

Afterburner

News for USAF Retired Personnel



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Retiree Council: Co-chairs meet with CSAF about issues affecting retired military entitlements, concerns

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFRNS) -- Retired Lt. Gen. Steven Polk and the 15th Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rod McKinley, Air Force Retiree Council co-chairmen, met with Chief of Staff Gen Norton A. Schwartz and other members of his staff at the Pentagon recently to discuss issues affecting retired military entitlements.

Topping the list of retiree concerns is health care. The Air Force Retiree Council and the co-chairmen strongly support: ensuring any TRICARE fee increases be reasonable and not exceed percentage of cost-of-living increases, full funding of the Defense Health Plan, and enacting legislation to provide adequate reimbursement for TRICARE and Medicare providers. These topics were discussed with Schwartz, as well as Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Charles B. Green, the Air Force's surgeon general during the co-chairmen's visit.

"We received very positive feedback from General Schwartz and General Green," said Polk. "They are aware of the concerns our retirees and survivors have about future health-care cost increases

and changes in benefits.

"Chief McKinley and I thank General Schwartz and all the other senior leaders who took the time to meet with us, and for their willingness to listen to what our retiree family has to say about the various issues."

The co-chairmen lead the Air Force Retiree Council that consists of 15 area representatives who represent more than 691,000 retirees and 102,000 survivors. Along with retiree council members, the co-chairmen appeal to all retirees, spouses and surviving spouses to consider volunteering at one of 102 retiree activities offices worldwide.

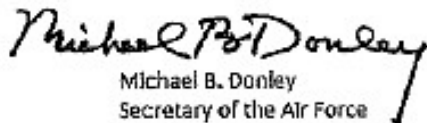
Retiree Activities Offices provide assistance and resources in many areas common to their fellow retirees and families. People interested in volunteering should visit the Air Force Retiree Services website at www.retirees.af.mil for contact information at their local RAO.

"We rely solely on our retiree community volunteers to staff our RAOs," said McKinley. "Our retiree volunteers are the epitome of the 'still serving' motto, and we can always use more. I urge anyone who can spare some time to consider volunteering at their local RAO, or even as a council representative."

www.retirees.af.mil




For the past 38 years, our Air Force family has truly demonstrated their "Commitment to Caring" as our Air Force Assistance Fund (AFAF) Campaign theme denotes. As we begin our 39th annual AFAF Campaign in 2012, we still look to our nearly 700,000 strong Retiree Force for advice, encouragement and support. Over the years, our retirees have been a tremendous source of support for AFAF. Please give serious thought to donating this year to the AFAF Campaign in support of those in uniform, your fellow retirees, and their surviving spouses. Thank you all for your faithful service to our Air Force and this great Nation.


Michael B. Donley
Secretary of the Air Force

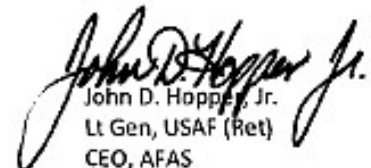


Our Air Force active duty, guard members, reservists, retirees, and family members have relied on our four AFAF affiliate charities for nearly four decades. Over that time, the charities have provided a full range of much-needed services—over \$22.2 million in 2010 alone. More than any others, our retiree population knows the vast amount of support given by Airmen for Airmen through the AFAF charities. As you look back over your career and recall the way we take care of our own I hope you will give careful consideration to making a donation. This year, it is not about Airmen giving more, but about more Airmen giving.


Norton A. Schwartz
General, USAF
Chief of Staff

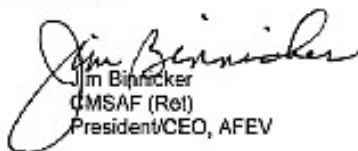


The Air Force Aid Society (AFAS) helps over 35,000 Airmen—active and retired—and eligible family members annually with financial assistance programs totaling about \$20 million. When you make a donation to the AFAS through the AFAF Campaign, you're helping Airmen fighting for our freedoms. Many are deployed and look to AFAS to be there for their loved ones while they are away. Please help us continue the proud tradition of Airmen helping Airmen by making a donation to AFAS. You have my promise that every dollar will be used to help Airmen. To learn more, visit www.afas.org


John D. Hopper, Jr.
Lt Gen, USAF (Ret)
CEO, AFAS




The Air Force Enlisted Village (AFEV) provides a home to over 500 retired Air Force widows. AFEV gives over \$1.1 million annually in aid to these widows to live in a safe, dignified, caring community. We provide support not just once, but for the life of our residents. Spouses are our priority, but we serve the entire Air Force Family. We recently aided an active duty member when the family was struck by suicide, and we provided a home for a retired Air Force couple when they lost their Minot, ND home to flooding. Your gift will help our Air Force family members in times of need or for the rest of their lives. www.afev.us.


