to receive a prorated payment. The council recommends that DFAS not recoup the entire payment; just the prorated amount.

**Issue:** Inconsistent performance of medical personnel on medical boards.

**Summarized position and desired outcome:** There is no formal training for military physicians on the processes of medical boards and temporary disability retired list re-examinations. The council recommends that the Navy establish a training program at the Surface Warfare Medical Institute to be conducted online or in groups to be disseminated to military treatment facilities.

**Issue:** Automatic enrollment of qualifying veterans in the Department of Veterans Affairs healthcare under the VA’s “combat veteran” program.

**Summarized position and desired outcome:** The 2008 National Defense Authorization Act provides for veterans to be eligible for the “enhanced combat veteran” benefits if they served on active duty in a combat theater after Nov.

11, 1998, and have been discharged or retired under other-than-dishonorable conditions. However, many of those eligible have not been enrolled and have missed the five-year enrollment window. The council recommends that the SECNAV present to the SECDEF a proposal to make enrollment automatic for qualifying veterans.

**Issue:** Private providers are refusing to see TRICARE and Medicare beneficiaries due to low reimbursement rates.

**Summarized position and desired outcome:** There is a trend among providers to not accept TRICARE and Medicare patients because of low reimbursement rates. The council recommends that the SECNAV support legislative change to Health and Human Services and DOD statutes to incentivize the program by protecting providers from medical malpractice claims except for gross negligence.

A copy of the full report can be viewed on the *Shift Colors* website at [www.shiftcolors.navy.mil](http://www.shiftcolors.navy.mil).

### When your disability rating changes

If you are rated by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), please check your Retiree Account Statement to make sure your disability rating on file with DFAS is correct.

If you have recently received an upgraded rating, and have not yet seen the change on your DFAS account, please first contact the VA to ensure that your rating change has been processed and sent to DFAS. Once DFAS has received notification of your rating change, it may take up to 30 days to affect your retired pay account.

DFAS and the VA jointly manage the programs that pay eligible military retirees disability entitlements. Both agencies communicate with each other to establish and maintain accounts, but we also need you to ensure your disability percentage on file with DFAS is current.

For more information on what agency to contact when, please visit <http://www.dfas.mil/dfas/retiredmilitary/about/contact-who.html>.



Photo by Mass Communication Specialist Thomas Miller

### Living 100...

*More than 3,400 Sailors and 50 veterans gathered at Ross Field at Naval Station Great Lakes to form the “Living 100” on Flag Day. Ross Field is the original location where all new Sailors graduated from boot camp to enter the Navy. Naval Station Great Lakes is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.*

# New system reduces hassle of getting ID cards

*Courtesy Navy Pay and Personnel Support Center*

Under a new initiative, ID card customers can schedule an individual appointment and circumvent the waiting line.

Walk-in customers at ID card facilities can experience wait times of two hours or more during periods of peak demand. Now, civil servants and contractors are now filling customer service roles previously handled by active-duty personnel at Personnel Support Detachments (PSD) and Customer Service Detachment (CSD) Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) and Real-Time Automated Personnel Identification System (RAPIDS) sites throughout the United States, Hawaii and Guam. An emphasis on prompt service and customer satisfaction is the focus of this new initiative.

The vast majority of patrons who arrive at a scheduled appointment with proper documentation are in and out in less than 20 minutes.

“With a little bit of planning you can save a lot of time,” said Chuck Sexton, assistant program manager for this initiative with Commander, Navy Installations Command. “DEERS and RAPIDS customers with scheduled appoint-

ments normally are seen within minutes of their allotted time. And, making an appointment is fast and easy via the online appointment scheduler located at: <http://appointments.cac.navy.mil>.”

Having all the necessary documents is key to a successful visit to the ID card office. At a minimum, a valid state- or federal-government-issued picture ID is required and additional documents are often necessary to fulfill certain requests. A listing of required documents can be found on the appointment scheduler website or by calling the local office for clarification. Local office phone numbers are listed on the scheduler website.

Customer service hours are between 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. local except the Navy Exchanges in Norfolk, Va., and Oak Harbor, Wash., which are open from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Patuxent River, Md., Pass & ID with operations between 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Weekend hours vary by location.

For further information such as locating the nearest ID card facility and additional details relating to benefits and eligibility, such as FAQs, go to: <http://www.npc.navy.mil/CommandSupport/PayPersSupport/IDCards/>.

## Mail-in procedures for renewing your ID card

Many Department of Navy retirees may not realize they can renew their military identification card via the mail rather than physically applying in person at an identification card (ID) processing center. There are procedures in place for those who are unable to make it to an ID card facility. While verification of each individual's circumstance may be required, some examples of those unable to report in person are: those who live far from a military facility, are physically handicapped, have no means of transportation, or are hospitalized or sick.

Retirees can review BUPERSINST 1750.10C/Marine Corps Order 5512.11D at: [www.npc.navy.mil/reference/instructions/BUPERSInstructions/Documents/1750.10C.pdf](http://www.npc.navy.mil/reference/instructions/BUPERSInstructions/Documents/1750.10C.pdf). Each military identification card issuing location should be familiar with these proce-

dures and prepared to assist as required.

