

# *UNITED STATES COAST GUARD* **Retiree!**



Official Publication of the Coast Guard Retiree Services Program

Volume 1 / Issue 1



## THE RETIREE **SERVICE GUIDE**

 **INAUGURAL ISSUE** 



FROM THE CO-CHAIRS



**John Acton**  
 RADM, USCGR (Ret.)  
 Co-Chairman



**Charles 'Skip' Bowen**  
 MCPO-CG, USCG (Ret.)  
 Co-Chairman

## Dear Fellow Coast Guard Retirees,

We are honored and pleased to be named the newest Co-Chairs of the Commandant of the Coast Guard's National Retiree Council at such an exciting time. Building on the great work of the council under RADM Silva (ret) and MCPOCG Patton (ret), we will be rolling out a Coast Guard-wide awareness campaign for our Retiree Services Program throughout the Spring and Summer of 2014, culminating in what we expect will be a Coast Guard-wide focus on retirees during Coast Guard Day 2014 this coming August.

So, what is the Retiree Services Program and how does it differ from what was in place previously? First, the Retiree Services Program is founded on the premise that all Coast Guard members -- from the time we take the oath of allegiance until the time we draw our last breath -- are forever part of the Coast Guard family, the "Long Blue Line." And for surviving dependents of those who served, even longer than that.

The program is managed by the Directorate of Reserve and Military Personnel and guided by the recently signed Commandant Instruction 1800.5G. To support our retiree community, we have a National Council and 17 Regional Retiree Councils. This network provides direct feedback to the Commandant regarding retiree concerns through the National Council Co-Chairs. The Coast Guard is also establishing 15 retiree services desks at Coast Guard Bases and select Training Centers around the country. The purpose of the retiree services desk is to provide referral services and local information to the retiree community.

At the end of the day, our main purpose as national co-chairs is to keep the lines of communication open. Please visit the completely rebuilt Coast Guard retiree website at [www.uscg.mil/retiree](http://www.uscg.mil/retiree). The site has a huge amount of information and links to many more sites that are incredibly useful for military retirees and their dependents.

This April we will be meeting with the Regional Council representatives and one of the main topics that we will be discussing is the Summer rollout of information for the Retiree Services Program. So please stay tuned... this is going to be a great year for Coast Guard retirees.

Yours in service,



## A Letter from the Program Manager

Congratulations! As a retiree of the United States Coast Guard, you have reached a major milestone in your career. You have honorably and faithfully discharged the duties entrusted to you, while leaving a legacy for those who continue to serve and answer the call to Duty for our Nation.

As you begin your transition and consequent retirement from military service, you owe it to yourself to become familiar with all of the resources and tools available to you during transition and into retirement. The Coast Guard retiree services program was designed to help you and your family during the entire retirement process.

If you are a member in transition, remember that retirement is a process not an event, and it is never too early to prepare for retirement. If you are a retiree, the retiree services program offers an opportunity for you to "Stay Connected" while remaining informed of changing programs, services, and policies that impact your retirement.

The purpose of this special edition retiree services insert is to make you aware of the organizational structure of the Coast Guard Retiree Services Program and to inform you of important services available to you. Regardless of your retirement status: Active Duty, Reserve Component, RET-1, RET-2, Annuitant, Survivor, Family member, or member in transition; the retiree services program has information and resources to help you transition and "remain informed" as a Coast Guard retiree.

As a reminder, the purpose of the United States Coast Guard Retiree Services Program is to apprise the Coast Guard military retiree community of changing programs, services and policies by proactively keeping the lines of communication open to provide regular and timely retiree information on benefits and services.

Once again, congratulations, and thank you! for your Service!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James Garzon".