Jim Binnicker
CMSAF (Ret)
President/CEO, AFEV

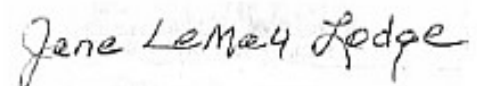


Air Force Village has provided over \$13 million in confidential support to 500+ widowed spouses in need...big numbers but real people. Most often catastrophic illness depleted their savings, or they outlived the money set aside for retirement. AFV affords aging widow(ers) peace of mind, a comfortable lifestyle and long-term health care, all with the dignity they deserve. Your gift to AFAF builds a life-line to the widowed spouses of real American heroes. 100 percent of your gift goes to support our widowed spouses. Today and tomorrow, more than ever, they need your help. www.airforcevillages.com


Chip Utterback
Lt General, USAF (Ret)
President/CEO, AFV



The LeMay Foundation continues to provide assistance to widow/widowers of retired Air Force personnel. It is our dedication to "taking care of our own" that has encouraged us to help provide a safe and wholesome lifestyle to the spouses who served along with their Air Force partners. We provide all types of assistance from monthly grants to one time help. It is with my parents' initiation that the Foundation was started and I am proud to continue their dedication to our military families. Your donations help us provide a comfort and security that would otherwise be unavailable to these spouses. www.lemay-foundation.org.


Jane LeMay Lodge
Chairman

AF Assistance Fund campaign needs retiree support

The 39th annual Air Force Assistance Fund "Commitment to Caring" campaign runs Feb. 6 through May 4.

Air Force retirees can still give to the fund through a one-time gift of cash or check, or by payroll deduction from retired pay.

People can contribute to:

--The Air Force Aid Society, which provides Airmen and their families worldwide with emergency financial assistance, education assistance, and an array of base-level community-enhancement programs.

-- Air Force Village is a continuing-care retirement community for retired and honorably served officers, spouses and family members. The charitable mission is to provide financial assistance to widowed

spouses in need.

--The Air Force Enlisted Village supports Teresa Village in Ft Walton Beach and Bob Hope Village in Shalimar, Fla., near Eglin Air Force Base. AFEV provides homes, care and financial assistance to widows and widowers of retired enlisted people.

--The General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation, which provides rent and financial assistance to widows and widowers of officer and enlisted retirees in their homes and communities through financial grants of assistance.

Retirees can give through one of the following ways:

-- Visit the Retiree Activities Office on any major Air Force installation. Complete an Air Force Form 2561

and donate by cash, check or payroll deduction from Air Force retired pay;

-- Mail a contribution (cash/check/money order) and contributors' form that is available below or online at www.assistancefund.org/, to Air Force Assistance Fund, AFPC/DPSIMF, 550 C Street West Ste 37, Randolph AFB TX 78150-4739;

-- For retiree payroll deduction, complete the Payroll Deduction Plan portion of the contributors' form, sign, and mail completed form to Air Force Assistance Fund, AFPC/DPSIMF, 550 C Street West Ste 37, Randolph AFB TX 78150-4739.

Air Force retiree annuitants and surviving family members don't have the payroll deduction option, but are welcome to support the campaign by check or money order.

