

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



Retiree Office  
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Office Hours: Thursdays  
0800 – 1200



**“Expect to have hope rekindled. Expect your prayers to be answered in wondrous ways. The dry seasons in life do not last. The spring rains will come again.” ~ Sarah Ban Breathnach**

## **“New” Retiree Office Email Address:**

A new email account has been created for the 171 Retiree Office at [171retireeoffice@gmail.com](mailto:171retireeoffice@gmail.com). Please use this email address for all correspondences, i.e., email changes, retiree news, luncheons, benefits, etc.

**Retiree Lunch:** **3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday** in January, April, July, and October

**When:** CY 2017 - January 17<sup>th</sup>, **April 18<sup>th</sup>**, July 18<sup>th</sup>, and October 17<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 April 18th!*

## **DFAS Retiree Newsletter:**

March 2017 - Visit <https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/newsevents/newsletter.html>

## **Retirements:**

Congratulations to our recent retirees who retired from January through March 2017. Please do not hesitate to contact the Retiree Office, if you need assistance.

Rank	Last Name	First Name	Retired
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### **JAN 2017**

MAJ	MASCIA	DANIEL	01-JAN-17
TSG	BOCHTER	DONALD	01-JAN-17
TSG	MURRAY	MARY	31-JAN-17

### **FEB 2017**

MSG	MORRIS	JEFFREY	28-FEB-17
TSG	BLACK	TIMOTHY	11-FEB-17

### **MAR 2017**

MSG	COCHRANE	JEFFREY	01-MAR-17
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**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.

SMSgt Joseph J. Burckart – 27 Jan 17 – Age 84 – 171ARW/Fuels & Vehicle Maintenance  
<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/postgazette/obituary.aspx?n=joseph-j-burckart&pid=183778817&>

MSgt James J. Arillotta – 08 Mar 2017 – Age 91 – 112TFG/Maintenance Crew Chief  
[http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/postgazette/obituary.aspx?n=james-arillotta-jim&pid=184442564&fhid=9654&eid=sp\\_shareobit](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/postgazette/obituary.aspx?n=james-arillotta-jim&pid=184442564&fhid=9654&eid=sp_shareobit)

SMSgt Alvin A. Altieri – 28 Mar 2017 – Age 77 – 112TFG/Maintenance Control  
<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/postgazette/obituary.aspx?pid=184755861>

## **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

**112<sup>th</sup> Reunion:** The 112<sup>th</sup> Reunion is held on the 112<sup>th</sup> day of the year and is now scheduled for 2017. Come and enjoy the fun and catch up with old friends. Hope to see you there!

**When:** Saturday, April 22, 2017

**Time:** 1600 – 2300 hours

**Where:** 911<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, Cargo Bay Community Center (same as last year)

**Cash Bar:** Includes draft beer, wine, full selection of liqueurs and craft beers

**Buffet:** \$16 - \$18, opens approx. 6pm until all has eaten (approx. 7:30pm)

**Billeting:** (412) 474-8230 (for those of you who would like to stay over)

**POC:** Brad L. Gilles

**Please Note:**

- To get on base, you must have a current Military ID. Those who do not have a military ID must have some form of a picture ID, i.e. Driver's License, U.S. Passport.
- The 911th Club has closed, but the 911th Cargo Bay Community Center has opened in its place. It is located to the left of the parking lot in front of the Credit Union and old BX building.

**TRICARE Formulary Search Tool:**

Please use the following TRICARE link to search for coverage and availability for your medications. You will need to select the proper dosage and form, i.e. tablet, liquid, etc. Below is the information you will be provided.

- Pharmacy availability:
  - Military Pharmacy (MTF) – please note, Basic Core Formulary designated drugs should be available at your local MTF pharmacy, but it is advised to check to be sure.
  - Home Delivery Pharmacy (Express-Scripts)
  - Retail Network Pharmacy
- Is the drug covered?
  - Either Yes or No will be checked – If Coverage Notes are reflected, please review.
- What you Pay:
  - Active duty – must be currently on active duty
  - Non-active duty – all retirees eligible for TRICARE

## **DFAS Inbound Mail Address Change (from DFAS March Newsletter):**

<https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/newsevents/newsletter/Notification--Inbound-Mail-Address-Change.html>

Attention all retirees and annuitants. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service's address are changing effective May 1, 2017. The old addresses are being discontinued and will be replaced by addresses in Indianapolis. The new addresses are:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service  
U.S. Military Retired Pay  
8899 E 56th Street  
Indianapolis IN 46249-1200

Defense Finance and Accounting Service  
U.S. Military Annuitant Pay  
8899 E 56th Street  
Indianapolis IN 46249-1300

Beginning on May 1, 2017 Military retirees and annuitants should use the new addresses when submitting any of the following information:

- Written requests for 1099R Forms (Retiree tax statement)
- Change Survivor benefit Plan information
- Correct a 1099R (Retiree Tax Statement)
- Establish a Retired Pay account
- Manage Arrears of Pay (AOP) Beneficiary designation
- Manage allotments
- Report a retiree's death
- Report a Survivor Benefit Plan beneficiary's death
- Submit a retiree or annuitant change of address
- Start/change Direct Deposit
- Start international Direct Deposit enrollment
- All other written correspondence

The old PO Boxes in London KY will remain open and all mail will be forwarded to the new address for one year. However, sending mail to the old address will add three to five days to the normal processing time. Likewise, any mail received at the new address before May 1, 2017 will be sent to the old mailing address. The telephone and fax numbers are not changing. Please visit our website at <https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary.html> for additional contact information.

