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Battleship hosts destroyer reunion



USS Massey (DD-778) crewmembers and family travelled from across the country for their recent reunion. A special wreath-laying memorial service and brunch was held on board USS Massachusetts (BB-59) in Fall River, MA (Photo by Battleship Cove).

Shift Colors

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Shift Colors, the Newsletter for Navy Retirees (NAVPERS 15886), is published quarterly in accordance with Department of the Navy Publication and Printing Regulations. The Secretary of the Navy has determined that this publication is necessary in the transaction of business required by law of the Department of the Navy. Send correspondence to:

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5720 INTEGRITY DRIVE
MILLINGTON, TN 38055-0500

E-mail all reunion notices to:

p05s@persnet.navy.mil

To submit reunion notices please use the following format:

USS Ships Name (USS 123)

Date of reunion

Contact phone number

Need to change your address?

If you are receiving pay and benefits, the only way that you can update your information is by contacting DFAS at (800) 321-1080.

Only "Gray Area" Retirees and surviving spouses of Retirees that are not receiving benefits should contact *Shift Colors* to change their address.

A message from the Chief of Naval Personnel

It is an honor to be writing this note as your Chief of Naval Personnel after taking the baton from VADM Norb Ryan. As CNO said at VADM Ryan's retirement ceremony, his list of accomplishments and contributions to Sailors and their families have left a lasting imprint on the Navy of the future. Career Sea Pay, BAH for E-4 single Sailors, and increased advancement opportunity for Sailors are just a few of the initiatives bearing the trademark of VADM Ryan's passion and determination. Though we will miss his service in uniform he will continue serving all of you as the president of The Retired Officers Association. Serving him was a tremendous experience, which is exactly what it feels like to have the opportunity to continue serving you.



Would like to take this opportunity to welcome Rear Adm. Steve Tomaszewski as the new commander of the Navy Personnel Command. Admiral Tomaszewski just completed a highly successful tour on the tip of the spear as Commander, Carrier Group SIX and commander of the JOHN F. KENNEDY Battle Group. I strongly believe both you and our Sailors will be well-served by his leadership and commitment to service.

A little over a year after the attacks on our homeland, your Navy remains focused on accomplishing the mission and continues to lead the fight against terrorism. Eight aircraft carrier battle groups and five amphibious ready groups have deployed to Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). Hundreds of SEALs and Seabees have engaged the enemy and provided support on the ground to our fellow services and coalition partners. Our operational readiness has been spectacular and performance even better. You can be assured that your Navy will continue to perform superbly as we move into year two of the Global War on Terrorism

On the home front, we continue to rely on the support of our fellow Americans; particularly those like you who are aware of the sacrifices required to see conflict through to victory and ultimate peace. Thank you for your support, and I look forward to working for you.

Serving as the commander of Navy Personnel Command gave me the opportunity to be intimately involved in the issues that matter to you. As I begin to visit Sailors in fleet concentration areas I hope to meet many of you. Visits to Retired Activities Offices will be an essential part of my agenda. Please don't hesitate to contact me at p00@bupers.navy.mil, or Kathy Wardlaw and her superb staff via email at p62s2@bupers.navy.mil or by calling toll-free (800) 255-8950. Look forward to meeting many of you and getting your views on how we can best serve the entire Navy retiree community.

Sincerely,



G.L. Hoewing

VADM USN



Retired Activities Branch

Straight from the source

Dear Fellow Retirees,

I would like to begin this column by apologizing to our readership for any offense or inconvenience that may have been caused by providing you the wrong phone number for contacting the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program representative (*Shift Colors* July-Sept. 2002). The error was purely unintentional. For future reference the correct number is (800) 582-3337. If you keep copies of *Shift Colors* in binders, you may want to go back and make a pen and ink change. If you don't keep copies of *Shift Colors*, you may want to consider it. Articles that don't apply to you today may come in useful at some time in the future.

Notwithstanding some errors in our last edition of *Shift Colors*, our editor put together a very informative and diverse newsletter. The new feature "Centenarian Sailors" is a wonderful way of recognizing those who have served and have reached the maturity and wisdom level we all hope to achieve. The "VETeran NETwork" article will be a good resource for all Retirees and their families. I am sure that you all welcome the new addition of subjects that are not always related to death and survivor's subject matter. JO2 Nichols assures me that he will continue to provide a newsletter for all Retirees (single, married, widow(er), survivors and others).

Also, our last edition included a check list, "What should my spouse know in the event of my death?" and "Survivor's Guide." Please use this information (along with your Will and other documents or lists) to lessen the burden and trauma on your loved ones. Additionally, the survivor of a military retiree needs to call (800) 321-1080 to report a retiree's death. I would also like to thank those of you who provided input for our next check list.

During the weeks that followed the last edition of *Shift Colors* hitting the streets, the Retired Activities Branch, our call center and the editor have received hundreds of phone calls regarding the "Full Concurrent Receipt" issue. A large percentage of the inquiries were in regards to, "what is

concurrent receipt and what's the status of the initiative to make it happen?"

At the risk of being redundant to some, the following information is provided. "Concurrent Receipt" refers to the dual receipt of military pay and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Disability Compensation. Presently, uniformed services Retirees with service-connected disabilities must forfeit a dollar of military retired pay for each dollar received in VA disability compensation.

Section 641 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2002 authorized military Retirees to receive VA disability compensation without a reduction in retirement pay. However, enactment is contingent on a budget submission by the President, and the enactment of legislation by Congress to offset the costs of this initiative. Now, both the Senate and the House have bills pending. That's where you come in, let your legislators know how you feel about the issue. Many of you have done just that and have contributed to the provision making it this far. I urge the retiree community to continue to let your elected officials know your position on this and other issues that affect the retiree community. By the time this newsletter is distributed we may know the results, and hopefully the outcome will be positive.

As you know, our retiree community changes annually ... new Retirees join the ranks monthly. Our new shipmates may not have received all the information that the more senior Retirees have been receiving through *Shift Colors* and other sources. To that end there may seem to be a lot of repeat information about the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), TRICARE, Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) programs, Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), Social Security and other important subject matter. We have to make every attempt to cover the entire spectrum of benefits and entitlements to our entire readership, so please bear with us.

Because this will be the last edition of *Shift Colors* for 2002, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a joyous, healthy and prosperous holiday season.

In Your Service,

Dennis Mills

Head, Navy Retired Operations Section



Retired Activities Branch

Troops to Teachers adds new leaders to the classroom

Troops-to-Teachers provides referral assistance and placement services to military personnel interested in beginning a second career in public education as a teacher.

The DANTES Troops-to-Teachers office will help applicants identify teacher certification requirements, programs leading to certification and employment opportunities.

You can Search for Job Openings, Post Vacancies and Modify School / District Information.

Mentor Connection

A network of Troops-to-Teachers Participants currently working as teachers, who volunteer to answer basic questions about becoming a teacher.

