General Berger takes command of the Marine Corps

July 11, 2019 | By David Vergun US Dept of Defense

“General David H. Berger is the right person to lead the Marine Corps in this era of great power competition with Russia and China”, then Acting Defense Secretary Dr. Mark T. Esper said at a ceremony in which General Berger became the 38th Commandant of the Marine Corps.

General Berger succeeded General Robert B. Neller who passed command at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., July 11, 2019. As the Commandant, General Berger is now a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"I can think of no better leader to assume the duties of Commandant," Dr. Esper said. “He understands well the challenges we face in today's complex, strategic environment. He is a visionary who has committed to marching the Marine Corps down the path to modernizing for future warfare."

Dr. Esper added that General Berger has proven throughout his career that he possesses the intellect, the stamina and the courage needed to succeed in this demanding position.

General Berger said becoming Commandant is not the greatest honor he has experienced. “I consider it a privilege just to wear the uniform and stand in your ranks," he told the Marines at the ceremony. “Just to call yourself a Marine is the greatest honor."

General Neller said he's been asked what he'd like to be remembered for during his tenure as Commandant. "We're a little bit better placed, we're a little more ready, we're a little bit better trained, we've got a little bit better equipment, but that's come through a lot of hard work from the Marines," he said.

Dr. Esper also praised the Marine Corps. “When America needs a job done well," he said, "she can continue to count on the few and the proud to accomplish the mission."
Sergeant Major Troy E. Black Becomes the 19th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps

WASHINGTON, D.C. - July 26, 2019

Sergeant Major Troy E. Black received the Sword of Office from Sergeant Major Ronald L. Green during a Relief and Appointment ceremony at Marine Barracks Washington, July 26, signifying his new position as the 19th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps.

Sergeant Major Black, a Louisville, Kentucky native and 31-year Marine veteran, assumes responsibility as the senior ranking enlisted Marine in the Corps.

"I am proud of our Corps and our Marines," said Sergeant Major Black. “I look forward to serving the Marines, Sailors and families that dedicate themselves to the Corps every day."

Sergeant Major Green, a Jackson, Mississippi native, turned over his responsibilities after serving as the 18th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps since 2015.

During his time as Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sergeant Major Green worked hard to assist the Commandant in improving lethality through innovative training, increasing educational opportunities for enlisted Marines, and advocating for Marine and Family resources.

“I want to thank all the Marines, Civilian Marines, Sailors, families and everyone who supports our Corps every day,” said Sergeant Major Green. “It has been an honor to serve as the 18th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps. Though I am no longer in the game, I will be cheering from the sidelines. Take care of our Corps, your fellow Marines, your families and yourselves. Semper Fidelis.”

The post of Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps was established in 1957 as the senior enlisted advisor to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, the first such post in any of the branches of the United States Armed Forces. The Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps is selected by the Commandant, and typically serves a four-year term, although service is at the pleasure of the Commandant.
Marines march across the parade deck for pass in review during a passage of command ceremony at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., July 11, 2019.

MILITARY MEDICAL TREATMENT FACILITIES TRANSITION PLAN

NAVY SURGEON GENERAL STATEMENT

Published on August 5, 2019, NAVADMIN 180/19, conveys Navy Surgeon General Vice Admiral C. Forrest Faison III's message regarding the transition of military treatment facilities from the Services to the Defense Health Agency (DHA) and provides Sailors, Marines and their families with information about the transition of Navy military medical treatment facilities (MTF) to the Defense Health Agency (DHA).

The Department of Defense Military Health System (MHS) is undergoing a transition as administration and management of the Services' hospitals and clinics are transferred to DHA. This is occurring over several years with a goal envisioned by Congress that the MHS become a more standardized and a more integrated system of healthcare services. The Services have been working closely with DHA on the details and specifics of this transition.

This transition should be seamless to you. During this transition, you should see no immediate impact to access, healthcare services, or the things you and your families need. As this is a new role for DHA, the Services have continued, and will continue, to provide support and assistance to ensure our MTF’s remain fully functional, and there is no immediate impact to care or services during transition until DHA is able to assume full administrative and management responsibility. Likewise, our Fleet and Fleet Marine Force Commanders should see no changes in Fleet or Fleet Marine Force support. Medical and medical support services required for operational support, all personnel who provide those services, and all uniformed personnel will remain within the Navy lifelines and under Navy control.

This transition is a multi-year effort, which started for the Navy in October 2018 when Naval Hospital Jacksonville transferred under DHA's administration and management. On 1 October 2019, more Navy MTFs in the U.S. will transition to the DHA. OCONUS MTFs, in a phased approach, will transition after all CONUS facilities, with the transfer of administration and management completed no later than 30 September 2021.

As we shift administration and management responsibilities of these MTFs to DHA, it will create opportunity for Navy medicine to increase focus on operational support and keeping service members healthy and on the job. It will also enable us to enhance focus on unit support during sustained high tempo operations while creating opportunities for us to better prepare the medical force to deliver high combat survival and support in the future. We make a commitment to every Sailor, Marine, and their family that we will provide them the best care our nation can offer and do all in our power to return them home safely and alive. This transition will assist us in honoring that commitment.
DOD TO BEGIN NEXT MAJOR PHASE OF MILITARY HOSPITAL CONSOLIDATION

The Department of Defense is preparing for the next major step in consolidating military hospitals and clinics under a single agency, one of the largest organizational changes within the U.S. military in decades.

