

SEMPER FIDELIS

MEMORANDUM FOR RETIRED MARINES

Your Final Travel Claim Settlement

Each year thousands of Marines retire from the Marine Corps, and among the business of the final PCS move, some have overlooked that they are entitled to one final travel claim settlement. In 2014, less than 30% of retirees settled their final claims, so that means 70% of retired Marines have money they have yet to claim. The average final travel claim settlement is \$3900.

To check on or submit your final travel claim, complete and send DD Form 1351-2 (Travel Voucher or Subvoucher) to your last Disbursing/Finance Office via e-mail or U.S. Postal mail at one of the addresses below:

1st MLG Disbursing Officer

Disbursing Office
P.O. Box 555607
Camp Pendleton, CA 92055
1MEF_DISBURSING_TRAVEL@USMC.MIL

2nd MLG Disbursing Office

Commanding General
Disbursing Office
2d Marine Logistics Group
PSC Box 20002
Camp Lejeune, NC 28542-0002
smblejdisbotravel@usmc.mil

3rd MLG Disbursing Office

Headquarters Regiment
3d Marine Logistics Group, Unit 38405
FPO, AP 96373-8405

Marine Corps Base Hawaii

Hawaii Finance Office
Commanding Officer
MCBH Finance Office, P.O. Box 63062
MCBH Kaneohe, HI 96863
mcbh.finance.fmb@usmc.mil

Marine Corps Base Quantico

(Quantico/DC area)
Finance Office, P.O. Box 206
Quantico, VA 22134
QuanTravelOffice@usmc.mil

MCRD San Diego, CA

MCRD Finance Office
1500 Russell Avenue, Suite #2
San Diego, CA 92140

Parris Island, SC

Finance Office, P.O. Box 19640
Parris Island, SC 29905-9640
PARR_SMB_MCRDPI_FINANCE_PAY@usmc.mil



As a retired Marine, you have up to one year to execute that final move to claim the entitlement!

You can access your newsletter online at <https://www.manpower.usmc.mil>
Click on "Semper Fidelis Online"

Social Security News

Law Does Not Provide for a Cost-of-Living Adjustment for 2016

With consumer prices down over the past year, monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for nearly 65 million Americans will not automatically increase in 2016.

The Social Security Act provides for an automatic increase in Social Security and SSI benefits if there is an increase in inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). The period of consideration includes the third quarter of the last year a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) was made to the third quarter of the current year. As determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there was no increase in the CPI-W from the third quarter of 2014 to the third quarter of 2015. Therefore, under existing law, there can be no COLA in 2016.

Other adjustments that would normally take effect based on changes in the national average wage index also will not take effect in January 2016. Since there is no COLA, the statute also prohibits a change in the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax, as well as the retirement earnings test exempt amounts. These amounts will remain unchanged in 2016. The attached fact sheet provides more information on 2016 Social Security and SSI changes.

The Department of Health and Human Services has not yet announced Medicare premium changes for 2016. Should there be an increase in the Medicare Part B premium; the law contains a “hold harmless” provision that protects approximately 70% of Social Security beneficiaries from paying a higher Part B premium, to avoid reducing their net Social Security benefit. Those not protected include higher income-beneficiaries subject to an income-adjusted Part B premium and beneficiaries newly entitled to Part B in 2016. In addition, beneficiaries who have their Medicare Part B premiums paid by state medical assistance programs will see no change in their Social Security benefit. The state will be required to pay any Medicare Part B premium increase.

Information about Medicare changes for 2016 is at www.medicare.gov.

SEMPER FIDELIS NEWSLETTER FOR RETIRED MARINES

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Did you know?

The Navy/Marine Corps
converted from service numbers
to SSNs in January 1972.

National Defense Authorization Act, FY 2016

Death of Former Spouse Beneficiaries and Subsequent Remarriages Under the Survivor Benefit Plan

With the National Defense Authorization Act now Public Law No. 114-92, there is important news that may affect certain retired Marine Corps sponsors of the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) beneficiaries.

When a former spouse beneficiary of the SBP dies, a remarried sponsor can now elect his or her new spouse for SBP coverage. Specifically, the law states:

A person who is married at the time of the death of the former spouse beneficiary may elect to provide coverage to the new spouse. Such an election must be received within one year after the death of the former spouse beneficiary. The effective date of such an election shall be the first day of the first month after the death of the former spouse beneficiary.

So, what about those who married after the death of a former spouse beneficiary? According to the new law, if an election is made, it must be received within one year after the date in which that person marries. The election is effective as of the first day of the first calendar month following the month in which the election is received.

A person making an election may not reduce the base amount that was previously elected.

What about former spouse deaths before the enactment of Public Law No. 114-92? Those who had a former spouse under the SBP may elect to provide spouse coverage for the new spouse before or after the death of the former spouse beneficiary. **Any such election may only be made during the one-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.**

The NDAA was signed into law on November 25, 2015.

The effective date of election if married at least at year at the death of the former spouse is the first day of the first month after the death of the former spouse beneficiary.

If the sponsor married the spouse beneficiary after (or during the one-year period preceding) the death of the former spouse beneficiary, the effective date of the election is the first day of the first month following the first anniversary of the person's marriage to the spouse beneficiary.

The sponsor who elects to participate in the SBP is responsible for payment of all premiums due from the effective date of the election.

If you have any questions about these matters, you may contact MMSR-6 at 1-800-336-4649 or (703) 784-9310.

“Such an election must be received within one year after the death of the former spouse beneficiary.”

TRICARE News

TRICARE Young Adult Premiums Increased Jan. 1, 2016

The premiums for TRICARE Young Adult (TYA) program increased on Jan. 1, 2016 to \$306 per month for TYA Prime and \$228 per month for TYA Standard.

Mary Kaye Justis, director of the TRICARE Health Plan, explained the increase is due to the requirement in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2011 that TRICARE set TYA premiums to cover the full cost of health care received by the program's beneficiaries. Previous years' premiums were lower because TRICARE did not yet have sufficient cost data to set annual premiums. This coming year marks the first time TRICARE has had enough actual cost data to set the premiums based on actual costs rather than predicted cost.

For more information, visit www.tricare.mil/TYA.

Your Health Plan Options: A Review

Retired service members and their families are eligible for the following options:

- TRICARE Prime (enrollment fees apply)
- TRICARE Standard and Extra
- US Family Health Plan (in specific U.S. locations)
- TRICARE For Life (with Medicare Part A & B coverage)
- TRICARE Standard Overseas



Additionally, adult children who “age out” at 21 (or 23 if attending college) may qualify to purchase TYA.

Your Dental Options

The [TRICARE Retiree Dental Program](#) is available to purchase for dental coverage.

Medically-Retired Service Members

To be placed on the Temporary Disabled Retirement List (TDRL), you must have a:

- Physical condition, injury, or disease that renders you unfit for military service, and
- Disability rating of at least 30%, separate from the one given by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

You'll be reevaluated at least every 18 months for a period of up to five years. At that point, it will be determined if your situation has improved, remained the same or has gotten worse. Depending on the outcome, you can be:

- Retained on the TDRL
- Separated from service
- Returned to duty or
- Placed on Permanent Disability Retirement List (PDRL).

As long as you are on the TDRL or PDRL, you're eligible for TRICARE benefits for retired service members as described above. Your eligible family members are also eligible. If your Service-disability rating is less than 30% and you're separated from active duty, you may qualify transitional health care benefits:

- [Transitional Assistance Management Program](#)
- [Continued Health Care Benefit Program](#)

Retired National Guard or Reserve Members

Benefits for retired Reserve members are different depending on the sponsor's age:

You can purchase the [TRICARE Retiree Dental Program](#) at any time. If under 60, you may qualify to purchase [TRICARE Retired Reserve](#). At 60, you and your family are eligible for the same benefits as all other retired service members (described above).

