



## JEFFERSON BARRACKS SATELLITE RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE NEWSWIRE MAY 2010

*The staff of the Jefferson Barracks Satellite Retiree Activities Office publishes the NEWSWIRE. This publication is designed to directly 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 and of activities at Scott AFB and Jefferson Barracks AFS.*

### **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR MAY**

**13 May 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.

**20 May Thursday** --- Monthly luncheon 1100 Hrs. **Riverside Café** 7704 Ivory Ave, St Louis MO 314-544-7711. Directions: From I-55 (North) Exit right to Left on Germania to Alabama/Lemay Ferry – turn left to Ivory Ave: From I-55 (South) Exit right on to right on Carondelet to Alabama/Lemay Ferry-Turn left to Ivory Ave. Make sure to go under train trestle. Be a little early, parking on the street is at a premium.

### **Volunteers are Needed**

Source: by: TSgt Mathew McGovern, Defense Media Activity- San Antonio- Air Force News Service

Retiree activities office members currently need volunteers at more than 100 offices at active-duty, Reserve and Guard bases worldwide.

“All the retiree activities office are suffering for a new group of people to volunteer because the core of (the current volunteers) are getting sick, getting older and or passing away,” said Patricia Peek, the chief of Air Force retirees services. “None of the retiree activities offices have a surplus of people; we need their time, their efforts and their talents at these offices.”

Volunteer opportunities for retired military and their family members occur in several areas, depending on the base. Most bases have openings in areas like the hospital, clinic, pharmacy administration sections; thrift shops; legal offices; family support centers and the retiree activities office itself.

Retired Master Sgt. Joseph Rowen has volunteered in the retiree activities office at Travis AFB, CA, for more than 25 years.

"If I didn't like it, I wouldn't be here as long as I have," Sergeant Rowen said. Giving back to the Air Force by helping others and showing people where they can give back is what's enjoyable about volunteering."

Retiree activities office volunteers assist with several actions including: serving as an information center for space-available travel, Tricare and base services; offering referrals for financial assistance and pay matters; counseling active-duty Airman nearing retirement; and providing literature on retirement issues.

"Anybody can be beneficial to a retiree activities office, it mainly takes the right attitude and the right feeling about retiree," said retired Lt. Gen. Steven R. Polk, co-chairman of the Air Force Retiree Council.

During a recent retiree activities office area meeting, General Polk said he had an opportunity to witness the dedicated people working as retiree activities office volunteers and was impressed with their enthusiasm. He hopes it's contagious.

"I think it's important for each of us individually to stay engaged (after retirement) to keep our mind working and to stay busy. Volunteering is one way we can do that later in life," the general said.

"We've all benefited from our time on active duty, and we've benefited from the training and education that were provided. During that phase of life where we do have some time to give back volunteering, it can be very rewarding to do that." he said.

"This is the Year of the Air Force Family and that family includes not only our active duty, but it includes our civil service, our contractors, our family members and it includes our retirees. So the motto of the retirees is 'still serving' so where a base needs help, it's important for volunteers to provide that help.

**To volunteer please call the RAOs' at Scott AFB 618-256-5092; Jefferson Barracks 314-527-8212.**

## **Tricare Affirmations Act Signed into Law**

President Obama signed legislation on April 27, 2010 that is intended to protect military members from being penalized for not having private insurance.

The new law provides a specific exemption for Tricare beneficiaries from a requirement of the health care reform law that will require people without "minimal health coverage" to either buy private insurance or face a penalty.

Rep. Ike Skelton, D-MO, the House Armed Services Committee chairman and a key sponsor of the TRICARE Affirmation Act, said he hopes this resolves questions by military members, retirees and their families about how national health reform might affect them.

Signing the new law" reinforces that military health care coverage will not be adversely affected by the health care reform law" he said.

## **Marriage Reporting**

**Retirees must report all marriages to DFAS.** Retirees who marry for the first time, or who later re-marry, must notify the Defense Department Finance and Accounting Service to properly establish their desired Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) coverage within one year of the new marriage.

Getting a military dependent identification card and entering the new spouse in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS), does not update pay records at DFAS or trigger SBP coverage. A retiree, who was married at retirement and declined SBP spouse coverage, cannot later enroll in the plan on behalf of that spouse or any future spouse unless during a Congressional approved open enrollment period. Enrollments during open season normally result in penalties and extra charges.

Retirees who originally elected SBP coverage for the previous spouse must send DFAS a copy of the marriage certificate together with:

- ♦ A properly completed DD Form 2656-6 Survivor Benefit Plan Election Change Certificate
- ♦ Retirees who were not married when they retired may elect SBP for the spouse they marry after retiring, but the DD Form 2656-6 must be received by DFAS before their anniversary.

