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](https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/appeals.asp) and [https://www.bva.va.gov/](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 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/ 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
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

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

LinkedIn

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  marineforlife.org  866-645-8762  /MarineForLifeNetwork
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.

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
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](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. 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 or 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.

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

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](http://www.hostmtb.org/RADs_and_Other_Retiree-Veterans_Events.html).
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.

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

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
VMF-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, Maurice Chevalier Vietnam 1969-1971 | 15-19 May 2019 | | mochev@twc.com
Radio Bn Bill Griffin | 16-19 May 2019 | | wolfeneck@aol.comwww.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 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.usmcdispersers.com
Marines of Long Ago 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 englerdt@pscni.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 MCCS web site (http://www.usmc-mccs.org/reunion/) for information on how to organize your reunion and lists of upcoming events.
## REUNIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORGANIZATION/POC</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
<th>EMAIL/WEB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black Marines Heritage Group 8th Biennial Reunion Bernard H. Colebrook Bobby Gator</td>
<td>20-23 Jun 2019 Alexandria, VA</td>
<td>(540) 208-8353 (325) 259-2435</td>
<td><a href="mailto:BCHPolebrook2019@gmail.com">BCHPolebrook2019@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:bobbygator@centurylink.net">bobbygator@centurylink.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26th Marines Association Reunion</td>
<td>23-25 Aug 2019 New Orleans, LA</td>
<td>(512) 825-4730</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sonnyusmc@gmail.com">sonnyusmc@gmail.com</a> <a href="http://www.26thMarines.com">http://www.26thMarines.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Battalion 3rd Marines 1/3 Reunion Don Bumgarner</td>
<td>17-22 Sep 2019 Branson, MO</td>
<td>(562) 897-2437</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dbumc13usmc@verizon.net">dbumc13usmc@verizon.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Marine Division All Eras Roger Bacon</td>
<td>17-22 Sep 2019 Branson, MO</td>
<td>(330) 424-9539</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rogerbacon45@yahoo.com">rogerbacon45@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine Corps Data Processors John Marslender</td>
<td>22-25 Sep 2019 Las Vegas, NV</td>
<td>(801) 598-5371</td>
<td><a href="mailto:johnanddolly@centurylink.net">johnanddolly@centurylink.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th Anniversary Marine Corps Postal 0160/0161 Robert I. Brown, MSgt/Ret.</td>
<td>29 Sep - 4 Oct 2019</td>
<td>(910) 358-7752</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cbrown11@ec.rr.com">cbrown11@ec.rr.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBS Class of 3-70 Reunion Paul Perra</td>
<td>11-14 Feb 2020</td>
<td>(978) 381-4746</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pperra@icloud.com">pperra@icloud.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBS, C Co, Class 3-72 50th Reunion Col Joe Mueller USMCR (Ret.)</td>
<td>Planning Stages</td>
<td>(818) 815-8331</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jnm21213@yahoo.com">jnm21213@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine Corps Old Breed Rugby Annual Gatherings Sam Pelham</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:pelhamsp@usmc-mccs.org">pelhamsp@usmc-mccs.org</a> <a href="http://www.facebook.com/groups/MarineCorpsOldBreedRugby/">http://www.facebook.com/groups/MarineCorpsOldBreedRugby/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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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/Jan 18

**MAJOR GENERAL**
BECKWITH, RONALD L. Sep 91/Feb 19
FULHAM, DONALD J. Oct 74/Feb 19
LIVINGSTON, LAWRENCE H. Nov 97/Jan 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/Jan 18
JOHN, EDWARD S. Jan 72/Feb 18
KELLER, ROBERT J. May 79/Feb 18
LAWLER, LAWRENCE E. Jul 91/Jan 18
LYNCH, DONALD W. Jul 88/Feb 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/Nov 17
STRAW, WADE C. May 90/Nov 18
VOGEL, JAMES R. Jan 98/Oct 18
WILLIAMS, JANICE K. Nov 05/Nov 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.** Jun 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/Jan 18

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

**BRIGADIER GENERAL**
FORNEY, WILLIAM A. Sep 94/Dec 18

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CARR JR, WILLIAM D. Aug 94/Nov 18
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CORMAN, OTIS W. Aug 69/Mar 18
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JOHN, EDWARD S. Jan 72/Feb 18
KELLER, ROBERT J. May 79/Feb 18
LAWLER, LAWRENCE E. Jul 91/Jan 18
LYNCH, DONALD W. Jul 88/Feb 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/Nov 17
STRAW, WADE C. May 90/Nov 18
VOGEL, JAMES R. Jan 98/Oct 18
WILLIAMS, JANICE K. Nov 05/Nov 18

