



West Coast Edition

Serving The Retired Military Communities of Nevada & California

# HONORS

August 2004

## Concurrent Receipt — A Reality for Some Retirees

The 2004 National Defense Authorization Act will benefit as many as 200,000 of the approximately 600,000 military retirees with VA disabilities. Under the Act, two types of payment have been authorized. Concurrent Retirement Disability Payment (CRDP) effects certain retirees with combined Veteran Affairs (VA) disability ratings of 50% or greater, while Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC) effects certain retirees whose disabilities are combat related.

**Concurrent Retirement Disability Payment (CDRP)** is effective January 1, 2004 and will phase out the Veteran Affairs (VA) disability offset to military retired pay over the next ten years. CRDP is applicable to all retirees with 20 (combined active & reserve/guard) years of service who have a VA disability rating of 50% or higher. For 2004, CDRP eligible retirees will see their retired pay increase by the following amounts: For 100% disabled, \$750.00; 90%, \$500.00; 80%, \$350.00; 70%, \$250.00; 60%, \$125.00; 50%, \$100.00. CDRP cannot exceed gross retired pay. For example, a retiree who is rated 100% but whose retired pay is only \$725.00 will only have \$725.00 restored.

Remaining retired pay offsets will then be phased

out over the next 9 years. In 2005, CDRP will be increased by 10% of the remaining offset; in 2006, 20% and so on. By 2014,

retirees will be entitled to full concurrent receipt of military retired pay and VA disability compensation. CDRP will be paid separately from retired pay and not included on the Retired Account Statement (RAS) for those retirees whose retired pay is not subject to collection actions, such as alimony, child support, etc. These payments will be taxed at a flat 10% rate, regardless of your current retired pay tax withholding status. If retired pay is subject to collection actions, your CDRP payment will reflect on your RAS as a decrease in your VA waiver deduction. The Defense Finance & Accounting Service (DFAS) is currently developing a system so that future CDRP may be efficiently paid on a monthly basis and under universal, systematic guidelines. *(Continued on page 4)*



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## Office Of The Commander

Dear Retiree/Survivor:

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the military retired community. I am Colonel Danny Nobles. I assumed Command of Fort McCoy from Colonel Michael Staszak in June of 2003. This past year has been very busy and eventful as Fort McCoy has played a significant role in the mobilization, training, deployment, and demobilization processing of our reserve component Soldiers. As one of the Army's major Power Projection Platforms, Fort McCoy continues to provide trained and ready Soldiers to support the Global War on Terrorism.

As Commander I recognize the important role that retirees play in today's military. Our great nation is what it is today because of the sacrifices and dedication you have made throughout your careers. Just as retirees deserve recognition, so do their family members. Without the support of family members your accomplishments could not have been possible. Thanks to the entire military retired community for your commitment and dedication. You are truly great Americans.

In the past year significant legislation has been passed to benefit many retirees. The 2004 National Defense Authorization Act included provisions to authorize concurrent retired pay and VA disability pay for as many as 200,000 retirees. Although this is a monumental milestone, it only affects approximately one-third of those retirees entitled to disability compensation. The 2004 Authorization Act also opened the door for those retirees who did not enroll in Medicare Part B when first eligible to sign up without late enrollment penalty. Such new enrollees will have their enrollment (and TRICARE for Life eligibility) back-dated to January 1, 2004. You will find more information on both of these issues included in this edition of Honors.

The proposed 2005 Defense Authorization Act includes legislation to include Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) reform to phase out the age-62 annuity reduction. Details of this proposal have still not been worked out, but it is expected that the reform will face a tough road on the hill.

Fort McCoy is dedicated to providing the finest support possible. Your Retirement Services Officer, Bill Walters, is responsible for retiree support in the states of Minnesota, Michigan, Iowa, Northern Illinois, Wisconsin, Nevada and California. Bill is a military retiree with a very positive approach. I am certain he will do his best to ensure that the retired community continues to receive the quality service you so richly deserve. If you have any questions, please contact Bill at 1-800-452-0923 or via email at [william.walters@emh2.mccoy.army.mil](mailto:william.walters@emh2.mccoy.army.mil).

FORT McCOY - TOTAL FORCE TRAINING CENTER.

Sincerely,

Danny G. Nobles  
Colonel, US Army  
Commanding

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS FORT McCOY  
2187 SOUTH J STREET  
FORT McCOY, WISCONSIN 54656-515



## Letter From Editor:

*2004 is the 4th edition of "Honors". The first three editions have received favorable comments and I hope this issue will continue to do so. The newsletter is intended to keep you abreast of those issues that have a significant impact on the lives of military retirees residing in your region. Each year I review the comments from the previous edition and try to address those issues most often mentioned. I welcome your comments so please continue to let me know what type of information you would like to see addressed in this newsletter. Thanks for your service and I trust that you will find "Honors" enjoyable and a source of reliable information.*

*Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Retirement Services Officer. I hope you enjoy this 2004 edition.*



*Bill Walters, Editor  
Retirement Services Officer  
Ft. McCoy, WI 54656*



## Newsletter and Other Information Available on the Internet.

This newsletter is an **annual** publication published each August. It is distributed to all Army retirees in receipt of retired pay, gray area retirees and Army surviving spouses residing in California, Nevada, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa and the 32 northern most counties of Illinois. Two separate issues are printed, a West Coast issue for residents of California and Nevada, and a Midwest issue for residents of Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois. Both issues are also available on the Retirement Services Office website. You can visit this site at, [www.mccoy.army.mil](http://www.mccoy.army.mil), then select Retirees and then Retirement Services Office. This website also offers additional information on many other retiree issues. It includes links to all the services retiree newsletters and much more. Please utilize this site and share it with retirees from other services.



[www.mccoy.army.mil](http://www.mccoy.army.mil)

**A**rticles for this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the position of the Department of the Army, or Fort McCoy, WI. We do our best to ensure accuracy. The material in this newsletter was provided by a number of sources.

The Retirement Services Office (RSO) publishes the Retirement Services Newsletter in accordance with AR 600-8-7.

The RSO is located in Bldg. 2111, Fort McCoy, WI. We suggest that you call for an appointment prior to visiting the office.

