

RETIREE OFFICE NEWS – 171st ARW



Retiree Office
300 Tanker Road #4210
Coraopolis, PA 15108-4210
Phone: 412-776-7587 or
412-776-7538, Fax: 7441
171retireeoffice@gmail.com
Office Hours: Thursdays 0800 – 1200



"Practicing gratitude is a very powerful tool to shift your attention on the things you don't have to the things you do have and this alone will make you feel better." ~ Noelia Aanulds

"New" Retiree Office Email Address:

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

Retiree Lunch: 3rd Tuesday in October

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 - October 18th

Dates for CY 2017 - January 17th, April 18th, July 18th, and October 17th

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 October 18th!

Retirements:

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

Rank	Last Name	First Name	Retired
------	-----------	------------	---------

JUL 2016

TSG	LEISIE	MATTHEW	14-JUL-16
TSG	LIBERATI	JOSEPH	01-JUL-16
SSG	RICHARDS	ANTHONY	21-JUL-16

AUG 2016

TSG	WEBER	JAMES	13-AUG-16
-----	-------	-------	-----------

SEP 2016

TSG	CAMPBELL	MICHELLE	15-SEP-16
MSG	CERVONE	DANIEL	01-SEP-16
MSG	DOVEY	BRADLEY	27-SEP-16
MSG	ERNST	DAVID	01-SEP-16
TSG	JOURNIC	PAUL	18-SEP-16

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 171st, 112th, or 258TH members. Click on each name to view the obituary.

SMSgt James R. Alexander – 31 Jul 16 – Age 84 – 171ARW/Operations 147ARSq
http://obits.dignitymemorial.com/dignity-memorial/obituary.aspx?n=James-Alexander&lc=7414&pid=180912811&mid=7034372&locale=en_US

CMSgt Fred A. Smith – 8 Aug 2016 – Age 90 – 171ARW/Base Supply
<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/triblive-pittsburgh-tribune-review/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=181029463>

SMSgt Terry R. Walker – 8 Oct 2016 – Age 65 – 171ARW/Electric Shop
<http://www.arnernfuneralchapel.com/obits/obituary.php?id=681825>

TSgt Theodore A. Greaves – 23 Aug 2016 – Age 50 – 171ARW/Medical
http://www.timesonline.com/community/obituaries/theodore-aaron-greaves/article_fe9a8052-6c8a-11e6-b50f-3b037b78d759.html

2016 Discounts and Veterans Day Deals:

<http://militarybenefits.info/miscellaneous-discounts-veterans-day-deals-veterans/>

http://www.operationwearehere.com/VeteransDayPromotions.html#anchor_475

Hearing Aids for Military Retirees:

<http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/hearing-aids-for-military-retirees.html>

The DoD sponsored Retiree-At-Cost Hearing Aid Program (RACHAP) is designed to help retirees purchase hearing aids through the Audiology Clinic at a special government negotiated cost. The hearing aids available through this program are the same state-of-the-art technologies available to active duty service members. The program is open to all military retirees who have hearing loss or tinnitus (ringing in the ears). Dependents of military retirees are not eligible for this program.

Retirees can obtain hearing aids at significant savings by using our program. Two hearing aids can usually be purchased for less than \$2,000. Exact costs are variable and subject to change at any time without notice. Contact your nearest audiology clinic for further details.

Not every medical facility is able to provide this program. Care of active duty members takes precedent at all MTFs. It is recommended that you contact the appropriate military facility before incurring significant travel expenses. Facilities may discontinue this program for any reason without notice to us.

Retirees can use any military treatment facility which will accept them; you don't need to return to your service affiliation to participate in this program.

Note: Your closest clinic could be located hundreds of miles away from your home. The costs to travel for this program need to be considered versus the availability of an audiologist in your local community to assist you with repairs, warranty repairs, re-programming, etc. See the list of participating sites at <http://militaryaudiology.org/rachap-rhapp-locations/>.

Also, retirees may be eligible for hearing aids from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and receive hearing aids from the VA free of charge – in most cases there is no cost to the patient. The Audiology Department can provide you with more information about VA services or you may contact the VA directly at 877-222-8387 or 800-827-1000, (TDD 711).

Dependents of retirees are not eligible for hearing aid services from military treatment facilities (including RACHAP) or from TRICARE. The family member is eligible for hearing evaluations and the audiologist can provide them with more information about hearing aids or local providers.

Military retirees from active duty, Guard, and Reserve units who have hearing loss and/or tinnitus are eligible to participate in this program. Retired Commissioned Officers of the US Public Health Service are also eligible for this program at military treatment facilities, under certain conditions.

This program is not a TRICARE benefit.

