

Reinterments highlight NPC mission

No matter how long it takes, Navy Casualty team provides commitment, closure to families

**CAPT Robert T. McMahon III,
Director of Navy Casualty**

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the 2001 terrorist attacks and the 80th anniversary of the 1941 Pearl Harbor attacks. Each of these dark days deeply impacted our nation and the lives of the service members who fought our nation's wars.

As Navy Personnel Command's (NPC) Director of [Navy Casualty](#), I strongly believe that each of us owe a great debt of gratitude to those who have gone before us and left their legacy as an example for us to follow. Our commitment to our fellow Sailors does not diminish with time; 18 years or 80, we will do our very best to return them home.

The Navy Casualty team which consists of Navy morticians, casualty case workers, benefits specialists, and POW/MIA action officers, is one of Commander Navy Personnel Command, Rear Adm. Holsey's, no-fail missions and one of our roles is to bring home those who have paid the ultimate price. One special project is the USS Oklahoma (BB 37) Sailor identification and reinterments. On Dec. 7, 1941 415 Sailors and 14 Marines lost their lives on USS Oklahoma.

The medical technology of that era kept us from identifying 394 of the 429 Sailors and Marines, and they were eventually buried as "unknowns" in Hawaii. For years that was the end of a very sad story, but starting in



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Michael O'Neal

U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Darius Banaji, deputy director for operation for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), presents a flag during a funeral for U.S. Navy Water Tender 1st Class Charles E. Hudson of Stockton, Calif., at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Honolulu, Hawaii, Sept. 10, 2021. Hudson was identified by the DPAA and laid to rest with full military honors with the assistance and coordination efforts of Navy Casualty at Navy Personnel Command, Millington, Tennessee.

2015, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency ([DPAA](#)), in cooperation with cemetery officials, exhumed the remaining caskets associated with the USS Oklahoma to begin DNA identification of the Sailors.

Today, 388 of the 429 Sailors and Marines have been positively identified and are being laid in their final resting places in accordance with family wishes. Navy Casualty played a key role in this process by getting families to participate and provide samples of their DNA for comparison and then later providing a caseworker to the

family to work through the reinterment process when their loved one was identified. This story will officially conclude with a ceremony Dec. 7, 2021 where the last of the remains will be reinterred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific ([NMCP](#)) in Oahu, HI. Recovering and identifying the remains of Sailors gave the Navy the opportunity to honor these Sailors who paid the ultimate sacrifice and gave their lives for our country.

This timeless commitment is one

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Family members of a USS Oklahoma Sailor meet with representatives of the DPAA laboratory at Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, Nebraska, and YNC DeShannon Beaty, Navy POW/MIA.

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that Rear Adm. Holsey has challenged our entire NPC team, from my casualty team to detailing and selection boards, to uphold for all Sailors and families, past and present. We are charged with changing Sailors lives and improving outcomes by showing compassion and empathy, having a sense of urgency, listening, removing barriers, and providing great customer service to ensure that Sailors, past and present, are the ones who win today on issues that matter to them.

Editor's Note:

We've made some changes to Shift Colors to make your Retiree magazine more interactive and easier to navigate. The links for "Inside This Issue" now take you right to the page, and at the bottom of the page, "Return to Page 2" will bring you right back to the index. No more scrolling back and forth.

As always, we invite your input to make Shift Colors a more enjoyable and useful experience. [Write to us.](#)

Shift Colors

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Shift Colors, the newsletter for Navy Retirees (NAVPERS 15886), is published in accordance with Department of the Navy (DON) Publication and Printing Regulations. The Secretary of the Navy has determined this publication is necessary in the transaction of business required by law of the DON.

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Former SWO takes helm as new SECNAV

The Honorable Carlos Del Toro was sworn in as the 78th Secretary of the Navy August 9, 2021.

As Secretary, he is responsible for over 900,000 Sailors, Marines, Reservists, and civilian personnel and an annual budget exceeding \$210 Billion. His priorities include securing the training and equipment successful naval operations demand and addressing the most pressing challenges confronting the US Navy and Marine Corps – China’s naval ambitions, climate instability, Covid’s ongoing impact, and strengthening a naval culture of inclusiveness and respect.

Born in Havana, Cuba, Del Toro immigrated to the U.S. with his family as refugees in 1962.

Raised in the Hell’s Kitchen neighborhood of New York City, he attended public schools and received an appointment to the [U.S. Naval Academy](#), where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering. Secretary Del Toro was commissioned as a Surface Warfare Officer upon his graduation in 1983.

His 22-year naval career included a series of critical appointments and numerous tours of duty at sea – including first commanding officer of the guided missile destroyer [USS Bulkeley](#) (DDG 84), [Littoral Combat Ship Squadron 1](#), USS Vincennes (CG 49), USS America (CV 66), USS Preble (DDG 46) and USS Koelsch (FF 1049).

He has served as Senior Executive Assistant to the Director for Program Analysis and Evaluation in the Office of the Sec-

retary of Defense, Special Assistant to the Director and Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget – where he helped manage the budgets of DOD, the U.S. Department of State, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Reconnaissance Office, and the Peace Corps.

After retiring at the rank of commander, Secretary Del Toro founded SBG Technology Solutions, Inc. in 2004. As its CEO and president, he supported defense programs across a host of immediate and long-term Department of Navy issue areas, including shipbuilding, AI, cybersecurity, acquisition programs, space systems, health, and training.

He holds a Masters in National Security Studies from the Naval War College, a Masters in Space Systems Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School, and a Masters in Legislative Affairs from George Washington University.



Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro is responsible for more than 900,000 Sailors, Marines, Reservists, and civilian personnel, and an annual budget exceeding \$210 Billion.

His decorations include a Presidential Service Badge, Secretary of Defense Badge, Command-at-Sea Pin, two Meritorious Service Medals, two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, a Joint Meritorious Unit Commendation, the Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation, a Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, the National Defense Service Medal, three Southwest Asia Service Medals the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, and the Kuwait Liberation Medal.

He also qualified as a rifle expert.

A promotional banner for the Virtual Retiree Summit. The background is blue with white stars. Text reads: "MILITARY RETIREES, TRANSITIONING MILITARY, FAMILY MEMBERS & SURVIVING SPOUSES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE Virtual RETIREE SUMMIT NOVEMBER 1-5, 2021 NavyLifeMA.com/summit LIVE WEBINARS". There is a play button icon next to "LIVE". On the left, there are icons for a tree, a house, a laptop with "WEBINARS", a couple, a medical cross, and a keyboard. At the bottom, there are logos for "FLEET & FAMILY SUPPORT", "MWR", and a QR code.

Retired Reservists: Be proactive

Apply via PERS-912 as early as one year prior to estimated Retired Pay Eligibility Date

**By CDR Sarah McGann,
Retirement Transition Outreach
Program Manager**

Navy Personnel Command (NPC), Reserve Personnel Management (PERS-9), conducts a Retirement Transition Outreach (RTO) program to educate Navy Reservists including Retired Reservists, also known as Gray Area retirees, on their retiree pay and benefits.

If you retired from “participation” in the Navy Reserve, you’ll definitely want to be conscientious and proactive about your request and paperwork timing as you look ahead to receiving your retired pay and enrolling in retired health benefits. The RTO program can help you understand how to proceed including the application and enrollment processes and timelines.

Retirement with pay processing typically takes approximately six to 12 months. Within NPC, PERS-912 is the specific group that processes applications for retired pay received from members to DFAS. In order to best assure on time receipt of retired pay, members should start the process by submitting their application to PERS-912 as early as a year prior to their estimated Retired Pay Eligibility Date, and at least six months in advance.

This lead time affords ample mutual time to shore up errors or missing documentation such as the point record or periods of active orders, as to prevent a delay in retirement pay and benefits.

Nominally, a member will be eligible to draw retired pay and enroll in TRICARE health benefits on their 60th birthday.

This date may be reduced in 90-day increments per Title 10 USC for certain periods of qualifying active orders. Alternatively, some members may continue actively serving after turning 60, thus delaying eligibility to draw retired pay.

APPLY

The bottom line is that per Title 10 USC, the member must apply for their retired pay and benefits. Apply by submitting [DD Form 108](#) and [Form 2656](#) (2656 requires Adobe Reader 8 or higher) by mail to Navy Personnel Command (NPC) in Millington, Tennessee, up to a year in advance of eligibility for retired pay.

If your application timing is delayed for some reason compared to your effective date of eligibility for retired pay, then your pay will be retroactive back to that eligibility date (usually the member’s 60th birthday), limited by the Barring Act to a maximum of six (6) years.

Mail all forms with original signatures to the following address:

Commander,
Navy Personnel Command
(Attn: PERS-912)
5720 Integrity Drive
Millington, TN 38055

Some people have reported problems accessing or downloading these required forms to apply for retired pay and benefits (DD Forms 108 and 2656). The forms are fillable .pdf, so make sure you have Adobe Reader installed at a minimum, and try using various browsers and sources of the forms. Google Chrome, plus a current version of Adobe Acrobat Reader generally yields success in downloading and employing these fillable forms. The current versions of both forms may be downloaded from the Department of Defense forms library:

www.esd.whs.mil/Directives/forms/

Form 108 will be the easiest part of this application. We do recommend submitting with your application any documentation of missing retirement points, as well as legal documentation of any dependent status changes for your

Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP). You DO NOT need to iterate your point record on DD Form 108. You actually can just fill in your personal information.