## **Managing your Retirement Pay: Educate Your Beneficiaries**

<https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/newsevents/newsletter/educateyourbeneficiaries.html>

Sometimes the most difficult conversations to have are the most important, like helping your loved ones be prepared for when you die. Talking to your family about this topic beforehand is a way to show that you care, and it will help to ease the financial burdens they may face.

Military retirees can have beneficiaries for their arrears of pay (AOP), and if they have elected coverage under the Survivor Benefit Plan, they will have an SBP beneficiary as well. This article is intended to help you prepare your AOP beneficiary to file a claim when the time comes.

**First**, make sure you understand what an Arrears of Pay beneficiary is and the nature of the benefit to which they are entitled. Find more information on this benefit here.

<http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/provide/aop.html>

**Second**, tell your beneficiaries who they are. Hopefully, you've designated your beneficiaries for any arrears of pay that may be due. When no beneficiary is named, the payment is made to the highest person in what is known as the "Order of Precedence." The Order of Precedence is the federally mandated order of inheritance that applies to legacies without a designated beneficiary.

Find more information on "Order of Precedence" here.

<http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/provide/aop/aop-order.html>

Please keep in mind that it can take many months to locate your survivors, identify who comes highest in the Order of Precedence and then make the payment. That's why having a current, correct, and complete beneficiary designation on file is important to prevent delays or errors in your arrears payments.

Designating a sole beneficiary in your will does not automatically make that person your AOP beneficiary. AOP determination is based exclusively on the AOP beneficiary election in your retired pay account. To review your current arrears of pay beneficiaries and to make changes, visit the **Beneficiaries for Arrears** link once you've signed in to your **myPay** account.

For more detailed instructions on designating an Arrears of Pay beneficiary on **myPay**, you can review the article on our website <http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/provide/aop/aop-beneficiary.html>.

**Third**, let your beneficiary know that sometimes money that has already been deposited into your checking account needs to be returned to us. Military retired pay is only payable for as long as you are alive. Entitlement to your military retirement ends when you die. Most banks will automatically deduct any overpaid funds without warning, which can be troublesome, especially if you share a joint account.

**Fourth**, tell your beneficiaries what documents they will need to send in to make their claim. One copy of the death certificate that includes the manner of death needs to be sent to us. Also, each beneficiary should complete a Claim for Unpaid Compensation (SF

1174). It's a great idea to go over this claim form with them to make sure they will have all of the information they need to fill it out. If you want a more detailed explanation of this process, check out the instructions on our website <http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/survivors/Retiree-death.html>

**Fifth**, let your beneficiaries know that sometimes there is no money due. Each situation is different. It just depends how up to date the account was kept. You can make sure your account is in good standing by [performing a yearly audit](#).

**Sixth**, when an arrears payment is made, there is a statement on the check that reads, "Retired Pay Payable only during life of Payee." Please do not let this statement alarm your beneficiaries. As long as the beneficiary's name is accurate on the check, the check can be cashed.

We want to take the best care of your loved ones when you die, you can help us by having a conversation with them to prepare them so they can know what to expect. We know talking about it might be difficult, but hopefully this checklist gives you an idea of the things to say. Don't put it off. Have a conversation about it with your loved ones today.

### **Eligibility for the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program includes “gray area” retirees (provided Doug Schobel, Delta Dental):**

The TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) is available to all military retirees (**including “gray area” retirees under age 60**) and their eligible family members, unremarried surviving spouses and their eligible children, as well as Medal of Honor recipients and their eligible immediate family members. The program covers cleanings, exams, fillings, root canals, gum surgery, oral surgery and dental accidents on the first day that coverage becomes effective; after 12 months of being in the program, it then covers crowns, bridges, partials, braces and dental implants. ***(New retirees who enroll within four months after retirement from the Uniformed Services or transfer to Retired Reserve status are eligible to waive the 12-month waiting period for major services; supporting documentation is required)***

The TRDP provides every enrollee an annual maximum of \$1,300 per person, a \$1,200 annual maximum for dental accidents and a \$1,750 lifetime maximum for orthodontics. It is important to note that the money that the TRDP pays out for preventive and diagnostic services doesn't count against the annual maximum – those benefits are in addition to the \$1,300. Retirees can find more information on the program, as well as enroll 24/7/365, online by visiting [trdp.org](http://trdp.org).

TRDP enrollees realize the maximum program savings (an average of 22%) when seeing a network provider. To find a network provider, as well as utilize the Consumer Toolkit to view processed claims, see annual maximum information, and sign up to receive paperless Explanation of Benefits and more, please visit [trdp.org](http://trdp.org). You can also obtain more information by contacting Doug Schobel at [dschobel@delta.org](mailto:dschobel@delta.org). Like my [Facebook](#) page for program updates and more! To learn more about diet and dental health, check out the [Nutrition and Oral Health section](#) of our website. Or, expand your overall oral health knowledge by visiting [mySmileWay.com](http://mySmileWay.com).

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

**171<sup>st</sup> Air Refueling Wing:** <http://www.171arw.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

**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.vets.gov/>