CDR James Garzon  
Program Manager, Coast Guard Retiree Services



ABOUT RETIREE SERVICES



# Retiree Services Desk LOCATOR

## Base Boston

427 Commercial St.  
Boston MA 02109  
781-225-1310  
www.hanscom.af.mil/rao

## Base Alameda

Coast Guard Island  
Alameda, CA 94501.  
510-437-5767  
D11-DG-M-BASEAla-PersSupport-  
PSB@uscg.mil

## Base Cleveland

1240 E 9th St  
Cleveland, OH 44199  
216-902-6175  
D09-SMB-Retiree@uscg.mil  
POC: Bill Schmidt

## Base Detachment St. Louis

1222 Spruce St.  
Saint Louis, a 63103  
314-269-2407  
www.uscg.mil/basedetstlouis

## Base Elizabeth City

The Base Elizabeth City retiree services desk will be located at 1664 Weeksville Rd. Elizabeth City, NC 27909.  
*Scheduled stand up is June of 2014.*

## Base Ketchikan

The Base Ketchikan retiree services desk will be located at 1300 Stedman St. Ketchikan, AK 99901.  
*Scheduled stand up is June of 2014.*

## Base Honolulu

400 Sand Island Parkway  
Honolulu, HI 96819  
808-842-2067  
HawaiiRetireeServices@uscg.mil

## Base Kodiak

N-38 Cape Sarichef  
Kodiak, Alaska 99619  
907-487-5170 x2167 or x2247

## Base Los Angeles / Long Beach

The Base Los Angeles Long Beach retiree services desk is located at 1001 S. Seaside Ave, San Pedro CA 90731.  
*Scheduled stand up is June of 2014.*

## Base Miami Beach

100 MacArthur Causeway,  
Miami Beach, FL 33139  
305-535-4509  
cgrcmiamibeach@gmail.com

## Base National Capital Region

2307 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave SE,  
Washington, DC 20593  
202-372-3996

## Base New Orleans

1790 Saturn Road,  
New Orleans, LA 70129  
504-201-7587  
POC: James Montgomery

## Base Portsmouth

4000 Coast Guard Boulevard,  
Portsmouth, VA 23703  
757-686-4002

## Base Seattle

The Base Seattle retiree services desk will be located at 1519 Alaskan Way South, Seattle, WA 98134.  
*Scheduled stand up is June of 2014.*

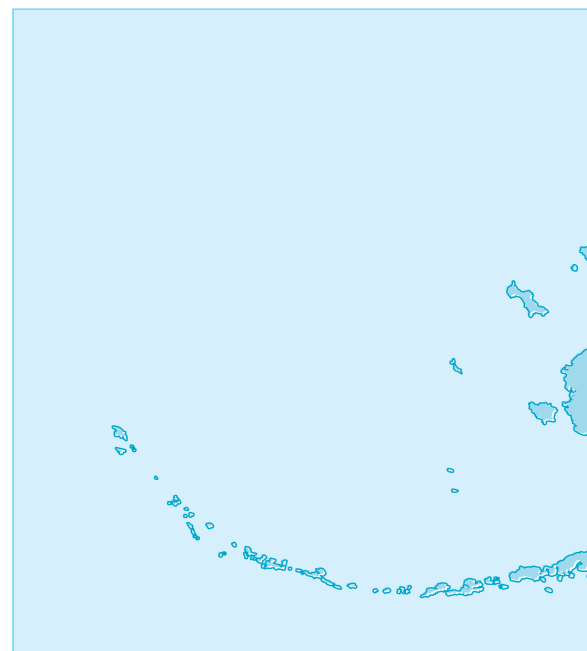
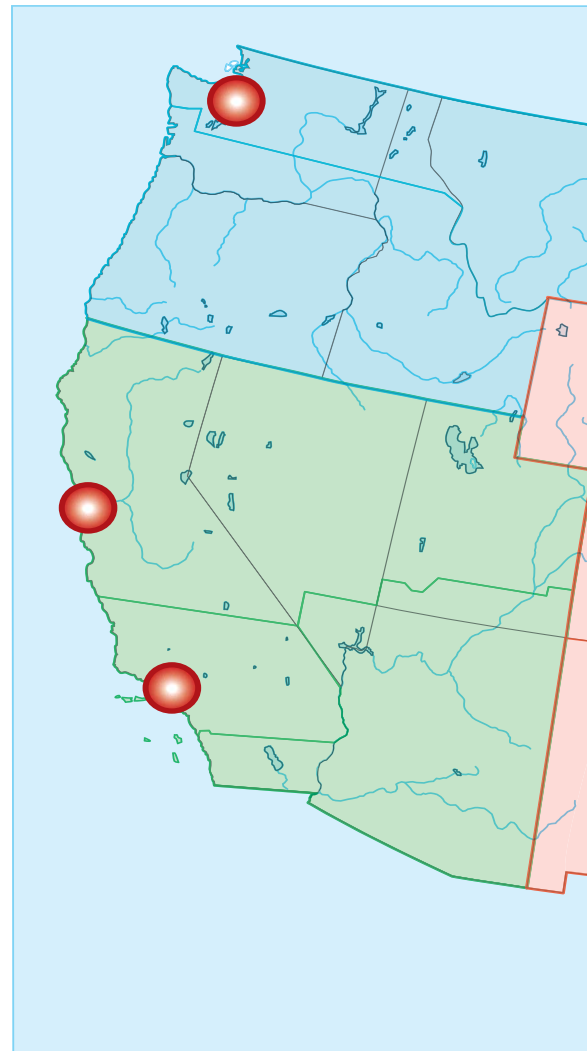
## Training Center Cape May

