

# SEMPER FIDELIS

## NEWSLETTER FOR RETIRED MARINES

### Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017

#### VA implemented appeals modernization in February 2019

##### *Act simplifies process for how Veterans make appeals*

The U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) announced that the Federal Register published regulations accompanying the [Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017 \(AMA\)](#), which will help Veterans experience a more transparent claims decision-review process.

After publication of the regulations, VA Secretary Robert Wilkie certified the department's readiness to implement the appeals modernization, which transforms a complex appeals process into one that is simple, timely and provides greater choice to Veterans who disagree with a VA decision.

Implementation of the new regulations occurred 30 days after the Secretary certified them, as required by law. Accordingly, the AMA became effective February 2019.

"VA has been preparing for full implementation of the Appeals Modernization Act over the past 18 months," Wilkie said. "Our staff has worked diligently, particularly in the last few weeks, to ensure the new, streamlined process is available to Veterans in February."

The AMA was signed into law Aug. 23, 2017. Under the act, Veterans will now have three options for claims and appeals: (1) supplemental claim; (2) higher-level review; or (3) direct appeals to the Board of Veterans' Appeals. All decision reviews submitted after February 2019 will fall under the new system.

VA's goal is to complete supplemental claims and higher-level reviews averaging 125 days. Decisions appealed to the Board under its direct docket will average 365 days. Under the legacy process, appeal resolutions averaged three to seven years.

For more information about VA appeals modernization visit:  
<https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/appeals.asp> and <https://www.bva.va.gov/>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

For more information about VA’s implementation of the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act or to access the applicable forms, go to: [www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/appeals.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/appeals.asp) and follow the instructions for submission.

Questions?

- Call **1-800-827-1000**
- Reach out to your local VA regional office
- If you have a VA accredited representative, contact them for more information on Appeals Modernization Go to [www.va.gov/claim-or-appeal-status/](http://www.va.gov/claim-or-appeal-status/) to check the status of your appeal using the Appeals Status Tool.

Veterans in the legacy appeals process who receive a Statement of the Case (SOC) or Supplemental Statement of the Case (SSOC) after February 2019 will be eligible to opt-in to the new Appeals Modernization process.

For further information about the functions, organization, and activities, of the Veterans Administration, please visit <http://www.va.gov/>.

Veterans Benefits Administration information, Jennifer Williams, Senior Management and Program Analyst, Appeals Management Office, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420, (202) 530-9124 (this is not a toll-free number). Board of Veterans' Appeals information: Rachel Sauter, Counsel for Legislation, Regulations, and Policy, Board of Veterans' Appeals, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420, (202) 632-5555 (this is not a toll-free number).



Download an informational brochure: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/appeals/Appeals-FactSheet.pdf>

**SEMPER FIDELIS NEWSLETTER  
FOR RETIRED MARINES**

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**ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION**

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Access it online:

**<https://www.hqmc.marines.mil/Agencies/Manpower-Reserve-Affairs-MMSR-6/>**

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## Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019



Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans refers to veterans who served aboard ships off the coast of Vietnam. Because they did not go ashore, they were determined ineligible for disability benefits and medical claims associated with exposure to Agent Orange.

The interpretation of the Agent Orange Act of 1991 was murky at best. Does the phrase “served in the Republic of Vietnam”, unambiguously include service in offshore waters within the legally recognized territorial limits of the Republic of Vietnam, regardless of whether such service included presence on or within the landmass of the Republic of Vietnam?

On January 29, 2019, after years of advocates lobbying for VA compensation for medical ailments believed to be associated with toxic exposure, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit Court ruled in favor of expanding the Agent Orange-related VA disability benefits to those that patrolled off the coasts of Vietnam during the war.

In *Alfred Procopio, Jr. v. Robert Wilkie, Secretary of Veterans Affairs*, the court ruled 9-2 to effectively reverse the *Haas v. Peake* decision of 2008, which had affirmed the VA’s interpretation of the Agent Orange Act to exclude veterans from benefits if they hadn’t come ashore. Procopio, a U. S. Navy veteran who served aboard the USS *Intrepid* aircraft carrier while off the shore of Vietnam, was denied benefits for medical claims related to his prostate cancer and diabetes. The court ruling allows him and other veterans, who served within Vietnam’s territorial sea, to be presumed eligible for disability benefits, if they have one of the “presumptive” diseases linked to

Agent Orange exposure. The VA has 90 days to appeal the decision.

The VA currently recognizes 14 conditions as presumptive diseases associated with exposure to Agent Orange or other herbicides during military service. The 14 presumptive diseases identified includes peripheral neuropathy, leukemia, Hodgkin’s disease, Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma, prostate cancer, Type II diabetes, heart problems, respiratory cancers and soft tissue sarcomas. For a complete listing of presumptive diseases visit:

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/index.asp>

The VA maintains an evolving list of U.S. Navy and Coast Guard ships associated with military service in Vietnam and possible exposure to Agent Orange based on military records. The latest version of the ships list can be found on Veteran’s Benefit Administration’s “[Veterans Exposed to Agent Orange](#)” Web page: <https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/agent-orange/>.

### VA Agent Orange Registry Exam

If you think you had contact with Agent Orange or other herbicides while serving in the military, you can request a VA Agent Orange Registry health exam. Even if you don’t have a known illness, the exam could alert you to illnesses that may be related to contact with herbicides. By being part of this registry, you’re also helping your fellow veterans by giving us information so we can better understand and serve those affected by Agent Orange-related illnesses.

To schedule your exam, contact your local VA Environmental Health Coordinator. If you qualify, you won’t have to pay anything for this exam. It’s free for qualified veterans. [Find a VA Environmental Health Coordinator near you:](#) <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/coordinators.asp> or call 1-877-222-VETS.



# MARINE FOR LIFE NETWORK

## MARINE FOR LIFE NETWORK

Connecting transitioning Marines and their family members to education resources, employment opportunities, and other Veterans services that aid in their career and life goals outside of military service.

### ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A **MARINE!**

### Marine for Life Network can guide your search for:



Career & Technical Opportunities



Educational Opportunities



Entrepreneurial Endeavors

## NETWORKING IS KEY

### Linked in



Our online network utilizes LinkedIn to help Marines network with one another and connect with employers who want to hire Marines.

### Face to Face Network



We focus on connecting Marine Veterans to local and national resources, as well as encouraging networking through Marine For Life events and meet ups.

[company/marine-for-life-network](https://www.linkedin.com/company/marine-for-life-network)

[marineforlife.org](http://marineforlife.org)

866-645-8762

[/MarineForLifeNetwork](https://www.facebook.com/MarineForLifeNetwork)

# Coming Soon to a Screen Near You: A Simpler, Streamlined, Mobile-Friendly myPay

**myPay**, the pay management system from the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), will undergo a significant transformation this spring with a simpler design, streamlined navigation and easier use on customers' mobile devices.

The transition to the refreshed myPay will occur after the traditional tax season (January-April) ends. DFAS will advise of the exact release date via the agency's social media channels and website: [www.dfas.mil](http://www.dfas.mil).