The Troops-to-Teachers Bulletin Board

Schools, announce your jobs ... candidates, exchange information! This is an informal forum where everyone can post information or ask questions.

Current Status of Troops-to-Teachers

Public Law 107-110, the "No Child Left Behind Act of 2001" was signed into law by President Bush on Jan. 8, 2002. Title II, Part C, Chapter A, authorized the continuation of the Troops-to-Teachers Program for an additional five years.

It also modified the program's focus by placing emphasis upon the need to make quality teachers available for high-need schools and high-need school districts throughout America.

Congress passed the Education Appropriations Bill, part of H.R. 3061, which provides \$18M for financial assistance and to maintain the network of Troops to Teachers state

offices. Pending availability of funds, financial assistance may be provided to eligible individuals as stipends up to \$5,000 to help pay for teacher certification costs or as bonuses of \$10,000. Stipend and bonus recipients must agree to teach for three years in school locations that meet certain Department of Education criteria. The maximum amount of assistance is \$10,000 per person. Specific requirements:

a. Stipends of up to \$5K are available to reimburse costs associated with becoming certified to teach. Recipients of these stipends must agree to teach for three years in a school located in a "high-need" district.

b. Bonuses of \$10K are available to those who agree to teach for three years in a school that serves a high percentage of students from low-income families.

Troops-to-Teachers continues to pursue the goal of helping to relieve teacher shortages -- especially in math, science, special education and other high needs subject areas -- and to assist military personnel in making successful transitions to second careers in teaching.

For more information about the Troops-to-Teachers program, visit www.jobs2teach.doded.mil, call (800) 231-6242, e-mail: ttt@voled.doded.mil or write to:

Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support
(DANTES)

ATTN: Troops-to-Teachers
6490 Saufley Field Road
Pensacola, FL 32509-5243

Long term care program schedules local meetings

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is sponsoring an open enrollment season through Dec. 31 in the new Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program. This program offers coverage to Servicemembers,

Retirees, civilian employees, and qualified family members.

Long term care is the type of care needed if you can no longer perform normal activities of daily living, and is provided in different settings such as assisted living facilities and nursing homes, but most often at home. The premiums paid by the participants (there is no government contribution) are based upon age, amount

of coverage, and the method of inflation protection chosen.

Future purchase options allow additional coverage to be purchased every two years at an additional cost.

For details and to enroll, visit www.LTCFEDS.com or call (800) 582-3337. The web site also provides a schedule of meetings explaining the benefit at military installations across the United States.



Defense Finance and Accounting Service

DFAS issues new contact information

We have just completed two migration projects to better serve our customers. One migration project consolidated Retired and Annuity Pay in Cleveland. The consolidation provides more efficient processing of Retired Pay casualty notifications and Annuity Pay establishments, and expands customer service hours for Annuitants. Annuitants can now speak to Customer Service Representatives between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday.

You can call DFAS Cleveland at **800-321-1080**. Retirees can fax requests to **800-469-6559**. Annuitants can fax requests to **800-982-8459**.

The following information may be useful when calling the Retired and Annuity Pay Contact Center. Customers should have pencil and paper handy to write down information provided by the customer service representative. Customers should be prepared to provide their social security number or spouse's social security number in the case of Annuitants. Mondays and paydays (first business day of the month) are typically the busiest days of the week and month.

Our peak hours are between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. EST. Customers have more success reaching us during off-peak hours.

Our second migration project involved relocating our current mail handling operations to London, Ky. This facility

has state of the art equipment that enhances our processing of your correspondence. The change ensures rapid handling of all incoming mail, which ultimately results in faster responses to you.

We recommend that you submit copies rather than original documents, when warranted, since we cannot return your original documents to you. All correspondence should contain the Retiree's or Annuitant's social security number.

Did you know Retirees and Annuitants can also e-mail their pay inquiries to us? Logon on to www.dfas.mil and click on **Contact DFAS**. Scroll down the page to the appropriate title, i.e. **Retired Pay** or **Annuitant Pay**. Scroll down and click on **Questions or comments**. Select **Military Retiree** or **Annuitant** then fill out the data fields. After you have completed your inquiry, click **Submit** at the bottom of the page. E-mail inquiries will be answered in five to seven business days.

We offer a wide range of opportunities to contact us concerning any questions you may have about your account. Although our address and phone numbers have changed, our dedication to serving Retirees and Annuitants remains our top priority. We will continue to provide you with the best service possible to meet your needs.

Retirees and Annuitants should use the following addresses and phone numbers to contact us:

Correspondence	Mailing Address	Phone	FAX
Annuity	Defense Finance and Accounting Service U.S. Military Annuitant Pay PO Box 7131 London, KY 40742-7131	(800) 321-1080	(800) 982-8459
Annuity New Accounts	Defense Finance and Accounting Service U.S. Military Annuitant Pay PO Box 7131 London, KY 40742-7131	(800) 321-1080	(800) 982-8459
Casualty	Defense Finance and Accounting Service U.S. Military Retirement Pay PO Box 7130 London, KY 40742-7130	(800) 321-1080	(800) 469-6559
Retired	Defense Finance and Accounting Service U.S. Military Retirement Pay PO Box 7130 London, KY 40742-7130	(800) 321-1080	(800) 469-6559
Retired New Accounts	Defense Finance and Accounting Service U.S. Military Retirement Pay PO Box 7130 London, KY 40742-7130	(800) 321-1080	(800) 469-6559

Attention gray area Retirees and survivors not receiving SBP

Only gray area Retirees and surviving spouses of Retirees that are not receiving benefits should contact *Shift Colors* to change their address.

If you are receiving pay and benefits, the only way that you can update your information is by contacting DFAS.



Defense Finance and Accounting Service

Tax tips for your 2002 federal returns

The 2002 1099R tax forms for all Department of Defense military retirees and annuitants will be mailed to the home addresses on file with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) by Jan. 15, 2003. Former spouses who receive pay as a result of a court ordered division of community property will also receive 1099Rs.

Reissue Requests:

Retirees or annuitants who do not receive their 1099Rs by Jan. 31, 2003 or have questions about their 1099R forms call **1-800-321-1080** or **216-522-5955**. When calling to request a reissue of your 2002 1099R, press "1" when prompted and your call will be forwarded to the next available Customer Service Representative. You can expect to receive the reissued 1099R approximately seven business days after your initial request.

Customer Service Representatives are available Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. EST (except federal holidays). Paydays, or the first business day of each month are the busiest days for the CSRs. Mondays are also characteristically busy. For your convenience Saturday service will be available from Jan. 11 through Feb. 15, 2003 from 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. EST to accommodate tax season.

Customers may also write to the addresses on page 6 for service. Always include your Social Security number and signature in all correspondence.

Address changes

There are several ways customers can update addresses to ensure delivery of 2002 1099R, Retired Account Statement and Annuitant Account Statement.

