

MEARNG RETREE NEWSLETTER



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, VETERANS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT - published by the Retiree Council

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We want to take this time to thank Brigadier General Albert White for his many years of dedicated service to the Maine Army National Guard Retiree Council and his commitment to this newsletter in continuing to keep our retirees posted on new updates, events and information over these many years.

During our April 2013 meeting, Brigadier General James Campbell, Maine National Guard Adjutant General presented a certificate of appreciation to Brigadier General Albert White acknowledging the 30 plus years that he gave serving our MEARNG retirees.



On November 6th, several council members were in attendance to thank Brigadier General White for all that he has done. LTC Jim Laflin, Chairman of the MEARNG Retiree Council presents to Brigadier General White, an Eagle Head Cane. BG White has passed the torch and will now enjoy his retirement. In attendance were Ret LTC Jim Laflin, his wife Laura, Ret COL Don Laflin, his wife Brenda, BG Whites wife Jean, Ret COL Don Lajoie, Ret CW4 Marty Asdourian and Ret MSG Rachel Bosse.

**THANK YOU SIR FOR SERVING
US SO WELL OVER THESE
MANY YEARS. ENJOY YOUR
RETIREMENT!!!!**



Retiree Council Meeting Dates 2014

April 9th, 2014
June 11th, 2014
August 13th, 2014
October 15th, 2014

USPFO Conference Room
0900-1000

ALL ARE INVITED

COL Valmore Vigue
 LTC Alan Tibbetts
 MAJ Stephen Alexander
 MAJ William Appel
 MAJ Mary Rovaris
 COL Kimberly Ballantyne
 MAJ Brian Molloy
 CW3 Andrew Cook
 COL Kevin Mcdougall
 COL John Jansen
 COL Gerald Dunlap
 MSG Jeffrey Hanson
 SSG Jeffrey Grivois
 SFC William Norton Jr
 SFC Richard Campbell
 SGT Roger Willett Jr
 SSG Timothy Blevins
 SGT Daniel Durepo
 SFC Linda Moody
 MSG Danny Boucher
 SFC Jamie Raymond
 SGT Andrew Bartlett
 SSG Richard Chasse
 SGT Edwin Martell Jr
 SSG Ashley Rumney

***Congratulations
 to those who
 have joined the
 ranks of
 “RETIRED”.
 2012-2013***

SGT Aaron Williams
 SSG Dale Bergeron
 SSG Richard Voisine
 SFC Robert Bussiere
 SFC Dennis Sayce Jr
 SSG Eric Chretien
 SFC Culley Lasselle
 SSG Lawrence Wonch
 SGT Heath Schwab
 SGM Steven Curtis
 SFC Dale Hatch
 SFC Timothy McGuire
 CSM Terrence Harris
 SSG George Whitmore Jr
 MAJ Kenneth Chamberlain
 CW4 Thomas Driscoll
 1LT Stacey York
 COL David Smith
 CW4 Kent Cousins
 CPT Steven Morin
 MAJ MD Mitchell
 COL Kris Nelson
 MAJ Kenneth Bryant
 CW4 Ben Ayer
 COL Verne McMoarn
 MAJ Ferdinand Slater
 MSG Alan Willett

RETIREE Council

The Retiree Council meets quarterly on Wednesdays from 0900-1000 in the USPFO Conference Room at Camp Keyes, Augusta. Any retiree or non-retiree is welcomed to attend. Invitation always to our MEARNG Leadership: The Adjutant General, Deputy Commissioner, and Director of Veterans Services. The current council holding office members are:

Chairman: Jim Laflin
 Vice Chairman: **Vacant**
 Recruiting Chairman: **Vacant**
 Secretary: Rachel Bosse
 Newsletter Editor: Mary O'Mara
 Asst Newsletter Editor: Wendy Moody

If you are interested in holding one of the vacant positions contact me at 207-430-5959.

If you are aware of a retiree who retired in 2012 and is not on the above list, please contact me. We are in the process of updating our retirement list.