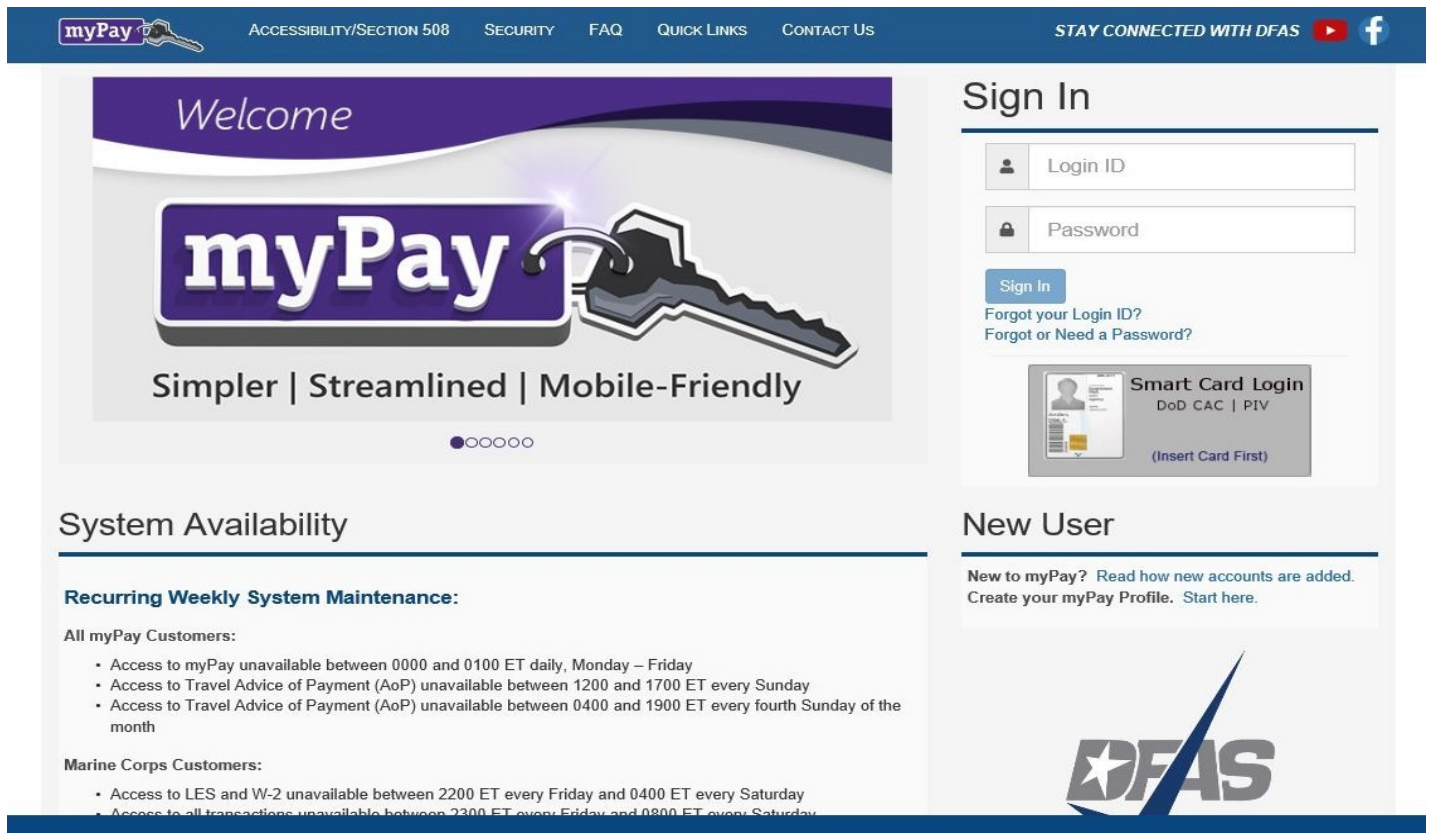
myPay account holders can expect to see differences when they access the application after the change is launched. The myPay home page is the most striking difference with a more modern look and feel. Customers can always ensure they are connected to the official myPay system by checking their browser's address bar for the correct myPay URL:

<https://mypay.dfas.mil>.

myPay currently provides service for more than six million military members, military retirees and annuitants, and federal civilian employees. Not only does it provide account holders a more secure way to receive tax documents such as 1099-Rs and W-2s, myPay is also the quickest way to update bank account, mailing and email addresses and other vital information necessary to manage accounts. In addition, with an email address in myPay, retirees and annuitants can also receive important email notifications from DFAS about their pay accounts.

DFAS is also updating video and website content to help customers accomplish a variety of common online tasks.

Please check out the DFAS website for more myPay information: [www.dfas.mil](http://www.dfas.mil)





## Introducing Qualifying Life Events:

**Changes in your life may mean changes to your Tricare options without having to wait for the annual open enrollment season which occurs each fall, beginning on the Monday of the second full week in November to the Monday of the second full week in December.**

When life changes for you and your family, your TRICARE options may also change. With TRICARE, certain life events (like moving due to a permanent change of station, getting married or divorced, adopting or having a baby, becoming Medicare eligible or losing health coverage) are called Qualifying Life Events (QLEs). QLEs include military and family-related changes.

### Qualifying Life Events

Depending on your eligibility, a QLE may allow you to:

- Enroll in a new TRICARE health plan.
- Change your health plan coverage.

If you want to enroll in or change your plan, you must:

- Update DEERS with the QLE.
- Make the enrollment changes within 90 days following the QLE.
- Pay any enrollment fees or premiums due during that period.

Depending on your eligibility, a QLE may allow you to enroll in a new TRICARE plan or change your coverage options. If you want to enroll in or change your plan, you must make the enrollment changes **within 90 days** following the QLE. No matter when you initiate this change, coverage starts the date of the QLE.

If one member in a sponsor's family experiences a QLE, all eligible family members may change their enrollment status during the QLE period. You must pay any enrollment fees or premiums due during that period.

“This is similar to civilian plans, where changes outside the annual enrollment window are only allowed after certain life events. This allows families to reevaluate health plan options and make any changes to have the health plan option that best meets their situation,” said Ken Canestrini, acting director, Tricare Health Plan.

### Military Changes

- Activating
- Deactivating
- Injured on Active Duty
- Moving
- Separating from Active Duty
- Retiring

### Family Changes

- Getting Married
- Getting Divorced
- Birth of a Child or Adoption
- Placement of a child by a court in a member's home
- Children Going to College
- Children Becoming Adults
- Becoming Medicare-Eligible
- Moving
- Death in Family
- Losing or Gaining Other Health Insurance

### Government-directed Changes

- Primary Care Manager (PCM) changes
- Plan changes

**FEDVIP (BENEFEDS):** <https://www.benefeds.com/Portal/ContactUs?Submit=ContactUs>

Contact **1-877-888-3337**  
for enrollment and allotment changes.

Allotment changes will be done by BENEFEDS. Inquiries should go to the eye/dental program the individual chooses.



## Understanding Disenrollment

**As part of the changes to TRICARE, there are new rules affecting disenrollment.**

If you're eligible for TRICARE and enrolled in a health plan, there are three ways you can be disenrolled:

- If you no longer wish to continue TRICARE coverage, you can voluntarily disenroll.
- If you fail to pay enrollment or premium fees.
- If you or your sponsor lose TRICARE eligibility.

Under TRICARE Select, beneficiaries will need to be enrolled if they wish to use the program, and disenroll if they no longer wish to use it. In order to disenroll from TRICARE Select, you will need to fill out a change form. **If you disenroll from TRICARE Prime, you won't automatically be covered by TRICARE Select. You will need to actively enroll in a TRICARE plan for health care coverage.**

## Reenrollment After Disenrollment & Access to Care

You may elect to disenroll from any TRICARE plan at any time. In 2019 and beyond, once you voluntarily disenroll from TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select, you can only re-enroll if you experience a Qualifying Life Event (QLE) or during the next annual open enrollment season (and receive coverage beginning Jan. 1). If you disenroll or are disenrolled from a premium-based plan like TRICARE Reserve Select, TRICARE Retired Reserve or TRICARE Young Adult, you must wait 12 months and requalify for TRICARE if you want to purchase coverage again. If you disenroll from the Continued Health Care Benefit Program (CHCBP), you can't enroll in another TRICARE plan unless you become eligible for TRICARE again.

Specific procedures and disenrollment forms are available online at [www.tricare.mil/resources/forms/disenrollment](http://www.tricare.mil/resources/forms/disenrollment). In cases of disenrollment due to loss of sponsor eligibility, you may be eligible for temporary coverage through the Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMP) or the CHCBP. For more information, visit [www.tricare.mil/tamp](http://www.tricare.mil/tamp) or [www.tricare.mil/chcbp](http://www.tricare.mil/chcbp).

The TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) ended on Dec. 31, 2018. As of 2019, dental and vision plans are available through the Office of Personnel Management's Federal Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP). If you want dental coverage, you must enroll in a FEDVIP plan during the open season or after a FEDVIP Qualifying Life Event. To learn more, visit <https://tricare.benefeds.com/>.

Open season is your annual opportunity to enroll in, change, or cancel a FEDVIP dental and/or vision plan. Each year, open season runs from the Monday of the second full work week in November through the Monday of the second full work week in December. Once you enroll in a FEDVIP dental and/or vision plan, your coverage will automatically continue each year. Questions about FEDVIP enrollment or your account? Contact phone numbers below:

**1-877-888-FEDS (1-877-888-3337)**

**TTY: 1-877-889-5680**

**International: +1-571-730-5942**





## 2019 MILITARY RETIREE APPRECIATION DAYS



Retiree Appreciation Days are held throughout the year at various installations across the United States and Europe. Retirees and their family members are offered information on benefits and services, along with opportunities to renew acquaintances and their ID Cards.