Log onto www.dfas.mil and click on "Contact DFAS." Scroll down the page to the appropriate title, i.e., Retiree Pay or Annuitant Pay. For *Annuitants*, simply complete the form and send. For *Retirees*, scroll down and click on questions or comments regarding retired pay. Select "Military Retiree" then fill out the data fields.

After you have completed your inquiry, click "Submit" at the bottom of the page. E-mail inquiries will be answered in five to seven business days.

Use the Employee/Member Self Service (E/MSS) at <http://emss.dfas.mil>.

Call us at **800-321-1080** or, send us a letter or fax (see page 6).

The amount withheld for state taxes does not automatically change when an address update is submitted. A letter requesting to change your state taxes is required. Include your Social Security number, printed name and signature. The monthly amount deducted for state taxes must be in whole dollars (no cents) and a minimum of \$10.00.

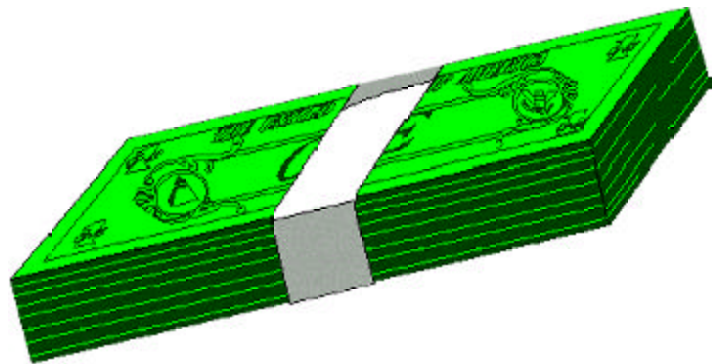
Federal tax exemption

Federal tax exemption does not automatically carry over into the next tax year. IRS regulations stipulate that a new W-4 must be completed **before** February 15 each year to maintain exempt status. To have a W-4 processed before that cutoff date, submit a completed W-4 form after Jan. 1, 2003, but before Feb. 10, 2003, to the address or fax number listed on page 6.

Marital status changes

If your marital status has changed due to marriage, divorce, or death, your Survivor Benefits Plan election may need to be updated. Send a copy of the marriage certificate, divorce decree, or death certificate along with a brief letter to update your SBP election. Include your Social Security number and signature. Submit your request to the address or fax number listed on page 6.

Please note: Changing SBP election does not automatically change beneficiary information for arrears of pay. The arrears of pay are any unpaid monies due the retiree up to the date of death. Complete a Change of Beneficiary form to update your beneficiary(ies). You may request these forms by contacting the Retired and Annuity Pay Contact Center at **(800) 321-1080**.





TRICARE Management Activity

TRICARE For Life supplements Medicare

When beneficiaries become entitled to Medicare Part A upon attaining the age of 65 and purchase Medicare Part B, they now experience no break in TRICARE coverage. The only change is that TRICARE will pay secondary to Medicare, beginning on the 1st day of the month they turn 65.

Eligibility:

TRICARE For Life is provided to the following beneficiaries:

- Medicare-eligible uniformed service retirees, including retired guard and reservists
- Medicare-eligible family members, including widows/widowers
- Certain former spouses if they were eligible for TRICARE before age 65

Note: Dependent parents and parents-in-law are not eligible for TRICARE benefits. They may continue to receive services within a military treatment facility on a space available basis.

Cost to beneficiaries:

There are no enrollment fees for TRICARE For Life. You are required to enroll in Medicare Part B and must pay Medicare Part B monthly fees. Please check with the Social Security Administration online at www.ssa.gov, toll-free at **800-772-1213**, or visit Medicare online at www.medicare.gov, for more information about enrolling in Medicare Part B and monthly fees that will apply to you.

Benefits:

- For services payable by both Medicare and TRICARE, Medicare will pay first and the remaining out-of-pocket expenses will be paid by TRICARE.
- For services payable by TRICARE, but not Medicare, such as overseas care, TRICARE will pay the same as if you were under age 65. You will be responsible for the TRICARE annual deductible and cost shares.
- For services payable by Medicare, but not TRICARE, such as chiropractic services, Medicare will pay as usual, but TRICARE will pay nothing. You will be responsible for Medicare co-pays.
- For services not payable by TRICARE or Medicare, you are entirely responsible for the medical bill.

If you receive care from a civilian provider, your provider will file claims with Medicare. Medicare will pay its portion, then automatically forward the claim to TRICARE for the remaining amount.

TRICARE will send its payment directly to your provider. You will receive an explanation of benefits (EOB) that indicates the amount paid to your provider.

Medicare Part B:

The Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS) notifies beneficiaries within 90 days prior to their 65th birthday that their medical benefits are about to change. They will ask you to contact the nearest Social Security Office regarding enrollment in Medicare. It is important to remember that you must elect to enroll in Medicare Part B in order to be eligible for TRICARE For Life benefits.

If you are age 65 and over and only have Medicare Part A, you can enroll in Medicare Part B during the annual General Enrollment Period, which runs from January 1st to March 31st every year. Medicare Part B coverage will then begin on July 1st of the year in which you enroll.

For more information about enrolling in Medicare Part B, please visit the Social Security Administration online at www.ssa.gov or call toll free at **800-772-1213 (TTY/TDD 800-325-0778)**.

TRICARE For Life overseas:

Living overseas does not mean you cannot take advantage of TRICARE For Life, if you are enrolled in Medicare Part B. Since Medicare does not typically provide health care coverage overseas, TRICARE will provide the same benefits available to retirees under the age 65, and you will be responsible for the same cost shares and deductibles.

Services in military treatment facilities:

Beneficiaries using TRICARE For Life may continue to receive care in military treatment facilities. Under a new program, TRICARE Plus, you may be allowed to enroll to a military treatment facility for primary care. TRICARE Plus is based on local availability.

If you have specific questions about how TRICARE For Life will affect you, please call **888-DOD-LIFE (888-363-5433)**. You can also visit the TRICARE Web site for more information at www.tricare.osd.mil/ndaa.



Senior Air Force lawyer to improve VA regulations

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi recently selected retired Maj. Gen. William A. Moorman, formerly the Judge Advocate General of the Air Force, to lead the review of all VA regulations to make them more user-friendly for veterans, veterans service organization representatives and personnel of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"I am very pleased to welcome General Moorman to the VA team. And I'm gratified by his enthusiasm for this challenging, but much needed and long overdue effort to rewrite our regulations," said Principi. "His efforts will directly benefit VA's ability to provide the world-class service that veterans deserve."

In addition to sorting out what the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims called a "confusing tapestry" of regulations, General Moorman's group will also establish and manage a more standardized, efficient and open process to develop new regulations within VA.

"I cannot imagine a place where I would rather be than VA, where everyone's focus is to support veterans and their families," Moorman said. "There is a lot of work yet to be

done, but we have a highly motivated team making great progress on Secretary Principi's initiative."

Reviewers are working to improve the clarity of the regulations to make them more veteran-friendly and to promote more consistency in the adjudication of claims.