If you have not served on active orders since Jan. 29, 2008, the date on which you will be eligible for your retired pay will be your 60th birthday; enter this date in Block 3; otherwise, leave Block 3 blank for the PERS-912 to calculate and enter.

Make a diagonal line across all the data in the middle and write something to the effect of “I will accept records on file with the Department of the Navy” and sign and date. Alternatively, if you have a copy of your point record (ASOSH) or Statement of Service, you can just attach/enclose that with your packet and take a similar approach as above, writing something to the effect of “See attached/enclosed.” Or, you can sign it with “See attached point record which is inaccurate, and enclosed supporting documentation to update it” or something to that effect.

If you have reviewed your point record and know it to contain errors, you can submit documentation to make your point record corrections in advance of submitting your application for retired pay. The team in PERS-912 can also make the updates to your point record in line with processing your application for retired pay. In any case, updates to your point record may be made while you are in the Gray Area, and the first major step PERS-912 makes while processing your application for retired pay is to close out your point record.

Form 2656 frequently presents more challenges to members applying for retired pay. Enter the date in block 4 on the Form 2656, in similar fashion to the Block 3 on Form 108 – 60th birthday OR leave blank.

You’ll need to know which pay plan to mark on Form 2656. If you joined the

————— See **RESERVE** Page 6

SOUTH CHINA SEA (SEP. 05, 2021)
Naval Aircrewman (Helicopter) 1st
Matthew Brickley from Peoria, Ariz.
and Naval Aircrewman 2nd Class
Nicolas Lopez from Artesia, Calif.,
conducts a search and rescue (SAR)
exercise inside of a MH-60S
Seahawk helicopter assigned to
the “Blackjacks” of Helicopter Sea
Combat Squadron (HSC 21) aboard
the Independence-variant littoral
combat ship [USS Tulsa \(LCS 16\)](#),
Sep. 05, 2021. Tulsa, part of De-
stroyer Squadron Seven, is on a ro-
tational deployment in the U.S. 7th
Fleet area of operation to enhance
interoperability with partners and
serve as a ready-response force in
support of a free and open Indo-
Pacific region.

Photo by Mass Communication Specialist
 3rd Class Richard Cho



Current DEERS data keeps your health benefits running smoothly

Have you updated DEERS lately?

Is your information correct?

Here's why having the right data is important. When TRICARE recently tried to reach a group of retirees with critical information, more than six out of 10 had incorrect information in DEERS. If your data is out of date, you'll need to update your information in DEERS to avoid a host of potential problems.

Why? Your information must be correct in DEERS so that:

- ▶ You and your family maintain access to your medical benefits
- ▶ Your healthcare team can contact you with critical health-care and appointment information
- ▶ TRICARE can reach you with vital authorization, claims, and enrollment information, and
- ▶ Home delivery prescriptions can be delivered properly.

When do I need to update DEERS?

Beneficiaries need to update DEERS as soon as possible anytime they move, change contact information, or experience a Qualifying Life Event (QLE).

A beneficiary must update DEERS whenever they experience the following (this list is not all-inclusive):

- ◆ Change in sponsor's status
- ◆ Retiring or separating
- ◆ Activating or deactivating
- ◆ Having a baby or adopting
- ◆ Moving to a new location for any reason

- ◆ Change in a student's full-time enrollment status
- ◆ Becoming eligible for Medicare
- ◆ Death of sponsor or family member

If a beneficiary is enrolled in any TRICARE plan (e.g., TRICARE Prime, TRICARE Select, TRICARE Reserve Select, TRICARE Retired Reserve or TRICARE Young Adult), remind them to also change their address and other personal information with their regional contractor.

How do you update DEERS?

- ◆ **To learn how to update DEERS:**

Go to <https://www.TRICARE.mil/DEERS>

- ◆ **To update contact information:**

Make updates on milConnect at:

<https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/>

Call (800) 538-9552 (TTY/TDD: (866) 363-2883)

Fax updates to (800) 336-4416 (Primary) or (502) 335-9980 (Alternate)

Mail updates to:

Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office

Attn: COA

400 Gigling Road

Seaside, CA 93955-6771

- ◆ **To add or remove family members:**

Go to a local ID card office.

military prior to Sept. 8, 1980, you will be on the Final Pay plan; otherwise you will be on this High-3 plan. Some currently serving Navy Reservists may have opted into the new Blended Retirement System (BRS). Today's new military members — those who joined on or after Jan. 1, 2018 — are now automatically enrolled in this new system. PERS-912 estimates that the BRS will not apply to most if any Navy Reservists retiring with pay for at least five to 10 more years from this publishing.

The PERS-912 Survivor Benefits counselor will also look up your RC-SBP elections or defaults as part of their process, so don't fret too much on the DD Form 2656 blocks 33-38 if you don't recall if you made RC-SBP elections or if you defaulted to plan participation at the time of your Notice of Eligibility (NOE) for non-regular retirement with Survivor Benefits.

Other areas of the Form 2656 which can be challenging include disclosing information on any previous separation payment, VA disability compensation, designation of beneficiary for arrears pay, withholding amounts for federal and state taxes, and how to handle issues from a former spouse related to retired pay and survivor benefits.

CONFIRM RECEIPT

After mailing your application, be on the lookout for confirmation of receipt from the MyNavy Career Center (MNCC), or contact them directly to confirm receipt of your package. This is also your way to check on its status, but typically, the team can only see as much detail as "received" and "in process".

Basically, from this point PERS-912 staff will be in touch if they need anything from you to continue their processing of your package through to DFAS and to get you your retirement orders. PERS-912 averages about 6 months per package before sending forward to DFAS and sending back to you your signed retirement orders letter. Generally speaking, we recommend following up via MNCC if it's been 6 months since you applied and you have not yet received in your mail your retirement with pay orders letter.

RECEIVE RETIREMENT ORDERS

Also be on the lookout in your home mail for your retirement orders letter, about six to nine months after mailing your application to NPC PERS-912. This letter should reflect your effective retirement with pay eligibility date, retired paygrade, and your career retirement point total.

OBTAIN RETIRED ID CARD

You should take this retirement orders letter with you in hard copy to your ID card appointment. Once you have the retired orders in hand, make an appointment for your updated retired id card. This appointment is critical for establishing your eligibility to enroll in TRICARE health benefits. You should schedule this appointment for on or after your retirement with pay effective date, noted on your letter from PERS-

912, through the [ID Card Office Online website](#).

RECEIVE RETIRED PAY

Once you receive your retirement orders from PERS-912, you will know that they have also forwarded your information to DFAS for establishment of your retiree pay account. You may need to take some final action to activate your retiree pay account. You may receive communication from DFAS in your home mail, or notice a pending direct deposit from DFAS.

To estimate your gross retired pay, enter your total amount of points into the below retired pay equation:

$$\text{Total Retirement Points (P)} \div 360 \times .025 \times \text{Base Pay (B)}$$

Note that this formula uses the 2.5 percent as the "service multiplier", assuming the member is on the legacy retirement system. For Blended Retirement System participants, including all those who joined military service on or after Jan. 1, 2018, reduce this multiplier from .025 to .02. Refer to the active-duty pay chart in effect when you will become eligible for retired pay to determine your pay base.

Note that determining (B) is slightly more complex with the High-3 compared to the Final Pay plan.

ENROLL IN TRICARE

Once you turn 60, including soon after or even when leaving your ID card appointment, you may enroll over the phone in TRICARE. You can find TRICARE phone numbers plus a Plan Finder Wizard and briefings for retiring Reservists and National Guard open source on the [TRICARE website](#).

CHANGES COMING VIA NP2

In development is a comprehensive new Navy Pay and Personnel system, known by the acronym NP2. New platform capabilities will deploy to Sailors and the Navy HR workforce quarterly, starting in early 2022. Development is ongoing for retirement elements of this new platform.

These articles give a preview of the aims of these efforts:

[Article 2386954](#)

[Article 2406910](#)

RTO PROGRAM EVENTS

In FY20 and FY21, NPC'S RTO Program hosted informational events about the Navy Reserve retirement process including retired pay and health care benefits. Events have included a focused three-hour "Reserve Retirement Waypoint" event specifically for those within a couple years of retiring with pay, among other formats. The FY22 RTO event schedule is available now [here](#).

MNCC 24/7 CUSTOMER SERVICE

Questions about individual records or packages must be initiated through MyNavy Career Center (MNCC), and may be further ticketed as service requests to PERS-912 subject-matter experts and case managers. Call MNCC at (833) 330-MNCC (6622), or email at askmncc@navy.mil.

Considering foreign government employment? Emoluments Clause spells out gift regulations

The [Emoluments Clause](#) to the U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 9, Clause 8, as interpreted in Comptroller General opinions and by the Department of Justice Office of Legal Counsel, prohibits receipt of consulting fees, gifts, travel expenses, honoraria, or salary by all retired military personnel, officer and enlisted, Regular and Reserve, from a foreign government unless Congressional consent is first obtained. The Emolument Clause also applies to Reservists serving in a Selected Reserve (SELRES) status.