After reviewing the instruction/order, retirees should contact their issuing location to explain their situation to receive instructions for applying via mail. United States applicants should contact their issuing facility by letter, telephone or online via Real-Time Automated Personnel Identification System (RAPIDS) locator at: [www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl). As the applicant, you will provide an 8x10 or 5x7-inch portrait photograph, including your physical characteristics (i.e., eyes and hair color, weight, and height). The requirements for the photo are very specific so call the nearest ID card issuing facility for the detailed information. A notary must verify your signature on a written statement concerning your identity. In cases of medical impairment, a statement from an attending physician is accept-

able.

After you submit your request for an ID card by mail with your photo to your ID card office, you will be sent an ID card/application by certified mail for signature. You sign the proper block on the ID card and return to the issuing ID card office. Enter “INCAP” when the individual cannot sign because of a mental or physical incapacity.

The issuing activity will laminate the card and return to the applicant by certified mail.

The Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) will be automatically updated when a new ID card is obtained. Retirees who acquire new family members after retirement should contact the nearest ID card facility for information on ID Card issue and DEERS enrollment.

Visit [www.npc.navy.mil](http://www.npc.navy.mil) for a wealth of personnel-related information.

# How to report a retiree's death

Eligibility for Navy retired pay ends with the death of the member. Prompt reporting of a retiree's death can help avoid delay and possible financial hardship to surviving annuitant beneficiaries, family members or executors who will be required to return any unearned payments of the decedent's military retired pay.

Please follow the steps below to report the death of a military retiree.

**Step 1** - Notify the DFAS Casualty Care Team at 800-321-1080. Please have the decedent's Social Security Number and the date of death when you call.

For customers located overseas, the commercial number is 216-522-5955. When calling this number, select option 3 to be directed to the appropriate representative.

Upon notification, DFAS will begin to close out the pay account to prevent any overpayments.

**Step 2** - Contact your financial institution and inform them of the death of the retiree.

**Step 3** - Within 7-10 business days

after reporting the death to DFAS, you should receive a condolence letter.

If the member is due arrears of pay you will also receive a SF1174 Claim for Unpaid Compensation of Deceased Member of the Uniformed Service.

If the decedent was enrolled in the Survivor Benefit Plan or the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan, you should also receive an Annuity Care Package for completion and return.

**Step 4** - Complete the SF 1174 you received with your condolence letter and return with a copy of the retiree's Death Certificate that reflects cause of death to:

DFAS U.S. Military Retired Pay  
P.O. Box 7130  
London, KY40742-7130  
Fax: 800-469-6559

If you need assistance completing your claim form please contact our call center at 800-321-1080 or OPNAV N135C 866-827-5672 and ask for ext 4308.

**Contact List:** In addition to notifying DFAS, you should also notify the following agencies/departments as soon as possible:

Social Security Administration at 800-772-1213.

Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System at 800-538-9552.

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) at 800-827-1000 for military retirees receiving disability compensation.

Office of Personnel Management at 888-767-6738 if the member was a current or retired federal civilian employee.

VA at 800-669-8477 for retirees enrolled in a VA-sponsored life insurance policy, such as National Service Life Insurance.

Office of Servicemember's Group Life Insurance at 800-419-1473 for retirees enrolled in Veteran's Group Life Insurance.

Families and executors may also receive assistance with administrative requirements from a Casualty Assistance Officer or Retired Activities/Affairs Office if available from a military installation nearby.

## Retiree need-to-know info

### Replacement DD 214/Service Record

If you need a replacement DD 214, follow the instructions below:

If you retired prior to Jan. 1, 1995, go to [www.archives.gov/veterans](http://www.archives.gov/veterans) to request a DD214.

If you retired on or after 1 January 1995 send NAVPERS 1070/882 to:

NAVY PERSONNEL COMMAND  
PERS-312E  
5720 INTEGRITY DRIVE  
MILLINGTON, TN 38055-3120

Or fax your request to 901-874-2664 not both.

Contact 1-866-827-5672

Visit [www.npc.navy.mil](http://www.npc.navy.mil)

### Medical Record

The Military Health Records (Medical and Dental) are not maintained at Navy Personnel Command (NPC). Records from before January 31, 1994, were sent to the

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Records Management Center (RMC), for management.

For members discharged, released from active duty (**not affiliated with a drilling reserve unit**), deceased, or retired, a request for records should be sent to the VA. The VA recommends you call them first to verify a record is on file. Fax requests may also be submitted.

If a VA Claim was filed, the veteran's health record is sent to the VA Regional Office that serves that veteran's local area.

For questions regarding Medical Records, please contact the Department of Veterans Affairs:

Department of Veterans Affairs  
Records Management Center  
P. O. Box 5020  
St. Louis MO 63115-5020  
Telephone (314) 538-4500  
Fax (314) 538-4571 or 538-4572

# Retiree checklist: What survivors should know

Shift Colors periodically provides a checklist for retirees and their surviving family members. This checklist is designed to provide retirees and their loved ones with some help in preparing for the future.

