



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

Alumni Report

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE,
MCGUIRE AFB RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE

Summer 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



33rd ANNUAL RETIREE GOLF TOURNAMENT.

The date for the retiree golf tournament is 17 SEP 2011. We are looking forward to another fine tournament this year and urge all of you golfers (and duffers) to come out and enjoy a great day of golf. The entry fee for this year is \$30.00 per person plus greens fees if you are not an annual member of the McGuire Golf Course, plus the cost of a shared power cart if you will be riding. The entry fee

includes prizes, buffet lunch and refreshments. We are continuing the individual competition by flights, with full handicaps with the USGA maximum of 36. Handicaps will be verified before play by your official handicap card issued by your home course. If you do not have your handicap card with you, you will be placed in the PEORIA flight. When we say official handicap, we mean one that is on record, current and can be verified at the golf course maintaining the handicap. If you don't have an official handicap, please enter NONE on your entry block. Golf carts will be reserved on a request basis. There will be a tournament check-in table. To simplify the check-in process, payment of greens fees and payment of cart fees, we are requesting that you pay all charges when you send in your entry form. In this way, there will be no waiting in line to pay fees. Just make sure you make out your check or money order to cover ALL CHARGES. The fee schedule is as follows: ENTRY FEE \$30.00; MILITARY GREENS FEE \$20.00; SENIOR (over 65) MILITARY GREENS FEE \$18.00 (proof of age required); CIVILIAN GREENS FEE \$30.00; SHARED POWER CART \$14.00. Advance annual greens fees payers at McGuire will not pay greens fees. The McGuire golf course is a non-metal spike course. Only soft spike shoes are permitted.

SHOTGUN START AT 0830 SHARP! (Entry Form on page 3.)

COST OF LIVING UPDATE (COLA).

The cost of living continues to increase this year. Inflation increased 0.5 percent in the month of May. This marks the ninth consecutive month the Consumer Price Index (CPI) has risen. With four months left in the fiscal year, cumulative inflation stands at 3.4 percent. If the trend continues, it appears there could be a substantial 2012 COLA.



REMOVING YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER FROM YOUR RETIRED MILITARY ID CARD.

As most of you are aware, the Department of Defense has authorized removal of your social security number (SSN) from your ID card. It is a simple procedure and takes only a few minutes. You can go to any ID card issuing agency of the military services at your convenience. Once you take the step, that important number is no longer available to anyone handling your ID card. Another advantage is that you will have a nice new retiree ID card. Military dependents can also have the social security number removed from their ID cards. However, dependents must wait until they are renewing their ID to request the removal. The reason for the difference between the military retiree and dependents is that the retiree's ID card doesn't have an expiration date while the dependents ID card has an expiration date.



TRICARE HOME DELIVERY INITIATIVE.

TRICARE Management Activity and Express Scripts, Inc. are mailing home delivery education

“alert” letters to promote pharmacy home delivery. Switching from retail pharmacy to home delivery saves beneficiaries the inconvenience of picking up their prescriptions from the pharmacy and saves them 66 percent per prescription. Home delivery is also cheaper for TRICARE. Beneficiaries switching from retail pharmacy to home delivery saved the DOD \$30 million in 2010. TRICARE and Express Scripts, Inc. are aggressively promoting home delivery. The more TRICARE beneficiaries learn about pharmacy home delivery, the more they take advantage of the benefits. For more information about home delivery, visit www.tricare.mil/homedelivery. To sign up for home delivery, beneficiaries should go to Express Scripts' website at www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE or call the TRICARE Member Choice Center at 877 262-3390. For more retiree news and information, please visit www.retirees.af.mil.

CRITICAL-VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT MCGUIRE CLINIC.

You choose the hours and the day. You can volunteer and we will do the rest. If interested, contact us at (609) 754-2459, email us at mcgrao@us.af.mil, or mail us: 87 FSS/CVR; 2916 Falcon Lane; ATTN: McGuire Retiree Activities Office, Room 14; McGuire AFB, NJ 08641-5019.



WALGREENS VERSUS TRICARE:

On June 21st Walgreens pharmacy announced it had broken off negotiations to renew a contract with TRICARE Retail Pharmacy's contractor, Express Scripts, Inc. Walgreens is the largest TRICARE network pharmacy. What does this mean to TRICARE beneficiaries who use Walgreens? For the near term, Walgreens will continue to fill prescriptions for TRICARE patients at least until Jan 1, 2012. At that point, if both sides are unable to an agreement, TRICARE Pharmacy no longer will be available at Walgreens. If it comes to that, TRICARE advises that other Pharmacies are close by and probably within a half mile of a Walgreens. We will monitor the situation.

DOCTOR APPOINTMENTS.

To make the most of your doctor appointments you have to be part of the dialogue. It should not be a monologue on the part of the doctor. Here are some tips on making the most of your appointment. PACE yourself and here is some important guidance:

Provide information for how you feel. What symptoms are you having and how often? What are you doing to alleviate them?