2012 Air Force Assistance Fund				Mail To: Air Force Assistance Fund HQ AFPC/DPSIMF 550 C Street West Suite 37 Randolph AFB TX 78150-4739			
Name (last, first, middle initial)		Grade	SSN (PDP Only)				
Address			City	State	Zip Code		
IF CASH, COMPLETE SECTION A IF PDP, COMPLETE SECTION B		B. PDP	Allotment		Months	Total	
		Air Force Village (AFV)	706	\$	X 12 =	\$	
A. CASH		(The minimum allotment to any affiliate is \$1 per month).					
Air Force Village (AFV)			Air Force Aid Society (AFAS)	707	\$	X 12 =	\$
Air Force Aid Society (AFAS)			Air Force Enlisted Village (AFEV)	705	\$	X 12 =	\$
Air Force Enlisted Village (AFEV)			The Gen and Mrs Curtis E LeMay Foundation (LeMay)	704	\$	X 12 =	\$
Air Force Enlisted Village (AFEV)		Please Read: I hereby authorize deductions from my monthly retired pay beginning July 2012 for a period of 12 months in the amount shown to the affiliate(s) designated. This allotment will remain in effect for 12 months unless I request to terminate in writing to Defense Finance and Accounting Service - US Military Retirement Pay, PO Box 7130, London, KY 40742-7130			TOTAL PDP	\$	
The General and Mrs Curtis E. LeMay Foundation (LeMay)						FOR AFO USE ONLY CLASS C ALLOTMENT FOR AFAF CONTRIBUTION EFFECTIVE DATE: 1 JUL 2012	
TOTAL GIFT:						PREPARED BY:	
		SIGNATURE:					

Retiree pay statements available monthly on myPay

CLEVELAND – Military retirees can now receive a monthly electronic statement, known as an eRAS, using myPay.

The eRAS provides a complete summary of a military retiree's pay, deductions and benefits. The statement includes information about allotments, income tax withholdings, direct deposit information and a Survivor Benefit Plan counter that shows plan members how much longer they have to pay premiums.

Previously, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service issued an annual RAS each December or when a retiree's pay, benefits or other account information changed. The new eRAS was created in response to customer requests for more frequent communication about their accounts.

"We've received a lot of feedback from military retirees who wanted to see a monthly breakdown of their pay and benefit information," said Colonel Ralph Lunt, deputy director of DFAS Retired and Annuitant Pay. "We looked at a number of ways to deliver what our customers want without increasing the DOD's already strained budget, and we decided an electronic monthly statement was the way to go."

Military retirees can view their eRAS by logging into myPay at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>, the official online account management system for military members and DOD employees. Retirees who do not have current user IDs or passwords for myPay can find instructions on how to get them at www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary. Links to the instructions are located in the upper right hand corner of the Retired Military and Annuitants section under the "myPay Login Instructions" heading.

Retirees who choose to register their email addresses with myPay will receive an email notification every month when their eRAS is available. Additionally, keeping a



current email address on record allows DFAS to email a new temporary password in the event one is forgotten or if the retiree suspects their password has been compromised.

The myPay website is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week from anywhere in the world, and changes retirees make using myPay take effect in just three to five business days.

"Nearly 1 million military retirees are already seeing the benefits of going electronic," Lunt said.

Retirees who switch to myPay not only have hands-on control of their pay, but can receive their IRS Form 1099-R and other important documents sooner and more securely than those who rely on traditional mail delivery, said Lunt.

For more information about myPay, contact DFAS at 888-332-7411. (Courtesy of DFAS)

Paydays for military retirees change in 2012

The 2011 National Defense Authorization Act requires retirees, and those who receive portions of retired pay, now be paid on the first day of the month. When that day is a weekend or national holiday, the payday is moved to the previous business day. This change does not apply to annuitant pay.

January pay is paid Feb. 1
February pay is paid March 1
March pay is paid March 30
April pay is paid May 1

May pay is paid June 1
June pay is paid June 29
July pay is paid Aug. 1
August pay is paid Aug. 31

September pay is paid Oct. 1
October pay is paid Nov. 1
November pay is paid Nov. 30
December pay is paid Dec. 31

No evidence that burn pits cause health problems

by Lisa Daniel
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON -- An Institute of Medicine study released last fall found no evidence between exposure to burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan and long-term health problems.

A 14-member committee of the institute, the nonprofit health research arm of the National Academy of Sciences, could neither prove nor disprove that service members' exposure to burning trash piles in Iraq and Afghanistan could cause long-term health problems, and recommended that more studies be done, a summary of the report says.

The report further states that ambient air pollution may pose greater health risks than the abundance of chemicals emitted from military burn pits.

The study was done at the request of the Veterans Affairs Department after some service members, veterans and Congress members expressed concerns about the safety of people who were in the vicinity of the burn pits, especially in the early days of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, when the contents of the pits were less regulated.

The committee focused its research on air samplings from a burn pit in Balad, Iraq, where safety questions were raised.

