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Shift Colors

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SHIFT COLORS (PERS-05)
ATTN: REUNION NOTICES
5720 INTEGRITY DRIVE
MILLINGTON, TN 38055-0500

E-mail all reunion notices to:

shiftcolors@persnet.navy.mil

To submit reunion notices please use the following format:

USS Ships Name (USS 123)

Date of reunion

Contact phone number

Need to change your address?

If you are receiving pay and benefits, the only way that you can update your information is by contacting DFAS at **(800) 321-1080**.

Only "Gray Area" Retirees and surviving spouses of Retirees that are not receiving benefits should contact *Shift Colors* to change their address.

When corresponding with *Shift Colors*, please include a phone number so that we can contact you in case we have any questions.

Flying the new "F-14"



Retired IC1 Jerry Hughs (center) stands next to the Navy sponsored Busch Series number 14 show car with Jason Young (left) and Glen Taylor (right) during a visit to the Navy Exchange at Naval Support Activity, Millington, Tenn. Photo by JO2 Jeffrey Nichols.

A message from the Chief of Naval Personnel



Shipmates,

Now that the bulk of our Fleet has returned home, I thought I would take this opportunity to bring you up to date on our plans for the future.

As our CNO, Admiral Vern Clark, says: now is the time to prepare for the next fight. We don't know where or certainly when it may come, but we must assume that our Navy will be called upon again to

answer the president's call for persistent and credible naval power. Therefore, it is incumbent upon us to ensure we can constitute our forces quickly and effectively ... and keep them ready.

That is our collective charge and our shared responsibility.

The means through which we intend to accomplish this aggressive goal is something called the Fleet Response Plan (FRP). In essence, the FRP calls for sweeping changes in the way we train, maintain and deploy our carrier and amphibious strike groups. It creates a naval surge capability to respond to crises anywhere around the world. Six surge ready carrier strike groups would be available anytime, with two strike groups ready shortly thereafter.

The FRP relies upon improvements in how we schedule and conduct both maintenance and training. Given these efficiencies, carrier strike groups could be employable in as little as nine months after returning from extended at-sea periods. It's all about minimizing predictability while sustaining our ability to provide the nation and our allies persistent, credible combat power in the four corners of the earth ... without a permission slip.

Our challenge in the manpower and personnel business, of course, is to keep those strike groups fully manned throughout the surge cycle, rather than allow their manning to fall and then rise right before deployment. Since we may never know exactly when the call comes, we want each and every unit maintained at full manning levels — ready to deploy with all the talent and skills they need to get the job done. There's lots of work to do, of course, but we believe the innovative use of new technologies and the terrific energy of our Sailors will help us get there sooner rather than later.

I had the great pleasure to make three trips to fleet concentration areas in September and early October, first to the Pacific Northwest, then to the San Diego area and finally

to Japan — visiting 10 bases in all and talking to thousands of Sailors. Naturally, the FRP is of great interest to them. Some fear that having our ships and squadrons more surge capable for longer periods of time could translate to extended deployments on a routine basis. But I was quick to remind them that nothing could be farther from the truth. It may, in fact, mean shorter ones.

The CNO has been very clear: we will no longer deploy forces for deployment's sake. We are going to deploy them when and for however long it takes to accomplish the mission. He calls it "presence with a purpose," and he is very serious about it.

I know that many of you have memories of routine, rotational deployments where not much happened operationally, as well as those during which real-world, operational requirements were heavy. You'll no doubt agree that the latter is almost always more exciting, and indeed, we are seeing the same sort of reaction from Sailors today. They like being engaged; they like honing their warfighting skills, and they like the sense of mission with which they operate on a daily basis. They know that each and every time they deploy, they are doing so for a reason.

I wanted you to be aware of the FRP, because you are probably going to be hearing a lot more about it in the near future. It is a radically different way of thinking about naval power, and it meshes very well with the types of threats and challenges we face in this new century. We simply have to be ready — all the time. The FRP is the way to get there.

Before I close, let me just add that I couldn't have been more impressed with those fleet Sailors. Their tone was overwhelmingly positive; their attitudes upbeat. They are proud to serve and prouder still of their contribution to freedom. But they are also proud of the history they are writing and the heritage from which they come.

You are that heritage, and, as we celebrate our Navy's 228th birthday, let me thank you again — on their behalf — for the work you did in helping make this incredible Navy what it is today. However we organize it, however we go about making it ready for the next fight, we do so by standing on your shoulders.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G. L. Hoewing". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "H".



Retired Activities Branch



Straight from the source

Well, the summer of 2003 is a memory. School is back in session for the kids and many of us put those summer experiences behind and prepare for the fast approaching winter events.

Briefly, I would like to share with you some of my early 2003 activities. Last April, I had the opportunity to visit the Army Chief of Staff Retiree Council and the Secretary of the Navy's Retiree Council in Washington, DC. The representatives of both councils spent five solid days preparing recommendations for their respective Service leaders. In May, I had the opportunity to participate in the Air Force Retiree Council meeting in San Antonio, TX. The recommendations to the Service leaders from the Retiree Councils (RC) for the most part were not new, but were issues that continue to be on the high priority list of most retirees and survivors.

The top issues were:

- The elimination of the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) Offset after age 62
- Full Concurrent Receipt (no offset of retired pay for VA disability compensation)
- Equity of retired reservist benefits
- Furthering the viability of TRICARE for Life

All of the RCs are on the same course. But, remember, the recommendations and concerns that go to our Service leaders from the RCs are just that, recommendations. The RCs do their best to articulate the issues to garner support from the Service leaders with enough rationale to present to various legislative committees for action. At the risk of being redundant, let your representatives know how you feel on the above issues, as well as any other concerns you feel strongly about.

Now back to the home front. The staff of the Retired Activities Section receives routine calls from widows regarding spouse's (retirees) not providing for them when they die. Why do we do this? First, we tell our spouses the Navy will take care of them when we die. Then we fail to have any estate in place or provisions for the welfare, so that our loved ones can have a comfortable lifestyle.

This is the saddest part of my job. I find myself apologizing for a retiree's lack of support to their spouse. As I have repeatedly written... while we are able, let's do the right thing and make provisions for those who have stood by us through thick and thin.

This edition of the newsletter includes a check list for retirees to review with their spouses or beneficiaries on important actions to take to lessen trauma should we predecease him/her. This list is a supplement to any Last Will and Testament you may already have in place. By the way, as a retiree, you and your spouse may have a Will drawn up for free at any military installation. So, please take advantage of this benefit.

Our last edition of "Shift Colors" provided much information on the "Combat Related Special Compensation." I hope that all qualified retirees with 20 years of active service or equivalent Reservists have taken the appropriate action. For those of you with disabilities that do not qualify for this program, make your views heard to your legislative officials regarding full concurrent receipt. Finally, how about the article in the "Centenarian Sailors" section? What an impressive career Vice Admiral Wallace B. Short has had. He gives us all something to strive for.

Until the next time... I wish you Happy Holidays in advance.

In Your Service,

Dennis Mills

Dennis Mills
Head, Navy Retired Operations Section



Retired Activities Branch

DEERS enrollment for foreign national spouses/dependents

To improve the administration of the Uniformed Services' health care programs and in order to identify third party payees, all foreign national spouses and/or dependents must provide their SSN for DEERS enrollment in order to become/remain eligible for medical care at Military Treatment Facilities (MTF).

If they do not have a SSN or plan to obtain one, let us know and we will assign a Foreign Identification Number (FIN) to their DEERS record. If you file U. S. Federal Income Taxes with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and claim dependents without a SSN, IRS will assign them an Income Tax Identification Number (ITIN), which we can also use in lieu

of a SSN.

If this information is not provided to DEERS, a Temporary Identification Number (TIN) will be assigned and your eligibility for medical care at a MTF will terminate 90 days from the update of their DEERS record. This applies whether you use a MTF or are enrolled in TRICARE.

If your dependents are currently eligible for ID card benefits and you need to update DEERS with the above information, please take a copy of the social security card or proof of an ITIN to the nearest ID card issuing facility in your area or forward the documentation to the Department of the Navy, Navy Personnel Command

(PERS-332B), 5720 Integrity Drive, Millington, TN 38055-3320. Ensure that your request contains the sponsor's name and SSN.

