

# RETIREE OFFICE NEWS – 171<sup>st</sup> ARW

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**“We identify the flag with almost everything we hold dear on earth, peace, security, liberty, our family, our friends, our home . . . But when we look at our flag and behold it emblazoned with all our rights we must remember that it is equally a symbol of our duties. Every glory that we associate with it is the result of duty done.” ~ Calvin Coolidge**

**Email Addresses:** If you would like to hear about upcoming retiree news and events, please provide your email address to Bonnie Kriberney at [bjkriberney@msn.com](mailto:bjkriberney@msn.com). *Don't forget to keep me informed, if you change your email address/provider.*

**Retiree Lunch:** **3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday** in July

Please note, beginning in 2016, the Retiree Luncheons are held on **Tuesdays!** This change was made because the Commissary and PX are closed on Mondays and the 171ARW off-days fall on every other Monday.

**When:** CY 2016 - January 19<sup>th</sup>, April 19<sup>th</sup>, **July 19<sup>th</sup>**, and October 18<sup>th</sup>

**Where:** Golden Corral, 900 Park Manor Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15205  
(Near Mall at Robinson) (412) 788-1776

***“Don't forget to ask for your military or senior discount!!!”***

**Time:** 1100 hours

*Come join the fun and catch up with old friends over a delicious lunch.*

*Hope to see you all at the next Retiree Luncheon on July 19th!*

## **Retirements:**

Congratulations to our recent retirees who retired from April through June 2016. Please do not hesitate to contact the Retiree Office, if you need assistance.

Rank	Last Name	First Name	Retired
<b><u>APR 2016</u></b>			
TSG	GABLE	DONALD	30-APR-16
<b><u>MAY 2016</u></b>			
MSG	NORMAN	RICHARD	05-MAY-16
<b><u>JUN 2016</u></b>			
COL	HESS	THOMAS	01-JUN-16
LTC	GAILEY	KEITH	01-JUN-16
LTC	KOMA	MICHAEL	30-JUN-16
CMS	SHINSKY	BENJAMIN	07-JUN-16
SMS	BINTRIM	HERBERT	10-JUN-16

### **\*Date Correction**

**Sympathies:** We extend 'Our Deepest Sympathy' to the families and relatives of the following retirees who passed away. Please inform our office if you hear of the passing of one of our fellow 171<sup>st</sup>, 112<sup>th</sup>, or 258<sup>TH</sup> members. Click on each name to view the obituary.

CMSgt Robert P. Boback – 24 Jun 2016 – Age 87 – 112TFG/Maintenance/Quality Control  
<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/triblive-pittsburgh-tribune-review/obituary.aspx?pid=180461923>

MSgt Matthew G. Blatnik – 19 Apr 2016 – Age 81 – 112TFG Maintenance/Avionics  
<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/postgazette/obituary.aspx?n=matthew-george-blatnik&pid=179681574&fhid=988>

## **Donate Serviceable Military Clothing and Equipment:**

Contact Brian Finnegan at (412) 915-0352 if you have outdated serviceable uniforms and equipment to donate to the Civil Air Patrol Squadron 603, located on the 911<sup>th</sup> AFRES base.

**NEW UPDATE:** The Civil Air Patrol will be changing over in the near future to the ABU uniform, so they are now accepting donations of both the ABU uniform (Airman Battle Uniform) and the BDU uniform (Battle Dress Uniform). Your continued donations are very much appreciated.

## **New Website – Department of Veterans Affairs (VA):**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has designed a new website, <https://www.vets.gov/>, with an initial release this past November 2015.

Vets.gov is just one part of the MyVA vision to provide Veterans with a seamless, unified Veteran Experience across the entire organization and throughout the country. VA is creating a website solely dedicated to helping Veterans learn about the benefits and services they've earned and provide a clear path to applying for them. The ultimate goal for vets.gov is to become the single, one-stop shop for information and self-service for Veterans and those that care for them.

***Why is VA changing its website and creating a new one?*** - Currently, Veterans must navigate numerous websites and manage multiple logins to meet their needs. Veterans should have simple, clear information and tools that are easy to find and use. Many of the existing VA websites reside on legacy systems that don't connect with each other, which is one reason why Veterans need to use multiple logins and passwords. Vets.gov is being built on a secure, modern technology platform, which will improve performance and enable Veterans to have one login and password to everything they need on vets.gov. It will also enhance security for Veteran data with the most current and innovative technology available. The large amount of content and information on VA websites will undergo a rigorous review and rewrite in order to make sure all vets.gov content is the most recent, accurate, and clearly written content possible.