Consent is provided by Congress in [37 U.S.C. § 908](#), which requires advance approval from the Secretary of the Navy

and the Secretary of State before a SELRES or retired Sailor accepts employment, consulting fees, gifts, travel expenses, honoraria or salary from a foreign government. The Secretary of the Navy has delegated the authority to provide approval on his behalf to the Chief of Naval Personnel (CNP). Once CNP approves a request for a SELRES or retired Sailor to receive an emolument, CNP forwards the request to the Secretary of State for final approval.

To initiate a request for receipt of an emolument (including foreign government employment), please email: navyfce.fct@navy.mil.

VA enhances geriatric emergency care for older veterans

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs launched a Geriatric Emergency Department initiative within all of VA's 18 Veterans Integrated Service Networks through a standardized, comprehensive care model, becoming the nation's largest integrated health network with specialized geriatric emergency care.

This initiative equips VA emergency departments with the ability to treat older veterans with complex conditions, catch unmet care needs and develop teamwork strategies throughout VA to better coordinate ED and follow-up care.

VA has partnered with the American College of Emer-

gency Physicians (ACEP), The John A. Hartford Foundation and the West Health Institute to ensure elderly veterans continue to be afforded the best possible emergency care and person-centered health services.

The evidence-based approach to caring for older adults includes screenings to identify seniors at risk for cognitive impairment, delirium, fall risk, functional decline, and caregiver burden.

"The country's 19.5 million veterans 65 and over account for nearly half of emergency department visits at VA hospitals — more than double the rate for seniors nationwide," said VA Acting Under Secretary for Health Steven L. Lieberman, M.D. "Our goal is to lower this number by ensuring VA's elderly

population receives age-friendly emergency care, while improving care coordination in communities across the nation."

VA continues to promote and augment transitions of care through an interdisciplinary team approach from various services throughout facilities. This is achieved through

connecting with social work and VA home/community resources, geriatric education for emergency department staff and supporting geriatric veterans in the community to prevent avoidable admissions.

The partnership aims to establish 70 VA emergency departments as geriatric EDs eligible for accreditation in alignment with

LEVEL 1-3 VA SITES

To date, there are 16 VA sites between Levels 1 and 3, with Level 1 accreditation being the highest achievable and most rigorous level:

- ◆ Cleveland, Ohio (1)
- ◆ Louisville, Ky. (2)
- ◆ Atlanta, Ga. (2)
- ◆ Buffalo, N.Y. (2)
- ◆ Durham, N.C. (3)
- ◆ Syracuse, N.Y. (3)
- ◆ Palo Alto, Calif. (3)
- ◆ Charleston, S. C. (3)
- ◆ New Orleans, La. (3)
- ◆ Grand Junction, Colo. (3)
- ◆ Greater Los Angeles, Calif. (3)
- ◆ San Diego, Calif. (3)
- ◆ Madison, Wis. (3)
- ◆ Long Beach, Calif. (3)
- ◆ West Haven, Conn. (3)
- ◆ Salt Lake City, Utah (3)

ACEP's GED Accreditation by December 2022.

Accreditation includes three levels that each have specific education criteria for clinicians and nurses, creating EDs that are more expertly equipped to treat older veterans with complex conditions and social needs through interdisciplinary service coordination across a hospital.

Accredited emergency departments have proven to lower costs, reduce the rate of unnecessary hospital admissions, and prevent the risk of inpatient complications. Best practices and lessons learned from this collaboration will be shared with EDs outside the VA. ACEP has accredited more than 200 emergency departments since the program's inception in 2018.

VA Welcome Kit: A handy navigational tool

By Mike Galloucis, Executive Director,
VA Benefit Experience Directorate

Veterans oftentimes receive information about the Department of Veterans Affairs in a fragmented way. This can create confusion and a disjointed experience for veterans and their families as they attempt to understand and access VA's many different services and benefits. The VA has produced the VA Welcome Kit to specifically address this challenge.

Since assuming his current duties on Feb. 8, 2021, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Denis R. McDonough has added customer experience (CX) principles to VA's longstanding "I CARE" (Integrity, Commitment, Advocacy, Respect and Excellence) core values.

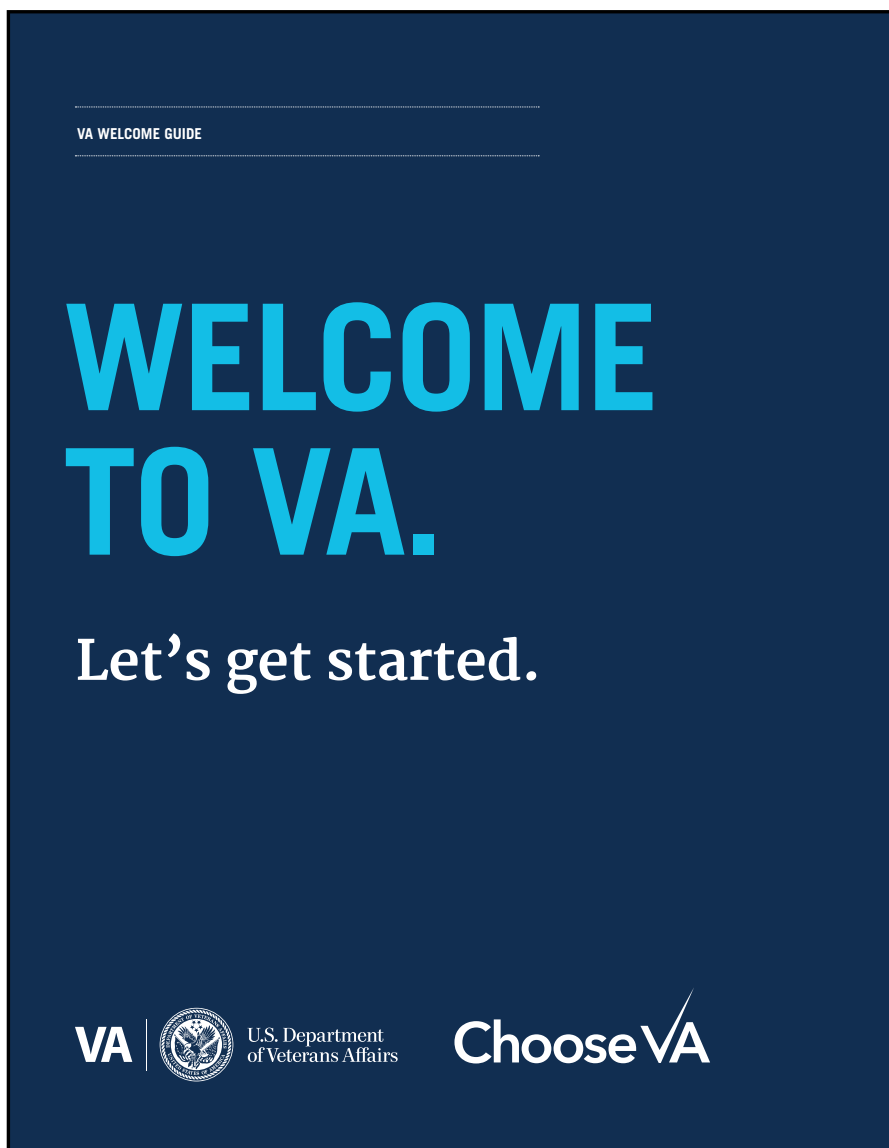
In support of the Secretary's intent, the VA's Veterans Experience Office (VEO) under the direction of Chief Experience Officer John W. Boerstler, produces the VA Welcome Kit each year and distributes it in conjunction with Veterans Day. The product is specifically designed to make it easier for U.S. Service Members, Veterans, Family Members, Caregivers and Survivors to understand the many different benefits and services offered by VA.

"Veterans remain at the center of every decision we make. It is the responsibility of every [VA] employee to deliver exceptional outcomes and experiences," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Denis R. McDonough. "Our individual and organizational commitment to delivering exceptional experiences in our service delivery continues."

The VA Welcome Kit provides pertinent information and helps overcome the natural apprehension most people experience when interacting with a large, complex organization like VA for the first time. It is written in an easy-to-understand and concise manner and includes information on popular VA benefits, including applying for VA healthcare, a disability rating, education benefits, etc. The VA Welcome Kit highlights key VA benefits and services available that can positively impact quality of life and explains how and where to go to access those benefits and services.

The VA Welcome Kit also includes handy one-page (front and back) Quick Start Guides (QSGs) focused on specific topics of interest to service members, veterans, family members, caregivers and survivors validated through empirical and anecdotal field research. The Welcome Kit is regularly updated online as new information becomes available.

Within VA, the Benefits Experience (BX) Directorate is assigned responsibility for producing the VA Welcome Kit. BX



is a diverse, dedicated, and effective team comprised of Veterans (including several retired Soldiers, a Vietnam Veteran and four combat veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom) and other highly qualified men and women with decades of VA experience in different service lines. BX personnel routinely interact with veterans and family members virtually and in person at different venues and relies on those interactions and field research when developing content for, and identifying ways to improve, the Welcome Kit.

