

OFFUTT UPDATE

A publication of the Offutt Air Force Base Retiree Activities Office

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Hello all! Sure hope the terrible weather didn't cause too much damage to our readers. The patriotic holidays are now behind us and it seems that summer has taken hold in the heartland. The heat is becoming unbearable and the humidity is ridiculous. I know, you folks who moved here from Florida are loving it. Just a couple months until Labor Day and then it's almost time for "Retiree Appreciation Day". This one will be bigger and better, so make sure you mark your calendars..... October 15th at 0900 in the BX Vendors Mall. The "UPDATE" will provide additional information in the next issue as we get closer to the big day.

DARPA SELECTS SPACE PLANE DESIGN

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) will work with The Boeing Company to develop an aircraft capable of flying at hypersonic speeds. Under the XS-1 program, DARPA and Boeing would design and build a reusable space plane that would use cryogenic propellants rather than external boosters.

Plans now call for designing, building and testing a demonstration craft, through 2019. During this phase, designers will try to fire its engine 10 times a day on the ground, to prove the system is flightworthy.

The team hopes to conduct 12 to 15 flight tests by 2020, with the intent of flying the space plane 10 times during a 10-day period without payloads -- at speeds as high as Mach 5. In future tests, they will try to take the space plane to speeds of Mach 10, and deliver a payload weighing between 900 and 3,000 pounds into low Earth orbit.

In years to come, space plane technology would be applied to commercial flights.

MPS Hours of Operation Change

Effective Monday, 1 May 2017 the MPS hours of operation will change to 0800-1530 Monday-Friday and every third Thursday from 1200-1530. In addition, only the Customer Support (ID cards) section will be open on the first Saturday of every month from 0800-1200 for dependents, reservists, retirees and shift workers.

To reduce waiting time, appointments can be made by calling (402) 294-2276.

BASE CLOSING PLAN COULD ELIMINATE 26,000 DOD JOBS

The Pentagon has estimated that its latest proposal to close and realign facilities would eliminate about 26,000 civilian positions, with the Army and Air Force workforces likely bearing the brunt.

HIGH COURT RULES AGAINST FORMER SPOUSES

The U.S. Supreme Court has dealt a blow to some divorced spouses who collect a share of military retired pay.

On May 15, the high court ruled that these spouses have no inherent right to collect the same share of retired pay agreed upon in a divorce settlement, should the veteran later be granted disability compensation by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

*"What do you call a cow with no legs?
Answer: Ground Beef"*

DFAS ADDRESSES CHANGE FOR ALL RETIREES AND ANNUITANTS

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service's addresses changed effective May 1, 2017. The old addresses are being discontinued and will be replaced by addresses in Indianapolis. The new addresses are:

***Retired Pay:**

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

***Annuitant Pay:**

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

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.

Please copy and paste the following web address into your web browser for additional contact information:

<https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary.html>

Retired Pay
DFAS-Cleveland

VA CHIROPRACTIC CARE AVAILABLE IN FUTURE?

Senator Jerry Moran (KS) introduced S. 609, the Chiropractic Care Available to All Veterans Act of 2017, which would require VA to offer chiropractic care at a minimum of 75 VA medical centers by the end of 2018 and at every VA medical center by the end of 2020. VA currently offers chiropractic services as part of its medical benefits package. However, VA's website indicates that only about 65 VA medical centers have chiropractors on site who are integrated into primary care, rehabilitation and other specialized care teams. DAV Resolution 244 supports access to a "full continuum of care, from preventive through hospice

services, including alternative and complementary care such as yoga, massage, acupuncture, chiropractic and other nontraditional therapies."