On October 1, the Army, Navy and Air Force will begin the final two years of a multi-year transition to shift administration and management of their medical facilities to the Defense Health Agency by October 2021.

The DHA will be responsible for all the health care the Department of Defense delivers to its beneficiaries receiving care at an on-base facility or through the TRICARE civilian networks.

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2017, mandated that a single agency be responsible for the administration and management of all military hospitals and clinics.

DHA will be responsible for health care delivery and business operations across the Military Health System including budgets, information technology, health care administration and management, administrative policies and procedures, and military medical construction.

From October 1 of this year through October 2021, the transition will focus on four primary objectives:

- **Centralized administration and management**: On October 1, all hospitals and clinics in the continental United States will transition to the DHA, with the Army, Navy and Air Force medical departments maintaining a direct support role.

- **Establish Health Care Markets**: At the center of the reorganization is the creation of health care markets. The DHA will stand up 21 large markets during the transition period to manage Medical Treatment Facilities (MTFs) in local areas. A market is a group of MTFs in a geographic area - typically anchored by a large hospital or medical center - that operate as a system sharing patients, providers, functions, and budgets across facilities to improve the coordination and delivery of health care services. These 21 large markets will collectively manage 246 medical facilities and centers of excellence.

- **Establishment of a Small Market and Stand-Alone MTF Organization (SSO)**: For stateside hospitals and clinics not aligned to a large market, this office, referred to as SSO, will provide managerial and clinical oversight. As with the large markets, the military departments will continue managing the MTFs until they are realigned under the SSO. There are 16 small market MTFs and 66 stand-alone MTFs assigned to the SSO.

- **Establish Defense Health Regions overseas**: The transition period for standing up Defense Health Regions in Europe and Indo-Pacific will begin in 2020. All MTFs overseas would then report to their respective DHA regional offices. The Indo-Pacific region has 43 MTFs, while the European region has 31.

(For a complete list of markets and their assigned MTFs, go to the MHS Transformation web page at [www.health.mil/mhstsransformation](http://www.health.mil/mhstsransformation).)
TRICARE Open Season and Federal Benefits Open Season
11 November - 9 December

TRICARE Open Season applies to anyone enrolled in or eligible for TRICARE Prime (including the US Family Health Plan) or TRICARE Select.

Federal Benefits Open Season is for enrollment in the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP). Both the TRICARE and FEDVIP open seasons begin on November 11 and end on December 9, 2019. Enrollment choices made during this period will take effect on January 1, 2020.

“Every year your health coverage needs may change,” said Mark Ellis, chief of the Policy and Programs Section of the TRICARE Health Plan at the Defense Health Agency. “Open season is your chance to think about the kind of coverage you’ll need for the upcoming year and make any changes.”

To get ready for open season, you can use tools on the TRICARE website (https://www.tricare.mil/), like the TRICARE plan finder and TRICARE compare cost tool. These resources help you see which plans you’re eligible for and help you to compare plans and costs. On the FEDVIP enrollment website (https://www.benefeds.com/) you can enroll in or make changes to your FEDVIP plan. The website also provides tools to help you find the right dental and/or vision plans for you and your family. Telephone Benefeds at (1-877-888-3337).

What can you do during TRICARE Open Season?
If you’re eligible to participate in TRICARE Open Season, you have three choices for your 2020 health coverage:

• **Do nothing.** If you want to stay in your current TRICARE health care plan, you don’t have to take any action. You’ll continue in your current health plan through 2020 or as long as you’re eligible.

• **Enroll in a plan.** If you’re eligible for TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select you can enroll in a plan now.

  1.) TRICARE Prime a managed care option available in Prime Service Areas in the United States; you have an assigned primary care manager who provides most of your care.
  2.) *TRICARE Select replaced TRICARE Standard and Extra on January 1, 2018. TRICARE Select is a self-managed, preferred provider network plan. TRICARE Select is a fee-for-service option in the United States that allows you to get care from any TRICARE-authorized provider. Enrollment is required to participate.

• **Change plans.** If you’re already enrolled in a TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select plan, you can switch plans and switch between individual and family enrollment.

TRICARE Open Season doesn’t apply to TRICARE For Life (TFL). TFL coverage is automatic if you have Medicare Part A and Medicare Part B. Open season also doesn’t apply to premium-based plans:

TRICARE Retired Reserve
TRICARE Reserve Select
TRICARE Young Adult
Continued Health Care Benefit Program

You can purchase premium-based plans any time.

Continued on page 7
TRICARE Open Season and Federal Benefits Open Season
11 November - 9 December

What can you do during Federal Benefits Open Season?
Your chance to enroll in FEDVIP is during the Federal Benefits Open Season.

FEDVIP, managed by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, offers eligible TRICARE beneficiaries a choice between multiple vision and dental plans and carriers. Some plans offer both high and standard options.

If you’re already enrolled in a FEDVIP dental and/or vision plan, your enrollment will automatically continue in 2020. If you wish to make changes to your existing plan, you must do so during open season.

Those eligible for FEDVIP dental coverage include:
- Retired service members and their eligible family members
- Retired National Guard and Reserve members and their eligible family members
- Certain survivors
- Medal of Honor recipients and their immediate family members and survivors

Those who may qualify to purchase FEDVIP vision coverage include:
- Active duty family members
- National Guard and Reserve members and their eligible family members
- Retired service members and their eligible family members

To enroll in a FEDVIP vision plan, you must be enrolled in a TRICARE health plan or have TFL coverage.