The VA Welcome Kit can be downloaded and printed directly from the website <https://www.va.gov/welcome-kit>. General feedback and suggestions on ways VA can improve the Welcome Kit can be sent directly to vawelcomekit@va.gov. A YouTube video on the welcome kit can be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/DZvITWcWutE>

Mike Galloucis is a retired Army colonel who served 30 years on active duty. He commanded an Army brigade in Iraq for 15 months in 2006-07.

VA providing COVID-19 vaccines

All veterans, their spouses and caregivers, and CHAMPVA recipients can now get a COVID-19 vaccine at VA. Find out how to get your vaccine. And get the latest VA vaccine updates and answers to common questions.

Updates: Additional doses and FDA approvals

Certain groups of people with weakened immune systems can now get a third dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Get the latest updates [here](#).

The FDA has now approved the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for people ages 16 and older. This vaccine is still authorized for use in youth ages 12 to 15.

Learn more about the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine approval on the [FDA website](#).

How to get a COVID-19 vaccine at VA

Getting your vaccine as soon as you can is the best way to protect yourself, your family, and your community against COVID-19. This is especially important as new forms (or “variants”) of the coronavirus spread more quickly in the U.S.

Go to the facility’s vaccine clinic during walk-in hours. Be sure to check the walk-in hours before you go. When you arrive, you may need to wait for the staff to prepare the vaccine.

Call the facility to schedule an appointment. Our staff will help you find a time that’s convenient for you.

If you don’t receive care at VA, you can [pre-register online](#) at least one hour before you go to a walk-in clinic. This will save you time when you arrive.

If you got your first vaccine dose outside of VA, you can still get your second dose at VA.

Everyone who enters a VA facility must wear a mask and complete our COVID-19 symptom screening.

To find VA facilities in your area that offer COVID-19 vaccines, go [here](#).

Have questions before you get your vaccine?

[COVID-19 vaccine advice](#) from Veterans and VA providers. Sign up to [stay informed](#) about COVID-19 vaccines at VA.

We offer COVID-19 vaccines to these groups:

- ◆ All veterans (including Veterans who live or travel outside of the U.S. and are eligible for the VA Foreign Medical Program)
 - ◆ Spouses and surviving spouses of veterans
- All veterans are now eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine at VA. This includes anyone who served in the U.S. military, including the U.S. National Guard, Reserves, or Coast Guard; veterans who live or travel outside of the U.S. and are eligible for the VA Foreign Medical Program; and anyone who served in any of the following roles:
- ◆ Commissioned officer of the Regular or Reserve Corp of the Public Health Service, or
 - ◆ Commissioned officer of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (or Coast and Geodetic Survey), or
 - ◆ Cadet at the U.S. Military, Air Force, or Coast Guard Academy, or Midshipman at the United States Naval Academy.

Caregivers of veterans: For COVID-19 vaccine eligibility, we define a caregiver as a family member or friend who provides care to a veteran. Caregivers may help a Veteran with personal needs like feeding, bathing, or dressing. They may also help a veteran with tasks like shopping or transportation.

Recipients of Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) benefits

COVID-19 vaccine safety (PDF format)

[FDA Pfizer-BioNTech](#)

[FDA Moderna](#)

[FDA Janssen](#)

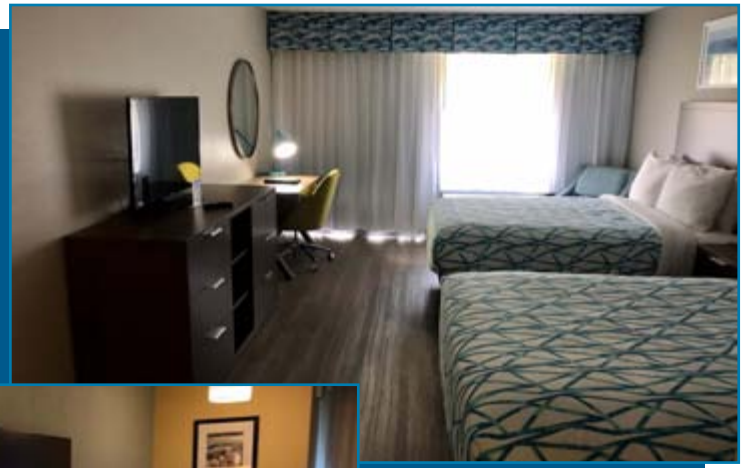
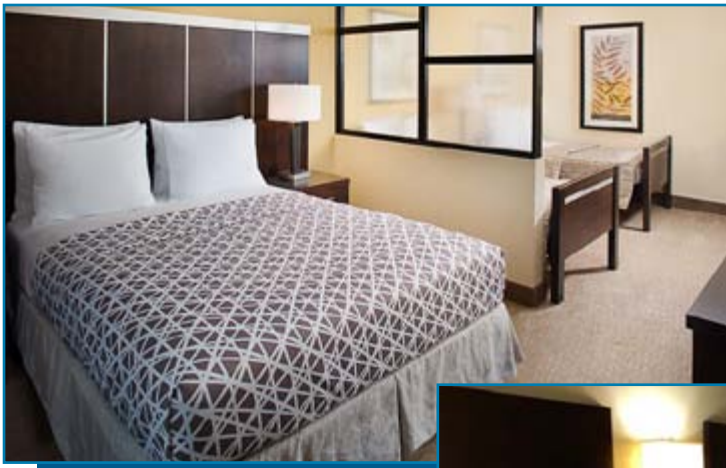
For more information, go to:

<https://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine/>



SOUTH CHINA SEA (Sept. 13, 2021) The Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) transits the South China Sea, Sept. 13, 2021. The Carl Vinson Carrier Strike Group is on a scheduled deployment in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations to enhance interoperability through alliances and partnerships while serving as a ready-response force in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Haydn N. Smith



Navy Lodge locations open for leisure travel

Guests not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 should continue to follow DoD face covering guidance

Most Navy Lodge locations around the world are now taking reservations for leisure travel on a space available basis. In Spring 2020, Navy Lodges began restricting leisure travel as its locations were used to accommodate guests placed on restriction of movement orders by their commands due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We are excited to welcome back our leisure travel guests,” said Chris Settelen, vice president, Navy Exchange Service Command’s (NEXCOM) Navy Lodge Program. “While our primary mission is to support military members on permanent change of station orders or temporary duty, we are also here for our families who are enjoying time away from work and on vacation. It will be nice to see them back in our Navy Lodges.”

As has been done over the past year, Navy Lodges will continue to practice its ‘Shipshape and Squared Away’ cleaning protocols, providing a safe and secure environment for its guests. Breakfast has also been reintroduced and guests can



Follow Navy Lodge
Facebook:
www.facebook.com/NavyLodge/
Twitter:
<https://twitter.com/NavyLodge>

utilize express check-out. In addition, in accordance with the Department of Defense (DoD) and Centers for Disease Control policies, and in concurrence with individual installation Commanding Officers, the Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM) will no longer require fully vaccinated patrons or associates to wear a face mask while in a Navy Lodge. To avoid any confusion, signage has been placed at the entry-

ways at all Navy Lodges as a reminder of the current policy that is in effect at that location. However, any Navy Lodge guest who is not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 should continue to follow applicable DoD face covering guidance, which includes wearing a mask at all times while indoors.

Navy Lodges offer patrons oversized guest rooms and family suites with onsite amenities such as vending machines, guest laundry area and fitness room and children’s outside play area. Navy Lodges also offer free Wi-Fi and breakfast and every Navy Lodge is accessible. As an added convenience, family pets up to 70 pounds in weight can stay at most Navy Lodges when traveling with its owner. Guests need to contact the specific Navy Lodge regarding its pet policies.

To make a reservation, call the Navy Lodge Department of Defense Reservation Center at (800) 628-9466, or go online at:

www.navy-lodge.com or
www.dodlodging.com

AFRH offers safe, secure residency for the independent living veteran

Facilities taking precautions against Covid-19 to ensure former servicemembers' health, well-being

If you're considering a move to a safe and secure senior community that caters to independent living veterans, then the Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH) might have the answer.

With more than 98 percent of residents fully vaccinated, AFRH continues to take extraordinary precautions against COVID-19 to ensure their health and well-being. Since the start of the pandemic, we've conducted over 26,000 COVID-19 tests and maintained strict infection control measures - such as wearing face coverings, social distancing and frequent hand washing and hand sanitizing. We closely follow Department of Defense and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines to ensure everyone's safety.

With locations in Washington, D.C., and Gulfport, Mississippi, AFRH offers an affordable independent-living lifestyle for retired veterans who spent the majority of their duty time as enlisted member or a warrant officer. We now welcome retired Reservists and National Guard members for residency.

Veterans can experience the same camaraderie they enjoyed during their time in uniform, and join a dynamic community that also offers exceptional care and extensive services.

Rooms are currently available at both locations with no waiting period, down payment or contract required. The monthly rate for independent living is just 46.7 percent of the resident's gross monthly income or \$2,050, whichever is less.

All residents must be able to live independently upon moving in, and advanced levels of care are provided.

