



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

# Alumni Report

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE,  
MCGUIRE AFB RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE

*Spring 2011*

**McGuire AFB**  
Mon thru Fri  
0900-1500  
609 754-2459

**DSC Philadelphia**  
Tue, Wed, Thu  
0900-1500  
215 737-7300

**Stewart ANG Base**  
Mon thru Fri 0900-1200  
1300-1600  
845 563-2226

**Willow Grove AFRES**  
Mon thru Fri  
0900-1500  
215 443-1072

**Wyoming, PA**  
Mon 0900-1500  
570 288-1947 x220



**RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY, SATURDAY, 30 APRIL 2010, TOMMY B's COMMUNITY CENTER, BLDG 27-05.**

This is the former McGuire Officers Club. On page 2 of this newsletter, you will find your invitation letter from Col. Gina Grosso, Commander, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. The Retiree Appreciation Day program is developed and organized to provide you and your spouse with the services, information and support that you need the most. Our KEYNOTE SPEAKER will provide you with important information relative to your benefits and concerns. Other speakers will brief you on specific retiree benefits and legislative initiatives important to retirees and their families. On page 3 you will find an outline of the special programs that will be available in the afternoon. If you plan to have lunch at the dining hall, please call us at (609) 754-2459. We need this call so that we can let the dining hall staffs know how many to prepare for. Opening ceremonies will begin at 1000 at the Tommy B's Community Center. Coffee and donuts will be available at 0900.



**POSSIBLE INCREASE IN TRICARE FEES**

The Department of Defense (DOD) has indicated modest and gradual changes in TRICARE fees beginning in FY2012. (TRICARE fees have not changed since the program was implemented in the middle 1990s.) The plan as announced does not include changes for TRICARE Standard or TRICARE for Life (TFL) and no means testing of fees. The

changes would exempt military disability (Chapter 61) retirees and survivors from the changes.

The specific changes as announced are shown below:

- raising the 2012 Prime enrollment fees by 13%--from \$230 single/\$460 family per year to \$260 single and \$520 family (survivor and Chapter 61 disability fees would remain at current rates as indicated above).
- indexing those fees in 2013 and beyond to a medical inflation index (based on a measure of Medicare cost growth projected to rise at 6.2% per year).
- changing TRICARE pharmacy co pays as shown below (changes are indicated in parentheses):

	RETAIL	MAIL ORDER
GENERIC	\$5 (+\$2)	Zero (-\$2)
BRAND NAME	\$12 (+\$3)	\$9 (no change)
NONFORMULARY	\$22 (+\$3)	\$25 (+\$3)

SPECIAL NOTE: The Military Coalition strongly objects to the proposed annual adjustment methodology that would inappropriately tie fee increases for nondisabled military beneficiaries aged 38 to 64 to health care cost growth for a more elderly and disabled Medicare population. The Military Coalition believes that any such adjustments should be capped closely to the percentage increase in their military compensation.



**VA MAKES FILING CLAIMS EASIER AND FASTER.**

The VA is reducing the paperwork and expediting the process for veterans seeking compensation for disabilities related to their military service as part of an effort to break the backlog of claims. The VA has shortened application forms to reduce this paperwork. The new forms are available at [www.va.gov/vaforms](http://www.va.gov/vaforms). They include:

- a shortened VA Form 21-526 for veterans applying for the first time to VA for disability compensation or pension benefits. This form has been cut in half, from 23 to 10 pages. It is available to veterans via web download and through VA's online claim-filing process at [www.vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp](http://www.vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp).
- VA Form 21-526b for veterans seeking increased benefits for conditions already determined by VA to be service-connected. This NEW form more clearly describes the information needed to support claims for increased benefits.



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS AIR MOBILITY COMMAND  
JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST**

APR 1 2011

Colonel Gina M. Grosso  
Commander  
87<sup>th</sup> Air Base Wing  
2901 Falcon Lane, Suite 100  
Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ 08641

Dear Retiree

I want to personally invite you and your spouse to the Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JB MDL) Retiree Appreciation Day on April 30, 2011. Lt Col Hansen, Ret, has created an outstanding program that addresses topics relevant to you. Opening ceremonies for the day are at 10 a.m. at the McGuire Community Center. Throughout the day, you will receive information on retiree medical programs, benefit and entitlement programs, and an array of special interest programs dedicated to you and your spouse including TRICARE for Life for retirees 65 and older.