Date	Location	Contact
13-Apr	NAS Jacksonville, FL	904-542-5745/3900
13-Apr	Peoria, IL	309-453-1867
27-Apr	NAS Whidbey Island, WA	360-257-5268
27-Apr	West Point, NY	845-938-4217/2335
11-May	Aberdeen PG, MD	410-306-2322
11-May	NB Kitsap\NS Bremerton, WA	360-475-4863/396-1768
12-18 May	Moody AFB, GA	229-257-3209
16-18 May	Ft Jackson, SC	803-751-6715
17-May	Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA	253-966-5884/4998
18-May	J.B. Langley-Eustis, VA	757-878-2227/4803
03-Jun	Ft Buchanan, Puerto Rico	787-707-2061
17-Aug	Rock Island Arsenal, NY	312-569-8387
06-07 Sep	Ft Leonard Wood, MO	573-596-0947
07-Sep	Camp Pendleton, CA (Retire Expo)	(760) 725-5704/6090
19-20 Sep	Ft Sill, OK	580-442-2645
21-Sep	NSA Mid-South Millington, TN	901-874-5195
21-Sep	Selfridge ANGB, MI	586-239-5580
22-Sep	NAS Lemoore, CA	559-998-4524
28-Sep	Camp Lejeune, NC	910-451-0287
28-Sep	Mystic Lake, MN	612-713-4664/1517
05-Oct	Carlisle Barracks, PA	717-245-4501
05-Oct	Rock Island Arsenal, IL	563-508-5123
16-Oct	Ft Leavenworth, KS	913-684-5583
18-Oct	Quantico, VA	703-784-4963
19-Oct	Ft Riley, KS	785-239-3320
25-26 Oct	Ft Hood, TX	254-287-5210
25-Oct	Wright-Patterson AFB, OH	937-257-3592
01-Nov	Carlisle Barracks, PA	717-245-4501
01-Nov	Ft Benning, GA	706-545-1805

Experience camaraderie and esprit de corps at a Retiree Appreciation Day. To view these events and others visit: <http://www.hostmtb.org/RADs and Other Retiree-Veterans Events.html>.





## 2019 Retired & Annuity Pay Dates



To help you plan for 2019, below is a list of the days you should expect to receive your retired or annuitant pay. Retired and annuitant pay is disbursed on the first of the month. However, if the first falls on a weekend or holiday, retirees get paid on last business day of the prior month and annuitants get paid on the first business day of current or prior month. Please see the chart for each month in 2019.

<u>Entitlement Month</u>	<u>Retiree Pay Date</u>	<u>Annuitant Pay Date</u>
April 2019	May 1, 2019	May 1, 2019
May 2019	May 31, 2019	June 3, 2019
June 2019	July 1, 2019	July 1, 2019
July 2019	August 1, 2019	August 1, 2019
August 2019	August 30, 2019	September 3, 2019
September 2019	October 1, 2019	October 1, 2019
October 2019	November 1, 2019	November 1, 2019
November 2019	November 29, 2019	December 2, 2019
December 2019	December 31, 2019	January 2, 2020



### Automated Response System

**Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week**

From a touch-tone telephone, you can find out the latest information about the TSP (such as share prices and rates of return), as well as information about your TSP account. You can also request certain account transactions. You will need your TSP account number and your 4-digit TSP Personal Identification Number (PIN). If you do not have your TSP account number, you may wish to have your most recent leave and earnings statement or pay stub available when speaking with an agent.

### Talk to a Participant Service Rep

**Available Monday-Friday 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Eastern time**

Press 3 to speak to a Participant Service Representative (PSR) when calling the ThriftLine. PSRs handle questions about loans, contribution allocations, interfund transfers, designations of beneficiaries, and withdrawals. From the 50 States, including the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, and Canada, call the following numbers toll free:

- **Telephone: 1-TSP-YOU-FRST (1-877-968-3778) Note:** Call volume is highest on Monday and Tuesday mornings. You may experience longer wait times if you call during those hours.
- **TDD: 1-TSP-THRIFT5 (1-877-847-4385)** (for hearing-impaired participants)  
**International callers** who cannot use the toll-free number should call **(404) 233-4400** (not toll free).

# REUNIONS



ORGANIZATION/POC	DATE	PHONE	EMAIL/WEB
Marine Corps Musicians Association Tom Stevens	4 Apr 2019		stevyt@verizon.net www.marinemusicians.org
2nd Force Recon Co Reunion Carl Schmitt	1-4 May 2019 N. Topsail, NC	(540) 498-0733	Jarhed73@yahoo.com
VMFA-212 'Lancers' 1975-81 and Beyond JD Loucks	3-5 May 2019		JDLoucks@aol.com VMFA212Reunion@aol.com
LPH/MCS-12 USS Inchon Association David Fix	4-9 May 2019 Nashville, TN		ussinchon@gmail.com
TBS Class 2-67 "Charlie Co" LtCol Bill McBride (USMC Ret.)	15-18 May 2019	(210) 656-6035	bill.mcbride@gmail.com
VMA (AW) 225-50th Reunion Danang, Vietnam 1969-1971 Maurice Chevalier	15-19 May 2019		Mochev@twc.com
Radio Bn Bill Griffin	16-19 May 2019		wolfeneck@aol.com www.swanassoc.com/1stradiobn
VMF(N)-531, VMF(AW)-531, VMFA-531 Roman Makuch	16-19 May 2019 New Bern, NC	(347) 886-0962	n2uck@yahoo.com
A-6 Intruder Association Intruder Memorial Dedication/Reunion Jesse T. Randall	17 May 2019 Cherry Point, NC	(252) 725-0811	trishjess@ec.rr.com
Marine Corps Disbursing Association MGySgt Kevin Gascon (Ret.)	19-23 May 2019 Charleston, SC	(760) 458-2655	mojorisin68@hotmail.com www.usmcdisbursers.com
Marines of Long Ago All eras and all branches of military are wel- come. Joe "Red" Cullen	21-23 May 2019 St. Augustine, FL	(203) 877-0846	aircooledmg7@aol.com www.marinesoflongago.org
USMCWX Reunion Kathy Donham Dave Englert	16-21 Jun 2019 Norfolk, VA	(252) 342-8459 (812) 630-2099	kathy.donham@hotmail.com englertd@psci.net

Note to Reunion Planners: Send your reunion events as soon as possible to our organizational mailbox (smb.manpower.mmsr6@usmc.mil) to ensure timely inclusion in this publication. We apologize for the inconvenience with any delayed or missed events due to an unforeseen change in the distribution of this publication. Visit the MCCA web site (<http://www.usmc-mcca.org/reunion/>) for information on how to organize your reunion and lists of upcoming events.

# REUNIONS



ORGANIZATION/POC	DATE	PHONE	EMAIL/WEB
Black Marines Heritage Group 8th Biennial Reunion Bernard H. Colebrook Bobby Gator	20-23 Jun 2019 Alexandria, VA	(540) 208-8353 (325) 259-2435	BHColebrook2019@gmail.com bobbygator@centurylink.net
26th Marines Association Reunion	23-25 Aug 2019 New Orleans, LA	(512) 825-4730	sonnyusmc@gmail.com <a href="http://www.26thMarines.com">http://www.26thMarines.com</a>
1st Battalion 3rd Marines 1/3 Reunion Don Bumgarner	17-22 Sep 2019 Branson, MO	(562) 897-2437	dbumc13usmc@verizon.net
Marine Corps Mustang Muster (MCMA) Joint Muster w/2nd & 3rd MarDiv James R. Casey	17-22 Sep 2019 Branson, MO	(703) 349-0893	BusinessMngr@MarineCorpsMustang.org <a href="http://www.marinecorpsmustang.org">www.marinecorpsmustang.org</a> Facebook - MCMA <a href="https://www.facebook.com/pages/Marine-Corps-Mustang-Association">https://www.facebook.com/pages/Marine-Corps-Mustang-Association</a>
Third Marine Division All Eras Roger Bacon	17-22 Sep 2019 Branson, MO	(330) 424-9539	rogerbacon45@yahoo.com
Marine Corps Data Processors John Marslender	22-25 Sep 2019 Las Vegas, NV	(801) 598-5371	johnanddolly@centurylink.net
20th Anniversary Marine Corps Postal 0160/0161 Robert I. Brown, MSgt/Ret.	29 Sep - 4 Oct 2019	(910) 358-7752	cbrown11@ec.rr.com
TBS Class of 3-70 Reunion Paul Perra	11-14 Feb 2020	(978) 381-4746	pperra@icloud.com
TBS, C Co, Class 3-72 50th Reunion Col Joe Mueller USMCR (Ret.)	Planning Stages	(818) 815-8331	jnm21213@yahoo.com
Marine Corps Old Breed Rugby Annual Gatherings Sam Pelham			pelhamp@usmc-mccs.org <a href="http://www.facebook.com/groups/MarineCorpsOldBreedRugby/">http://www.facebook.com/groups/MarineCorpsOldBreedRugby/</a>

Note to Reunion Planners: Send your reunion events as soon as possible to our organizational mailbox ([smb.manpower.mmsr6@usmc.mil](mailto:smb.manpower.mmsr6@usmc.mil)) to ensure timely inclusion in this publication. We apologize for the inconvenience with any delayed or missed events due to an unforeseen change in the distribution of this publication. Visit the MCCS web site (<http://www.usmc-mccs.org/reunion/>) for information on how to organize your reunion and lists of upcoming events.



# TAPS

The Marine Corps wishes to extend heartfelt sympathy to the loved ones and friends of our fallen comrades. Because of the Privacy Act, we cannot release addresses of the next of kin. The following list includes the Marine's name, last grade held that was reported to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, month and year of retirement, and month and year of death.