- ❑ Create a military file that includes a copy of retirement orders, separation papers, DD Form 214, medical records, and any other pertinent military paperwork. Make sure your spouse knows the location and telephone number of the nearest military installation.

- ❑ Create a military retired pay file that includes the following contact information for the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) and Navy Personnel Command:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service  
U S Military Retirement Pay  
Post Office Box 7130  
London, KY 40742-7130  
(800) 321-1080 option #3 (for deceased members)

Department of the Navy  
OPNAV N135C  
Retired Activities Branch  
5720 Integrity Drive  
Millington, TN 38055-6220

(This file should also include the number of any pending VA claim as well as the address of the local VA office; a list of deductions currently being made from retired pay or VA benefits. Also include the name, relationship and address of the person you have designated to any unpaid retired pay at the time of death. This designation is located on the back of your Retiree Account Statement)

- ❑ Create an annuities file. This file should contain information about the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RCSBP) or the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan (RSFPP), or any applicable Civil Service annuity elected by the member, etc. Additional information regarding SBP, RCSBP and RSFPP annuity claims can be obtained from DFAS office at (800) 321-1080.

- ❑ Create a personal document file that has copies of marriage certificates, divorce decrees, adoptions and naturalization papers.

- ❑ Create an income tax file. Include copies of both of your state and federal income tax returns.

- ❑ Create a property tax file. Include copies of tax bills, deeds and any other related documents/information.

- ❑ Create an insurance policy file. Include life, property, accident, liability and hospitalization policies.

- ❑ In a secure location, maintain a list of all bank accounts (joint or individual). Include the location of all deposit boxes, savings bonds, stocks, bonds and any securities owned.

- ❑ In a secure location, maintain a list of all charge accounts and credit cards. Include account numbers and mailing addresses.

- ❑ Maintain a list of all associations and organizations of which you are a member. Some of them could be helpful to your spouse.

- ❑ Maintain a list of all friends and business associates who may be helpful. Include name, address and telephone number.

- ❑ Discuss your plans/desires with respect to the type and location of your funeral service. You should decide about cremation, which cemetery, ground burial, etc. If your spouse knows your desires, it will resolve some of the questions that might arise at a later date.

- ❑ Visit a local funeral home and pre-arrange your services. Many states will allow you to pre-pay for services.

- ❑ Investigate the decisions that you and your family have agreed upon. Many states have specific laws and guidelines regulating cremation and burials at sea. Some states require a letter of authority signed by the deceased in order to authorize a cremation. Know the laws in your specific area and how they may affect your decisions. Information regarding Burials at Sea can be obtained by phoning the Mortuary Affairs Division at (866) 787-0081.

- ❑ Once your decisions have been made and you're comfortable with them, have a will drawn up outlining all your wishes and store it in a secure location with your other paperwork.

- ❑ When all the decision-making and documenting is completed, sit back and continue to enjoy life.

## Who should be notified in the event of my death?

1. Defense Finance and Accounting Service (800) 321-1080
2. Social Security Administration (for death benefits) - (800) 772-1213
3. Department of Veterans Affairs (if applicable) - (800) 827-1000
4. Office of Personnel and Management (if applicable) - (724) 794-8690
5. Any fraternal group that you have membership with
6. Any previous employer that provides pension or benefits.

The above information is not all-inclusive and should be used with other estate planning tools to lessen trauma to your loved ones.

# Reunions

Check the Shift Colors Web page (<http://www.npc.navy.mil/ReferenceLibrary/Publications/ShiftColors/>) for a full listing of Reunions