If you are establishing enrollment for new dependents, or updating your current dependents' eligibility for benefits, please take a copy of the social security card or proof of an ITIN along with other required documentation to the nearest ID card issuing facility in your area or forward the documentation with the initial ID Card application to Naval Reserve Personnel Center, 4400 Dauphine Street, New Orleans, LA 70149-7800, Attn: Code N332. Ensure that your request contains the sponsor's name and SSN.

The Retired Military Almanac replaces the guide for Navy personnel and their families

Prior to transferring to the Retired List or to the Fleet Reserve, members were given a copy of the Guide for Retired Personnel and Their Families. This publication has not been available for over five years. The Retired Military Almanac has been issued to retiring members at their Transition Assistance Program (TAP) classes since 1998. The almanac contains an enormous amount of information that is beneficial to retirees and spouses alike.

The 2003 Retired Military Almanac is now available! Now in its 26th year, the Retired Military Almanac is a 256-page guide designed to keep you current and up to date on many subjects of vital interest to military veterans. The almanac contains detailed information on recently passed legislation, including Combat Related Special Compensation (formerly known as Concurrent Receipt),

lengthy sections on military health care, including TRICARE and TRICARE for life, as well as information on veterans benefits (including a current list of VA facilities), space available lodging and travel, and many other topics directly affecting retirees and their families.

Order directly from the publisher for \$10.95 (includes postage) by sending a check or money order to Uniformed Services Almanac, Inc., PO Box 4144-SC, Falls Church, VA 22044, or if ordering by credit card, call toll-free (888) 872-9698. You can also order secure online at: www.militaryalmanac.com. The 2003 Uniformed Services, Reserve Forces and National Guard Almanacs are also available.

*** The almanac is also available in military exchanges.

TRICARE Handbook Available Online

Navy News Service reports that the new TRICARE Handbook, expanded to provide information about TRICARE's newest services, is now available and can be ordered online at www.fhinc.net/tricare/. Once at the Smart Site, go to "All Marketing Products" and scroll down to the new TRICARE Handbook. Enter the number of handbooks you want and check out. Other information materials are also available at the Smart Site. While individual orders will be honored, commands are encouraged to order enough of the new handbooks for all their beneficiaries and for healthcare providers, as well. For more general information on TRICARE, go to www.tricare.osd.mil.



Retired Activities Branch

How do I make sure my spouse knows what to do in the event of my death?

This question has been asked of “Shift Colors” and the Retired Activities Branch hundreds of times. Unfortunately, the question usually comes after the death of a loved one has already occurred. While it may be impossible to truly prepare for the overwhelming emotions and dilemmas that arise with the loss of a loved one, it does help when most of the issues have already been settled. This checklist is designed to equip you and your loved ones with both knowledge and information that may prove helpful as you prepare one another for the task of handling the affairs of a deceased loved one.

__ Create a military file that includes your retirement orders, separation papers, medical records, etc. Make sure your spouse knows the location and telephone number of the nearest military installation.

__ Create a military retired pay file that includes the pertinent information for DFAS and Navy Personnel Command:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service
U S Military Retirement Pay
Post Office Box 7130
London, KY 40742 7130
(800) 321-1080 or (216) 522-5955/(800) 269-5170 (for deceased members)

Department of Navy
NPC PERS-664
Retired Activities Section
5720 Integrity Drive
Millington, TN 38055-6640

(This file should also include the number of any VA claim still pending and the address of the VA office being used; a list of deductions currently being made from benefits; and the name, relationship and address of the person you have made the beneficiary of any unpaid retired pay at the time of death.)

__ Create an annuities file. This file should include information about the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RCSBP) or the Retired Serviceman’s Family Protection Plan (RSFPP), Civil Service annuity, etc. Additional information regarding SBP annuity claims can be obtained from the DFAS-Cleveland (DFAS-CL) office at **800-321-1080**.

__ Create a personal document file that has copies of marriage certificates, divorce decrees, adoptions and naturalization papers.

__ Create an income tax file. Include copies of both of your state and federal income tax returns.

__ Create a property tax file. Include copies of tax bills, deeds and any other related information.

__ Create an insurance policy file. Include life, property, accident, liability and hospitalization policies.

__ In a secure location, maintain a list of all bank accounts (joint or individual). Include the location of all deposit boxes, savings bonds, stocks, bonds and any securities owned.

__ In a secure location, maintain a list of all charge accounts and credit cards. Include account numbers and mailing addresses.

__ Maintain a list of all associations and organizations of which you are a member. Some of them could be helpful to your spouse.

__ Maintain a list of all friends and business associates who may be helpful. Include name, address and phone number.

__ Spend time with your spouse discussing your plans with respect to the type and place of your funeral service. You should decide which cemetery, whether ground burial, or cremation, etc. If your spouse knows your desires, it will resolve some of the questions that might arise at a later date.

__ Visit a local funeral home and pre-arrange your services. Many states will allow you to pre-pay for services.

__ Investigate the decisions that you and your family have agreed upon. Many states have specific laws and guidelines regulating cremation and burials at sea. Some states require a letter of authority signed by the deceased in order to authorize a cremation. Know the laws in your specific area and how they may affect your decisions. Information regarding Burials at Sea can be obtained by phoning the Office of Medical and Dental Affairs-Mortuary Affairs Division at 1-800-876-1131.

__ Once your decisions have been made and you’re comfortable with them, have a will drawn up outlining all your wishes.

Checklist continued on next page



Retired Activities Branch

Where can I find the Retired Activities Branch's web site?

The Retired Activities Branch's web site is located at www.persnet.navy.mil, click on Retired Activities (in the yellow HOME box). The site has loads of information... check it out.

American Legion offers Scholarship source book

Need information about college scholarships? The American Legion's Need a Lift scholarship publication is an excellent source of information regarding grants and scholarships for dependents of retirees. Call (888) 453-4466 for additional information.

Social Security Information

You can get both Social Security benefits and military retirement. Generally, there is no offset to Social Security benefits because of your military retirement. You'll get your full Social Security benefit based on your earnings. However, your Social Security benefit may be reduced if you also

Checklist continued from page 6

___ Insure that your will and all other official documents are maintained in a secure location known by your loved ones.

___ When all the decision-making and documenting is completed, sit back and continue to enjoy life.

Rest assured that you have done everything possible to help prepare your loved ones for a day when you may no longer be there to help.

If you have other suggestions that might prove helpful and would like to share them with your fellow retirees, send them to the Retired Activities Branch for publication in a future issue.

Department of the Navy
NPC PERS-664
Retired Activities Branch
5720 Integrity Drive
Millington, TN 38055-6640

receive a government pension based on a job in which you did not pay Social Security taxes. If you have questions, ask the Social Security Administration for a copy of the fact sheet, The Windfall Elimination Provision (Publication No. 05-10045).

Amplifications and Corrections

The "Shift Colors" October - December 2002, Retiree network keeps the torch alive (Page 16), Websites for Retirees and Veterans. The originator of the article failed to recognize one of the Navy's foremost advocates for active and retired issues, The Fleet Reserve Association - www.fra.org. Please include their web site on this important list.

Thanks for your help

The "Shift Colors" has routinely indicated that the procurement of the DD214 (Report of Separation from Active Duty or Certificate for Release or Discharge from Active Duty) could be requested from the National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Ave, St. Louis, MO 63132, Attention: Navy. Thanks to an alert reader we have been reminded that DD214s were not issued until after January 1950. Retirees separated or retired prior to that date were issued a NAVPERS 553, which could be used for applying for any veteran benefits. If you require documentation of service prior to January 1950 please request the NAVPERS 553 instead of the DD214. Thank you, reader, for your input!