NEXIUM REMOVED FROM TRICARE FORMULARY

Starting on June 28, 2017, TRICARE will no longer include the drug Nexium in the preferred, or formulary, drug list, and it will no longer be available in military hospitals and clinics. In order to prepare for the change, patients are currently being asked to switch to one of the following three preferred alternatives that have been shown to demonstrate effective results:

Omeprazole
Pantoprazole
Rabeprazole

Your doctor may determine that the preferred alternatives are not right for you and that Nexium is medically necessary. To be medically necessary means it is appropriate, reasonable, and adequate for your condition.. In those cases, TRICARE will continue to cover the cost of Nexium, minus the \$20 copay for a 90-day supply of home delivery and \$24 copay for a 30-day supply via a retail outlet. Your doctor must submit a prior authorization and a reason why it is medically necessary via the Express Scripts doctor line in order for you to fill your prescription. For patients who continue to use Nexium with a prior authorization but WITHOUT a doctor's medical necessity determination, the non-formulary copay cost will be \$49 for a 90-day supply via home pharmacy delivery or \$50 for a 30-day supply via a retail outlet.

COLA COUNT ADVANCES IN APRIL

Through seven months of the counting period toward the January 2018 federal retirement COLA, the count stands at 1.4 percent, following an increase in April of 0.3 percentage points in the inflation index used to calculate the COLA.

"A woman was taking an afternoon nap. When she woke up, she told her husband, "I just dreamed that you gave me a pearl necklace. What do you think it means?" "You'll know tonight," he said. That evening, the man came home with a small package and gave it to his wife. Delighted, she opened it to find a book entitled "The Meaning of Dreams."

VA PRE-NEED DETERMINATION FOR BURIAL IN NATIONAL CEMETARY

Burial in a VA national cemetery is open to all members of the armed forces and Veterans who have met minimum active duty service requirements, as applicable by law and were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

Planning in advance for a Veteran's or loved-one's final resting place can eliminate unnecessary delays and reduce stress on a family at a difficult time. Veteran families will have increased confidence that their loved ones are eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery at their time of need.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has implemented this pre-need eligibility program so that Veterans, spouses and unmarried dependent adult children may better prepare for burial in a VA national cemetery prior to the time of need.

Interested individuals may submit [VA Form 40-10007](#), *Application for Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility for Burial in a VA National Cemetery*, along with a copy of supporting documentation of military service such as a DD214, if readily available, by: toll-free fax at 1-855-840-8299; or mail to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office, P.O. Box 510543, St. Louis, MO 63151.

VA HEALTHCARE CAN BENEFIT MANY

When Rich, an Army Veteran, retired and moved to Florida, he started having difficulty with his hearing.

He visited his doctor through his private insurance and learned he would need hearing aids that could cost up to \$7,000 out of pocket. At the urging of military friends, he decided to have his hearing tested at a VA clinic and learned he was eligible for hearing aids at no cost.

"I thought to myself, oh my gosh, I think I made the right decision, the VA is going to take care of me," he says. "I got the most thorough care I could get."

All Veterans enrolled in VA health care have access to comprehensive medical benefits, including many cost-free services. For those who are older, there are also long term and home based services to help chronically ill or disabled Veterans of any age remain in their homes.

Like many Veterans, Rich was initially hesitant to try VA health care.

"I always felt there were plenty of other military Veterans out there who really needed the VA because that was all they had for medical support," he says. "I have private insurance, and I didn't want to take their slot."

As Rich learned though, if you are eligible for VA health care, even if you have other forms of health care coverage, such as a private insurance plan, Medicare, Medicaid or TRICARE, you can continue to use VA along with these plans.

2017 READING OF THE NAMES BY THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND

As part of the commemoration of The Wall's 35th Anniversary, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) is pleased to host the 2017 Reading of the Names of the more than 58,000 service members inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Join VVMF for this monumental event, as a reader or as a spectator, in honor of their sacrifice.

VVMF is hosting the Reading of the Names of the 58,318 service members inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. as part of the special activities planned this November to commemorate The Wall's 35th Anniversary. The Reading of the Names will take place at The Wall for 65 hours over a four-day period beginning with an opening ceremony on Tuesday, November 7, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. Volunteers will read names for approximately eight hours from 4 p.m. on November 7 to 12 a.m. on November 8. Participants will then read the names for 19 hours daily from 5 a.m. until 12 a.m. on November 8, 9, and 10.