**Note:** In an effort to reduce erroneous listings, Semper Fidelis will only announce deaths that have been confirmed from DFAS. Telephonic reporting of deaths to MMSR-6 are first confirmed before posted in this column.

## LIEUTENANT GENERAL

DELONG, MICHAEL P. Nov 03/Jul 18  
 DULACKI, LEO J. Jan 74/Jan 19  
 HUDSON, JOHN I. Nov 89/Mar 18  
 MALONEY, WILLIAM R. Jul 85/Nov 18  
 TRAINOR, BERNARD E. Jul 85/ Jun 18

## MAJOR GENERAL

BECKWITH, RONALD L. Sep 91/Feb 19  
 FULHAM, DONALD J. Oct 88/Feb 19  
 LIVINGSTON, LAWRENCE H. Nov 97/Sep 18  
 MEGARR, EDWARD J. Aug 82/Jan 19

## BRIGADIER GENERAL

FORNEY, WILLIAM A. Sep 94/Dec 18

## COLONEL

CARR JR, WILLIAM D. Aug 94/Nov 18  
 CONSTANTINO, THOMAS L. Jun 99/Jul 18  
 CORMAN, OTIS W. Aug 69/Mar 18  
 FOLEY, MICHAEL J. Oct 08/Jul 18  
 JOHN, EDWARD S. Jan 72/Feb 18  
 KELLER, ROBERT J. May 79/Feb 18  
 LAWLER, LAWRENCE E. Jul 91/Jul 18  
 LYNCH, DONALD W. Jul 88/Jul 18  
 MCCARTHY, JR., ALBERT J. Jul 89/Nov 17  
 MILOSCIA, DONALD J. Dec 94/Aug 18  
 POORE, RICHARD T. Jun 84/May 18  
 RIEDER, GLENN L. Aug 67/Nov 17  
 RUSSELL, FREDERICK H. Jul 91/Jul 18  
 STOLARIK, ROBERT J. Aug 89/Sep 18  
 STRAW, WADE C. Oct 03/May 18  
 VOGEL, JAMES R. Jan 98/Oct 18  
 WILLIAMS, JANICE K. Nov 05/Sep 18

## LIEUTENANT COLONEL

BARTOLOMEA, RICHARD J. Sep 93/May 17  
 BECK, MARK T. Aug 93/Jul 18  
 COALE, JAMES S. Sep 81/May 18  
 DOUGHERTY, CLARK E. Nov 90/Jul 18

HEALEY, EDWARD M. Jul 83/Nov 18  
 KRAUS, JOHN E. Sep 99/Apr 18  
 MAREAN, CHARLES E. May 88/Aug 17  
 MERRILL, WILLARD D. Aug 67/Oct 17  
 O'TOOLE, PATRICK E. Jul 73/Aug 18  
 RUDOLPH, WILLIAM E. Jun 78/Jul 18  
 SMITH, WALLACE S. Jan 91/Aug 18  
 WATKINS, THOMAS L. Jul 78/Sep 18

## MAJOR

COLTEN, RUSSEL C. Jul 92/Sep 16  
 GRUBBS III, WILLIAM A. Sep 76/May 18  
 LEWIS, HAROLD E. Aug 73/May 18  
 LUZENSKE, FRANK J. Mar 93/Jul 17  
 MCTAVISH, JR., FRANCIS L. Apr 92/Mar 18  
 PIQUES, JR., TOMMY Feb 99/Jul 18  
 ROBINSON, HARVEY M. Oct 94/May 18  
 SPIVEY, MICHAEL L. Jul 87/Sep 18  
 WALDEN, KENNETH R. Sep 14/Jul 18

## CAPTAIN

BACKUS, JR., WILLIAM E. Jun 71/Mar 17  
 COTTON, DAVID G. Dec 77/Nov 18  
 DOUGHTY III, WILLIAM D. Sep 75/Apr 18  
 FLINN, JOHN D. Apr 70/Jul 18  
 FOX, THOMAS J. Sep 67/Jul 18  
 OCKULY, EUGENE J. Dec 70/Oct 18  
 SORLEY, JAMES A. Mar 79/Jul 18  
 WALKER, JERRY E. Jul 76/Sep 18  
 WARD, THOMAS R. Jun 73/May 18  
 WHITE, CHARLES H. Sep 60/May 18  
 WILLSON, RUSSELL O. Feb 75/May 18

## FIRST LIEUTENANT

EDWARDS, JACK C. Jan 59/Jul 18  
 HOAG, RICHARD J. Apr 88/Oct 18

## CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER

MADDOX, JAMES W. CWO3 Nov 17/Jul 18  
 MURRAY, PHILIP G. CWO4 Mar 91/Aug 18  
 PARSONS, FRANKLIN R. CWO2 Jul 62/Mar 18  
 WHEELER, EUGENE M. CWO2 Jun 64/Aug 18



# TAPS

The Marine Corps wishes to extend heartfelt sympathy to the loved ones and friends of our fallen comrades. Because of the Privacy Act, we cannot release addresses of the next of kin. The following list includes the Marine's name, last grade held that was reported to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, month and year of retirement, and month and year of death.

**Note:** In an effort to reduce erroneous listings, Semper Fidelis will only announce deaths that have been confirmed from DFAS. Telephonic reporting of deaths to MMSR-6 are first confirmed before posted in this column.

## SERGEANT MAJOR

DENEEN, BRUCE T. Nov 76/Aug 18  
 HOOD, JR., MAURICE C. Jan 71/Oct 18  
 JOHNSTON, RICHARD D. Feb 10/Sep 18  
 KADER, LAWRENCE W. Mar 65/Oct 18  
 LINDBECK, JOHN R. Jul 75/Sep 18  
 MARTIN, CECIL Oct 70/Oct 18  
 MEYER, GEORGE F. Apr 74/Jun 18  
 MORRIS, JAMES A. Oct 87/Aug 18  
 RADMER, ELMER C. Oct 60/Jul 18  
 ROLLA, VINCENZO F. Sep 80/Sep 17  
 THOMPSON, TERRIEL J. Dec 81/Mar 18  
 TROY, ROBERT M. May 84/Jun 18  
 WALKER, JR., HERMAN Sep 78/Mar 18  
 WRIGHT, ARTHUR G. Feb 03/Jun 18

## MASTER GUNNERY SERGEANT

AVERY, FREDERICK A. Nov 67/Jun 18  
 BELCHER, KENNETH W. Jul 74/Jul 18  
 BOMBERG, RICHARD H. Nov 90/Jan 18  
 CLEGHORN, JAMES B. Jun 72/Mar 18  
 COGAN, JAMES A. Jul 72/Jun 18  
 DAVIS, TOMMY L. Aug 94/Jul 18  
 HENDERSON, CHARLES C. Feb 70/Jul 18  
 HODGE, LOREN R. Sep 79/Dec 17  
 OLDHAM, MICHAEL R. Jul 89/Jun 18

## FIRST SERGEANT

BRADY, PAUL E. Jul 73/Sep 18  
 CLOWNEY, ROBERT L. Aug 84/Jun 18  
 ENGLISH, KEITH M. Mar 01/Aug 18  
 EVERSOLE, ELMER Sep 69/Aug 18  
 GRANT JR, RALPH A. Jan 71/Sep 18  
 PHOENIX, ALBERT Jul 72/Mar 18  
 PLUMMER, NATHANIEL Apr 89/Aug 17  
 SCRUGGS, LEE D. Oct 67/Jul 18

## MASTER SERGEANT

DODDS, DELL D. Feb 71/Mar 18  
 DOGGETTE, JR., JAMES L. May 86/Jun 18  
 DRENNEN, EARL F. May 82/Jul 18  
 ELIA, ALECKS S. Oct 07/Sep 18

FISHER, MARK W. Dec 05/May 18  
 GARRETT, JR., THOMAS E. Aug 03/Jul 17  
 HAGLER, RAYMOND A. Oct 69/Aug 18  
 HARBERS, KIRK A. Jun 68/Nov 17  
 KEITH, FREDERICK T. Mar 80/Jun 18  
 KING, LEROY M. Oct 77/Jul 17  
 LONG, LAWSON C. Feb 72/Jan 18  
 MARION, JR., WILLIAM C. Apr 63/Aug 18  
 PADELETTI, JOSEPH C. Jun 73/Jun 18  
 PERINGER, JAMES N. Sep 80/Aug 18  
 REITNAUER, DARRYL L. Dec 77/Mar 18  
 SANNICOLAS, JR., ALFRED A. Nov 88/Dec 17  
 SMITH, CARL M. Jun 84/Jun 18  
 SMITH, ROBERT O. Mar 70/Jan 18  
 TATE, BYRUM L. Jan 80/Oct 17  
 TOMLINSON, JR., WILLIAM D. Jun 82/Jul 18  
 WARRING, JOHN B. Jun 86/Nov 17