Many veterans choose AFRH for the superior medical, dental and vision care offered, with amenities that include private rooms with a shower, three delicious daily meals prepared by licensed nutritionists in a modern dining facility, a wellness

program and deluxe fitness center, movie theater, bowling center, and numerous hobby shops, clubs, and social activities.

Services include recreational activities and resident day trips, a full-service library, barber shop, beauty salon, 24-7 security, computer center, mailboxes, ATM, campus PX/NEX and convenient transportation to local hospitals and appointments. Residents also have access to services such as on-site physical and occupational therapy, in-room internet and cable TV.

In Washington, D.C., AFRH offers residents a scenic, wooded campus just minutes from downtown - home to museums, monuments, and a host of local entertainment, sports and other cultural options. In Gulfport, Mississippi, AFRH offers residents a beautiful view of the Gulf of Mexico, with an outdoor swimming pool, walking path to the beach, reflecting pool, art studio and modern media room.

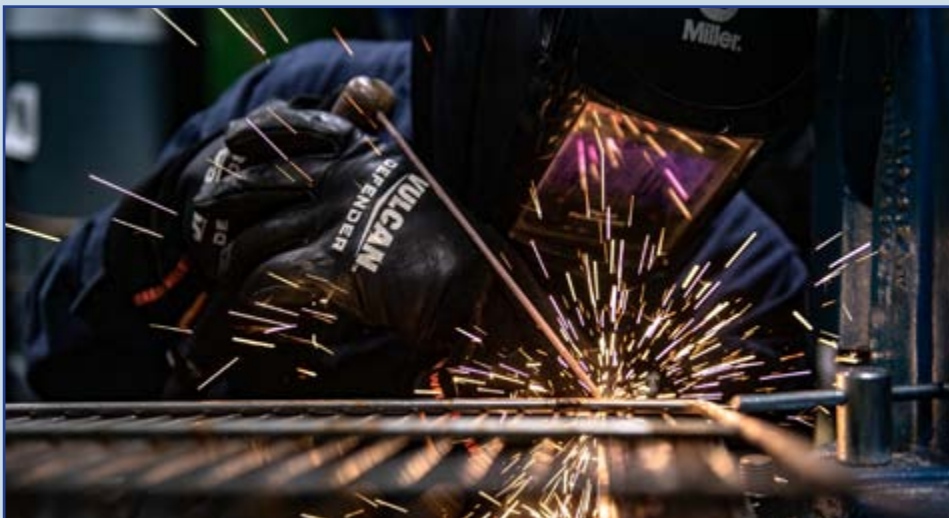
Veterans who are not retired may also be eligible to live at AFRH if they have a service-connected disability of 50 percent or greater, or if they served in a war theater (such as in Vietnam, Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan) and now have an injury, disease or disability.

Married couples are welcome to apply for residency IF:

- ▶ Both individuals meet all military and other eligibility requirements in their own right, or
- ▶ The eligible veteran is retired and married their current spouse prior to military retirement.

Call for details regarding married couples' fees, Discounts are available.

For further information or to request an application visit <https://www.afrh.gov/apply> or contact the Office of Public Affairs at admissions@afrh.gov or call (800) 422-9988.



ARABIAN SEA (Sept. 7, 2021) Hull Maintenance Technician Fireman Hunter Dillow welds a metal shelf aboard the guided-missile destroyer [USS O'Kane \(DDG 77\)](#) in the Arabian Sea. O'Kane is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations in support of naval operations to ensure maritime stability and security in the Central Region, connecting the Mediterranean Sea and Pacific Ocean through the western Indian Ocean and three strategic choke points.

Photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Elisha Smith

AROUND THE FLEET



Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Maddelin Hamm

MILAN, Ohio (Sept. 13, 2021) The Navy Ceremonial Guard transports the casket of Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Maxton W. Soviak, from Berlin Heights, Ohio, at a graveside service. Soviak, who was killed Aug. 26, 2021 during a terrorist attack at the Abbey Gate of Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan while supporting Operation Allies Refuge, was awarded the Purple Heart and Fleet Marine Force Corpsman warfare badge for his brave service while deployed to Afghanistan with the 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division.



Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Kelby Sanders

SAN DIEGO (Sept. 11, 2021) The crew of the San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock ship [USS Somerset \(LPD 25\)](#) conduct a remembrance ceremony of the ship's namesake on the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Somerset is named for Somerset County, Pennsylvania in honor of the 40 passengers and crew of United Airlines Flight 93.



Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Matt Hall

YOKOSUKA, Japan (Sept. 11, 2021) Religious Programs Specialist 1st Class Jason Gramley, from Franklin, Pa., left, and Retail Services Specialist 3rd Class Tonia Bain, from New York, salute the ensign during a twentieth anniversary remembrance of 9/11 held aboard U.S. 7th Fleet flagship [USS Blue Ridge \(LCC 19\)](#).

AROUND THE FLEET



File Photos

Photo collage of the five Sailors killed when an MH-60S Seahawk helicopter, assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron ([HSC](#)) 8, crashed off the coast of San Diego, Aug. 31. Sailors shown are, clockwise from top left: Lt. Bradley A. Foster, 29, Oakhurst, California; Lt. Paul R. Fridley, 28, from Annandale, Virginia; Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Bailey J. Tucker, 21, from St. Louis, Missouri; Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Sarah F. Burns, 31, from Severna Park, Maryland; Naval Air Crewman (Helicopter) 2nd Class James P. Buriak, 31, from Salem, Virginia.



Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Skyler Okerman

BOSTON (Sept. 11, 2021) Crew and guests aboard USS Constitution commemorate the 20th anniversary of 9/11 and honor Medal of Honor recipients. During normal operations, the active-duty Sailors stationed aboard [USS Constitution](#) provide free tours and offer public visitation to more than 600,000 people a year, promoting the Navy's history and maritime heritage and raising awareness of the importance of a sustained naval presence. USS Constitution was undefeated in battle and destroyed or captured 33 opponents. She was undefeated in battle and destroyed or captured 33 opponents. The ship earned the nickname of Old Ironsides.

POTUS announces 2022 pay raise plan

Provided by MyFederalRetirement

In an Aug. 27 letter to Congress, President Biden released an alternative pay plan for the 2022 federal pay raise for civilian employees.

In the plan, the president is recommending a 2.2-percent across-the-board pay increase raise for federal employees in 2022, with an additional 0.5-percent locality pay adjustment. The total average pay increase would be 2.7 percent.

Depending on what location the employees work, some may receive a lower or higher figure based on the final locality pay rates.

According to the letter, the pay “adjustment will take effect on the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after Jan. 1, 2022.”

Earlier this year, the White House proposed a 2.7-percent pay raise as part of the fiscal 2022 budget plan but it did not clarify how locality adjustments would be affected.

The recommended 2022 pay increase is a lift from last year’s 1.0 percent across-the-board hike. 2021 locality pay adjustments were frozen at 2020 levels.

“We appreciate President Biden’s desire to give federal employees a pay raise in 2022, especially one that includes an increase in locality pay rates,” the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU) National said in a press statement.

“This is a vast improvement over the previous administration’s attempts to freeze federal pay,” NTEU said. “However, federal employee pay increases have lagged for years and there is still a very real gap between federal pay and comparable positions in the private sector. According to the Federal Salary Council, federal employees are paid 23.11 percent less than their private sector counterparts. NTEU believes that a 3.2-percent average raise is merited in 2022, as called for in the FAIR Act legislation introduced earlier this year. We will continue to urge Congress to implement an average 2.2-percent increase across the board, plus a one-percent boost toward locality pay.”

“President Biden’s alternative pay plan providing for a 2.7-percent pay increase in 2022 for federal employees is in line with his proposal earlier this year to provide a 2.7-percent pay adjustment for military personnel and civil service employees, also known as pay parity,” said American Federation of Government Employees National President Everett Kelley. “Pay parity recognizes the essential contributions that civil service and uniformed personnel make to our country, and we are pleased that the Biden administration has honored this principle.”

The official 2022 federal pay raise will likely be decided in December at which time the Office of Personnel management will publish the 2022 pay tables.



If approved, a new federal holiday would pay tribute to civil rights activist Rosa Parks.

Tennessee lawmaker proposes holiday to honor Rosa Parks

Congressman Jim Cooper (D-TN), along with Congressional Black Caucus Chair Rep. Joyce Beatty (D-OH) and Rep. Terri Sewell (D-AL), introduced last week the Rosa Parks Day Act ([HR 5111](#)).

If passed, the bill would honor civil rights leader Rosa Parks by designating a new federal holiday.

In December 1955, Rosa Parks was arrested in Montgomery, Alabama, for refusing to give up her seat on a city bus to a white man and was charged with violating Montgomery’s segregation law. Congress honored her as “the first lady of civil rights” and “the mother of the freedom movement.”

The holiday would be on Dec. 1, according to a press release from Cooper, which is the date Parks was arrested.

“Through her willingness to sit, Rosa Parks stood up for what she believed in,” Rep. Joyce Beatty said. “As a state legislator, I was proud to lead the push to make the Buckeye State the first state to officially recognize Rosa Parks Day. It’s now time for us to come together as a nation to honor this American hero through a new national holiday.”

