

RETIREE OFFICE NEWS – 171st ARW



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“We should live every day like it is a holiday, being thankful and spending time with family, and looking hopefully to the future.” ~ Best Wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year 2013.

171ARW News: The 171st ARW web page has replaced the “Tanker Times” which includes a wealth of information and news to keep you up to date on the 171st. A “Retiree Column” has been added at the bottom left hand corner of the home page. Here you will find the “Retiree Office News” beginning with April 2012. <http://www.171arw.ang.af.mil/>

Email Addresses: If you would like to hear about upcoming retiree news and events, please provide your email address to Bonnie Kriberney at <mailto:bjkriberney@msn.com>.

Retiree Lunch: 3rd Monday in January, April, July, and October

When: CY 2013 - **January 21st**, April 15th, July 15th, and October 21st

Where: Golden Corral, 900 Park Manor Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15205 (Near Mall at Robinson) (412) 788-1776

Time: 1100 hours

PLEASE NOTE RESTAURANT CHANGE to Golden Corral effective Oct 15, 2012. See “July/August 2012 Retiree News” for further details and directions. Don’t forget to ask for your military or senior discount.

Hope to see you all at the next Retiree Lunch on January 21st!

Retirements: Congratulations to our recent retirees who retired in October, November, and December 2012. Please do not hesitate to contact the Retiree Office, if you need assistance.

Rank	Last Name	First Name	Retired
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OCTOBER

CMS	LEWANDOWSKI	ROY	31-OCT-12
CMS	PLONSKI	PATRICK	01-OCT-12
SMS	BUCKWALTER	JOHN	01-OCT-12
MSG	DIPOFI	EDWARD	01-OCT-12
MSG	KUHN	CHARLES	29-OCT-12
TSG	FETTERMAN	MICHAEL	01-OCT-12
TSG	FORMOSA	LLOYD	01-OCT-12
TSG	RIPPER	DANNIELLE	30-OCT-12

NOVEMBER

CMS	CREEGAN	TERRENCE	30-NOV-12
SMS	STAVISH	STANLEY	23-NOV-12
TSG	HAMMILL	MICHAEL	01-NOV-12

DECEMBER

LTC	ZINAICH	LYNN	01-DEC-12
CMS	MILLER	CLARENCE	31-DEC-12
SMS	KACZOROWSKI	ROBERT	22-DEC-12
SMS	VOLCHKO	MARK	31-DEC-12
MSG	KLINE	PAUL	10-DEC-12
MSG	WOOLRIDGE	TORI	04-DEC-12
MSG	KUTSCHBACH	ALFRED	19-DEC-12
MSG	MARCYJANIK	DAVID	15-DEC-12
MSG	PERROTT	JAMES	31-DEC-12
MSG	SMERESKY	ROBERT	31-DEC-12
MSG	SZEP	WILLIAM	31-DEC-12
MSG	WILKINSON	WILLIAM	31-DEC-12
TSG	PROPE	RICHARD	08-DEC-12
TSG	DENNY	TIMOTHY	31-DEC-12
TSG	PREVOST	THOMAS	31-DEC-12
SSG	PRICE	KENNETH	17-DEC-12

Sympathies: We extend our sympathies to the families and relatives of the following retirees who passed away. Please inform our office if you hear of the passing of one of our fellow 171st, 112th, or 258TH members. Click on each name to view the obituary.

[MSgt Paul 'Boyd' Concelman Sr - 18 Dec 2011 - Age 82](#) - Operations/Boomer

[SMSgt James L. McMullen - 04 Sep 2012 - Age 74](#) - Maintenance/Crew Chief

[CMSgt Lloyd T. Linner - 14 Oct 2012 - Age 92](#) - Mission Support/Personnel

[Lt Col James B. Cleland - 06 Nov 2012 - Age 91](#) - Pilot & Aircraft Maintenance Officer

[TSgt Lawrence H. Haines, Jr. - 26 Dec 2012 - Age 62](#) - Vehicle Maintenance

[MSgt David F. Borthwick - 09 Jan 2013 - Age 65](#) - Supply/Material Management

Cost of Living Adjustment:

Based on the increase in the Consumer Price Index, a 1.7 percent Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for retired pay and Survivor Benefit Plan annuities was effective Dec. 1, 2012. Most retirees saw this change in their Dec. 31, 2012 payment. Annuitants received it Jan. 2, 2013.

However, those who retired between January 1, 2012 and September 30, 2012 will receive a partial COLA based on the quarter they retired.

- January through March retirees will receive 1.7%
- April through June retirees will receive 1.0%
- July through September retirees will receive 0.2%

Those who retired on or after Oct. 1, 2012 will see no COLA this year.

Your "Retiree Account Statement" for December reflects the COLA. If you elected Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) coverage, the Annuity Base Amount reflects the COLA, also.

Tax Statements:

Your 2012 Retiree 1099R Tax Statement is currently available in myPay at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>. You must have a myPay account to access your 1099R. If you don't have a myPay account, just go to this web site and click on "Create an Account" in the left hand column to set one up. You can also view your "Monthly Retiree Account Statement" in myPay, which are not mailed out to you.