Documents should be sent to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, US Military Retirement Pay, PO Box 7130, London, KY 48742-7130

For more information, visit the SBP portion of the Air Force Retiree web site at [www.retirees.af.mil](http://www.retirees.af.mil)

## **SBP-Death of a Spouse**

*Source: Arlene Love, Capt USAF Ret.*

Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) spouse coverage upon notification to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS). A retiree whose spouse predeceases him/her needs to write a brief cover letter indicating name and social; security number and mail it with the death certificate to DFAS, US Military Retirement Pay, PO Box 7130, London, KY 40742-7130 or fax the death certificate and identifying information to 800-469-6559. The SBP will be suspended and will be restarted for a new spouse upon remarriage on the first anniversary date unless the retired member indicates in writing he/she does not wish it to start for the new spouse. Retirees who notified DFAS of the death of a spouse and had the SBP suspended but later remarried without notifying DFAS were surprised to find they owed back premiums from the first anniversary date of the remarriage.

DDVORCE-If a retired member divorces, his/hers spouse is no longer eligible for spouse coverage in which case it is suspended upon notification to DFAS. However, some divorce decrees mandate the retiree name the former spouse as beneficiary under the SBP, or the member can voluntarily name the former spouse as beneficiary.

More information is available at [www.retirees.af.mil](http://www.retirees.af.mil)

## **Former Spouses Protection Act (FSPA)**

*Source: Arlene Love, Capt. USAF Ret.*

Any military member, activity duty, Reserve, Guard or retired and his/her spouse who contemplating, or are involved in a divorce need to get the correct information as to what the law does and does not allow before beginning negotiations. Perhaps the biggest misconception is that the FSPA mandates the former spouse receive 50% of the member's retired pay. **The law does not mandate the division of retired pay in a divorce-it allows state courts to consider the retired pay as jointly earned property** which cannot be divided more than 50%. The same applies to any retirement earned by either spouse. **The right of a former spouse to health care, or a renewable four year ID card cannot be determined by the court as it is spelled out in the FSPA.** To be eligible for a four year ID card, the former spouse must have been married to the member for 20 years, the member must have a minimum 20 years of qualifying service and overlap between marriage and the service must be a minimum of 20 years. This is called the 20-20 rule. A former spouse who is married for 20 years to the member who has 20 years qualifying service but the marriage overlaps by less than 20 years but more than 15 years is entitled to one year of health care if he/she does not have an employer sponsored health coverage.

If the member is retired and has the Survivor Benefit Plan, he/she can be ordered to continue it and to name the spouse as the former spouse beneficiary. If the member is ordered to name a former spouse beneficiary, it must be done within one year of the date of the divorce or it is unenforceable. Therefore, the former spouses who have been awarded the SBP are advised to make a "deemed election" to ensure that the one year deadline is met. The military member is responsible for seeing that the ID card of the former spouse is turned

in and DEERS notified of the change in family. **Please understand that this is a sketchy overview of some of the most common concerns encountered and does not cover all legal aspect of the FSPA.**

Engage an attorney who is familiar with the specifics of the FSPA.

## **Legal Office**

As a retired military member, you are entitled to legal assistance from the Scott AFB Legal Office. Some of the legal documents and services that are offered include Wills, Powers of Attorney, Notaries, and Legal Assistance and Advice. It is important to realize the extensive assistance the legal office provides the retired community.

The services offered are quite valuable and free! One of the main services the Legal Office is the drafting and execution (notarized signing) of a Will. If you have not executed a Will by the time of your passing, your family members may face difficulties in talking care of your estate. A will gives you peace of mind knowing that your appointed Executor and/or family members will be able to take care of your estate on the way you intended.

Additionally, the Legal Office can provide you with a Power of Attorney, which gives a specific person the ability to take care of a task for you, in your absence. Powers of Attorney include a General Power of Attorney or a more specific Special Powers of Attorney. Special Powers of Attorney typically empower someone you trust with the ability to handle a very specific task or transaction for you --- say, selling a home, or registering a vehicle, or working with DFAS.

Legal Office can also provide you with the service of a Notary. They have Notaries for Illinois, Missouri and Notaries authorized by federal statute.

Lastly, the Legal Office can provide you with legal assistance and advice, which is offered to help those with legal questions. Maybe you have questions about a lease, debts, family issues, or something else. Please remember that they cannot represent anyone in a court of law or in writing, but as a retired member of the military, you are entitled to free advice on civil matters.

