



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIRFORCE  
LACKLAND RETIREE ACTIVITY  
OFFICE  
NEWSLETTER JULY 2011**



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**National Immunization Awareness Month**

We are reminded by TMA that August is National Immunization Awareness Month. If you are planning a trip make sure you have your required vaccinations and get them documented

TRICARE beneficiaries should speak with their Primary Care Manager (PCM) a few months prior to leaving. Your PCM can advise you on which vaccinations are mandatory and which are recommended. TRICARE covers all doses recommended by the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Immunizations for active duty family members whose sponsors have permanent change of station orders to overseas locations are also covered. Beneficiaries can check with their PCM or regional health care contractor to find out if the immunization they need is covered  
(News by NAUS)

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**ROBERT C ZASKE  
Director RAO**

We here at the Retiree Activity Office hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable 4<sup>th</sup> of July. The director and my volunteers donate our time to keep our veterans informed of new happenings... The Retiree Activity Office is located in bldg. 5616 room 129/130. As of the 1<sup>st</sup> of June the Brooks Retiree Activity Office has been combined with the Lackland Retiree Activity Office. Our office phone numbers are 210 671 2728, 210 671 5492 & 210 671 9182. Our web site is [www.lackland.af.mil](http://www.lackland.af.mil) when it comes up click on the Eagle that is on the right hand side of your screen this will take you to our RAO area.

**New TRICARE Screening Test**

TRICARE has added coverage for an enhanced cervical cancer-screening test that helps detect the presence of the human papillomavirus (HPV). The HPV DNA test is covered as a cervical cancer screening under TRICARE's clinical preventive services when performed in conjunction with a Pap smear for women aged 30 and older. Coverage is based on national guidelines for the use of HPV DNA testing and is retroactive to Sept. 7, 2010. Preauthorization for HPV testing is not required, and beneficiaries have no copayments or cost-shares for routine cervical cancer screening under TRICARE. In addition, TRICARE covers the CDC recommended

vaccine series to prevent HPV infection in girls. The HPV vaccine is recommended for girls 11 or 12 years of age, but doctors may start the series in girls as young as 9 years old, and can give catch-up vaccinations through 26 years of age for those who have not completed the vaccine series. TRICARE also covers screening for breast, colorectal and prostate cancer without cost shares or copays. For more information, visit the TRICARE Preventative Services

(NAUS NEWS)

### **The VA Million Veteran Program**

The VA Million Veteran Program is an effort to consolidate genetic, military exposure, health, and lifestyle information together in one single database. The database will be used by authorized researchers to conduct health and wellness studies to determine which genetic variations are associated with particular health issues. For more places to protect the privacy and, visit the VA Million Veteran Program website confidentiality of those veterans who take part information about MVP, including safeguards in place to protect the privacy and confidentiality of those veterans who take part, visit the VA MILLION VETAN Program website.

(NAUS NEWS)

### **WHO WILL RECEIVE YOUR FINAL PAYCHECK?**

Retired Pay earned not paid in the final month of your life is listed as your Arrears of pay (AOP) beneficiary. Defense Finance (DFAS) will contact this person

for help with closing your account. You can choose anyone, from family members to friends to associates, to be your AOP beneficiary. But if you don't design someone, it could cause undue stress and financial hardship for your survivors during an already difficult time. It can take many months to locate your survivors, identify who is legally entitled to your pay, and then make a payment.

Fortunately, this situation is easy to prevent. You can establish or change your beneficiary at any time.

### **HOW TO DESIGNATE OR CHANGE A BENEFICIARY**

To designate or change your Arrears of Pay (AOP) beneficiary, all you have to do is follow these simple steps.

1. Complete a Designation of Beneficiary Information form (DD 2894). You can find this form at [www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/eforms/dd2894.pdf](http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/eforms/dd2894.pdf)
2. Sign and date the form. (unsigned and undated forms will not be processed)
3. **Mail** or fax the form to:  
**DFAS U.S. MILITARY RETIRED PAY**  
**P.O. BOX 7130**  
**LONDON, KY 40742-7130**

**FAX: 1 800 469 6559**

It is vital to notify DFAS of any changes in your AOP beneficiary's contact information. Otherwise all correspondence will be sent to the wrong address, further delaying closure of your account. Please use the steps above to notify DFAS if your beneficiaries name and contact information changes.