## **VETERANS CRISIS LINE:**

If you are in immediate need of help please contact the Veteran Crisis Line at <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net>, 1-800-273-8255 and press 1 or send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

## **10 Restaurants with the Best Military Discounts:** (with valid military ID)

1. Applebee's – 10%
2. Chevy's Fresh Mex – 20%
3. Dairy Queen – discount varies up to 50%
4. Hard Rock Café – 15%
5. Hooters – 10% on Mondays
6. Johnny Rocket's – discount varies up to 50%
7. Lone Star Steakhouse 20% on Mondays, 10% all other days
8. Outback Steakhouse – 10%
9. Schlotzsky's Deli – 30%
10. Texas Roadhouse – up to 20%

Click on link for further details.

<http://taskandpurpose.com/10-restaurants-best-military-discounts/>

# Military Service and Social Security: Fact Sheet



Article from <http://www.military.com/money/retirement/second-retirement/military-service-and-social-security.html>

Content from <https://www.ssa.gov/planners/retire/military.html>

Earnings for active duty military service or active duty training have been covered under Social Security since 1957. Social Security has covered inactive duty service in the armed forces reserves (such as weekend drills) since 1988.

If you served in the military before 1957, you did not pay Social Security taxes, but you are given special credit for some of your service.

You can get both Social Security benefits and military retirement. Generally, there is no reduction of Social Security benefits because of your military retirement benefits. You'll get your full Social Security benefit based on your earnings.

## **Social Security and Medicare taxes**

While you are in military service, you pay Social Security taxes just as civilian employees do. In 2011, the tax rate is 5.65 percent, up to a maximum of \$106,800. If you earn more, you continue to pay the Medicare portion of the tax (1.45 percent) on the rest of your earnings.

## **How your work qualifies you for Social Security**

To qualify for benefits, you must have worked and paid Social Security taxes for a certain length of time. In 2011, you will receive four credits if you earn at least \$4,480. The amount needed to get credit for your work goes up each year. The number of credits you need to qualify for Social Security benefits depends on your age and the type of benefit for which you are eligible. No one needs more than 10 years of work.

## Extra earnings

Your Social Security benefit depends on your earnings, averaged over your working lifetime. Generally, the higher your earnings, the higher your Social Security benefit. Under certain circumstances, special earnings can be credited to your military pay record for Social Security purposes. The extra earnings are for periods of active duty or active duty for training. These extra earnings may help you qualify for Social Security or increase the amount of your Social Security benefit.

*If you served in the military after 1956*, you paid Social Security taxes on those earnings. Since 1988, inactive duty service in the Armed Forces reserves (such as weekend drills) has also been covered by Social Security.

Under certain circumstances, special extra earnings for periods of active duty from 1957 through 2001 can also be credited to your Social Security earnings record for benefit purposes.

- From 1957 through 1967, extra credits will be added to your record when you apply for Social Security benefits.
- From 1968 through 2001, you do not need to do anything to receive these extra credits. The credits were automatically added to your record.
- After 2001, there are no special extra earnings credits for military service.

The information that follows explains how you can get credit for special extra earnings and applies only to active duty military service earnings from 1957 through 2001.

- From 1957 through 1977, you are credited with \$300 in additional earnings for each calendar quarter in which you received active duty basic pay.
- From 1978 through 2001, For every \$300 in active duty basic pay, you are credited with an additional \$100 in earnings up to a maximum of \$1,200 a year. If you enlisted after September 7, 1980, and didn't complete at least 24 months of active duty or your full tour, you may not be able to receive the additional earnings. Check with Social Security for details.

*If you served in the military from 1940 through 1956*, including attendance at a service academy, you did not pay Social Security taxes. However, your Social Security record may be credited with \$160 a month in earnings for military service from September 16, 1940, through December 31, 1956, under the following circumstances:

- You were honorably discharged after 90 or more days of service, or you were released because of a disability or injury received in the line of duty; or
- You are still on active duty; or
- You are applying for survivors benefits and the veteran died while on active duty.

You cannot receive credit for these special earnings if you are already receiving a federal benefit based on the same years of service. There is one exception: If you were on active duty after 1956, you can still get the special earnings for 1951 through 1956, even if you're receiving a military retirement based on service during that period.

These extra earnings credits are added to your earnings record when you apply for Social Security benefits.