By: TRICARE.mil Staff

- Tricare East (1-800-444-5445)
- Tricare West (1-844-866-9378)
- https://www.tricare.mil/

- Benefeds/FEDVIP for vision and dental plan information (1-877-888-3337)
- https://www.benefeds.com/
A QLE is a certain change in your life, such as marriage, birth of a child, or retirement from active duty, which may mean different TRICARE health plan options are available to you.

A QLE opens a 90-day period for you to make eligible enrollment changes.

A QLE for one family member means all family members may make enrollment changes.

QLEs include military and family changes, as well as government-directed changes.

QLE may allow you and your family to:

1.) Enroll in a new TRICARE health plan.
2.) Change your health plan coverage.

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

1.) Ensure the QLE is reflected in DEERS.
2.) Make the enrollment changes within 90 days following the QLE.
3.) Pay any enrollment fees or premiums due during that period.

No matter when you initiate the enrollment change following a QLE, coverage starts on the date of the QLE.

Child Moving Away to College

Your child’s relocation must be to a new country, and/or city, region, or ZIP+4 code to be a QLE.

You have 90 days from the date of your child’s address change in the DEERS to make any changes to your family’s health plan.

Relocation to a New Country, City, Region, or ZIP+4 code (self-attestation)

You must update the DEERS with your new address.
Your move must be to a new country, and/or city, region, or ZIP+4 code to be a QLE.
You have 90 days from the date of your address change to change your health plan.
Your TRICARE eligibility doesn’t change when you move, but it may change your health plan options.

Children Becoming Adults

You have 90 days after your child turns 21 to make changes to your TRICARE health plan.

Biological and adopted children can get TRICARE until their 21st birthday in most cases. There are some exceptions to the age limit. At 21, your child may qualify for TRICARE Young Adult if they:

1.) Are age 21-26
2.) Remain unmarried
3.) Are adult dependent children

There are premiums for TRICARE Young Adult. If your child doesn’t qualify to purchase TRICARE Young Adult, they can purchase the Continued Health Care Benefit Program.
Birth of a Child

Retiree Stateside
- You have 90 days from your child’s birth date to register your newborn in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). You don’t need a Social Security number (SSN), but are required to have the birth certificate and signed DD Form 1172-2. Once you have your child’s SSN, be sure to update DEERS.

Your newborn is not automatically enrolled!
- Enrolling in a TRICARE plan is a separate step that must also be completed within 90 days of your child’s birth date.
- You can enroll online, over the phone or through the mail, depending on where you live.

Retiree Overseas
- You have 120 days from your child’s birth date to register your newborn in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). You don’t need a Social Security number (SSN), but are required to have certificate of live birth and signed DD Form 1172-2. Once you have your child’s SSN, be sure to update DEERS.

Your newborn is not automatically enrolled!
- Enrolling in a TRICARE plan is a separate step that must also be completed within 90 days of your child’s birth date.
- You can enroll online, over the phone or through the mail, depending on where you live.

Adoption of a Child
- You have 90 days from your child’s birth date to register your newborn in the DEERS. You don’t need a Social Security number, but are required to have a record of adoption/letter of placement of the child into the home by a recognized placement/adoption agency or the court before the final adoption, and signed DD Form 1172-2. Once you have your child’s social security, be sure to update DEERS with that number.
- Your child’s health plan depends on the sponsor’s military status and where you live. Your stepchildren are eligible for TRICARE coverage.

Placement of a Child by a Court in a Member’s Home
- When a child is placed in your home, you must enroll your child in the DEERS within 90 days of the effective date listed on the court order.
- Take the court order to your nearest RAPIDS location to enroll the child in the DEERS. Your Service will determine the child’s eligibility.
UNDERSTANDING COORDINATION OF BENEFITS AND OTHER HEALTH INSURANCE (OHI)

How TRICARE Calculates Payment with Other Health Insurance

TRICARE requires coordination of benefits with OHI coverage. TRICARE does not always pay your OHI copayment or the balance left over after the OHI payment. However, you usually owe very little to nothing. The TRICARE payment calculation is based on the provider's status. Note: Most inpatient facilities have other calculations not listed below.

TRICARE Network Providers and Non-Network Providers Who Accept TRICARE Assignment (Participating)

TRICARE pays the lowest of:

- billed amount minus the OHI payment
- amount TRICARE would have paid without OHI
- amount beneficiary owes after the OHI paid (usually the OHI copayment or cost share)

Providers Who Do Not Accept TRICARE Assignment (Nonparticipating)

Nonparticipating providers may only bill the beneficiary up to 115 percent of the TRICARE allowed amount. If the OHI paid more than 115 percent of the allowed amount, no TRICARE payment is authorized, as the charge is considered paid in full and the provider may not bill the beneficiary. Otherwise, TRICARE pays the lowest of:

- 115 percent of the allowed amount minus the OHI payment
- Amount TRICARE would have paid without OHI
- Amount beneficiary owes after the OHI paid (usually the OHI copayment or cost share)

Staff Model HMOs, Group HMOs and Other Capitated OHI Plan Providers

When you are enrolled in one of these OHI plans, the provider group either works directly for the HMO or is paid a monthly/annual amount rather than a fee for each service performed. In these plans, you generally only receive a copayment receipt – an itemized bill or Explanation of Benefits (EOB) is not available.

In these cases, you submit a Beneficiary Claim Form DD2642 with a copy of the receipt and the copayment is considered the billed amount. Deductibles and cost shares are applied and you may not receive full reimbursement of your HMO copayment.