1 Munro Dr., Cape May, NJ 08204  
609-898-6816  
*Scheduled stand up is June of 2014.*

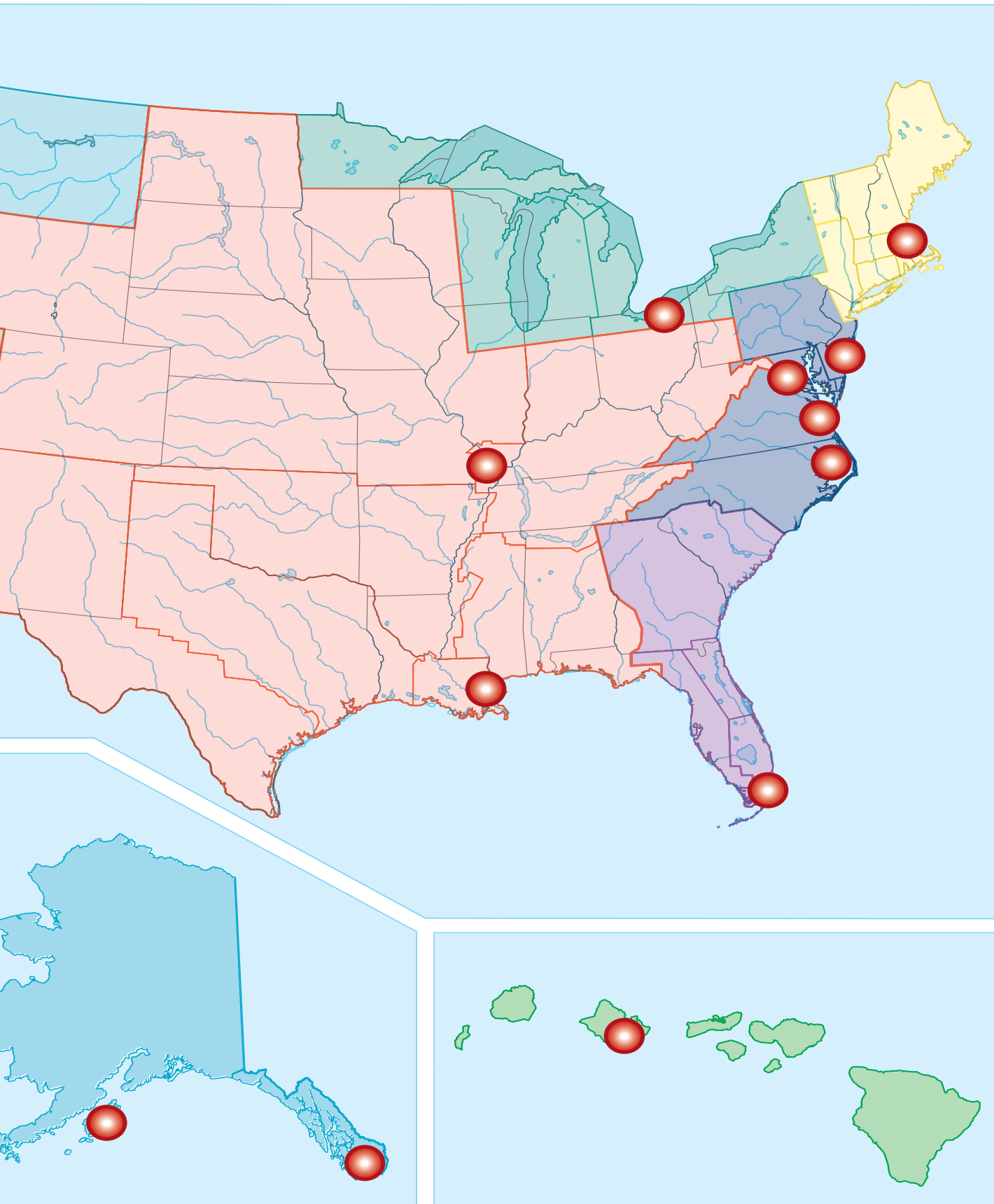
*For latest info on Retiree Services Desks visit the Retiree Services Web Site:*