You can contact us at: 1-800-452-0923 or e-mail: [william.walters@emh2.mccoy.army.mil](mailto:william.walters@emh2.mccoy.army.mil).

The mailing address is;  
Military Personnel Branch  
ATTN: AFRC-FM-CAM-R  
2187 South J Street  
Fort McCoy, WI 54656-5150



**The purpose is to assist retired military personnel and their families in their benefits, rights and privileges.**

**Editor: Bill Walters**

(Continued from Page 1)

**Frequently Asked Concurrent Retirement Disability Payment (CDRP) Questions**

1. I have a 40% VA disability rating. Am I eligible for CDRP?  
*A. No, only those retirees with 50% disability ratings or above are eligible for CDRP.*
2. I am a medical retiree with 15 years of combined military service. Am I eligible for CDRP?  
*A. No, you must have at least 20 years of combined (active & reserve/guard) military service to qualify for CDRP.*
3. I do not think my VA rating is accurate. Who do I contact about re-evaluating my disability rating?  
*A. Contact your local VA regional office or your County Veteran Service Officer (CVSO) regarding your rating.*
4. Are former spouses eligible for a portion of this pay?  
*A. Yes, if a competent court has ordered a division of retired pay. Since CDRP is a restoration of retired pay, it is subject to collection actions such as alimony, child support, etc.*
5. Since I cannot receive both CDRP and CRSC, can I choose which one I receive?  
*A. DFAS is paying each retiree the higher dollar amount between CDRP and CRSC. As the CDRP restoration progresses, you will be notified about potential future options.*
6. Who do I contact if I have questions concerning payment of my CDRP?  
*A. You should contact the DFAS. You can reach DFAS on line at [www.dfas.mil](http://www.dfas.mil) or via telephone at 1-800-321-1080.*

**Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC)**

CRSC has been expanded to include all military retirees with at least 20 qualifying years of service with combat or operations related disabilities that have been service-connected by the VA at 10% or higher. Previously, the only veterans eligible for this benefit were those whose combat related disabilities were 60% or higher or those rated at 10% or more with disabilities caused by wounds for which a Purple Heart Medal was awarded. Additionally, under the new criteria, Reserve Component applicants must be 60 years of age with 20 years of creditable service, and eligible to receive retired pay.

Payments of CRSC are paid at the rate of VA disability compensation paid to a single veteran for whatever combined percentage of disability is determined by the veteran's service to be combat or operationally related. Military retirees must apply to their service for CRSC payments and there is no phase-in period for this tax-free payment. Applications (DD Form 2860) must be submitted to the designated office of the Military Department from which they retired. Members may submit an application at any time and, if otherwise qualified

for CRSC, compensation will be paid retroactively, to the extent otherwise allowed by law, for any month after May 2003, for which all conditions of eligibility were met. Applications are available on line at [www.crsc.army.mil](http://www.crsc.army.mil) or by contacting your servicing Retirement Services Officer (RSO).

A combat-related disability is a disability with an assigned medical diagnosis code from the VA that was incurred:

- a. As a direct result of armed conflict,
- b. While engaged in hazardous service,
- c. In the performance of duty under conditions simulating war, or
- d. Through an instrumentality of war.

The Military Department will determine whether a disability is combat-related under a, b, c, or d, above, using the definitions and criteria set forth. A determination of combat-relatedness will be made with respect to each separate disability with an assigned medical diagnosis code from the VA.

If eligible, CRSC payments will be deposited to the same account where you receive your retired pay. In the event your VA disability compensation offset exceeds your retired pay, it will be deposited to the account where you receive your VA payment. Based on current law regarding taxability of disability income, CRSC is not taxable.

**Frequently Asked CRSC Questions**

1. Do all military retirees with combat-related disability qualify for CRSC?  
*A. No. Retirees must have at least 20 years combined (active and reserve/guard) service. Thus, Temporary Early Retirement Authority (TERA) and disability retirees with less than 20 years of creditable service do not qualify.*
2. How can I check on the status of my application for CRSC?  
*A. Each Uniformed Service will review the applications of their own retiree's applications. Army retirees can check the status of their claim by calling 1-866-281-3254, Air Force retirees should call 1-866-229-7074 and Navy/Marine Corps retirees should call 1-877-366-2772.*
3. How will I be notified of the decision?  
*A. Your Military Service will notify you of all approvals or denials in writing to you.*
4. Will the pay be retroactive?  
*A. The pay will be retroactive to the date you became eligible for CRSC (either June 1, 2003, or the date of award, which ever is later).*



# Honors Update

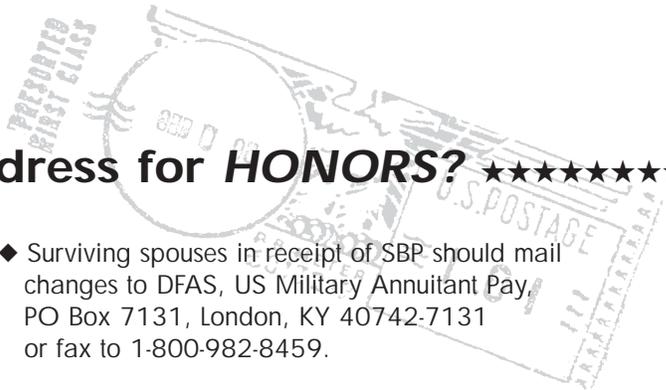
## How Do I Change My Mailing Address for HONORS? ★★★★★★★★

Mailing addresses for HONORS come from the same sources as those for Army Echoes. Please refer to the following if you need to change your address:

◆ Retirees entitled to retired pay should mail changes to DFAS, US Military Retirement Pay, PO Box 7130, London, KY 40742-7130 or fax to 1-800-982-6559.

◆ Surviving spouses in receipt of SBP should mail changes to DFAS, US Military Annuitant Pay, PO Box 7131, London, KY 40742-7131 or fax to 1-800-982-8459.

◆ Retired reservist not yet age 60 should mail your change to Commander AR-PERSCOM, ATTN: ARPC-PSP-A, One Reserve Way, St. Louis, MO 63132-5200 or fax to 1-314-592-0582 (ATTN: TLM9V49).



