



111 th Attack Wing Retirees Activities Office Horsham AGS,Pa.



Newsletter Vol 4 #1 Winter/Spring 2019

A publication of the 111th Attack Wing Retirees Activities Office (RAO) whose mission is in support of the base commander in providing information and assistance to military retirees their families and surviving spouses residing in the Pa., N.J. and N.Y. Information has been edited and does not reflect the official policy of any U.S. Government agency.

111th Attack Wing Retirees Activities Office/RAO/ CVR
Building 203, Room 168 Horsham, Pa. 19044-5203 Telephone 215-323-7135

The 111th Attack Wing Retiree Activities Office is an official activity organized in accordance with AFI 36-3106. The office is here to assist military retirees, their spouses, military veterans, guard and reserve personnel from all U.S. military services. We can provide information and contacts for pay (DFAS), benefits and entitlements, personnel and casualty affairs and interface with these organizations to help personnel. We have thirteen volunteers in our office including our director, retired Chief Master Sgt. Jenny Pappas. We are seeking more military retirees that have the time to volunteer (three hours per shift).

The 111th Retirees Activities Office (RAO) is open Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m. – 3p.m. and also Saturday morning of 111th Drill/RDO 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Telephone 215-323-7135. Please leave a message if there is no answer.

If you need to contact Casualty Assistance Representative at Joint Base McGuire/Dix/Lakehurst, their phone number is 609-754-3814/3154 or cell 609-668-5385.

If you need to replace or get a new ID card, please call 111th Customer Service Office at 215-323-7419. Contact for the Airman and Family Readiness Programs Office is: 215-323-7132

The 111th Attack Wing's external websites are at <http://www.111attackwing.ang.af.mil> or <http://www.facebook.com/111thATKW>

You will find all events and up to date info there including the Retirees Office, ID card, JAG information and current news and programs offered by the wing. A Retiree Survivor's Guide to Benefits is available on the Library page of the Air Force Retiree Services website.

<http://www.retirees.af.mil> This guide provides general information about most federal benefits and entitlements available to eligible family members of deceased retired Airmen and it explains various application processes. People can direct specific questions to the government agency administering the benefits or discuss these matters with an Air Force casualty assistance representative

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SAVE THE DATE!!

**5th Annual 111th Attack Wing Military Retirees
Appreciation Day**

**Saturday 13 July 2019 Times, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. See Flyer on
page 7**

ACTIVITIES PLANNED:

Representatives from the VA, Casualty Assistance, Family Programs, Space A, ID Cards Section, Retiree Activities Office, Veterans Associations will be giving briefings during program.

EVENT LOCATIONS:

111th Attack Wing Headquarters, Building 203, Auditorium

Horsham Air Guard Station, Horsham Pa. 19044-5203 (formerly known as the Willow Grove Air Station)

SPECIAL DETAILS AND AGENDA: Briefings on Military and Veteran benefits and entitlements and their spouses. Also info about what is available for Military Retirees at the facility. Contact Number for more information 111th Attack Wing RAO Office, 215-323-7135 or DSN 358-7135

CONTACT E-MAIL FOR INFORMATION

jenny.pappas.ctr@mail.mil

vincent.acquaviva.ctr@mail.mil

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Lists of Retiree Publications on Websites on line:

Army(Echoes): <http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement>

Navy(Shift Colors): <http://www.shiftcolors.navy.mil>

Air Force (Afterburner): <http://www.retirees.af.mil/afterburner>

Marine Corps(Semper Fidelis) <http://www.usmc-mccs.org>

Coast Guard (Evening Colors) <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cgl/psc/ras>

Mil Retiree Space A lodging <http://www.dodlodging.net>

All Services (Gov./Mil.) information

DFAS/My Pay <http://www.dfas.mil> Tricare <http://www.tricare.mil>

Tricare Dental <http://trdp.org>

Military Records <http://www.archives.gov/veterans>

Casualty Assistance <http://militaryonesource.mil/casualty>

General News and Info <http://www.militaryonesource.mil>

AMC Travel Space A <http://www.amc.af.mil/amctravel>

AMC Space A Travel Page <http://www.spacea.net>

Space A travel Documents <http://www.amc.af.mil/shared/media/document/afd-140423-118.pdf>

Military Burial Honors Eligibility:

DOD Policy is mandated by law to provide a minimum of a two-person uniformed detail to present the core elements of the funeral honors ceremony, and one service member must represent the veteran's branch of service.

Core Elements include playing of TAPS, Folding the American Flag, and presenting the American Flag to the family.

DOD is required to provide a (two-service member) detail; policy encourages each service to provide elements as firing team and pallbearers. They can be provided by Veteran Service Organizations.

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Source: <http://www.military.com/benefits/2016/07/11/official-urges-families-to-learn-about-burial-eligibility.html>

DFAS Arrears of Pay Information: in cases of Military Retiree or spouse death.