For details about your TRICARE benefits, visit www.tricare.mil or call your TRICARE Region:

- **North:** 1-877-874-2273
- **South:** 1-800-444-5445
- **West:** 1-877-988-9378
- **Overseas** (Pacific, Latin America, Canada, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Europe): 1-888-777-8343

DFAS News

Update your Email Address!

Did you know keeping your current email address in myPay is key to managing your account?

Once you have a myPay account, the most important thing you can do to keep current with issues affecting your retirement pay is to keep a current email address on file. DFAS uses your email address as our primary method of contacting you or sharing any news that may affect your retired pay. Having an email address on file also makes it much easier to update your myPay password.

Take a minute right now and check to make sure your email addresses are current. At the bottom of your myPay account menu, select "Email Address" to view the email addresses you have on file with DFAS. Make sure you indicate the primary email address you want us to use and check the box to indicate if the address is still valid. Delete any old email addresses you no longer use.

Updating Your Email Address

DFAS uses your myPay email address to send newsletters, such as the one you're reading right now, breaking news, and to notify you when your Retiree Account Statement (RAS) and 1099R tax statements are available. To update your email address follow these steps:

1. Go to the myPay web site, and log into your account using the log in box at the top left-hand side of your screen.
2. After entering your login ID and password, click *"I agree to the terms of the user agreement."*
3. On the main menu page, click on the email address link.
4. Enter and confirm the correct address. Be sure to select "primary" beside the email address where you want to receive pay statement notifications and other important correspondence.
5. Save your changes by selecting "Accept/Submit" then confirm your changes are correct.
6. From the top of the page in the gray bar, you may select "Main" to return to the main menu or exit to close out your session.

Retiree Account Statement

Your Retiree Account Statement is a two-page document issued by DFAS that summarizes your pay, benefits, and deductions at a specific point in time. It is a description of what you can expect on the next pay date. Understanding your RAS is an important first step in managing your retirement pay.

A monthly electronic Retiree Account Statement (eRAS) is available to all military retirees currently receiving retirement payments. The eRAS is only available on myPay, the official online account management system for military members and DoD employees. The statements will be available by the first of each month and you will be able to access up to 12 months of statements. Please register an email address in your myPay account, so DFAS can send you an email reminder each month when your statement is available.

In addition to the monthly eRAS, all retirees will receive an updated RAS whenever they make account changes. An annual RAS is sent to retirees each December.

How to Get a RAS Copy

The most convenient way to view, print, and save your latest RAS is on myPay. myPay makes your RAS, as well as tax statements and other pay account information, available 24 hours a day.

DFAS is your subject matter expert on all things pertaining to your 1099-R. Call them at 1-800-321-1080 or visit www.dfas.mil.

**"The eRAS is only available
on myPay:
the official online
account manage-
ment system
for military members..."**

Still Waiting to Receive Your 1099R? Next Time Convert to an Electronic 1099R

You can log into your myPay account and sign up to begin receiving your 1099-R electronically. This is the quickest way to receive your tax forms. If you elect this option, we will email a notification to you when your tax documents are available online.

If you are receiving your 1099-R electronically, there's no risk of anything getting lost and you receive your 1099-R almost immediately after DFAS posts it to myPay instead of waiting weeks for a hard copy to be printed, mailed, and delivered.

If you don't have an email address registered with DFAS, but would like to switch to receiving your 1099-R online, they have put together an easy step-by-step guide to help you make the change.

1. First, go to the myPay web site and log into your account using the "Log In" box at the top left-hand side of your screen.
2. After entering your Login ID and Password, click "I agree to the terms of the User Agreement"
3. On the myPay Main Menu page, click the "Email Address" link.
4. Enter and confirm the correct address. Be sure to select "primary" beside the email address where you want to receive pay statement notifications and other important correspondence.
5. Save your changes by selecting Accept/Submit and then confirm the changes you made are correct.
6. From the top of the page in the gray bar you may select Main to return to the Main Menu or Exit to close out your session.
7. Return to the Main Menu page
8. Click the Turn on/off Hard Copy of 1099-R link.
9. Click the "Yes" button under "Do you wish to stop home mail delivery of your 1099-R?"



The Survivor Benefit Plan: Educate Your Beneficiaries

It's important for your survivors to understand how the Survivor Benefit Plan works.

The Nature and Extent of the SBP Benefit.

The SBP provides eligible beneficiaries with a monthly payment known as an annuity. The amount of the benefit is a percentage of your retired pay and it depends upon whether you choose full or reduced coverage. The recipient of your SBP annuity is referred to as the annuitant.

The Benefit's Duration.

The SBP entitlement begins upon your death and ends either when your elected beneficiary becomes ineligible to receive the annuity or when your beneficiary dies.

Reasons Payment May Be Temporarily Stopped.

Each year, DFAS mails the annuitants a Certificate of Eligibility (COE), using the information on that form to determine an annuitant's continued eligibility for monthly payments. If they don't receive the COE by the deadline on the form, DFAS will stop all payments until they receive a properly completed COE.

Reasons Payment Can Be Permanently Stopped.

Annuity payments stop when your beneficiary dies or becomes ineligible to receive the annuity. For example, payments stop for children covered under the SBP annuity when they reach 18. Payments also stop for spouses covered under SBP if they remarry before 55.

Continuing Children's Benefits After Age 18.

Payments typically stop for children covered under SBP when they reach age 18. If a child attends school in a full-time status at an accredited college or university, payments will continue until they reach 22. Each semester, DFAS will mail a Child Annuitant's School Certification form to verify the child is still enrolled. If DFAS doesn't receive the form by the listed deadline, they will stop all payments until they receive a properly completed form. The SBP annuity will terminate at any time if the child remarries.

Effects of Remarriage on An Annuity.

If the annuitant remarries before 55, annuity payments will stop. However, if the annuitant's marriage later ends, for any reason, even after 55, the annuity payment will restart from the date the marriage ends. The annuitant is responsible for notifying DFAS Cleveland of any changes to their marital status.

Benefits from the VA.

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is an award offered by the VA. **Annuitants cannot receive both SBP and DIC concurrently.** When DFAS is informed that an annuitant is eligible to receive DIC from the VA, DFAS will deduct the amount of DIC received from the amount of SBP. For example, if an annuitant receives a monthly annuity of \$500 from DFAS and becomes eligible to receive a monthly DIC award of \$400 from the VA, DFAS will deduct the \$400 DIC from the \$500 SBP and pay the remaining \$100 to the annuitant.

If the SBP is greater than the DIC award, a partial refund of premiums paid into the program during the service member's retirement will be made. If the DIC payment is greater than the SBP payment, SBP will be stopped completely and all basic spouse premiums paid into the program during the service member's retirement will be refunded.

To receive concurrent SBP and DIC payments, the annuitant must not only be eligible for both, but the DIC entitlement must be a result of a remarriage after age 57.

What initiates the SBP benefit and what will my beneficiary have to do? Your designated beneficiary becomes eligible to receive SBP benefits on the day after your death. The first step a beneficiary must take to initiate receipt of benefits is to report your death.

What happens if there is a delay in reporting a retiree's death?