The review and rewrite process has begun. The initial review of the regulations governing veterans' and their families' entitlement to compensation and pension benefits is scheduled to be done by Sept 1. The rewrite project for compensation and pension regulations is expected to take about two more years to complete.

Moorman replaces Major General Walt Huffman, retired Army Judge Advocate General, who began the effort to transform the VA regulations.

"Both Generals Huffman and Moorman were attracted to this huge project by its potential for direct benefit to veterans and their families," said Tim McClain, VA General Counsel.

"VA is fortunate to have had the top military lawyers from the Army and Air Force to head this exciting and challenging undertaking."

VP, VA commemorate Korean War 50th anniversary

Vice President Richard Cheney joined Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi in a special presentation recently as part of the 50th anniversary commemoration of the Korean War.

Twenty-five Korean War veterans received the Republic of Korea Korean War Service Medal. The veterans were relatives or friends of VA Central Office employees.

"In Korea were written some of the most notable moments in military history," Vice President Cheney said. "The medals presented recognize the virtues of duty, honor and service in the care of freedom."

The service medal was originally offered by the Republic of Korea in 1951 to United Nations forces serving in Korea and adjacent waters.

At the time U.S. law prohibited the U.S. military from wearing medals issued by foreign governments. Congress changed that in 1954, but by then most U.S. service members eligible for the medal had returned home.

"I am pleased to recognize American soldiers who stepped forward to defend democracy no matter the personal cost," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi. "The Korean government reissued the service medal to bestow gratitude and recognition on American service men and

women who so richly deserve it."

Other officials present included retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Nels Running, director of the Department of Defense 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee, and Maj. Gen. Young Han Moon, defense attaché of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea.

To wear this medal on U.S. military uniforms, U.S. military personnel must have served between the outbreak of hostilities, June 25, 1950, and the date the armistice was signed, July 27, 1953; been on permanent assignment or on temporary duty for 30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days; and performed their duty within the territorial limits of Korea, in the waters immediately adjacent to or in aerial flight over Korea participating in actual combat operations or in support of combat operations.

To apply for the service medal, veterans must provide a copy of their discharge paper, commonly known as a "DD-214," or a corrected version of that document, a "DD-215."

National Guard members must provide their statement of service equivalent, "NGB Form 22."

For more information on the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War, go to <http://korea50.mil>.

Centenarian Sailors

Submarine Captain Arthur H. Graubart

Submitted by Gil Shaddock

Capt. Arthur H. Graubart was born on Dec. 8, 1901, in Albany, N.Y.

He graduated from Charleston Harris High School in New York City in 1918. He entered the United States Naval Academy in 1921 and graduated in 1925. Upon graduation he reported to *USS Cincinnati (CL-6)* where he served for three years.

In 1928 Capt. Graubart reported to the Officers Submarine School in New London, Conn. After Sub School, he reported to *USS R-2 (SS-79)* where he served until 1931. It was aboard the *R-2* that he became qualified in submarines.

Capt. Graubart married Lucille Cheever at the Naval Academy Chapel on Sept. 13, 1931, a union that lasted for 63 years.

In 1932, he reported to the submarine *USS Barracuda (SS-163)* for a three-year tour.

His next assignment was to *USS Porpoise (SS-172)* where he served from 1938-1940.

In WWII, Capt. Graubart served in Submarine Divisions in Perth and Brisbane, Australia. From 1945-1946 he was

the Commanding Officer of *USS Prinz Eugen (IXV-300)*. The *Prinz Eugen* was a German heavy cruiser that was taken over by the U.S. Navy at the end of WWII. The *Prinz Eugen* was used in the atomic bomb tests at Bikini in 1946.

From 1951-1952, Capt. Graubart was the Commanding Officer of *USS Taconic (AGC-17)*. Capt. Graubart retired from the Navy in 1955, then operated his own consulting firm in Germany for 12 years where he was a consultant on military hardware.

He retired to Palm Beach, Fla., in 1968 where he has lived ever since.

Even though he is legally blind, Capt. Graubart still swims in his pool.

His nurse refers to him as “Speed” -- a nickname he earned during his years at the Academy. When he was a Midshipman, one of the members of the track team was injured and Graubart was asked to run in his place. Even though he crossed the finish line almost a half lap behind everyone else, he still earned a critical point for his team, so they nicknamed him “Speed” and it stuck with him ever since.

Capt. Graubart celebrates his 101st birthday Dec. 8th.



Chief Musician Elmer G. Melby

Submitted by Mary Melby

Elmer Gerald Melby was born in Manfred, N.D., on Oct. 17, 1902.

He enlisted in the U.S. Navy Dec. 9, 1919, as a Seaman Apprentice. After basic training he was sent to music school in Norfolk, Va., then to a school in Newport, R.I.

Upon graduation, Elmer was assigned to the destroyer tender *USS Bridge-port*. His second ship was *USS*



Shawmutt, head of the mine squadron for the East Coast. He was a member of the band aboard each ship, playing concerts for various occasions aboard ship and at officers' dances while in port. At first, he played drums and eventually added the clarinet and saxophone.

Elmer was next assigned to a submarine base in Coca Solo, Panama, for two years. He continued to play drums during this tour. After completing his Panama duty, he transferred to Naval Training Station, San Diego, where he played drums for the Navy band.

In 1932, Elmer returned to sea aboard the submarine tender *USS Holland*. Later that year he was assigned to *USS Bushnell*, the flagship for the submarine squadron. For the four years and seven months that he served aboard her, the *Bushnell* made annual trips to numerous ports on the East Coast, the Panama Canal, and Hawaii before returning to San Diego. At the end of this tour, he decided not to reenlist and joined the Naval Reserves.

In the early part of 1941, Elmer was called back to active duty. He was sent to Bremerton, Wash., and from there to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. He was briefly assigned to *USS Chester*, a light cruiser. He was then reassigned to the heavy cruiser *USS Northhampton*.

The *Northhampton* was part of the aircraft carrier *USS Enterprise* task force. When Pearl Harbor was attacked, *Northhampton* was about 200 miles away, returning from transporting a group of Marines to a base in the South Pacific.

After Pearl Harbor, *Northhampton* was



involved in numerous battles.

When called upon, Elmer and the other musicians performed wartime duties alongside their other crewmembers. At such times, musical instruments were secured.

In 1942, Elmer's band was transferred to shore duty at the University of Georgia in Athens, Ga. They replaced the college band whose members had been drafted into the military.

It was in Athens that Elmer was promoted to Chief Petty Officer and Bandmaster, following completion of a refresher course in Washington, D.C. He remained there until the war was over.

Elmer then transferred to the Naval Reserve until completing 20 years of service and retiring. He has been a member of the Fleet Reserve Association for more than 50 years, and wears his 50-year pin with great pride.

Elmer will celebrate his 100th birthday on Oct. 17, 2002. Navy Band Northwest will help him commemorate the occasion four days earlier on the Navy's 227th birthday.



