

RETIREE NEWSLETTER

TRAVIS AFB

CALIFORNIA

SUMMER 2012

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THE RETIREE NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED BY THE RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE TO INFORM RETIREES, ANNUITANTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS RESIDING IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA OF CHANGES IN LEGISLATION, DOD POLICIES AND OTHER MATTERS AFFECTING THEIR MILITARY RIGHTS, BENEFITS AND OBLIGATIONS. THERE IS ALSO INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE AIR BASE, WHILE EVERY EFFORT IS MADE TO VERIFY THE CONTENT, THE RAO OFFICE STAFF CANNOT GUARANTEE THE ACCURACY OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
60TH AMW/CVR
540 AIRLIFT DRIVE
TRAVIS AFB, CA 94535

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DIRECTOR'S GREETING

GREETINGS, MY FELLOW SERVICE MEMBERS, ACTIVE DUTY, VETERANS AND RETIREES. WE THE (RAO) RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE STAFF REMAIN AVAILABLE TO ASSIST ALL OF YOU AND OR YOUR ANNUITANTS IN ANY WAY THAT WE CAN, TO REQUEST CONSIDERATION FOR BENEFITS FROM THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION. OUR COMPUTER IS FULLY OPERATIONAL AND WE ARE ABLE TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY FORMS TO REQUEST MEDICAL ASSISTANCE. WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON AND THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE FOR MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR THE RAO TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO YOU.

THE RAO OFFICE NO LONGER PROVIDES POSTAL DELIVERY (HARD COPY) OF OUR NEWSLETTER. THE NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE ON-LINE; PERSONS WITHOUT HOME COMPUTER ACCESS MAY VISIT THE BASE LIBRARY, FAMILY OR FRIENDS TO PRINT A COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER. THE INSTALLATION VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON WAS A ROUSING SUCCESS, CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RAO VOLUNTEER FOR THE FIRST QUARTER 2012, MSGT RICHARD LOWDON AND TO SGT DONALD CAHAN OUR RAO VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR, 2011. DURING THE PAST QUARTER, WE HAVE HAD NUMEROUS CALLS AND OFFICE VISITS COVERING A VARIETY OF SUBJECTS. WE WILL ATTEMPT TO ADDRESS THESE SUBJECTS IN THIS SUMMER NEWSLETTER.

WHILE WE ARE FORTUNATE TO OPERATE FULL-TIME MONDAYS THROUGH FRIDAYS (9:00AM – 3:00PM) VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED AT THE DAVID GRANT MEDICAL CENTER (DGMC). WE ARE GRATEFUL TO OUR NEWEST VOLUNTEERS AT THE RAO OFFICE, WELCOME TO COLONEL ROBERT BOYD AND CMSGT JERRY EDMONDS. INTERESTED PERSONS MAY CALL ME DURING OFFICE HOURS, AT THE NUMBERS LISTED BELOW. OUR NEWSLETTER WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION FROM COMMAND AND BASE FACILITIES TO KEEP YOU INFORMED. PHONE: 707-424-3904/3905 OR E-MAIL [Http://WWW.TRAVIS.AF.MIL/UNITS/RAO](http://WWW.TRAVIS.AF.MIL/UNITS/RAO)

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60th AMW Medical Group: (TAFB)

Information.....	424-7300
Appointments.....	424-3000
Appointments (toll free).....	(800) 248-3462
Pharmacy Refills.....	423-7600
TRICARE.....	(888) 874-9378 or(707) 423-3472/7921
Health Benefits (only – Tri-care).....	423-7921

ANNUAL VA, DEERS AND LEGAL DOCUMENT UPDATE

Retirees are urged to review their legal documents often, especially as significant life events such as changes in wills or trust, marriage, childbirth, death or divorce occur. These changes should be reported to the Veteran Administration (VA), Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) and the Military Legal Assistance Office (MLAO) within 30 days of the effective date. Also a review of your Military Account Statement (MRAS) will insure the beneficiary you wish to receive benefits in the event of your death, is in fact reported correctly. Talk to your loved ones about how your estate should be handled. Visit VA, DEERS, MLAO and MRAS/DFAS annually to insure your record is current. You can verify and update DEERS at 1-800-538-9552, by Fax 1-831-655-8317, or visit www.TRICARE.mil/DEERS. Contact the Veterans Administration at 1-800-827-1000 or at www.va.gov. See your annual Military Account Statement for contact information or visit www.dfas.mypay.mil. Call or visit your nearest Military Legal Assistance Office for help with wills or trust.

VA ACTIVATES SURVIVING SPOUSE WEBSITE

The Department of Veteran Affairs has created a new internet website for surviving spouses and dependents of military personnel who died on active duty and for survivors and dependents of veterans who died after leaving the service. The site is organized into two broad categories – death in service and death after service. It provides visitors with information about a wide range of benefits for surviving spouse, dependent children, and dependent parents of diseased veterans and active duty personnel. The site also has information from, and links to, other federal agencies and organizations that offer benefits and services to survivors and dependents. Several options also apply to surviving retirees participating in the Survivor Benefit Plan, (SBP), where the spouse is lost through death, divorce, or annulment, and the retiree later remarries. Unless former spouse coverage elected as part of the divorce, retirees who remarry have three choices. (1) They must resume the prior level of coverage within the first twelve (12) months of the new marriage; (2) Elect not to resume spouse SBP coverage, (this election is irrevocable), this election will not affect dependent coverage; or (3) If the original election was for reduced coverage, the retiree may request the base amount be increased. There is also a link to frequently asked questions, and answers most questions. For more specific questions the site tells how to contact the VA directly. The new website can be found at <http://www.vba.va.gov/survivors> or by clicking the “Survivors Benefits” button on the panel of <http://www.vba.va.gov>.