Late notification of a retiree's death may result in burdensome consequences, including delays in finalizing a member's account, payment of arrears of pay and the establishment of an SBP annuity. A retiree's entitlement to retired pay ends on the date he or she dies. Therefore, delayed reporting of a retiree's death may result in an overpayment that will be collected from a financial institution, the member's estate, or from the annuitant if the annuitant is found to be in receipt of the retired pay funds. Send your COE to:

U. S. Military Annuitant Pay
P.O. Box 7131
London, KY 40742-7131
Fax: 1-800-982-8459

DFAS will send you an annual reminder when your COE is due. Please be sure to notify DFAS if you move, so that they can continue to send you important notices and reminders. To obtain a COE or more information about the SBP, call DFAS at 1-800-321-1080.

"Annuitants cannot receive both SBP and DIC concurrently."



New Email System

DFAS recently transitioned to a new email system. Effective October 31, emails sent to @dfas.mil email extensions will NOT be delivered and customers will NOT receive an "undeliverable" notice. Please ensure you use the correct email address (@mail.mil) when sending correspondence to DFAS.

NOTE: All email links have been updated on the dfas.mil web site.

VA News

The VA Fiduciary Program

The VA Fiduciary Program was established to protect veterans and other beneficiaries who, due to injury, disease, or due to age, are unable to manage their financial affairs. The VA will only determine an individual to be unable to manage his or her financial affairs after receipt of medical documentation or if a court of competent jurisdiction has already made the determination.

Upon determining a beneficiary is unable to manage his or her financial affairs, the VA will appoint a fiduciary. The fiduciary, normally chosen by the beneficiary, must undergo an investigation of their suitability to serve. This investigation includes a criminal background check, review of credit report, personal interview, and recommendations of character references. Only after a complete investigation is a fiduciary appointed to manage a beneficiary's VA benefits. The fiduciary is responsible to the beneficiary and oversees financial management of VA benefit payments. Generally, family members or friends serve as fiduciaries for beneficiaries; however, when friends and family are not able to serve, the VA looks for qualified individuals or organizations to serve as a fiduciary.

To learn more, contact the VA, your subject matter expert, pertaining to fiduciary matters at 1-800-827-1000 or read about it online at www.benefits.va.gov/fiduciary/index.asp.

VA Plans to Propose Expanded Disability Benefits Eligibility for Veterans Exposed to Contaminated Water at Camp Lejeune

The VA announced recently that it plans to propose expanded disability compensation eligibility for veterans exposed to contaminated drinking water while assigned to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune. From 1953 to 1987, water sources at the base were contaminated with industrial solvents that are correlated with certain health conditions. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald decided to propose presumptions of service connection for certain conditions associated with these chemical solvents following discussions between environmental health experts at the Veterans Health Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR).

"The water at Camp Lejeune was a hidden hazard, and it is only years later that we know how dangerous it was," said Secretary McDonald. "We thank ATSDR for the thorough review that provided much of the evidence we needed to fully compensate veterans who develop one of the conditions known to be related to exposure to the compounds in the drinking water."

ATSDR determined that the drinking water at Camp Lejeune was contaminated with perchloroethylene, trichloroethylene, vinyl chloride, benzene and other petroleum contaminants from leaking storage tanks

from 1953 to 1987. ATSDR also determined that prolonged exposure to these chemicals increases the risk of certain health conditions.

Based upon the VA's review of current medical science and ATSDR's findings, Secretary McDonald intends to propose creation of a presumption of service connection for the following conditions:

- Kidney Cancer
- Liver Cancer
- Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma
- Leukemia
- Multiple Myeloma
- Scleroderma
- Parkinson's Disease
- Aplastic Anemia/
Myelodysplastic Syndromes

The Secretary's proposal would also expand benefits eligibility to Reserve and National Guard personnel who served at Camp Lejeune for any length of time from August 1, 1953, through December 31, 1987. These personnel would be presumed to have been exposed to the contaminated water during their Reserve or National Guard service and, in appropriate circumstances, to have been disabled by such exposure during service, thus allowing them to qualify for VA benefits under the statutory definition of "veteran." This would make them eligible for VA disability compensation and medical care for any of the presumptive conditions, and their surviving dependents would be eligible for dependency and indemnity compensation and burial benefits.

The VA is working on regulations that would establish these presumptions, making it easier

for affected veterans to receive VA disability compensation for these conditions. While the VA cannot grant any benefit claims based on the proposed presumption of service connection for these conditions until it issues its final regulations, it encourages veterans who have a record of service at Camp Lejeune between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987, and develop a condition that they believe is related to exposure to the drinking water at the base, to file a disability compensation claim with the VA.

The VA will continue to grant claims for disabilities claimed to be associated with exposure to the contaminants that can be granted under current regulations and review of the evidence in each case. If a claim for service connection for one of the proposed presumptive conditions would be denied under current regulations, the denial will be stayed until VA issues its final regulations. The VA will announce when the regulations are final and presumptive benefits can begin to be awarded. For more information on applying for these benefits, visit http://benefits.va.gov/compensation/claims-postservice-exposures-camp_lejeune_water.asp.

Veterans who served at Camp Lejeune for 30 days or more between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987, are already eligible to receive VA healthcare for up to 15 health conditions. More information, including a full list of covered conditions, can be found online at www.publichealth.va.gov/PUBLICHEALTH/exposures/camp-lejeune/index.asp.

Veterans can establish eligibility for healthcare benefits by submitting VA Form 10-10EZ online at www.1010ez.med.va.gov/, downloading it at www.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/1010EZ-fillable.pdf and returning it to any VA Medical Center or Clinic, or by calling 1-877-222-VETS (8387), Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. (Eastern Time). The VA is reimbursing certain veterans' family members for eligible out-of-pocket medical expenses related to the 15 covered conditions. More information can be found at <https://www.clfamilymembers.fsc.va.gov>.

The Veterans Choice Program: Qs and As

What is the Choice Program?

If you are already enrolled in VA health care, the Choice Program allows you to receive health care within your community. Using this program does NOT impact your existing VA health care or any other VA benefit.

Are you eligible?

If you are already enrolled in VA health care, you may be able to receive care within your community, instead of waiting for a VA appointment or traveling to a VA facility. You are eligible if any of these situations apply to you:

- You have been (or will be) waiting more than 30 days for VA medical care

- You live more than 40 miles away from a VA medical care facility or face one of several excessive travel burdens

How do you sign up?

To get started, you'll need to select a healthcare physician. The VA will work with you to ensure you are approved for care in your community.

Step 1: Check if you are eligible

Step 2: Explore which doctors are participating in your area

Step 3: Make sure you have information on hand about any other health insurance coverage you may have

Step 4: Schedule an appointment

If you are a *Distance-eligible* veteran, call 1-866-606-8198 to confirm eligibility and ensure the care needed is covered by VA. Provide the following:

- Your first and last name
- Your full address
- The name of your preferred community physician. Unfortunately, not all physicians will be eligible to participate so if your preferred physician is not available, we will recommend other physicians in your area

If you are a *Wait List-eligible* veteran, you will receive a phone call from a VA partner (a non-VA phone number) to set up your appointment. You will be asked for:

- Your first and last name
- Your full address
- Your date of birth
- The last 4 digits of your Social Security Number

Additional Program Information

The Choice Program does not impact your existing VA health care or any other VA benefit. If you did not receive a Choice Card or if you cannot find your card, call 1-866-606-8198 to learn more about eligibility for the Veterans Choice Program. If you are satisfied with your wait time at a VA facility and wish to continue waiting for VA care, there is nothing you need to do at this time. Care in the community is only covered by VA for medical needs which have been approved by your VA physician. We can happily schedule an appointment for other medical needs, but we can only cover the cost of care related to your VA-approved health needs.