Elmer and Mary Melby have been married for 59 years. They have four children, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



Armed Forces Retirement Home - Gulfport

(Formerly the U.S. Naval Home)

Gulfport, a 'living museum of American history'

By Doug LeMere, AFRH-Gulfport Public Affairs

When I first started working at the Armed Forces Retirement Home-Gulfport, I wanted to position a symbol on local area maps that identified a museum at our location. Many travelers that pass under the pedestrian overpass on Highway 90 are not aware of the richness of history that they just passed.

More than 500 veterans reside at the AFRH-Gulfport, and many of their stories are captured and displayed throughout the facility. Their memorabilia is maintained on the walls of the Home. This "Living Museum of American History" is saved on the 10th floor, commonly called the museum.

The Home's museum is always being updated with memorabilia donated by the residents and by local historians along the Gulf Coast. More than 1,250 pieces are on display for all to enjoy. New material is added as other material is rotated, but never discarded. This rotation helps to ensure that the museum is kept current.

Keeping the displays in order and periodically updated is the responsibility of Macon "Pat" Patteson. He lives on the 10th floor and has maintained the museum for more than ten years.

"We have all the services represented on this floor," Patteson said. "Maintaining the history of the home and our residents is a privilege I enjoy."

Some of the many stories and pictures on display are from residents who have passed away, but are not forgotten. "Burma Bob" Locke was one of the original Flying Tigers who lived at the Home. The picture of him and his wife Gwyn is up for all to see.

A retired bugle that had been used to play reveille and taps is mounted on a plaque. The bugle belonged to World War I veteran David Spiro, who at 103 years old is the Home's oldest resident.

Many different tributes are on display to appreciate and honor. In one hall, a collage of pictures of the Tuskegee Airmen is presented. A small quote under the pictures reads, "Airmen who never lost a bomber to enemy fighters under their protection."

A special tribute is in place for the 24 American burial grounds located on foreign soil. The display reminds us of the many heroes that gave their lives in defense of our freedom.

The American Battle Monuments Commission Administrators operate and maintain these sacred grounds overseas. Each cemetery is represented in the museum.

Observing the pride and history on display only takes an hour or two. Memorabilia from the American Revolution to the battle of Normandy to the USS Cole are on display.

The Coast flourishes with history and museums to house memorabilia. The Armed Forces Retirement Home – Gulfport is a "Living Museum of American History." The tours are free and memorable.



Sid Land, Master Chief Quartermaster (USN, Ret.), studies a display of Vietnam river boat patrols at the AFRH-Gulfport museum. (Photo by Doug LeMere)

Resident eligibility for Armed Forces Retirement Homes

To be eligible for residency in the Armed Forces Retirement Homes, at least half of your service in the Armed Forces cannot have been active commissioned service (other than as a warrant officer or limited-duty officer) and you must meet one of the following criteria:

1. Have 20 or more years active duty and be age 60 or above.
2. Be unable to earn a livelihood due to a service-connected disability incurred in the line of duty
3. Have served in a war theater or received hostile fire special pay and be unable to earn a living.
4. Have served in a women's component of the Armed Forces before the enactment of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948.

Vacation Club...

continued from front page

outside the United States, MWR representatives said.

Cendant/RCI manages more than 3,700 time-share resorts worldwide. The discount arrangement is possible because not all resort units are used by owners or rented all the time. The company must pay upkeep costs, but receives no revenue while units are vacant.

Cendant's Abbott, a retired Army officer, said the condo rentals are made available at near-cost to military members and DoD civilians. "This way, we're able to cover expenses and the service member is getting a fun, inexpensive vacation," he said.

In the arrangement between the Army and RCI, the vacationer can get information about the Armed Forces Vacation Club from any MWR Information, Tickets and Reservation office or Information, Tickets and Tours (ITT) office, or they can get information and book reservations either online or via a toll-free telephone reservation center.

On the club Web site, visitors will find a list of available units and dates among the thousands of participating resort for booking, all for \$249 for seven nights. Service members or civilians can reserve a condo using a major credit card.

Some restrictions apply. Confirmed vacations are not transferable. The customer purchasing the space-available



voucher must check in at the resort and be at least 21 years old. Pets are not allowed at any location.

Abbott said service members and civilians must be flexible with their requests.

"You're not going to get Vail (Colorado) at Christmas," he said. "Generally, what's available is off-season or on relatively short notice." In fact, most vacancies aren't posted until 14 to 21 days before the scheduled date of arrival, he said.

Participating resorts have different amenities. Typically, condos feature up to three bedrooms, a living room and fully equipped full or partial kitchens.

Many units have laundry facilities or such amenities as whirlpool tubs or fireplaces. Guests have access to on-site or nearby facilities, such as beaches, golf courses, tennis courts, spas, ski slopes, fishing lakes, hiking paths, horseback riding, restaurants and shops.

Many resorts also provide planned adult and children's activities.

RCI is a time-share exchange company, but service members and DoD civilians have no obligation to sit through sales pitches or other presentations, Yount said.

Go to www.armymwr.com/portal/travel/traveldeals for more information and click on the Armed Forces Vacation Club logo.

DoD, VA begin prescription by mail pilot program

DoD's Military Health System and the VA have joined forces to provide TRICARE beneficiaries with a new pharmacy benefit that delivers prescription refills by mail.

DoD/VA MTF Refill Mail Service (MRMS), a joint initiative with the VA's Consolidated Mail Outpatient Pharmacy (CMOP) program, is ramping up at three sites - Darnall Army Community Hospital, Fort Hood, Texas; Naval Medical Center, San Diego, Calif.; and the 377th Medical Group, Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M. The one-year pilot program is expected to be fully operational at the three demonstration test sites beginning October 2002.

"To use the MRMS, beneficiaries must fill their original military or civilian prescription at one of the above military treatment facilities (MTFs) first," said Army Col. Bill Davies, director, DoD pharmacy programs. "In most cases, beneficiaries at these sites will not have to leave their homes just to refill a prescription. All they have to do is pick up the phone, call the pharmacy that has their original prescription, select the refill by mail option, and CMOP does the rest."

Most prescriptions can be delivered within five to eight days. There are, however, some medications (such as con-

trolled substances or locally compounded items) that may not be available for delivery through CMOP.

The refill call-in system at each of three demonstration sites, will inform the beneficiary if their medication is available for mail out under the MRMS pilot program. To eliminate delays in processing or delivering refill medications, beneficiaries should check with their MTF to ensure their eligibility status and home address listed in the MTF's Composite Health Care System (CHCS) electronic record are the same as the information listed in Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS).

The MRMS/CMOP is different from the DoD National Mail Order Pharmacy (NMOP) program which dispenses prescription medications to TRICARE beneficiaries. Beneficiaries using NMOP pay a copayment for each prescription filled. The DoD/VA CMOP does not require copayments and only involves military treatment facility refills.