## “Gray Area” Retirees No Longer Need Commissary Cards

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2004 has eliminated the need for “commissary cards” for Gray Area retirees. Gray Area retirees are those reserve component soldiers who have completed at least 20 years of creditable service but are not yet age 60 and receiving retired pay. Previously, these retirees were limited to 24 commissary

shopping days per calendar year and were not allowed unlimited commissary shopping until age 60. Now Gray Area retirees can join other commissary shoppers in saving an average of 30 percent or more over commercial grocery prices.



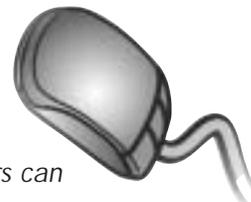
### Interested in Returning to Active Duty?

*Army retirees interested in volunteering for recall to active duty should call 1-800-325-2660. Department of Defense policy is to use military retirees (as needed) to meet the demands of mobilization or other emergencies. Each request will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The nature and extent of the mobilization is determined by each military service based on the member's military skill, health, and needs of the service.*

### Military Personnel Records Available Online



*Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members can now request copies of their military records on line. In an effort to expedite record requests the National Personnel Records Center has announced that a new web-based application was designed to provide better service on this request by eliminating the records center's mailroom processing time. Veterans and next of kin may access the application at [vetrecs.archives.gov](http://vetrecs.archives.gov). Please note that there is no “www” in the web address.*







## TRICARE and TRICARE for Life Basics-

All beneficiaries must be enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility System (DEERS). You can verify your eligibility by calling 1-800-538-9552 or 1-800-334-4162 for California residents. You can also call or visit any ID card facility listed in this issue.

TRICARE) or any other medical coverage you may only use TRICARE after all other coverage's have paid.

You can obtain additional information on TRICARE/TRICARE for Life by contacting the DOD Worldwide Information Center at 1-800-874-2273 or online at [www.tricare.osd.mil](http://www.tricare.osd.mil).

TRICARE/TFL are always a last payer to any other health insurance (OHI). If you have a supplement (Medicare or

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## TRICARE Retiree Dental Program Up, Running and Still Growing

The TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) enters its sixth year of operation as a record 750,000 Uniformed Services retirees and their families now look to the program for affordable dental care. With low monthly rates based on single, two-person and full-family coverage, the TRDP represents one of the very best values available in health care.

includes routine cleanings and examinations, fillings, root canals, gum treatment and oral surgery.

A "Subscriber Toolkit" is available on the TRDP website which allows enrollees to verify their eligibility and review up-to-date benefits information, such as how much of their annual maximum they have used to date. Subscribers can also use the toolkit to review processed claims, reimbursements and payments made to their dentist, and to print new ID cards.

Interest in TRDP has been high since 1998 when the program was first introduced by Delta Dental of California, the nonprofit, dental carrier selected by the Department of Defense to administer the national program. More recently, Congress approved changes that make the program even more comprehensive. Today, enrollees enjoy immediate coverage and/or reduced waiting periods for crowns, bridges, dentures, orthodontics and dental accidents. The scope of benefits also

You can access the TRDP website at [www.trdp.org](http://www.trdp.org) to use the toolkit or to obtain any additional information on benefits or enrollment. You can also reach the customer service center at 1-866-471-8944.



## MEDICARE Late Enrollment Up-date

Up to 90,000 military retirees who did not enroll in Medicare Part B when first eligible will have an opportunity to enroll without penalty. The Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 authorized retirees to enroll without late penalties during an open enrollment period that ends December 31, 2004. The Center of Medicare and Medicaid Services is working with the Department of Defense and the Social Security Administration to identify all beneficiaries who are affected by new legislation that would prevent (or remove) penalties if they did not enroll in Medicare Part B when they first became eligible at age 65.

Plans are to automatically enroll every Medicare-eligible beneficiary who is not currently enrolled in Part B. Letters will be sent to each beneficiary explaining what is being done, and each individual will have the opportunity to decline enrollment if they choose.

Beneficiaries will have the option to elect Part B coverage effective on the first day of the following month or any earlier date back to January 1, 2004. By electing an earlier date of coverage, new enrollees under 65 will not have any TRICARE costs during the earlier period that may be subject to recoupment.

Beneficiaries who would be eligible for TRICARE for Life, but are not enrolled in Medicare Part B, may enroll without penalty during the special enrollment period. Those beneficiaries who enrolled in Medicare Part B in 2001-2004 and are subject to penalty for late enrollment can get those penalty charges eliminated.

Additional information may be obtained online at [www.tricare.osd.mil](http://www.tricare.osd.mil) or by calling the TRICARE for Life customer service line at 1-888-363-5433.







## Legal Assistance May Be Available

Military retirees and their family members are eligible for limited legal assistance. Judge Advocate (JA) offices are located at most military installations throughout the world. Depending on staffing and other resources these offices may offer a variety of legal assistance. Assistance in preparing Powers of Attorney, Wills, Tax Assistance, general legal advice, etc., may be available.

### Here are some frequently asked legal questions.

1. What is an Advance Directive for Health Care?

A. It is a valuable document informing your family members and health care providers of the life-sustaining treatment you want to receive or decline if you become terminally ill or persistently unconscious. Terminally Ill is considered a condition which is incurable and irreversible in the opinion of two physicians and will result in death within six months, despite the use of life-sustaining treatment. Organ donation can also be addressed to inform your health care providers and family members that you want to donate your body or major organs after your death.



2. What is a Power of Attorney?

A. A Power of Attorney legally empowers another individual to act on your behalf. A Durable Power of Attorney remains in effect even

if the person who authorized it becomes incapacitated or incompetent and allows the person designated to make decisions and act on your behalf. It is an alternative document to a court-appointed guardian or conservator.

3. What are the advantages of having a Living Will or Power of Attorney for health care?

A. A Living Will is a means of making advance decisions about organ donation, medical treatment, and who will act for you if you



are not able to make decisions for yourself. It provides peace of mind and relieves family members of making many difficult decisions at times of great stress. If you are interested in completing these documents, discuss it with your medical provider, as medical facilities maintain the current documents and have personnel trained to provide advice regarding same.

