

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



“May the new year bring you an abundance of amazing opportunities, beautiful moments, and joyful experiences. May your positive actions & attitude inspire others. May you be brave enough to take on and overcome rewarding challenges. May you find yourself in high spirits & excellent health. May you love with all your heart and find peace in even the most turbulent of times. May the love you give always find its way back to you multiplied. And may you forever be filled with the hope & strength necessary to make your dreams a reality.” ~ Zero Dean

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 January, April, July, and October

When: CY 2018 - **January 16th**, April 17th, July 17th, and October 16th

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 Retiree Luncheon!*

DFAS Retiree Newsletter:

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

Retirements:

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

Rank	Last Name	First Name	Retired
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OCT 2017

LTC	JONES	JEFFREY	03-OCT-17
SMS	EDDY	DENNIS	28-OCT-17
MSG	HUGHES	SCOTT	31-OCT-17
MSG	OLSON	LONNIE	17-OCT-17
TSG	BITTINGER	JOSEPH	20-OCT-17

NOV 2017

CMS	RAMIREZ	PETER	20-NOV-17
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DEC 2017

LTC	STOEBE	DAVID	31-DEC-17
SMS	BRADAC	PATRICK	31-DEC-17
SMS	LOWSTETTER	DONALD	31-DEC-17
MSG	GOODEN	KELLY	03-DEC-17

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.

MSgt Deborah J. Vadas – 15 Oct 2017 – Age 62 – 171ARW/Supply/Command Post
<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/postgazette/obituary.aspx?n=debora-jean-vadas&pid=186981102&fhid=9777>

MSgt Addison Byron Clingerman – 7 Nov 2017 – Age 69 – 171ARW/NDI Lab
<http://monvalleyindependent.com/2017/11/addison-byron-clingerman-fombell/>

MSgt Harry R. Passarell – 23 Nov 2017 – Age 87 – 171ARW/Flightline/ISO Docks
<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/postgazette/obituary.aspx?n=harry-r-passarell&pid=187336590&fhid=4269>

Lt Col Andrew R. Holko – 25 Nov 2017 – Age 81 – 171ARW/Operations/Pilot
<http://www.statonborowskifuneralhome.com/notices/LtColAndrew-HolkoRet>

MSgt Walter G. Smith – 12 Mar 2017 – Age 69 – 171ARW/Civil Engineers SQ
<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/walter-smith-obituary?pid=184491576&view=guestbook>

2018 Cost of Living Adjustment:

All retirees received a 2.0% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) effective December 1, 2017. You should have seen this change in your December 29, 2017 retirement payment. Everyone should have received a Retiree Account Statement (RAS) in December, reflecting the change in your gross and net pay. This RAS statement includes the COLA, and any changes in insurance premiums.

TRICARE For Life (age 65+) – Remains unchanged for 2018

<https://www.tricare4u.com>, 1-866-773-0404 Mon – Fri, 7 a.m. – 10 p.m. CST

- You must pay Medicare Part B monthly premiums
- In most cases, you'll pay nothing for covered services
- If the care is covered by TRICARE, but not Medicare, you'll pay the TRICARE For Life deductible and cost-shares
- If the care isn't covered by Medicare or TRICARE, then you'll pay the entire amount

TRICARE 2018 changes for retirees ages 60 to 65):

See Attachment 1 - Defense Health Agency Notice of TRICARE changes

On Jan 1, 2018, the current three U.S. TRICARE Regions consolidated into two regions. Due to these changes, it is possible that your primary care manager (PCM) will no longer be in network. Please check with your Primary Care Physician and Specialists to see if they are still a TRICARE Network provider before you receive any medical services.

TRICARE North and South Regions combined to form TRICARE East. TRICARE West Region remains mostly unchanged.

- East Region – will be administered by Humana Military (1-800-444-5445, www.tricare-east.com)
- West Region – will be administered by Health Net Federal Services (1-844-866-9378, www.tricare-west.com)

TRICARE Select will replace TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra.

You may obtain care from any TRICARE authorized provider without a referral or authorization. Enrollees who obtain services from TRICARE network providers will pay lower cost sharing amount for network care. All current beneficiaries will be automatically enrolled on Jan 1, 2018.