REUNION 2011	DATE	PHONE NUMBER	E-mail/Web address
ASR	Oct. 17-21	(502) 477-0876	mbneal@insightbb.com
Association of Minemen	Oct. 13-16	(850) 207-9831	mike_mncm@yahoo.com
Carrier Air Group 80	Oct. 8-11	(952) 442-4503	
Destroyer Leader Association DL 1, DL 2, DL 3, DL 4, DL 5, DDG 35 & DDG 36	Sept. 22-25	(540) 345-5826	destroyerleader1@cox.net www.destroyerleaderassociation.org
Farragut Naval Training Station	Sept. 10	(208) 660-0660 (208) 683-5707	
Guantanamo Bay Association	Aug. 23-27	(717) 266-1102	johnkwolves@yahoo.com www.gitmobay.org
MCB 11 & 11TH NCB SEABEES	Sept. 21-25	(512) 267-8873	mcbl1reunion@earthlink.net mcbl1.com
Mine Division 113 Vietnam	Sept. 29 - Oct. 1	(651) 455-1876	MineDiv113Reunion@msn.com
Mobile Construction Battalions 1 & 9	Sept. 15-18	(781) 837-0393	mcblreunion@verizon.net
Mobile Riverine Force	Aug. 31 - Sept. 4	(317) 308-0760	michaeljosk@yahoo.com
NAF Washington	Sept. 13-16 2012	(757) 271-8227	nafwashington2012@yahoo.com
NANP/Navy Photo	Sept. 14-19	(941) 720-1719	timnjudy1@verizon.net www.navyphoto.net
NAS Barber's Point	Sept. 13-29	(352) 637-5131	dmclean8@tampabay.rr.com
Naval Training Center Bainbridge (all Sailors and WAVES 1942-1976)	Sept. 29 - Oct. 2	(423) 326-3654	Kali8824z@aol.com www.usntcb.org
Navy Amphibious Force	Sept. 11-16	(732) 367-6472	apa224vp16@comcast.net
Navy Mail Service Veterans (all veterans and active duty mail clerks)	Sept. 7-11	(812) 446-3762 (812) 605-0433	mafmath@juno
Navy Reunion Treasure Island	April 30 - May 4 2012	(800) 268-4014	juliepeters@bransontourismcenter.com
NMCB 128	Aug. 18-21	(815) 372-3152	sargejohn@comcast.net
NOB/NAS Trinidad (including Fasron 105, VPB 208, VPMS 8, VP 48, VPB 213, VP 34, and USMC SeaBee Dets.)	Sept. 29 - Oct. 1	(870) 496-2285	barrett27@dishmail.net
USNS Midshipmen's School New York, NY (Columbia University and the Prairie State) or Northwestern	Sept. 25-30	(405) 570-6421	ynnek7301@gmail.com
USS AGERHOLM (DD 826)	Oct. 20-23	(518) 373-8363	hr@msn.com
USS ASKARI (ARL 30)	Aug. 31 - Sept. 4	(407) 275-0314	
USS BENJAMIN STODDERT (DDG 22)	Sept. 28 - Oct. 2	(805) 480-4038	www.ddg22.com
USS BERGALL (SS 320/SSN 667)	Sept. 21-24	(772) 774-8049 (401) 789-7099	ss563rlg@gmail.com www.bergall.org/reunions/reun2011.html
USS BEXAR (APA 237)	Sept. 22-25	(360) 373-1093	ussbexar@comcast.net
USS BON HOMME RICHARD (CV/CVA 31)	Aug. 25-27	(417) 927-3471 (417) 684-7423	
USS BRADLEY (DE/FF 1041)	Oct. 20-23	(845) 634-3993	bgottsch@verizon.net
USS BROUGH (DE 148)	Sept. 11-16	(989) 345-0237	
USS BRYCE CANYON (AD 36)	Oct. 13-16	(619) 562-5690	thenezz@cox.net
USS CABOT (CVL 28)	Oct. 12-16	(484) 494-5533	msaraceni@comcast.net
USS CALVERT (APA 32)	Sept. 14-17	(507) 789-6344	
USS CANBERRA (CA 70/CAG 2) - all hands 1943-1970	Oct. 12-16	(740) 423-8976	usscanberra@gmail.com
USS CANOPUS (AS 34/AS 9)	Sept. 8-11	(503) 689-1712	usscanopus@mail.com www.usscanopus.org
USS CAPERTON (DD 650)	Oct. 16-19	(732) 477-5804	
USS CASCADE (AD 16)	Sept. 25-30	(866) 340-9219	ldcountry@centurytel.net
USS CHEMUNG (AO 30)	Oct. 5-9	(313) 928-3109	chemung2011@live.com
USS CHICKASAW (ATF 83)	Sept. 24-30	(208) 866-8325	addy964@msn.com