Cold War Certificates Still Available

Army News Service reports that servicemembers, veterans and federal employees who served between Sept. 2, 1945 and Dec. 26, 1991 are still eligible for a Cold War Recognition Certificate. In 1998, the secretary of Defense approved awarding the certificate to personnel who served during the Cold War. Thus far, about one million people have responded out of the 22 million entitled to receive the certificate, officials said. An application for the Cold War Recognition Certificate can be found on the Internet at <https://coldwar.army.mil>. The Website informs applicants about the correct procedures and the required documentation to receive a certificate. Applications will only be accepted by fax or mail, officials said. More information on the certificate can be found on PERSCOM's Cold War Website or by calling customer service at (703) 325-5864. For more on medals, awards, and decorations, see www.military.com/Resources/ResourcesContent/0,13964,31460,00.html.



Retired Activities Branch

TRICARE enhances dental benefits for uniformed services Retirees

Under a new five-year dental contract between the Department of Defense and the Delta Dental Plan of California, dental benefits for uniformed services retirees and family members enrolled in the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) have been enhanced. Beginning May 1, 2003, the mandatory enrollment period is reduced from 24 to 12 months. The annual maximum benefit per enrollee and lifetime maximum benefit for orthodontic care was increased from \$1000 to \$1200.

After the mandatory enrollment period ends, eligible enrollees which include uniformed services retirees and their family members; Medal of Honor recipients and their family members; and survivors and family members of deceased retirees or active duty sponsors who served on active duty for more than 30 consecutive days, may continue their enrollment in the TRDP on a month-to-month basis. During the mandatory 12-month enrollment period, TRDP enrollees are covered for basic restorative services, periodontics, endodontics, oral surgery and dental emergencies. After 12 months of continuous enrollment, TRDP enrollees are covered for cast crowns, cast restorations, full and partial dentures and orthodontics for adults and children.

As an incentive, sponsors and family members who enroll within 120 days of the sponsor's retirement from active duty receive an extra benefit. They and their family members are covered by the enhanced dental services starting the day they enroll. Sponsors and family members who wait and enroll after the 120-day period are not eligible for the enhanced dental services until they complete the mandatory 12 months of con-

tinuous TRDP enrollment.

The TRDP is a voluntary dental program with enrollee-paid premiums deducted automatically each month from the sponsor's retired military pay. If retired military pay is not available, sponsors and family members can arrange with Delta Dental to pay the monthly premiums either by mail or an electronic funds transfer.

Under the TRDP, there is a \$50 deductible per enrollee, with a \$150 yearly deductible per family. Premiums vary depending on where enrollees live and the number of family members they choose to enroll. During the enrollment period May 1, 2003, to April 30, 2004, enrollees pay approximately \$22 to \$37 a month for single coverage, \$42 to \$71 for two or \$71 to \$120 for a family of three or more.

Dental coverage is available throughout the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, Guam, the U. S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Enrollees may seek dental care from any licensed dentist or specialist within the TRDP coverage area. To minimize out-of-pocket expenses, enrollees are encouraged to seek dental care from more than 67,000 participating dental providers. A directory of participating Delta Dental providers is available online at www.ddpdelta.org. Retirees and family members may also request a provider directory by calling the Delta Dental Customer Service number at (888) 838-8737. Additional information on the TRDP is available on the TRICARE Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/dental.

Are you preparing to apply for social security?

If you're approaching your 62nd birthday and preparing to apply for your Social Security benefits, you should know this:

You may apply for benefits 3 months before your 62nd birthday.

It is advised that you call the Social Security Administration Office for an appointment and list of documents and information for your application of benefits.

Your application for benefits will not be pro-

cessed without all of your DD214s or verification of military service. If you do not have that information you may request copies from:

NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER
9700 PAGE AVE
ST LOUIS MO 63132
ATTN: NAVY

This is an important event in your life. Please be proactive and have all of the documentation required by the Social Security Administration prior to applying for benefits.



Retired Activities Branch

How to get your service record

Reproduced with permission from Military.com.

An individual's complete service record is available to the former service member or, if deceased, to his/her next of kin (parents, spouse, or children). Limited information (such as dates of service, awards, and training) is available to anyone. Not available to the general public is information which would invade an individual's privacy; for example, medical records, Social Security number, or present address.

The St. Louis Center receives many requests for service records each week, so a request will be processed with greater speed and accuracy if the requester uses a Standard Form 180, "Request Pertaining to Military Records." If requesting the records of a relative, a requester should men-

tion the relationship to the former member (brother, uncle, or other). There is no charge for this service to former service members or their next of kin. For others, a nominal fee is charged for research and reproduction costs.

You may submit more than one request per envelope or fax, but submit a separate request (either SF 180 or letter) for each individual whose records are being requested.

* Send by Mail:

National Personnel Records Center
Military Personnel Records
9700 Page Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

* Send by Fax: 314-801-9195.

The Center will respond in writing by U.S. Mail.

Order Processing Time:

Response times for records requested from the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) vary greatly depending on the nature of the request. For example, the NPRC Military Records Facility currently has a backlog of 180,000 requests and receives approximately 5,000 requests per day. Routine requests for separation documents currently require only 2-4 weeks for servicing. However, requests that involve reconstruction efforts due to the 1973 fire or older records which require extensive search efforts may take much longer. The average turnaround time on all requests is currently running at approximately 12 weeks.

SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN (SBP) PREMIUM SUSPENSIONS

The Retired Activities Section often receives calls from retired Sailors participating in the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) who are suffering through the loss of their spouse. Understandably, this is a difficult time for a retiree. This change in their lives is one where things will never be the same. Others phone requesting identification card (ID) assistance, or are just looking for someone to talk to and wondering what to do next.

As a first step, we recommend that they contact the Defense Finance and Accounting Service-Cleveland Center (DFAS-CL) at 800-269-5170 to make a telephonic report. Those this is not required; however it does alert the DFAS-CL of the situation. We also recommend that they write a brief letter or complete a DD Form 2656-6, Survivor Benefit Plan Election Change Certificate, attach a copy of the death certificate and mail it to the DFAS-CL in order to have their SBP premiums suspended.

We recognize that our advice provides little solace at this most difficult time; however, following these steps will at least return the SBP premiums to their retired pay. And should the retiree remarry, they can elect, within their first year of remarriage to, resume, increase, or decline previous coverage provided by the SBP.

Cut out the quick reference phone list below and put in a safe place for you and your family to use in case of an emergency.

| Name _____ | Social Security # _ _ - _ - _ |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Retiree and Annuitant Pay..... | (800)321-1080 |
| TRICARE for Life..... | (888)363-5433 |
| TRICARE Information..... | (800)874-2273 |
| TRICARE Headquarters..... | (303) 676-3526 |
| Delta Dental..... | (888) 838-8737 |
| I.D. Cards Benefits and Eligibility..... | (800)443-9297 |
| Federal Long-term Health Insurance..... | (800)582-3337 |
| NPC Customer Service Center..... | (866)827-5672 |
| Social Security Administration..... | (800)772-1213 |
| VA Burial Benefits..... | (800)827-1000 |
| Reporting a Retiree's Death to DFAS..... | (800)269-5170 |
| Shift Colors..... | (901)874-4012 |
| DEERS..... | (800)538-9552 |



Retired Activities Branch

SECNAV Retiree Council contact list

Authorization For Release of Information

Name: Lt Gen Matthew T. Cooper, USMC (Ret)
Address: 715 Broadway St., Quantico, VA 22134
Telephone No:
Work: (703) 640-9433
E-Mail Address:
Work: coopermt@nt.quantico.usmc.mil

Name: MCPON William H. Plackett, USN (Ret)
Address:
3188 Gallahad Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23456
Telephone No:
Home: (757) 426-0738
Fax: (757) 426-0758
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william8981@cox.net

Name: CTMCM James H. Burns, USN (Ret)
Address:
5840 N.W. Sewell Road, Hillsboro, OR 97124
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3344 Cuesta Place, La Costa, CA 92009
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Work: 011-63-45-323-5844
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Navy Mutual Aid Association
Henderson Hall, 29 Carpenter Road, Arlington VA 22212
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Work: mmchugh@navymutual.org

Name: ABHCS Richard G. Morell, USNR (Ret)
Address:
2900 Veterans Way, Viera, FL 32940
Telephone No:
Work: (321) 637-3693

Name: YNCM Larry D. Rhea, USN (Ret)
Address:
11401 Meadow Wood Ave., Fredericksburg, VA 22407-7484
Telephone No:
Home: (540) 786-8264
Work: (202) 543-5778
E-Mail Address:
Home: ldrhea@aol.com



Retired Activities Branch

Name: NCCM Ronald L. Shroyer, USN (Ret)
Address:
114 Beech Street, Connellsville, PA 15425
E-Mail Address:
Work: vscrshro@vba.gov
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2619 Shenstone Way, Sacramento, CA 95833
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Home: (916) 922-7778
Fax: (916) 322-4121
E-Mail Address:
Work: jspagnol@calepa.ca.gov
Home: jimyspag@aol.com

Name: CWO4 Manuel P. Supnet, USN (Ret)
Address:
8818 Keremeos Way, San Diego, CA 92126-1420

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Council continued on page 23



Retired Activities Branch

COMBAT RELATED SPECIAL COMPENSATION (CRSC) Q & A

Q: Why can't I call the CRSC Branch?

