



## JEFFERSON BARRACKS SATELLITE RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE NEWSWIRE JUNE 2010

*The Volunteer staff of the Jefferson Barracks Satellite Retiree Activities Office publishes this NEWSWIRE to inform all military retirees, spouses, widows, widowers and their families of changes to their benefits, the status of current legislation impacting their retirement, health related information, defense policies and other matters affecting their military rights, benefits and other obligations. It contains information about Scott AFB; Jefferson Barracks AFS and the local retiree community.*

### **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR JUNE**

**10 June Thursday**—1300 Hours, Scott RAO monthly council meeting: Located at 215 Heritage Drive, Building P-10, Room A-209. The meeting includes reports from committee chairmen and other directors generally related to Scott AFB activities and services. Updated reports from the Lambert/ St. Louis RAO and the Jefferson Barracks Satellite Retiree Activities Office (JBSRAO) are part of the meeting agenda.

**17 JUNE Thursday** --- Monthly luncheon 1100 Hrs. **O'Charley's 4130 Rusty Rd. St Louis, MO 63128** (314) 845-8200. The restaurant is located just north of South County Costco Store, Lindbergh Blvd and Rusty Rd.

### **DFAS on Facebook**

For those of you using one or more of the social interaction sites on the Internet, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service has expanded its online presence with the launch of its first foray into social networking. Now available through Facebook, the agency is reaching out to its six million payroll customers, DoD vendors and other interested groups to improve public understanding of DFAS operations, create a better relationship with its customers and enhance its customer service. DFAS customers associated family members and other interested individuals are invited and encouraged to join [DFAS on Facebook](#).

### **Ohio Rep. Pushes "Gray Area" TRICARE**

Source: NGAUS

Representative Robert Latta, R-Ohio, is urging Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates to implement the provision of last year's National Defense Authorization Act that would provide TRICARE coverage for "gray area" retirees of the reserve component.

Latta sponsored the legislation that would allow reserve component retirees under the age 60 to buy TRICARE Standard health coverage. In the letter, the lawmaker notes that the law went into effect in October 2009 and

there is still is no implementation date, despite the law's intent to make the coverage available "in a timely (manner)."

I am requesting that you implement this provision ... promptly," he wrote.

Earlier, the date of Oct.1 for implementation was being discussed, but Latta's letter seems to put that date in doubt.

## **Is Anybody There? Does Anybody Care?**

Source: Scott AFB Retirees Activities Office

Lawmakers have struggled to try and reach an agreement on legislation that would stop a 21.2 percent cut in the Medicare and TRICARE payments to doctors on June 1. June 1 has passed. History shows the same story for April1 rather than June 1. In April the lawmakers made such laws retroactive to April 1. The House considered a scaled-back, \$23 billion package that would delay these cuts for 19 months. The Senate did nothing and will not take up this bill until after its 7-day Memorial Day recess.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has instructed its contractors to hold claims containing services paid under the Medicare physician fee schedule for the first 10 business days of June---to give Congress additional time to correct the impending threat. The TRICARE Management Activity is expected to follow suit to process the delays.

Missing the deadline for the third straight time in as many months won't bode well for doctors or patients. Physicians have become weary of the increasing number of short-term patches applied by Congress rather than a long term solution. Some are already limiting the number of patients who use these programs and for military retirees. The end result will be decreased access, reduced quality, or higher costs to military retirees and their families for the benefits they earned in their career service. Likewise patients are concerned with losing access to the doctors they want and are frustrated with Congressional inability to prioritize their work or correct the problem in a timely manner.

## **Heart Health Information Helps Beneficiaries**

*TMA Press Release* – TRICARE is helping beneficiaries stay healthy by providing them with educational materials on how they can reduce their chances of developing heart disease, the leading causes of death in America. The term heart disease includes several specific heart conditions, the most common being congestive heart failure or a heart attack. Although heart disease is typically perceived as a disease that mainly affects men, it is the leading cause of death among women. Two-thirds of women who die suddenly from coronary heart disease show no previous symptoms. Many women that do not show symptoms are at-risk.

To educate beneficiaries, TRICARE and the regional health care contractors have posted a range of educational materials online. One area that each website focuses on is the risk factors associated with developing heart disease. Several risk factors for heart disease include smoking, physical inactivity, high blood pressure, excessive alcohol use, high cholesterol and glucose levels and a diet low in fruits and vegetables. The Military Health System and regional websites also include information relating to the symptoms and stages of heart disease, prognoses for a chronic condition, treatment options and tips for healthy living.

Only a medical professional can properly determine the risk for developing heart disease. Once beneficiaries have read through the information online, he or she can schedule a doctor's appointment to discuss possible risk factors, and, if necessary, a course of treatment. To learn more about heart health, beneficiaries can visit the [Military Health System](#) or their regional contractor's website which are listed below. Another helpful resource is the CDC at [Centers for Disease Control](#).