GRAY AREA RETIREES

If you are a Gray Area Retiree and not yet age 60, remember you must apply for your retirement, it is not automatic. How do you do that? You can come to Camp Keyes, see the retirement service section when you turn age 59, and they will assist you in applying for benefits. Call 207-430-5768 for an appointment.

Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)

Increase for 2014

The Social Security Administration announced that the Cost of Living Adjustment for 2014, also known as COLA will be increased by **1.5 percent**. This will effect retirees, survivors and social security recipients. Good news is that Medicare announced **they will not be increasing their premiums for 2014, so you will actually see the increase.**

How to Update your address at DFAS if you are drawing a military pension:
Defense Finance & Accounting Service
US Military Retired Pay
PO Box 7130
London, KY 40742-7130
Or call 1-800-321-1080 or 216-522-5955

IMPORTANT, IMPORTANT, IMPORTANT

Army plans to close retiree AKO accounts by March 31, 2014

The U.S. Army will close all retirees and family members' AKO accounts between Jan. 31 and Mar. 31, 2014. Additionally, retirees and family members will no longer be able to store email in AKO after Jan. 31, 2014. You will be able to set your AKO email to automatically forward to a commercial email account if you set this up by Jan. 31.

If you have listed an AKO email address in your myPay account, you should change it to a commercial email account. This is where you'll receive all future notices from the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, and where you will receive Army Echoes in 2014.

To avoid disruptions, retirees should replace AKO email addresses in all personal accounts - especially MyPay accounts. To update your email address, log in to **myPay** at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>. Then click on "Email Address" and look at "personal email address." AKO email addresses end in "@us.army.mil." Change the email address if necessary, and click on "Primary." Finally, click "Accept/Submit." If you do not have a **myPay** account, you can register for one at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>. If you need assistance registering or have questions, call **myPay** at (888) 332-7411 or you can do the following also

Log into AKO—Click "My Account"

Click the "Mail Options" link under "Mail Preferences"

Click "Select Delivery Option" button.

Select "Forward Email (Non-AKO Account)"

Enter forwarding email address

Page 4 ID Card Locations and documentation required

Site Name	Service	Phone	Hours
101 FSS/FSMP 102 Ashley St Ste 489 Bangor, ME 04401	ANG	207-404-7395	Mon - Fri 7:30 – 3:00 No Appts
AG HO Maine 194 Winthrop St Augusta, ME 04333	National Guard	207-430-5914	Mon – Fri 7:00 – 3 :00 Closed from 11:30 to Noon No Appts
DFAS Limestone 27 Arkansas Road Limestone, ME 04751- 6216	DFAS	207-328-1116	Mon – Fri 9:00 – 2:30 Call for Appt
SUPSHIP Bath USN 274 Washington St Bath, ME 04530	USN	207-442-2773	Mon – Tues 7 :00 – 11:00 Wed – Thur 12:00 – 3:00
USCG Sector Northern New England 27 Pearl Street Portland, ME 04101	USCG	207-780-3048	Tues – Thurs 8:00 – 11:00 1:00 to 3:00 No Appts
Air National Guard Base 50 Western Avenue South Portland, ME 04106	Air National Guard	207-756-7853	Tues - Wed – Thurs 8:00 – 3:00 Appts Only Can leave message to schedule Appts
Portsmouth Naval Shipyard 1 Walker Street, Bldg 384 Portsmouth (Kittery) NH 03804	Navy Shipyard	207-438-2640/1861	Mon – Fri 6:30 – 3:00 No Appts

Documents needed to obtain a new or renewed ID card

Retirees must bring in two forms of unexpired ID (one must be a picture ID) in order to get a new ID card. The forms of ID may include an unexpired military ID, unexpired driver's license, original birth certificate with raised seal, original social security card or an unexpired passport. In addition, if the retiree is eligible for Medicare they must bring in the original Medicare card.

