



Volume 12 Issue 3



MEARNG RETIREE NEWSLETTER



Sept-Dec 2007

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, VETERANS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
PUBLISHED BY THE MEARNG RETIREE COUNCIL

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This newsletter and all previous issues of the newsletters can be found on the following web site: this is a new change for retiree page

<http://www.me.ngb.army.mil/retire/retiree.htm>

We are continuing to update our mailing list to include all MEARNG retirees. **If you know any retiree(s) who are not receiving the newsletter, please send their name and address to a member of the Retiree Council or e-mail us.**

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

Continuation of Newsletter The Retiree Council has decided to **continue the Retiree Newsletter to spouses of deceased retirees** when the spouse requests it. Many items in the newsletter may prove valuable to the surviving spouse.

New Members: Membership is open to retirees of all ranks and gender from all parts of Maine. If you or a retiree you know are interested, please contact a Council member. Retired NCOs should consider getting involved to have their concerns surfaced and to demonstrate they are still an active member in military affairs.

COMMENTARY This is the thirty- fifth Retiree Newsletter, normally published in Apr, Aug and Dec. Our purpose is to keep you informed and provides 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 MEARNG Retiree Council, Camp Keyes, Augusta, ME 04333

NOTE:

****RETIREMENT BENEFITS AND****
****SERVICES****

MILITARY RECREATION FACILITIES

Publications are available in exchanges that cover many recreation benefits and facilities to name a few they are: Temporary Military Lodging (Around the World); Military RV, Camping & Outdoor Recreation (Around the World- Including Golf Courses and Marinas); United States Military Road Atlas; Military Installation Road Map. All of these are published by: Military Living Publications at P.O. Box 2347, Falls Church, Virginia 22042-0347. Tel 703-237-0203 . e-mail: milliving@aol.com

I have found that Navy Lodges are a great place to stay. Most have small kitchens and dishes etc. Stop by a Navy Lodge and get a Worldwide Directory.

I have stayed in military recreation areas in O'ahu, Hawaii several times. Cost is based on rank but very reasonable when two couples share. I have found reservations have to be made a year in advance for the Bellows Air Force Station and Pililaau (formerly Waianae)Army Recreation Center.

Following is some info on recreation areas in Hawaii:

www.mwrarmyhawaii.com/lodging/waianaelg.asp

Barking Sands Pacific Missile Range, Kauai
www.pmrf.navy.mil

Bellows Air Force Station, O'ahu
www.bellowsaifs.com

Hale Koa Hotel, O'ahu www.halekoa.com

Kilauea Military Camp, Big Island, Hawaii
www.kmc-volcano.com

TLF Marine Corps Base Hawaii, O'ahu (808) 254-2806

Schofield Inn, O'ahu www.innatschofield.com this would be my last resort choice.

There is a great Navy Lodge on Ford Island in O'ahu. The lodge was built on the site of a hospital used during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. A lot of military history close by! USS Arizona memorial and many other ships sunk on that fateful day.

If you like to travel, save money etc. Buy the publications cited above. Make your reservations as soon as the regulations for a recreation area you are interested in

allow. Do it early you can also cancel follow the cancellation guidelines for each area.

The biggest cost I found in Hawaii is a rental car. Get a buddy couple to share the costs and fun! I sit here tonight with a lot of snow and cold. It is sunny and warm in a lot of locations retirees can take advantage of.

The above information provided by al white the editor-in-chief.

Operation Recognition is looking for volunteers!

Please see ad on page 12. Operation Recognition (OR) is looking for volunteers who can help raise money to support this program. The short term goal is to raise \$60,000 which will cover the cost of 40 military families (one week each), to stay at Roger Bintliff's Resort and eat at his restaurant, summer 2008. The long term goal for the OR committee is to be self sufficient, build it's own lodge/cabin for OR families, and not expect Mr. Bintliff to continue to fund it.

All the funds raised this year will go to cover the cost of lodging and meals at the resort in Edgecomb. The cost have been averaging about \$1,500 per week. There is no paid staff working for the OR committee.

Want to help? Give Major Stephen Hatt a call at his work number (207) 626-4282. Major Hatt is the Executive Director for the Maine Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

PLEASE READ THE AD. Go on line and read about the OR program. From what I have heard and read the families that have been served in the first go around have been elated.

Just think about this! There are over 1400 of us MeARNG retirees. If we ever wanted to give something back at \$50.00 times 1400= \$70,000.

Gifts are tax deductible.