4. What is Probate?

A. Probate is a court procedure by which a will is proved to be valid, taxes and creditors paid, and your property distributed as you have directed in your will. Probate also addresses the guardianship of children trusts, etc.

5. Is all my property controlled by my will when I die?

A. No. Proceeds of insurance are distributed as you have directed on the beneficiary form. Property, which you own jointly with another person, will usually go to the other joint owner. Thus, insurance proceeds and jointly owned property are usually not controlled by your will.

6. Can I give specific items to specific people?

A. Yes. Specific requests are made by fully describing any items you want to give and naming the person(s) who are to receive them. You need to use caution as disposal of such property before you die, or if any doubt about the exact property described may create difficulties for your Personal Representative.

7. What is my Personal Representative?

A. Your Personal Representative is the person you name in your Will to settle your estate and distribute your property.

**Check with your nearest JA office to determine which legal services they offer.**





## Armed Forces Recreation Centers

The Shades of Green at Walt Disney World Resort is now open after a major remodeling. The renovation and expansion project began in April 2002 and increased available rooms from 288 to 586. All rooms are new or completely renovated. Like all Armed Forces Recreation Centers (AFRC), the facility is self-sufficient, and no taxpayer dollars are used in operations or construction.

Current room rates begin at \$70.00 and are computed on a sliding scale based on rank.

Information is available online at [www.shadesofgreen.org](http://www.shadesofgreen.org) or by telephone at 1-888-593-2242.

The Edelweiss Lodge & Resort is now open and accepting reservations. The facility offers a 330-room resort including conference center, three restaurants, entertainment game rooms, indoor pool and wellness club. Also included are a nine-hole golf course and the Hausberg Sport Lodge and Vacation Village Campground. The new resort is the result of the consolidation of the AFRC Europe hotel facilities in Garmisch and Chiemsee.

To make your reservation or find more information you can go online at [www.afrcurope.com](http://www.afrcurope.com) or call 011-49-8821-72981.

The AFRC operates 4 resort hotels. In addition to The Shades of Green and Edelweiss Lodge, you can also enjoy Hale Koa in Honolulu and Dragon Hill Lodge in Seoul, Korea. AFRC facilities are open to DoD ID cardholders in all branches of military service (active duty and reserve component), DoD civilians, both military and DoD civilian retirees, and their families. You can obtain additional information on the AFRC at [www.armymwr.com](http://www.armymwr.com).

## Support Our Troops!

The Department of Defense (DoD) has recently established two new programs to offer concrete ways for all Americans to support our troops and their families. Individuals or organizations can demonstrate their support with "Gift of Groceries" gift certificates that are available through DoD commissaries. If you are interested you can call 1-877-770-GIFT (4438) or go online at <http://www.commissaries.com/>.

Additionally any American can help our troops with the expense of calling home through the "Help Our Troops Call

Home" program. The program is designed to help service members call home from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Information on this program is available at <http://www.aafes.com> or by contacting your nearest Post Exchange.



## Casualty Reporting Procedures

Retiree and Survivor Benefit Annuitant deaths need to be reported to the Defense Finance & Accounting Service (DFAS). You can reach the Casualty Reporting office at DFAS by calling 1-800-269-5170. Be prepared to provide the deceased members' name, social security number, date of death and contact information for a designated beneficiary or next of kin. Upon receipt of the casualty report, a DFAS representative will

initiate casualty processing. Additionally, all retiree/annuitant deaths need to be reported to the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). You can contact DEERS at 1-800-538-9552 or any I.D. card issuing facility. A list of those facilities in your area is included in this issue. California residents should contact DEERS at 1-800-334-4162.



## PERSCOM & AR-PERSCOM Have Merged

The Army has created a single command to perform the functions of the Total Army Personnel Command (PERSCOM) in Alexandria, VA, and the Army Reserve Personnel Command (AR-PERSCOM) in St. Louis, MO. The merger comes as a result of a recommendation of an Army Human Resource Integrated Process Team.

The recommendation is complex and involves the active Army, Army Reserve, National Guard, DA civilians and contractors. The consolidation will streamline headquarters, create more agile and responsive staffs, reduce layers of review and

approval, focus on mission and transform the Army. The command will be known as the U.S. Army Human Resource Command (HRC). HRC is headquartered in Alexandria, VA with an additional location in St Louis, MO. The Enlisted Records and Evaluation Center will remain in Indianapolis IN. It will integrate the two organizations into a multi-component field-operating agency under the Army G-1. Plans are to realign the Civilian Personnel Operation Center Management Agency into HRC at a later date. AR-PERSCOM and PERSCOM will keep their names and insignia until a date not yet determined.



## Were You Exposed to Agent Orange?

The Veteran's Administration (VA) has established a significant statistical association between the exposure to Agent Orange (dioxin) and several illnesses. This means that illnesses are being developed to a greater extent in Vietnam veterans than their counterparts of the same age group. Based on this fact the VA has granted a "presumptive" service connection for eleven conditions when diagnosed for a Vietnam veteran.

Veterans who served in Vietnam from January 9, 1962 to May 7, 1975 may be entitled to the presumptive diagnosis as the VA considers each one of these veterans as having been exposed to Agent Orange to some extent. Agent Orange is the name of the dioxin compound used as a defoliant during the war.

Presumptive diagnosis means that compensation is automatically granted without having to prove exposure. VA payments may also be made to the surviving spouse and dependent children of the veteran if one of these illnesses contributed to the veteran's death.

Law dictates that three conditions, chloracne, porphyria cutanea tarda, and acute or sub acute peripheral neuropathy must have manifested within one year of leaving Vietnam in order to be considered as related to Agent Orange exposure. There are eight additional conditions, Hodgkins, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, multiple myeloma, respiratory cancers, soft tissue sarcoma, prostate cancer, type II diabetes and chronic lymphocytic leukemia that are considered service connected no matter when they are diagnosed.