Important Things to Know

- All requirements of the OHI plan must be followed. If the OHI denies a claim because OHI authorization requirements were not followed or because a network provider was not used, TRICARE will also deny the claim and you will be responsible for the denied charges.
- The OHI must process the claim before TRICARE can consider the charges.
- If the OHI denies the claim for services not medically necessary, all appeal rights with the OHI must be used before TRICARE can process the claim.
- Services must be provided by a TRICARE network or non-network provider.
Public Law 115-433: World War II 75th Commemoration Act was signed into law by President Trump on January 10, 2019, ensuring that our veterans are properly recognized, public education of WWII continues and our allies who fought alongside our service members are honored.

During this period, the Department of Defense and each of the Military Services will conduct and participate in a Series of Commemorative Events (https://www.dvidshub.net/feature/WWII75), focused on honoring WWII veterans and helping the American people gain a better understanding of their military’s history. One major event that this bill authorized is a flyover of the National Mall in Washington, D.C., with WWII-era planes in celebration of the end of WWII in Europe and the Pacific. The flyover will take place on May 8, 2020.

Education via various digital platforms will also be used. Select commemorative observances in Europe and the Pacific will be identified and historical representation of U.S. forces will be approved by the Office of the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs for U.S. participation in overseas commemorative events. The primary commemoration objectives are:

1) To thank and honor veterans of WWII, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.

2) To educate the public about the history of WWII and highlight the service of the Armed Forces during WWII and the contributions of Federal agencies and governmental and nongovernmental organizations that served with, or in support of, Armed Forces.

3) To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during WWII.

4) To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the Allies of the United States during WWII.

5) To remember the Holocaust, the annihilation of 6,000,000 Jews by the Nazi regime, and to pay tribute to the Allied troops who liberated Nazi concentration camps during WWII.
**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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<td>Jun 77</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MOON, RAYMOND T.</td>
<td>CWO4</td>
<td>Mar 96</td>
<td>Jun 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SERGEANT MAJOR</td>
<td>CANDELARIO, RAFAEL A.</td>
<td>Oct 94</td>
<td>Jun 19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DELEON, FRANCISCO</td>
<td>Feb 96</td>
<td>Jun 19</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LILLIE, LEROY E.</td>
<td>Dec 93</td>
<td>Aug 19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SHANNON, KIERNAN M.</td>
<td>Apr 68</td>
<td>Oct 17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SHARPE, HARVEY G.</td>
<td>Jun 86</td>
<td>Aug 19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>YEDDO, ROY J.</td>
<td>Oct 89</td>
<td>Aug 19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

**MASTER GUNNERY SERGEANT**

ANGELL, JOHN A. Oct 81/Jun 19  
BEINE, HERBERT N. Oct 91/Aug 19  
FERNANDEZ, RONALD L. Sep 84/Jul 19  
HERL, MARVIN P. Jan 71/Apr 18  
KNOLL, THOMAS A. Jun 83/Aug 18  
O’DONNELL, LARRY E. Aug 05/May 19  
TONG, RONALD H. Jun 86/Jan 19  

**FIRST SERGEANT**

CAMPER, SANDY H. Oct 91/Jul 19  
DENTON, WILLIAM C. Sep 69/Aug 18  
DESHOTEL, RILEY Sep 68/Nov 18  
FOOTE, EUGENE P. Jul 68/Jan 19  
GUTHRIDGE, RICHARD E. Oct 78/Nov 18  
LINKOUS, DONALD E. Sep 93/Nov 18  
LUEKEMEYER, EDWIN E. Jan 71/Jul 19  
MEAIGE, JR., CHARLES L. Jul 83/Dec 18  
MORRIS, BILLY L. Jul 80/Jan 18  
POE, ALBERT O. Jun 70/Aug 19  
WOODS, JAMES A. Jan 74/Jan 18  

**MASTER GUNNERY SERGEANT**

ADAMS, WILLIAM L. Dec 76/Apr 19  
ALEXANDER, DAVID C. May 82/Feb 19  
ANDERSON, STANLEY G. Jan 83/Dec 17  
AUBREY, HUBERT E. May 68/Dec 19  
BEISNER, BILLY J. Jan 65/May 19  
BLOOM, RICHARD A. Mar 71/Nov 18  
BURCHAM, CHARLES E. Apr 73/Oct 18  
DUENAS, VICENTE C. Jul 73/May 18  
FAWCETT, JR., JAMES A. Jun 64/Jul 18  
FLORES, JOSE P. Feb 69/Apr 19  
FOWLER, JAMES D. May 81/May 19  
FULTZ, PAUL E. May 74/Oct 18  
GROSCH, HAROLD L. Jul 80/Dec 18  
MALLEY, JR., CHARLES C. Oct 69/Jul 19  
MORRIS, BILLY L. Jul 80/Jan 19  
MOWBRAY, CLAUDE R. Aug 63/Mar 19  
NEAL, JR., JOHN E. Oct 78/Jul 18  
POE, ALBERT O. Jun 70/Aug 19  
PURDY, ALBERT L. Sep 86/Jul 19  
REYES, WALDO Oct 76/Feb 18  
ROBLES, JOSE Jan 75/Nov 17  
SHARP, MALCOLM E. Nov 17/Jan 19  
THACKER, WILLIAM Jul 77/Aug 19  
THERRELL, NEIL D. Sep 14/Jul 19  
VESSELS, CHRISTOPHER M. Jun 15/Apr 19  
WILSFORD, ROBERT C. Oct 94/Aug 19  
WISE, MILTON H. Jan 70/Jan 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.