USS CHILTON (APA 38)	Oct. 13-16	(757) 588-8802	bagresto@aim.com
USS CLINTON (APA 144)	Oct. 10-14	(409) 945-6148	deape@aol.com
USS COLUMBIA (CL 56)	Oct. 5-8	(610) 543-9073	usncl56@cs.com
USS COWELL (DD 547)	Oct. 20-23	(864) 268-3365	lsally2@bellsouth.net
USS CROMWELL (DE 1014), USS DEALEY (DE 1006), USS JOHN WILLIS (DE 1027), USS VAN VOORHIS (DE 1028), USS LESTER (DE 1022), USS HARTLEY (DE 1029), USS JOEPH K TAUSSIG (DE 1030), USS COURTNEY (DE 1021), USS HAMMERBERG (DE 1015)	Sept. 8-11	(508) 248-5072	marc-a@charter.net
USS DAVIS (DD 937)	Oct. 13-16	(860) 747-8761	ptlii37@aol.com
USS DIODON (SS 349)	Nov. 10-12	(918) 786-8851	jayss349@hotmail.com
USS DYESS (DD/DDR 880)	Sept. 24-29	(610) 566-6843	mjlenzi@verizon.net
USS ELOKOMIN (AO 55)	Sept. 27-30	(617) 288-3755	theeloman@verizon.net
USS EVERETT F. LARSON (DD/DDR 830)	Oct. 5-9	(937) 633-0040	tnordqu670@aol.com
USS FAIRVIEW (E-PCE(R) 850)	Sept. 22-25	(800) 377-6834	fjones@maine.rr.com
USS FLETCHER (DD/DDE 992)	Oct. 3-6	(908) 496-8858	jmkobus@hotmail.com www.ussfletcher.org
USS GALVESTON (CLG 3)	Sept. 21-25	(866) 398-2655	galveston@comcast.net
USS GOLDSBOROUGH (DDG 20)	Sept. 11-16	(419) 992-4478	wsbiller@wcnet.org
USS GRAFFIAS (AF 29)	Sept. 20-25	(256) 812-2023	John_w_morrow@yahoo.com
USS GREENWISH BAY (AVP 41)	Sept. 29 - Oct. 2	(910) 582-3791	ussgreenwichbay@gmail.com
USS HALSEY POWELL (DD 686)	Sept. 7-11	(435) 881-6675	halsey.powell@comcast.net
USS HANSON (DD/DDR 832)	Oct. 13-16	(770) 504-0004 (770) 584-5023	rogeranmaryellen@comcast.net
USS HOLDER (DD/DDE 819/DE 401)	Oct. 6-10	(831) 458-9062	ussholder_dde819@hotmail.com www.ussholder.com
USS HORNET (CV 8, CV 12, CVA 12, CVS 12)	Sept. 14-18	(814) 224-5063	hornetcva@aol.com www.usshornetassn.com
USS HUNTINGTON (CL 107)	Oct. 13-16	(512) 926-7008	evolcik@aol.com
USS HUSE (DE 145)	Oct. 16-19	(561) 368-7167	dbp14@hotmail.com
USS INCHON (LPH/MCS 12)	Oct. 26-30	(717) 203-4152	www.ussinchon.com ussinchon@gmail.com
USS INGERSOLL (DD 652/DD 990)	Sept. 22-25	(619) 435-0338	XO-DD652@earnware.net www.uss-ingersoll-vets.com
USS JAMES E. KYES (DD 787)	Sept. 18-20		rc-navy@comcast.net
USS JOHN R. CRAIG (DD 885)	Sept. 7-11	(734) 525-1469	jemail@ameritech.net www.ussjohnrcraig.com
USS KASKASKIA (AO 27)	Sept. 15-18	(270) 821-1869	jjimbo7426@hotmail.com
USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN (CV/CVA/CSV 39)	Oct. 27-30	(607) 532-4735	gcarroll@rochester.rr.com
USS LAWS (DD 558)	Oct. 6-9	(775) 846-3847	
USS LEYTE (CV 32)	Sept. 29 - Oct. 2	(732) 727-5993	lete1956@aol.com
USS LYMAN K SWENSON (DD 729)	Oct. 13-16	(931) 296-0881	www.dd729.com handlebars@hughes.net
USS MAURY (AGS 16) & USS SERRANO (AGS 24)	Oct. 20-24	(480) 969-3086	jmww03@cox.net
USS MERRIMACK (AO 179)	Oct. 21-23	(816) 796-8728 (757) 479-2733	acpooh@att.net griswold5@verizon.net
USS MILLER (DD 535)	Oct. 27-31	(610) 929-8343	
USS MOUNT MCKINLEY (AGC/LCC 7)	Sept. 11-15	(763) 425-6315	lateman@comcast.net
USS MULIPHEN (AKA 61)	Sept. 2011	(813) 685-9477	president @ussmuliphen.com
USS NEW (DD 818)	Oct. 13-16	(806) 570-2450	ussnewdd818@gmail.com
USS NEWPORT (LST 1179)	Sept. 28 - Oct. 2	(828) 256-6008	ussnewport1179@gmail.com
USS NIMITZ (CVN 68)	Oct. 26-29	(228) 243-2699	bpaschal@cableone.net www.ussnimitzassociation.org
USS OGLETHORPE (AKA 100)	Sept. 22-25	(908) 475-4435	misty639@embarqmail.com