**[www.uscg.mil/retiree](http://www.uscg.mil/retiree)**

The Coast Guard is establishing a network of 15 retiree services desks at Coast Guard Bases and select Training Centers



(TRACEN's) around the country. The purpose of the retiree services desk is to provide key referral services and local information to the Coast Guard retiree community. Each retiree services desk is overseen by a designated Base Active Duty Coordinator and a Volunteer Director, who coordinate the daily activities of the retiree services desk.



★  
★  
★  
**SERVICE DESK LOCATIONS**  
★  
★  
★



The purpose of the Coast Guard Retiree Services Program is to ensure that retirees are kept apprised of changing programs, services and policies. The Retiree Services Program will proactively keep the lines of communication open for information on retiree benefits, advice and services. The Coast Guard retiree services instruction COMDTINST 1800.5G establishes the framework, network, and organizational structure that reinforces and provides mutual benefit between the Coast Guard and the Coast Guard military retiree community.

The Framework of the Coast Guard retiree services program consists of four principle elements: (foundation of the retiree services program)

1. Establishment of network of retiree services desks.
2. Commandant’s National Retiree Council and membership within the Regional Retiree Councils.
3. Routine publication of the Coast Guard/NOAA Retirees’ Newsletter by Pay and Personnel Center (PPC).
4. Collaboration with external agencies, including the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) and particularly with the DoD military services’ retirement activities programs, to increase Coast Guard military retiree community participation in available services, such as seminars and retiree appreciation days at DoD military installations.

The Coast Guard retiree services program promotes a network of retiree services desks organized by geographic areas of responsibility that provide regular referrals and information regarding matters associated with the retiree community. The information provided by the retiree services desk is of both local and national interest to the supported military retiree community.

Director, Reserve and Military Personnel (CG-13) serves as program director for the Coast Guard retiree services program. The director ensures the coordination of effective pre-retirement, transition and post-retirement retiree services program requirements with the following policy, program, and technical authorities:

- Director of Health, Safety, and Work-Life(CG-11)
- Office of Work-Life(CG-111)
- Coast Guard Health, Safety & Work-Life Service Center (HSWL SC)

### National Retiree Council

The Commandant of the Coast Guard’s National Retiree Council (CCGNRC) is located in Washington, DC and has two national co-chairs (one retired flag officer and one retired master chief petty officer). The co-chairs represent the Coast Guard at annual

meetings of the military service secretaries’ retiree councils to provide input on matters of interest to the Coast Guard military retiree community.