To contact the refill pharmacies, call: Darnall Army Community Hospital at (800) 351-3636 or (254) 288-8911; Naval Medical Center, San Diego at 619-532-8414; or the 377th Medical Group at (505) 846-5770.

VETeran NETwork

Log on: Computersmanship for the recruit

A telecommunications technician reveals the simple secrets to joining the Internet age, and using E-mail to send letters and pictures to your family and friends

By Dale Kelly

So you say you can't learn all this new Internet computer stuff? I don't buy that at all, recruit. We're going to teach you the simple way to do it, without the complications everyone thinks are part of it.

The only skill you really need is the ability to type. One finger hunt-and-peck works just fine. If you can see the keys and tap them, you're in.

Your computer of course needs to be set up and connected to a phone line (or Digital Subscriber Line for those seeking faster service) and it helps to know what things like your mouse do. When in doubt ask your grandchildren!

E-mail

The world has gone crazy for e-mail and if you don't have it you're missing the boat. E-mail is short for electronic mail and involves typing a message to someone and then sending it. There isn't much complication in this at all.

E-mail comes in two versions: Online and dial-up. Online e-mail is accessible while you are connected to the Internet and most versions out there are set up in this manner. Once your computer is up and running, just point the arrow on the screen (called a cursor) at the tag marked "Connect To Internet" or something similar, click the button on the mouse, and away you go.

Your Internet Service Provider (ISP) will have an opening screen and many of them are like a mini-newspaper with headlines of the day displayed. Your ISP usually welcomes you and gives you plenty to see and do, including want ads, chat rooms (which are places you carry on conversations by typing), offers for discount air fares, and the like.

A dial-up e-mail service just calls in to an ISP long enough to send and receive your e-mail and doesn't tie up the phone lines for very long. Online services keep you on the phone until you disconnect from it -- something to remember if you have only one phone line. You may have to put up with some advertisements that companies use to pay for the free e-mail service provided.

Somewhere on your screen you'll see "Get Mail" or something similar. Point your cursor at it and click the mouse button. The screen will change to your e-mail account, or to a page to establish one. Don't worry about starting an

account, they all have easy step-by-step directions to follow. That is a constant with computers and the Internet, there are directions and instructions everywhere. My advice? Follow them. That way nothing will short-circuit or blow up!

Okay, you have an e-mail account (included in your ISP package) or have joined an online e-mail service, most of them free. You have a new name, called an e-mail address, that you picked. You are now "navyvvet@xyz.com" and it's time to send an e-mail to someone. This address works the same as your street address and phone number. This is the name people will use to contact you. Your e-mail account is compatible with each and every other one out there, no matter who the ISP is, and literally all over the world, lightning fast, and free (as part of the ISP service you are paying for). No long distance charges ... nothing.

There is the blank page before you, ready for your message. First, make sure the cursor (a blinking line in most cases) is in the box marked "To:" and type in the e-mail address of the person you are writing to. Type the address exactly as you see it. Sometimes letters in capital or lower case are recognized as two different things by computers. Include any dashes and underlines and dots in the address as they all mean something.

Now move your cursor to the subject line, usually right under the "To:" address box. Type in a subject, such as "Hi kids, grampa is online!" or whatever you think is appropriate.

Move your cursor to the main body of the page and start typing. When your message is finished, proofread it, and then click on the box or tag marked "Send" and that's it. Your message is on its way and will be delivered in mere seconds. You will also receive any new e-mails that have been sent to you.

On your first try with e-mail you will no doubt get a message from your ISP welcoming you and maybe some offers for air fares or any number of things. You will also get what is called "spam," which are simply print commercials. Part of it I'm afraid. These companies pay the ISPs to advertise and that helps to keep your ISP membership costs down.

To get rid of these pesky things, just click on the "Delete" button and they magically go away. At least you don't have to sit through them like on TV.

VETeran NETwork

If you've received an e-mail you wish to reply to, click on "Reply" and type away. The address you are sending to will automatically appear in the "To:" box. Just proceed as before and soon you'll become a pro! Once you try it, you'll see just how simple it really is. And a warning: It can be addictive. And fun.

Remember that dealing with strangers via e-mail should be treated accordingly. Never give out personal information, credit card numbers, etc., to people or companies you don't know.

Surfing the Net

Think of the Internet, also known as the World Wide Web, as the world's biggest library right there on the screen in front of you. You can literally find out anything about anything. The good and the bad. Nice friendly web sites your grandkids might have designed with pictures of the dog, technical manuals, "online" stores and lots of useful lists. It's all there.

Surfing is easy. It really is. Once you are online and your ISP's welcome page is displayed, there should be a "Search" box somewhere on the screen. This feature is called a "Search Engine" and its job is to take you to web sites featuring what you are looking for. Most web site designers want a lot of traffic to their sites and will register them with the search engines. These search engines go by the names of Yahoo, Alta Vista, Netscape, MSN, Google, and many others, but they all work pretty much the same.

Move your cursor to this box and type in a subject or key word. It helps to be specific. If you want to look up "destroyers" and you search for just that word, you might get listings of U.S. Navy destroyers, garden pest destroyers, or a rock band called The Destroyers. Type in "US Navy destroyers" and you'll get a list of web sites about US Navy destroyers.

Some of these lists of related web sites can be quite long. Look them over. They all have a line or two about what they feature. When you pick out one that interests you simply click on their "link," which is usually the web site's name, with the lettering in blue or red and underlined. Click your cursor on this name and just like that you'll be there. If the site you are going to has a lot of pictures and graphics it might take a minute to load, so be patient. When you are finished there, simply click on the "Back" button on the upper left of your screen and you'll zip back to the page with all those web sites listed. Pick another one, click on the link, and see what that one has. That's it!

You can also go to a web site that you know the name of,

like www.navy.mil. This address is called a URL. There should be a box on the upper half of the screen where you can type this web address. Let's say you'd like to work the USA Today crossword puzzle, or read the sports page. Type in, www.usatoday.com. Sometimes, the "http://" is needed to direct your inquiry, almost like dialing an area code. Don't worry, you'll get used to this soon enough. Use this prefix any time you type in a web address. Remember to type in addresses exactly as you see them, with all the dots and dashes. Find the address of your local paper and read it every day, even when you're out of town!

Your ISP will give you a few options that appear as small boxes across the top of the screen. A handy one to use is the "Favorites" box, where you can store links (addresses) to favorite web sites that you find and wish to see again, saving you the aggravation of finding that list of sites that was right there a minute ago.

Be prepared to find a lot of good stuff out there on your favorite subjects. For instance, my uncle served aboard USS Sarsfield (DD 837) in the 1950s. I looked up U.S. Navy destroyers and found a huge list of all of them. Then I found 837 and clicked on that link. It told me every detail about it, and I found out it transferred to service in Taiwan's Navy! Then I searched for Tin Can Sailors, to which he belongs, and they had an even more detailed listing of every destroyer, pictures, e-mail links to members, reunions, and so much more.