Dependents must be accompanied by the service member to get a new ID card. They must also provide two forms of ID as outlined above. If the retiree is unable to come in with the dependent, a DD Form 1172-2 signed by the retiree and notarized or endorsed by a SSM or Verifying DEERS official will be required or you can call Camp Keyes ID card office for more information at 207-430-5914.

Dependents whose service member has passed away become their own sponsor, and required to present two forms of ID; as well as a copy of their deceased servicemembers death certificate.

Page 5 Survivor Benefit Information

WHO SHOULD I CONTACT IF MY RETIREE DIES

1. DFAS 1-800-321-1080—to report the death and stop the retirement pay
2. VA if receiving disability 1-800-827-1000, option 6 (report the death and stop the disability pay)
- 3 DEERS, make an appointment to get a new ID Card—see ID Card locations
4. Social Security Office—1-800-772-1213
5. Survivor Outreach Services, Camp Keyes 207-430-5959 for assistance in applying for Survivor Benefits and other resource contacts

Late notification of a retiree's death may result in burdensome consequences, including delays in finalizing a member's account, payment of arrears of pay and the establishment of an SBP annuity. A retiree's entitlement to retired pay ends on the date he or she dies. Therefore, delayed reporting of a retiree's death may result in an overpayment that will be collected from a financial institution, the member's estate, or from the annuitant if the annuitant is found to be in receipt of the retired pay funds.

WHO DO I CONTACT IF MY SPOUSE PREDECEASES ME AS A RETIREE: Contact retirement services at Camp Keyes 207-430-5914 where they will assist you in contacting DFAS to suspend or change your SBP beneficiary election.

NEW requirement when applying for Survivor Benefits

Effective March 1st, 2013, DFAS now requires a copy of the social security card of the beneficiary when applying for benefits Survivor Benefits . The new requirement arose from a Department of Defense audit. DFAS will also accept a copy of a Medicare card and a letter of explanation if the beneficiary does not have the original Social Security card. The social security card is sent forward with the SBP packet (DD Form 2656-7, W4P and Direct Deposit Form) when applying for benefits. If the security card is not sent in at that time, DFAS will still process the claim, however a non submission could cause the annuity benefit to stop until DFAS receives the SSN Card.

Indefinite ID Card for spouse.

If you are the spouse of a military retiree, and coming up on or over 75 years of age, you are eligible to receive a permanent military dependent ID card with no expiration date. It will be indefinite. The same is true for permanently disabled military retirees of any age.

Annual Certification of Eligibility (COE)

Effective Aug. 1, 2013, **most Survivor Benefit Plan annuitants over the age of 55** are no longer required to complete and submit an annual [Certificate of Eligibility](#) (COE) to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service. Annuitants should no longer expect to receive the annual COE once they reach age 55. Eligibility to receive annuity payments will continue without submitting the COE.

However, the following annuitants will continue to receive annual COEs and **must** sign and submit their completed forms to DFAS to continue annuity payment eligibility:

- Annuitants under 55 years of age
- Annuitants who are receiving hard copy checks in a foreign country (regardless of age)
- Annuitants who have a permanent disability (regardless of age)

If you are in any of these categories, send your annual COE to:

U. S. Military Annuitant Pay
P.O. Box 7131
London, KY 40742-7131
Fax: 800-982-8459

An annual reminder is sent to you when your COE is due. Do not disregard it, DFAS will stop your annuity payment until they receive it. **Please be sure to notify DFAS if you move**, so that they can continue to send you important notices and reminders.