“On December 1, 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, Rosa Parks sat so that this nation could stand up for the values that our democracy holds so dear,” said Rep. Sewell. “Her quiet, dignified courage helped inspire a civil rights movement that changed this country for the better. As the U.S. Representative for Montgomery, I’m so proud to introduce the Rosa Parks Day Act to make December 1st a national holiday in her honor. Such a day will ensure the memory of her brave sacrifice lives on in America’s story for generations to come.”



Executive Order 14004

Enabling All Qualified Americans to Serve Their Country in Uniform

Issued by: President Joseph R. Biden
Signed Into Law: Jan. 25, 2021

In January of 2021, President Joseph R. Biden issued an executive order undoing the previous administration's ban on transgendered troops. Following the signature of that executive action, the Department of Defense undertook a two-month long review process to develop guidelines and policy for military members following that executive order.

At the end of March 2021, DoD officials announced policy that allows transgender troops to serve using their "self-identified gender." Medically required transition care is authorized under the executive order.

House Resolution 303 Retired Pay Restoration Act

Sponsored by: Rep. Bilirakis, Gus M. Florida (R).

This bill allows the receipt of both military retired pay and veterans' disability compensation with respect to any service-connected disability. Under current law, only individuals with service-connected disabilities rated at 50 percent or more receive both without offset.

Individuals who were retired or separated after at least 20 years of military service due to a service-connected disability shall be eligible for the full concurrent receipt of both veterans' disability compensation and either military retired pay or combat-related special pay.

01/13/2021: Introduced in House

01/13/2021: Referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs,

for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

01/13/2021: Referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

03/08/2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.

House Resolution 2910 Veterans Healthcare Freedom Act

Introduced: April 30, 2021

Sponsored by: Rep. Andy Biggs, Arizona (R)

This House Resolution proposes to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to "carry out a pilot program to improve the ability of veterans to access medical care in medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs". This Resolution seeks to give veterans "the ability to choose health care providers". This Resolution has gone to committee – the House Veterans Affairs Committee will review it before sending it on for further consideration.

House Resolution 32281

Introduced: March 29, 2021

Sponsored By: Rep. Derek Kilmer, Washington (D)

This House Resolution proposes to award a collective Congressional Gold Medal to members of Army "Dust Off crews" who served during the Vietnam War. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Financial Services and

House Committee on House Administration where it will be reviewed prior to moving to the House floor.

House Resolution 32192

To Provide For Recovery By Individuals Who Were Stationed, Lived, Or Worked At Camp Lejeune, For Certain Actions Of Omissions By The United States

Introduced: March 26, 2021

Sponsored by: Rep. Matthew Cartwright, Pennsylvania (D)

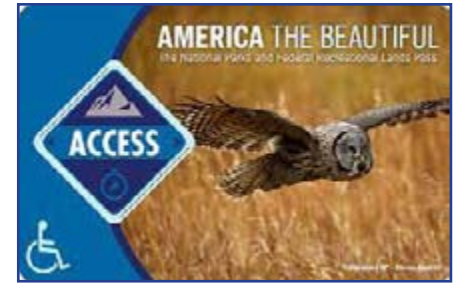
This House Resolution proposes to allow those who worked at Camp Lejeune between dates in 1953 and 1987 for 30 days or longer to "bring an action in the United States District Court" to seek relief from issues related to contaminated water at the Marine Corps base. At press time the Resolution has not been sent to committee for further consideration.

House Resolution 333 Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act

Introduced: January 15, 2021

Sponsored By: Rep. Sanford Bishop Jr., Georgia (D)

This law would amend Title 10, United States Code, to permit concurrent receipt of both military retirement pay and VA compensation for service-connected medical issues for those who are VA-rated as 50 percent or less service-connected disabled. The House Resolution would extend eligibility "for concurrent receipt to Chapter 61 disability retirees with less than 20 years of service" and other purposes. This bill is currently under review by the House Armed Services Committee and the House Committees on Veterans Affairs.



Veterans, Gold Star Families get free entrance to national parks, refuges, other public lands

VAntage Point

Entrance fees for the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and standard amenity recreation fees for the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sites are waived for current Military Service-members and their dependents, Veterans and Gold Star Families.

They now have free access to approximately 2,000 public locations spread out across more than 400 million acres of public lands, which host activities to fit any lifestyle, from serene to high octane, including hiking, fishing, paddling, biking, hunting, stargazing, camping, and much more.

Are you eligible?

For purposes of this program, a veteran is identified as an individual who has served in the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserves, and is able to present one of the following forms of valid (unexpired) ID:

- Department of Defense Identification Card**
- [Veteran Health Identification Card \(VHIC\)](#)
- [Veteran ID Card](#)

Veterans designation on a U.S. driver's license or ID card
Gold Star Families are next of kin of a member of the United States Armed Forces who lost his or her life in a "qualifying situation," such as a war, an international terrorist attack, or a military operation outside of the United States while serving with the United States Armed Forces.

America the Beautiful – the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass Program

The Interagency Pass Program already includes a free annual

pass for active duty members of the U.S. Military and their dependents. Current Military Service-members must show a valid (unexpired) Department of Defense ID. Dependents of current Service-members must show a valid (unexpired) DD Form 1173 AD or DEC.

The annual Military Pass has been expanded to include veterans and Gold Star Family members. Other free or discounted passes, including some lifetime passes, are available for persons with permanent disabilities, fourth grade students, volunteers, and senior citizens age 62 years or older.

How to get your Interagency Pass

Interagency Passes can be obtained in person while visiting a participating site. Visit [Places to Get Interagency Passes](#) for a searchable list and be sure to contact the site before you go, to make sure they are open and have passes in stock. In addition, Military passes, as well as those for seniors and persons with permanent disabilities, are available online through the USGS Online Store.

For more information about eligibility and passes, visit [Free Entrance to National Parks for Veterans and Gold Star Families \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#).

The participating agencies also offer several fee-free days for everyone throughout the year to mark days of celebration and commemoration. Examples of fee-free days include the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., National Public Lands Day, Veterans Day, and the signing of the Great American Outdoors Act.

Fee-free days and fee policies vary among the agencies, so it's best to check the agency website or contact the site you plan to visit in advance of your trip.

This information was updated September 9, 2021.

Don't get jabbed by vaccine scammers

by Colleen Tressler
Division of Consumer and
Business Education, FTC

More than a year into the pandemic, and months after the first rollout of COVID-19 vaccines, people are eager to get back to their regular activities. But some activities might require you to show that you've been vaccinated or had a recent negative COVID-19 test. How you do that may depend on the activity and where you live.

Right now, there's no standard way to prove you've been vaccinated or tested negative. Sure, there are those CDC COVID-19 vaccination cards people get when they get their vaccine. But they were never designed to prove your vaccination status and they may not be enough. Some states, companies, colleges, and other organizations are creating their own verification products and services, including apps and digital passports or certificates. Some connect to state immunization databases while others rely on individual self-report. The patchwork approach gives scammers an opportunity to cash in on the confusion.

Besides not sharing your COVID-19 vaccination card online because of the risk for identity theft, here are a few other ways to help stay ahead of scammers.

Be skeptical of anyone contacting you from the federal government. Right now, there are no official plans to create a national vaccine verification app or certificate or passport. If you get a call, email, or text from someone saying they're from the federal government, and asking you for personal information or money to get a national vaccine certificate or passport, that's a scam.

Check with airlines, cruise lines, and event venues about their requirements. Don't rely on information from someone who calls, texts, or emails you out of the blue.

Contact your state government about its vaccine verification plans and re-

Four Ways *to Stay Ahead* of COVID-19 Vaccine Certificate Scammers

Right now, there are no plans to create a national COVID-19 vaccine verification app, certificate or passport. **To stay ahead of scammers:**



Be skeptical of anyone contacting you from the federal government.

No agency will call, email, or text demanding your personal information or money to get a vaccine certificate or passport.



Check with airlines, cruise lines, and event venues about their requirements.

Don't rely on information from someone who calls, texts, or emails you out of the blue.



Contact your state government about its vaccine verification plans and requirements.



Don't share your information with just anyone.

That real-looking site could be scammers looking for your money or information.

Report vaccine passport scammers to the FTC at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/ReportFraud) or your attorney general at [ConsumerResources.org](https://www.consumerresources.org).



FEDERAL TRADE
COMMISSION



NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
ATTORNEYS GENERAL

quirements.

Don't share your information with just anyone. Scammers often set up real-looking websites to sell fake goods and services, so why not vaccine verification certificates or passports? Before you share any information online, check out who's asking for it. Search online for the company or organization's name with words like "scam," "review," or "complaint." Think long and hard before you share personal information, like your Social Security, Medicare, credit card, or bank account numbers. Scammers can

steal your information to commit fraud and identity theft.

Please share these tips with others, and stay connected to stay informed. Subscribe to consumer alerts from the FTC to get updates delivered right to your email inbox.

If you know about a COVID-19 vaccine scam, tell the FTC about it at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/ReportFraud). Or, file a complaint with your state or territory attorney general at [consumerresources.org](https://www.consumerresources.org), the consumer website of the National Association of Attorneys General.