## GUNNERY SERGEANT

BAYNES, JR., JOHN H. Aug 90/Jun 18  
 BRUNNER, NORMAN J. Jan 81/Sep 18  
 CIPOLONE, PAUL F. Nov 02/Aug 17  
 GARDNER, WILLIAM F. Jul 68/Jul 18  
 HUNTON, HERBERT R. Aug 68/Sep 18  
 JEHOVAH, JAH E. Oct 78/Jul 18  
 KADJA, MIKE P. Nov 59/Jun 18  
 KENNEDY, TIMMY R. Jun 00/Jun 18  
 LIPPNER, ROBERTS A. Jul 59/Apr 18  
 MANDLER, ROBERT L. Aug 79/Jul 18  
 MAUFFRAY, ARTHUR J. Sep 75/Nov 17  
 MERKWA, JR., PETER J. May 86/Dec 17  
 MONK, LARRY E. Feb 78/May 18  
 PAGE, CHARLES R. Jun 74/Jul 18  
 PALMER, EDWARD D. Nov 93/Nov 18  
 PUEBLOS, RICHARD Jan 80/Nov 18  
 ROCHE, ROBERT J. Jun 72/Mar 18  
 SCHEELER, JOHN E. Apr 70/Aug 18  
 STRAUB, JOHN R. Jan 07/May 18  
 TAUBL, WILLIAM S. Dec 04/May 18  
 TAYLOR, WILLIAM C. Jul 16/Jun 18  
 WHYTE, DANIEL J. Dec 76/Oct 18  
 WORLOW, VERLIN P. Jun 80/Feb 18



## TAPS

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### STAFF SERGEANT

ARMSTRONG, NEIL E. Mar 67/Apr 18  
 BRADEN, JOHNNIE L. Jul 75/Mar 18  
 DINATALE, CARMELO J. Jun 66/May 18  
 HEWSON, GORDON C. Mar 72/May 18  
 JANZEN, ROBERT F. Dec 82/Jun 18  
 LANDERS, JR., LLOYD E. Nov 96/Sep 18  
 MCGOVERN, EDMUND H. Mar 72/Aug 18  
 MCMURRAY, GARY D. Jan 92/Mar 18  
 MEINERT II, RICHARD T. Sep 13/Jun 18  
 MOORE II, CARL S. Jul 11/Sep 18  
 NAY, JR., ROY Jan 74/Jul 16  
 WUITE, RALPH Jun 74/Apr 17

### SERGEANT

HALL, LUTHER Oct 73/May 18  
 KEARNEY, ARNOLD M. Jan 68/Dec 17

### CORPORAL

DIEHL, CRAIG D. Aug 67/Feb 18  
 KELLOGG, WILLIAM H. Dec 54/Apr 18

### MILITARY PERSONNEL FILE

Veteran Marines who were separated/retired after 1 January 2000 can verify, review, and print documents from their Official Military Personnel File (OMPF), including their DD 214.

Request an electronic copy of your OMPF via the Department of Veterans Affairs e-Benefits website at:

<https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/about/feature?feature=military-personnel-file>

### What to Expect in Your Year-End Mail From DFAS

For those of you who still request postal mail from DFAS, each December they begin mailing a package that includes your 1099R, which is the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) form for reporting retirement or annuity distributions, along with a special print edition of their newsletter.

DFAS also sends a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) change Retiree Account Statement (RAS), which shows the change in your gross and net pay that occurs when Congress passes a COLA to your pay. This RAS also features other changes, including premium changes for any insurance allotments, such as TRICARE.

It's important to note that the Statement Effective Date on the COLA change RAS is the first of December, so the Year-to-Date Summary figures are only for 11 months (they do not include your December payment). Therefore, the Year-to-Date Summary figures on this RAS will not match the figures on your 1099R.

You will also receive a second RAS in the year-end mail with your updated federal income tax withheld based on the updated tax tables for 2019. This RAS will have an effective date of January 1, 2019.

If you have opted to receive electronic mail, you will not receive this mailing. Your 1099R and COLA change RAS' are conveniently available to print or download from *myPay*.

<https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>

COLA  
COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT 2019



The following Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) are effective December 1, 2018, based on the increase in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) through the third quarter calendar year 2018. The term "retired pay" includes retainer pay and the term "members" includes former members. Where applicable, the appropriate section of United States Code (U.S.C.) is cited.

**COLAs for Retired Pay**

1. The retired pay COLA for those who first became a member of a Uniformed Service before September 8, 1980, is specified according to the effective date of their retirement, as follows:

<u>Retired Pay Based on</u> <u>Rates of Pay Effective</u>	<u>Percent Increase</u>	<u>10 U.S.C. Authority</u>
Before January 1, 2018	<b>2.8 percent</b>	1401a(b)(2)
January 1 – December 31, 2018	<b>2.4 percent</b>	1401a(c)

2. The retired pay COLA for those who first became a member of a Uniformed Service on or after September 8, 1980, including those members covered by the Blended Retirement System (BRS), is specified according to the effective date of their retirement, as follows:

<u>Retirement Effective:</u>	<u>Percent Increase</u>	<u>10 U.S.C. Authority</u>
Before January 1, 2018	<b>2.8 percent</b>	1401a(b)(2)
January 1 - March 31, 2018	<b>2.4 percent</b>	1401a(d)
April 1 - June 30, 2018	<b>1.5 percent</b>	1401a(d)
July 1 - September 30, 2018	<b>0.3 percent</b>	1401a(d)
October 1 - December 31, 2018	<b>0.0 percent</b>	1401a(d)

3. The retired pay COLA for those who first became a member of a Uniformed Service on or after August 1, 1986, and also elected to receive a career status bonus under the provisions of Section 354 of Title 37 U.S.C. is specified according to the date of their retirement, as follows:

<u>Retirement Effective</u>	<u>Percent Increase</u>	<u>10 U.S.C. Authority</u>
Before January 1, 2018	<b>1.8 percent</b>	1401a(e)
January 1 - March 31, 2018	<b>1.6 percent</b>	1401a(e)
April 1 - June 30, 2018	<b>1.0 percent</b>	1401a(e)
July 1 - September 30, 2018	<b>0.1 percent</b>	1401a(e)
October 1 - December 31, 2018	<b>0.0 percent</b>	1401a(e)

COLA  
COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT 2019



**COLAs for Survivor Annuities**

4. Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan annuities payable on December 1, 2018, under the provisions of Subchapter I of Chapter 73, Title 10, U.S.C., to the spouse or child of a member who died on or before March 20, 1974 will be increased by **2.8 percent** (ref: 10 U.S.C. 1434 (e)).

5. Annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) and Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RCSBP) under the provisions of Subchapter II of Chapter 73, Title 10, U.S.C., will be increased by the same percentage specified in paragraphs 1, 2, or 3 above by which the retired pay of the person providing the annuity would have been increased at such time if the person were alive and otherwise entitled to such pay. (ref: 10 U.S.C. 1451 (g)).

6. COLAs for supplemental annuities paid to certain low income widows of members who were deceased before November 1, 1953 will be increased **2.8 percent** (ref: Public Law (P.L.) 100-456, section 653(c)).

7. Annuities for Certain Military Surviving Spouses (ACMSS) payable monthly under the provisions of section 644, P.L. 105-85, November 18, 1997, will be increased **2.8 percent** from **\$255.80** to **\$262.96** effective December 1, 2017. (ref: P.L. 105-85, sec 644).

**Increase in the SBP Low-Cost Premium Threshold**

8. Previous amounts with respect to which the 2.5 percent factor of the SBP premium (cost) formula apply will be adjusted effective December 1, 2018, in conjunction with the adjustments in retired pay made under the provisions of Section 1401a of Title 10, U.S.C. (ref: 10 U.S.C. 1452(a)(4)(B)). The Defense Finance and Accounting Service will perform necessary calculations to determine actual premiums based on the individual circumstances of each case.

9. The amount with respect to which the 2.5 percent factor of the SBP premium (cost) is applied will be increased **2.6 percent effective January 1, 2019**, from **\$822.00** to **\$843.00**. The threshold premium is **\$21.08**. Therefore, the Low-Cost Threshold premium is **\$21.08** plus 10% of the difference between retired pay and the threshold amount. The breakeven base amount is **\$1,806.43**. (ref: 10 U.S.C. 1452(a)(4)(A)).

**Increase in the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA)**

10. In accordance with provisions of Section 1450(m) of Title 10, U.S.C., as amended by section 621 of P.L. 115-91 and section 622 of P.L. 115-232, the maximum amount of SSIA payable will be increased by **2.8 percent effective December 1, 2018**. The new SSIA rate will be **\$318.00**. (ref: 10 U.S.C. 1450(m))



# Your Military Identification Card

## Two Forms of Identification Are Now Required:

To replace or renew your military ID card, two forms of identification are required:

1. **A VALID PHOTO ID.** Acceptable photo identification includes a driver's license, valid military ID card, valid passport or permanent resident alien card. All photo IDs must be current; expired photo IDs are not accepted.
2. **A SECONDARY ID.** A secondary ID may include one of the photo IDs listed above or a Social Security card (not a Medicare card), a voter registration card, birth certificate, or student ID if you are a college student. To avoid delays, call your nearest ID card center for hours of operation and availability.