A: The high volume of applications combined with our small staff, force us to choose between answering telephone inquiries or processing applications. Processing applications is our priority. We appreciate your patience in this matter as it allows us to more efficiently process applications for both you and your fellow retirees.

Q: My application was approved but I disagree with a portion of my approval letter. What should I do?

A: Send us a letter asking us to reconsider the decision. Ensure you enclose documentation that clearly verifies what you want corrected. Please review the documentation portion of Section 5 of our web page.

Q: Why does it take so long to hear that my application has been received?

A: You don't hear from us until we complete initial processing of your application. This allows an automatically created letter to be prepared for you as a result of steps we must take to process your application. To acknowledge receipt of applications manually upon receipt would, given our current volume, require the dedicated efforts of 25% of our staff with significant negative impact on our ability to process applications. Please review Section 6 of our web page below for more details on initial processing and how to track when you should hear from us that your application has been received. This delay is beginning to shorten, as our speed has picked up and the volume of applications appears to be decreasing.

Q: When can I expect to hear from the CRSC Branch?

A: We send letters to you under the following circumstances: Completion of initial processing, notification if your case will be delayed for retrieval of additional records, approval of CRSC, denial of CRSC. These letters will advise you when and if you should contact us or if a response from you is required.

Q: I retired with combat-related disabilities on PDRL or TDRL, but I don't have 20 years of service (or 7,200 reserve points). Am I eligible for CRSC?

A: No, 20 years of service (or 7,200 reserve points) are among the criteria for CRSC.

Q: I have an older docket number. I understand applications are worked in the order received. Why hasn't a decision been made yet on my application?

A: Although each case is unique, the answer is generally that your case has been delayed in order to retrieve

additional records. This delay can take months, so we process other cases until the additional records necessary for your case arrive.

Q: Is documentation that establishes service connection for my disability enough for the CRSC Branch to make a determination?

A: No. "Service connected" is not the same as "combat-related." A disability that is service-connected only establishes that a particular injury/illness was incurred coincident with service in the Navy or Marine Corps. The CRSC Branch bases its determinations on combat-related criteria which are defined on the Application for CRSC (DD Form 2860).

Q: How does Special Monthly Compensation (SMC) or Individual Unemployability (IU) factor into CRSC?

A: See Section 2 of the following web page text.

Q: Can I apply for CRSC if I am not currently rated by the VA?

A: If you are not currently rated by the VA, then you may still apply for CRSC if you received a rating from the Navy Physical Evaluation Board at the time of your retirement.

Q: If approved for CRSC, can I receive payments if I am not currently receiving disability compensation from the VA?

A: No. CRSC can only be paid based upon VA disability ratings for which you have waived retired pay.

Q: Are CRSC payments taxable?

A: No. CRSC is a separate compensation paid to approved retirees as a monthly entitlement. It is NOT military retired pay. Therefore, pending final review by The Armed Forces Tax Council, CRSC is exempt from Federal income tax.

Q: What are the rates for CRSC payments?

A: The CRSC Branch defers these questions to the DFAS Retired and Annuity Pay Contact Center, which can be contacted at 1-800-321-1080. The CRSC Branch does NOT calculate final CRSC payment amounts but focuses only on determining whether disabilities are combat-related. These determinations are provided to DFAS who then calculates CRSC payments.

Go to the below website for CRSC updates: www.hq.navy.mil/ncpb/CRSCB/combatrelated.htm.

Centenarian Sailors

Chief Warrant Officer George W. Clark



George W. Clark was born in Avalon, Georgia, on Jul 18, 1903. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy on Feb. 20, 1922 in Atlanta, Georgia, as an apprentice seaman. After basic training at Hampton Roads, Norfolk, VA, he reported aboard USS New Mexico (BB 40) as a seaman second class. After serving seven years (1922

- 1929) he was promoted to seaman first class, gunners mate third class and gunners mate second class. Clark assumed that he was slated for battleship duty throughout his naval career because his next ship was the battleship USS New York (BB 34), in which he served for the next 12 years. He received promotions to turret captain first class and chief turret captain. After 19 years of sea duty, shore duty came and he was assigned recruiting duty in San Bernardino, CA. Unfortunately, shore duty didn't last very long. When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Clark returned to sea aboard the heavy cruiser USS Portland (CA 33) in early 1942 as a Warrant Officer (WO1).

Clark served aboard the Portland for a total of 25 months on station in the South Pacific Theater. Portland served in Admiral Kinkaid's group May 4 - 8, 1942, when a Japanese invasion force was turned back from Port Moresby, New Guinea during the two-day battle of Coral Sea. When USS Lexington (CV 2) was lost, Portland took on 722 survivors. She was in TF-17 carrier screen group during the Battle of Midway when the Japanese lost four carriers.

In August 1942, Portland provided cover and support for the Marine landings at Tulagi and Guadalcanal. Throughout the entire war, Portland was in the thick of the fight and took a torpedo hit on Nov. 13, 1942, on the starboard quarter that blew off both inboard propellers, jammed the rudder five degrees right and jammed the number three turret in train and elevation. CWO (gunnery) George Clark and his shipmates kept the guns and turrets firing and hit an enemy destroyer at a range of six miles, which exploded, rolled over and sank. A heavily damaged Portland

arrived at Mare Island Navy Yard on March 3, 1943.

Repairs and operational training complete, Portland steamed to the Aleutian Islands. From November 1943 until February 1944, she participated in the Gilbert and Marshall Islands campaigns and screened carriers through April 1, 1944. CWO2 George Clark departed the ship in June 1944 and was assigned to the U.S. Naval Shipyard, Charleston, SC. USS Portland (CA 33) received 16 battle stars for her World War II service.

In September 1946, CWO2 George W. Clark was transferred from active duty to the Fleet Reserves of the United States Navy after 24 years of outstanding service.

Not one to sit around, Clark worked as a parking meter attendant for the city of San Bernardino, Ca. Later, he found employment with Chrysler Motors Factory Parts "MOPAR" warehouse. He "Retired" in 1968 in San Bernardino, where he presently resides. He has been a continuous member of the Fleet Reserve Association since March 1951, first with branch 129 (now defunct) and now with 108, Riverside, CA., and recently received his Fleet Reserve Association "Centenarian Club Certificate."



George and Ina (Baker) Clark had been married one week shy of 58 years when she passed away on April 5, 2001. They have two sons, George T. and Kenneth, six grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.



Defense Finance and Accounting Service

Electronic tool to manage pay accounts

Carol A. García, Defense Finance and Accounting Service Corporate Communications

All retirees of the Armed Forces have the opportunity to take control and manage their retired pay accounts through an electronic Internet program called myPay. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) implemented this secure and convenient program in March 2000. It was upgraded in October 2002 with updates, new features and increased security.

Today, as a retiree, you have total control and access to your pay from anywhere and nearly anytime to make changes to pay preferences and to merely access your benefits information. Through this system, military members can change a mailing address, add, cancel or edit certain allotment information, update direct-deposit information, change the amount of federal/state tax withholding, view and print year-end tax statements, manage U.S. savings bonds, view and print retiree pay statements and more.