**LIEUTENANT COLONEL**
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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.** Jun 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/Jan 18

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

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

**FIRST LIEUTENANT**
EDWARDS, JACK C. Jan 59/Sept 18
HOAG, RICHARD J. Apr 88/Oct 18

**CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER**
MADDOX, JAMES W. CWO3 Nov 17/July 18
MURRAY, PHILIP G. CWO4 Mar 91/Aug 18
PARSONS, FRANKLIN R. CWO2 Jul 62/Sept 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/Sept 18
KADER, LAWRENCE W. Mar 65/Oct 18
LINDBECK, JOHN R. Jul 75/Sept 18
MARTIN, CECIL Oct 70/Oct 18
MEYER, GEORGE F. Apr 74/June 18
MORRIS, JAMES A. Oct 87/Aug 18
RADMER, ELMER C. Oct 60/July 18
ROLLA, VINCENTO F. Sep 80/Sept 17
THOMPSON, TERRIEL J. Dec 81/Sept 18
TROY, ROBERT M. May 84/June 18
WALKER, JR., HERMAN Sep 78/Sept 18
WRIGHT, ARTHUR G. Feb 03/June 18

MASTER GUNNYERY SERGEANT
avery, FREDERICK A. Nov 67/June 18
BELCHER, KENNETH W. Jul 74/July 18
BOMBERG, RICHARD H. Nov 90/January 18
CLEGHORN, JAMES B. Jun 72/ March 18
Cogan, JAMES A. Jul 72/June 18
DAVIS, TOMMY L. Aug 94/July 18
HENDERSON, CHARLES C. Feb 70/July 18
HODGE, LOREN R. Sep 79/Dec 17
OLDHAM, MICHAEL R. Jul 89/June 18

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

MASTER SERGEANT
DODDS, DELL D. Feb 71/March 18
DOGGETTE, JR., JAMES L. May 86/June 18
DRENNEN, EARL F. May 82/July 18
ELIA, ALECKS S. Oct 07/Sept 18
FISHER, MARK W. Dec 05/May 18
GARRETT, JR., THOMAS E. Aug 03/July 17
HAGLER, RAYMOND A. Oct 69/Aug 18
HARBERS, KIRK A. Jun 68/Nov 17
KEITH, FREDERICK T. Mar 80/June 18
KING, LEROY M. Oct 77/July 17
LONG, LAWSON C. Feb 72/Jan 18
MARION, JR., WILLIAM C. Apr 63/Aug 18
PADELETTI, JOSEPH C. Jun 73/June 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/June 18
SMITH, ROBERT O. Mar 70/Jan 18
TATE, BYRUM L. Jan 80/Oct 17
TOMLINSON, JR., WILLIAM D. Jun 82/July 18
WARRING, JOHN B. Jun 86/Nov 17

GUNNYERY SERGEANT
BAYNES, JR., JOHN H. Aug 90/June 18
BRUNNER, NORMAN J. Jan 81/Sept 18
CIPOLONE, PAUL F. Nov 02/Aug 17
GARDNER, WILLIAM F. Jul 68/July 18
HUNTON, HERBERT R. Aug 68/Sept 18
JEHOVAH, JAH E. Oct 78/July 18
KADJA, MIKE P. Nov 59/June 18
KENNEDY, TIMMY R. Jun 00/June 18
LIPPNER, ROBERTS A. Jul 59/Apr 18
MANDLER, ROBERT L. Aug 79/July 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/July 18
PALMER, EDWARD D. Nov 93/Nov 18
PUEBLOS, RICHARD Jan 80/Nov 18
ROCHE, ROBERT J. Jun 72/ Mar 18
SCHIELE, 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/June 18
WHYTE, DANIEL J. Dec 76/Oct 18
WORLOW, VERLIN P. Jun 80/ Feb 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.

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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

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.


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:
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rates of Pay Effective</th>
<th>Percent Increase</th>
<th>10 U.S.C. Authority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before January 1, 2018</td>
<td>2.8 percent</td>
<td>1401a(b)(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1 – December 31, 2018</td>
<td>2.4 percent</td>
<td>1401a(c)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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:

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

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Retirement Effective</th>
<th>Percent Increase</th>
<th>10 U.S.C. Authority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before January 1, 2018</td>
<td>1.8 percent</td>
<td>1401a(e)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1 - March 31, 2018</td>
<td>1.6 percent</td>
<td>1401a(e)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 1 - June 30, 2018</td>
<td>1.0 percent</td>
<td>1401a(e)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1 - September 30, 2018</td>
<td>0.1 percent</td>
<td>1401a(e)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 1 - December 31, 2018</td>
<td>0.0 percent</td>
<td>1401a(e)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 incapacity 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 TRICARE 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/rsl
USMC Retired Services Offices