The samplings were taken in 2007 and 2009. Because there is

virtually no data on health outcomes from the chemical mixtures found at the pit, the committee sought information on similar chemical exposures to people most like those in the military: firefighters -- including those with exposure to wildland and chemical fires -- and incinerator workers. They determined, however, that the information still was insufficient to draw a conclusion about an association between the air samplings and long-term health outcomes.

The issue has been studied extensively in the past few years and there has been no finding of a causal relationship, R. Craig Postlewaite, the department's chief of health assurance, said in an Oct. 27 interview with American Forces Press Service and the Pentagon Channel.

"The toxicology isn't there; the science isn't there," he said.

Still, Postlewaite said, the department is committed to studying the matter, and will do further studies with VA to provide for longer follow up with exposed troops, a better assessment of exposures, and to fill in data gaps.

"We acknowledge there could be short-term, acute health effects" from the burn pits, he said, and it is plausible that some people could be adversely affected in the long term -- but the studies have yet to show that.

The military stopped using burn

pits in Iraq in 2009, Postlewaite said, and is drawing down the number in Afghanistan. In both areas, he said, no other options were available for waste removal, especially early on in military operations there.

"We now have strict regulations about what can go into burn pits and where they are located," he said.

The committee found that local air pollution may be more of a factor in health problems than the burning pits.

"The committee's review of the literature and the data from [Balad] suggests that service in Iraq or Afghanistan -- that is, a broader consideration of air pollution than exposure only to burn pit emissions -- might be associated with long-term health effects, particularly in highly exposed populations such as those who worked at the burn pit or susceptible populations -- for example, those who have asthma -- mainly because of the high ambient concentrations of particulate matter," the report says.

The Defense Department routinely analyzes air, water and soil samples before troops deploy, but sometimes that is not enough, Postlewaite said.

"We send our people all over the world, ... and sometimes they end up in situations where there is a potential [environmental] health risk we have little control over," he said.

The Total Force Service Center 800-525-0102

The Total Force Service Center can deliver personnel services to the retiree family via telephone any time and from any location.

This number is available worldwide using the AT&T USA Direct global dialing codes at www.business.att.com/bt/dial_guide.jsp.



Retiree Services undergoes streamlining to reduce overhead

by Tammy Courmoyer
Afterburner editor

As part of the secretary and chief of staff of the Air Force efficiencies efforts, processes are being streamlined at the Air Force Personnel Center to reduce overhead.

The Retiree Services office was not exempt from the efficiencies efforts which resulted in some positions being eliminated and much of the workload being distributed throughout different areas of the Air Force Personnel Center. Here is a new contact list for services:

Afterburner only, 210-565-2334,
afterburner@us.af.mil

General customer service, 800-525-0102

Survivor Benefit Plan, 210-565-2273

As available dollars shrink, agencies must rely on electronic tools to communicate - including telephone menus, e-mail, websites, Facebook and others. Customer service most often begins with self-service. Air Force leaders must be more efficient with their resources and the phrase "more bang for the buck" has never been more of a reality than now.

Nevertheless, the Air Force will



continue to take care of retirees using every tool available, including the Air Force Retiree Services website at www.retirees.af.mil.

The Afterburner is one tool the Air Force uses to ensure you have the information you need, and the best way to ensure you continue to receive the Afterburner is to make the switch to the electronic version. Currently, it costs about \$300,000 to print and mail each issue of the Afterburner to about 750,000 retirees and annuitants. When funding permits, two issues are produced each year. However, senior leaders are looking for ways to cut costs such as limiting the number of mailed hard copies or making the Afterburner an online-only product. In the event that the Afterburner becomes an online

product only, it is critical that individuals with e-mail and Internet access opt out of the hard-copy. To do so, see back page for instructions.

In other news...

Many retirees and annuitants have called recently to ask about their tax forms or account statements. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service provides retiree and annuitant account statements and 1099-Rs needed to file income tax returns. Those tax documents are available online annually in early December for those with an online myPay account. People who still have hard copies mailed to them should have received their tax documents late December through late January.

If you have not received your documents, you can call DFAS at 800-321-1080. Retirees can write to Defense Finance and Accounting Service, U.S. Military Retirement Pay, P.O. Box 7130, London, KY 40742-7130. Annuitants can write to Defense Finance and Accounting Service, U.S. Military Retirement Pay, P.O. Box 7131, London, KY 40742-7131.

I can't stress enough how easy it is to handle pay matters using the myPay online service. All the statements and tax forms are available whenever you need them without having to call DFAS and wait for the next available customer service representative.