STAFF SERGEANT
HAHN, RICHARD Jul 52/Mar 19
INGRAM, JOE E. Jul 83/Jan 18
JONES, ROBERT J. Aug 01/Jan 18
LIGON, JR., ROBERT A. Jul 00/ Jun 19
LOCKLEY, MOODY C. Jan 61/ Jun 19
STINSON, EARL A. Apr 75/Jan 19
WILBUR, JOHN M. Aug 66/ Jun 19
WODRICH, STEPHEN W. May 85/ Mar 18

SERGEANT
SCHEB, EDWARD A. Oct 55/ Aug 19

CORPORAL
HARRIS, DANNY L. Feb 75/ May 19
KLETSKY, JAY T. Sep 05/ Jun 19

LANCE CORPORAL
HALFORD, DONALD J. Jul 71/ Dec 17
RONDA-LARACUENTE, ISMAEL Nov 63/ Nov 18

Created in recognition of military families and service members, the Scholarships for Military Children awards grants to college students of active-duty, Guard and Reserve or retired military commissary customers.

The Scholarships for Military Children Program is primarily funded through the generosity of manufacturers and suppliers whose products are sold at military commissaries, worldwide. A total of 500 scholarship grants, each for $2,000, were awarded for the 2019-20 school year. The 2019 program is closed. The 2020 program application period will begin December 15, 2019. All applications must be submitted online for processing.

For more information on opening and closing dates, eligibility and selection criteria, visit the Fisher House website (https://www.militaryscholar.org/sfmc/index.html) or, contact Marye Dobson at DeCA (804/734-8000, ext. 52781) or Jim Weiskopf at Fisher House Foundation (202/607-1067).

A total of 500 scholarship grants, each for $2,000, will be awarded for school year 2020-21. There will be at least one recipient selected at every commissary location where qualified applications are received, and additional recipients will be selected based on a prorate basis, so more applicants will be selected from those commissaries with larger numbers of applicants.

“History was made in military resale when DeCA was formed,” said retired Rear Admiral Robert J. Bianchi, DOD special assistant for commissary operations. “And 28 years later we continue to add to that legacy by delivering a much-valued and ever-evolving commissary benefit that meets the changing needs of our patrons.”

The commissary benefit itself has been around since 1825 when Army officers began purchasing goods at cost in Subsistence Department warehouses. The modern concept of commissaries began 42 years later in 1867, when enlisted men were allowed the same shopping privileges that officers had previously enjoyed.

Before DeCA was created, military commissaries were initially run by the individual military installations. After World War II, the individual service branches began running their own commissaries: the U.S. Army Troop Support Agency (TSA), the Navy Resale Support Office (NAVRESSO), the Marine Corps Services Command and the Air Force Commissary Service (AFCOMS). The U.S. Coast Guard operated scaled down stores inside their exchanges.

In 1989, Congress directed the Department of Defense to conduct a study on the separate military systems. As a result it was recommended that the separate systems be consolidated into one agency in order to save money and improve customer services. Thus, the Defense Commissary Agency was established in May 1990 and by October 1, 1991, the agency assumed control of all commissaries.

Over the years those eligible to shop in the commissaries have included active duty in the armed forces and their immediate family members; retirees and their spouses; active duty Reserves and National Guard; honorably discharged veterans with a 100 percent service-connected disability; and recipients of the Medal of Honor.

The list of eligible beneficiaries grew in 2018 with the addition of DeCA civilian employees. It expands again on January 1, 2020, with all disabled veterans, Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war and primary veteran caregivers being eligible for the benefit.

“Our mission is to offer the best savings possible and maintain the relevance of the commissary benefit,” Bianchi said. “That was true in 1991 and it remains so today, as our dedicated store associates and headquarters staffs continue a proud tradition of service to our military.”

Beginning on January 1, 2020, the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act of 2019, extends commissary and exchange privileges, including access to some morale, welfare, and recreation facilities, to service-connected disabled veterans, Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war and primary veteran caregivers. This is the largest patronage expansion in more than 65 years and will increase the number of customers by 50 percent to approximately 3 million.

Disabled veterans will use their veterans’ health ID card (VHIC) to enter the stores. Prior to January 1, 2020, the DoD will issue additional guidance for other eligible beneficiaries (e.g., caregivers etc.) regarding access to installations and activation of the benefit.
VAPPING PRODUCTS

SOME THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THESE PRODUCTS

E-cigarettes are sometimes called “e-cigs,” “vapes,” “e-hookahs,” “vape pens,” and “electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS).” Some e-cigarettes look like regular cigarettes, cigars, or pipes. Some look like USB flash drives, pens, and other everyday items.

New ways to use tobacco are found just as quickly as new products hit the market; so if you haven’t heard of “Dripping,” you’re not alone.

With teenager’s use of electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) on the rise, like e-cigarettes or vape pens, they have experimented with new ways to get stronger hits of nicotine.

“Dripping” is the act of manually applying the liquid from an ENDS cartridge - typically called “e-liquid”- directly to the coils of an e-cigarette or other vaporizer product in order to produce thick clouds of vapor. In a recent study among high school students in Connecticut, about a fourth of ENDS users said they had hacked the device to allow dripping to get a stronger throat hit and to make bigger clouds of vapor. Tobacco manufacturers have also caught on to the dripping trend and have begun making vaping devices and e-cigarettes with exposed coils so users can apply the e-liquid directly without necessarily taking the device apart.