Army Emergency Relief (AER) Assistance**Retirees now eligible**

Soldiers retired from active duty because of longevity, physical disability or retired upon reaching age 60 and their eligible family members. (Gray area retirees are not eligible until they reach age 60)

Widows, widowers of Soldiers who died while on active duty or after retirement as cited above

How do I apply for assistance:

AER has a support agreement with the American Red Cross to assist Soldiers and their families if there is no Active Duty Installation within 50 miles of your home. Call the American Red Cross 24 hour Emergency Communication Center at 877-272-7337 or go to <http://www.aerhq.org/dnn563/FinancialAssistance.aspx>

What do you need to do :

Fill out a AER Form 700, Application for AER Financial Assistance. The form is available on line at <http://www.aerhq.org/dnn563/FinancialAssistance.aspx> or call the American Red Cross Center at the number listed above

The **James Ursano Scholarship Program**—also through the Army Emergency Relief (AER) - Dependent children of Army retirees may be eligible to apply for the Scholarship. Go to http://www.aerhq.org/dnn563/Portals/0/LinkedDocs/Education/2013-2014_MG_James_Ursano_Scholarship_Program_Instructions.pdf. The 2014-2015 program will open in Jan 2014.

Page 7 Survivor Benefit Information continued

Remarriage after your Retiree dies and affects on benefits

If you are the spouse of a deceased servicemember and eligible to draw either SBP, DIC, CHAMPVA or TRICARE and you remarry, here are a few rules you should know about your benefits.

-If you remarry prior to the age of 57 and you are receiving SBP or DIC you will lose your benefit, however should that marriage end in divorce, death or annulment you can be reinstated for benefits; marry after 57 you will not lose your benefit.

-If you remarry prior to age 55 and are eligible for medical benefits through CHAMPVA you will lose your benefit however you can be reinstated should that marriage end in divorce, death or annulment.

-If you remarry and you are eligible for medical benefits through TRICARE regardless of your age you will lose your medical benefit and **there is no reinstatement** of that benefit should that marriage end in either divorce, death or annulment.

Dependent Identification cards and Survivor Benefits Program for same-sex spouses -

Same-sex spouses of military members, eligible civilian employees, and military retirees may be enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System by their sponsors and get their dependent identification card beginning September 3rd, 2013. ID Card will allow the dependent to use the commissary, PX, MWR and Tri-care Benefit, if the sponsor is eligible. A certificate of marriage is required as well as the normal original birth certificate, SSN, and a valid picture ID.

Same-Sex Spouses of Military Members and Retirees *Now* Eligible for Survivor Benefits Program

Effective June 26, a service member who becomes eligible to participate in the SBP under 10 U.S.C. 1448(a)(1) and is married to a same sex spouse shall have the SBP program applied as for any other married couple under U.S.C. 1448. A service member who was married to a same-sex partner upon becoming eligible to participate in the SBP prior to June 26, and who was married prior to the date, will have until June 25, 2014 to make a spouse election under 10 U.S.C. 1448(a)(3). If an election is not received on or before June 25, 2014, full spousal coverage will be entered and the member shall be responsible for premium payments effective from June 26, 2013. A service member who was not married upon becoming eligible to participate in SBP, but who married a same-sex spouse before June 26, shall have until June 25, 2014 to make a spouse election under 10 U.S.C. 1448(a)(5). If the election is not received on or before that date, the service member shall be prohibited by law from making such an election.

Additionally, a service member who married a same-sex partner on or after June 26, and has insurable interest coverage under 10 U.S.C.

1448(b) may terminate that coverage and, if eligible, elect spousal coverage under 10 U.S.C. 1448 (a)(5).

Enrollment in the SBP is not automatic. Individuals must take action to confirm each service member is receiving the benefits to which he or she is entitled. It is the service member responsibility to ensure he or she is enrolled and has updated their intended beneficiaries.

TRICARE Retiree Dental Program Annual Maximum Change

The TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) contract brings new changes to TRDP enrollees. Previously, the TRDP benefit year ran from October 1 to September 30. The new contract will have the benefit year run on a calendar year basis from January 1 to December 31.

As a result of this change, DHA and DoD extended the current contract until December 31, 2013, increasing the annual maximum for enrollees in the Enhanced program to \$1,500 and enrollees in the Basic program increase to \$1,250. These maximums only apply to the extended period and enrollees aren't asked to pay a higher deductible. This change began on April 1, 2013.