In addition to compensation payments, the VA provides free medical care for Vietnam veterans who have illnesses

presumed to be related to Agent Orange. They also offer a special protocol physical exam on a one-time basis to those who served in Vietnam whether or



not they have any current health issues. Children of any Vietnam veteran born with spina bifida are eligible for monthly allowances, health care and education benefits. Children of female Vietnam veterans born with certain other birth defects are also eligible for these benefits.

The newsletter, Agent Orange Review, is available to all Vietnam veterans upon request. You can call 1-800-749-8387 to subscribe. All previous issues and additional information is also available online at [www.va.gov/agentorange/](http://www.va.gov/agentorange/). Your County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) is also able to assist with requests for disability claims, request for medical care, etc. You can locate your CVSO in the telephone directory under "county government" or call the regional VA office at 1-800-827-1000.







# SURVEY

To better serve the retired community we would like your opinion on the services provided by the Fort McCoy Retirement Services Office. Please take a few minutes to complete and return this survey. Mail your completed survey to: Military Personnel Branch, ATTN: AFRC-FM-CAM-R, 2187 South J Street, Fort McCoy, WI 54656-5150 no later than October 30, 2004. Thank you for your time and cooperation.

TEAR ALONG PERF. FOLD IN HALF WITH BUSINESS REPLY SHOWING. TAPE OPEN END TOGETHER. (DO NOT USE STAPLES)

1. How would you rate this edition of the Retirement Newsletter, "HONORS"? For each of the following items please rate the Newsletter using the scale below.

1-Poor                  2-Marginal                  3-Average                  4-Good                  5-Excellent

How does the Newsletter rate on:

- ★ providing you with meaningful information?                  1 2 3 4 5
- ★ being a credible source of information?                  1 2 3 4 5
- ★ keeping abreast of issues?                  1 2 3 4 5
- ★ responding to your needs?                  1 2 3 4 5
- ★ overall appearance?                  1 2 3 4 5

2. What topics would you like to see addressed in future issues of "HONORS"?

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3. Have you contacted the Retirement Services Office at Fort McCoy? If yes, please rate your experience using the same scale as in number 1.

How did your experience rate on:

- ★ response to requested information?                  1 2 3 4 5
- ★ courtesy?                  1 2 3 4 5
- ★ timeliness?                  1 2 3 4 5

4. Please circle your status.                  Retiree                  Spouse                  Widow/Widower

5. Please circle your age group.

Under 35      36-44      45-54      55-64      65-74      75 and over

6. What changes would you like to see in future issues of "HONORS"?

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MILITARY PERSONNEL BRANCH  
ATTN: AFRC-FM-CAM-R  
2187 SOUTH J STREET  
FORT MCCOY, WI 54656-9941



MILITARY PERSONNEL BRANCH  
ATTN: AFRC-FM-CAM-R  
2187 SOUTH J STREET  
FORT MCCOY, WI 54656-9941



# Military Installation Information

The following is a consolidated telephone contact list for military installations located in California and Nevada. The list contains an installation information number and other often asked for key numbers. Most of the listed installations offer recreational services, camping, commissary, exchange, lodging facilities, legal assistance and much more. Contact the information number listed to inquire on services at any of the installations.

The source of the following information is the **Standard Installation Topic Exchange Service (SITES) website at [www.dmdc.osd.mil/sites](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/sites)**. This website offers comprehensive information on all military installations worldwide.

## Nevada

### NAS Fallon

Operator 775-426-5161  
Navy Lodge 775-426-2818  
Space A Info 775-426-3415

### Nellis, AFB

Operator 702-652-1110  
Lodging Office 702-652-2711  
Space A Info 702-652-2562  
Retired Affairs 702-652-8712

### 29 Palms

Operator 760-830-6000  
Lodging Office 760-830-6573

### MCAS Miramar

Operator 858-577-1011  
Navy Lodge 800-628-9466

### MCLB Barstow

Operator 760-577-6211  
Lodging Office 760-577-6418

### Point Mugu

Operator 805-989-1110  
Navy Lodge 805-989-8407

### Port Hueneme

Operator 805-982-4711  
Navy Lodge 805-985-2624

### Naval Post Grad School

Operator 831-656-2441  
Navy Lodge 831-372-6133

## California

### Beale, AFB

Operator 530-634-3000  
Space A Info 530-634-8494  
Lodging Office 530-634-2953

### Camp Pendleton

Operator 760-725-4111  
Ward Lodging 760-725-5194

### DLI Presidio-Monterey

Operator 831-242-5000  
Housing Office 800-334-9168

### Edwards, AFB

Operator 661-277-1110  
Lodging Office 661-275-7666

### Fort Irwin

Operator 760-380-1111  
Landmark Inn 800-270-5021

### Los Angeles AFB

Operator 310-363-1113  
Billeting 310-363-8296  
Space A Info 310-363-0715

### MCRD San Diego

Operator 888-718-3027  
Billeting 619-524-4401

### March AFB

Operator 909-655-1110  
Lodging Office 909-655-5241  
Space A Info 909-655-2913

### NAS Lemoore

Operator 559-998-3300  
Navy Lodge 559-998-5791  
Space A Info 559-998-1681

### NAS North Island

Operator 619-545-1011  
Billeting 619-545-9551  
Space A Info 619-545-9567

### NWS China Lake

Operator 760-939-9011  
Billeting 760-939-3146  
Retired Affairs 760-939-0978

### Naval Station San Diego

Operator 619-556-1011  
Navy Lodge 619-234-6142

### Travis AFB

Operator 707-424-1110  
Westwind  
Lodging 707-424-8000  
Space A Info 707-424-1854

### USCG Petaluma

Operator 707-765-7215  
Temp Lodging 707-765-7248

### Vandenberg AFB

Operator 805-606-1110  
Lodging 805-734-1111  
Space A Info 805-606-1854

### Point Loma Naval Base

Operator 619-553-1011  
Temp Lodging None on base



## California Has New Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Thomas Johnson as Secretary of the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) on February 12, 2004. Secretary Johnson is a Viet Nam Era veteran with more than 34 years in the healthcare management arena. As Secretary of the CDVA, he will oversee an annual department operating budget of approximately \$300 million, a Farm & Home Loan portfolio of about \$2.7 billion, and roughly 1,600 employees statewide.