Dripping can expose the nicotine liquid to higher temperatures than normal which can release higher levels of the carcinogens found in e-liquid. Direct exposure or ingestion of nicotine has also been documented to cause vomiting, increased heart rate and blood pressure, paralysis of the muscles that control breathing and death.

Because ENDS have only recently become regulated by the Food and Drug Administration, there is still much that is unknown about these products so it’s not a good idea to use these devices until more is known about their safety and whether the chemicals in e-liquid are toxic.
CDC, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), state and local health departments, and other clinical and public health partners are investigating a multistate outbreak of lung injury associated with e-cigarette product (devices, liquids, refill pods, and/or cartridges) use.

- There are 530 cases of lung injury reported from 38 states and 1 U.S. territory. Seven deaths have been confirmed in 6 states.
- CDC has received complete sex and age data on 373 of 530 cases.
- Nearly three fourths (72%) of cases are male
- Two thirds (67%) of cases are 18 to 34 years old
- 16% of cases are under 18 years and 17% are 35 years or older
- All reported cases have a history of e-cigarette product use or vaping. No consistent evidence of an infectious cause has been discovered. Therefore, the suspected cause is a chemical exposure.
- Based on initial data from certain states we know: Most patients have reported a history of using e-cigarette products containing THC. Many patients have reported using THC and nicotine. Some have reported the use of e-cigarette products containing only nicotine.
- CDC does not yet know the specific cause of these lung injuries. The investigation has not identified any specific e-cigarette or vaping product (devices, liquids, refill pods, and/or cartridges) or substance that is linked to all cases.

What CDC recommends:

- If you are concerned about these specific health risks, CDC recommends that you consider refraining from using e-cigarette or vaping products.
- If you are an adult who used e-cigarettes containing nicotine to quit cigarette smoking, do not return to smoking cigarettes.
- If you have recently used an e-cigarette or vaping product and you have symptoms like those reported in this outbreak see a healthcare provider.
- Anyone who uses an e-cigarette or vaping product should not buy these products (e.g., e-cigarette or vaping products with THC or CBD oils) off the street, and should not modify or add any substances to these products that are not intended by the manufacturer.
- Youth and young adults should not use e-cigarette products.
- Women who are pregnant should not use e-cigarette products.
- Adults who do not currently use tobacco products should not start using e-cigarette products.

Effective October 1, 2019, Army, Air Force, and Navy Exchange concessionaires and vendors will be prohibited from selling e-cigarettes and vaping products. The Marine Corp Exchange has not yet made a decision to remove and prohibit the sale of vaping products.
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>September 2019</td>
<td>October 1, 2019</td>
<td>October 1, 2019</td>
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<td>October 2019</td>
<td>November 1, 2019</td>
<td>November 1, 2019</td>
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<td>November 2019</td>
<td>November 29, 2019</td>
<td>December 2, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 2019</td>
<td>December 31, 2019</td>
<td>January 2, 2020</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) 1-800-662-HELP

SAMHSA’s National Helpline, 1-800-662-HELP (4357), (also known as the Treatment Referral Routing Service) or TTY: 1-800-487-4889 is a confidential, free, 24-hour-a-day, 365-day-a-year, information service, in English and Spanish, for individuals and family members facing mental and/or substance use disorders. This service provides referrals to local treatment facilities, support groups, and community-based organizations. Callers can also order free publications and other information.