For more information about AOP, please visit

<http://www.dfas.mil/dfas/retiredmilitary/provide/aop.html>

DFAS

### **The VA to Offer Debit Cards**

The VA through the Treasury Department, will soon begin to offer beneficiaries without bank accounts, an option to enroll in the Direct Express entdebit card program with Comerica Bank. Direct Express payments will be directly deposited into your account and made accessible through a debit card. Personal funds cannot be transferred into this account as it can only be used to receive Federal make purchases online at any retailer that accepts Master Card. This is a first step in plans to eliminate check payments in the future, benefits. Direct Express cardholders have 24/7 access to their money at automated teller machines and can make purchases online at any retailer that accepts Master Card. This is a first step in plans to eliminate check payments in the future,

(NAUS NEWS)

### **STAMPS FOREVER**

gene New first –class stamps no longer bear a denomination. New stamps can be used to mail a letter or a bill no matter how many rate increases occur. Every first –class stamp is a “Forever” stamp- those denomination-free stamps that appeared in 2007. Forget those 1 or 2-cent stamps whenever rates go up. Use up those non-Forever First class stamps. You no longer have to choose between the plain Forever stamp and the more festive 77-cent stamps. You don't have to anticipate postal rate increases and plan your stamp supply accordingly. The Postal Service says

that more than 28 billion Forever stamps have been sold ,rating some \$12 billion in total revenue. Over the past 10 years, first class postage went up 29 percent. U.S. Postal System

### **TRICARE Informs Beneficiaries About ID Card Changes**

Falls Church, Va. TRICARE beneficiaries should make sure they have their Social Security (SSN) committed to memory. It won't be found on Department of Defense (DOD) ID cards.

As of June 1, 2011 SSN's are no longer printed on new ID cards issued to members of the Uniformed Service retirees and family members. The new cards will look basically the same, but will have a unique DoD Identification number in place of the SSN. For those eligible for benefits, such as health care, a DOD Benefits number (DBN) will be on the back.

The elimination of visible SSN's is a DoD response to the increasing need to protect the privacy and identity of ID card holders, but it may raise questions when it comes to obtaining health care or pharmacy benefits. Health care providers have always used social security numbers to check TRICARE eligibility and file claims.

For TRICARE beneficiaries, the DBN is most important. Many systems can accept it already, but beneficiaries using the Military Health System and TRICARE should be prepared to state their SSN (or their sponsor's) when accessing health care or pharmacy benefits.

The changes to new ID's for all member and families is expected to take about

four years. Existing ID cards are good until they expire; including retiree cards marked "INDEF". Beneficiaries who want a new ID without their SSN are advised to make an appointment before making the trip to an ID card facility

TRICARE beneficiaries and providers can get more information, see ID card samples and view frequently asked questions at [www.tricare.mil/ssn](http://www.tricare.mil/ssn).

General information about the removal of SSN from ID cards can be found at [www.dmdc.osd.mil/smartcard](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/smartcard).

### **ID Card Info**

1. As of 1 Jun 2011 ID cards issued from RAPIDS will no longer print SSNs. The DoD ID number will be the identifier for all ID card categories and will print on all CAC and IDs. The DoD Benefits number will print on any ID when the ID card holder has any of the RAPIDS authorized benefits not just medical; i.e., MWR, Commissary, Exchange. This includes the military members' CACs. New IDs will be issued upon expiration of the cardholders' ID cards, basically through attrition.

2. All members need to have two forms of ID to be issued a new ID card (one must be a picture ID). Acceptable forms include a current ID card, drivers' license, social security card, birth certificate, passport, medical card, etc.

3. The Wilford Hall Medical Center ID card office location will be closed on 14 Jun 11 to process medical residents ONLY and 15-17 Jun for software & hardware upgrades. All

customers requiring ID card service during this time must go to Bldg. 5616. The office will re-open 20 Jun @ 0730L.

v/r,

Erica M. Plummer, MSgt, USAF

Supt., Customer Support

### **MYPAY CHANGES ENHANCE EASE OF USE**

myPay , the DFAS online account management system for military members and retirees, recently made changes based on your suggestions. The enhancements were designed to make the site easier and more convenient for DFAS customers. The new upgrade makes the virtual keyboard optional and allows you to enter your login ID and password right on the home page, much like most banks and other financial services do. Though it is easier, the new login procedure still meets security requirements in private industry worldwide. Security features include encryption to protect sensitive information, firewalls, and intrusion detection software to block outsiders from accessing accounts. For enhanced security, we recommend to use the virtual keyboard when logging into **myPay** from public or shared computers.

**mypay** is the most convenient way to view your Retiree Account Statement (RAS) and manage your account. It is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week and it allows you to make routine changes to your account without waiting DFAS