**Make checks payable to Operation
Recognition and mail to : Operation
Recognition 318 Eddy road, Edgecomb,
Maine 04556**

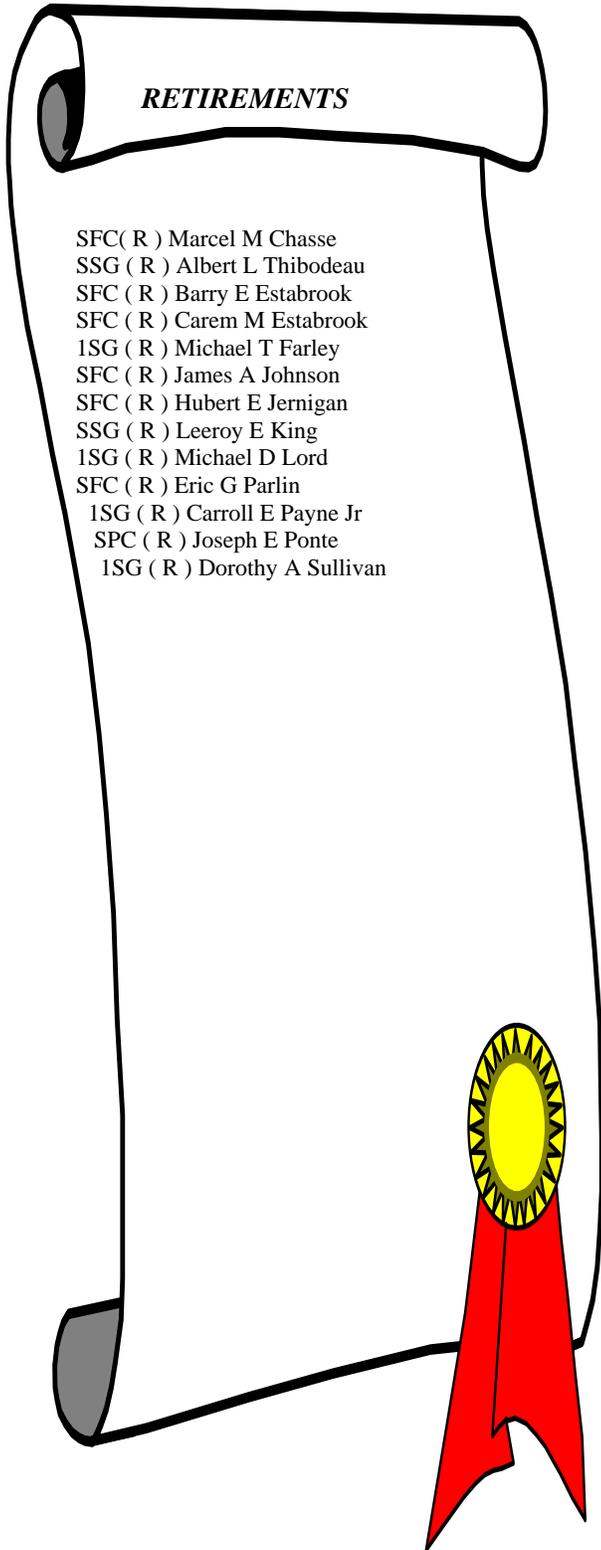
WORCESTER WREATH COMPANY

**As you must all know by now that the
Worcester Wreath Company has been
donating thousands of wreaths each
year to veterans cemeteries. Most
notable Arlington Va. Please visit Mr.
Worcester's web site at:**

<http://www.wreaths-across-america.org/index.html>

**You can help keep this most worthy
operation going by sponsoring a
wreath, buy a lapel pin and more.
Donations received now will go towards
the operation in 2008.**

****TRANSITIONS****



RETIREMENTS

- SFC (R) Marcel M Chasse
- SSG (R) Albert L Thibodeau
- SFC (R) Barry E Estabrook
- SFC (R) Carem M Estabrook
- 1SG (R) Michael T Farley
- SFC (R) James A Johnson
- SFC (R) Hubert E Jernigan
- SSG (R) Leeroy E King
- 1SG (R) Michael D Lord
- SFC (R) Eric G Parlin
- 1SG (R) Carroll E Payne Jr
- SPC (R) Joseph E Ponte
- 1SG (R) Dorothy A Sullivan

*(**Any names that are not on this list, was not done intentionally, please advise.)*



TAPS

**COLONEL GAUTREY J. MUSK
COLONEL HAROLD R. REES JR.**

It is suggested that the Headquarters at Camp Keyes, Augusta, Maine be made aware of a deceased retiree. Upon receiving notification, word will be disseminated to Staff and Units of the Maine Army National Guard. This will enable any active guard member who may have served with the retiree to pay their condolences. Person to call is the Directorate of Personnel at 207-626-4536