Time to say goodbye

It is with a heavy heart that I say goodbye. The Afterburner editor position was one of the positions eliminated during recent efficiencies cuts. After this issue, AFPC Public Affairs will produce the Afterburner, as well as maintain the Retiree Service website and manage the Air Force Retiree News Service. It has been an honor and a privilege serving my retiree family these past five-plus years. I thank you for your service to our country and the U.S. Air Force.

Afterburner

News for USAF Retired Personnel

The *Afterburner* is authorized by Air Force Instruction 36-3106. When funding permits, it is printed and mailed twice a year by Air Force Personnel Center's Public Affairs Office. Distribution: Individuals entitled to Air Force retired pay; unremarried surviving spouses of retirees (automatically if they are entitled to an annuity under Survivor Benefit Plan and/or the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan, or the Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan); unremarried nonannuitant surviving spouses of deceased Air Force members who were entitled to receive retired pay, may receive the *Afterburner* by requesting it from the address below. The *Afterburner* is not sent to former spouses nor to retirees of other services. Additional copies are not available. The *Afterburner* address is:

AFPC/PA
550 C Street W Ste 43
Randolph AFB TX 78150

E-mail address for opting out of receiving the hard copy is afterburner@us.af.mil and the phone number is (210) 565-2334. The *Afterburner* is available on the Internet at www.retirees.af.mil. Retirees may write to the Co-chairmen of the Air Force Retiree Council at: AFPC/CCU, 550 C Street W Ste 8, Randolph AFB TX 78150. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND CHANGE-OF-ADDRESS NOTIFICATIONS TO THE ADDRESS ABOVE.** AFPC/DPSIAR relies on the address people have on file with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service to create mailing labels. Contact DFAS at 800-321-1080.

Charter Chief

Retiree receives honors, visits Air Force Memorial

by Tech. Sgt. Richard A. Williams Jr.
Air Force Public Affairs Agency

WASHINGTON -- Members of the National Capital Region and Andrews Air Force Base, Md., Chiefs Groups took time to honor one of the Air Force's "Charter Chiefs" during a small ceremony at the Air Force Memorial recently.

Retired Chief Master Sgt. Francis Collier was one of the original 625 enlisted Airmen promoted to chief master sergeant Dec. 1, 1959, as a result of the Career Compensation Act of 1958.

Collier is a northern Virginia resident but had never been to the Air Force Memorial, and Chief Master Sgt. Daniel Reeves, a member of the NCR Chiefs Group, said area chiefs wanted to ensure he and his family had the opportunity to visit.

"When the rank was first established, it was the Charter Chiefs who paved the way for all of us to follow," Reeves said. "The first chiefs led the way without the honor and prestige the rank of chief master sergeant holds today."

During the event, Collier received challenge coins from some of the chiefs in attendance and was also presented with a portrait of the Air Force Memorial to commemorate his visit.

"My most enjoyable time in the Air Force was being sergeant major of the 5th Air Force in Japan," Collier said.

Collier began his career in 1942 as a member of the "brown shoe Army" before the creation of the Air Force in 1947.

Congress created the "super" grades as a part of the Career Compensation Act of 1958 and decreed that 1 percent of the enlisted force could be in pay grade E-9 and 2 percent in pay grade E-8.

He spent time as a management analyst with the Air Research and Development Command that later became Air Force Materiel Command.

Collier was also a first sergeant in Germany shortly after World War II and said it was an "extremely interesting," experience.

"The most important tasks performed by chiefs today are to recognize and fix what is wrong with their organization, to advocate for changes which need to be made even if they are unpopular and to be both



Chief Master Sgt. Francis Collier (left) receives a handshake from Lt. Gen. Robert W. Burns, the 5th Air Force commander, upon his promotion to the "new grade" of chief master sergeant Dec. 1, 1959. Collier was one of 625 Airmen promoted to the new super grade of chief master sergeant as a result of the Career Compensation Act of 1958. (Courtesy photo)

encouraging and honest in both word and deed throughout all of their interactions," Reeves said.

He said men like Collier really paved the way during a time in Air Force history when the newly formed rank of chief master sergeant had little, if any interaction, with senior leaders even at the base level.

"As the late retired Chief Master Sgt. James Flaschenriem, another Charter Chief said, 'they were left to sink or swim on their own,'" Reeves said.