To experience the atmosphere and social surroundings of the men and women of JB MDL, lunch will be served at Halversen Hall, the McGuire dining facility. While the cost of lunch is based on an "ala carte" menu, your selection will be reasonably priced. I encourage you to take this opportunity to interact with our team and relish in our Airmen's dedication to the Air Force and the Joint Base Team. Please call the Retiree Activity Office at 609-754-2459 to reserve a seat.

Each one of you plays a vital role in our community. Our commitment to enhancing your quality of life underscores our shared commitment to families. I look forward to meeting you at this year's Retiree Appreciation Day and thank you for your tremendous service to our Nation.

Sincerely

  
GINA M. GROSSO  
Brigadier General, USAF

**UNRIVALED GLOBAL REACH FOR AMERICA...ALWAYS!**



### TRICARE YOUNG ADULT PROGRAM (TYAP)

The Department of Defense recently announced the introduction of the premium-based TRICARE Young Adult Program (TYAP) which extends medical coverage to eligible military family members to age 26. The program is expected to be in place by late spring this year. Premium costs for TYAP are not yet finalized, but the program specifies rates must cover the full cost of the program. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 required civilian health plans to offer coverage to adult children until age 26. TYAP is the TRICARE authority to provide this coverage. Dependent eligibility for TRICARE previously ended at age 21 or age 23 for full-time college students. Remember—this is a premium-based program to cover the full cost. Beginning later this spring, qualified, unmarried dependents up to age 26 will be able to purchase TRICARE coverage on a month-to-month basis—as long as they are not eligible for their own employer-sponsored health coverage. Adults who are no longer eligible for TRICARE, but need health insurance coverage, may wish to explore the Continued Health Care Benefit Program. CHCBP is a premium-based program offering temporary transitional health coverage for 18 to 36 months. Coverage must be purchased within 60 days of loss of TRICARE eligibility. You can access more information on TYAP and CHCBP at <http://www.tricare.mil/>.

### POSSIBLE COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT (COLA) NEXT YEAR

After more than two years in either a negative or stagnant status the CPI finally crept back to above zero in January 2011. Inflation rose 0.5% during the month. The COLA now stands at 0.3% as of February 2011. Barring any drop in inflation, retirees may see a modest COLA increase in 2012. We will stay in touch with the COLA movements.

### OUR EMAIL ADDRESS HAS CHANGED SLIGHTLY

Our old email address has been [mcgrao@mcguire.af.mil](mailto:mcgrao@mcguire.af.mil). It has now changed to [mcgrao@us.af.mil](mailto:mcgrao@us.af.mil). We are still receiving email under the old address, but that will change probably sooner than later. If in doubt, use both addresses.



### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We have a continuing need for volunteers in all of our Retiree Activities Office (RAO) operations. We have volunteers helping at our main RAO in the Military Personnel section, the McGuire Clinic and the McGuire Passenger Terminal. You can help yourself and your retired community by volunteering your time with as little as three hours a week. You choose the hours (morning or afternoon) and the day. It's a good way to stay up to date on what is going on at McGuire and retiree related issues. Contact us at 609 754-2459 or email to [mcgrao@mcguire.af.mil](mailto:mcgrao@mcguire.af.mil).

# RETIREE DAY SPECIAL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

1130-1530 HOURS

**HEALTH FAIR:** Comprehensive health risk screening and health information will be offered by the McGuire Clinic staff. Medical screenings such as blood pressure, cholesterol, glaucoma checks, etc, are not possible because of the inability to provide medical follow-up in case acute problems are found. Oral health screenings will be available.