We will never forget

Volunteers welcome in helping to conduct Military Funeral Honors

The POC is:
Mr. Frank R. Norwood, MSG (Ret)
Military Funeral Honors Coordinator
1-800-958-5967
207-626-7822

Maine Military Funeral Honor Program
Since October 2004, the Maine Military Funeral Honor Program has performed 1619 Military Funerals. According to the Maine Veteran's Administration, Maine will lose 3800 Veterans (all branches) per year through the year 2010 with an estimated one third being Army Veterans. Retirees are welcome to participate in providing Military

Funeral Honors (MFH) for Maine's Army Veterans. The rendering of Military Funeral Honors is a way to show our Nation's deep gratitude to those who, in times of war and peace, have faithfully defended our country. Funds are available to compensate certain categories of retirees and buglers. Retirees, in class A uniform will receive a per day stipend, (whether training or performing MFH). To perform MFH you will need to train with the current members of the MFH team. This could be training in a class room environment or actually watching funerals in progress. **I will not put you on the spot.** You will not be asked to present a flag to a next of kin until you are comfortable with the various tasks required of a MFH provider.

MISCELLANEOUS

WEB SITES YOU NEED TO HAVE

FOR INFO ON MEARNG RETIREES TO INCLUDE NEWSLETTERS go TO:
www.me.ngb.army.mil/retire/retiree.htm

For National Guard Association of Maine "NGAME go to: <http://www.ngame.us/>

For Maine Army National Guard go to: <http://www.me.ngb.army.mil/default.htm>

For Maine National Guard Family Assistance go to: <http://www.me.ngb.army.mil/family/default.htm>

****UPCOMING EVENTS****

MeARNG Retiree Council Meeting Dates for 2008:

The Council meets on Tuesdays at 0900 in the TAG conference room, Camp Keyes, Augusta. Any retiree or non-retiree is welcome to attend.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>
February 12 2008	Tuesday
April 8 2008	Tuesday
June 10 2008	Tuesday

August 12 2008	Tuesday
October 14 2008	Tuesday
December 9 2008	Tuesday

All meetings at 0900 hours – TAG conference room
 Al White, Chairman

Maine Army Retiree Council Meetings – Calendar Year 2007:

(Not to be confused with the MEARNG Retiree Council. This council is for all branches of service in Maine).

The Maine Army Retiree Council conducts meetings, at various times, which imparts information of interest to all military retirees. Retirees of all military services, and their spouses, are invited and encouraged to attend. Scheduled meetings for 2007 are as follows:

- 05 Apr 08, 1930 hrs, Air National Guard Base, 514 Mainiac Ave., Bangor, Me 04401
- 07 Jun 08, 1930 hrs, Post #31 American Legion Post, Washington St., Auburn, Me 04210
- 08 Aug 08, 1930 hrs, Maine Veterans Home, Scarborough, Me 04074
- 11 Oct 87, 1930 hrs, Post #40, American Legion Post, W6nthrop, Me 04364

For additional information relative to these meetings, contact either of the following individuals:

- CSM Edward L. Davis, AUS (Ret) (207) 469-7918, PO Box 50, East Orland, Me 04431
- CSM Estol R. "Mac" McClintock, USA (Ret), (207) 683-6121, 59 Huff Corner road, Wellington, Me 04942-8709
- SFC Harold L. Ware, AUS (Ret) (207) 642-2757, 110 Fort hill Road, Standish, Me 04084

Maine Military Historical Society Board of Directors and annual meeting dates:

The Society is looking for additional board members. If you are interested contact the Society president Dwaine Drummond at 626-4220. Meeting dates are as follows 10 Jan, 14 Mar, 09 May, 18 July, and 14 November. Annual meeting of the Society is scheduled for 26 October 2007 Board meetings are held in the TAG conference room Camp Keyes at 1800 hours

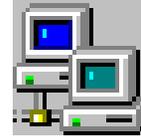
****FOR YOUR INFORMATION****

152d FA HISTORICAL REGIMENT

CSM (R) G. Neal Genz wants to keep the 152d Arty Bn flame burning by starting a historical regiment. He has asked that any Arty (REDNECKS) interested contact him at neal.genz@gmail.com Neal lives at HCR 71 1240 North Shore Drive , Stockholm, Me

Please if you have time and skills listed, and we all do GET ON THE LIST TO LEND A HAND IF NEEDED.

PLEASE SEND ME YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS IF IT CHANGES. Also any change to YOUR MAIL ADDRESS AL WHITE albertwhite@suscom-maine.net or 529 Fosters Point Road, West Bath, Maine 04530



A veteran - whether active duty, retired, or national guard or reserve - is someone who, at one point in his, or her, life, wrote a blank check made payable to "The United States of America," for an amount of "up to and including my life." That is honor, and there are way too many people in this country who no longer understand it.