<http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/provide/aop/aop-order.html>

<http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/survivors/retiree-death.html>

Source: DFAS <http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary.html>

Military Records on-line Available DD-214's and records

<http://www.vetrecs.archives.gov>

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>

2019 TRDP transition to FEDVIP

Beginning on January 1, 2019, the TRDP will be replaced by the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) which offers dental benefits comparable to the TRDP and a choice of ten dental carriers including Delta Dental. Enrollment in the FEDVIP will begin November 12, 2018 and run through December 10, 2018. You must select a FEDVIP dental plan to continue your dental care benefits.

Under the FEDVIP program, there are no waiting periods (except for orthodontics in most plans), and you will receive your full FEDVIP benefits beginning on January 1, 2019 with whichever FEDVIP plan you select during the November/December 2018 open season.

Source :Tricare Spring 2018

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The 67th Annual 111th Attack Wing Reunion was held on Monday 1st April at La Casa Restaurant at Bustleton Ave. and Philmont Ave. from 6 to 8 PM
About 78 former members, recent members, and spouses attended.

PA Deputy Adjutant Brig. General Mike Regan was in attendance along with many former 103rdTASS Pilots and Maintenance crews. Stories from F-86's, F-89's, C-97's, U-3's, O-2's, A-37's, and A-10's were told by members.

Flyers were handed out for the 111th Family Day Event in June, 111th Military Retirees Appreciation Day Event in July, and the 111th Attack Wing Annual Golf Outing.

It was a Great and Joyous evening. Many 111th memorabilia was shown including a replica model of the 11th ATKW MQ-9 Reaper model. Our Thanks go out to all 111th members for attending. Special Thanks is for the 111th Attack Wing Historians Office for the memorabilia and model. **See you all next year for the 68th Annual 111th Attack Wing Reunion.**

Q: How do I "buy back" my military service time so I can apply it toward my civil service retirement?

A: Retirees can have their military service time considered for their civil service retirement if they "buy back" that time. In order to "buy back" military service time for civil service retirement, retirees must work with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service. DFAS offers a new Military Service Earnings/Buy Back Estimator that provides an **unofficial estimate only** and can assist with calculating military service earnings and the buy -back costs.

To use the calculator, and for more information about the buy-back process, visit the DFAS website.

Q: I'm moving and need to change my mailing address with the Air Force. Who do I contact?

A: The Air Force does not maintain mailing addresses for retirees. If mailing addresses are needed for any correspondence, including the *Afterburner*, the Air Force relies on the addresses already on file with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service. Even if you have Direct Deposit or an online myPay account, it is very important to keep your address current with DFAS.

Retirees can change their address by calling 800-321-1080. (Do not mention the Air Force or *Afterburner* or you may be referred elsewhere.) If you have an online myPay account you can make the change online. You can fax your change to 800-469-6559, or send it to:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service

U.S. Military Retired Pay 8899 E 56th Street Indianapolis IN 46249-1200

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) recently published its annual list of budget strategies with options for policymakers to consider as they begin the budgeting process for next year. Legislators will be looking to increase revenue any way they can.

The CBO has targeted the following areas in TRICARE. None of the proposals reflect — or even

hint at — the price a military retiree or their family already has paid up front for their health care with their service and sacrifice. The proposals also neglect to mention DoD's annual outlays for TRICARE For Life (TFL) have actually gone down or remained flat year after year.

Here's a closer look at the options the CBO proposes for TRICARE.

1. TFL. The CBO has put forward several options that would result in increased costs for TFL beneficiaries. Specifically, these options would either require an enrollment fee for TFL require beneficiaries to pay out-of-pocket cost shares, or both. The CBO's objective is to reduce spending for Medicare and TFL by increasing revenue and providing incentives for —

beneficiaries to use their TFL benefit less or even to switch to a commercial Medicare supplement.

Here are a couple of key CBO recommendations:

- **An annual enrollment fee of \$485 for individual coverage or \$970 for family coverage could start in calendar year 2021.** The cost savings estimated from this would be \$12 billion between 2021 and 2028, and savings are projected to increase by about 5 percent, mainly by indexing this enrollment fee to Medicare cost growth.

- **Minimum out-of-pocket requirements could start in 2022.** In this proposal, TFL wouldn't

- **TRICARE Select.** Individuals could pay an annual enrollment fee of \$485 or \$970 for a family. The annual deductible for an individual would be \$300 or \$600 for a family.

These cost shares would be tied to a national health expenditure index, not COLA. The total cost savings from these proposals is projected to be \$12.6 billion between 2020 and 2028.

cover any of the first \$750 of an enrollee's cost-sharing payments under Medicare and would cover only 50 percent of the next \$6,750. Essentially, TFL beneficiaries would pay a maximum of \$4,125. In anticipation of TFL beneficiaries returning to military treatment facilities (MTFs) to avoid these cost shares, the MTFs would be required to charge the same amount as civilian facilities.

2. TRICARE Prime and Select cost sharing for retirees under age 65. Again, the CBO claims health care has been among the fastest-growing portions in DoD's budget. However, by —

— MOAA strongly opposes each and every one of the CBO's proposed options because they represent more than disproportional fee increases for military retirees. Military retirees and their —



COLA WATCH
The December 2018 Consumer Price Index is 244.786, 0.6 percent below the FY 2019 COLA baseline.