"This program gives retirees and annuitants from all Armed Forces unprecedented control of their pay accounts," says Jim Pitt, deputy director for DFAS Electronic Commerce, Military and Civilian Pay Services. "myPay offers faster enhanced services, security, accessibility and reliability to all customers, and the program saves money by reducing the cost associated with offline paperwork and pay statements."

The system is simple to access with a personal computer, Internet access, and a web browser with secure features. Any retired service member or annuitant can access their account by following a few easy steps. On the Internet, type the following address: <https://mypay.dfas.mil>. The first screen will be the myPay home page, which will ask for a social security number and a personal identification (PIN) number. Before anyone can access the system for the first time, you must set up a PIN. To set up a PIN on the homepage go to the heading "Popular FAQ's" under that section click on "How do I get a PIN?" and follow the instructions. Retirees without a computer may register and establish a PIN using a touch-tone phone by calling toll free **877-363-3677**. Listen as a series of messages guides you through the process and collects the required information. A unique random PIN number is established by DFAS and mailed to the retiree. Once you receive your PIN, you can log on and access your personal account.

"What is great about this system is that it is in the hands and control of the retiree," says Pitt. "They are able to con-

trol their military finances and benefits without long waits or mailing in forms." Many retirees now receive by mail their retiree account statement (RAS), which takes several days. However, by registering and logging onto myPay the retiree can view his or her RAS days before the postal service delivers it to his/her doorstep.

Customer support is available by calling **800-390-2348** Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Eastern standard time. Even those who do not have a personal computer or Internet access can make required changes to their pay account by using the computer and Internet access of a family member, friend or at public libraries and cyber cafes.

Thousands of active, retired and reserve military personnel have taken advantage of this program and are very pleased with the security, accessibility and reliability of myPay.

DFAS continues to work hard and effectively to bring superior military pay services to service personnel, active and retired.

About DFAS:

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service is the world's largest finance and accounting operation. In fiscal 2002, DFAS paid 5.7 million people, processed more than 11.2 million contractor invoices, made 7.3 million travel payments and disbursed more than \$346.6 billion while reducing overall costs to customers by \$144 million. For more information about the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, please visit <http://www.dfas.mil>.

Need to change your address for Shift Colors?

If you are receiving pay and benefits, the only way that you can update your information is by contacting DFAS at **(800) 321-1080**.

Only "Gray Area" Retirees and surviving spouses of Retirees that are not receiving benefits should contact *Shift Colors* to change their address.

When corresponding with *Shift Colors*, please include a phone number so that we can contact you in the event we have any questions.



TRICARE Management Activity

Sponsors encouraged to wrap their newborn babies in DEERS

At birth, a newborn baby is often wrapped in a blanket for added warmth and protection. The Department of Defense also offers newborns a blanket of protection. As a beneficiary of the Military Health System, enrolling your newborn son or daughter in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS), provides you with the comfort of knowing your baby is TRICARE eligible and will continue receiving the essential well baby and pediatric health care he or she needs.

As a parent of a newborn, one of the first decisions you probably made was deciding on a name for your new “bundle of joy.” As a TRICARE beneficiary, the second and most important decision you should make is to enroll your newborn baby in DEERS as soon as possible after birth.

Uniformed Services sponsors are responsible for keeping their family members’ TRICARE eligibility in DEERS current and up-to-date. By enrolling your newborn in DEERS, you establish TRICARE eligibility for the baby and avoid potential claim problems or other financial hardship in the future if your baby is not properly enrolled.

A newborn infant is covered as a TRICARE Prime beneficiary in DEERS for the first 120 days after birth—as long

as one additional family member is enrolled in TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Prime Remote. After the initial 120 days, any claim submitted for a newborn will process as TRICARE Standard until the infant is enrolled in DEERS and TRICARE Prime, or the infant’s TRICARE Standard eligibility ends. Eligibility for TRICARE Standard benefits ends 365 days after birth for any newborn infant who is not enrolled in DEERS.

To establish TRICARE eligibility in DEERS, parents or legal guardians are required to submit a certificate of live birth from a hospital or TRICARE approved birthing center and a copy of a verified and approved DD Form 1172 “Application for Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card” signed by the sponsor.

For additional information on enrolling your newborn baby in DEERS, sponsors may contact or visit their unit personnel office, their nearest identification card issuing facility www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/, or contact the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office Telephone Center at (800) 538-9552. Additional information on DEERS eligibility is available on the TRICARE Website at www.tricare.osd.mil/deers/default.cfm.

DEERS verification changes for unremarried former spouses

The Social Security number (SSN) used to verify TRICARE eligibility in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) for unremarried former spouses is changing. Starting Oct. 1, 2003, DEERS will reflect TRICARE eligibility for these beneficiaries using the unremarried former spouse’s own SSN and not the former sponsor’s. Health care information will be filed under the unremarried former spouse’s own SSN and name. These beneficiaries will now use their own name and SSN to schedule medical appointments and to file TRICARE claims.

The current Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card, DD Form 1173, held by the unremarried former spouse is still valid until it expires. Upon renewal, the unremarried

former spouse will be issued a replacement Department of Defense/Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card, DD Form 2765.

The Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office is sending a letter to all beneficiaries affected by this change. The letter explains the new DEERS eligibility verification procedures and serves as official notification from DoD regarding this change. The letter does not, however, provide proof of continued eligibility for TRICARE health care benefits.

After Oct. 1, 2003, unremarried former spouses may contact or visit the nearest identification card issuing facility (locations may be found online at www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/) for questions or assistance.

Unremarried former spouses should always keep their DEERS information current and up-to-date. For questions regarding their medical records, they should contact the Military Treatment Facility and medical records department where their DoD medical records are stored.





TRICARE Management Activity

New TRICARE global remote overseas contract begins

Under a new TRICARE global remote overseas contract with the Department of Defense, access to the TRICARE Prime health care benefit has improved for active duty Uniformed Services sponsors and family members who are assigned to designated duty stations in remote locations where military treatment facilities are not available. Under the new contract, International SOS Assistance Inc., will coordinate and provide health care services and pay claims for active duty sponsors and family members assigned to overseas locations designated as remote.

The coordination of health care services in the TRICARE Pacific Region and designated sites in TRICARE Europe began Sept. 1, 2003. Health care services for active duty personnel and family members assigned to the Latin America TRICARE Region and the remaining sites in TRICARE Europe begins on Oct. 1, 2003. Specific designated site locations and start dates are available on the TRICARE Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/overseas.

Under this new contract, International SOS will arrange routine, urgent and emergency health care services for sponsors and family members with health care providers who are approved and certified by TRICARE. International SOS will also arrange urgent or emergency care for active duty personnel who are temporarily assigned or deployed in a remote location overseas, or traveling in an authorized leave status.

The new contract brings equity of the TRICARE Prime benefit to family members and sponsors in remote locations overseas where military treatment facilities are not available. Enrollees have access to a network of creden-

tialed "English-speaking" providers, referrals for specialty care and access to SOS call centers worldwide where they may obtain medical advice from a licensed provider or nurse 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

"By using providers within the International SOS network, active duty sponsors and family members in remote locations overseas have access to a network of quality health care providers and a benefit that is 'cashless,' 'claimless' and easy to use," said Air Force Lt. Col. Patricia Grauly, TRICARE Overseas program manager, TRICARE Management Activity.

Dental care is available under this contract for active duty personnel only. Active duty family members, who are enrolled to a designated remote overseas location, may use the SOS dental network providers. Family members, however, are responsible for any up-front payment and for filing claims for covered care through the TRICARE Dental Program (TDP). Sponsors may enroll their family members in the TDP available through United Concordia Companies, Inc. The TDP is a separate dental insurance program that shares dental cost with enrolled family members. Premiums are paid through payroll deductions by the sponsor. Additional information for family members needing to enroll in the TDP through United Concordia is available **by calling (800)332-0366** or online at www.ucci.com/was/ucciweb/tdp/tdp.jsp.

The new TRICARE global remote overseas health care contract eliminates up-front payment and the need for sponsors or family members to file claims when seeking care.