This may cause some trouble for enrollees who met their maximum and were waiting for October to schedule dental care. Enrollees who received care between April and October were notified on their explanation of benefits of this change. Enrollees can contact Delta Dental at 1-888-838-8737 for assistance.

VA Offers Dental Insurance Program

VA is partnering with Delta Dental and MetLife to allow eligible Veterans, plus family members receiving care under the Civilian Health and Medical Program (CHAMPVA), to purchase affordable dental insurance beginning Nov. 15, 2013.

Veterans who are enrolled in VA health care can choose to purchase one of the offered dental plans. This three-year pilot has been designed for Veterans with no dental coverage, or those eligible for VA dental care who would like to purchase additional coverage. Participation will not affect entitlement to VA dental services and treatment.

There are no eligibility limitations based on service-connected disability rating or enrollment priority assignment. People interested in participating may complete an application online through either Delta Dental, www.deltadentalvadip.org, or MetLife, www.metlife.com/vadip beginning Nov. 15. Coverage for this new dental insurance will begin Jan. 1, 2014, and will be available throughout the United States and its territories.

Also eligible for the new benefits are nearly 400,000 spouses and dependent children who are reimbursed for most medical expenses under VA's CHAMPVA program. Generally, CHAMPVA participants are spouses, survivors or dependent children of Veterans officially rated as "permanently and totally" disabled by a service-connected condition. Dental Insurance 2/2/2

Dental services under the new program vary by plan and include diagnostic, preventive, surgical, emergency and endodontic/restorative treatment. Enrollment in the VA Dental Insurance Plan (VADIP) is voluntary. Participants are responsible for all premiums, which range from \$8.65 to \$52.90 per month for individual plans. Copayments and other charges may apply.

Historically VA's free dental services have gone to Veterans with dental problems connected to a medical condition that's officially certified as "service connected." Free dental services will continue for those Veterans. For more information on VADIP, visit www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vadip, or contact Delta Dental at 1-855-370-3303 or MetLife at 1-888-310-1681.

Mandatory Home Delivery for TRICARE For Life (TFL) Beneficiaries

The TRICARE For Life Pharmacy Pilot will start mid-February 2014. The TFL Pharmacy Pilot will require TFL beneficiaries who fill specialty maintenance medications at retail pharmacies to switch to home delivery or to a military pharmacy. At a later date, beneficiaries who have to participate in the Pilot will get a letter with information on what they need to do. Some beneficiaries may apply for a waiver due to personal need or hardship, emergency, or other special circumstance such as living in a nursing home (the waiver process isn't finalized). Also, the list of specialty maintenance medications affected by the Pilot isn't available yet. Once everything is set in stone we will share it with you. Basic information is available at www.tricare.mil/tflpilot or you can call 1-877-363-1433.

Contact information for Tricare Providers

North Region Health Net Federal Services, LLC , www.hnfs.com , 1-877-TRICARE (1-877-874-2273)

South Region Humana Military, a division of Humana Government Business, Humana-Military.com, 1-800-444-5445

West Region UnitedHealthcare Military & Veterans , www.uhcmilitarywest.com, 1-877-988-WEST (1-877-988-9378)

TRICARE For Life, www.tricare4u.com, Toll-Free: 1-866-773-0404

USFHP, <https://martinspoint.org/about-martins-point/contact-us>, 1-800-322-0280

**TRICARE YOUNG
ADULT COSTS AND
FEES**

TRICARE Young Adult is a plan that qualified adult children can purchase after eligibility for "regular" TRICARE coverage ends at age 21 (or 23 if enrolled in college). The 2014 TYA Prime monthly premium will be \$180, and the TYA Standard monthly premium is \$156. TYA premiums are adjusted annually, effective January 1.

**Tricare Retired Reserves-
New Rates**

Starting in January 2014 rates for Tricare Retired Reserves (TRR) for member only will be \$390.99; Member and Family \$965.65. Rates have fallen from 2013.