— DoD's own numbers, health care has remained one-third of the personnel budget since 1980. Targeting working-age military retirees and claimants they're not paying their share gives CBO the rationale to abolish the current grandfathering originally established in the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act and to put beneficiaries away from utilizing their earned benefits.

Here are the key CBO recommendations starting in 2021:

- **TRICARE Prime.** Individual enrollment fees could increase to \$650, and family enrollment could increase to \$1,300.

— families already have accumulated a wide variety of fee increases, and this is on top of the price they have paid up front with their decades of service and sacrifice.

— *Capt. Kathy Beasley, USN (Ret), director of health affairs, Government Relations*

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Retiree Activities Office @ Horsham

Military Retirees Appreciation Day

111th Attack Wing Horsham Air Guard Station

1051 Fairchild Street, HQ Bldg 203, Horsham, PA 19044

Saturday July 13, 2019

0900-1400hrs

Military Retiree Information Seminar:

Briefings from representatives of: DFAS/My-Pay, Tricare, Dept. of PA. for VA Benefits, Casualty Assistance, ID Cards; Retirees Activities Office; Family Programs and Veterans Organizations

Complimentary Lite Buffet

For Additional Information Contact:

Jenny Pappas or Vincent Acquaviva

@ 215-323-7135

Jenny.pappas.ctr@mail.mil

Vincent.acquaviva.ctr@mail.mil

R.S.V.P. By Saturday June 1, 2019 SAVE THE DATE

Note:

Pages 6 and Page 8 Source is the Military Officers Association of America April 2019 Issue.

Please read it is possible upcoming changes to our Tricare benefits if Legislation goes thru in Washington DC.

The Truth About What Military Beneficiaries Pay for Their Health Care

TRICARE Fee Increases: DoD and others have promoted the TRICARE benefit by contrasting its premiums and cost shares with the higher cost shares paid by civilians for their health care. And in 2014, military retiree premiums for TRICARE Prime represented 10 percent of the civilian HMO average. However, defense bills in fiscal years 2012, 2013, and 2015 increased fees by 16 percent — adding or raising pharmacy copayments, indexing future Prime and pharmacy fee increases to military retired pay growth, and instituting mandatory home delivery of medications.

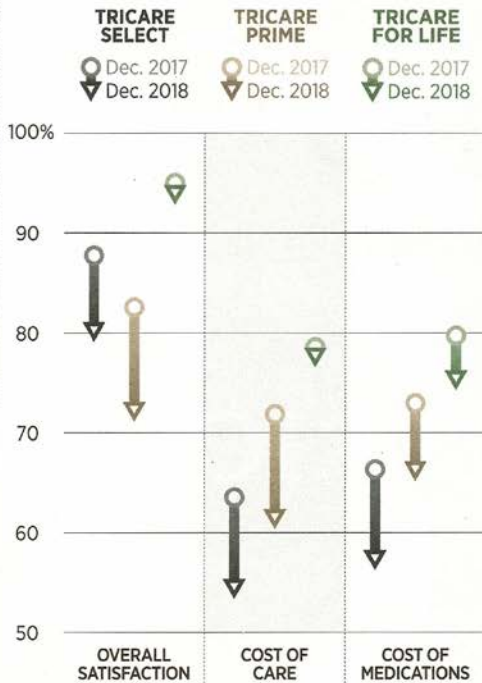
The Current TRICARE Fee Structure: In addition to these fee increases, in 2018 DoD unilaterally changed the TRICARE fee structure — without congressional approval. Unexpected increases in TRICARE fees spanned almost every beneficiary category, with retirees under age 65 the most affected. These structural fee changes disregarded the intent of the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act that current servicemembers, veterans, and families should be grandfathered from health care cost-share increases.

The Accumulated Impact: In 2018, the typical employee paid about 29 percent of their employer's total premium cost for family coverage; the employer paid the rest. Cost shares (including pharmacy costs) for military retirees under age 65 are now more closely aligned to civilian costs than they were just five to eight years ago.

MOAA's Position: Military beneficiaries already pay large premiums for their health care through their extraordinary personal and family sacrifices. Reducing their retirement benefit jeopardizes retention, and therefore readiness. DoD and Congress should be stabilizing and improving the TRICARE program instead of shifting more costs onto beneficiaries.

TRENDS NOTED IN HEALTH CARE SURVEY INDICATE BENEFICIARIES DISSATISFIED

Survey findings indicate TRICARE beneficiaries are increasingly dissatisfied with certain aspects of the TRICARE program. Beneficiaries using TRICARE Select and TRICARE Prime are dissatisfied the most with the cost of care, the cost of their medications and their overall satisfaction with the program trending down. Those beneficiaries using TRICARE for Life are highly satisfied with the program.



SOURCE: MOAA TRICARE BENEFICIARY SURVEY

GRAPHIC BY JOHN HARMAN/MOAA