SAMHSA’s Behavioral Health Treatment Services Locator external icon


TRICARE offers substance use disorder treatment: https://www.tricare.mil/CoveredServices/IsItCovered/SubstanceUseDisorderTreatment
## 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 service.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-Oct</td>
<td>Quantico, VA</td>
<td>703-784-4963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-19 Oct</td>
<td>Ft Bragg, NC</td>
<td>910-643-9662/396-8591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-Oct</td>
<td>Ft Wainwright, AK</td>
<td>907-353-2095</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-Oct</td>
<td>USAG Benelux, Belgium</td>
<td>0032-65-44-6293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-Oct</td>
<td>Naval Submarine Base New London</td>
<td>860-694-3284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-Oct</td>
<td>NAS Pensacola, FL (Seminar)</td>
<td>850-452-5622</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-Oct</td>
<td>Ft Riley, KS</td>
<td>785-239-3320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-Oct</td>
<td>Ft Polk, LA</td>
<td>337-531-0363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-Oct</td>
<td>Offutt, AFB</td>
<td>402-294-2590/4566</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-Oct</td>
<td>Scott AFB, IL</td>
<td>618-256-5092</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-Oct</td>
<td>Whiteman AFB, MO</td>
<td>660-687-6457</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-Oct</td>
<td>Fairchild AFB, WA</td>
<td>509-247-5359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-Oct</td>
<td>Ft Knox, KY</td>
<td>502-624-1765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-Oct</td>
<td>Ft Rucker, AL</td>
<td>334-255-9124/9739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-Oct</td>
<td>Ft Meade, MD</td>
<td>301-677-9603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-Oct</td>
<td>Wright-Patterson AFB, OH</td>
<td>937-257-3592</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-26 Oct</td>
<td>Ft Hood, TX</td>
<td>254-287-5210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-Oct</td>
<td>Dover AFB, DE</td>
<td>302-677-4611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-Oct</td>
<td>Ft Leavenworth, KS</td>
<td>913-684-5583</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-Oct</td>
<td>Ft Hamilton, Brooklyn, NY</td>
<td>718-630-4552</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-Oct</td>
<td>Travis AFB, CA</td>
<td>707-424-3904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01-Nov</td>
<td>Ft Benning, GA</td>
<td>706-545-1805</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02-Nov</td>
<td>Ft Gordon, GA</td>
<td>706-791-2654/4774/1950</td>
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<tr>
<td>02-Nov</td>
<td>NAS Lemoore, CA</td>
<td>559-998-4524</td>
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<tr>
<td>02-Nov</td>
<td>Schofield Barracks, HI</td>
<td>808-655-1514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02-Nov</td>
<td>Tinker AFB, OK</td>
<td>405-739-2795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-Nov</td>
<td>Travis AFB, CA</td>
<td>707-424-3904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-Nov</td>
<td>JBSA Randolph, AFB</td>
<td>210-652-6880/5778</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).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORGANIZATION/POC</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
<th>EMAIL/WEB</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANGLICO Association All Eras</td>
<td>3 - 6 Oct 2019</td>
<td>(661) 725-3415</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jlluque@sbcglobal.net">jlluque@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CWO4 Joe L. Luque (Ret.)</td>
<td>Denver, CO</td>
<td></td>
<td>Facebook/ANGLICOAssociation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy-Marine Corps Retired Judge Advocate Association</td>
<td>4 - 6 Oct 2019</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:david.hagueusmc@gmail.com">david.hagueusmc@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BGen David Hague (Ret.)</td>
<td>Portland, OR</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:nmcrjaa8@comcast.net">nmcrjaa8@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capt George Wells USN (Ret.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.bill2va.info/">http://www.bill2va.info/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th Motor Transport Delta Co</td>
<td>9 - 13 Oct 2019</td>
<td>(660) 438-0745</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lloydcabra@yahoo.com">lloydcabra@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBS Class of 3-89 30 Year Reunion</td>
<td>18 - 19 Oct 2019</td>
<td>(910) 451-3685</td>
<td><a href="mailto:whitneymason@comcast.net">whitneymason@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Col Ly Fecteau</td>
<td>Quantico, VA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LtCol Whitney Mason (Ret.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Bn 7th Marines All Hands</td>
<td>25 - 26 Oct 2019</td>
<td>(775) 275-0804</td>
<td><a href="mailto:billpedrick@gmail.com">billpedrick@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Pedrick</td>
<td>Las Vegas, NV</td>
<td>(405) 255-7261</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dave Jones</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USMC Vietnam Tankers Association</td>
<td>31 Oct - 4 Nov 2019</td>
<td>(719) 495-5998</td>
<td><a href="mailto:johnwear2@verizon.net">johnwear2@verizon.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Wear</td>
<td>Seattle, WA</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.usmcvta.org/">http://www.usmcvta.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VMFA-251 Reunion</td>
<td>7 - 10 Nov 2019</td>
<td>(404) 944-1268</td>
<td><a href="mailto:frenchy@vmfa251.org">frenchy@vmfa251.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VMO/VMA/VMF/VMF-251 from 1941 to present. Family welcome.</td>
<td>N. Charleston, SC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine Forces Reserve</td>
<td>8 - 10 Nov 2019</td>
<td>(225) 803-8572</td>
<td><a href="mailto:marine_35@yahoo.com">marine_35@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jimmy L. Porter</td>
<td>New Orleans, LA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCAGCC all units 1978-1982 Maj Stew Rayfield (Ret.)</td>
<td>7 - 9 Feb 2020</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ironmajor@gmail.com">ironmajor@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twentynine Palms, CA</td>
<td>Twentynine Palms, CA</td>
<td></td>
<td>Facebook.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBS Class of 3-70 Reunion Paul Perra</td>
<td>9 - 14 Feb 2020</td>
<td>(978) 381-4746</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pperra@icloud.com">pperra@icloud.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
## USMC REUNIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORGANIZATION/POC</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
<th>EMAIL/SITE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TBS Class 1-80, Alpha Co Reunion</td>
<td>27 - 30 Apr 2020 Planning stages</td>
<td>(504) 717-7037 (865) 705-8933</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jwsneed70@gmail.com">jwsneed70@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:kl.wilcox@hotmail.com">kl.wilcox@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LiCol Jerry Sneed (Ret.) Ken Wilcox</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBS Class 6-70 Fox Co</td>
<td>30 Apr - 3 May 2020 Quantico, VA</td>
<td>(203) 366-3156 (703) 493-9435</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ltkanasky@earthlink.net">ltkanasky@earthlink.net</a> <a href="mailto:mitchyoungs@verizon.net">mitchyoungs@verizon.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Col Tom Kanasky, Jr. (Ret.) Mitch Youngs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine Barracks Marine Corps Security Force Co NWS Concord, CA</td>
<td>19 - 21 June 2020</td>
<td>(651) 278-7118</td>
<td><a href="mailto:paul91103@comcast.net">paul91103@comcast.net</a> Facebook: Marine Barracks/Marine Corps Security Force Co NWS CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Col Paul Adams (Ret.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E 2/5 Vietnam Pat Lisi</td>
<td>5 - 9 Oct 2020 Las Vegas, UT</td>
<td>(435) 215-3090</td>
<td><a href="mailto:patlisisgmac@gmail.com">patlisisgmac@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBS Class 1-77 A Co</td>
<td>15 - 19 Oct 2020</td>
<td>(619) 417-4306</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pepelb@aol.com">pepelb@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Leblanc</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>TBS 3/67 &amp; 41st OCC</td>
<td>22 - 25 Oct 2020</td>
<td>(510) 333-3165 (559) 273-9549</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rbwright1@mac.com">rbwright1@mac.com</a> <a href="mailto:pdisario@comcast.net">pdisario@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Col Robert Wright (Ret.) Paul Disario</td>
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<tr>
<td>TBS Class 6-71, “Fox Co” 50th Reunion</td>
<td>Jan - Feb 2022 Planning stages</td>
<td>(910) 270-4144</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jholdstein@gmail.com">jholdstein@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Col Doug Holdstein (Ret.)</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