The CCGNRC receives an annual update and provide feedback on matters pertaining to the Coast Guard retiree services program including, but not limited to:

- Quality assurance assessment of the retiree services program
- Ongoing retiree services program changes and adjustments, including policy updates

The CCGNRC prepares and submits an annual report to the Commandant through the executive agent. The annual report may include information regarding the effectiveness of the retiree services program and improvements to retirement transition, pay, benefits, privileges, legislative, veterans’ affairs, retiree quality of life, and other Coast Guard military retiree community matters.

### Staying Connected

As a member of the Coast Guard retiree community there are several ways to remain informed and stay connected.

- **Regional Retiree Councils** - Coast Guard regional retiree councils offer members an opportunity to voice their concerns on issues related to the retiree community, these concerns may include: retiree programs, services and policy. Typically, regional retiree councils meet once or twice per year to discuss retiree community issues. To locate a regional retiree council in your area visit [www.uscg.mil/retiree](http://www.uscg.mil/retiree). Go to retiree services program and visit the Regional Retiree Council section.
- **Retiree Services Desks** - As a volunteer serving at one of the retiree services desks, you will be part of a network that serves the retiree community by providing key referrals as needed by the retiree community. As a volunteer you will be provided with a self-paced training guide and resource kit. The training guide provides information on services provided by the retiree services desk and reviews standard operating procedures.

Volunteer schedules for the retiree services desk are coordinated by the Volunteer Director in coordination with the active duty coordinator. Hours of operation are determined by volunteer staff and sponsoring command. For additional information you may send an e-mail to CGRetiree@uscg.mil.

- **Coast Guard Retiree Service Web Site** - [www.uscg.mil/retiree](http://www.uscg.mil/retiree)
- **Coast Guard / Retiree Newsletter** - The Coast Guard retiree newsletter is a quarterly publication offered by Coast Guard Pay and Personnel Center in Topeka, KS. The Newsletter offers a wide variety of information for the retiree community. For additional information on the Coast Guard / Retiree Newsletter you may send e-mail to [PPC-DG-RASNewsletter@uscg.mil](mailto:PPC-DG-RASNewsletter@uscg.mil).

## Regional Retiree Councils

The Coast Guard has 17 Regional Retiree Council's located throughout the country. Each of these regional retiree councils has two co-chairs appointed by the regional retiree membership. Regional retiree councils meet at a minimum twice per year to:

- Exchange ideas on matters concerning retiree entitlements
- Consolidate support on issues that arise during the meetings
- Coordinate the activities of council members to gather and provide information on matters of mutual concern.
- Collaborate and make recommendations to the local retiree services desk and the Commandant's National Retiree Council.

Coast Guard regional retiree council's are located in the following areas:

Boston	Mobile, Ala.
Cape May, NJ	Cleveland
Washington, D.C.	New Orleans*
Yorktown, Va.	St Louis
Tidewater, Va.	Alameda, Calif.*
Cape Canaveral, Fla.	Seattle*
Jacksonville	Honolulu
Miami	Kodiak, Alaska
Tampa/ St. Pete	

\* Please note these Councils are expected to be established by June 2014.

## Retiree Services Desks

For more information see the map on the left side of this brochure.

## Military Records

All retiring members should obtain a copy of their military service records prior to departing the Service.