ATTENTION VETERANS AND RETIREES NEAR SACRAMENTO

Veterans and Retirees living in and near Sacramento do not have to travel or phone the Travis Retiree Activities Office for information or assistance. There is an office at McClellan Park, attn: CMSGT MOSES. You can seek or have your questions answered there. They are open Mondays through Thursdays from 0900 to 1500 hours. The phone number is (916) 923-4979, Fax to (916) 646-2047. The mailing address is 5342 Dudley Blvd, McClellan AFB, CA 95652.

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME

Residents of the Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH) take great comfort in knowing that they will receive top-rated independent, assisted and long term care, as needed, regardless of financial ability. Accredited by the Commission on Joint California Accreditation of Health Care Organization (JCAHCO), AFRH provides increased levels of care for residents who require additional care services. This benefit may now be more attractive than ever for the following reason: Affordable rates-residency fees for independent living at AFRN are 35 percent of total income, with a monthly cap similar to the \$1107.00 in Washington, D. C. Since the fee is a percentage of income, it is affordable to all, and the one low fee covers: living quarters, three meals per day, including special dietary needs, recreational facilities and activities that include bowling, ceramics, and bus trips to local and regional attractions such as sporting events and shopping. Contact the Retiree Activities Office for additional information. (707)-424-3904 or (707)-424-3905.

EXTENTION OF “STOP LOSS” PAY DEADLINE

Service members and veterans whose military service was involuntarily extended under the “Stop Loss” program between the 9/11 terrorist attacks and September 30, 2009, are eligible for special retroactive pay, and they now have more time to apply for it. Eligible service members, veterans and their beneficiaries have until October 21, 2012, to apply for Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay. This special pay is compensation for the hardships the involuntary extensions caused. Eligible members or their beneficiaries may submit a claim to their respective military service to receive \$500.00 for each full or partial month served in a Stop Loss Status, or for more information or submission requirements and service-links, go to <http://www.defense.g>

MILITARY “HERO 2 HIRED” (H2H) APPLICATIONS

Our soldiers, veterans and families face a number of challenges transitioning from military to civilian life, among these is finding a productive post-military career. More than 130,000 soldiers separated from the Army last year, and many are still unemployed. The Army will utilize the Hero 2 Hired (H2H) program as an interim employment application/tool to provide one primary location where service members of all components, veterans, and family members can connect with private industry for employment opportunities. This application is web-based and is able to translate military occupational skills, provide career path exploration, upload resumes, allow customized job searches, enable employer to also search for veterans, and provide performance metrics. H2H will eventually be included on e-Benefits. <<https://h2h.jobs/>>

VETERANS CEMETERY IN DIXON

The Veterans Cemetery, located at 5810 Midway Road in Dixon, California, 95620. has been named the Sacramento Valley VA National Cemetery. The Director Cynthia Nune, can be contacted at 5810 Midway Road in Dixon, Ca 95620 Office Phone: (707) 693-2460,; and FAX: (707) 693-2479. E-mail: <http://www.amvets.org/locate-service-officer/Directions>.

I-80 East from San Francisco/Fairfield/Vacaville between Vacaville and Dixon, take the Midway Road exit toward Lewis Road stay to the right and travel east on Midway Road approximately one mile.

I-80 West from Sacramento/Davis/Dixon between Dixon and Vacaville take the Midway Road exit toward Lewis Road turn left onto Oday Road, turn right onto Midway Road travel approximately one mile.

Note: These directions/instructions are intended for coordination with your funeral home, or if there is no funeral home direction, family can make the request directly.

STEP1: FAX (866) 900-6417 (Fax available at RAO see numbers

Fax all discharge documents (DD214, separation documents to the National Cemetery Scheduling Center

STEP 2: Call (800) 535-1117

After waiting at least 15 minutes, follow up with a phone call to the National Cemetery Scheduling Center.

STEP3: MILITARY HONORS (Family Request)

After you have scheduled with the National Cemetery Scheduling Center and have a date and time for burial you can request military honors from the veterans branch of service.

U.S. NAVY (800) 326-3822

U.S. COAST GUARD (310) 521-6106

U.S. AIR FORCE (800) 586-8402 or (707) 424-5108

U.S. MARINES (866) 826-3628 or Sgt Varcacados (916) 387-7224 or MSgt Cole (916) 387-7224

U.S. ARMY (888) 634-7496, (916) 854-3821 or call Sgt Peggy Withers (916) 869-8822

In the event the Funeral Director cannot make contact with one of the centers listed above, please contact this office: Office of the Adjutant General, Attn: Funeral Honors Program PH: (916) 854-3822. (office hours are Monday – Friday 8:00am – 4:30pm)

PET FOR PATRIOTS

Pets for Patriots is an organization that helps a veteran or active, reserve, or retired service member to adopt a mature Dog or Cat from one of many high risk shelters around the country. The organization provides the veteran with a gift card for purchases of the supplies, toys and other basics for the new pet plus discounts on veterinary fees. For information, visit the Pets for Patriots website.

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS (area code 707) unless otherwise stated.

Accounting & Finance.....	424-8859
Casualty Reporting & assistance	4242016
Commissary.....	437-4004
Customer Service (DEERS/ID Card Appt).....	424-8483/8468/4075
Legal Office (wills, Trust & Taxes).....	424-3251
Retiree Activities Office.....	424-3904/3905
Security Police.....	424-2227
Space "A" (travel).....	424-1854
Ticket Tours (Outdoor Recreation).....	424-5659
Vehicle Registration.....	4243770
Veterinary Clinic.....	424-3010/2985
Long Distance Information (no area code).....	411