USS OKLAHOMA CITY Association (CL 91, CLG 5, CG 5, SSN 723)	Aug. 23-30	(800) 998-1228 (480) 998-1112	brian@hctravel.com
USS OZBOURN (DD 846)	Sept. 21-25	(814) 337-3197	kkeene@windstream.net www.ozbourn.org
USS PERKINS (DD 377/DDR 877/DD 877)	Sept. 11-16	(417) 581-2926	ldcountry@centurytel.net www.reunionproregistration.com/ussperkins.htm
USS PICKAWAY (APA 222)	Sept. 22-25		sailor@catt.com
USS RANDOLPH (CV/CVA/CVS 15)	Sept. 11-18	(321) 454-2344	
USS RANGER (CVA/CV 61)	Sept. 14-17	(619) 449-2475 (203) 453-4279	menfitz@att.net uss.ranger@yahoo.com
USS RANKIN (AKA/LKA 103)	Oct. 6-9	(412) 367-1376	ussrankin@aol.com
USS RATON (SS/SSR/AGSS 270)	Sept. 7-11	(360) 697-2842	ratonagss270@hotmail.com
USS RAZORBACK (SS 394), USS REDFISH (SS 395), USS RONQUEL (SS 396)	Sept. 12-16	(864) 446-8561	rjpressly@wctel.net
USS RENVILL (APA 227)	Oct. 5-9	(704) 906 7622	lyndahd01@aol.com ussrenvilleapa227.com
USS ROBINSON (DD 562)	Sept. 15-18	(281) 474-0058	ajbowne@yahoo.com
USS ROWE (DD 564)	Oct. 13-16	(828) 256-6008	ussroweusswatts@yahoo.com
USS RUPERTUS (DD 851)	Sept. 8-11	(925) 462-5142	rupertussd851@aol.com
USS SABINE (AO 25)	Sept. 28-30	(513) 731-5463	
USS SALISBURY SOUND (AV 13)	Sept. 18-22	(505) 293-3841	brubru@comcast.net salisburyound.org
USS SARATOGA (CV 3, CVA/CA 60)	Oct. 12-16	(877-360-7272	
USS SCHOFIELD (DEG/FFG 3)	Aug. 25-28	(724) 335-5204	ron6978@comcast.net
USS SEAWOLF (SSN 575)	Aug. 29 - Sept. 1	(863) 853-4825 (863) 698-5999	dhudson003@tampabay.rr.com
USS SHELTON (DD 790)	Sept. 15-17	(618) 475-3248	rbpetro@htctech.net
USS SHENANDOAH (AD 26)	Oct. 13-16	(505) 890-0113	
USS SIGOURNEY (DD 643)	Sept. 29 - Oct. 2	(410) 974-4043	tincan643@verizon.net
USS SIMON LAKE (AS 33)	Sept. 18-22	(505) 831-3849	ussisimonlake.org
USS SPROSTON (DD/DDE 577)	Sept. 14-18	(412) 262-4802	suchyk24@yahoo.com www.sproston.com
USS STODDARD (DD 566)	Sept. 28 - Oct. 1	(573) 547-8523	cjrauh@ldd.net
USS SULLIVANS (DD 537/DDG 68)	Sept. 21-25	(319) 232-8762 (800) 728-8431	digger4045@yahoo.com lonnie@travelwaterloo.com
USS TALLADEGA (APA 208)	Oct. 24-28	(760) 747-0796	sljosdla@cox.net
USS THEODORE E. CHANDLER (DD 717)	Sept. 22-25	(575) 748-3909	plumber@pvt.net
USS THETIS BAY (CVE 90/CVHA 1/LPH 6)	Sept. 7-11	(850) 479-4829	dbutler2@panhandle.rr.com
USS TIRU (SS 416)	Aug. 18-21	(269) 429-1039	usstiru.org 2011reunion@usstiru.org
USS TOLOVANA (AO 64)	Oct. 2011	(714) 892-8025	joemooreao64@yahoo.com
USS TOLOVNA (AO 64)	Sept. 15-18	(714) 892-8025	joemooreao64@yahoo.com
USS TOWERS (DDG 9)	Sept. 12-17	(415) 566-7285	usstowersddg9@pacbell.net usstowersddg9.com
USS TUNNY (SS/SSG/APSS 282, SSN 682)	Oct. 19-23	(248) 685-3180	lashcraft@comcast.net gerryyoung@comcast.net
USS UMPQUA (ATA 209)	Oct. 9-13	(471) 581-2926	ldcountry@centurytel.net
USS WALDRON (DD 699)	Oct. 20-24	(770) 674-5715	lfenster2@excite.com
USS WALKE (DD 416/DD 723)	Oct. 16-21	(920) 788-4916	rwilliamson@new.rr.com
USS WALLACE L LIND (DD 703)	Sept. 20-24	(502) 876-2137	eb62vette@aol.com
USS WARRINGTON (DD 843)	Sept. 21-25	(916) 791-6700	stashuman843@msn.com
USS WILHOITE (DE/DER 397)	Sept. 13-16	(800) 362-2779 (847) 945-8673	canerday@suddenlink.net www.usswilhoite.org
USS WINDHAM BAY (CVE 92)	Aug. 24-27	(210) 495-4845	windhambay@aol.com



# Retired Activities Office Phone Listing

## California

China Lake, CA  
(NAVAIRWPASTA)  
(760) 939-0978  
0900-1100 1300-1500  
(Mon-Fri)

Lemoore, CA (NAS)  
(559) 998-4042  
0800-1630 (Mon-Fri)

Point Mugu, CA  
(805) 982-3730  
0800-1600 (Mon-Fri)

San Diego, CA  
(CORONADO - NAS)  
(619) 437-2780  
0900-1200 (Mon-Fri)

San Diego, CA  
(NAVSTA)  
(619) 526-7412  
0800-1600 (Mon-Fri)

Seal Beach, CA (NWS)  
(562) 626-7152  
0900-1500 (Mon-Fri)

## Connecticut

Groton, CT (SUBASE)  
(860) 694-3284  
0900-1500 (Mon-Fri)

## Florida

Jacksonville, FL (NAS)  
(904) 542-2766 Ext 126  
0900-1500 (Mon-Fri)

Mayport, FL (NAVSTA)  
(904) 270-6600 Ext 122  
0730-1600 (Mon-Fri)

Milton, FL (NAS  
WHITING FIELD)  
(850) 623-7177  
1000-1300 (Wed/Thu)