Interested in veteran's affairs? The VA has web sites, as do the American Legion, VFW, AMVETS, Vietnam Veterans of America, Jewish War Veterans, and so forth. Want to see moving tributes to the heroes of September 11? Many sites are out there. Want to look up your family tree? This is by far the largest single subject on the 'net. Want to hook up with your buddies from high school? There are a bunch of sites for that too. Your home town most likely has a site, as does that restaurant you enjoy.

Believe me, you are in for a treat when you surf the net. Almost everything in the world has a web site these days, for every possible subject and interest. Sit back, get comfortable, start exploring, and see what is out there waiting for you! You'll wonder why you didn't do it sooner.

Dale Kelly, of Gouldsboro, Penn., is a veteran of the Gulf War, U.S. Army Communications and Electronics Command Signal Corps. She served until 1992, attaining the rank of Sergeant. She is employed today as a satellite and television technician and engineer.

VETeran NETwork

Retiree network keeps the torch alive



By Perry Lockhart

One of the unique aspects of military service is the lifelong bond it builds among those who serve. Enduring the hardships and horrors, achievements and joys with brothers and sisters-in-arms throughout a 20 or 30-year career

provides the cement for an active retirement full of sea stories, memories, and lifelong friendships.

Unlike the old Soldier who fades away, today's veterans have hundreds of opportunities to foster the friendships and camaraderie of active-duty service throughout retirement. With the emphasis the Department of Defense places on honoring and encouraging its veterans to stay connected, the ready access to base facilities, and the advent of the Internet, retirees have unprecedented ability to join the groups and organizations that make swapping experiences a retirement staple.

Veterans groups all over the world provide everything from reunions and social activities to congressional lobbying and formal assistance. Like the military in which they served, veterans groups range in size from small unit through international organizations.

Many of these groups exist to help others, among them retirees, spouses and family members, or active-duty personnel. Those who participate in the retiree network of groups and organizations find the experience both personally and professionally rewarding.

Whether helping teenagers find scholarship money for college, conducting retiree benefits fairs, or reuniting after 30 or 40 years, retiree groups continue to provide a valuable service to the military and to the nation.

Staying in contact with fellow veterans and retirees has helped keep the light shining on the gallant service performed by its Sailors and Marines throughout the history of the United States. As a group, retirees wield power and influence to change the way America views its veterans, the way America takes care of its veterans, and the way America honors its veterans.

With the advent of the Internet, locating veterans groups is much easier. Several sites contain extensive listings and links to veterans groups and organizations. Some of the more notable sites are listed at right.

Web sites for Retirees and Veterans

The Retired Officer Association

www.troa.org

The Retired Enlisted Association

www.trea.org

The Navy League

www.navyleague.org

The Marine Corps League

www.mcleague.org

Veterans of Foreign Wars

www.vfw.org

American Legion

www.legion.org

Navy Retired Activities

www.persnet.navy.mil/pers62

Marine Corps Community Services Retired Activities Information Center

www.usmc-mccs.org

United States Marine Corps official site

www.usmc.mil

U.S. Veterans Resource

www.vetsresource.com

Military.com

www.military.com

Classmates.com

www.classmates.com

Veteran Search

<http://members.aol.com/veterans/vetsrch.htm>



Retiree Seminars



<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Arizona</u></p> <p>Phoenix Oct. 26, 2002 (602) 353-3033 nmcrephx@cnrf.navy.mil</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Delaware</u></p> <p>Wilmington April 12, 2003 Dover AFB POC: Leon Stajkowski, MRCM (USN, Ret.) (302) 998-5194 uzonyi@cnrfnola.navy.mil</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Texas</u></p> <p>San Antonio March 29, 2003 Blesse Auditorium, Fort Sam Houston POC: Robert Flaughter, LT (USN, Ret.) (210) 225-2997 Ext 119 director@satrao.org</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>California</u></p> <p>San Diego Nov. 2, 2002, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. MCRD San Diego Base Theater POC: Lynell Poole Reservations not required (619) 556-7412 poole.lynell@ns.cnrsw.navy.mil</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Hawaii</u></p> <p>Pearl Harbor Nov. 2, 2002, 8 a.m. - Noon At the Banyans 915 North Road Pearl Harbor, HI 96860 (808) 473-4222 Ext. 231 frumkia@pearlharbor.navy.mil</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Virginia</u></p> <p>Dahlgren Nov. 7, 2002, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. NSWC Gymnasium POC: Paul L. Anderson CAPT (USN, Ret.) 1-800-500-4947 or (540) 653-1839 rao@nswc.navy.mil</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>California</u></p> <p>Sunnyvale April 25, 2003 POC: Robert French, CAPT (USN, Ret.) (650) 603-8047 crandrcfrench@earthlink.net</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Mississippi</u></p> <p>Gulfport Spring 2003 CBC Gulfport (228) 871-3000 Ext. 35 rao@cbcgulf.navfac.navy.mil jmlardner@cbcgulf.navfac.navy.mil</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Help Wanted</u></p> <p>RAO Bethesda MD Currently looking for volunteers. For more information, please contact: (301) 295-4120 Mon.- Fri., 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.</p>