Veteran's new online health care applicaiton:

Apply at: <https://www.vets.gov/healthcare/apply/application/introduction>

Other ways to apply & eligibility: <https://www.vets.gov/healthcare/apply/>

If you've struggled with applying for veterans' health care benefits, take a look at the VA's new online health care application. It takes about 15 minutes to fill out and less than a week to be processed.

To complete it, you'll need:

- Your most recent tax return
- Social Security numbers for yourself and your dependents
- Account numbers for any current insurance programs in which you are already enrolled

Find additional resources for veterans on USA.gov at <https://www.usa.gov/veterans>.

Reserve, Guard May Get Veteran Status and Preference:

Veteran Preference: <http://www.military.com/veteran-jobs/career-advice/job-hunting/veterans-preference-overview.html>

Congress is considering two no-cost initiatives to honor the service of Reserve and National Guard members. The more familiar of the two bills would give "veteran" status to 200,000 Reserve and National Guard retirees who, according to federal law, do not technically qualify as veterans. The second initiative would make an increased number of former Reserve and Guard members eligible for [veteran preference](#) in competing for federal civilian jobs.

Progress of 2 initiatives: <http://militaryadvantage.military.com/2016/08/progress-on-reserve-vet-status-veteran-preference-initiatives/>

- **Honor America's Guard-Reserve Retirees Act** (HR 1384, S 743)
- **Reserve and Guard Veterans Preference** (HR 5526)

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 911th 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.

Defense Department News – Military Crisis Line Specialist Helps Fellow Veterans:

[http://www.dcoe.mil/blog/16-09-](http://www.dcoe.mil/blog/16-09-21/Defense_Department_News_Military_Crisis_Line_Specialist_Helps_Fellow_Veterans.aspx)

[21/Defense_Department_News_Military_Crisis_Line_Specialist_Helps_Fellow_Veterans.aspx](http://www.dcoe.mil/blog/16-09-21/Defense_Department_News_Military_Crisis_Line_Specialist_Helps_Fellow_Veterans.aspx)

Knowing where to turn in a time of crisis is important. Many of us have family members, fellow service members, colleagues or friends we can reach out to. But, it's not always easy, or best, to talk about what we're going through with someone close to us. A recent U.S. Defense Department article explores how a crisis line specialist helps other veterans at <http://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/621027/crisis-line-specialist-helps-fellow-veterans>.

Jeffrey Swafford, a former Air Force staff sergeant, is a health science specialist with the Veterans Crisis Line. He said active-duty service members, National Guardsmen, reservists, veterans and their family members and friends, can call, text or chat online with him or any of his co-workers confidentially 24 hours a day, seven days a week -- just to talk or if they need more serious help, such as suicide prevention.

"We're here to help," Swafford said. "Even if you want to call, and it's 10 to 15 minutes of it being nothing but you talking and me just sitting there listening, that's one of the things we're here for, too. We're always here. You can always call us. It doesn't matter if it's 2 a.m. We're here to talk. We're here to help."

Read the full article, on the Defense Department website at

<http://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/621027/crisis-line-specialist-helps-fellow-veterans>.

If you are in crisis, immediately dial 9-1-1, go to your nearest emergency room or call the **Military Crisis Line at 800-273-8255, military press 1**.

Women Veterans Call Center, 1-855-829-6636:

<http://www.womenshealth.va.gov/>

The Women Veterans Call Center (WVCC) is expanding its outreach to women Veterans with a new online, one-to-one chat function. The new service enables women Veterans to go online and anonymously chat via real-time text messaging with a trained WVCC representative. All the representatives at the Women Veterans Call Center are women, and many are Veterans themselves.

The new feature provides women Veterans with another avenue to ask general questions about benefits, eligibility and services specifically for women Veterans. WVCC chat is available by visiting the Women Veterans Health Care webpage at

<http://www.womenshealth.va.gov/> and clicking the "Chat with the Women Veterans Call Center" icon. As the chat function is anonymous; we are asking users to please do not use personally identifiable information such as social security numbers. WVCC Chat is available Monday through Friday 8 AM – 10 PM ET, and on Saturdays from 8 AM – 6:30 PM ET.

How would I know if I am considered a Veteran?

You may be considered a Veteran if you served on active duty in the armed forces of the United States and was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable. You do not need to have wartime or combat experience to be considered a Veteran.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND LINKS:

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

911th AW Casualty Assistance Office: (412) 474-8558, Fax: (412) 474-8987

Address: 911th FSS/FSMPS, 2475 Defense Ave, Bldg 316, Rm 112, Coraopolis, PA 15108

Email contact: Melinda J. Arbogast, 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

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/>