*NOTE: In all cases, the additional earnings are credited to the earnings that we average over your working lifetime, not directly to your monthly benefit amount.*

## **Your benefits**

In addition to retirement benefits, Social Security pays survivors benefits to your family when you die. You also can get Social Security benefits for you and your family if you become disabled. For more information about these benefits, see the Social Security document [Understanding The Benefits](#) (Publication No. 05-10024).

If you became disabled while on active military service on or after October 1, 2001, visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors) to find out how you can receive expedited processing of your disability claim.

When you apply for Social Security benefits, you will be asked for proof of your military service (DD Form 214) or information about your reserve or National Guard service.

## **When you are eligible for Medicare**

If you have health care insurance from the [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) (VA) or under the [TRICARE](#) or [CHAMPVA](#) program, your health benefits may change or end when you become eligible for Medicare. You should contact the VA, the Department of Defense or a military health benefits advisor for more information.

## **You can work and get retirement benefits**

You can retire as early as age 62. But, if you do, your Social Security benefits will be reduced permanently. If you decide to apply for benefits before your full retirement age, you can work and still get some Social Security benefits. There are limits on how much you can earn without losing some or all of your retirement benefits. These limits change each year. When you apply for benefits, we will tell you what the limits are at that time and whether work will affect your monthly benefits.

When you reach your full retirement age, you can earn as much as you are able and still get all of your Social Security benefits.

The full retirement age is 66 for people born in 1943 through 1954, and it will gradually increase to age 67 for those born in 1960 and later. To help you decide the best time to retire, see the Social Security [Retirement Benefits](#) page.

## **Contacting Social Security**

For more information about Social Security programs, visit the [Social Security Online Services section](#). In addition to using the Social Security website, you can call the Social Security office toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. All calls are treated confidentially. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, you can call the TTY number, 1-800-325-0778.

## **IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND LINKS:**

171<sup>st</sup> Air Refueling Wing: <http://www.171arw.ang.af.mil/>

**911<sup>th</sup> AW Casualty Assistance Office: (412) 474-8558, Fax: (412) 474-8987**  
**Address:** 911<sup>th</sup> FSS/FSMPS, 2475 Defense Ave, Bldg 316, Rm 112, Coraopolis, PA 15108  
**Email contact:** Melinda J. Arbogast, [Melinda.arbogast.1@us.af.mil](mailto:Melinda.arbogast.1@us.af.mil)  
Provides assistance to a retiree/spouse/dependent upon the passing of a retired military member or dependent in processing the required documentation and survivor benefits.

**Air Force Retiree Services:** <http://www.retirees.af.mil/>

**AMC Space-A Travel:** <http://www.amc.af.mil/amctravel/index.asp>

**Department of Veteran Affairs (VA):** <http://www.va.gov/> or 1-800-827-1000

**Express Scripts – TRICARE Pharmacy:** <http://www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE/>  
Toll-Free within the U.S.: 1-877-363-1303

### ***Retired and Annuitant Pay:***

For news updates, general information, and forms: visit the Retired Pay Site, **Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) – Retired Military & Annuitants**  
<http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary.html>

- Questions about your retired or annuity pay account: 1-800-321-1080, Press 1 then 4, Press 0 (zero) for operator.
- Reporting a Death or Following-Up on a Claim: 1-800-321-1080, Press 1, then Press 1 again, Enter social security number.

For specific questions: Ask DFAS <https://corpweb1.dfas.mil/askDFAS/askRA.jsp>

For discussion on retired pay issues: Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/DefenseFinanceandAccountingService?ref=ts>

**Military.com/Benefits:** <http://www.military.com/benefits>

**Military.com free membership sign-up:**  
[http://www.military.com/Registration/Universal\\_Registration\\_Page?ESRC=TAF.bb](http://www.military.com/Registration/Universal_Registration_Page?ESRC=TAF.bb)

**National Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel Records:** NPRC Customer Service Line 314-801-0800

**myPay:** <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx> or 1-888-332-7411 Option 5

**PA Veteran Affairs:** <http://www.dmva.pa.gov/veteransaffairs/Pages/default.aspx> - [.Vw-6qj81BJM](http://www.dmva.pa.gov/veteransaffairs/Pages/default.aspx)

**Social Security:** <http://www.ssa.gov/agency/contact/> or Call the toll-free number, 800-772-1213. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, call the toll-free "TTY" number, 711

**TRICARE Health Insurance Coverage & Benefits Plans:** <http://www.tricare.mil>

Tricare North Region – Health Net Federal Services: 1-877-874-2273

TRICARE For Life: 1-866-773-0404

**Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) Retiree Assistance:** 1-877-968-3778

**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs:** <http://www.va.gov/>