## Military ID Cards for Family Members:

Indefinite military ID cards are now issued to eligible family members who are 75 or older.

The 2007 National Defense Authorization Act authorized the issuance of indefinite military ID cards for incapacitated dependent children over 21. To qualify for an indefinite ID card, a determination of permanent incapacitation must be made by the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery and a current financial dependency determination (over 50%) is required. **A financial redetermination will also be required every four years.**

**Dependent wards, parents and parents-in-law**, including those over 75 with permanent military ID cards will also require a financial redetermination every four years.

**Full-time students over 21**, may be eligible for military ID card benefits until 23 provided they are enrolled full-time in a college or university and are dependent on the member for over 50% of their financial support. It is the service member's responsibility to ensure eligible family members are updated in DEERS and to notify DEERS of any changes in eligibility. For more information, call MMSR-6 at 1-800-336-4649 or (703) 784-9310.

## The Retired Marine's Military ID Card:

**When a military service member retires, the ID card issued will have an expiration date on the front and back, coinciding with his/her 65th birthday.** ID cards will be replaced if they are lost, stolen, or damaged; they will also be replaced for a name change due to marriage, divorce, or to replace an older version of the ID card. If applicable, divorce decrees and/or marriage certificates may be required. A retired member's ID card must also be replaced when turning 65 and enrolling in Medicare Part B. With Medicare Part B enrollment, a retired Marine is automatically enrolled in TRI-CARE for Life, which will require updating the medical eligibility dates on the back of the ID card. If the dates on the back of your ID card have expired, replace the ID card (and have the Medicare Part B card with you when updating the military ID card).

## Eligibility for a Military ID Card By Mail:

If you are requesting to have a military identification card by mail, you must have a notary's signature on the back of the photograph. According to Air Force Instruction 36-3026 (17 June 2009):

PORTRAIT-STYLE PHOTOGRAPHS, 8X10 OR 5X7, REQUIRE SIGNATURE NOTARIZATION ON THE BACK AND INCLUDE WEIGHT, HEIGHT, EYE COLOR, AND HAIR COLOR.

You must live more than 300 miles from a military ID card center. Include a statement why you are unable to travel to an ID card center. Submit a copy of your current military ID card (front and back), a photocopy of your driver's license, and either your birth certificate, or Social Security card, to HQMC (MFP-1), 2008 Elliot Road, Quantico, VA 22134-5013.

ID CARD SITE (RAPIDS) LOCATOR: <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsi>

# USMC Retired Services Offices

## MCAS Yuma Arizona

Tony Steen, (928) 269-3159  
 Fax: (928) 928-269-3723  
[anthony.steen@usmc.mil](mailto:anthony.steen@usmc.mil)

## MCAGCC Twentynine Palms California

Philip C. Cisneros, (760) 830-7550

## MCAS Miramar California

Kimberly Piluk, (858) 577-1428  
[smbmiramarmccs.iandr@usmc.mil](mailto:smbmiramarmccs.iandr@usmc.mil)

## MCB Camp Pendleton California

Erica Shaw, (760) 725-5704  
[erica.shaw@usmc.mil](mailto:erica.shaw@usmc.mil) or

Freddie Darnell, (760) 725-6090  
[freddie.darnell@usmc.mil](mailto:freddie.darnell@usmc.mil)

## MCLB Barstow California

Patrick Rewerts, (760) 577-6533  
[patrick.rewerts@usmc.mil](mailto:patrick.rewerts@usmc.mil)

## MCRD San Diego California

Ray P. Bromley, (619) 524-5301  
[retiredmcrdsd@yahoo.com](mailto:retiredmcrdsd@yahoo.com)

## MCLB Albany Georgia

Raymond Breaux, (229) 639-5278  
[breauxr@usmc-mccs.org](mailto:breauxr@usmc-mccs.org)

## MCB Kaneohe Bay Hawaii

Jeffrey Esposito, (808) 257-7795  
[jeffrey.esposito@usmc.mil](mailto:jeffrey.esposito@usmc.mil)

## MCAS Iwakuni Japan

Gary K. Saiki, 011-81-827-79-5762  
[gks20142000@yahoo.com](mailto:gks20142000@yahoo.com) or  
 Robert Bugawan  
[rbugawan@yahoo.com](mailto:rbugawan@yahoo.com)  
[robert.bugawan@usmc.mil](mailto:robert.bugawan@usmc.mil)

## MCB Camp SD Butler Okinawa Japan

Ben Garcia  
 DSN: 315-645-3159,  
 011-81-611-745-3159  
[garciab@okinawa.usmc-mccs.org](mailto:garciab@okinawa.usmc-mccs.org)

## MCB Camp Lejeune North Carolina

Luis J. Alers-Dejesus, (910) 451-0287  
 Fax: (910) 451-0677  
[luis.alers@usmc.mil](mailto:luis.alers@usmc.mil)

## MCAS Cherry Point North Carolina

(252) 466-5548

## MCAS/MCRD South Carolina

(843) 228-4574

## MCB Henderson Hall Virginia

(703) 693-9197

## MCB Quantico Virginia

(703) 784-3351  
[retiredactivities@usmc-mccs.org](mailto:retiredactivities@usmc-mccs.org)

### HOW TO REPORT AN ADDRESS CHANGE

#### RETIRED MARINES:

Report your address change to DFAS at 1-800-321-1080 or MMSR-6 at 1-800-715-0968. my Pay is another option to accomplish this at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>.

#### ANNUITANTS (SBP RECIPIENTS):

Report your address change to DFAS!

#### MMSR-6 CANNOT UPDATE ANNUITANT ADDRESS CHANGES

Call DFAS at 1-800-321-1080. Your correct mailing address ensures receipt of this newsletter and any other correspondence from DFAS or HQMC.

# Steps to Take When an Annuitant Dies

## ELIGIBILITY FOR SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN ANNUITY PAY ENDS WITH THE DEATH OF THE ANNUITANT (BENEFICIARY)

Prompt reporting of a deceased military annuitant's death can help avoid delay and prevent possible financial hardship for the surviving family members or executors, who will be required to return any unearned payments of the decedent's annuity pay if payment is erroneously received.

Follow these steps to report the death of an annuitant:

1. Call DFAS at 1-800-321-1080 to report the death and stop annuity pay.
2. Mail or fax a copy of the annuitant's death certificate to:

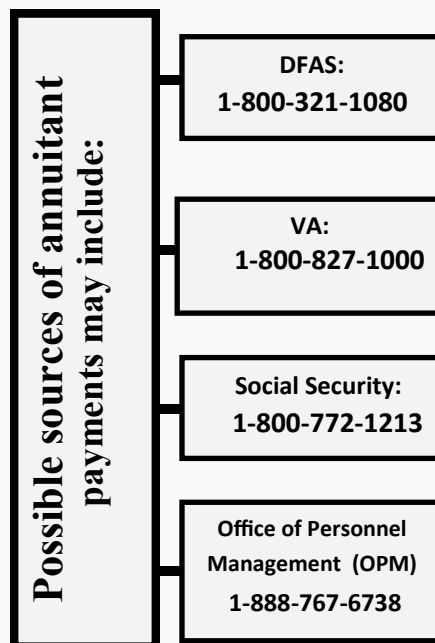
**DFAS - U.S. MILITARY ANNUITANT PAY**  
**8899 E. 56th Street**  
**Indianapolis, IN 46249-1300**  
**Fax: 1-800-982-8459**

3. Inform any financial institutions receiving payments about the death of the annuitant (Provide a copy of the death certificate when it becomes available).
4. If applicable, contact the following agencies/departments immediately to report the death:

- **Social Security Administration: 1-800-772-1213**  
[www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)
- **Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System:**  
1-800-538-9552
- **Department of Veterans Affairs: 1-800-827-1000 (annuitants in receipt of Dependency)**

If you believe you are the victim of an error or injustice which affects your military record, you may apply for a Correction of Military Records by completing and submitting a DD Form 149, Application for Correction of Military Record. Examples of corrections include: upgraded discharge, promotions, retired pay, household goods, pay date change, bonus, and MGIB programs. DFAS pays military members when the Board for Corrections of Naval Records (BCNR) rule in their favor. If you received a decision from the BCNR and you do not agree with it, write the Board and explain your reasoning. Reference the appropriate address on page 2 of the DD Form 149. If you would like to check the status of your request contact the BCNR directly at (703) 604-6884 or 6885 (Navy/Marine Corps). If you believe DFAS paid you incorrectly for your Correction of Record, provide documentation with a handwritten signature explaining why you are protesting the amount to:

**DFAS-IN**  
 Dept. 3330, Attn: COR/Claims  
 8899 East 56th Street  
 Indianapolis, IN 46249-3300  
 DFAS Inquiry Line: (317) 212-6167  
 (Hours: 8:30 am to 3:30 pm, EST)



## Steps to Take When a Retired Marine Dies

- REPORT THE DEATH TO DFAS at 1-888-332-7411 to stop retirement pay to avoid indebtedness.** If the retired Marine was receiving pay from another source due to a disability from the VA or civil service retirement from the Office of Personnel Management, contact that agency to return the payment. If you fail to do this, you will have to repay it later. You may also report the death online at [www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/forms.html](http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/forms.html). Additional information from DFAS is available at [www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/survivors/Retiree-death.html](http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/survivors/Retiree-death.html).  
  