**Tricare Service Centers to
close**

The days of walking into a Tricare Service Center for assistance will soon be coming to an end. Tricare Service Centers will be closing their doors. The only means to Health Net Federal Services will now be the toll free customer service line at 877-TRICARE (877-874-2273)—customer service representatives will be available by phone to assist you with your TRICARE needs

Page 10 Requesting 1099R and Tax information

The 2013 1099R are now available on myPay. Statements for the current and prior two years can be viewed, printed, or saved to your computer. Members who elected to receive a hard copy should receive their 2013 1099R by mid-January, 2014. If you haven't received your copy, it may be because they do not have your correct address on file. Did you move, have a 911 address change?

Telephonic request: call 1-800-321-1080, Select option 1 for Military Retired and Annuitant Pay, Select option 1 "To Use automated self-service system and reissue a 1099R, Select option 1 to request a 1099-R 24 hours a day, seven days a week, without waiting to speak to a customer service representative. Enter your Social Security Number using your touch-tone keypad when prompted. You should receive your 1099-R in 7 to 10 business days.

Written request: Write us a short letter requesting a new copy of your 1099R. Include your name, Social Security Number, mailing address, signature and date. Or complete a DFAS 9190 to request a 1099R form, Fax your request to 800-469-6559 or mail it to:

Retirees:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service, U.S. Military Retirement Pay, P.O. Box 7130, London, KY 40742-7130

Annuitants: Defense Finance and Accounting Service, U.S. Military Annuitant Pay, P.O. Box 7131, London, KY 40742-7131

You should receive a copy of your 1099R within a month

If you have exhausted the above options or prefer to speak to a customer service representative, call 800-321-1080, Tuesday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time and select option 1 then 0.

Tax information—Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE)

Self-Help Tax Preparation— If you have a simple tax return and need a little help or do not have access to a computer, visit one of the participating tax preparation sites and an IRS-certified volunteer will guide you through the process.

There are thousands of VITA sites located across the country. You may find a site near you between January and April using the [VITA Locator Tool](#) or call 1-800-906-9887. A majority of the TCE sites are operated by the AARP Foundation's Tax Aide Program. To locate the nearest TCE site or AARP Tax-Aide site between January and April use the [AARP Site Locator Tool](#) or call 888-227-7669.

Items You Need to Bring when having your tax return(s) prepared at a VITA or TCE site:

Proof of identification – Picture ID

Social Security Cards for you, your spouse and dependents or a Social Security Number verification letter issued by the Social Security Administration or

Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) assignment letter for you, your spouse and dependents

Proof of foreign status, if applying for an ITIN

Birth dates for you, your spouse and dependents on the tax return

Wage and earning statement(s) Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, 1099-Misc from all employers

Interest and dividend statements from banks (Forms 1099)

A copy of last year's federal and state returns if available

Proof of bank account routing numbers and account numbers for Direct Deposit, such as a blank check

Disabled Veteran hunting and fishing license change—A disabled veteran who has a service connected disability evaluated at 50% or more may obtain a complimentary license to fish, trap, hunt, including archery, muzzleload, bear, migratory bird, pheasant, spring/fall wild turkey, coyote night hunt, crossbow, one expanded archery antlerless deer permit, and upon meeting the qualifications, a license to guide. This license is available to disabled veterans who are residents of Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

This license(s) remains valid for the life of the license holder, as long as the license holder continues to satisfy the residency requirements in Title 12, section 10001, subsection 53, and the license is not revoked or suspended. Note: Holders of this license no longer have to obtain the additional permits each year as they are now included as part of the license. They must still apply for any lottery permits such as moose and any-deer.