Under TRICARE, beneficiaries always have a choice. Active duty spon-

sors and family members who decide not to use the services of International SOS providers may be required to pay for any health care received out-of-pocket and file claims themselves with the TRICARE overseas claims processor for reimbursement. A list of telephone numbers and contacts for the TRICARE Europe, Pacific and Latin America regions and International SOS are available on the TRICARE Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/overseas.

Receive overseas prescriptions

Military retirees living overseas can now receive prescription drug shipments larger than 16 ounces.

Contracted suppliers for the Tri-Care Mail Order Pharmacy program can mail a 90-day supply of prescription drugs, due to the exception to policy that would otherwise limit the weight of the packages.

This military postal system exception to policy, which was implemented on May 21, is limited to prescription medication shipments, and no other suppliers or programs are authorized under this policy. Currently, Express-Scripts, Inc. is the only authorized TMOP contracted supplier.

For more information, contact Capt. L.A. Gove, Military Postal Service Agency, at **(703)325-7851**.

VETERAN NETWORK

MWR's three "R's" of travel



Heritage Cottages: Spend quality time with the family at NAS Jacksonville's two-bedroom Heritage Cottages.

By Robin Hillyer Miles, Navy MWR Communications Group.

Relaxation, recreation and recuperation are three of the "R's" that pertain to Navy Morale, Welfare and Recreation's (MWR) Heritage Cottages. Another "R" is reservations, as in make yours now!

These 16 cottages, located on Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville's golf course, are the newest addition to the family of cottages available at Navy installations throughout the United States.

Relaxation

"The cottages provide a low cost vacation option. They allow a great opportunity to spend quality time with the family and use the reasonably priced MWR activities on base," said Capt. Charlie King, executive officer, NAS Jacksonville. "I would recommend it as a stopping point for those returning from the highly stimulating Orlando parks as a means to decompress, relax and have a good night's sleep before getting back on the highway to return home."

Recreation

NAS Jacksonville is a popular duty station with a vast amount of tourist destinations in the surrounding area, including golf resorts, historic cities, family attractions, and a large number of beaches. Visitors may also take advantage of the wonderful MWR facilities available on base. The Heritage Cottages were built to offset the higher prices of local hotels and resorts, while offering amenities and access not normally found in Navy visitor's quarters, lodges and inns.

Recuperation

"I was totally impressed with the cottages. Even though I was on temporary additional duty (TAD), I couldn't wait to

get back to my cottage in the evenings to sit out on the screened porch overlooking the golf course and enjoy the sounds of nature," said Tammy Olenski, MWR program analyst, Commander, U. S. Atlantic Fleet. "I have raved about the cabins to my fellow co-workers who often travel to NAS Jacksonville for TAD. I plan to use the cottages for all my future visits to the Jacksonville area," she concluded.

Opened in February 2003, 16 fully furnished and equipped two-bedroom cottages are available; two are Americans with Disabilities Act compliant. Cooks will enjoy the kitchen amenities that include dishes, utensils, microwave, stove, oven, refrigerator, dishwasher, garbage disposal, pots and pans. Couch potatoes will appreciate the two 27-inch color televisions and the DVD/VCR.

Year-round rates for the cottages are \$60.00 per night. Each two-bedroom cottage can sleep up to six adults and offers 800 square feet of living space with a 150 square foot screened patio.

A clothes washer and dryer are located in each cottage. Pets and smoking are not allowed in the cottages.

For more information about the cottages or to make reservations, call (904) 542-3138 or (904) 542-3139.

Eligible patrons may make reservations one year in advance. The patron list includes active duty and family; retired and family; reservist and family; Department of Defense personnel and family; and NAS Jacksonville government contractors. Since the cottages are located on base, the ability to gain base access is required.

NAS Jacksonville's MWR department also has an RV Park with 25 sites overlooking St. John's River. New shower and restroom facilities have been recently added to the park. Reservations are accepted 60 days in advance via the Auto Hobby Shop on base. Auto Hobby can be reached by calling (904) 542-3227.

For more information on other Navy MWR cottages and RV parks, visit www.mwr.navy.mil.

Get Away to Short Stay

Navy Morale, Welfare and Recreation's (MWR) Short Stay Outdoor Recreation Area, located on a 60,300-acre lake in the Lowcountry of South Carolina, is the perfect spot for a weekend getaway or vacation.

MWR continued on next page

VETeran NETwork



Lakeside Villas: Short Stay's two and three-bedroom villas sit directly on the lake, offering spectacular views and all the comforts of home.

MWR continued from page 16

“Our newest facilities are one and two-room log cabins that come equipped with heating, air conditioning, microwaves and refrigerators. They have become some of our most popular rentals and are \$18 to \$22 per night,” said Tom Boyd, Charleston Naval Weapons Station’s MWR site manager for the resort. “The new central bath house in the camping area is surrounded by six of these cabins and two more cabins are directly on the water.”

Active duty military personnel may make reservations at Short Stay up to a year in advance. Military retirees and Department of Defense civilians may make reservations six months in advance. The reservation office is open daily from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Eastern time zone.

“For those who prefer all the comforts of home, we offer 44 villas and cabins. These two and three-bedroom and one-bath facilities are also located on the water and are perfect for a family vacation. Rates for these facilities range from \$37 to \$73 per night,” said Boyd. “We also have conference facilities, pavilions and boats for rent.”

“Our villas, cabins, RV Park and campsites are open year-round. I’ve met vacationers from all over the United States. One of our regulars is an Air Force retiree who now lives in Canada,” recalled Beth Spinharney, campground host. “Campsites run from \$3 to \$15 per night. Folks like Short Stay because there is so much to do and see in the Lowcountry. And, of course, some guests like to come and relax and not do much at all.”

Jutting out on Lake Moultrie, Short Stay is ideally situated next to Francis Marion National Forest, ensuring the tranquility and privacy of the recreation area will remain for years to come.

The area is teeming with hiking, hunting, fishing, water sport, and golfing opportunities. Nature sightings are common, as alligators, deer, raccoons, rabbits, seagulls, hawks and other wildlife call Short Stay home.

Just minutes away are historical sights such as Strawberry Chapel built in 1725, Mepkin Abbey where monks have resided since 1942, and Old Santee Canal Park with nature trails, picnic areas and an interpretive center.

Hikers and families will enjoy the Lake Moultrie Passage of the Palmetto Trail, whose gateway is located near Short Stay. The 425-mile non-motorized Palmetto Trail traverses South Carolina from the state’s sliver of Blue Ridge Mountains to the Atlantic Ocean.

Historic Charleston and the coastal islands are less than an hour’s drive from Short Stay. Visitors can take guided tours of Charleston’s historic district and tour some of the finest plantations and homes in the South. Isle of Palms, Sullivan’s Island, Folly Beach and Kiawah Island offer public beach access.

“The Information, Ticket and Travel (ITT) Office is located on the Weapons Station and we offer discount tickets to local attractions and historic sights,” said Annette Sellers, ITT manager. “We have driving maps and other useful brochures. The base is a 30-minute drive from Short Stay and downtown Charleston is an additional 20 minutes or so from here.”

Guests don’t have to travel far to partake in fun activities. Short Stay offers a beach and swimming area, a boat ramp, and a large playground for children. The nearest town, Moncks Corner, has local and chain restaurants, gift shops, grocery stores and discount supermarkets.

Contact Short Stay toll free at **800-447-2178** or **(843)743-2608** or visit their web site at www.shortstay.nwschs.navy.mil. For discount tickets to Charleston attractions, contact the ITT Office at **843-761-2120**.

Short Stay Beach:

Boating, swimming, and sunning on the beach are just a few of the activities guests can enjoy at Short Stay on Lake Moultrie.

Photo by MWR.



VETeran NETwork

Vets get face-to-face meeting with today's weapons

By Senior Chief Journalist (SW) Doug Hummel NAS JRB Willow Grove Public Affairs Office

"I couldn't have carried this through the jungle," said a man wearing a Purple Heart Medal on his shirt.

"Yea, it's much heavier than the M1's we had in Korea," said another man wearing a Purple Heart Medal on his hat.

That's what the conversation sounded like July 16 when 25 members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 170 received a weapons demonstration from five members of the base's Weapons division at the Navy Exchange Pavilion here.

