



RETIREE PERSONNEL

RETIREE ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

NEWS

LOS ANGELES AIR FORCE BASE

Volume XXXII, Issue I

"STILL SERVING IS OUR MOTTO"

June 2012—Feb. 2013

Director Comments

Samuel L. McNeil, Colonel, USAF
61st Air Base Group
Commander

David McClenon, Col, USAF, Ret
Director

Aida Vela, Ret. Army (Spouse)
Editor



As I suspect most of you have heard by now the U.S. Government, DOD, the U.S. Air Force, and the Los Angeles AFB are under extreme budgetary constraints. Much of the support you are used to receiving may be limited in the next few months. There are many rumors floating around that may cause undue concern. It is important that you confirm such rumors either at this office (310) 653-5144 or other official sources. We are here to serve you, and due to our volunteer status expect to have the office manned for the foreseeable future. That being said, we can always use additional volunteers to ensure the office is not closed due to an emergency on the part of a single volunteer. The RAO has been around for a long time. It is run entirely by volunteers and was started and manned by WWII vets. Some of us have spent nearly as much time in the RAO as on active duty. In short we need volunteers to man the office full time. If your golf gets too expensive or you get bored with day time TV, consider giving us 4-6 hours a week to talk to fellow retirees on the phone or face-to-face and /or swap "war" stories with other volunteers in our office.

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www.LAAFBForceSupport.com

(click on Support then Retiree Affairs)

David McClenon, Col, USAF, (Ret)

As the Director mentions above, we in the DoD are facing unprecedented budgetary uncertainty this year, and have had to reduce the level of services we can provide in many areas. We've been able to absorb most of the reductions internally; however, the impact will be felt by everyone. I am committed to limiting the reductions in services we provide to the thousands of Los Angeles area Military Retirees and Dependents who have earned the privileges and benefits we can provide. I appreciate everyone's understanding and patience as we adjust to the new realities of what services our outstanding team of professionals can provide you and your families.

Serving you, who have honorably gone before, continues to be a source of great pride for us. Above and beyond our daily support activities, we're working with the RAO Staff to hold our Annual Los Angeles AFB Retiree Expo event this June 1st, which promises to be bigger and better than ever. I look forward to seeing you there.

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Samuel L. McNeil, Col USAF,
Commander, 61st Air Base Group

Afghanistan Update

Greetings Warriors; as I settle back into "garrison" life here at the base, I have time to reflect on the sacrifices of those who continue to man our battlements in Afghanistan this year. They stand beside you in the continuum of Service that our Freedom has depended upon for over two centuries, and they will one day join you as honored veterans of our National cause. Based on my recent tour as Support Group Deputy Commander at our primary Close Air Support and Airlift base at Bagram, I can tell you our fighting men and women are beyond question the most capable and best-supported the world has ever seen. They will face trying times ahead as we transition from a war-time footing into a peace-time force—a transition all-too-familiar for all of you who have gone before us. I ask that you continue to lend your experience and support to our newest generation of returning warriors, that they may truly feel the sincere thanks of a grateful Nation. See you at the EXPO June 1st !.

Brian Rusler, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Commander, 61st Air Base Group

Tricare**Tax****EXPO**

TRICARE transitions from **TRI-WEST** to United Healthcare military & Veterans.

On April 1, 2013, the TRICARE West Region contract will transition to and be managed by United Healthcare Military & Veterans (UHC M&V). Transition information for TRICARE Beneficiaries can be found at the following link:

<http://www.Triwest.com/en/about-triwest/transition-update-center/>.

If you have additional questions please contact the 61 MDS TRICARE Operations and Patient Administration Flight at (310) 653-6861

TAX season 2013... The Tax center opens Jan.30, 2013, and will serve Active Duty Military and their dependents, Military Retirees and their dependents, and DoD Civilians whose total adjusted gross income is less than \$50,000. Clients will be seen by appointments only. To make an appointment, call (310) 653-3815. The Tax Center is located in the base legal office on the first floor of building 271.

WHY RETIREES SHOULD ATTEND APPRECIATION DAYS

Retirees, this is a once-a-year opportunity for you to receive updated material, ask whatever is on your mind, and meet with the 61st Air Base Group Commander and his staff. We welcome you to invite other retirees to this special activity and would love for you to come out and support the retiree community.

One thing is certain; changes have been made and will be made in the future. Come out to LA AFB on Retiree Appreciation Day to find out what has changed, and look for the few things that have stayed the same.

As part of our retiree expo LAAFB would like to recognize retired service members for their honorable service.

2013 Retiree Expo Nominations Criteria

The individual must be:

1. A retired military service member with over 20 years of honorable service.
2. Willing to participate in and attend the 2013 Retiree Expo.

Nominations must be received by 10 May 13 and call RAO office: (310) 653-5144 for details.

Basic Military Health Records To Be Online By End Of Year

Washington— All veterans and service members will have health information on things like their medical history, prescriptions, and lab results shared online by the end of the year, a significant step forward in federal efforts to create a lifelong medical record for military personnel.

By Leo Shane Stars and Stripes

Published : February 5, 2013



E-Mail Option: Subscription may be performed by sending an E-mail message to the following address:

To subscribe to this mailing list, send an E-mail to: RETVET-INFO- request@freelists.org with 'subscribe' as the subject.

Hearing Aids for Military Retirees...The DoD sponsored **Retiree-at-Cost Hearing Aid Program (RACHAP)** and the **Retiree Hearing Aid Purchase Program (RHAPP)** are designed to help military retirees purchase hearing aids through an Audiology Clinic at a special government negotiated cost.