Mr. Johnson is a graduate of the University of Minnesota and holds a Masters Degree in public health from the University of California, Los Angeles. He is an active member of his community and has been involved with a variety of local, states, and federal groups, including the American College of Healthcare Executives, the California Healthcare Association, the Visalia Chamber of Commerce, the Tulare County Boys and Girls Club, and the Boy Scouts of America, just to mention a few.



## California and Nevada Area Retiree Councils

Area Retiree Councils serve as a vital link for the retiree community. These councils provide an avenue for suggestions and recommendations to reach the proper level in the chain of command. The councils also plan and implement programs/Retiree Appreciation Days to provide up to date information on benefits and entitlements to the retired community. Retiree councils are made up of volunteers from their local areas. As volunteers, council members often do not receive the thanks they deserve. Contact your nearest council representative to express your appreciation and inquire on meeting schedules as well as possible membership opportunities.

	<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Phone</b>
<b>Fresno Area Council</b>	<b>Tom Gentile</b> <i>SGM, USA Ret</i>	<b>559-294-1090</b>
<b>San Diego Area Council</b>	<b>Harvey Sampson</b> <i>MSG, USA Ret</i>	<b>619-448-8561</b>
<b>Bay Area Council</b>	<b>Barton Gilbert</b> <i>BG, AUS Ret</i>	<b>925-313-7171</b>
<b>Fort Ord Area Council</b>	<b>William Gourley</b> <i>MG, USA Ret</i>	<b>831-242-7634</b>
<b>Nevada Area Council</b>	<b>Elaine Chin</b> <i>MAJ, USA Ret</i>	<b>702-652-8712</b>

## Nevada Veterans Benefits

The Nevada Office of Veterans Services (NOVS) offers information and assistance with a wide variety of veteran's benefits. Nevada residents that have a service-connected disability may be eligible for a free hunting/fishing license, a disabled veteran's property tax exemption, civil service preference or disabled parking privileges. There are also benefits available to those veterans who do not have service connected disabilities. NOVS offers a veteran's tax exemption and provides burial plots to veterans and their immediate family members, just to mention a few.

Northern residents should call the Reno office at 1-775-688-1155 or the Fallon office at 1-775-428-1177.

You can also reach the Nevada Veterans Nursing Home (Boulder City) at 1-702-332-6762 for information on the nursing home. Information on veteran's cemeteries can be obtained by calling one of the following Memorial Cemeteries (Fernley) at 1-775-575-4441 or 1-702-486-5920 (Boulder City).

Information on these benefits and many more is available from your Nevada Service Representative. Residents in Southern Nevada should call the Las Vegas office at 1-702-636-3070.



## I.D. Card Facilities/DEERS

### CALIFORNIA

Site Name	City	Service	Phone
11th USCG Dist San Pedro	San Pedro	USCG	310-732-7422
146 MSS Port Hueneme	Oxnard	USAFR	805-986-7469
163 MSS March	Riverside	USAFR	909-655-3070
2nd MED BDE	San Pablo	USAR	510-970-3237
311 COSCOM	Los Angeles	USAR	310-235-4229
352nd Combat Support Hospital	Oakland	USAR	510-302-2720
452CSS March	Riverside	USAFR	909-655-3068
63rd Reserve Support Command	Los Alamitos	USAR	562-795-1172
91st Division (TS) Camp Parks	Dublin	USAR	925-875-4918
940 MSS Beale AFB	Marysville	USAFR	530-634-1860
AFR 349 Travis AFB	Fairfield	USAFR	707-424-2345
ANG 129 Moffett Airfield	Mountain View	ANG	650-603-9174
ANG 144	Fresno	ANG	559-454-5274
Adjutant General	Sacramento	ARNG	916-854-3273
Barstow MCLB	Barstow	USMC	760-577-6969
Beale AFB	Marysville	USAF	530-634-3187
Camp Pendleton (PMO)	Oceanside	USMC	760-725-2013
Edwards AFB	Edwards	USAF	805-277-2276
Fort Irwin	Fort Irwin	USA	760-380-3515
Fort Hunter Liggett	Jolon	USAR	831-386-2502
HHC, ISU Camp Roberts	Camp Roberts	ARNG	805-238-8064
JRC Miramar	San Diego	USMC	858-577-1421
Los Angeles AFB	Los Angeles	USAF	310-363-1109
MAG-46 San Diego	San Diego	USMC	858-577-1142
MCRC Bakersfield	Bakersfield	USMCR	661-325-2797
MCRD (CPAC) San Diego	San Diego	USMC	619-524-6100
NMCRC Encino	Encino	USNR	818-344-5101
NMCRC Moreno Valley	Riverside	USAFR	909-655-7699
NMCRC Sacramento	Sacramento	USNR	916-387-7100
PSD ASW	San Diego	USN	619-524-1901
PSD Camp Pendleton	Oceanside	USN	760-725-0613
PSD China Lake	China Lake	USN	760-939-4714
PSD Coronado NAB	San Diego	USN	619-437-2199
PSD El Centro	El Centro	USN	619-336-2545
PSD Lemoore	Lemoore	USN	559-998-4011
PSD Monterey	Monterey	USN	831-656-2746
PSD NAS North Island	San Diego	USN	619-545-9181
PSD NAS North Island Res	San Diego	USNR	619-545-4359
PSD NS San Diego (id lab)	San Diego	USN	619-556-2005
PSD Point Loma	San Diego	USN	619-553-4981
PSD Point Loma SubBase	San Diego	USN	619-553-0746



**CALIFORNIA(continued)**

Site Name	City	Service	Phone
Port Hueneme	Oxnard	USN	805-982-5367
Presidio of Monterey	Monterey	USA	831-242-5209
Travis AFB	Fairfield	USAF	707-424-2276
Twentynine Palms	Twentynine Palms	USMC	760-830-7441
USCG Group Humboldt Bay	McKinleyville	USCG	707-839-6125
USCG Support Group Alameda	Alameda	USCG	510-437-2904
USCG Training Center	Petaluma	USCG	707-765-7354
Vandenberg AFB	Lompoc	USAF	805-603-2276