**NOTE:** DFAS will forward a confirmed death listing to Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps (MMSR-6) for inclusion in an upcoming issue of this newsletter under the Taps column.
- REPORT SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN ELECTION, if applicable.** Designated annuitants will receive notification from DFAS if the deceased retired Marine elected SBP. If you are uncertain of whether an election was made, call DFAS at 1-800-321-1080.
- UPDATE YOUR MILITARY ID CARD.** Your status has changed, and as the survivor of a deceased Marine, your ID card must be updated to reflect it due to the Marine's death. Access your nearest ID site at [www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl) or call HQMC (MMSR-6) at 1-800-336-4649 or (703) 784-9310 to obtain the sites closest to you.
- NOTIFY THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION at 1-800-SSA-1213 ([www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov))** to apply for the \$255 death benefit, *if applicable*.
- CONTACT THE VA at 1-800-827-1000 FOR BURIAL AND OTHER VA BENEFITS, such as VA disability payments.** While the VA does not provide burial benefits for annuitants, the annuitant may be eligible for burial in a military cemetery. A copy of the sponsor's DD 214 is required. Visit [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) for more information.

## Agencies Providing Aid and Assistance To Surviving Spouses

Arlington National Cemetery: (703) 607-8000

Gold Star Wives of America: 1-888-751-6350, [www.goldstarwives.org](http://www.goldstarwives.org)

Military Funeral Honors: 1-866-826-3628 or (703) 432-9524

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society: (703) 696-4904, [www.nmcrrs.org](http://www.nmcrrs.org)

National Military Families Association: 1-800-260-0218, [www.nmfa.org](http://www.nmfa.org)

Society of Military Widows: 1-800-842-3451, [www.militarywidows.org/home.aspx](http://www.militarywidows.org/home.aspx)

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors: 1-800-959-8277, [www.taps.org](http://www.taps.org)



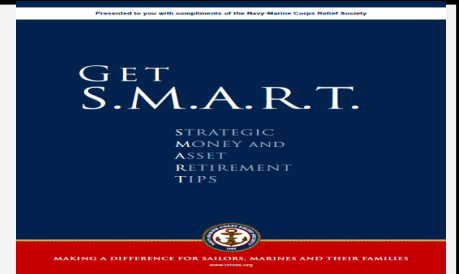
### SOME THINGS YOU WILL NEED TO DO:

- Gather important documents for claims processing (e.g., birth certificate, will, etc.)
- Begin to make funeral and burial arrangements
- Start claim process for applicable benefits (e.g., SBP, VA life insurance, Social Security)
- Determine immediate and short-term financial needs and income sources
- Arrange for help with legal affairs of the deceased
- Notify joint account agencies (e.g., credit cards, banks, auto registration home/auto insurance)
- Review survivor's own legal documents for possible revision
- Obtain multiple certified death certificates (6-12 copies)

## The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

No doubt your financial requirements and responsibilities are very different from when you were on active duty. The Society provides retirees a useful guide: Strategic Money and Asset Retirement Tips.

Download your free GET S.M.A.R.T. guide at:  
[www.myimpactwithnmcrrs.org/getsmart](http://www.myimpactwithnmcrrs.org/getsmart)



## MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS FOR BURIALS OUTSIDE ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY (ANC)

The funeral director (preferred) or a family member can contact the HQMC Military Funeral Honors Section at (866) 826-3628 or (703) 432-9524 to request Military Funeral Honors for a veteran. The funeral director (or family member) must be able to provide the Marine's complete name, SSN, rank, status (retired or veteran), date of birth, date of death, and place of death/interment. In addition, a copy of the Marine's DD-214 needs to be provided for verification of "honorable service". If a DD-214 is not readily available, it can be requested through the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, MO. The following link provides additional details:

[https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/webcenter/portal/MF\\_MPS\\_CA/MilitaryFuneralHonors?\\_afLoop=1698068779136830#!%40%40%3F\\_afLoop%3D1698068779136830%26\\_adf.ctrl-state%3D1bpb10pnxz\\_137](https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/webcenter/portal/MF_MPS_CA/MilitaryFuneralHonors?_afLoop=1698068779136830#!%40%40%3F_afLoop%3D1698068779136830%26_adf.ctrl-state%3D1bpb10pnxz_137)

## MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS FOR BURIALS AT ANC

A family member will need to contact ANC directly. The following link provides information on eligibility, required documents, and additional resources for scheduling and attending funerals at ANC. Marine Barracks Washington provides Military Funeral Honors for Marine burials at ANC.

<http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Funerals/Scheduling-a-Funeral>

## Inns of the Corps

**MCAS Yuma:** Dos Rios Inn  
(928) 269-2262, Fax: (928) 269-6639

**MCLB Barstow:** Oasis Lodge  
(760) 577-6418, Fax: (760) 577-6542

**MCB Camp Pendleton:**  
Ward Lodging  
(760) 725-2134/2313  
Fax: (760) 725-5609

**MCB Camp Pendleton:**  
South Mesa Lodge  
(760) 763-7805/7806/7807  
Fax: (760) 237-3559

**MCAS Miramar:** Miramar Inn  
(858) 271-7111, Fax: (858) 628-9466  
Reservations: 1-800-628-9466

**MCAGCC Twenty-nine Palms:**  
Sleepy Tortoise Inn  
(760) 830-6583, Fax: (760) 830-1647

**MCB Hawaii:** Lodge at Kaneohe Bay  
(808) 254-2806, Fax: (808) 356-4506

**MCAS Iwakuni:** Monzen and Nishiki Lodges  
011-81-611-753-3221

**MCB Camp S.D. Butler:** WestPac Lodge  
011-81-611-745-2455

**MCB Camp Lejeune:** Hospitality Inn  
(910) 451-3041, Fax: (910) 451-0360

**MCRD Parris Island:** The Osprey Inn  
(843) 228-2744 (primarily for personnel on TAD)

**MCRD San Diego:** Devil Dog Inn  
(619) 524-4401, [www.mcrdsd-billeting.org](http://www.mcrdsd-billeting.org)

**MCAS Beaufort:** De Treville House  
(843) 522-1663, Fax: (843) 522-1663

**MCB Quantico:** Crossroads Inn  
(703) 630-4444, Fax: (703) 630-4499  
Reservations: 1-800-965-9511



Read more about it at: [innsofthecorps.com/](http://innsofthecorps.com/)



## Directory Assistance Pages

### A

#### AMC PASSENGER TERMINAL:

<http://www.amc.af.mil/Home/AMC-Travel-Site/>

#### ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY: (703) 607-8000

[www.arlingtoncemetery.mil](http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil)

#### ARMED FORCES RECREATION CENTERS:

[www.armymwr.com/travel/recreationcenters/](http://www.armymwr.com/travel/recreationcenters/)

- **Edelweiss Lodge and Resort (Germany):**  
(011-49) 8821-9440
- **Hale Koa Hotel (Hawaii):** 1-800-367-6027

#### ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOMES (GULFPORT):

Gulfport, MS: (228) 897-4418

<https://www.afrh.gov/gulfport-residents>

#### ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOMES (WASHINGTON):

Washington, DC: (202) 541-7501

<https://www.afrh.gov/washington-residents>

#### AWARDS:

Marines who have been discharged, separated or retired on or before 31 December 1998 should submit their inquiry to:

National Personnel Record Center  
Military Personnel Records  
1 Archives Dr., St. Louis, MO 63138  
Fax: (314) 801-9195

Marines who have been discharged, separated or retired on or after 1 January 1999 should submit their inquiry to:

Commandant of the Marine Corps (MMMA)  
2008 Elliot Rd., Quantico, VA 22134  
Fax: (703) 784-9866

### B

#### BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS:

701 S. Courthouse Rd., Bldg. 12, Suite 1001  
Arlington, VA 22204-2490  
(703) 604-6884/6885; Fax: (703) 604-3437  
[www.donhq.navy.mil/bcncr/bcncr.htm](http://www.donhq.navy.mil/bcncr/bcncr.htm)

### C

#### CAMP LEJEUNE NOTIFICATION REGISTRY:

<https://clnr.hqi.usmc.mil/clwater>

#### COLD WAR CERTIFICATE PROGRAM:

Attn: AHRC-PDP-A, Dept. 480, USAHRC  
1600 Spearhead Division Ave.