Hikes set for TRICARE drug fees:

By Tom Philpott, Thursday, 01/03/2013, <http://www.standard.net/stories/2013/01/03/hikes-set-tricare-drug-fees>

The House-Senate conferees have agreed to the more modest House-passed plan for raising drug co-payments on military family members and retirees who fill prescriptions at TRICARE retail outlets or through mail order.

The fee increases are scheduled to take effect Feb. 1, TRICARE officials said as the fiscal 2013 defense authorization bill, with many other provisions impacting the military community next year, moved toward final passage.

The new pharmacy fee plan includes a requirement that beneficiaries 65 and older have all maintenance drugs for chronic conditions refilled, for at least one year, through TRICARE mail order or at base pharmacies, rather than through retail outlets where the cost to TRICARE is a third higher.

TRICARE likely will need to publish a draft regulation, solicit public comment and launch an education effort for elderly beneficiaries before it begins to enforce home delivery for seniors. That could delay starting that portion of the pharmacy plan until April or later.

It is a matter “under review and as yet we do not have an implementation time frame established,” said Kevin J. Dwyer, deputy chief of benefit information and outreach for the TRICARE Management Activity.

Conferees were persuaded to embrace the House plan, supported by advocates for military beneficiaries, over more aggressive fee hikes sought by the Obama administration. The Senate version of the defense bill was silent on the issue, which was a nod for the administration to proceed.

But over the past two weeks, a House-Senate conference ironed out differences between separate versions of the defense bill and the House plan prevailed. So after January, you will see the following rates.

Drugs	30 Day Supply at a Tricare Retail Pharmacy	90 Day Supply Home Delivery – Express Scripts	Military Pharmacies
Formulary Generic	\$5 (No change)	\$0 (No change)	\$0 (No change)
Formulary Brand	From \$12 to \$17	From \$9 to \$13	\$0 (No change)
Non-Formulary	From \$25 to \$44	From \$25 to \$43	n/a

For fiscal 2014 and beyond, the plan directs that drug fees be raised annually by the same percentage as retiree cost-of-living adjustments. In years when a COLA increase applied to pharmacy fees would total less than a dollar, it will be delayed a year and combined with the next adjustment. So that drug fee increases, when executed, are always a dollar or more.

The administration wanted drug fees reset substantially higher in 2013 and to grow by \$2-a-year through 2016. It then wanted annual adjustments to match medical inflation, not retiree COLAs.

Mail order users of brand name drugs save two-thirds on co-pays automatically because refills are for 90 days versus 30 days at retail. Given those savings and the convenience of home delivery, backers of the House plan expect most elderly beneficiaries, once forced to use mail order, to stay with it, saving TRICARE hundreds of millions of dollars year after year.

The projected savings allowed the House to roll back the drug fee increases sought by the administration without raising the budget's top line. In fact, so many TRICARE dollars will be saved that conferees used some of that money to fix a "glitch" in Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC).

TRICARE RETIREE DENTAL PROGRAM:

The TRICARE Retiree Dental Program is available to all military retirees (including gray area retirees) and their eligible family members, un-remarried surviving spouses and their eligible children, as well as MOH recipients and their eligible immediate family members and survivors. The program covers cleanings, exams, fillings, root canals, gum surgery, oral surgery and dental accidents on the first day that coverage becomes effective; after 12 months of being in the program, it then covers crowns, bridges, partials, braces and dental implants.

The Enhanced TRDP provides every enrollee an annual maximum of \$1,200 per person (\$1,000 for Basic Program enrollees), a \$1000 annual maximum for dental accidents and a \$1500 lifetime maximum for orthodontics. It is important to note that the money that the TRDP pays out for preventive and diagnostic services doesn't count against the annual maximum – those benefits are in addition to the \$1200. Retirees can find more information on the program, as well as enroll 24/7/365, online at <http://www.trdp.org/>.

TRDP enrollees realize the maximum program savings (an average of 22%) when seeing a network provider. To find a network provider, as well as utilize the **Consumer Toolkit** to print ID cards, view annual maximum information, see if claims have been paid and sign up for e-mail updates, please visit <http://www.trdp.org/>.

You can contact Lynn Jamroz at 630-587-6397 or ljamroz@delta.org for more details on the TRDP.

Moon Military Commissary update:

Since the ground-breaking ceremony on August 17, 2012, the Mississippi-based Carothers Construction company has begun the \$12 million contract. If you drive past the corner of University Boulevard and the Interstate 376 Business Route in Moon, which is the new location of the Military Commissary, you will see the construction. The 43,000 square-foot facility is projected to open in the fall of 2013.



Rear wall on the pouring pad ready to stand-up someday.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND LINKS:

171st Air Refueling Wing: <http://www.171arw.af.mil/>

Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) – Retired Military & Annuitants:

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

Customer Service: 1-800-321-1080 (if you don't have computer access)

Express Scripts – TRICARE Pharmacy: <http://www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE/>

Toll-Free within the U.S.: 1-877-363-1303

Military.com Benefits: <http://www.military.com/>

myPay: <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>

TRICARE Health Insurance Coverage & Benefits Plans: <http://www.tricare.mil>

Tricare North Region – Health Net Federal Services: 1-877-874-2273

TRICARE For Life: 1-866-773-0404

Air Force Retiree Services: <http://www.retirees.af.mil/>