



RETIREE PERSONNEL

RETIREE ACTIVITIES PROGRAM



LOS ANGELES AIR FORCE BASE APRIL – MAY
2014

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE:

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to the **Retiree EXPO, 31 May 2014, 0800-1200** in the **Gordon Conference Center Building 270**. Our goal is to bring together military retirees from all around Los Angeles and Southern California. Local helpful organizations will be on hand to provide information which includes, but not limited to: United Healthcare Alliance, DFAS/LA AFB Finance, Department of Veterans Affairs, Social Security Administration, Health & Wellness Center, Customer Service, Fitness Center, and many more.

Last year, approximately 600 retirees attended and enjoyed free breakfast & snacks, Early Bird giveaways, prizes and a host of helpful information and demonstrations geared specifically for retirees.

Please come out and join us as we attempt to serve you who have served us. Also, please don't forget the Annual Commissary and Base Exchange Retiree Appreciation Sales and Free BBQ after the **Retiree EXPO!**

I look forward to seeing you on 31 May, and please spread the word to ALL veterans of ALL branches of service!

Donna L. Turner, Lt Col, USAF
Commander, 61st Air Base Group

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

Spring is here! Will it rain again? Will we be funded again to mail out our newsletter? Will the Retired Activities Office get more volunteers? We do not know the answers to any of these questions, but the volunteers will be here to support all military retirees for the foreseeable future. If you have any questions call us at 310-653-5144 or drop by the office in Bldg. 272 Rm C1; 200 (on the first floor) .

Again, thank you for your service to our country.

David W. McClenon, Col USAF (Ret)
Director, Retired Activities Office

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Director/Commander's comments	1
Spring Savings Tip	2
Veterans & Retiree Benefit Criteria	2
Retirees and Families/ Retired Pay	3
Commissaries cuts Military Discounts	3
Retiree Publications	3
Commissary, gas stations, Base Exchange	4

NEW VETERAN HEALTH IDENTIFICATION CARD

The Veteran Affairs (VA) is implementing a redesigned, more secure Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC) by removing social security numbers from the barcode and magnetic strip to protect Veteran’s personal information. Call 1-877-VETS (8387).



VETERANS AND RETIREE BENEFITS CRITERIA

Military Retirement Pay Exempt

From State Taxes: Some States allow military retirees to make a specific amount, a percentage, or full military retired pay exempt from state income taxation. Note that Alaska, Florida, Nevada, South Dakota, Texas, Washington, and Wyoming have no state income tax, while Tennessee and New Hampshire tax only dividend and interest income.

Property Tax Exemptions: Most states offer veteran homeowners either property tax exemptions or homestead exemption, which limit the amount at which their property can be assessed for tax purposes. These exemptions may be based on age and /or disability rating. Most states also offer some kind of property tax relief, which might freeze the assessed

value of a home after a veteran homeowner reaches a certain age. In addition, many counties and municipalities have their own, separate tax-relief programs for veterans.

Veterans’ Preference in State Hiring:

Some states offer veterans an advantage (such as additional points on a required exam, a guarantee of an interview, or similar provision) in the hiring process for state government jobs. Specifics vary widely from state to state; check with your state’s department of veterans affairs. State requirements might include proof of honorable discharge or a disability rating from the VA. Most states that extend preference to family members require a veteran to be permanently and totally disabled or killed in action.

In-State Tuition for Nonresident Veter-

ans: Under the Post 9/11 GI Bill, the VA will pay only up to the cost of in-

state tuition at public colleges. Twenty-eight states allow veterans applying as nonresident students to pay in-state tuition rates at their public colleges.

Veterans Status Noted and Driver’s

License/State ID: Most states have now passed legislation adding veteran’s designation to driver’s licenses and state-issued ID cards, thereby enabling veterans to prove their status (for veteran’s discount, for example) without carrying around their discharge papers. For more tax information, visit www.IRS.gov

RAO’s WEB Site:

www.LosAngeles.AF.Mil/RetireeAffairsOffice.asp To receive newsletter with regular updates/news flashes, send your request to : RAO.LAAFB@gmail.com and look for THE FORCE magazine available at the Base Exchange and Commissary

About Veterans and Retiree Disability Pay. Most states determine what income is subject to taxation based on a filer’s federal tax return. Retirees who entered the military before Sept. 24, 1975, and service members receiving disability retirement based on combat injuries or who could receive disability payments from the VA are covered by laws giving federal income tax exemption and are therefore exempt from state taxation, in those states that follow the federal tax return. Most military retired pay based on service-related disabilities also is free from federal income tax, but there is no guarantee of total protection. If you are uncertain about your specific situation, consult a tax expert in your state.

MHS for Service Members, Retirees and Families — Active duty service members, retirees, and their families benefit everyday from the Military Health System's commitment care. From online mental health resources to research initiatives that determine health risks to the communication efforts that inform on the most up-to-date medical news, the MHS is an organization dedicated to keeping every current and retired service member healthy and strong.

Tricare, sharing my medical records, 24/7 help for PTSD/TBI, Military OneSource, Wounded Warrior Care, Veterans Health Care.

Getting Your Tricare Benefits: Tricare benefit programs, Dental programs, pharmacy programs, access DEERs (Tricare Eligibility), Find a Military Treatment Care (MTC), Tricare Resources Fact Sheet.

SOURCE: MHS (Health.Mil) website at:

<http://health.mil/MHSFor/ServiceMembersAndFamilies.aspx>

COMMISSARIES AVOID CUTS, BUT AT COST TO CUSTOMERS

The commissary cut will be accomplished not by eliminating locations, but by reducing the amount of savings over civilian markets that service members enjoy. The cut will be phase in over several years. It was unclear at this time whether savings would be sought by raising prices on some goods, or whether there might be an increase in the stores' 5 percent surcharge, long presented as a way to

pay for commissary construction, equipment and maintenance. According to a media report out last month, one plan under consideration was closing all but 24 rural stores stateside, while overseas stores would remain open. This has not been agreed to by commissary management.



Access to retiree publications of each service:

Army Echoes: www.armyg1.army.mil/rso/echoes.asp

Air Force Afterburner: www.retirees.af.mil/afterburner

Navy Shift Colors: www.shiftcolors.navy.mil

Marine Corps Semper Fidelis:

www.manpower.usmc.mil/portal/page/portal

Coast Guard Evening Colors: <http://www.uscg.mil>

SPRING SAVINGS AND SAFETY TIP:

Remember to take advantage of your military discounts at local businesses. For a listing of participating community partners, visit <http://www.losangeles.af.mil/retireeaffairsoffice.asp>. Remember your spring time protective eyewear with high visibility apparel perfect for a safe and healthy lifestyle.

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FOR UPDATE D BASE INFORMATION GO TO:

WWW.LAAFBForceSupport.com

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.

GAS STATION, COMMISSARY, THE EXCHANGE & THE CLUB

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

Drop by our commissary & The EXCHANGE to check out the price and quality of the product 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's, salads and submarine sandwiches.

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.

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.

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