**Nevada**

Site Name	City	Service	Phone
152 MSS Reno	Reno	USAFR	775-788-4510
HQ & HQ Detach STARC	Carson City	USAR	775-887-7385
NMCRC Las Vegas	Las Vegas	USAFR	702-632-1451
Nellis AFB	Las Vegas	USAF	702-652-9470
PSD NAS Fallon	Fallon	USN	775-426-2808

**Neighboring States**

**I.D. Card Facilities/DEERS**

**ARIZONA**

Site Name	City	Service	Phone
AFR 939	Tucson	USAFR	520-228-2163
AG-HQ	Phoenix	ARNG	602-267-2750
ANG 161	Phoenix	ANG	602-302-9250
ANG 162	Tucson	ANG	520-295-6567
Davis-Monthan AFB	Tucson	USAF	520-228-4425
Fort Huachuca	Sierra Vista	USA	520-533-1608
Luke AFB	Glendale	USAF	623-856-7875
MCAS Yuma	Yuma	USMC	928-269-3588
NMCRC	Phoenix	USNR	602-353-3010
NMCRC Tucson	Tucson	USNR	520-228-6289
Western ARNG AV TRNG	Marana	ARNG	520-616-5562
Yuma Proving Ground	Yuma	USA	928-328-2712



## I.D. Card Facilities/DEERS

### Neighboring States

#### IDAHO

Site Name	City	Service	Phone
124th MSS	Boise	ANG	208-422-5362
AG HQ State	Boise	ARNG	208-422-3800
Mountain Home AFB	Mountain Home	USAF	208-828-2133
NGA Lewiston	Lewiston	ARNG	208-799-5041
NMCRC Boise	Boise	USNR	208-422-6289
NRC Pocatello	Pocatello	USNR	208-238-0490

#### OREGON

Site Name	City	Service	Phone
173 MSF/DPMA	Klamath Falls	ANG	541-885-6133
AFR 939	Portland	USAFR	503-335-4589
ANG 142	Portland	ANG	503-335-4046
AR 364th Civil Affairs	Portland	USAR	503-244-7502
Adjutant General	Salem	ARNG	503-584-3957
Bill Healey Armory	Bend	USAR	541-388-6280
NMCRC Eugene	Eugene	USNR	541-686-9266
NMCRC Portland	Portland	USNR	503-285-4566
NRC Central Point	Central Point	USNR	866-477-1553
USCG Group Astoria	Astoria	USCG	503-861-6206
USCG Group North Bend	North Bend	USCG	541-756-9220

#### UTAH

Site Name	City	Service	Phone
419th MSSQ	Ogden	USAFR	801-777-0023
96th ARCOM	Salt Lake City	USAR	801-656-3393
AG HQ State	Draper	ARNG	801-523-4565
ANG 151 MSS	Salt Lake City	ANG	801-245-2331
Dugway Proving Grounds	Dugway	USA	435-831-2449
Hill AFB	Ogden	USAF	801-777-1845
NMCRC Salt Lake City	Salt Lake City	USNR	801-736-4201



# Military

## Commissaries Can Save You Money



The Defense Commissary Agency (DECA) operates a worldwide chain of nearly 280 commissaries to provide groceries to U.S. military personnel, retirees and their families. Commissary patrons purchase items at cost plus a 5 percent surcharge, which covers the construction of new commissaries and the modernization of existing stores. Patrons save an average of more than 30% on their purchases compared to commercial prices. These savings, which average \$2,700 a year for a family of four, enhance the quality of life for America's military and their families. A valued part of military pay and benefits, commissaries help the United States recruit and keep the best and brightest men and women in the service of their country. They also provide a continued commitment to the military retired community.

DECA now offers "Commissary Connection", a customer newsletter delivered via e-mail. The newsletter will keep

customers abreast of news about promotions and sales, even offering links to manufacturer and vendor sites where they can enter shopping sprees and contests, or sign up for commercial newsletters. The newsletter will be delivered from a mailbox at [CommissaryConnection@deca.mil](mailto:CommissaryConnection@deca.mil) and signup is through a link on the front page of [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com). You can also use this site to locate your nearest commissary and find valuable savings opportunities, or you can contact your nearest military installation.



## Replacement of Medals

Medals awarded while in active service are issued by the individual military services if requested by veterans or by the next of kin of deceased veterans. Requests for the issuance or replacement of military service medals, decorations, and awards should be directed to the specific branch of the military in which the veteran served. Army and Air Force veterans need to send requests through the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) for verification of awards and NPRC will then forward those requests to the appropriate service department for issuance.

Requests for replacement medals should be submitted on Standard Form 180, "Request Pertaining to Military Records."

Forms may be obtained from your County Veteran Service Office, by calling the Veteran Administration regional customer service center at 1-800-827-1000 or online at [www.vba.va.gov/pubs/otherforms.htm](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/otherforms.htm).

When requesting medals, type or clearly print the veteran's full name, branch of service, service number or social security number and provide the veteran's exact or approximate dates of military service. Requests must contain the signature of the veteran or the signature of the next of kin if the veteran is deceased. When available, include a copy of the discharge of separation document, WDAGO Form 53-55 or DD Form 214.

## Presidential Memorial Certificate

A Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC) is signed by the current President to honor the military service of honorably discharged deceased veterans. The Veterans Affairs Administration (VA) manages the PMC program by preparing and issuing the certificate bearing the President's signature expressing the country's grateful recognition of the veteran's service in the United States Armed Forces.

Eligible recipients include the deceased veteran's next of kin and loved ones. Application for the certificate may be made in

person at any VA regional office or County Veteran Service Office. Requests can also be done by mail. There is no specific form to use when requesting a PMC but requests need to include a return mailing address and a copy of the veteran's discharge documents. Mail request to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery Administration (402E12), 810 Vermont Ave. N.W., Washington, DC 20420-0001. Additional information and a sample certificate can be found at [www.cem.va.gov/pmc.htm](http://www.cem.va.gov/pmc.htm).





## Presidio of Monterey . . . Has It All!

Home to the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, the Presidio of Monterey (POM), is located 120 miles south of San Francisco overlooking the picturesque Monterey Bay.