Orlando, FL (DFAS  
BLDG)  
(407) 646-4204/4262  
1000-1400 (Mon-Fri)

Pensacola, FL (NAS)  
(850) 452-5990 Ext 3111  
0900-1300 (Mon-Fri)

## Hawaii

Pearl Harbor, HI  
(NAVSTA)  
(808) 474-1999 Ext 6317  
0800-1500 (Mon-Fri)

## Illinois

Great Lakes, IL (NTC)  
847) 688-3603 Ext 118  
0900-1300 (Mon Wed Fri)

## Louisiana

New Orleans, LA  
(NAVSUPPACT)  
(504) 678-2134  
0900-1200 (Mon-Fri)

## Maine

Brunswick, ME (NAS)  
(207) 921-2609  
0900-1200 (Mon-Fri)

## Michigan

Mt. Clemens, MI (SEL  
ANGB)  
(586) 307-5580  
0900-1500 (Tue-Fri)

## Minnesota

Minneapolis, MN  
(NAVAIRRESCEN)  
(612) 726-9391  
1000-1430 (Tue/Thu)

## New Hampshire

Portsmouth, NH  
(207) 438-1868  
1000-1400 (Tue-Thu)

## Rhode Island

Newport, RI  
(NAVSTAMPT)  
(401) 841-4089  
0900-1200 (Mon-Fri)

## South Carolina

Charleston, SC  
(NAVWPNSTA)  
(843) 764-7480  
0800-1630 (Mon-Fri)

## Tennessee

Millington, TN  
(NAVSUPPACT)  
(901) 874-5147  
1000-1400 (Tues-Thurs)

## Texas

Ft. Worth, TX (NAS JRB)  
(817) 782-5287  
0800-1600 (Mon-Fri)

## Virginia

Hampton Roads Regional  
Office  
Little Creek, VA (NAB)  
(757) 462-8663  
1000-1400 (Mon-Fri)  
  
Norfolk, VA (NAVSTA)  
(757) 322-9113

1-800-372-5463  
1000-1400 (Mon-Fri)

## Washington

Everett, WA (NAVSTA)  
(425) 304-3775  
1-888-463-6697 opt 5  
then opt 2 ask for RAO  
1000-1300 (Mon-Fri)

Whidbey Island, WA  
(NAS)  
(360) 257-8054/55  
0900-1500 (Mon-Fri)

## Wisconsin

Milwaukee, WI  
(NAVOPSUPPCEN)  
(414) 744-9766  
0900-1500(Mon-Fri)

Updated August 2011

# Ready Reference Contact Information

**Air Force Retiree Services:** (800) 531-7502; [www.retirees.af.mil](http://www.retirees.af.mil)  
**Arlington National Cemetery:** (703) 607-8000; [www.arlingtoncemetery.org](http://www.arlingtoncemetery.org)

**Armed Forces Retirement Home:** (800) 422-9988; [www.afrh.gov](http://www.afrh.gov)  
**Army & Air Force Exchange Service:** (214) 312-2011; [www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com)

**Army Retired Services:** (703)325-9158; [www.armyg1.army.mil/retire](http://www.armyg1.army.mil/retire)

**Burial at Sea Information:** (866) 787-0081; [www.npc.navy.mil](http://www.npc.navy.mil)

**Combat Related Special Compensation:**  
[www.donhq.navy.mil/corb/crscb/crscmainpage.htm](http://www.donhq.navy.mil/corb/crscb/crscmainpage.htm)

**DEERS:** (800)-538-9552, Fax: (831) 655-8317;  
[www.tricare.osd.mil/deers](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/deers)

**Defense Commissary Agency:** [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com)

**DFAS Casualty Assistance Branch:** (800) 321-1080 or (216) 522-5955; (For Reporting a Retiree's death, option #3)

**Fleet Reserve Association:** (703) 683-1400; [www.fra.org](http://www.fra.org)

**Gulf War homepage:** [www.gulfink.osd.mil](http://www.gulfink.osd.mil)

**I.D. Cards Benefits and Eligibility:** (866) 827-5672;  
[www.npc.navy.mil/commandsupport/PayPersSupport/IDcards](http://www.npc.navy.mil/commandsupport/PayPersSupport/IDcards)

**Internal Revenue Service:** (800) 829-1040; [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)

**Marine Corps Retired Affairs:** (800) 336-4649; [www.usmc.mil](http://www.usmc.mil)  
(Hover over "Marine Services" then click on "Retired Services")

**Medicare:** (800) 633-4227. TTY: (877) 486-2048; [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)

**Military Officers Assoc. of America:** (800) 234-6622; [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org)

**National Burial Services:** (800) 697-6940

**NPC Navy Reserve Personnel Management (PERS 9):** (866) 827-5672,

[www.npc.navy.mil/CareerInfo/ReservePersonnelManagement](http://www.npc.navy.mil/CareerInfo/ReservePersonnelManagement)

**Navy Casualty Assistance:** (800) 368-3202

**Navy Retired Activities Office:** (866) U-ASK-NPC (866-827-5672)

MILL [RetiredActivities@navy.mil](mailto:RetiredActivities@navy.mil);