The Veteran Choice Program is part of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (VACAA). To learn more about VACAA, go to www.va.gov/opa/choiceact/factsheets_and_details.asp. Call 1-866-606-8198 for more information.

Did You Know? Casualty Card Databases

The History Division's Historical Reference Branch holds casualty cards for World War II, War Dogs, Interwar Period 1946-50, Korea, Interwar Period 1955-1965, and Vietnam. Casualty cards were issued when a Marine was wounded, missing, killed or deemed a prisoner of war.

In an effort to increase patron usage and preserve the historic cards, the branch has digitized them and created a database of the information. The cards and corresponding database are NOT COMPREHENSIVE as there are often gaps or omissions. This does not mean that the event (KIA, WIA, etc.) did not happen, just that the branch did not have a card. The Marine Corps History Division is NOT the official repository for Marine Corps casualty information and cannot create new additions to their in-house collection of casualty cards nor the online databases.

While the cards for World War II through Korea are not classified, they can often be very graphic. Therefore, to maintain the dignity and honor of the Marines, the individual cards will only be released, upon request, on a case-by-case basis.

To request a card, send an email to history.division@usmc.mil or write:

United States Marine Corps History Division

Attn: Reference Branch
3078 Upshur Avenue
Quantico, VA 22134

National Archives

How to Request Your Military Service Records for Emergency Requests

If your request is urgent (e.g., upcoming surgery, a funeral, etc.) provide the nature of the emergency and your deadline in the "Comments" section of eVetRecs or in the "Purpose" section of the Standard Form (SF) 180, Request Pertaining to Military Records at www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/standard-form-180.html. Fax your request to the Customer Service Team at (314) 801-0764 or call the Customer Service Staff at (314) 801-0800 if you have questions or require same-day service. Due to the large number of calls the office receives at this number, hold times are often long. However, once you reach a technician, he or she will be happy to assist you with emergency service.

If your burial request involves interment at a VA National Cemetery, contact the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 1-800-535-1117 or visit the National Cemetery Administration website at www.cem.va.gov/. They work directly with the VA staff to obtain records to verify service for burial benefits. If the veteran is not going to be interred at a National Cemetery, the requester may fax the SF-180 or signature page from eVetRecs (including signature of the next of kin and proof of death) to the Customer Service Team at (314) 801-0764.



TAPS

The Marine Corps wishes to extend heartfelt sympathy to the loved ones and friends of our fallen comrades. Because of the Privacy Act, we cannot release addresses of the next of kin. The following list includes the Marine's name, last grade held that was reported to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, month and year of retirement and month and year of death.

Note: In an effort to reduce erroneous listings, Semper Fidelis will only announce deaths that have been confirmed from DFAS. Telephonic reporting of deaths to MMSR-6 are first confirmed before posted in this column.

COLONEL

Edelmann Jr., George J. Feb 69/Oct 15
McHenry, Leemon Jul 85/Mar 15
Parker, Clayton H. Aug 87/Jun 15

LIEUTENANT COLONEL

Connelly, Roy A. Aug 88/Mar 15
Daniels, Robert L. Aug 78/Nov 11
Degen Jr., Carl W. Feb 08/Oct 15

MAJOR

Weghorst, Thomas O. Jul 64/Jun 15

CAPTAIN

Flynn, Jack W. Apr 78/Dec 15
Hayes, John L. Sep 62/Apr 15
Odom Jr., Hillman R. Feb 79/Jul 15

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER

Bosworth, Lawrence E. CWO4 Jan 92/Sep 14
Huetsch, John O. CWO Jul 68/Sep 15

SERGEANT MAJOR

Alvarado Jr., Eufracio T. Feb 87/Oct 15

MASTER GUNNERY SERGEANT

Jones, Richard E. Jul 83/Oct 15
Smith, Jerry W. Dec 96/Mar 13

FIRST SERGEANT

Carrigan, Robert W. Aug 68/Jan 14
Van Vleet Jr., Charles E. Jan 81/Jun 14

MASTER SERGEANT

Anderson Jr., Nickel Jan 78/Aug 15
Bailey, Joe F. Jun 74/Nov 14
Evans, Marvin B. Feb 02/Oct 15

GUNNERY SERGEANT

Duncan, Robert L. Feb 70/Jun 15
Enright, Harold E. Nov 74/Jul 15
Jones, Raymond C. May 73/Oct 14
Miser, William G. Mar 68/Oct 14
Schroder, John E. Mar 70/Jan 15

SERGEANT

Doggett, Brett D. Sep 91/Oct 14

Good Briefs...*Snippets about social media*



MARINES BLOG is the official blog of the United States Marine Corps and is maintained by Marine Corps News at the Defense Media Activity Marine Corps Element. The blog strives to provide readers with perspectives on Marine Corps news and information, and to facilitate an issue-driven, principle-based and audience-focused conversation online. Access it at <http://marines.dodlive.mil/>. Here's a blog entry from early 2015:

Sgt. Maj. Ronald L. Green relieved Sgt. Maj. Micheal Barrett as the 18th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Feb. 20, 2015. Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr. chose Sgt. Maj. Green for his leadership skills and dedication to his Marines. "His dynamic leadership is well known throughout the ranks of our Corps. His wide range of experience in both peacetime and combat, and his record of performance make him extraordinarily well-qualified to serve as our senior enlisted leader," Dunford said. Here are five things you might not know about him:

Fast Burner. Green has been meritoriously promoted an impressive five times (there are only six ranks an enlisted Marine can be meritoriously promoted to). That's meritorious private first class, lance corporal, corporal, sergeant, and staff sergeant. Green attributes his success to the leaders who have helped pave the way. "The great leaders around me have influenced me, mentored me, and given me pointers on how to succeed," Green said. "From the day I went to boot camp, to working with Sgt. Maj. Barrett."

Tony Hawk. Believe it or not, Green loves to skateboard. Getting out on his board is one of his ways of spending quality time with his children. While he won't be headed to the X Games anytime soon, it's still an activity he enjoys today. "I've been skating since I was a young boy, and my kids skateboard, too, so I get out there every now and again and hop a curve, but I get off real quick," Green said. "My wife tells me not to."

King of the Road. If Sgt. Maj. Green wasn't in the Marine Corps, he said he could see himself as a truck driver. When he made the move from Camp Pendleton to the Pentagon, he elected to drive his personal vehicle across the country instead of flying, taking advantage of the time on the road to listen to a recording of himself reading the Commandant's Planning Guidance — a suggestion from his daughter. "I love driving," Green said. "That's my time out there on the road."

Power of the Blues. Green grew up in a military family. His father served in the Army and his grandfather in the Air Force. Green went to college before deciding he wasn't ready for it at the time. At that point, he could've joined any branch of service, but he joined the Marine Corps. "I saw the dress blues, the 8th and I guys and I just wanted a chance to be a part of that," Green said. "It was a chance to be a part of the greatest team in the world."

Wolf Pack. One of Green's leadership inspirations comes from the Law for Wolves in Rudyard Kipling's "The Second Jungle Book."

*"Now this is the law of the jungle, as old and as true as the sky,
And the wolf that shall keep it may prosper, but the wolf that shall break it must die.
As the creeper that girdles the tree trunk, the law runneth forward and back;
For the strength of the pack is the wolf, and the strength of the wolf is the pack."*

Green lives by this motto, which is why he believes in leading 'through the eyes of the private.' "Mission first, Marines always," said Green. "I start with the private because if you can represent that Marine, you can represent everyone up to the general or admiral."