Ask questions. Write them down ahead of time and take notes on the answers.

Clarify what you hear. Repeat what you think the doctor is telling you.

Express your concerns. If you are uneasy with any of the information your doctor gives you, speak up. Alternative treatments may be available.



WILLOW GROVE RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE: UPDATE.

Naval Air Station JRB Willow Grove closed this spring. The 111th Air National Guard will remain with several Army Reserve and National Guard units. The USAF Retiree Activities Office has combined operations with the former Navy RAO. They are located in the 111th PAANG Headquarters,

Building 203, room 154, and can be reached at (215) 443-1072 . The Customer Service Office which processes ID cards, CAC cards, and other related military personnel services is located in Room 118, phone – (215) 443-1568 . DOD vehicle stickers are available at the base security building. Call (215) 443-1077 to inquire about the documents required which are needed to process a request for a DOD vehicle sticker.

DECADE OF CHANGE.

The Pentagon recently released its FY 2010 Statistical Report on the Military Retirement System. These are a few highlights of how some statistics have changed since FY 2001: (Note the increase in dollars)

Regular, non-disability retirees:

FY 2001, 1.37 million received retired pay of \$28.3 billion;

FY 2010, 1.47 million received retired pay of \$40.2 billion.

Military disability retirees:

FY 2001, 98,000 received retired pay of \$1.3 billion; FY 2010, 93,000



received retired pay of \$1.38 billion.

Survivors:

FY 2001, 259,000 received annuity pay of \$1.96 billion; FY 2010, 294,000 received annuity pay of \$3.65 billion.

Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) participation rate among newly retiring service-members:

FY 2001 – 68 percent; FY 2010 – 81 percent

SBP premium receipts versus SBP benefit payments

FY 2001 Retirees paid \$995 million in premiums; survivors received \$1.92 billion in annuities

FY 2010 Retirees paid \$1.14 billion in premiums; survivors received \$3.63 billion in annuities.



TRICARE RETIREE DENTAL PROGRAM. (TRDP).

Monthly premium rates for enrollees in the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) are set to undergo a slight adjustment on October 1, 2011, the beginning of the fourth year of the current five-year contract.

Current enrollees in the Enhanced TRDP can go online anytime to check their specific monthly regional premium rate (new rates for Enhanced Program enrollees will be available on the website by September 1). Enrollees who remain in the Basic Program will need to call 888-838-8737 to find out their new rates for the contract year October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012.

Visit the Tricare Retiree Dental Program website at <http://trdp.org> where you can view their quarterly newsletter, receive tips on dental health issues, and get answers to many of your questions.

CHAINED CPI.

The chained CPI, as it is commonly known, is the Chained Consumer Price Index for Urban Consumers (C-CPI-U). It is a less generous formula for counting inflation, and thus would reduce the COLA beneficiaries receive. Specifically, the chained CPI grows at a slower rate because it assumes that as prices go up, consumers switch to cheaper products

If implemented, the chained CPI would cut both retired pay and social security benefits more with each passing year. After ten years, average retiree benefits from social security alone will be cut by about \$600 a year, and after 20 years they will be cut by about \$1,000 a year, according to Social Security Works' analysis of the Chief Actuary's estimates. And to get the savings in the next decade that politicians are surely seeking, the chained CPI would begin almost immediately falling on current and future retirees alike. We emphasize that the CHAINED CPI is not an actuality yet, but the subject has been raised by some members of Congress. Check with your elected officials to express your feelings and concerns on this subject.



FY 2012 DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL (S.1253).

The U.S. Armed Services Committee has passed their version of this legislation, which includes a range of personnel and compensation initiatives. Here is a brief list of these initiatives: a. 1.6% pay raise for active duty; b. limitation that the percentage increase in TRICARE Prime fees for FY 2013 and future years will not exceed the percentage increases in military retired pay;

c. permission for modest increases in TRICARE fees for FY 2012, TRICARE Prime enrollment fees for FY 2012 would rise from \$230 to \$260 for single and from \$460 to \$520 for families, retail pharmacy would rise \$2 or \$3, depending on the medication; co-payments for generic drugs purchased via the TRICARE mail order system would be eliminated; d. requirement that future Uniformed Services Family Health Plan (USFHP) enrollees who turn age 65 transition to Medicare and TRICARE for Life (TFL). **SPECIAL NOTE:** This provision applies to NEW enrollees in FY 2012 and future years; ALL current enrollees are GRANDFATHERED. As this newsletter goes to press, we have no specific schedule for consideration by the full Senate. The House of Representatives also has its version of the Bill. The specific contents of the bill can change as both houses consider their version. We will keep you advised on its progress.

members, sponsors, military retirees, their family members and others eligible for military benefits. Mistakes or outdated information in DEERS can cause problems with a TRICARE beneficiary's claims. For example, retail network pharmacies check TRICARE eligibility through DEERS, and prescriptions are filled only for beneficiaries listed as DEERS eligible. Your DEERS data can be updated in several different ways, which include: in person at a military ID card issuing facility, online, and by phone, fax or mail. Beneficiaries can contact DEERS at 800 538-9552 if you have questions. The McGuire RAO has a listing of the nearby ID card issuing facilities in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York State.