This group of Purple Heart Medal awardees hold a monthly meeting on station and usually head home after the meeting. But this time, the group had a reason to stay around.

"I was anxious to get the meeting over, which is a no-no, but I was really looking forward to this," said John Agnew, a veteran of World War II and a member of the group for 10 years. "It was very interesting to hear about the advances in technology. It was great. Not just to see the weapons, but to meet the guys who are doing the job. They were wonderful."

"I was excited about this demonstration," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Joseph D. Noce, magazine supervisor and one of the weapons briefers. "It's really great to be able to tell people what you do, show them today's technology and say this is what our military is using to accomplish our mission."

Each of the five presenters from Weapons took turns describing a different weapon to the group of veterans. In the brief, they explained

the capabilities of the weapon and the type of platform they can be launched from. The weapons on display included: an M-14 rifle, an M-16 rifle, a 9 mm pistol, an AGM-84 Harpoon missile, an AGM-65 Maverick guided missile, a SUU-25 rocket pod, a General Purpose bomb and a Cluster Unit bomb.

After the brief was over, members of the group were given a chance to get a closer look at the weapons and talk to the briefers.

"The weapons are a lot different,"

said Rick Karpowich, who was one of the first members of the group to approach the weapons. "The bombs are different, but the personnel are a lot like we were, happy and highly trained. They know their job well."

"I really enjoyed talking to them about the differences and similarities between what we do in today's war and what they did in their war," said Noce. "It brought a lot of memories back of my grandfather telling me war stories. He was also a Purple Heart recipient. It was a good time."

Weapons change, but Sailors stay the same



NAS JRB WILLOW GROVE, Pa. - AOAN Ryan E. Wilson (right) shows John Agnew, a member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 170, how to load the SUU-25 rocket pod during a weapons demonstration held at the Navy Exchange Pavilion here July 16. Agnew and 24 other members of the local chapter of the Purple Heart received briefs from personnel of the base's Weapons department on several different types of weapons used by today's warfighters. Photo by JOCS(SW) Doug Hummel.

Reunions

| REUNION | DATE | PHONE NUMBER |
|--|------------------------|----------------|
| CBMU 302 | May 20-23, 2004 | (856) 234-2273 |
| CHARLES R. WARE (DD 865) | May 20-23, 2004 | (412) 561-7522 |
| DESLANT BOXING TEAM (1950 - 1956) | Nov 7-9, 2003 | (505) 524-9127 |
| ENTERPRISE OPERATION SEA ORBIT | Jul. 30- Aug. 4, 2004 | (847) 360-9331 |
| FLYING MIDSHIPMEN ASSOC. | Mar. 31 - Apr. 4, 2004 | (727) 447-2066 |
| LST 902 (KOREA) | Apr. 30-May 4, 2004 | (979) 532-1890 |
| Mine Squadron Ten Assn.MSB & MSL of Atlantic Fleet | May 21-23 , 2004 | (843)571-3214 |
| NAVCOMMSTA ICELAND | Apr. 22 - 25, 2004 | (304) 876-6628 |
| NAVY CONVAIR ASSN | Apr. 19-23, 2004 | (405) 341-5796 |
| NAVY POSTAL CLERKS | Feb. 16-19, 2004 | (620) 669-0218 |
| NAVY PUBLIC AFFAIRS ALUMNI ASSOC. | Jan. 16 - 18, 2004 | (703) 281-7963 |
| NMCB 22 | Mar. 5-7, 2004 | (409) 745-0116 |
| NMCB40 | Apr. 16-18, 2004 | (856) 875-1300 |
| TICONDEROGA VETERAN'S ASSOC. | May 5 - 9, 2004 | (816) 454-7846 |
| TRAINING SQUADRON 13 CHARLIE | Apr. 15 - 18, 2004 | (352) 259-1374 |
| US NAVY PUBLIC AFFAIRS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION | Jan. 16-18, 2004 | (703) 281-7963 |
| USS ALAMO (LSD 33) | Jun. 13-15, 2004 | (702) 435-1351 |
| USS ALBEMARLE/USNS CORPUS CHRISTI BAY | May 16-18, 2004 | (860) 267-2825 |
| USS ALBUQUERQUE (PF7) | Apr. 30-May 3, 2004 | (225) 775-5809 |
| USS ALTAIR (AKS 32) | May 13 - 15, 2004 | (903) 769-5325 |
| USS BATAAN (CVL 29/LHD 5) | May 12 - 14, 2004 | (937) 390-2713 |
| USS BETELGEUSE (AK 260) | Apr. 22-25, 2004 | (843) 797-7727 |
| USS CATAMOUNT (LSD 17) | Sept. 2004 | (775) 575-2610 |
| USS CAVALLA (224/684) | Apr. 21-25, 2004 | (831) 684-2313 |
| USS CHARLES R. WARE (DD 865) | May 20-23, 2004 | (412) 561-7522 |
| USS CONYNGHAM (DD 371/DDG 17) | Jun 9 - 13, 2004 | (651) 681-1927 |
| USS EDSON (DD 946) | Jun. 1 - 4, 2004 | (925) 439-2111 |
| USS ENTERPRISE | Jan. 13-15, 2004 | (775) 331-1918 |
| USS ENTERPRISE (CVAN 65) | Jan. 14, 2004 | (334) 887-3440 |
| USS HANCOCK (CVA 19) | May 19-23, 2004 | (925) 462-6877 |
| USS HOPEWELL (DD-681) | Apr. 18-20, 2004 | (607) 336-3225 |
| USS JOHN C. CALHOUN (SSBN 630) | Jun. 24-27, 2004 | (812) 949-2475 |
| USS KING (DLG 10/DDG 41) | Jun. 10-13, 2004 | (269) 496-7993 |
| USS LEYTE GULF (CG 55) | Jun. 4 - 6, 2004 | (904) 779-6262 |
| USS LST 902 (Korea) | Apr. 30 - May 4, 2004 | (979) 532-1890 |
| USS MCDERMUT (DD 677) | Apr. 22-24, 2004 | (727) 669-9684 |
| USS POLARIS (AF 11) | Apr. 13-15, 2004 | (559) 732-2300 |
| USS POMPON (SS/SSR 267) | Apr. 29 - May 1, 2004 | (580) 327-4557 |
| USS PYRO (AE 1/AE 24) | Mar. 10-14, 2004 | (225) 767-0590 |
| USS RICHARD S. EDWARDS (DD 950) | Jul. 22-25, 2004 | (540) 856-2575 |
| USS SCOTT (DD 995) | May 8-9, 2004 | (757) 486-8491 |
| USS TERREBONNE PARISH (LST 1156) | Apr. 21-25, 2004 | (614) 841-1223 |
| USS VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION | Jun. 25-27, 2004 | (757) 340-7855 |
| USS VON STEUBES (SSBN 632) | Mar. 18 - 21, 2004 | (843) 875-5559 |
| USS WILLIAMSBURG (AGC 369) | Oct. 3-6, 2003 | (713) 436-1935 |
| UTILITY SQUADRON ONE (VU-1/ VJ-1/ VU7A/ VC-1) | May 30 - Jun 6, 2004 | (724) 693-0578 |
| VBF 82/VF 18A/VF 172 OFFICERS | May 6-9, 2004 | (703) 560-4119 |
| VP 16/741 | Apr. 30-May 2 | (904) 744-2648 |
| VPB 111/VP 21 ASSOCIATION | Nov. 5-8, 2003 | (850) 434-2128 |
| VR 21 | Apr. 29 - May 1, 2004 | (361) 992-3950 |