**ID CARD RENEWAL:** For ID card renewal, please bring the following documents:

1. RETIREMENT ORDERS OR DD FORM 214
2. MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE (FOR SPOUSE)
3. BIRTH CERTIFICATE (FOR CHILDREN)
4. ADOPTION CERTIFICATE (IF APPROPRIATE)

ID card applicants are asked to go to the Personnel Building for ID card processing. We will provide transportation to the Personnel building and return. ID cards will be issued from 1130 to 1530 hours. The Customer Service staff greatly appreciates your cooperation. NOTE: Be sure to bring the applicable documents listed above.

**VEHICLE REGISTRATION:** You will need driver's license, vehicle registration, and proof of insurance, ID card, and DOD decal number.

## INFORMATION TABLES FOR INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONS AND ASSISTANCE:

- SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN (SBP)
- SOCIAL SECURITY & MEDICARE
- SPACE 'A' TRAVEL
- LEGAL OFFICE
- RETIRED PAY
- TRICARE
- AAFES
- COMMISSARY
- RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE
- RETIREE DECALS
- US DEPT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
- NJ BUREAU OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
- THE RETIRED ENLISTED ASSOCIATION (TREA)
- MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOC.
- RETIREE HATS, JACKETS & T-SHIRTS
- VEHICLE REGISTRATION
- BURLINGTON COUNTY VETERANS' COMMITTEE
- AARP
- UNIFORM SERVICES FAMILY HEALTH PLAN

## RETIREE HATS, JACKETS AND T-SHIRTS

Please note the additional costs for shipping that Ron has had to apply because of rising cost of goods and mailing. All products carry the embroidered retiree logo.

Golf Shirt – Price \$24.95 each plus \$5.95 S&H; T-Shirt – Price \$12.95 each plus \$5.95 S&H; Light Jacket – Price \$44.95 each plus \$5.95 S&H; Sizes for the Golf Shirt, T-Shirt, and Light Jacket are M, L, XL, XXL. Winter Hat (one size fits all) – Price \$9.95 each plus \$5.95 S&H; Summer Hat (one size fits all) – Price \$9.95 each plus \$5.95 S&H. Allow six weeks for delivery. Make checks payable to Ron Koenig and mail your order to him at 320 Red Point Drive, Smithfield, VA 23430 or call Ron at (609) 466-1008 or (908) 507-9008 (cell phones). See Ron's merchandising web site at [www.retiredairforcehats.com](http://www.retiredairforcehats.com).

## AIR FORCE RETIRED DECAL

Increasing costs over the past few years have necessitated a minimal increase in price to \$2.00 each. This is a quality product and we will continue to keep the price as low as possible. We have decals available in any number you may need. The size is 3"x5". And it's red, white and blue. The design is similar to the insignia seen on Army Air Force aircraft at the beginning of WWII, with "Air Force Retired" printed across the top. Cost of the decal is \$2.00 each.

Send your order to the Retiree Activities Office, 87 FSS/CVR, 2916 Falcon Lane, and McGuire AFB NJ 08641-5019 along with SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED BUSINESS-SIZE ENVELOPE.



## USAF RETIRED AUTOMOBILE LICENSE PLATE NEW JERSEY

This special license plate is now available in your own personalized choice. Members of the NJ retired community may still apply for our basic organizational design with the USAF coat of arms and words USAF RETIRED. In addition, our organizational plate can be issued in combination with a PERSONALIZED set from three to five letters and/or numbers, or as a COURTESY plate with a State Senator-approved letter/number sequence. The fees for these plates vary depending on your selected combination! To get instructions and application forms, send a SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED BUSINESS-SIZE ENVELOPE to Retiree Activities Office, 87 FSS/CVR, 2916 Falcon Lane, and McGuire AFB NJ 08641-5019. And PLEASE tell us which plate or combination you will be requesting! The instructions will include the plate cost and any limitations.

**DISCLAIMER:** Opinions expressed by the writers of this newsletter are their own and should not be construed to be the official position or policy of DOD, USAF, or Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. Editorial efforts have been made to assure the accuracy of the information presented; however, no absolute guarantee can be given or assumed. The Editor

Get information about your quality of life programs,  
events & services for Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst at

[www.gomdl.com](http://www.gomdl.com)