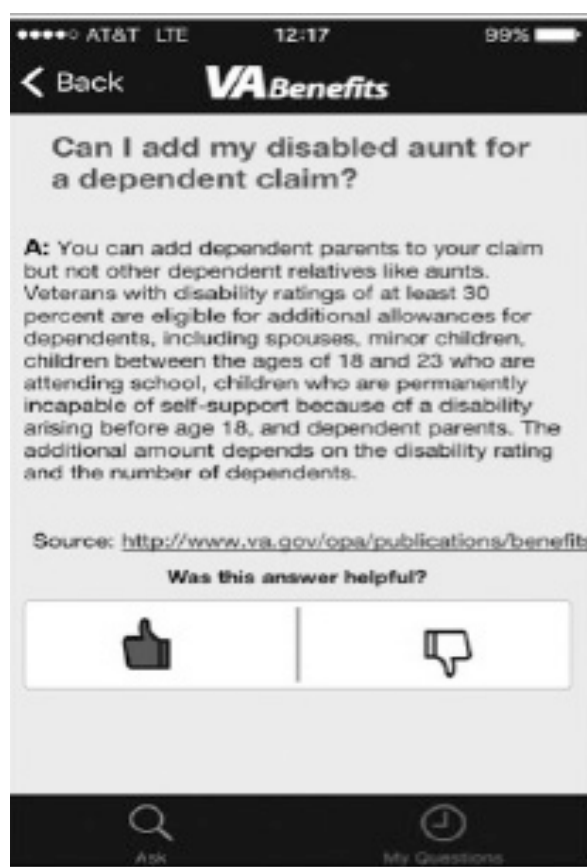
App Watch: 311VET

The 311VET is the Veterans Benefits Administration's app that answers your general questions about the benefits from the VA. The 311VET can provide information about most VA benefits, including pension, education, health, disability, loan, burial and career benefits.

If you have a general benefits question and you can't find the answer online at www.va.gov or through the Call Center at 1-800-827-1000, simply download the app on your smart phone or tablet or text your question to 311838.

If your question is in the database, meaning it's one that has already been asked, you will receive an instant computer response. If not, your question will be routed to a team of human experts who will find an answer for you. This generally takes just a few minutes.

Note: The 311VET will not answer questions that require Personally Identifying Information.



Fake SmartDoc emails are being sent with links requesting personal information or even reporting false problems with your pay. Avoid URLs that direct you to unofficial myPay sites. The correct sites are myPay at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/>

or link through the DFAS website at www.dfas.mil. DFAS provides more valuable information like this on their [Facebook](#) page. "Like" them to learn more because nearly 95,000 already have!



Did you know @USMC is the official Twitter account of the United States Marine Corps? At the time Semper Fidelis went to print, @USMC had more than *677K followers. Why not join them? At Marines.mil, there are more than 70 Twitter handles that you can follow. Go to their social media page at www.marines.mil/News/SocialMedia.aspx. Tweet!

#Hashtag This!

Social media tells us a hashtag is this symbol: # but my style manual refers to it as a number sign.

Learn how veterans can build their careers by adding #ExploreVA in Twitter or Facebook.

*correction

USMC Retired Services Offices

MCAS Yuma Arizona

Tony Steen
(928) 269-3159
Fax: (928) 928-269-3723
anthony.steen@usmc.mil

MCAGCC Twentynine Palms California

Philip C. Cisneros
(760) 830-7550

MCAS Miramar California

(858) 577-4806

MCB Camp Pendleton California

Edward Woodforke
(760) 725-9789
woodforke@usmc-mccs.org

Freddie Darnell
(760) 725-3400
freddie.darnell@usmc.mil

MCLB Barstow California

Patrick Rewerts
(760) 577-6533
patrick.rewerts@usmc.mil

MCRD San Diego California

Ray P. Bromley
(619) 524-5301
retiredmcrdsd@yahoo.com

MCLB Albany Georgia

Raymond Breaux
(229) 639-5278
breauxr@usmc-mccs.org

MCB Kaneohe Bay Hawaii

Jeffrey Esposito
(808) 257-7795
jeffrey.esposito@usmc.mil

MCAS Iwakuni Japan

Gary K. Saiki
011-81-827-79-5762
gks20142000@yahoo.com or
saikigk@usmc-mccs.org

Robert Bugawan
rbugawan@yahoo.com or
robert.bugawan@usmc.mil

MCB Camp SD Butler Okinawa Japan

Ben Garcia
DSN: 315-645-3159, 011-81-611-745-3159
garciab@okinawa.usmc-mccs.org

MCB Camp Lejeune North Carolina

Luis J. Alers-Dejesus
(910) 451-0287, Fax: (910) 451-0677
luis.alers-dejesus@usmc.mil

MCAS Cherry Point North Carolina

(252) 466-5548

MCAS/MCRD South Carolina

(843) 228-4574

MCB Henderson Hall Virginia

Larry Ward
(703) 693-9197
hnhl_rao.fct@usmc.mil

MCB Quantico Virginia

Kimberly Bennett
(703) 784-3351
kimberly.bennett@usmc.mil



Reunions

Group 16 Naval Enlisted Scientific Education Program 40th reunion in West Lafayette, IN, Apr. 28 to May 1, 2016. POC: Tom Kane, (703) 624-2833, tkane@ida.org or Dean Bain, (803) 463-1210, deanbain@aol.com.

LPH/MCS-12 USS INCHON 10th reunion in Warwick, RI, May 15-19, 2016. POC: David F. Fix, 131 Waypoint Dr., Lancaster, PA 17603-5676, (717) 203-4152, ussinchon@gmail.com or visit www.ussinchon.com.

Marine Corps Distinguished Shooters Assn. in Sneads Ferry, NC, April 21-22, 2016. POC: Capt Dave A. Luke Sr., (770) 736-3156, dalukesr@comcast.net.

Radio Bn., in San Diego, CA, May 12-15, 2016. POC: R.J. Zike, rzike@cox.com or Rick Swan, rswan@swanassoc.com.

3d Marines Scout/Sniper Platoon (Vietnam) in Las Vegas, NV, Feb. 19-21, 2016. POC: Jim O'Neil, (928) 684-2309, taraniail@gmail.com.

8th & I Reunion Assn. in Arlington, VA, July 14-17, 2016. POC: Maj John Marley, USMC (Ret), (703) 473-9818, jm1967a15@verizon.net. Visit www.8thandi.com.

How to Correct Your Military Record

If you believe you are the victim of an error or injustice which affects your military record, you may apply for a Correction of Military Records by completing and submitting a [DD Form 149, Application for Correction of Military Record](#).

Examples of correction include: upgraded discharge, promotions, retired pay, household goods, pay date change, bonus, and MGIB programs.

DFAS pays military members when the Board for Corrections of Naval Records (BCNR) rule in their favor. If you received a decision from the BCNR and you do not agree with it, write the Board and

explain your reasoning. Reference the appropriate address on page 2 of the DD Form 149. If you would like to check the status of your request contact the BCNR directly at (703) 614-1817 (Navy/Marine Corps).

If you believe DFAS paid you incorrectly for your Correction of Record, provide written documentation with a handwritten signature explaining why you are protesting the amount to:

DFAS-IN
Dept. 3300
Attn: COR/Claims
8899 East 56th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46249-3300
DFAS Inquiry Line: (317) 212-6167
(Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m, EST)

HOW TO REPORT AN ADDRESS CHANGE

RETIRED MARINES: Report your address change to DFAS at 1-800-321-1080 or MMSR-6 at 1-800-715-0968. myPay is another option to accomplish this at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>.