REUNIONS



To ensure your reunion has the more exposure, send us your information as soon as details are finalized. Check with event POC for updates.

SHIP/STATION	Date	Phone	POC Email/Web
VQ Association (VQ 1, 2, 5, 6 and NSG)	Oct 4 - 7	(813) 390-3790	broken3@outlook.com www.vqassociation.org
USS ROBERT A OWNES (DD/DDE 827)	Oct. 4 - 7	(412) 610-0905	billmiller15644@gmail.com
USS PAUL (DE/FF 1080)	Oct. 8 - 10	(843) 359-0354	seadragon1080@gmail.com
USS FORRESTAL (CV 59), USS INTREPID (CV 11), Fighter Squadron 62 (VF 62), & Attack Squadron 109 (VA 106)	Oct. 10-12	(906) 201-1528	gunnerh@up.net
USS CANBERRA (CA 70/CAG 2)	Oct. 13-17	(740) 423-8976	usscanberra@gmail.com
Association of Minemen	Oct. 14-17	(626) 824-0727	assocminemen@yahoo.com www.minemen.org/wp
USS WALLER (DD/DDE-466)	Oct. 17-21	(606) 365-2902	schulerlemons98@gmail.com
USS SPIEGEL GROVE (LSD 32)	Oct. 20-24	(623) 853-9913	lsd32usn@gmail.com
USS VOGELGESANG (DD 862)	Oct. 22-24	(703) 474-3185	Ldobb@aol.com
USS McMORRIS (DE 1036)	Oct. 28-31	(972) 219-9674	julorgal@gmail.com greywarrior@hotmail.com
USS ROBERT H McCARD (DD 822)	Sept. 29 – Oct. 2	None Given	cesbernie@yahoo.com

REUNIONS FY 2022

Old Salts & Assorted Spies (Naval Reserve Intelligence Retirees)	Sept. 25-29	(720) 301-1318	www.os-as.com
Naval Weather Service Association	Oct. 4-8	(301) 751-3040	aeropro@aol.com www.navalweather.org
USS SARATOGA (CV 3 & CVA/CV 60) (All squadrons, Marines, & ships company)	Oct. 20-24	(513) 315-2251	WilliamLack@gmail.com www.uss-saratoga.com
USS HORNET & USS CONSTELLATION (CV 8, CV/CVA/CVS 12) (CVA/CV 64) Joint Reunion	Oct. 25-30	(814) 312-4976	hornetcva@aol.com www.usshornetassn.com sidney.rodgers@cox.net www.ussconstellation.org

SHIP/STATION	Date	Phone	Email/Web
Patrol Squadron 2 (VP 2)	Oct. 31– Nov. 4	(713) 419-5799	gregnsue@sbcglobal.net www.patron2.com
USS CAIMAN	Apr. 18-21	(360) 731-5233	DBFrider@comcast.net

Spot, stop, and report post-disaster scams

by *Colleen Tressler*
Federal Trade Commission

Whether you're assessing the damage from a hurricane, flooding, wildfires, or another natural disaster, coping with the aftermath is never easy. But when scammers target people just trying to recover, it can be even worse. Here are ways to help you [avoid post-disaster scams](#).

Be skeptical of promises for immediate clean-up and debris removal. Some may quote outrageous prices, demand payment up-front, or lack the skills.

Check them out. Before you pay, ask for IDs, licenses, and proof of insurance. Don't believe any promises that aren't in writing.

Never pay by wire transfer, gift card, cryptocurrency, or in cash. And never make the final payment until the work is done and you're satisfied.

Here's what to do [if you get scammed](#).

Guard your personal information. Only scammers will say they're a government official and then demand money or your credit card, bank account, or Social Security number.

[Recognize imposter scams](#).

Know that FEMA doesn't charge application fees. If someone wants money to help you qualify for FEMA funds, that's probably a scam.

Be wise to [rental listing scams](#). Steer clear of people who tell you to wire money or ask for security deposits or rent before you've met or signed a lease.

Spot [disaster-related charity scams](#). Scammers will often try to make a quick profit from the misfortune of others. Check out the FTC's advice on donating wisely and avoiding charity scams.

How to deal with [weather emergencies](#). If a weather event or disaster

Picking Up the Pieces After a Disaster

Dealing with a disaster is never easy. But when scammers target people just trying to recover, it can be even worse. Here are some tips to help you avoid common post-disaster scams.

Avoid Clean-up & Repair Scams

- **Be skeptical of anyone promising immediate clean-up and debris removal.** Some may quote outrageous prices, demand payment up-front, or lack the skills needed.
- **Check them out.** Before you pay, ask for IDs, licenses, and proof of insurance. Don't believe any promises that aren't in writing.
- **Never pay by wire transfer, gift card, or in cash.** And never make the final payment until the work is done and you're satisfied.

Spot Imposters

- **Guard your personal information.** Only scammers will say they're an official and then demand money or your credit card, bank account, or Social Security number.
- **Know that FEMA doesn't charge application fees.** If someone wants money to help you qualify for FEMA funds, that's probably a scam.
- **Spot rental listing scams.** Steer clear of people who tell you to wire money or ask for security deposits or rent before you've met or signed a lease.

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
For more information, visit: ftc.gov/weatheremergencies
Suspect a scam? Report it to: ftc.gov/complaint

affects you, come back for more tips on recovery and information about your rights. Like all our materials, the site is mobile-friendly, so you'll have ready access to information when and where you need it.

Suspect a scam? Report it to the FTC at ReportFraud.ftc.gov.

Want information on the latest frauds and scams seen by the FTC? [Sign up](#) for its consumer alerts.



Retired Activities Office Locator

NOTE: ★ - need volunteers

Navy and Joint RAOs

Arizona (★)

➤ Retired Activities Office
Navy Operational Support Center
14160 W. Marauder St.
Luke AFB, Glendale, AZ 85309
9 a.m. - 2 p.m. (Mon.-Fri.)
☎ (602) 353-3033

California

➤ Retired Activities Office (★)
Naval Air Weapons Station
Code 75H000D
1 Administration Circle
China Lake, CA 93555-6100
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (Mon-Fri)
☎ (760) 939-0978

➤ Retired Activities Office (★)
Fleet and Family Support Center
966 Franklin Ave., Bldg. 930
Naval Air Station
Lemoore, CA 93246
8 a.m. - 2 p.m. (Thur)
☎ (559) 998-4032

➤ Retired Activities Office (★)
Housing Office Bldg. 587
Moffet Field, CA 94035-0162
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
(Tues/Wed/Fri)
☎ (650) 603-8047

➤ Retired Activities Office
Fleet and Family Support Center
1000 23rd Ave, Bldg. 1169, Code N93V
Port Hueneme, CA 93043
8 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Mon-Fri)
☎ (805) 982-1023

➤ Retired Activities Office (★)
Navy Station San Diego
Fleet and Family Support Center
3005 Corbina Alley, Suite 1
San Diego, CA 92136
8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (Mon, Tues,
Thurs, Fri)
☎ (619) 556-7412

➤ Retired Activities Office
Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach
800 Seal Beach Blvd.
Bldg. 22, Room. 2
Seal Beach, CA 90740-5000
9 a.m - 3 p.m. (Mon-Thu)
9 a.m. - noon (Fri)
☎ (562) 626-7152

Connecticut (serves RI retirees)
➤ Retired Activities Office

Naval Sub Base, New London
Building 83, P.O. Box 93
Groton, CT 06349-5000
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (Mon-Fri)
☎ (860) 694-3284

Florida

➤ Retired Activities Office
Naval Air Station, Jacksonville
Fleet and Family Support Center
27 Ranger St.
P.O. Box 136
Jacksonville, FL 32212-0136
10 a.m. - 3 p.m. (Mon-Thurs)
☎ (904) 542-5790, Fax: 542-5716

➤ Retired Activities Office (★)
Currently Vacant
Fleet and Family Support Center
Naval Air Station Whiting Field
7511 USS Enterprise St., Bldg. 3025
Milton, FL 32570-5000
8:30 - 11:30 a.m. (Mon & Fri)
☎ (850) 623-7215/7177

➤ Retired Activities Office
Fleet and Family Support Center
Naval Air Station Pensacola
151 Ellyson Ave., Bldg. 625
NAS Pensacola, FL 32508-5217
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. (Mon-Fri)
☎ (850) 452-5622

Hawaii

➤ Retired Activities Office (★)
Military and Family Support Center
4827 Bougainville Drive
Honolulu, HI 96818-3174
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. (Mon-Wed)
8 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Thu-Fri)
☎ (808) 474-0032/1999

Maine

(with Portsmouth Shipyard)

➤ Retired Activities Office (★)
400 Foxtrot Ave.
Naval Air Station
Brunswick, ME 04011-5004
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. (Mon-Fri)
☎ (207) 841-0582

Maryland (★)

➤ Retired Activities Office
Fleet and Family Support Center
NSA Annapolis
168 Bennion Rd.
Annapolis, MD 21402
9 - 11 a.m. (Wed.)
☎ (410) 293-2641

Michigan (Joint RAO)