Reunions

<u>REUNION NAME</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>CONTACT NUMBER</u>
USS ABNER READ (DD 526)	Oct. 31-Nov. 3, 2002	(757) 481-3515
USS ATULE (SS 403)	May 18-21, 2003	(410) 360-2852
USS BASHAW (SS/SSK/AGSS 241)	May 29-Jun. 1, 2003	(504) 465-0765
USS CAPE COD (AD 43)	Jun. 27-29, 2003	(228) 436-9835
USS CHARLES R. WARE (DD 865)	May 15-18, 2003	(843) 569-0707
USS CONYNGHAM (DD 371/DDG 17)	Jun. 11-15, 2003	(732) 432-0588
USS HARRY E. HUBBARD (DD 748)	Apr. 23-27, 2003	(727) 527-9448
USS HERMITAGE (LSD 34)	May 15-17, 2003	(563) 252-3687
USS IDAHO (BB 42)	May 18-25, 2003	(858) 271-6106
USS INCHON (LPH 12/MCS 12)	Apr. 4-6, 2003	(717) 203-4152
USS INDEPENDENCE (CVL 22)	Apr. 23-26, 2003	(717) 263-2258
USS JALLAO (SS 368)	May 22-24, 2003	(954) 472-5410
USS JASON (ARH 1/AR 8)	Jun. 2-6, 2003	(417) 649-6140
USS JENKINS (DDE 447)	May 14-18, 2003	(915) 944-8850
USS JOHN C. CALHOUN	Jun. 24-27, 2004	(812) 949-2475
USS LASALLE (AGF 3)	Jun. 13-15, 2003	(580) 924-7016
USS LST 447	Apr. 2-6, 2003	(504) 887-8348
USS LST 528	May 15-18, 2003	(860) 613-2876
USS MACOMB (DD 458/DMS 23)	May 14-18, 2003	(901) 873-2865
USS MIDWAY (CV/A/B 41)	Jun. 19-21, 2003	(407) 671-0629
USS PERRY (DMS 17/DD-844)	May 14-18, 2003	(501) 582-3665
USS PURDY (DD 734)	Mar. 27-30, 2003	(610) 433-4787
USS SAVANNAH (AOR 4)	May 1-4, 2003	(812) 886-4252
USS SIRAGO (SS 485)/ SEA LEOPARD (SS 483)	Apr. 30-May 4, 2003	(636) 225-7528
USS STICKLEBACK (SS 415)	May 27-29, 2003	(410) 544-3514
USS TANGIER (AV 8)	Jun. 4-8, 2003	(513) 752-1455
USS TERREBONNE PARISH (LST 1156)	Apr. 30-May 4, 2003	(614) 841-1223
USS TOLOVANA (AO 64)	Jun. 28-Jul. 1, 2003	
USS UTAH (BB 31/AG 16)	May 13-16, 2003	(805) 733-1646
USS VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION	Jun. 25-27, 2003	(757) 340-7855
USS WABASH (AOR 5)	Mar. 20-23, 2003	(580) 889-7707
USS WHITE PLAINS (AFS 4)	Jun. 5-8, 2003	(915) 676-7379
USS WORDEN (DLG 18)	Jun. 19-21, 2003	(757) 481-4995
USS YELLOWSTONE (AD 27)	May 1-3, 2003	(352) 854-1387
AEW PIONEERS VX4/VW 2	Apr. 17-20, 2003	(215) 978-0938
ALL MEMBERS VIGALANTE COMMUNITY	May 28-Jun. 1, 2003	(407) 322-0380
AP TRANSPORT GROUP	Jun. 5-8, 2003	(516) 747-7426
ATTACK SQUADRON 144	May 9-10, 2003	(847) 356-3247
COMBAT CORPSMEN	May 1-4, 2003	(315) 451-3695
CVWR 20/30	Apr. 10-13, 2003	(253) 435-4277
MCB-9	May 29-Jun. 1, 2003	(702) 897-6613
NAVAL AIR SPECIAL WEAPONS FACILITY	May 13-16, 2003	(760) 723-3613
NAVAL WEAPONS EVALUATION FACILITY	Jun. 3-5, 2003	(505) 836-3189
NMCB 121	May 31-Jun. 2, 2003	(717) 545-6229
NMCB 40	Apr. 3-6, 2003	(856) 875-1300
NMCB-4/12/58/62/133 CBMU-302 NSA DANANG	Jan. 31-Feb. 2, 2003	(856) 234-2273
VO 67	May 9-11, 2003	(850) 941-8556
VP-9	May 7-11, 2003	(308) 381-7673
VR-21	May 15-17, 2003	(318) 347-4641
1960 PREFLIGHT CLASSES	May 16-18, 2003	(281) 894-7752
1st MEDICAL BATTALION GROUP	May 1-4, 2003	(707) 996-0503



Ready Reference Contact Information

Air Force Retired Affairs	(800) 531-7502	Navy Retired Activities Office P62S2@persnet.navy.mil	(800) 255-8950
Arlington National Cemetery	(703) 695-3250	Navy Uniform Shop www.navy.nex.com	(800) 368-4088
Armed Forces Retirement Home (Gulfport, Mississippi) www.afrh.com	(800) 332-3527	Navy Worldwide Locator www.bupers.navy.mil/services/locator.html	(901) 874-3388
Armed Forces Retirement Home (Washington, D.C.) www.afrh.com	(800) 422-9988	Reserve Component SBP Section (Code 416)	(800) 535-2699
Army Retired Affairs www.odcsper.army.mil	(703) 325-9155	Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) www.insurance.va.gov	(800) 419-1473
Awards Information	(202) 685-1770	Ships Historian Washington, D.C.	(202) 433-3643
Defense Finance and Accounting Service Cleveland Active Duty www.dfas.mil	(800) 346-3374	Social Security Administration www.ssa.gov	(800) 772-1213
DFAS Retired/Annuitant (Outside US) www.dfas.mil	(800) 321-1080 (216) 522-5955	TRICARE for Life	(888) 363-5433
Federal Long-term Health Insurance www.opm.gov/insure/ltc/index.htm	(800) 582-3337	TRICARE Headquarters www.tricare.osd.mil	(303) 676-3526
I.D. Cards Benefits and Eligibility P312d@persnet.navy.mil	(800) 443-9297	TRICARE Information	(800) 874-2273
Internal Revenue Service www.irs.gov	(800) 829-1040	Tricare Senior Pharmacy program www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy	(877) 363-6337
Marine Corps Retired Affairs http://osprey.manpower.usmc.mil	(800) 336-4649	VA Burial Benefits www.va.gov	(800) 827-1000
National Personnel Records Center www.archives.gov	(314) 538-4141	VA National Service Life Insurance www.va.gov	(800) 669-8477
Naval Reserve Personnel Center www.nrpc.nola.navy.mil	(800) 535-2699 (866) 250-4778	VA Regional Office (Benefits and Assistance) www.va.gov	(800) 827-1000
Navy Lodge Reservation Service www.navy-nex.com - click on Lodge	(800) 628-9466	Veteran's Group Life Insurance www.insurance.va.gov osgli.osgle@prudential.com	(800) 419-1473

Service Records

Retirees desiring a copy of their discharge certificate (DD214), personnel records or medical and dental records should write to:

National Personnel Records Center
9700 Page Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

All requests must be written, dated and signed, and should include full name, rate/rank, Social Security Number, dates of service and date of birth. Requests for records are processed in four to six months. You may want to visit their web site at www.archives.gov prior to making any request.

Annuitant Pay

Questions regarding Annuitant Pay should be directed to Defense Finance and Accounting Service in Denver at **(800) 435-3396** or e-mail: dfas-de-frb@dfas.mil

Retiree Pay

Questions about retiree pay should be directed to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service in Cleveland at **(800) 321-1080**.

ID Card Eligibility

For ID Card and DEERS information, contact the Navy Personnel Command Benefits Branch at **(901) 874-3362**, Fax **(901) 874-2766** or e-mail: p312d3@persnet.navy.mil

Retiree Dental Program

For information and eligibility guidelines, call the customer service number at **(415) 972-8300**. You can also visit their web page at: www.ddpdelta.org or write:

Delta Dental
P.O. Box 7736
San Francisco, CA 94120

Reporting a Retiree's Death

To report the death of a Navy Retiree, contact the Defense Finance and Accounting Service Casualty Assistance Branch at **(800) 269-5170** or **(216) 522-6680**. *(If a Retired Activities Office is nearby, they can provide valuable assistance.)*

For Other Retiree

Personnel Matters Contact:

Navy Personnel Command
Retired Activities Branch and GI Bill
Programs Branch
(PERS - 664)
5720 Integrity Drive
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