ANNUITANTS (SBP RECIPIENTS): Report your address change to DFAS ONLY*

***MMSR-6 CANNOT UPDATE ANNUITANT ADDRESS CHANGES!**

Don't delay the process! Contact DFAS at 1-800-321-1080. Your correct mailing address ensures receipt of this newsletter and any other correspondence from DFAS or HQMC.

Your Military Identification Card

Two Forms of Identification Are Now Required:

To replace or renew your military ID card, two forms of identification are required:

1. **A VALID PHOTO ID.** Acceptable photo identification includes a driver's license, military ID card, passport or permanent resident alien card. All photo IDs must be current; expired photo IDs are not accepted.
2. **A SECONDARY ID.** A secondary ID may include one of the photo IDs listed above or a Social Security card (not a Medicare card), a voter registration card, birth certificate, or student ID if you are a college student. To avoid delays, call your nearest ID card center for hours of operation and availability.

Military ID Cards for Family Members:

Indefinite military ID cards are now issued to eligible family members who are 75 or older.

The 2007 National Defense Authorization Act authorized the issuance of indefinite military ID cards for incapacitated dependent children over 21. To qualify for an indefinite ID card, a determination of permanent incapacitation must be made by the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery and a current financial dependency determination (over 50%) is required. **A financial redetermination will also be required every four years.**

Dependent parents and/or parents-in-law over 75, with permanent military ID cards will also require a financial redetermination every four years.

Full-time students over 21, may be eligible for military ID card benefits until 23 provided they are enrolled full-time in a college or university and are dependent on the member for over 50% of their financial support. It is the service member's responsibility to ensure eligible family members are updated in DEERS and to notify DEERS of any changes in eligibility. For more information, call MMSR-6 at 1-800-336-4649 or (703) 784-9310.

The Retired Marine's Military ID Card:

When a military service member retires, the ID card issued will have an expiration date on the front and back, coinciding with his/her 65th birthday, which is one day before the Medicare eligibility begin date. ID cards will be replaced if they are lost, stolen, or damaged; they will also be replaced for a name change due to marriage, divorce, or to replace an older version of the ID card. If applicable, divorce decrees and/or marriage licenses may be required. A retired member's ID card may also be replaced when turning 65 and enrolling in Medicare Part B. With Medicare Part B enrollment, a retired Marine is automatically enrolled in TRICARE for Life, which will require updating the medical eligibility dates on the back of the ID card. If the dates on the back of your ID card have expired, replace the ID card (and have the Medicare Part B card with you when updating the military ID card).

Eligibility for a Military ID Card By Mail

If you are requesting to have a military identification card by mail, you must have a notary's signature on the back of the photograph. According to Air Force Instruction 36-3026 (17 June 2009):

PORTRAIT-STYLE PHOTOGRAPHS, 8X10 OR 5X7, REQUIRE SIGNATURE NOTARIZATION ON THE BACK AND INCLUDE WEIGHT, HEIGHT, EYE COLOR, AND HAIR COLOR.

You must live more than 300 miles from a military ID card center. Include a statement why you are unable to travel. Submit a copy of your current military ID card (front and back), a photocopy of a second form of ID (i.e., driver's license, birth certificate, or Social Security card), and a statement addressing why you are unable to travel to an ID card center to HQMC (MMSR-6), 3280 Russell Road, Quantico, VA 22134-5103. Include your contact information!

ID CARD SITE (RAPIDS) LOCATOR: <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsi>

Steps to Take When an Annuitant Dies

ELIGIBILITY FOR SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN ANNUITY PAY ENDS WITH THE DEATH OF THE ANNUITANT (BENEFICIARY)

Prompt reporting of a deceased military annuitant's death can help avoid delay and possible financial hardship to surviving family members or executors, who will be required to return any unearned payments of the decedent's annuity pay. Follow these steps to report the death of an annuitant:

1. If the survivor is an SBP annuitant, call DFAS at 1-800-321-1080 to report the death and stop annuity pay.
2. Mail or fax a copy of the annuitant's death certificate to:

DFAS - U.S. MILITARY ANNUITANT PAY
P.O. Box 7131; London, KY 40742-7131
Fax: 1-800 982-8459

3. Inform any financial institutions receiving payments about the death of the annuitant (Provide a copy of the death certificate when it becomes available).
4. If applicable, contact the following agencies/departments immediately to report the death:

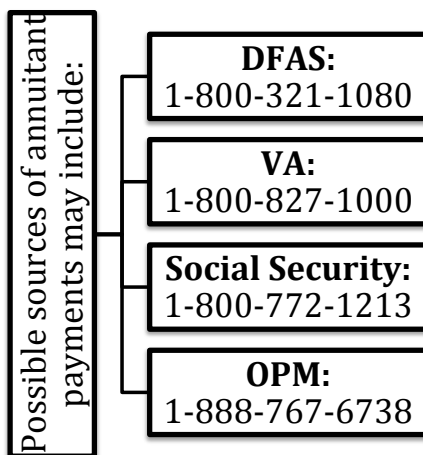
Social Security Administration: 1-800-772-1213, www.ssa.gov
 Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System: 1-800-538-9552
 Department of Veterans Affairs: 1-800-827-1000 (annuitants in receipt of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation: www.va.gov)

Reporting the death of a spouse to the nearest DEERS Office

Recently, a caller reported his wife died and requested the address of the nearest DEERS Office to mail the certified death certificate instead of driving to the office, which may have involved a day's trip.



Is mailing the certificate a good choice? No, it's not the best choice because submitting a death certificate in person will generate an immediate termination from the DEERS database, thereby removing the deceased from TRICARE. Call MMSR-6 if you have any questions.



Steps to Take When a Retired Marine Dies

1. **REPORT THE DEATH TO DFAS at 1-888-332-7411 to stop retirement pay to avoid indebtedness.** If the retired Marine was receiving pay from another source due to a disability from the VA or civil service retirement from the Office of Personnel Management, contact that agency to return the payment. If you fail to do this, you will have to repay it later. You may also report the death online at www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/forms.html. Additional information from DFAS is available at www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/survivors/Retiree-death.html. **NOTE:** DFAS will forward a confirmed death listing to Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps (MMSR-6) for inclusion in an upcoming issue of this newsletter for the Taps column.
2. **REPORT SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN ELECTION, if applicable.** Designated annuitants will receive notification from DFAS if the deceased retired Marine elected SBP. If you are uncertain of whether an election was made, call DFAS at 1-800-321-1080.
3. **UPDATE YOUR MILITARY ID CARD.** Your status has changed, and as the survivor of a deceased Marine, your ID card must be updated to reflect it due to the Marine's death. Access your nearest ID site at www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsi or call HQMC (MMSR-6) at 1-800-336-4649 or (703) 784-9310 to obtain the three sites closest to you.
4. **NOTIFY THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION at 1-800-SSA-1213 (www.ssa.gov)** to apply for the \$255 death benefit, *if applicable*.
5. **CONTACT THE VA at 1-800-827-1000 FOR BURIAL AND OTHER VA BENEFITS, such as VA disability payments.** While the VA does not provide burial benefits for annuitants, the annuitant may be eligible for burial in a military cemetery. A copy of the sponsor's DD 214 is required. Visit www.va.gov for more information.
6. **CONTACT THE U.S. OFFICE OF PERSONNEL at 1-888-767-6738 or (202) 606-0500** if the sponsor was receiving civil service pay.

HQMC Casualty Assistance

While "Steps to Take When a Retired Marine Dies" serves as a guide for survivors handling the affairs of a loved one, there is casualty support that is available to assist when a retired Marine dies.