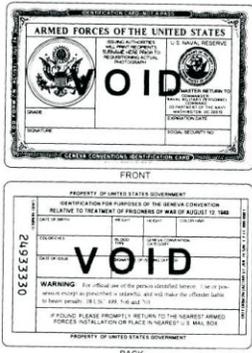
QUALITY of LIFE

Oktoberfest 2011



Celebrate Oktoberfest at JB MDL on Friday, September 23 at John Mann Park starting at 4:30 pm. Celebrate this annual German tradition with authentic German food, German music and, of course, German beer. Musical entertainment is provided by the Hofbrauhaus German Quintet featuring German folk, Polka and yodeling. Call 609-754-2830 for more information.

Quality of life information: www.gomdl.com



KEEP YOUR DEFENSE ENROLLMENT ELIGIBILITY REPORTING SYSTEM (DEERS) RECORDS UP TO DATE.

Life events such as moving, death, divorce or simply having a child go off to college are milestone in family lives that require DEERS updates. Keeping your DEERS records current means uninterrupted access to the TRICARE health system. DEERS is the worldwide computer data base of uniformed service

ENTRY BLANK FOR THE 33rd ANNUAL RETIREES GOLF TOURNAMENT, 17 SEPTEMBER 2011

NAME _____ RANK _____ PHONE _____ (include area code)
 ADDRESS _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Enter ALL tournament information for ALL players (including the name entered above) in the appropriate space below. Please enter the dollar amounts as necessary.

NAME _____ RANK _____ HANDICAP _____ GOLF COURSE _____
 Entry fee _____ Military greens fee _____ Senior greens fee _____ Civilian greens fee _____ Shared cart _____ Total _____

NAME _____ RANK _____ PHONE _____ (include area code)
 Entry fee _____ Military greens fee _____ Senior greens fee _____ Civilian greens fee _____ Shared cart _____ Total _____

NAME _____ RANK _____ HANDICAP _____ GOLF COURSE _____
 Entry fee _____ Military greens fee _____ Senior greens fee _____ Civilian greens fee _____ Shared cart _____ Total _____

NAME _____ RANK _____ HANDICAP _____ GOLF COURSE _____
 Entry fee _____ Military greens fee _____ Senior greens fee _____ Civilian greens fee _____ Shared cart _____ Total _____

TOTAL NUMBER OF GOLF RESERVATIONS _____ TOTAL AMOUNT PAID FOR ALL ENTRANTS _____

NOTE: TOTAL COST FOR ALL FEES FOR MILITARY PLAYERS WILL BE \$64.00, FOR SENIORS OVER 65 \$62.00, FOR CIVILIANS \$74.00. IF YOU PLAN TO WALK, REDUCE THE FEES BY \$14.00 AND ENTER WALK IN THE SHARED CART BLANK. Advance annual greens fees payers at McGuire will not pay greens fees.

Make checks payable to: Retiree Activities Office. MAIL YOUR ENTRY BLANK AND PAYMENT TO: Retiree Activities Office, 87FSS/CVR, 2916 Falcon Lane, McGuire AFB NJ 08641-5019. You may also sign up and pay at the golf course or the Retiree Activities Office. Be sure to indicate whom you want in your group. **We will have a SHOTGUN START AT 0830 SHARP.**

Be sure to include your telephone number and complete address.

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING McGuire ACCESS: Non-military guests (without military ID cards) must be in your car with you and have a photo ID card (driver's license or similar ID). If your guests must drive their own vehicle you must stop at the McGuire Visitors Center (the building before reaching the gate) with your guest and obtain a visitors pass for them and their vehicle.

RETIREE HATS, JACKETS AND T-SHIRTS.

Please note that Ron has had to increase costs and has a new mailing address and telephone numbers. His email address remains the same. All products carry the embroidered retiree logo. Golf Shirt – Price \$26.95 each plus \$6.00 S&H; T-Shirt – Price \$13.95 each plus \$6.00 S&H; Light Jacket – Price \$49.95 each plus \$6.00 S&H; Sizes for the Golf Shirt, T-Shirt, and Light Jacket are M, L, XL; size XXL jacket price \$51.95. Winter Hat (one size fits all) – Price \$16.00 each plus \$2.00 S&H; Summer Hat (one size fits all) – Price \$16.00 each plus \$2.00 S&H. 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 (cell phone) or (908) 507-9008 (cell phone). Email: rokoenig@retiredairforcehats.com See Ron's web site at 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, McGuire AFB NJ 08641-5004.



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, McGuire AFB NJ 08641-5004. 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 McGuire Air Force Base. 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