➤ Retiree Affairs Office
43156 Wagner, Bldg 164

(Joint Dining Facility), Room 122 (S604)
Selfridge ANG Base, MI 40045
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (Tues. - Fri.) Call first
☎ (586) 307-5580
✉ selfrao@yahoo.com

Minnesota (★)

➤ Retired Activities Office
Navy Operational Support Center
6400 Bloomington Rd., Fort Snelling
St. Paul, MN 55111-4051
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (Tue & Thu)
☎ (612) 713-4664

New Hampshire (★)

➤ Retired Activities Office
Portsmouth Naval Shipyard
Code 866, Bldg. 22
Portsmouth, NH 03804-5000
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (Mon-Fri)
☎ (207) 438-1868

Tennessee (★)

➤ Retired Activities Office
Fleet and Family Support Center
Bldg. 456, 1st Floor
NSA Memphis, Code N 763
Millington, TN 38054-5000
10:00 a.m. - 2 p.m. (Tues and Thurs)
☎ (901) 874-5195

Virginia

➤ Retired Activities Office (★)
Fleet and Family Support Center
7928 14th St., Ste. 102
Norfolk, VA 23505-1219
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
(Fri) Mon-Thurs Apt only
☎ (757) 445-4380 Fax: 445-5326

➤ Retired Activities Office (★)
Joint Expeditionary Base
Little Creek-Fort Story
Fleet and Family Support Center
1450 D Street
Virginia Beach, VA 23521
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (Fri)
☎ (757) 462-8663

Washington

➤ Retired Activities Office (★)
Fleet and Family Support Center
Naval Station Everett
13910 45th Ave. NE, Rm. 818
Marysville, WA 98271
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. (Mon-Fri)
☎ (866) 854-0638

➤ Retired Activities Office (★)
Fleet and Family Support Center
Naval Air Station Whidbey Island
Oak Harbor, WA 98278
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (Mon-Fri)

☎ (360) 257-6432

➤ Retired Activities Office (★)
Fleet and Family Support Center
Naval Base Kitsap
Silverdale, WA 98315
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
☎ (866) 854-0368

Navy RAO Overseas

Naples, Italy

➤ Retired Activities Office
Fleet and Family Support Center
3 - 5 p.m. (Wed only)
☎ 081-811-6372

Rota, Spain (★)

➤ Retired Activities Office
NS Rota Community Support
Bldg 3293
PSC 819, Box 57
FPO AE 09645-5500
1 - 4 p.m. (Tue & Thu, appt only)
☎ 011-34-956-82-3232 (Conus)

Independent Retired Coordination Offices (IRCOs)

IRCOs are independent retired activities efforts of interested retirees, not sponsored by the Navy, in areas which are geographically isolated from Navy and Marine Corps commands/installations, but which have a sizeable retired population and share a similar RAO mission and operate in a similar manner.

Florida

➤ Retired Activities Office
VA Lakemont Campus, Rm. 125
2500 Lakemont Ave.
Orlando, FL 32803
☎ (407) 646-4110/4111/4114

Italy

➤ Retired Activities Office
Via De Amicis No. 16
07024 La Maddalena
O. T. Italy
100-Percent Email Contact
✉ Panzanic@Hotmail.com

Subic Bay (Philippine Region)

➤ Retired Activities Office
Subic Bay-Olongapo
No. 34 National Highway
Barrio Barretto 2200
Olongapo City
PSC 517, Box RS
FPO/AP 96517-1000
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (Mon. - Fri.)
✉ Dir@Raosubic.Com
☎ (Office) 011-63-47-222-2314
(24/7 Cell) 639065705335

To report changes and updates to the information on this page, contact Shift Colors at MILL_ShiftColors@navy.mil

Ready Reference Contact Information

Air Force Retiree Services: (800) 531-7502; www.retirees.af.mil

Arlington National Cemetery: (703) 607-8000;

www.arlingtoncemetery.org

Armed Forces Retirement Home: (800) 422-9988; www.afrh.gov

Army & Air Force Exchange Service: (214) 312-2011;

www.aafes.com

Army Retired Services: (703) 571-7232;

<https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement>

Burial at Sea Information: (866) 787-0081;

Combat Related Special Compensation:

www.va.gov/resources/combat-related-special-compensation-crsc/

DEERS: (800)-538-9552, Fax: (831) 655-8317;

www.tricare.osd.mil/deers

Defense Commissary Agency: www.commissaries.com

DFAS Casualty Assistance Branch: (800) 321-1080 or (216) 522-5955; (For Reporting a Retiree's death, option #1)

Fleet Reserve Association: (703) 683-1400; www.fra.org

Gulf War homepage: www.gulfink.osd.mil

I.D. Cards Benefits and Eligibility: (866) 827-5672;

Internal Revenue Service: (800) 829-1040; www.irs.gov

Marine Corps Retired Affairs: (800) 336-4649; www.usmc.mil

(Hover over "Marine Services" then click on "Retired Services")

Medicare: (800) 633-4227. TTY: (877) 486-2048; www.medicare.gov

Military Officers Assoc. of America: (800) 234-6622; www.moaa.org

National Burial Services: (800) 697-6940

Navy Reserve Personnel Management (PERS 9): (866) 827-5672;

Navy Casualty Assistance: (800) 368-3202

After duty hours call (901) 634-9279 for Casualty Watch Officer

Navy Retired Activities: (866) U-ASK-NPC (866-827-5672)

Email: MILL_RetiredActivities@navy.mil

Navy Retired Activities Offices

Navy Uniform Shop: (800) 368-4088; www.navy-nex.com/uniform

Report the Death of a Retiree: (800) 321-1080

Reserve Component SBP: (866) 827-5672 ask for PERS-912

Retiree Dental — Delta Dental: (888) 838-8737; www.trdp.org

Servicemembers Group Insurance (SGLI): (800) 419-1473;

www.insurance.va.gov

Naval Historical Center: (202) 433-2210; www.history.navy.mil

Social Security Administration: (800) 772-1213; www.ssa.gov

Pay/SBP Questions: www.dfas.mil

Pay inquiries and update of pay or SBP records in case of death, divorce or remarriage:

Retiree:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service

U.S. Military Retirement Pay

8899 E 56th Street

Indianapolis, IN 46249-1200

(800) 321-1080 / Fax: (800) 469-6559.

SBP/RSFPP annuitant:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service

U.S. Military Annuitant Pay

8899 E 56th Street

Indianapolis IN 46249-1300

(800) 321-1080 / (800) 469-6559

TRICARE: www.mytricare.com/mtc

TRICARE East: www.humanamilitary.com/beneficiary

AL, AR, CT, DC, DE, IL, IN, KY, FL, GA, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MS, NC, NH, NJ, NY, OH, OK, PA, RI, SC, TN (except 35 Western zips), TX (except the extreme Western area) VT, VA, WI, and WV

TRICARE West: www.tricare-west.com

AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, IA (except 82 zips near Rock Island), KS, MO (except St. Louis area), MN, MT, ND, NE, NM, NV, OR, DE, SW TX, UT, WA, WY some zips in IA, MO, TN

TRICARE Overseas: (888) 777-8343; www.tricare-overseas.com

TRICARE For Life: (866) 773-0404; www.tricare.mil/tf

TRICARE mail order pharmacy: (877) 363-1303;

www.tricare.mil/pharmacy

www.express-scripts.com

VA: www.va.gov

Regional offices: (800) 827-1000 (overseas retirees should contact the American Embassy/consulate), TDD (800) 829-4833

Insurance:

VA Regional Office and Insurance Center

PO Box 7208 (claims inquiries) -ORPO

Box 7327 (loans) -ORPO

Box 7787 (payments)

Philadelphia PA 19101

(800) 669-8477; www.insurance.va.gov

Burial information: (800) 827-1000; www.cem.va.gov

GI Bill: (888) 442-4551; www.gibill.va.gov

Records:

For replacement DD 214s, service records, medical records, award information:

Retired prior to 1995:

www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records

Retired after 1995:

Navy Personnel Command

PERS-312E

5720 Integrity Drive

Millington, TN 38055-3120

Fax requests to: (901) 874-2664

Gray-area reservists: (866) 827-5672

Navy Recreation: www.mwr.navy.mil

Navy Gateway Inns & Suites: <http://dodlodging.net>

ITT: <http://navynwr.org/mwrprgrms/itt.html>

Sister service retiree publications:

Air Force Afterburner: www.retiree.af.mil

Army Echoes: <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/echoes>

Coast Guard Evening Colors: www.uscg.mil/hq/cg1/psc/ras

Marine Corps' Semper Fidelis: [Semper Fidelis](http://SemperFidelis.com)

FLEET WEEK

PACIFIC OCEAN (Sept. 11, 2021) Sailors aboard the amphibious assault ship [USS Tripoli \(LHA 7\)](#) man the rails on the ship's flight deck as the ship prepares to pull into San Francisco in support of [San Francisco Fleet Week \(SFFW\)](#), Sept. 11, 2021. SFFW is an opportunity for the American public to meet their Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard teams and experience America's sea services. During fleet week, service members participate in various community service events, showcase capabilities and equipment to the community, and enjoy the hospitality of San Francisco and its surrounding areas.

Photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Christopher Syper



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