Retiree Seminars



| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Arizona</u></p> <p>Phoenix NMCRC Phoenix Saturday Oct. 25, 2003 @ Luke Air Force Base “Retiree Appreciation Day” POC: Eli Koss (602) 353-3033</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Florida</u></p> <p>Pensacola Saturday Oct. 18, 2003 9:00a.m. -1:00p.m. NAS Pensacola, Bldg 633 Retired Activities Office (850) 452-5990 Ext. 111 nasp-retired-activities@cnet.navy.mil</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Texas</u></p> <p>Fort Worth Saturday, Nov. 15, 2003 NAS, JRB F.W. Hangar 1049 8:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m. POC: YNC (AW) R. A. Soto (817) 782-5288 DSN 739 Angela Luckey (817) 782-5355</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>California</u></p> <p>LeMoore Oct. 18, 2003 (559) 998-4042 Darryl Shaw darryl.shaw@navy.mil</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>New York</u></p> <p>Amityville Spring 2004 Gym, Mitchel Complex Garden City NY 11530 POC: RAO (631) 842-6620</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Texas</u></p> <p>San Antonio Oct. 25, 2003 Bldg 2841 Brooke Army Medical Center POC: (210) 221-0936/9004 Retirement Services Office director@satrao.org</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>California</u></p> <p>San Diego Saturday, Nov. 01, 2003 Naval Station/MCRD San Diego Retired Military Personnel Seminar and Resource Fair Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Base Theater Bldg 51 8:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m. Open Ceremony 0900 inside theater</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Pennsylvania</u></p> <p>Willow Grove Oct. 11, 2003 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. NAS JRB Willow Grove Capt. Hal G. Loigman (USN, Ret.) (800)773-1569 rao@cnrs.nola.navy.mil</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Virginia</u></p> <p>Dahlgren Nov. 6, 2003 Gym BMC Paul Geike 1-800-500-4947 (540) 653-1839 rao@NSWC.navy.mil</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Connecticut</u></p> <p>Groton Oct. 18, 2003 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Naval Sub Base Dealey Center POC: CDR Barbara E. Miller (860) 694-3284</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Tennessee</u></p> <p>Millington Apr. 10, 2004 NSA Mid-South Conference Center 9:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m. POC: (901) 874-5075</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Washington</u></p> <p>Marysville May 15,2004, 8:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Navy Support Complex (Smokey Point) Carl Rankin HMCS USN Ret (425) 304-3775/ (888) 463-6697- option 5,then select option 2 and ask for RAO RetiredActivites@everett.navy.mil</p> |



Ready Reference Contact Information

| | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|----------------|
| Air Force Retired Affairs | (800) 531-7502 | Navy Retired Activities Office p62s2@persnet.navy.mil | (800) 255-8950 |
| Arlington National Cemetery | (703) 695-3250 | Navy Uniform Shop www.navy-nex.com | (800) 368-4088 |
| Armed Forces Retirement Home (Gulfport, Mississippi) www.afrh.com | (800) 332-3527 | Navy Worldwide Locator www.bupers.navy.mil/services/locator.html | (901) 874-3388 |
| Armed Forces Retirement Home (Washington, D.C.) www.afrh.com | (800) 422-9988 | Reserve Component SBP Section (Code 416) | (800) 535-2699 |
| Army Retired Affairs www.odcsper.army.mil | (703) 325-9155 | Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) www.insurance.va.gov | (800) 419-1473 |
| Awards Information | (202) 685-1770 | Ships Historian Washington, D.C. | (202) 433-3643 |
| DEERS | (800) 538-9552 | Social Security Administration www.ssa.gov | (800) 772-1213 |
| Defense Finance and Accounting Service Cleveland Active Duty www.dfas.mil | (800) 346-3374 | TRICARE for Life | (888) 363-5433 |
| DFAS Retired/Annuitant (Outside US) www.dfas.mil | (800) 321-1080 (216) 522-5955 | TRICARE Headquarters www.tricare.osd.mil | (303) 676-3526 |
| Federal Long-term Health Insurance www.opm.gov/insure/ltc/index.htm | (800) 582-3337 | TRICARE Information | (800) 874-2273 |
| I.D. Cards Benefits and Eligibility P312d@persnet.navy.mil | (800) 443-9297 | TRICARE Senior Pharmacy Program www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy | (877) 363-6337 |
| Internal Revenue Service www.irs.gov | (800) 829-1040 | VA Burial Benefits www.va.gov | (800) 827-1000 |
| Marine Corps Retired Affairs http://osprey.manpower.usmc.mil | (800) 336-4649 | VA National Service Life Insurance www.va.gov | (800) 669-8477 |
| National Personnel Records Center www.archives.gov | (314) 801-0800 Fax (314) 801-9195 | VA Regional Office (Benefits and Assistance) www.va.gov | (800) 827-1000 |
| Naval Reserve Personnel Center www.nrpc.nola.navy.mil | (800) 535-2699 (866) 250-4778 | Veteran's Group Life Insurance www.insurance.va.gov osgli.osgle@prudential.com | (800) 419-1473 |
| Navy Lodge Reservation Service www.navy-nex.com - click on 'Lodge' | (800) 628-9466 | | |

Shift Colors poll

By Ms. Lindsay Conner, Managing Editor

In this issue, you will find a poll - one that focuses on printing and distribution options, as well as magazine features. We need your feedback, as we are streamlining the process and content, and these changes will have a direct affect on you, our readers.

We value your input, so please answer this five-question poll and return the postage-paid postcard at your earliest convenience. In the near future, you will see the results of the poll by the changes made to the magazine.

As always, we, at Shift Colors, appreciate your readership and loyalty to our magazine and the United States Navy.



“Home” continued from front page

authorities that includes special events, health and comfort trips to department stores, military exchanges, farmer’s/flea markets and trips to regional museums. One of the most popular is a “do as you like” trip to New Orleans, where visitors take advantage of the unique cultural experience and numerous shops available in the Crescent City.

A recent donation from the Non-Commissioned Officers Association helped pay for a deep-sea fishing trip and new state-of-the art projector for the home’s community theater.

Recently, the 21st Annual Fall Sports Classic was held on the grounds of the community. More than 100 entrants competed in 14 events divided into three categories: men ages 75 and below, men ages 76 and above and women

of all age brackets. The two-week event attracted many other residents and staff, who watched and cheered the participants.

“This is my third season involved in events,” said resident David R. Hartung, a retired Air Force technical sergeant. “There’s a lot more competition this season - it makes it fun with more people participating.”

The home is a resident-focused community with a full calendar of life-enriching activities. Keeping residents involved and promoting recreational activities exemplifies the ideals of the retirement home. We’re here to promote a healthy and active environment for those who served our country.

Council continued from page 11

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Telephone No:
Home: (910) 353-6513
E-Mail Address:
Home: psiverson@ec.rr.com

Service Records

Retirees desiring a copy of their discharge certificate (DD214), personnel records or medical and dental records should write to:

National Personnel Records Center
9700 Page Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

All requests must be written, dated and signed, and should include full name, rate/rank, Social Security Number, dates of service and date of birth. Requests for records are processed in four to six months. You may want to visit their web site at www.archives.gov prior to making any request.

Annuitant Pay

Questions regarding Annuitant Pay should be directed to Defense Finance and Accounting Service in Cleveland at **(800) 321-1080**.

Retiree Pay

Questions about retiree pay should be directed to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service in Cleveland at **(800) 321-1080**.

ID Card Eligibility

For ID Card and DEERS information, contact the Navy Personnel Command Benefits Branch at **(901) 874-3362**, Fax **(901) 874-2766** or e-mail: p312d3@persnet.navy.mil

Retiree Dental Program

For information and eligibility guidelines, call the customer service number at **(415) 972-8300**. You can also visit their web page at: www.ddpdelta.org or write:

Delta Dental
P.O. Box 7736
San Francisco, CA 94120

Reporting a Retiree's Death

To report the death of a Navy Retiree, contact the Defense Finance and Accounting Service Casualty Assistance Branch at **(800) 269-5170** or **(216) 522-6680**. *(If a Retired Activities Office is nearby, they can provide valuable assistance.)*

New RAO address for Minnesota

RAO new address and phone number:
Navy and Marine Corps Retired Activities Office
Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center
6400 Bloomington Rd. Ft. Snelling
St. Paul, MN 55111-4051
Phone: **(612) 727-2854**
Hours: Tues&Thurs 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.

NAVY PERSONNEL COMMAND
SHIFT COLORS (PERS-05)
5720 INTEGRITY DRIVE
MILLINGTON, TN 38055-0500