[Health Net Federal Services](#) (North Region)

[Humana Military Healthcare Services](#) (South Region)

[TriWest Healthcare Alliance](#) (West Region)

## **FREE Military Handbooks for Active and Retired U.S. Military Personnel**

Source: COL (R) William Johnson, Retiree Chairman, Missouri National Guard Association

### 2010 Base Installation Directory

The Base Installation Directory provides contact information for every military installation in the United States. From information about military housing to the commissary to the base dental clinic, you'll find the contact number and addresses you need in one easy to access guide.

### 2010 U.S. Military Retired Handbook

The United States Military Retired Handbook is designed to help all U.S. Military personnel who have retired – or who are planning to retire. This unique guide covers everything from the nuts and bolts of computing your Retirement Pay to the detailed explanations of retired military Healthcare, TRICARE, Social Security, VA, SBP, taxes, insurance, travel, survivor benefits and much more!

### Veterans Healthcare Benefits

This unique handbook, written for veterans, gives you everything you need to know about: how to apply, veterans service centers, choosing a facility, changing a facility, second opinions, prescriptions, dental care, chiropractic care, non-VA care, travel, POW benefits, appeals, grievances, confidentiality, financial issues, means testing, hardship determinations, waivers, medication co-payments, health insurance and a complete listing of VA facilities.

**NOTE:** All of our handbooks are available in electronic format and can be viewed online or downloaded for future reference. **If you wish to purchase a printed copy of a handbook, [visit our store by clicking here](#) or write;** Military Handbooks, 7200 NW 86th Street, Kansas City, MO 64153 **Tel:** 800-955-2527

## **ID Card and the Social Security Number**

The removal of social security numbers from the identification card (ID) is on hold. Phase 2 of the process to remove printed social security numbers from the retiree identification cards set to begin early this year has been delayed until further notice. When a new plan is made available to the services, information will be advertized through the Air Force retiree news outlets and other public affairs media.

## **Making History in Missouri - The Missouri Civil War Museum**

*By Gary Stevens, Missouri Civil War Museum*

A unique historic preservation project is underway at Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis County. The Missouri Civil War Museum (MCWM) organization was incorporated in 2002 as a not-for-profit educational institution to establish a new museum and library dedicated to Missouri's role in the American Civil War.

Nine years in the making, the museum is now 70 percent complete. The project includes a 16,000 square foot museum in the historic 1905 Post Exchange & Gymnasium Building as well as a 6,000 square foot research library in the 1918 Post Exchange Building next door. The MCWM already has a collection of hundreds of artifacts and more than 3,000 books.

The site at Jefferson Barracks was chosen because of the opportunity to save a historic building from demolition and for its military significance. The 1905 Post Exchange and Gymnasium Building had been abandoned since 1946 and was suffering from decades of neglect and decay. Jefferson Barracks, founded in 1826, is the oldest active military installation west of the Mississippi River. Some 220 Civil War generals served there before the war and it was one of the largest hospital complexes in the North or South during the war. There are 16,000 Civil War veterans buried at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery.

The Post Exchange Building was designed by the Federal government's Quartermaster Department in 1903 and built in 1905. The building was equipped with a full-size gymnasium, elevated running track, barbershop, indoor pistol range, and two-lane bowling alley. In addition, it had a small store, kitchen area, recreational rooms, athletic locker room, and a library.

The building was actively used by the U.S. Army until 1946. Over the next five decades, the building changed ownership from the Federal government then to the state, and finally in 1988, to St. Louis County. Although the building had multiple governmental owners, none of them were able to maintain the historic building and it fell into dangerous disrepair.

In 2002, the MCWM got involved and began the long and extensive historic restoration of the Post Exchange Building in an attempt to save it from destruction and create a new adaptive reuse as a museum and library educational complex.

In keeping with the building's historic integrity and working from copies of the original blueprints, the goal of the restoration is to retrofit new improvements around the building's original details. The roof was repaired in 2004. The crown molding, soffit, and fascia have all been restored. Plastering is nearly complete on three floors and ceiling medallions have been installed. The beautiful stained glass windows at the center of the grand staircase were restored in April 2010.

More than one million dollars of entirely private funds have already been invested in the project. With only a couple of hundred thousand dollars still needed to open the museum, the historic restoration is hoped to be completed in 2011.

If you would like to learn more about the establishment of the nation's newest Civil War museum and library and ways you can get involved, please visit us at [www.mcwm.org](http://www.mcwm.org).

**Note from the Editor:** Mark Trout, Gary Stevens and the MCWM volunteers are to be commended for their brilliant efforts in restoring a wonderful building and bringing a piece of our country's gallant history for all of us to enjoy.

Furthermore, the JBSRAO would like to thank Gary for he has graciously offered to contribute more interesting articles to future Newswires.