The Casualty Assistance Branch, at 1-800-847-1597, is available 24 hours a day. You may also reach them via email at casualty.section@usmc.mil.

The HQMC Casualty Section serves as a facilitator between survivors of Marines and government agencies such as the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (Office of Servicemembers Group Life Insurance) and the Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

The Casualty Section provides a 30-page handbook, "Information for Survivors of Retired Marines," which contains valuable information on burial, financial compensation, and miscellaneous topics on TRICARE, state benefits, income taxes, scholarships, civil service job preference, and more.

Be sure to contact the Casualty Assistance Branch after reporting the death to DFAS.

Steps to Take When a Retired Marine Dies, *cont'd.*

ADDITIONAL AGENCIES PROVIDING AID AND ASSISTANCE TO SURVIVING SPOUSES

Arlington National Cemetery: (703) 607-8000
 Gold Star Wives of America: 1-888-751-6350, www.goldstarwives.org
 Military Funeral Honors: 1-866-826-3628 or (703) 432-9524
 Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society: (703) 696-4904, www.nmcrrs.org
 National Military Families Association: 1-800-260-0218, www.nmfa.org
 Society of Military Widows: 1-800-842-3451, www.militarywidows.org/home.aspx
 Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors: 1-800-959-8277, www.taps.org

SOME THINGS YOU WILL NEED TO DO:

- Gather important documents for claims processing (e.g., birth certificate, will, etc.)
- Begin to make funeral and burial arrangements
- Start claim process for applicable benefits (e.g., SBP, VA life insurance, Social Security)
- Determine immediate and short-term financial needs and income sources
- Arrange for help with legal affairs of the deceased
- Notify joint account agencies (e.g., credit cards, banks, auto registration home/auto insurance)
- Review survivor's own legal documents for possible revision
- Obtain multiple certified death certificates (6-12 copies)

Defense Finance and Accounting Service 2016 Retiree and Annuitant Pay Dates

ENTITLEMENT MONTH	RETIREE PAYMENT DATE	ANNUITANT PAYMENT DATE
January 2016	Mon., Feb. 1, 2016	Mon., Feb. 1, 2016
February 2016	Tues., March 1, 2016	Tues., March 1, 2016
March 2016	Fri., April 1, 2016	Fri., April 1, 2016
April 2016	Fri., Apr. 29, 2016	Mon., May 2, 2016
May 2016	Wed., June 1, 2016	Wed., June 1, 2016
June 2016	Fri., July 1, 2016	Fri., July 1, 2016
July 2016	Mon., Aug. 1, 2016	Mon., Aug. 1, 2016
August 2016	Thurs., Sept. 1, 2016	Thurs., Sept. 1, 2016
September 2016	Fri., Sept. 30, 2016	Mon., Oct. 3, 2016
October 2016	Tues., Nov. 1, 2016	Tues., Nov. 1, 2016
November 2016	Thurs., Dec. 1, 2016	Thurs., Dec. 1, 2016
December 2016	Fri., Dec. 30, 2016	Tues., Jan. 3, 2017

DFAS retired pay dates are scheduled for the first non-holiday weekday of each month.

2016 SECRETARY OF THE NAVY Retiree Council

LtGen R.S. Coleman, USMC (Ret), Co-Chair
Dumfries, VA/ronscoleman@yahoo.com

MCPON John Hagan, USN (Ret), Co-Chair
Norfolk, VA/jhagan58@earthlink.net

RETIREE MEDICAL COMMITTEE

Mission: To address health care benefit issues of concern to Navy and Marine Corps retirees and raise these issues, along with recommended solutions, to the highest levels in the chain of command.

CAPT Elizabeth Ruschmeier, USN (Ret)
(Committee Chair)
Annapolis, MD/elizabeth.ruschmeier@va.gov

CAPT James Kraft, USN (Ret)
Jackson2164@yahoo.com

MSGT John Veneziano, USMC (Ret)
San Diego, CA/jveneziano@san.rr.com

YNC Eric Wenzel, USN (Ret)
usnpo@ewenzel.us

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

Mission: To address issues affecting any facet of retiree compensation, identify inequities and raise them to the appropriate level of Navy/DoD with specific recommendations to ensure retiree compensation is administered in a fair and equitable manner.

COL Perry Dunn, USMC (Ret), (Committee Chair)
Orlando, FL/perry.dunn@att.net

COL Fred Mahady Jr. USMC (Ret)
San Diego, CA/fmahady@cox.net

LTCOL Valerie Simon, USMC (Ret)
Boulder City, NV/val-hawk@hotmail.com

EMCM Gene Hall, USN (Ret)
Gene0601@workforcelink.com

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Mission: To continuously improve communications with the Navy/Marine Corps retiree communities by more effective use of all mediums, from traditional print and broadcasting to the latest cutting-edge technologies, with special continuing emphasis on establishing life long, reliable communications paths (email for life, universally accessible web pages, etc).

AECM Joe Wright, USN (Ret)
Lemoore, CA/joe.wright@co.kings.ca.us

HMCS Raymond Applewhite, USN (Ret)
Jacksonville, NC/raymond.applewhite@med.navy.mil

VOLUNTEER SERVICE AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

Mission: To promote greater retiree volunteerism, encourage retirees to mentor active-duty Sailors and Marines, to eliminate bureaucratic barriers to such healthy, beneficial activities and to respond to specific recommendations, issues, and concerns of Navy and Marine Corps retirees.

CAPT Charles Martin Menez, USN (Ret)
(Committee Chair)
Alexandria, VA/MMenez1981@Kellog.Northwestern.edu

CDR Carol Harrington, USN (Ret)
cahalo00@gmail.com

SGTMAJ Juan Williams, USMC (Ret)
Ewa Beach, HI/jwilliams@hingyca.org



WELCOME TO OUR NEW SECNAV MEMBERS!

MARINE CORPS
COL James Rooney
MGYSGT Gerald Kiehl
SSGT Jeremiah Workman

NAVY
CAPT James Spagnole
CDR William Newell
CDR Dijon Fasoli
YNC Barbara Brookins
ISCS Jon Altmann
MACS Bert Levesque
MRC John Beattie



Inns of the Corps

MCAS Yuma: Dos Rios Inn
(928) 269-2262, Fax: (928) 269-6639

MCLB Barstow: Oasis Lodge
(760) 577-6418, Fax: (760) 577-6542

MCB Camp Pendleton: Ward Lodging
(760) 725-2134/2313, Fax: (760) 725-5609

MCB Camp Pendleton: South Mesa Lodge
Reservations: (760) 763-7805/7806/7807
Fax: (760) 237-3559

MCAS Miramar: Miramar Inn
(858) 271-7111, Fax: (858) 628-9466
Reservations: 1-800-628-9466

MCAGCC Twentynine Palms:
Sleepy Tortoise Inn
(760) 830-6583, Fax: (760) 830-1647

MCB Hawaii: Lodge at Kaneohe Bay
(808) 254-2806, Fax: (808) 356-4506

MCAS Iwakuni: Monzen and Nishiki Lodges
011-81-611-753-3221

MCB Camp S.D. Butler: WestPac Lodge
011-81-611-745-2455

MCB Camp Lejeune: Hospitality Inn
(910) 451-3041, Fax: (910) 451-0360

MCRD Parris Island: The Osprey Inn
*(843) 228-2744 (primarily for personnel on TAD)

MCRD San Diego: Devil Dog Inn
(619) 524-4401, www.mcrdsd-billeting.org

MCAS Beaufort: De Treville House
(843) 522-1663, Fax: (843) 522-1663

MCB Quantico: Crossroads Inn
(703) 630-4444, Fax: (703) 630-4499
Reservations: 1-800-965-9511

*denotes a correction

UNITED STATES Marine Corps Junior ROTC Program



The Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps is looking for a few good men and women to serve as instructors at various high schools throughout the United States. Marines selected to serve in these billets teach MCJROTC cadets discipline, self-confidence and the leadership skills required to successfully prepare them to meet future challenges. Instructors receive a stipend from the Marine Corps and the respective school system that as a minimum, when added to retirement pay, can equal full military pay and allowances. MCJROTC instructors must be certified by the Commanding General, Training and Education Command, Quantico, VA. Applications are accepted not earlier than one year nor later than three years after the effective date of retirement. Marines interested in serving as MCJROTC instructors can view current vacancies and download an instructor application at www.mcjrotc.marines.mil/Applications.aspx.