**JUST A PINCH**

For only a couple seconds of discomfort, you get an entire year’s worth of protection from:
- Fever
- Aches
- Sore Throat
- Runny Nose
- Coughing
- Sneezing
- Much More

Get your flu shot today!

CDC recommends everyone 6 months and older get a flu vaccine by the end of October.
TRICARE covers the flu vaccine.
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. ***While the VA does not provide burial benefits for annuitants, the annuitant may be eligible for burial in a military cemetery.

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) and Indemnity Compensation)  [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

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) 604-6885 (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.

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

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. Within 7-10 business days after reporting the death to DFAS, you should receive a letter containing the following documents:
   
   a. SF1174 Claim for Unpaid Compensation of Deceased Member of the Uniformed Service
   b. Annuity account forms and instructions (if the decedent was enrolled in the Survivor Benefit Plan or the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan)
   c. W-4P Withholding Certificate for Pension or Annuity Payments
   d. Direct Deposit form

Complete the forms you received with your letter and return them with a copy of the retiree’s Death Certificate that includes cause of death to:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service
U.S. Military Retired Pay
8899 E 56th Street
Indianapolis IN 46249-1200

If you need assistance completing your claim forms, please call 800-321-1080.

3. 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 whether an election was made, call DFAS at 1-800-321-1080.

4. 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.

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

6. CONTACT THE VA at 1-800-827-1000 FOR BURIAL AND OTHER VA BENEFITS, such as VA disability payments. A copy of the sponsor’s DD 214 is required. Visit www.va.gov for more information.

7. CONTACT THE U.S. OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT at 1-888-767-6738 if the sponsor was receiving civil service pay.
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%3D1bpb10pnxz_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

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

**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.myimpactwithnmcrs.org/getsmart
TSP 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:

- Thriftline 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 on these days.
- 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).

Find out more regarding guest eligibility and rates at: http://www.innsofthecorps.com/index.html
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

ARMED FORCES 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
Phone: (314) 801-0800

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
(703) 784-9342/9343
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

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 Kenyon St. SE, Ste. 309; Washington, DC 20374-5023
1-877-366-2772, Fax: (202) 685-6610
CRSC@navy.mil

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
PR.center@nara.gov; www.archives.gov/st-louis

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

F
FEDVIP - Office of Personnel Management’s Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program
https://www.benefeds.com/

M
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
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Directory Assistance Pages

- Army Echoes: https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/echoes
- Coast Guard Evening Colors: www.uscg.mil/ppc/retnews
- Navy Shift Colors: www.navy.mil (Click “Links” and “Shift Colors”)


SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN: 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
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
- Health Beneficiary Counseling Assistance Coordinator: https://tricare.mil/bcacdao

TRICARE for LIFE: 1-866-773-0404; www.tricare4u.com

TRICARE Network Pharmacy Program: 1-877-363-1303;

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

U

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

V

VA SGLI/VGLI: 1-800-419-1473
VA STATUS OF HEADSTONES AND MARKERS: 1-800-697-6947

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Marine Barracks Washington:
8th and I, Washington, DC, www.barracks.marines.mil

Marine Corps History Division:
Marine Corps University
2044 Broadway Street, Quantico, VA 22134-5001
(703) 432-4874, www.history.division@usmcu.edu

Marine Corps Junior ROTC TECOM (C46JR):
1019 Elliot Rd., Quantico, VA 22134-5001
(703) 784-3706, www.mcjrotc.org

Marine Corps League National HQ:
3619 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Suite 115
Stafford, VA 22554, (703) 207-9588: jFoster@MCLeague.org
(Membership Manager)

Marine Corps Records Correspondence (MMRP-12):
2008 Elliott Rd., Quantico, VA 22134-5030
1-800-268-3710, (703) 784-3930/4646/5616

MCSS Community Services: www.usmc-mcsc.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 contact NPRC: (314) 801-0800.

Medicare: 1-800-633-4227; www.medicare.gov

National Museum of the Marine Corps:
18900 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Triangle, VA 22172
1-877-653-1775; www.usmcmuseum.org

National Personnel Records Center

Navy Lodge Worldwide Reservations Center:
1-800-NAVY-1NN, 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

Quantico National Cemetery:
(703) 221-2183; www.cem.va.gov/cem/nchp/quantico.asp

Sister Service Retiree Publications:

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -
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

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Retired Services and Pay Section (MMSR-6)

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Sgt Johnny Thammavongsa
Sgt Shenoah White

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Access your newsletter online at [https://www.hqmc.marines.mil/Agencies/Manpower-Reserve-Affairs-MMSR-6/](https://www.hqmc.marines.mil/Agencies/Manpower-Reserve-Affairs-MMSR-6/)

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Separation and Retirement Branch (MMSR)

Steven M. Hanscom, Branch Head
Major Clarissa N. Blair, Assistant Branch Head