As Charter Chiefs like Collier retired, a Charter Chiefs Group was formed, Reeves said, that met regularly at alumni events, stayed informed on issues through a newsletter and spoke on behalf of the organization to elements of former and current Air Force leaders.

Ceremonies like the Air Force Memorial gathering for Collier are not uncommon as a way to honor a Charter Chief, Reeves said, but this was something in which local chiefs had been unable to do in recent years.

"The Charter Chiefs support today's chiefs with their example, their grace and their sacrifice as the first chief master sergeants," Reeves said. "Our heritage and legacy belongs to men like Chief Collier and their pioneering work."

Remarriage affects retiree survivor coverage

There are several options available to a retiree participating in the Survivor Benefit Plan with spouse or spouse and child coverage when the spouse is lost through death, divorce, or annulment, and the retiree later remarries.

Unless former-spouse coverage is elected as part of a divorce, retirees who remarry have three choices. They can:

- Resume the prior level of spouse coverage.
- Elect not to resume spouse SBP coverage. This election will not affect existing child coverage, if any. This election is irrevocable.
- If the original election was for reduced coverage, the retiree may request that the base amount be increased up to and including full retired pay. If this option is elected, the retiree must pay the Defense Finance and Accounting Service the difference between the SBP cost previously paid and the costs, with interest, which would have been paid if the higher level of coverage had originally been elected. This additional payment must be completed before the first anniversary of marriage.

If payment is not completed before the first anniversary of marriage, the election is null and void, and spouse coverage will be resumed at the previous level. If partial payment has been made on the amount due for increased coverage, a refund of the partial payment will be made.

Retirees must notify the Defense Finance and Accounting Service of their desired election within one year of the new marriage or the first option listed above automatically takes effect the date the new spouse becomes an eligible beneficiary. DFAS should be promptly notified of the remarriage to avoid a large debt for unpaid premiums.

"Simply getting your new spouse an ID card does not update your pay records with DFAS," said Pat Peek, chief of the Air Force's SBP program. "You must notify DFAS separately."

Additional rules apply, such as:

- The member may not add child coverage by virtue of the remarriage alone if child coverage was previously bypassed.
- Child coverage may not be eliminated based upon a remarriage.
- The level of coverage may not be reduced upon remarriage.

A retiree married at retirement who declines SBP spouse coverage cannot later enroll in the plan for that spouse or any future spouse unless during a congressionally approved open enrollment period. Normally,

penalties and extra charges are assessed during these periods.

A new spouse becomes an eligible beneficiary on the first anniversary of marriage or the birth of a child of the marriage, if earlier. As an exception, a spouse divorced from a retiree who later remarries that retiree becomes an eligible beneficiary immediately upon remarriage if the member:

- Retired after Sept. 20 1972 and initially elected coverage for that spouse at retirement, or
- Retired before Sept. 21 1972 and elected coverage for that spouse during the initial enrollment period for retirees.

For more information, contact DFAS at 800-321-1080.



Sabre rattling in Hawaii

Retired Lt. Gen. Winton W. "Bones" Marshall, a combat commander, Korean War ace and former Pacific Air Forces vice commander, and his wife, Millie, who served in World War II as one of the original Women Airforce Service Pilots, pose for a photo in front of the newly repainted static F-86E Sabre fighter aircraft at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. PACAF and 15th Wing leaders dedicated the F-86E Sabre to Marshall during a ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam recently. While assigned as the 335th Fighter Squadron commander at Langley Air Force Base, Va., Marshall deployed to Korea and became the fifth U.S. jet ace of the Korean War. He is credited with 6 1/2 enemy aircraft destroyed, seven probable aircraft destroyed and six aircraft damaged. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Gustavo Gonzalez)

Air Force Memorial strives toward preserving heritage

The U.S. Air Force Memorial honors the service and sacrifices of the men and women of the U.S. Air Force and its predecessor heritage organizations: the Aeronautical Division, U.S. Signal Corps; Aviation Section, U.S. Signal Corps; Division of Military Aeronautics, Secretary of War; Army Air Service; Army Air Corps; and Army Air Forces.

Dedicated in 2006 and located in Arlington, Va., the Air Force Memorial overlooks the Pentagon and Arlington National Cemetery, standing tall against the nation's capital skyline.

The Air Force Memorial Foundation, the organization created to plan for and to build the memorial, continues today as an affiliate of the Air Force Association.