SEMPER FIDELIS DISCLAIMER

Some of the information compiled for Semper Fidelis comes from other sources to include experts in their respective fields, i.e., DFAS, VA, and TRICARE. Content was current at the time this publication went to press. Any delays in mailing may be due to unforeseen circumstances and we apologize for the inconvenience. **NOTE: The newsletter is posted online before it is mailed.** Semper Fidelis accepts unsolicited material for publication for regular columns such as Second Career and Reunions, but reserve the right to reject any unsolicited material deemed inappropriate or illegible for publication.

Semper Fidelis is published quarterly by MMSR-6 to inform retired Marines and their family members on information of interest on their rights, benefits and privileges. Items in this memorandum do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Marine Corps or the Department of Defense.



Directory Assistance Pages

A

AMC PASSENGER TERMINAL:
www.amc.af.mil/amctravel

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY: (703) 607-8000
www.arlingtoncemetery.mil

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOMES (GULFPORT):
Gulfport, MS: (228) 897-4418
<https://www.afrh.gov/gulfport-residents>

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOMES (WASHINGTON):
Washington, DC: (202) 541-7501
<https://www.afrh.gov/washington-residents>

ARMED FORCES RECREATION CENTERS:
www.armymwr.com/travel/recreationcenters/

- **Edelweiss Lodge and Resort (Germany):**
(011-49) 8821-9440
- **Hale Koa Hotel (Hawaii):** 1-800-367-6027

AWARDS:
Marines who have been discharged, separated or retired before Dec. 31, 1998:

Navy Personnel Command (PERS-312B)
1 Archive Dr., St. Louis, MO 63138
(314) 538-2311/13; Fax: (314) 538-2316

Marines who have been discharged, separated or retired after Jan. 1, 1999:

Commandant of the Marine Corps (MMA)
2008 Elliot Rd., Quantico, VA 22134
(703) 784-9206

B

BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS:
701 S. Courthouse Rd., Bldg. 12, Suite 1001
Arlington, VA 22204-2490
(703) 604-6884/6885; Fax: (703) 604-3437
www.donhq.navy.mil/bcnc/bcnc.htm

C

CAMP LEJEUNE NOTIFICATION REGISTRY:
<https://clnr.hqi.usmc.mil/clwater>

COLD WAR CERTIFICATE PROGRAM:
Attn: AHRC-PDP-A, Dept. 480, USAHRC
1600 Spearhead Division Ave.
Ft. Knox, KY 40122-5408
Fax: 1-800-723-9262 or (502) 613-9510

<https://www.hrc.army.mil>

(Type "Cold War Certificate" in the search box)

COMBAT-RELATED SPECIAL COMPENSATION:
SECNAV CRSC Board
720 Kennon St. SE, Ste. 309; Washington, DC 20374-5023
1-877-366-2772, Fax: (202) 685-6610
DON_CRSC@navy.mil
www.public.navy.mil/asnmra/corb/CRSCB

D

DD 214s (Marines who have been discharged, separated, or retired before Dec. 31, 1998):

National Personnel Records Center
1 Archives Dr., St. Louis, MO 63138
(314) 801-0800; Fax: (314) 801-9195
MPR.center@nara.gov; www.archives.gov/st-louis

Marines discharged/retired/separated after Jan. 1, 1999:

Commandant of the Marine Corps (MMRP)
2008 Elliot Rd., Quantico, VA 22134-5030
1-800-268-3710, (703) 784-3921

DEFENSE COMMISSARY AGENCY: www.commissaries.com

DEFENSE FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING SERVICE:
1-800-321-1080, www.dfas.mil
U.S. and OCONUS: (216) 522-5955, Fax: 1-800-469-6559

DFAS Special Compensation for the Severely Disabled:
P.O. Box 998011; Cleveland, OH 44199-8011
(216) 522-6170

E

E-BENEFITS: <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/appmanager/eb/veterans>

M

MARINE CORPS ASSOCIATION:
715 Broadway St., Quantico, VA 22134
1-866-622-1775, ext. 100, Fax: (703) 640-0162
mca@mca-marines.org

- **Leatherneck Magazine**
1-800-336-0291, ext. 115; Fax: (703) 640-0823
leatherneck@mca-marines.org
- **Marine Corps Gazette**
1-800-336-0291, ext. 144; Fax: (703) 630-9147
gazette@mca-marines.org

Directory Assistance Pages

MARINE CORPS BARRACKS:

8th and I, Washington, DC, www.barracks.marines.mil

MARINE CORPS EDUCATION COMMAND:

Marine Corps University, History Division
3078 Upshur Ave., Quantico, VA 22134
(703) 432-4874, www.history.usmc.mil

MARINE CORPS JUNIOR ROTC TECOM (C 46JR):

1019 Elliot Rd., Quantico, VA 22134-5001
(703) 784-3706, www.mcjrotc.org

MARINE CORPS RECORDS CORRESPONDENCE (MMSB-12):

2008 Elliot Rd., Quantico, VA 22134-5030
1-800-268-3710, (703) 784-3930/4646/5616

MCCS COMMUNITY SERVICES: www.usmc-mccs.org

MEDICAL RECORDS: Marines who have been discharged/
separated/retired May 1, 1994 or later:

VA Records Management Center
P.O. Box 5020; St. Louis, MO 63115-8950
1-888-533-4558; Fax: (314) 538-4571

Marines who have been discharged/separated/retired before
May 1, 1994 must contact NPRC

MEDICARE: 1-800-633-4227, www.medicare.gov

N

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS:

18900 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Triangle, VA 22172
1-877-653-1775, www.usmcmuseum.org

NAVY LODGE WORLDWIDE RESERVATIONS CENTER:

1-800-NAVY-INN, www.navy-lodge.com

Q

QUANTICO NATIONAL CEMETERY: (703) 221-2183

www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/quantico.asp

S

SISTER SERVICE RETIREE PUBLICATIONS:

- **Army Echoes:** <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/echoes>
- **Air Force Afterburner:** www.retirees.af.mil/afterburner/
- **Coast Guard Evening Colors:** www.uscg.mil/ppc/retnews
- **Navy Shift Colors:** www.navy.mil
(Click "Links" and "Shift Colors")

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION: 1-800-772-1213

www.ssa.gov

SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN:

www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/provide/sbp.html

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VA EDUCATION: 1-888-442-4551, www.gibill.va.gov

VA SGLI/VGLI: 1-800-419-1473

VA STATUS OF HEADSTONES AND MARKERS:
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OTHER VA LIFE INSURANCE PROGRAMS:
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Officer: smb.manpower.usmc.mmsr2o@usmc.mil
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MMSR-6: (703) 784-9311, 1-800-336-4649;
Fax: (703) 784-9834
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smb.manpower.mmsr7@usmc.mil