The license can only be obtained from IF&W's main office in Augusta. Download Complimentary License Application at http://www.maine.gov/ifw/licenses_permits/pdfs/complimentary.pdf

Hearing Aids – information provided by Retired COL Don Laflin

The DoD sponsored Retiree-At-Cost Hearing Aid Program is designed to help retirees purchase hearing aids through an Audiology Clinic at a special government negotiated cost. The hearing aids available through this program are the same state-of-the art technologies available to active duty service members. The program is open to all military retirees who have hearing loss or tinnitus (ringing in the ears). Dependents of military retirees are not eligible for this program. **Retirees can buy hearing aids at a significant savings by using the program.** For example, a set of hearing aids (one of the best available) that retails for about \$5,000 costs a retiree as little as \$755 or about 15% of the retail costs. Services for the hearing evaluation, hearing aid fitting and follow up hearing aid checks are part of retiree benefits and are available at no cost. Not every DoD medical facility is able to provide the RACHAP program. If traveling from out of town, compare travel costs of purchasing hearing aids privately in the local community. Generally, at least two visits are required to get hearing aids, one for the hearing evaluation and one for the hearing aid fitting.

Also, retirees may be eligible for hearing aids from the Department of Veterans Affairs and receiving hearing aids from the VA free of charge, in most cases there is no costs to the patient. The Audiology Department can provide with more information about VA services or contact the VA directly a 1-877-222-8387 or 1-800-827-1000.

Dependents of retirees are not eligible for hearing aid services from military treatment facilities (including RACHAP) or from TRICARE. The family member is eligible for TRICARE hearing evaluations and the audiologist can provide them with more information about hearing aids or local providers.



TAPS

LTC Michael J. Backus—7 January 2013

MG Edwin W. Heywood—27 February 2013

COL Roscoe C. Tibbetts—30 March 2013

SSG Allan E. Watts—25 May 2013

SFC James K. Bickford—27 May 2013

COL Linwood K. Feeney—9 June 2013

SSG Richard Lavasseur—7 July 2013

SGT Rudy Lavallee—30 July 2013

SGT Harold F. Smith—21 September 2013

SFC William “Billy” Gilson—22 September 2013

CPT Robert F. Russell—19 October 2013

SGT George Ash—18 December 2013

It is suggested that the Headquarters at Camp Keyes, Augusta, Maine be made aware of a deceased MENG Retiree. Upon receiving notification, word will be disseminated to the Staff and Units through the Command Leadership of the Maine Army National Guard. This will enable any active guard member who may have served with the retiree to pay their condolences. Please contact Rachel Bosse at 207-430-5959 or email Rachel.n.bosse.ctr@mail.mil.



We will never forget

This is the bill number and text of the legislation that Congressman Michaud introduced to create the Gagetown Registry.

H.R.1372 - To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a registry of certain veterans who were stationed at or underwent training at Canadian Forces Base Gagetown, New Brunswick, Canada, and for other purposes.

113th Congress (2013-2014)

BILL

Sponsor: [Rep. Michaud, Michael H. \[D-ME-2\]](#) (Introduced 03/21/2013)
Cosponsors: [2](#)
Latest Action: 04/08/2013 Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.
Major Recorded Votes: There are no Roll Call votes for this bill.

Tracker:

Introduced > Passed House > Passed Senate > To President > Became Law

Summary: H.R.1372 — 113th Congress (2013-2014)

There is one summary for this bill. [Bill summaries](#) are authored by [CRS](#).

Shown Here:

Introduced in House (03/21/2013)

Directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA), within one year after the enactment of this Act, to establish and maintain a special record to be known as the Canadian Forces Base Gagetown Health Registry containing the name of each individual who, while serving in the Armed Forces, was stationed at or underwent training at Canadian Forces Base Gagetown, New Brunswick, Canada (Gagetown), during the period beginning on January 1, 1956, and ending on December 31, 2006, and who: (1) applies for care or services from the VA; (2) files a claim for compensation on the basis of any disability which may be associated with such service; (3) dies and is survived by a spouse, child, or parent who files a claim for dependency and indemnity compensation on the basis of such service; (4) requests a health examination from the VA; or (5) receives such health examination and requests inclusion in the Registry. Requires the Secretary, upon request, to provide such health examination, as well as consultation and counseling with respect to examination results.