TRICARE Select Cost Shares for Retirees, effective Jan 1, 2018:

<https://tricare.mil/Costs/HealthPlanCosts/TS/RET>

Pharmacy Copayments for Calendar Year 2018, effective February 1, 2018:

<https://tricare.mil/Costs/PrescriptionCosts>

Free and Discounted Tax Preparation for Military:

Visit <https://www.military.com/discounts/free-tax-preparation-for-military.html>

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 for Life (ages 65+): <https://www.tricare4u.com/>

1-866-773-0404 Mon – Fri, 7 a.m. – 10 p.m. CST

TRICARE Select Health Plan (ages 60 to 65): <https://www.tricare.mil/Plans/HealthPlans/TS>

Tricare East Region – Humana Military, 1-800-444-5445, www.tricare-east.com

Tricare West Region – Health Net Federal Services, 1-844-866-9378, www.tricare-west.com

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

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

Veterans Breakfast Club: <http://veteransbreakfastclub.com/publications/>,

Contact Todd DePastino at 412-623-9029 or by email at todd@veteransbreakfastclub.com



DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY
7700 ARLINGTON BOULEVARD, SUITE 5101
FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA 22042-5101

**NOTICE OF TRICARE PRIME AND TRICARE SELECT PLAN INFORMATION
FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2018**

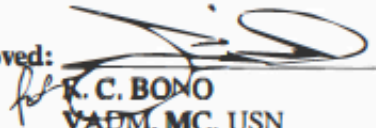
Each year, the Defense Health Agency publishes changes to the TRICARE program that affects you, our beneficiaries, for the upcoming calendar year. The following changes or improvements to your TRICARE benefits apply for calendar year 2018:

- **On January 1, 2018, TRICARE North and South regions will combine to form TRICARE East, while TRICARE West region will remain mostly unchanged.** Humana Military will administer the new East region and Health Net Federal Services will administer the West region. This change will allow better coordination between the military hospitals and clinics and the civilian health care providers in each region. Go to <https://tricare.mil/About/Changes/General-TRICARE-Changes/Regions> for more information.
- **TRICARE Select will replace TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra on January 1, 2018.** TRICARE Select brings together the features of TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra in a single plan. Select enrollees may obtain care from any TRICARE authorized provider without a referral or authorization. Enrollees who obtain services from TRICARE network providers will pay lower cost sharing amounts for network care.
- **All current TRICARE beneficiaries will be automatically enrolled in their respective plan on January 1, 2018.** TRICARE Prime plan enrollees will remain in their TRICARE Prime plan. TRICARE Standard and Extra beneficiaries will be enrolled in a TRICARE Select plan.
- **Beneficiary out-of-pocket costs:** A detailed break-out of beneficiary out-of-pocket costs for 2018 is shown in Appendix A. Some out-of-pocket costs will be announced later in 2018 as we define certain high-value medications and health care services that will result in lower out of pocket expenses for you.
- **Improving what's covered:** Beginning January 1, 2018:
 - TRICARE Select enrollees may receive most TRICARE Prime clinical preventive services with no copayment when furnished by a network provider.
 - TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Select will cover behavioral interventions for obese adults and children/adolescents with certain body mass indexes to promote sustained weight loss with no cost if furnished by a network provider.
 - TRICARE will cost share on medically necessary foods and vitamins, including low protein modified food and amino acid preparation products for dietary management of individuals with limited or impaired capacity to absorb other nourishment.

- **Beneficiaries can choose to enroll in or change their TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select coverage during an annual open enrollment period in November-December, 2018 for coverage beginning on January 1, 2019.** For calendar year 2019, failure to enroll in TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select results in the termination of coverage for civilian care. These beneficiaries who choose to not enroll may only receive care at a military clinic or hospital on a space available basis.
- **2018 will be a transition year with a grace period for enrollment.** To allow beneficiaries to adjust to making their health care option choices during an annual open season enrollment period or to remember to elect their coverage when a qualifying life event (QLE) occurs, beneficiaries can elect to make their coverage changes anytime during 2018 to ensure they have the right coverage in place starting in 2019.
- **Referrals for civilian urgent care visits are no longer needed for most TRICARE Prime enrollees.** Most TRICARE Prime enrollees can now seek care at an urgent care center without a referral. Point of Service charges no longer applies if seen without a referral. As a reminder, after seeking urgent care, it's always a good idea to contact your primary care manager and arrange follow-up care as needed.

However, some exceptions still apply. Active Duty Service members (ADSMs) must obtain authorization before seeking urgent care services from civilian providers. Active Duty family members enrolled to TRICARE Overseas Program (TOP) Prime/Prime Remote must contact the TOP contractor to obtain an authorization in order to ensure their urgent care visit will be cashless/claimless. Without this authorization, overseas providers may request payment upfront and the beneficiary will then have to submit a claim for reimbursement. Additionally, any ADSM enrolled in TOP Prime/Prime Remote requiring urgent care while on temporary duty or on leave status in the 50 United States and the District of Columbia, may access urgent care without a referral or an authorization.

- **For more information, visit tricare.mil/changes or call your regional TRICARE contractor**

Approved: 
R. C. BONO
 VADM, MC, USN
 Director

Date: December 28, 2017

APPENDDDIX A

See tables below for TRICARE Prime, TRICARE Select, and Pharmacy out-of-pocket expenses that take effect on January 1, 2018.

Group A beneficiaries are service members who enlisted or were appointed in a Uniformed Service before January 1, 2018 and their family members.