Retirees can buy hearing aids at a significant savings by using the program

Note: Participating facilities (CONUS\OCONUS) are available online <http://militaryaudiology.org>

Can the Disabled Use Space-A? ... and more. After a recent story on Space-A travel, AMRA HQ received questions about whether CHAMPVA sponsors and their dependents can use the military Space-A travel program. Unused seats aboard US military aircraft are made available to entitled passengers on a space-available basis. Also referred to as "military hops", this form of travel is unique privilege afforded to active and guard/reserve service members, military retirees, and their families... not to veterans in general. (Note: Veterans who have been rated by the VA with 100% permanent and total service-connected disability are eligible to receive health care services by the VA. If you are a TRICARE-eligible military retiree, you may use Space-A travel. For more information about CHAMPVA, visit <http://www.va.gov/hac/forbeneficiaries/champva.champva.asp>.

To learn more about Space-A travel, visit:

<http://www.amc.af.mil>



Retiree ID cards and available facilities

Retiree ID cards now have expiration dates...for those under 65, Blue retiree identification cards issued prior to December 2012 had the word “**indef**” instead of an expiration date. Since December, retiree cards issued have an expiration date effective the day before the retiree’s 65th birthday. Although benefits will not automatically expire, some changes will take effect based on Medicare eligibility. For information, the new expiration date retiree card, DEERS eligibility programs and other personnel issues, visit the myPers website at <https://mypers.af.mil>

For appointments:
<https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil/appointment/default.aspx>

Other Facilities:
Los Alamitos Army Reserve Base
11200 Lexington Dr. Bldg.18
Los Alamitos, Ca. 90720
Phone # (562) 795.1172
Appointments only

US Coast Guard ISC
1001 S. Seaside Ave. Bldg.39
San Pedro, Ca. 90731
Phone # (310) 521-6184
FIRST-COME FIRST-SERVE OFFICE.

For more locations:
<http://www.dmdc.osd.mil>

**SPOUSES’ CLUB thrift shop behind the LAFB CDC opens
Tues, Wed, and Thurs 9:30 am—**

THRIFT SHOP

1:30 pm

Clean out those closets and consign your items at the Thrift Shop! You will get 70% of what you sell! If you’d prefer, you can donate your items by leaving them in the donation boxes located behind the Thrift Shop or in front of the Tierra Vista offices on Fort Mac.

Looking for great bargains? The Thrift Shop has books, clothing, toys, electronics, shoes, furniture, household items, jewelry, office supplies, decorations, and so much more. All profit are put back into local military and community charities.

2013 Retiree Expo - Saturday June 1

Saturday, June 1 is Armed Forces Retiree Appreciation day at Los Angeles AFB. Events will begin at 0800 in the Gordon Conference Center, located in Building 270. All retired personnel drawing retirement pay from all branches of the service are invited to attend. The 61 ABG/CC will present a mission brief covering the many functions and programs that are managed here in LA AFB. Many base and support organizations will have information booths and presentations of interest (DFAS, VA, TRICARE, Medicare, Cal Vets, etc.) Retirees can ask questions and receive answers to the many subjects that are of concern (medical benefits, MWR, spouse support, local base support, travel, etc). Join us in this once a year event organized in your honor and in appreciation to you and all you have done for the country.

2013 Retiree Expo
Armed Forces Retiree Appreciation

Saturday
1 June 2013
0800 – 1200

Gordon Conference Center
Los Angeles Air Force Base
400 N. Douglas St.,
El Segundo, CA, 90245

The poster features a central image of a bald eagle with its wings spread, perched on a globe. Below the eagle are five circular logos representing different military branches: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard.

GAS STATION, COMMISSARY, BASE EXCHANGE & THE CLUB

The BX offers 24-hour “pay at the pump” gasoline service. The service is provided for authorized AAFES customers. A valid military, dependent, or retiree ID card is required when using the pumps. When you use your Military Star Card, you will receive a discount of .5 cents per gallon of gas.

Drop by our Commissary & BX to check out the price and quality of the produce and products offered. You may be pleasantly surprised, and remember, it is tax free. The BX has several attached functions such as the gas station, a food Court with burgers, pizza, salads and submarine sandwiches.

And, if you are on base during the week, visit the Combined Club, located in Bldg 270. The food is great! They offer breakfast and a hot line, grill, as well as soup and sandwiches during lunch.

Your email is important to us. To receive information between issuance of newsletters, please send your email to us with your name, branch of service, phone number and address. Email to: RAO.LAFB@gmail.com

61 ABG/CVR

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS



U.S. AIR FORCE

This Newsletter is edited and published by the LAAFB Retiree Activities Office for the benefit of military retirees in our area of responsibility. Every effort is made to assure the accuracy of the contents, however, no guarantee of such accuracy should be assumed.

The office is staffed by volunteers. If you have a few hours a week, come in and help our military retiree community. The duties and hours are flexible.

MILITARY RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY

Saturday 1 June 2013. from 8:00 A.M. until 12:00 Noon

LOS ANGELES AFB—GORDON CONFERENCE CENTER

PHARMACY

HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER

TRICARE

COMMISSARY

BASE EXCHANGE

SURPRISES

PRIZES

CASE LOT SALE

FREE BBQ

FOR UPDATED INFORMATION GO TO www.LAAFBForceSupport.com

To receive regular updates/news flashes, send your request to RAO.LAAFB@gmail.com

Or look for THE FORCE magazine available at the Base Exchange and Commissary