The Judge Advocate are located in the top floor of the 375 Airlift Wing Headquarters Building, building P-3. It is the first large building on the left after turning at the 3-way stop sign at the Scott Field Historical Gate.

\*\* Due to limited parking around the building, please call 618-256-3542 ahead of time to make special arrangements if you need to reserve a handicap space.

### **Notary/Powers of Attorney/Claims:**

Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tuesdays & Thursdays

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### **Legal Assistance (see attorney) Walk-Ins:**

Mondays

1 to 2 p.m.

Wednesdays & Fridays

8 to 9 a.m.

## **New AF Dining Program Opens Doors for Retirees**

Source: 1st Lt. Gina Vaccaro McKeen, Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs, (AFRNS)

Thanks to the Air Force's Food Transformation Initiative, retirees at six bases will soon be able to use military food service establishments previously reserved for active-duty Airmen.

Retirees will pay the same market price as everyone else, and there will not be an added surcharge on top of the menu price.

The six Air Force bases participating in the initiative are Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, Patrick AFB, Fla., MacDill AFB, Fla., Fairchild AFB, Wash., Little Rock AFB, Ark., and Travis AFB, Calif.

This pilot program not only opens food establishments to all members of the base community, but customers will also see changes to food and beverage options, resulting in greater quality and variety, said Air Force Services Agency officials.

Diners will see an overall increase in the variety and availability of healthy menu options on base.

With FTI, the Air Force is changing the way it delivers food in order to meet the needs of today's Airmen. For the past 60 years, the Air Force has been feeding Airmen based on a much larger, more stationary force. With the transition to a smaller, expeditionary force, Air Force leaders are looking to make dining programs more flexible, available, and efficient.

"FTI is about Airmen and for Airmen," said Brian Floyd, the deputy director of the force support squadron at Travis Air Force Base, one of the pilot bases for this initiative. "We have heard loud and clear what our Airmen want, and FTI is all about offering them better quality food, more variety and a sense of community when dining."

FTI will reinvigorate Air Force dining by hiring a contractor to transition to hybrid facilities on bases that will be open to the entire base populace, much like common business and university campuses, services officials said.

Many base dining facilities have use rates of less than 50 percent. Instead of closing these facilities, Air Force plans call for transforming operations. This transformation will preserve the mission of providing meals to Airmen and bringing positive changes to the way Airmen are fed on base, services agency officials said.

While services officials are excited about the forthcoming changes, they emphasized things will not happen immediately and that each base will be different. The first phase of the program is about improving menu options, they said, and the total transformation will take time.

Opening the transformed dining venues to retirees and base employees will restore a sense of community because everyone will be able to eat together, Mr. Floyd said.

"Now all of these groups of people will be able to share quality food in a family type of atmosphere at the dining hall as well as at other food venues on base," he explained.

**Editor's Note:** We hope this pilot program is a success and that the program is extended to the dining facilities at Scott AFB. It would be nice if we could have a healthier choice of food other than what is provided at some of the eating establishments currently on base.

# THE FINAL INSPECTION

The Soldier stood and faced God,  
Which must always come to pass.  
He hoped his shoes were shining,  
Just as brightly as his brass..

'Step forward now, Soldier ,  
How shall I deal with you?  
Have you always turned the other cheek?  
To My Church have you been true?'

The soldier squared his shoulders and said,  
'No, Lord, I guess I ain't.  
Because those of us who carry guns,  
Can't always be a saint.

I've had to work most Sundays,  
And at times my talk was tough.  
And sometimes I've been violent,  
Because the world is awfully rough.

But, I never took a penny,  
That wasn't mine to keep...  
Though I worked a lot of overtime,  
When the bills got just too steep.

And I never passed a cry for help,  
Though at times I shook with fear..  
And sometimes, God, forgive me,  
I've wept unmanly tears.

I know I don't deserve a place,  
Among the people here.  
They never wanted me around,  
Except to calm their fears

If you've a place for me here, Lord,  
It needn't be so grand.  
I never expected or had too much,  
But if you don't, I'll understand.

There was a silence all around the throne,  
Where the saints had often trod.  
As the Soldier waited quietly,  
For the judgment of his God.

'Step forward now, you Soldier,  
You've borne your burdens well.  
Walk peacefully on Heaven's streets,  
You've done your time in Hell.'

Author Unknown~

***“Old minds are like horses; you must exercise them if you wish to keep them in working order”.***

**John Quincy Adams**

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**STILL SERVING**

73, Jerry

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Office hours are 0900 to 1200 hours Tuesday and Thursday.  
On the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays the office will be closed at  
1100 Hrs for the staff to attend Scott Retiree Council meeting  
and monthly luncheon.

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