Group B are service members who enlisted or were appointed in a Uniformed Service on or after January 1, 2018 and their family members.

Group B cost shares also apply to enrollees in the TRICARE Reserve Select, TRICARE Retired Reserve, TRICARE Young Adult, and the Continued Health Care Benefit Program health plans. Monthly premiums apply in lieu of enrollment fees.

Key:

IN – Network Provider

OON – Out-of-Network Provider

TABLE 1: TRICARE Select and TRICARE Prime Cost Sharing for Active Duty Family Members (ADFM) for Calendar Year 2018

	TRICARE Select Group A ADFMs	TRICARE Select Group B ADFMs	Prime Group A ADFMs	Prime Group B ADFM
Annual Enrollment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Deductible	E1-E4: \$50/\$100 E5 & above: \$150/\$300	E1-E4: \$50/\$100 E5 & above: \$150/\$300	\$0	\$0
Annual Catastrophic Cap	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Preventive Care Outpatient Visit	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Primary Care Outpatient Visit	\$21 IN 20% OON	\$15 IN 20% OON	\$0	\$0
Specialty Care	\$31 IN	\$25 IN	\$0	\$0

Outpatient Visit	20% OON	20% OON		
Emergency Room Visit	\$81 IN 20% OON	\$40 IN 20% OON	\$0	\$0
Urgent Care Center	\$21 IN 20% OON	\$20 IN 20% OON	\$0	\$0
Ambulatory Surgery	\$25	\$25 IN 20% OON	\$0	\$0
Ambulance Service (not including air)	\$74 IN 20% OON	\$15 IN 20% OON	\$0	\$0
Durable Medical Equipment	15% IN 20% OON	10% IN 20% OON	\$0	\$0
Inpatient Hospital Admission	\$18.60/day, minimum \$25/admission	\$60/admission IN; 20% OON	\$0	\$0
Inpatient Skilled Nursing/Rehab Facility	\$18.60/day, minimum \$25/admission	\$25/day IN; \$50/day OON	\$0	\$0

**TABLE 2: TRICARE Select and TRICARE Prime Cost Sharing for Retiree Families for
Calendar Year 2018**

	TRICARE Select Group A Retirees	TRICARE Select Group B Retirees	TRICARE Prime Group A Retirees ¹	TRICARE Prime Group B Retirees
Annual Enrollment	\$0	\$450/\$900	\$289.08/\$578.16	\$350/\$700
Annual Deductible	\$150/\$300	\$150/\$300 IN \$300/\$600 OON	\$0	\$0
Annual Catastrophic Cap	\$3,000	\$3,500	\$3,000	\$3,500
Preventive Care Visit	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Primary Care Outpatient Visit	\$28 IN 25% OON	\$25 IN 25% OON	\$20	\$20
Specialty Care Outpatient Visit	\$41 IN 25% OON	\$40 IN 25% OON	\$30	\$30
Emergency Room Visit	\$109 IN 25% OON	\$80 IN 25% OON	\$60	\$60
Urgent Care Center Visit	\$28 IN 25% OON	\$40 IN 25% OON	\$30	\$30
Ambulatory	20% IN	\$95 IN	\$60	\$60

¹ TRICARE Prime enrollees who are (1) survivors of active duty deceased sponsors, or (2) medically retired Uniformed Services members and their family members, have their TRICARE Prime enrollment fees frozen at the rate in effect when classified and enrolled in a fee paying Prime plan. (This does not include TRICARE Young Adult (TYA) plans).

Surgery	25% OON	25% OON		
Ambulance Service (not including air)	\$98 IN 25% OON	\$60 IN 25% OON	\$40	\$40
Durable Med. Equip.	20% IN 25% OON	20% IN 25% OON	20%	20%
Inpatient Admission	\$250/day up to 25% hosp. charge + 20% separately billed services IN \$901/day up to 25% hosp. charge + 25% separately billed services OON	\$175/admission IN 25% OON	\$150/admission	\$150/admission
Inpatient Skilled Nursing/Rehab Admission	\$250/day up to 25% hospital charge + 20% separately billed services IN 25% OON	\$50/day IN Lesser of \$300/day or 20% OON	\$30/day	\$30/day

TABLE 3 – Pharmacy Copayments for Calendar Year 2018

Year	Copayment amount for a 30-day supply of a retail generic is:	Copayment amount for a 30-day supply of a retail formulary is:	Copayment amount for a 90-day supply of a mail order generic is:	Copayment amount for a 90-day supply of a mail order formulary is:	Copayment amount for a 90-day supply of a mail order non-formulary is:
2018	\$11	\$28	\$7	\$24	\$53

Note: Pharmacy copayment amounts for (1) survivors of active duty deceased sponsors, or (2) medically retired Uniformed Services members and their family members are equal to the copayment amounts, if any, for 2017.