Directs the Secretary to: (1) notify individuals in the Registry of significant developments in research on the health consequences of potential exposure to a toxic substance or environmental hazard related to service at Gagetown; and (2) carry out appropriate outreach activities with respect to such health examinations, consultation, and counseling.

Requires an annual Registry report from the Secretary to the congressional veterans committees.

The three key elements to safe winter driving are:

Stay alert;

Slow down;

and stay in control



If not already, **schedule a maintenance check-up for the vehicle's tires, tire pressure, battery, belts and hoses, radiator, oil, lights, brakes, exhaust system, heater/defroster, wipers and ignition system.** Keep your gas tank sufficiently full – at least half a tank is recommended.

Here are some safe-driving tips that will help you when roads are slick with ice or snow:

Get the feel of the road by starting out slowly and testing your steering control and braking ability. Start slowing down at least three times sooner than you normally would when turning or stopping.

Reduce your speed to correspond with conditions. There is no such thing as a “safe” speed range at which you may drive on snow or ice. You must be extremely cautious until you are able to determine how much traction you can expect from your tires.

Maintain a safe interval between you and the car ahead of you according to the conditions of the pavement.

Many needless rear-end crashes occur on icy streets because drivers forget to leave stopping space. Keep your windows clear. Don't start driving until the windows are defrosted and clean - even if you're only going a short distance.

Watch for danger or slippery spots ahead. Ice may remain on bridges even though the rest of the road is clear. Snow and ice also stick longer in shaded areas.

Correctly operating windshield wipers and defrosters are essential to safety while driving in snow and ice conditions.

Use caution when snowplows are on the roadways as snowplows, salt and sand trucks travel much slower than regular traffic. Passing a snowplow can be extremely dangerous as sight lines and visibility are severely restricted by blowing snow.

The above excerpts were taken from a SafeMotorist.com Driving Safety Article written by defensive driving staff writers and reviewed for accuracy by defensive driving instructors. This article is intended for educational purposes only, and should not be taken as legal advice or literal interpretation of any specific traffic law.

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PHONE NUMBERS and WEB SITES

DFAS 1-800-321-1080—www.dfas.mil

Tri-Care Support Specialist at Camp Keyes 207-430-5778

Transition Assistance Advisor 207-430-5778

ID Cards, Camp Keyes, Augusta 207-430-5914

Martins Point Spec 1-888-241-4556

HealthNet-1-877-874-2273—www.tricare.osd.mil

VA Togus 1-800-827-1000– www.va.gov

Social Security Administration-1-800-772-1213-www.ssa.gov

VA GI Bill - www.gibill.va.gov/resources/student_handouts

Survivor Outreach Services—www.sos.army.mil 207-430-5959

COMMENTARY

This Retiree Newsletter, normally is published in April, August and December. Our purpose is to keep you informed and provide you a continuing sense of belonging to the Guard after retirement. We hope the newsletter helps accomplish that purpose.

Information is furnished through various sources, and is only made available in this newsletter for your information. Information and comments contained in this newsletter is intended solely for the personal interest of the recipient and should not be considered as an endorsement. If you have an item you would like considered for publication, please send it to the MEARNNG Retiree Council Secretary, Rachel Bosse, 194 Winthrop Street, Camp Keyes, Augusta, Maine 04333-0033, or email me at Rachel.n.bosse.ctr@mail.mil

This newsletter and all previous issues of the newsletters can be found on the following web site at:
<http://www.me.ngb.army.mil/resources/retiree/newsletters/>

We are continuing to update the mailing list to include all MEARNNG retirees. If you know of a MEARNNG Retiree(s) who are not receiving the newsletter, please have them contact or send their name and address to Ms Becky Maheau at the same address mentioned above or her email at becca.l.maheux2.nfg@mail.mil.

Please advise us of mailing address changes . If you do not wish to continue receiving the newsletter, contact me immediately.

STAY SAFE AND GOD SPEED