[www.npc.navy.mil/CommandSupport/RetiredActivities](http://www.npc.navy.mil/CommandSupport/RetiredActivities)

**Navy Uniform Shop:** (800) 368-4088; [www.navy-nex.com/uniform](http://www.navy-nex.com/uniform)

**Navy Worldwide Locator:** (866) U-ASK-NPC (866-827-5672);

[www.npc.navy.mil/CommandSupport/NavyWorldWideLocat](http://www.npc.navy.mil/CommandSupport/NavyWorldWideLocat)

**Reserve Component SBP:** (866) 827-5672

**Retiree Dental — Delta Dental:** (888) 838-8737; [www.trdp.org](http://www.trdp.org)

**Servicemembers Group Insurance (SGLI):** (800) 419-1473;  
[www.insurance.va.gov](http://www.insurance.va.gov)

**Naval Historical Center:** (202) 433-2210; [www.history.navy.mil](http://www.history.navy.mil)

**Social Security Administration:** (800) 772-1213; [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)

## TRICARE: [www.tricare.mil](http://www.tricare.mil)

**TRICARE North:** (877) TRICARE (874-2273); [www.hnfs.net/](http://www.hnfs.net/)  
CT, DC, DE, IL, IN, KY, MA, MD, ME, MI, NC, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VT, VA, WI, WV, some zips in IA, MO, TN

**TRICARE South:** (800) 444-5445; [www.humana-military.com](http://www.humana-military.com):  
AL, AR, FL, GA, LA, MS, OK, SC, TN (except 35 TN zips near Fort Campbell), and TX (except the extreme SW El Paso area)

**TRICARE West:** (888) TRIWEST (874-9378); [www.triwest.com](http://www.triwest.com):  
AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, IA (except 82 zips near Rock Island), KS, MO (except St. Louis area), MN, MT, ND, NE, NM, NV, OR, DE, SW TX, UT, WA, WY

**TRICARE Overseas:** (888) 777-8343; [www.tricare.mil](http://www.tricare.mil)

**TRICARE For Life:** (866) 773-0404; [www.tricare.mil/tfl](http://www.tricare.mil/tfl)

**TRICARE mail order pharmacy:** (877) 363-1303;  
[www.tricare.mil/pharmacy](http://www.tricare.mil/pharmacy) [www.express-scripts.com](http://www.express-scripts.com)

## VA: [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

**Regional offices:** (800) 827-1000 (overseas retirees should contact the American Embassy/consulate), TDD (800) 829-4833

### Insurance:

VA Regional Office and Insurance Center

PO Box 7208 (claims inquiries) -ORPO

Box 7327 (loans) -ORPO

Box 7787 (payments)

Philadelphia PA 19101

(800) 669-8477; [www.insurance.va.gov](http://www.insurance.va.gov)

**Burial information:** (800) 827-1000; [www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov)

**GI Bill:** (888) 442-4551; [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov)

## Records:

**For replacement DD 214, service records, medical records, award information:**

**Retired prior to 1995:** [www.vetrecs.archives.gov](http://www.vetrecs.archives.gov)

**Retired after 1995:**

Navy Personnel Command

PERS-312E

5720 Integrity Drive

Millington, TN 38055-3120

Fax requests to: (901) 874-2664

**Gray-area reservists:** (866) 827-5672

## Navy recreation: [www.mwr.navy.mil](http://www.mwr.navy.mil)

**Navy Gateway Inns & Suites:** <http://dodlodging.net>

**ITT:** [http://www.mwr.navy.mil/mwrprgms/itt\\_military\\_special.htm](http://www.mwr.navy.mil/mwrprgms/itt_military_special.htm)

## Sister service retiree publications:

**Air Force Afterburner:** [www.retirees.af.mil/afterburner](http://www.retirees.af.mil/afterburner)

**Army Echoes:** [www.armyg1.army.mil/rso/echoes.asp](http://www.armyg1.army.mil/rso/echoes.asp)

**Coast Guard Evening Colors:** <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg1/psc>  
retnews/

**Marine Corps Semper Fidelis:** [www.usmc.mil](http://www.usmc.mil) (hover over "Marine Services," click on "Retired Services," then hover over "Retired Activities" in the left menu and click on "Semper Fidelis")

## Pay/SBP Questions: [www.dfas.mil](http://www.dfas.mil)

Pay inquiries and update of pay or SBP records in case of death, divorce or remarriage:

### Retiree:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service

U.S. Military Retirement Pay

P.O. Box 7130

London KY 40742-7130

(800) 321-1080, (216) 522-5955

### SBP/RSFPP annuitant:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service

U.S. military Annuitant Pay

P.O. Box 7131

London KY 40742-7131

(800) 321-1080, (216) 522-5955



Don't let your questions go unanswered. If you're not sure who to contact,

**Call 1-866-U-ASK-NPC (1-866-827-5672)**

Let the Navy Personnel Command Customer Service Center help you!

**[www.npc.navy.mil](http://www.npc.navy.mil)**



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