If you would like to read a certain name or at a certain time, registration is now open at

www.vvmf.org/rotn

"Three guys are stranded in a desert. By a stroke of luck, they find a magic genie lamp. The genie grants each of them one wish. The first guy wishes to be back home. Wish granted. The second guy wishes the same. Wish granted. The third guy says, "It feels very lonely here now, I wish my friends were with me..." Wish granted."

F/A-18 DOWNS SYRIAN FIGHTER

A Navy F/A-18 Super Hornet shot down a Syrian Su-22 fighter on June 18, after the Syrian jet dropped bombs on forces who oppose Syrian President Hafez Assad. The shoot-down is the first for the F/A-18 since it joined the inventory 15 years ago, and the first of any kind for the Navy since the 1991 Persian Gulf War, Seapower Magazine reported June 19. The Hornet is assigned to Carrier Air Wing Eight (CVW-8), and conducted its mission from the carrier George H.W. Bush, which was operating in the Mediterranean Sea at the time, Seapower reported.

VA NOW LISTS BURIAL TIMES ONLINE

VA announced this week that there will be an online listing of burial times for all VA Cemeteries. The move, which will cover the 168 facilities operated by VA directly, will allow those who wish to attend funerals a more centralized location for information related to the funeral. Attendees will be able to search by either the location of the funeral or by the name of the veteran being buried, and updates will be provided hourly. To visit this website, go to <https://www.cem.va.gov/dailyburialschedule/>

VETERANS CAN REGISTER EARLY FOR MILITARY EXCHANGE SHOPPING

All honorably discharged veterans interested in shopping online at the military exchanges can begin their verification process immediately, exchange officials said, and some may be able to shop prior to the program's full launch. Some veterans who register at VetVerify.org <<https://www.vetverify.org/>> will be invited to be beta testers, with the ability to shop online earlier than the planned Nov. 11 launch date. Officials said the sooner veterans register on the site, the better their chances of being chosen as a beta tester.

The exchange websites offer tax-free shopping, as well as discounted pricing. Actual online pricing can be seen only by those who are authorized to shop at the websites: shopmyexchange.com <<https://www.shopmyexchange.com/>> ; shopcgx.com <<https://shopcgx.com/>> ; mymcx.com <<http://mymcx.com>> ; and mynavyexchange.com <<http://www.mynavyexchange.com>> . VetVerify.org uses information from the Defense Department's Defense Manpower Data Center to verify a veteran's status; veterans will receive notification of their acceptance as online shoppers

or, if their records are incomplete, will receive guidance on the steps they can take to update those records.

Doing this process ahead of time will allow veterans to start shopping Nov. 11, or earlier if they are among the "beta testers" chosen to try out the system in advance of the launch.

GRENADE LAUNCHER, AMMO MADE WITH 3D PRINTER

A team of Army engineers produced a grenade launcher and grenade using a three-dimensional printer, and then successfully used the weapon to fire the round.

"This demonstration shows that additive manufacturing (commonly known as 3-D printing) has a potential future in weapon prototype development, which could allow engineers to provide munitions to soldiers more quickly.

CHANGES ARE COMING TO YOUR MEDICARE CARD

By April 2019, your card will be replaced with one that no longer shows your Social Security number. Instead, your card will have a new Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) that will be used for billing and for checking your eligibility and claim status. And it will all happen automatically – you won't have to pay anyone or give anyone information, no matter what someone might tell you.

*Is someone calling, claiming to be from Medicare, and asking for your Social Security number or bank information?

*Is someone asking you to pay for your new card?

*Is someone threatening to cancel your benefits if you don't give up information or money?

Medicare won't call you and will never ask for your Social Security number or bank info.

A child goes to his father and asks, "Father, how do parents think of names for their children?" The father answers, "Well son, the night before the mother gives birth, the father goes into the woods and camps for the night. When he wakes the next morning, the first thing he sees is what he names his child, which is why your sister is named Soaring Eagle. Why do you ask, Bear Poop?"