## **The Impending "Do Ask, Do Tell" Reexamination**

Source: Lt Col Dan Tulley, USAF

It is almost as though someone pressed "Play" on the nation's Tivo after 17 years. Since Admiral Mike Mullen's Congressional testimony, the question "should gay people be allowed to serve openly in the military?" has hit the national conversation once again with stunning effect.

The question is truly out there for the first time since President Clinton's "Don't ask, don't tell" in 1993. We can smile confidently knowing that if nothing else, our imperfect yet better-than-most democracy is once again working its magic.

Or is it? Other than the nation's most senior uniformed member, joined last week by the other service chiefs, who in the military has voiced an opinion? A quick check of op-ed pages and Sunday talk shows reveals conspicuously absent from the conversation are the voices of perhaps the most relevant...our men and women in uniform.

Do ask, and do tell. Don't ask our service members whether they are gay, but rather how they feel about gays serving openly. Don't ask just gays, ask everyone wearing the uniform. Let them tell our decision makers their thoughts and opinions on performance, cohesion, readiness, discipline, morale and more. Let them help us determine whether these are truly fundamental issues of concern. As any good leader knows, your people will surprise you with what they come up with.

No, the military is not a democracy. Of course, its members will faithfully execute any decision. There should be no expectation that all military decisions are transparent down through the chain of command. Allowing the voices of those most affected to be heard is not typically associated with military culture. Ironically, *in this instance* it might just be the key to getting it right.

While many of our current senior leaders were just entering the field grades or executive ranks, the majority of our current military population was not yet old enough for service during President Clinton's first term. As Admiral Mullen and General Colin Powell have alluded to, there can be broad shifts in society over a 17-year period. It is critical we accurately assess the impact of any changes on the younger majority of our military.

Is uniformed military service a right or a privilege? African Americans, women, and immigrant non-citizens have all faced related challenges in different contexts. Maybe the issue of moral conduct expressed by Gen (ret) Peter Pace in 2007 is most relevant, or the issue of integrity expressed by Admiral Mullen. Does the current policy force gays to lie? Our all-volunteer military has been very clear in its policies over the last century.

My intent is not to take a side in this debate. When you raise your right hand and take the oath, you need to understand what it is you're getting into. The same holds true for policy changes. Who is permitted to serve, how, and under what circumstances must be carefully balanced with the requirement to maintain an effective military force capable of defending our national interests.

The services could employ one or a combination of options to assess the views of their members. Surveys, focus groups, and independent consultants would all accomplish part of the objective, however they likely would not translate the honesty and forthright opinions this issue demands. Perhaps more broadly, a specific DoD policy could be authored: Encourage members to participate professionally in the public debate while protecting them from career-damaging repercussions.

Several criteria should be applied as the services go to their deliberations. First, the opinions of current members should not be confused with those of veterans. The voices of our veterans are no less important, they simply constitute a different point of view. While opinions of retired leaders such as General Powell are very relevant, they do not accurately reflect the thoughts and opinions of the majority of our armed forces, or other veterans for that matter.

Second, opinions should not be filtered by the chain of command. Before Private Jones tells his commander he supports gays serving openly, he will likely give some thought to where his commander stands on the same issue. After all, the commander has almost complete control over Jones' promotions, future assignments, and every other aspect of his career.

Finally, opinions must be presented professionally and with respect. Members must be held accountable if they fail to uphold the high standards of our diverse military.

No doubt, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and the Joint Chiefs are aware of larger implications such as foreign military partnerships and personnel costs. They are also well aware the most profound outcomes could be more tacit than explicit, more unintended than desired. As they wrestle with these issues, we should commend their pragmatic desire to fully and deliberately assess the implications of any potential change.

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 2027 is serving right now, and will inherit a force impacted by this debate. Without compromising good order and discipline, we need to ensure an accurate assessment of the impact on that force is made known to policy makers.

*Lt Col Daniel Tulley is currently an Air Force Fellow attending the Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy, Tufts University, Boston. The views expressed here are solely those of the author and may not reflect the policies of the US Air Force or the Department of Defense.*

**Note from the Editor:** Don't ask, don't tell is one of the most important issues facing our military today. It's very emotional for some and the rhetoric at times is out of line with how we resolve issues in this country. I know this article may not pertain to retiree issues but we, the retired, have a vested interest in what our former military *brothers* and *sisters* are facing with this important issue.

I felt that Lt Col Dan Tulley did an excellent job pointing out how both sides of the issue should be respected and what is best for this country to have a cohesive military in the future.

*There is no room in this country for hyphenated Americanism.... The one absolutely certain way of bringing this nation to ruin, of preventing all possibility of its continuing to be a nation at all, would be to permit it to become a tangle of squabbling nationalities.*

**Theodore Roosevelt**

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### STILL SERVING

73, Jerry

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NEWSWIRE JUNE 2010

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