This includes records of:

Duty Stations	Insurance Beneficiaries
Assignments	Military Education
Enlistment Dates	Separations/Discharge
Training completed	Retirement
Qualifications	Medical / Dental Records
Performance	Survivor Benefit Plan
Total credible service	DD-214
Medals and Awards	Disability
Administrative Remarks	

In addition to your military records, your transition period is a great opportunity to organize your personal and family information. This includes original or certified copies of the following:

DD-214	Credit Unions
Birth Certificate	Spouse/Children info
Marriage Certificate	Vehicle Titles
Divorce Decree	Adoption/Child Custody
Wills, Power of attorney	Legal Documents
Social Security Card	Tax Returns
Bank Account /Lock box	Memorial Information
Insurance policies	Drivers License
Property/Investments	Safe Deposit Box info.



# Retiree Services Website

The Coast Guard Retiree Services Program (RSP) website is designed to assist the retiree community by identifying the services, benefits and programs available to the retiree community. The Coast Guard retiree services website is located at:

<http://www.uscg.mil/retiree>

and is organized into the following categories:

## Retiree Notices

### TRICARE

### Retiree Services Program (RSP)

### Retiree Community Resources

### Retiree Newsletters

## FAQ's

### Retiree Community Benefits

### Feedback

### Veterans Affairs Newsletters

## Retiree Notices –

provides new or developing information specific to the retiree community.

## Retiree Community Resources –

provides information on:

- DoD Resources
- Transition Assistance
- DEERS/site locator
- Military ID cards

## Retiree Services Program –

offers information on:

- Commandant of the Coast Guard
- National Retiree Council (CCGNRC)
- Regional Retiree Councils
- Retiree Services Desks
- COMDTINST 1800.5G

## Retiree Community Benefits –

offers information on:

- |                                       |                                   |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Coast Guard Benefits                  | Legal Referrals                   |
| DoD Retired Benefits                  | CG Exchange                       |
| Retired Pay                           | Space "A" Travel                  |
| Commissary                            | Morale, Well-Being and Recreation |
| Mutual Assistance                     | (MWR)                             |
| Military Exchange: NEX, MCX and AAFES | Federal Benefits for Veterans     |
| Scholarship Program                   |                                   |

## Veterans Affairs –

provides information on:

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Dependents/Survivors | Education & Training |
| Home Loans/Housing   | Memorial Benefits    |
| Disability           | Employment Services  |
| Compensation         | Pensions             |
| Life Insurance       | Health Care          |

## TRICARE –

provides information on TRICARE:

- |                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Eligibility        | Prescriptions  |
| Military Hospitals | Forms          |
| Services/Referral  | Dental Options |
| Status             | Claims         |
| Health Plans       | Mental health  |
| Cost               | Find a Doctor  |

## Newsletter –

The Coast Guard / NOAA Retiree's newsletter is one of the four principle elements of the retiree services program. The newsletter is printed every quarter and it is the official national communication link between the Coast Guard and its military retiree community. The Newsletter is published by Coast Guard Pay and Personnel Center (PPC) and includes information on:

### Retiree Pay

### Retiree Benefits

### Reunions

### Notices

### Survivor Benefit Plan

### Associations

### Contact information

### TRICARE

### Retirements

### TAPS

### Legislation

### Life Insurance

To view the latest publication of the Coast Guard Newsletter you may visit:

[www.uscg.mil/ppc/retnews](http://www.uscg.mil/ppc/retnews)

To register for the newsletter send e-mail to [PPC-DG-RASNewsletter@uscg.mil](mailto:PPC-DG-RASNewsletter@uscg.mil)

For additional information you may contact PPC at 1-866-772-8724.

## FAQ section –

provides a list of questions often asked or questions requiring clarification. If you have a question you would like to submit send it to the Coast Guard retiree services website e-mail at: [cgretiree@uscg.mil](mailto:cgretiree@uscg.mil).

## Links to State Benefits –

As a retiree, the State you retire in may offer a number of military retiree benefits including:

- Education
- Employment
- Motor Vehicle
- Property Taxes
- State Memorial
- Housing
- Counseling



[www.uscg.mil/retiree](http://www.uscg.mil/retiree)