### Lodging, 831-242-5091

If you're visiting Monterey, the POM lodging office invites you to take advantage of their services. Military members traveling on official orders have priority and may make reservation in advance. Travelers who are not on official orders may make reservations on a space available basis. Maximum length of stay at the time of reservation is three days but may be extended if space is available. The lodging office offers continental breakfast with a scenic view of Monterey Bay. POM is conveniently located with easy access to Fisherman's Wharf, Cannery Row, Monterey Bay Aquarium, world famous golf courses, 17 Mile Drive, Pebble Beach, Big Sur, and Carmel.

### General Stilwell Community (the old Fort Ord), 831-242-7801

Food beverage and entertainment is available at the General Stilwell Community Center, Building 4260 on the old Fort Ord. You can play Bingo on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 1830. Lunch is offered on Tuesday - Friday from 1130 to 1330. Enjoy a Prime Rib/Salmon dinner on the first Friday of every month from 1700 to 2000 and every Wednesday night buffets from 1700 to 1930. Call or visit them online at [www.stilwellcenter.com](http://www.stilwellcenter.com). Catering services and bar operation is also available. Don't miss this Great Food & Good Prices!!

Friday evening entertainment is also available on the POM at The Edge. Located in Building 221, they are open every Friday night from 1630 to 0130. For more information you can reach The Edge at 831-242-7801.

### Leisure Travel, 831-242-5506

Discount tickets for a variety of attractions are available from the Leisure Travel Office. Offered are trips to many major sporting events and tours. You can book tours to San



Francisco, Pier 39 and Alcatraz, casino trips, local wineries, Hearst Castle, Broadway shows, Disneyland, Knot's Berry Farm, Magic Mountain, Great America and more. You can also purchase discount tickets to Hockey, Baseball and Football games. The Leisure Travel Office has many great deals on world-wide cruises on all cruise lines. So before calling anyone else, contact them at 1-831-242-5506 to take advantage of great prices and expertise.

### Outdoor Recreation and Equipment Center, 831-242-5506

The Outdoor Recreation & Equipment Center is located in Building 228 on the POM. Their hours of operation are Monday - Friday, from 1030 to 1800 (closed 1400-1500). Outdoor Recreation can assist with car rentals, R.V. storage, and group bus transportation. They can also locate and make reservations for resort vacation properties and assist in scheduling a variety of tours. A full range of equipment is available for individual check out at modest prices. Everything from boats to roller blades is available.

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## California Veterans Benefits Booklet Available

"The California Benefits You Have Earned" booklet is available in printable form on the California Department of Veterans Affairs website at <http://www.ddva.ca.gov/>. Just click on the California Veterans Benefits link next to the picture of the Marine. The booklet explains the different benefits available

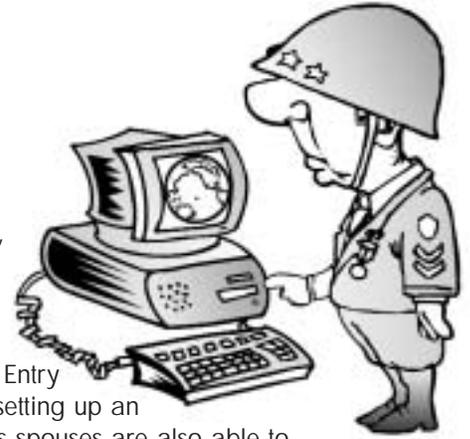
as well as the means to access them. You can also request the booklet from your County Veteran Service Office (CVSO). You can locate your CVSO in the telephone book under County Government.



# Army

## Knowledge Online

**A**rmey Knowledge Online, commonly known as AKO, is the Army's Intranet. It provides active duty and reserve soldiers, DA civilians, retirees and other authorized users a secure, computer-accessed ability to communicate worldwide and obtain access to a storehouse of information. Contrasted with the Army Homepage, which is open to the general public through the Internet, AKO is available only to those with an Army-approved user ID and password. Users can individually tailor their sites by arranging preferred topics "up front" on the page. To sign up for an AKO account, go to, [https://www.us.army.mil/portal\\_home.jhtml](https://www.us.army.mil/portal_home.jhtml) and click on



"I'm a New User" to register. Please note that retirees will be asked to provide your Pay Entry Base Date when setting up an account. Retiree's spouses are also able to use the site but need to establish guest accounts of their individual sponsors.

## Dependency Indemnity Compensation Update

**D**ependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is a benefit from the Veteran's Administration (VA) for surviving spouses of deceased veterans that died from service connected disabilities, or, for those surviving spouses of certain veterans who were rated 100% service connected disabled at the time of their death.

In the past, DIC eligibility was lost if a surviving spouse remarried. Public Law 108-183 allowed survivors to retain DIC

if they remarry after attaining age 57. Those who have already remarried (and were 57 or older when they did so) have until December 16, 2004 to apply for reinstatement of their DIC benefits. The application form is VA form 21-686c and is available on the web at [www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/21-686c.pdf](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/21-686c.pdf). More information on DIC is available by calling the VA regional customer service line at 1-800-827-1000 or by contacting your local County Veteran Service Office.



## Nevada Offers Operation Recognition

In 2003 the Nevada Legislature passed a bill entitled

Operation Recognition. The bill provides for Nevada School Districts to issue standard high school diplomas to certain veterans. To be eligible and to receive the diploma a veteran must have served in the Armed Forces of the United States during WWII through the Vietnam Era. The inclusive dates of eligibility are September 16, 1940 through May 31, 1975.

A veteran, guardian of a disabled veteran, or a member of the deceased veteran's family on behalf of the deceased veteran may submit an application. You can obtain additional information on the bill from your regional veterans service representative. In Northern Nevada you can call the Reno office at 1-775-688-1155 or the Fallon office at 1-775-428-1177. In Southern Nevada you should call the Las Vegas office at 1-702-636-3070.







Military Personnel Branch  
ATTN: AFRC-FM-CAM-R  
2187 South J. Street  
Ft. McCoy, Wisconsin 54656-5150

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### West Coast Edition

Serving The Retired Military Communities  
of Nevada & California



# STILL SERVING