Ft. Knox, KY 40122-5408

Fax: 1-800-723-9262 or (502) 613-9510

<https://www.hrc.army.mil>

(Type "Cold War Certificate" in the search box)

#### COMBAT-RELATED SPECIAL COMPENSATION:

SECNAV CRSC Board

720 Kennon St. SE, Ste. 309; Washington, DC 20374-5023

1-877-366-2772; Fax: (202) 685-6610

[DON\\_CRSC@navy.mil](mailto:DON_CRSC@navy.mil)

[www.public.navy.mil/asnmra/corb/CRSCB](http://www.public.navy.mil/asnmra/corb/CRSCB)

### D

#### DD 214s:

Marines who have been discharged, separated, or retired on or before 31 December 1998:

National Personnel Records Center

1 Archives Dr., St. Louis, MO 63138

(314) 801-0800; Fax: (314) 801-9195

[MPR.center@nara.gov](mailto:MPR.center@nara.gov); [www.archives.gov/st-louis](http://www.archives.gov/st-louis)

Marines discharged/retired/separated on or after 1 January 1999:

Commandant of the Marine Corps (MMRP)-10

2008 Elliot Rd., Quantico, VA 22134-5030

1-800-268-3710; [smb.manpower.mmrp@usmc.mil](mailto:smb.manpower.mmrp@usmc.mil)

#### DEFENSE FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING SERVICE:

1-800-321-1080, [www.dfas.mil](http://www.dfas.mil)

U.S. and OCONUS: (216) 522-5955; Fax: 1-800-469-6559

#### DFAS Special Compensation for the Severely Disabled:

P.O. Box 998011; Cleveland, OH 44199-8011

(216) 522-6170

### E

**E-BENEFITS:** <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/appmanager/eb/veterans>

### M

#### MARINE CORPS ASSOCIATION:

715 Broadway St., Quantico, VA 22134

1-866-622-1775, ext. 100; Fax: (703) 640-0162

[mca@mca-marines.org](mailto:mca@mca-marines.org)

- **Leatherneck Magazine**

1-800-336-0291, ext. 115; Fax: (703) 640-0823

[leatherneck@mca-marines.org](mailto:leatherneck@mca-marines.org)

- **Marine Corps Gazette**

1-800-336-0291, ext. 144; Fax: (703) 630-9147

[gazette@mca-marines.org](mailto:gazette@mca-marines.org)

## Directory Assistance Pages

**MARINE BARRACKS WASHINGTON:**

8th and I, Washington, DC, [www.barracks.marines.mil](http://www.barracks.marines.mil)

**MARINE CORPS EDUCATION COMMAND:**

Marine Corps University, History Division  
3078 Upshur Ave., Quantico, VA 22134  
(703) 432-4874, [www.history.usmc.mil](http://www.history.usmc.mil)

**MARINE CORPS JUNIOR ROTC TECOM (C46JR):**

1019 Elliot Rd., Quantico, VA 22134-5001  
(703) 784-3706, [www.mcjrotc.org](http://www.mcjrotc.org)

**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS:**

3619 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Suite 115  
Stafford, VA 22554, (703) 207-9588: [JFoster@MCLeague.org](mailto:JFoster@MCLeague.org)  
(Membership Manager)

**MARINE CORPS RECORDS CORRESPONDENCE (MMRP-12):**

2008 Elliot Rd., Quantico, VA 22134-5030  
1-800-268-3710, (703) 784-3930/4646/5616

**MCCS COMMUNITY SERVICES:** [www.usmc-mccs.org](http://www.usmc-mccs.org)

**MEDICAL RECORDS:** Marines who have been discharged/separated/retired on 1 May 1994 or later:

VA Records Management Center  
P.O. Box 5020; St. Louis, MO 63115-8950  
1-888-533-4558; Fax: (314) 538-4571

Marines who have been discharged/separated/retired before 1 May 1994 must contact NPRC.

**MEDICARE:** 1-800-633-4227; [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)

**N****NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS:**

18900 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Triangle, VA 22172  
1-877-653-1775; [www.usmcmuseum.org](http://www.usmcmuseum.org)

**NAVY LODGE WORLDWIDE RESERVATIONS CENTER:**

1-800-NAVY-INN, [www.navy-lodge.com](http://www.navy-lodge.com)

**NAVY-MARINE CORPS RELIEF SOCIETY:**

875 N. Randolph Road Street, Suite 225, Arlington, VA 22203  
1-800-654-8364; <http://www.nmcrs.org>

**Q**

**QUANTICO NATIONAL CEMETERY:** (703) 221-2183;  
[www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/quantico.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/quantico.asp)

**S****SISTER SERVICE RETIREE PUBLICATIONS:**

- **Air Force Afterburner:** <http://www.retirees.af.mil/Library/Afterburner/>
- **Army Echoes:** <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/echoes>

- **Coast Guard Evening Colors:** [www.uscg.mil/ppc/retnews](http://www.uscg.mil/ppc/retnews)

- **Navy Shift Colors:** [www.navy.mil](http://www.navy.mil)  
(Click "Links" and "Shift Colors")

**SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION:** 1-800-772-1213,  
[www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)

**SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN:**

[www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/provide/sbp.html](http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/provide/sbp.html)

**T**

**THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN:** 1-877-968-3778; Fax: (216) 367-3605; TSP mailbox: [ccl-mc-tsp@dfas.mil](mailto:ccl-mc-tsp@dfas.mil)  
International callers: (404) 233-4400  
<https://www.tsp.gov/index.html>

**TRICARE:** <https://tricare.mil/>

- **East:** 1- 800-444-5445; <https://www.humanamilitary.com/east/>
- **West:** 1-844-866-9378; <https://www.tricare-west.com>
- **Overseas:** 1-888-777-8343; <https://www.tricare-overseas.com>
- **Health Beneficiary Counseling Assistance Coordinator:** <https://tricare.mil//bcacdcdo>

**TRICARE DENTAL PROGRAM UNITED OCONUS:**  
1-888-475-0486

**TRICARE for LIFE:** 1-866-773-0404; [www.tricare4u.com](http://www.tricare4u.com)

**TRICARE Network Pharmacy Program:** 1-877-363-1303;  
<https://www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE/index.shtml>

**TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery:** 1-877-363-1296;  
<https://tricare.mil/homedelivery>

**TRICARE Retiree Dental Plan:** 1-888-838-8737,  
[www.trdp.org](http://www.trdp.org)

**U**

**UNIFORM SUPPORT CENTER:** 1-800-368-4088; Fax your DD 214 to 1-800-551-6289 before placing order.

**V**

**VA:** 1-800-827-1000, [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

**VA EDUCATION:** 1-888-442-4551, [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov)

**VA LIFE INSURANCE PROGRAMS:**

1-800-669-8477, [www.insurance.va.gov](http://www.insurance.va.gov)

**VA SGLI/VGLI:** 1-800-419-1473

**VA STATUS OF HEADSTONES AND MARKERS:**

1-800-697-6947

HEADQUARTERS, U.S. MARINE CORPS (MMSR-6)  
JAMES WESLEY MARSH CENTER  
3280 RUSSELL ROAD  
QUANTICO, VA 22134-5103

OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

Access your newsletter online at <https://www.hqmc.marines.mil/Agencies/Manpower-Reserve-Affairs-MMSR-6/>

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## Separation and Retirement Branch (MMSR)

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### Retired Services and Pay Section (MMSR-6)

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Sgt Johnny Thammavongsa  
Cpl Shenoah White

### WHO TO CONTACT:

**MMSR-2:** (703) 784-9324/25/26

*Active Duty Separation and Retirement*

- **Officer** [smb.manpower.mmsr2o@usmc.mil](mailto:smb.manpower.mmsr2o@usmc.mil)
- **Enlisted**  
[smb.manpower.mmsr2e@usmc.mil](mailto:smb.manpower.mmsr2e@usmc.mil)



**MMSR-4:** (703) 784-9308/09

*Disability Separation, Retirement and Limited Duty*

[smb.manpower.mmsr4@usmc.mil](mailto:smb.manpower.mmsr4@usmc.mil)

**MMSR-5:** (703) 784-9306/07

*Inactive Reserve Separation and Retirement*

[smb.manpower.mmsr5@usmc.mil](mailto:smb.manpower.mmsr5@usmc.mil)

**MMSR-6:** (703) 784-9311; 1-800-336-4649

Fax: (703) 784-9834

*Retired Services and Pay*

- Semper Fidelis
- Identification Cards
- Survivor Benefit Plan
- Address Changes (Note: Annuitants must call DFAS)

[smb.manpower.mmsr6@usmc.mil](mailto:smb.manpower.mmsr6@usmc.mil)