MCAS Yuma Arizona
Tony Steen, (928) 269-3159
Fax: (928) 928-269-3723
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

MCB Camp Pendleton California
Erica Shaw, (760) 725-5704
erica.shaw@usmc.mil or
Freddie Darnell, (760) 725-6090
freddie.darnell@usmc.mil

MCLB Barstow California
Patrick Rewerts, (760) 577-6533
patrick.rewerts@usmc.mil

MCRD San Diego California
Ray P. Bromley, (619) 524-5301
retiredmcrd@usmc.mil

MCLB Albany Georgia
Raymond Breaux, (229) 639-5278
breauxr@usmc-mccs.org

MCB Kaneohe Bay Hawaii
Jeffrey Esposito, (808) 257-7795
jeffrey.esposito@usmc.mil

MCAS Iwakuni Japan
Gary K. Saiki, 011-81-827-79-5762
gks20142000@yahoo.com or
Robert Bugawan
rbugawan@yahoo.com
robert.bugawan@usmc.mil

MCB Camp SD Butler Okinawa Japan
Ben Garcia
DSN: 315-645-3159
011-81-611-745-3159
garcia@okinawa.usmc-mccs.org

MCB Camp Lejeune North Carolina
Luis J. Alers-Dejesus, (910) 451-0287
Fax: (910) 451-0677
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

HOW TO REPORT AN ADDRESS CHANGE
RETIRE 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

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]
   
   - Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System:
     1-800-538-9552

   - Department of Veterans Affairs: 1-800-827-1000 (annuitants in receipt of Dependency)

Possible sources of annuitant payments may include:

- DFAS: 1-800-321-1080
- VA: 1-800-827-1000
- Social Security: 1-800-772-1213
- Office of Personnel Management (OPM) 1-888-767-6738

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

1. **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. Additional information from DFAS is available at 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.

2. **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.

3. **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 or call HQMC (MMSR-6) at 1-800-336-4649 or (703) 784-9310 to obtain the sites closest to you.

4. **NOTIFY THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION at 1-800-SSA-1213** (www.ssa.gov) to apply for the $255 death benefit, if applicable.

5. **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 for more information.

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**Agencies Providing Aid and Assistance To Surviving Spouses**

Arlington National Cemetery: (703) 607-8000  
Military Funeral Honors: 1-866-826-3628 or (703) 432-9524  
Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society: (703) 696-4904, www.nmcrs.org  
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors: 1-800-959-8277, 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)

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**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.myimpactwithnmcrs.org/getsmaart
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?_afrLoop=1698068779136830#!/%40%40%3F_afrLoop%3D1698068779136830%26_adf.ctrl-state%3D1bpbi0pxz_137

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) 237-3535

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

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/
AMC PASSENGER TERMINAL:  
http://www.amc.af.mil/Home/AMC-Travel-Site/

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY: (703) 607-8000  
www.arlingtoncemetary.mil

ARMED Forced RECREATION CENTERS:  
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

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  

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  
www.public.navy.mil/asnhra/corb/CRSCB

DEFENSE FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING SERVICE:  
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-BENEFITS: https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/ 
appmanager/eb/veterans

MARINE CORPS ASSOCIATION:  
715 Broadway St., Quantico, VA 22134  
1-866-622-1775, ext. 100; Fax: (703) 640-0162  
mca@mca-marines.org  
• Leatherneck Magazine  
1-800-336-0291, ext. 115; Fax: (703) 640-0823  
leatherneck@mca-marines.org
  
• Marine Corps Gazette  
1-800-336-0291, ext. 144; Fax: (703) 630-9147  
gazette@mca-marines.org
Directory Assistance Pages

- 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
International callers: (404) 233-4400

**TRICARE:** [https://tricare.mil/](http://https://tricare.mil/)
  - Health Beneficiary Counseling Assistance Coordinator: [https://tricare.mil/bcacdao](http://https://tricare.mil/bcacdao)

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

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


**TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery:** 1-877-363-1296;

**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
Separation and Retirement Branch (MMSR)

WHO TO CONTACT:

**MMSR-2:** (703) 784-9324/25/26
Active Duty Separation and Retirement
- **Officer** smb.manpower.mmsr2o@usmc.mil
- **Enlisted**
  smb.manpower.mmsr2e@usmc.mil

**MMSR-4:** (703) 784-9308/09
Disability Separation, Retirement and Limited Duty
smb.manpower.mmsr4@usmc.mil

**MMSR-5:** (703) 784-9306/07
Inactive Reserve Separation and Retirement
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

Retired Services and Pay Section
(MMSR-6)

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