The foundation is a nonprofit organization working continually to honor Airmen and preserving the Air Force's heritage. Through tax deductible donations, the memorial is able to continue honoring America's Airmen through a variety of events and programs throughout the year such as laying wreaths, Veterans Day and Memorial Day ceremonies, and the Summer Concert Series.



The Air Force Memorial was given to the nation during its formal dedication Oct. 14, 2006. (Courtesy photo)

Individuals can donate at on the memorial's website at <http://www.airforcememorial.org>, or send a donation to Air Force Memorial Foundation, One Air Force Memorial Drive, Arlington, VA 22204. For more information, call 703-979-0674, or send email to afmf@airforcememorial.org.

To learn more about memorial events and Air Force history, people can also visit the memorial's Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/AirForceMemorial>.

Please do not send address changes to *Afterburner*

Please **DO NOT** send your U.S. Postal Service change-of-address announcements to the *Afterburner*. Mailing labels used to send the *Afterburner* are based on addresses already on file with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service. Any change announcements sent to the *Afterburner* cannot be processed or forwarded, and are shredded.

Retirees must change their address by calling 800-321-1080. (Do not mention the *Afterburner* or you may be referred elsewhere.) If you have an myPay account you can make the change online. You can fax your change to 800-469-6559, or send it to DFAS, US Military Retirement Pay, PO Box 7130, London KY 40742-7130.

Air Force Survivor Benefit Plan annuitants must call DFAS at the number above, or use their online myPay account. The fax number for annuitants is 800-982-8459 or mail the change to DFAS, US Military Annuitant Pay, PO Box 7131, London KY 40742-7131.

Only non-annuitants should send changes to the *Afterburner* at AFPC/PA, 550 C Street W Ste 43, Randolph AFB TX 78150.



Air Force Retiree Activities Offices

Retiree Activities Offices are made up of volunteers from all services including surviving spouses. Their charter is to coordinate, establish and staff an office on an active-duty, Reserve or Guard base through command channels that will assist retirees with myriad actions.

These actions include: serving as an information center for space-available travel, TRICARE, base services, etc; offering referrals for financial assistance and pay matters; counseling active-duty Airmen nearing

retirement; and providing literature on retirement issues.

Another major activity involves working with base agencies to set up Retiree Activity Day events offering briefings by different agencies on respective services, tax preparation and advice, staff judge advocate assistance, base tours, Defense Finance and Accounting Service, etc.

Not all states or countries have an established Air Force RAO. The following is a listing of Air Force-wide RAOs:

Alabama

Maxwell
Phone: 334-953-6725
Email: retiree.affairs@maxwell.af.mil

Alaska

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- Col. Milton L. Felch, Area I representative - Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Washington
- Chief Master Sgt. Thomas P. Kelley, Area II representative - California
- Chief Master Sgt. Kathleen E. Rose, Area III representative - Arizona and New Mexico
- Lt. Col. John S. Lannefeld, Area IV representative - Colorado, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming
- Chief Master Sgt. Danny G. Holwerda, Area V representative - Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin
- Chief Master Sgt. Robert A. Merritt Jr., Area VI representative - Texas
- Chief Master Sgt. James T. Watson, Area VII representative - Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma
- Lt. Col. Richard I. Brubaker, Area VIII representative - Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia
- Brig. Gen. Richard R. Moss, Area IX representative - Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee
- Col. William W. Graham, Area X representative - Florida (Includes Puerto Rico and Panama)
- Lt. Col. Thomas G. Hogg, Area XI representative - Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia
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- Lt Col Nathan D. Hathorne, Area XIV representative - Pacific Region (includes Alaska and Hawaii)
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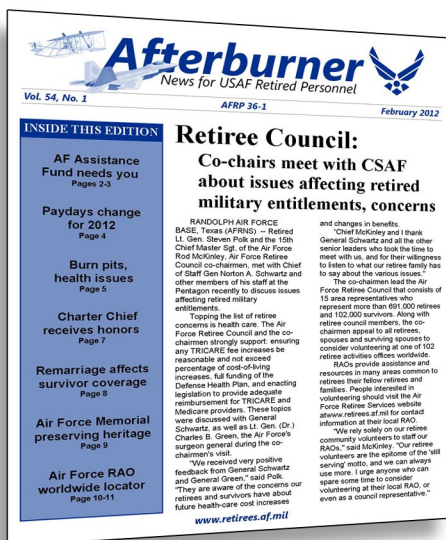
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