Author unknown

FAMILY ASSISTANCE CENTER VOLUNTEER FACT SHEET. SEE PAGE 9 also SEE PAGE 10 & 11 DEPLOYMENT 60+ OF OUR OWN!

retiree E-Mail Addresses**

Listed below are e-mail addresses of some of our retirees. This is a way of keeping in touch, providing upcoming events and news of interest between regular issues of the newsletters. If you would like to have your e-mail address included in this list, contact al white at albertwhite@suscom-maine.net

If you change your e-mail address you will need to provide me with the change. An incorrect e-mail address can affect my distribution group for sending out e-mails. One bad address can affect the entire group. This is also a way of keeping you informed of deaths, legislative issues, family support, etc.

Adams, Earl, MG adamsearl@roadrunner.com
[Adams Larry 1SG ladams73@maine.rr.Com](mailto:ladams73@maine.rr.com)
[Anderson Joseph F SFC janderson@pwless.net](mailto:janderson@pwless.net)
Armstrong, Read, CW4 - readparmstrong@yahoo.com
Amoroso, Francis (Frank) J, COL - guardme1@verizon.net
Ash, George, SGT - gla1956@yahoo.com
[Ashmore, John H MSG john.ashmore2@verizon.net](mailto:john.ashmore2@verizon.net)
Atkins Ernest D. Jr, SGM. - MILRETSGM@aol.com
Azzarello, Leonard S., SSG - thechip3@maine.rr.com
Barron, Mike, SSG - malfcs@hotmail.com
Barry, Bruce M., LTC - barrybm@msn.com
Barstow Richard O SSG- abnormalbarstow@yahoo.com
Beaudion, Ricahrs Maj - rbeaudoin@netschape.com
Beaule, Donald, SFC - dlbeaule@msn.com
Benedetto, Joe, 1SG - xexman44@netlink.net
Bennett, Eldon A., SFC - elben@pioneercable.net
[Bennet,Ronald SSG-ronald ben@verizon.net](mailto:ben@verizon.net)
Benson, Donald, 1SG - dabenson@verizon.net
Bilodeau, Arlene V., SSG - meandblu@midmaine.com
Birmingham, Kerry, SGM - khh@megalink.net
Bishop, Wayne, MSG - carwaybis@aol.com
Blaine, Bill, blainewh@rcas.ngb.army.mil
Blair, David, COL - dhblair@watervillesd.com

Boudreau, Herman J., CSM - trooperhboudreau@yahoo.com
Christopher Bowers CW5 - bowerse@hermon.net
 Braley, Gary, CW4 - gabraley@midmaine.com
Breton,Ronald R MSG bretonfam@fairpoint.net
 Brown, Vic, 1SG - frostyJAB@msn.com
 Burnett, Mark, MSG - mapo57@aol.com
Burgess,Mark SSG- n1jzv@midmaine.com
 Burpee, Larry - sluf@xpressamerica.net
Burnie,Charles W 1SG cburnie@mainw.rr.com
 Burr, Ken, CW3 - kensal@gwi.net
Butera JosephL111- jcb246@aol.com
Campbell Richard SFC - Richard.soup.Campbell@verizon.net
 Cannon, John M. 1SG - shermanmaine@yahoo.com
 Cleaves, Arthur, COL - Arthur.Cleaves@me.ngb.army.mil
 Clements, Erwin F., LTC - colclements@msn.com
 Coltart Richard J. LTC - Auracol@webtv.net
 Comeau, James, CW5 - jimwestport@roadrunner.com
 Corr, Patrick, SFC - patrick_corr@msn.com
Cross,John R SFC - j_r_cross47@yahoo.com
 Cotta, Harvey D., CW4 - hdcotta@pivot.net
Cotton, Robert G CW3 - bob-evie@peoplepc.com
Cowing Joe E 2LT jwcowing@hughes.net
Cox,Allyson SGM allysoncox@adelphia.net
 Cowperthwaite, Dwight, 1SG - dwight.cowperthwaite@maine.edu
 Crochere, Norman W., SFC - ncpop1956@aol.com
 Danforth, Willie, SSG - willd01@verizon.net
 Deans, Leroy, 1SG - leroydeans@midmaine.com
 Deschane, Henry, 1SG - hjdesane@hotmail.com
 Devine, Wayne, CW4 - wpdevine@verizon.net
Dion,Joe CW4 - jdion83518@adelphia.net
 Donnelly, Carl, MSG - craftysport@adelphia.net
 Donovan, William R., CW3 - woodduckme@yahoo.com
 Dow, Richard C., COL - rcdow@maine.rr.com
 Dubord, Rosaire, SFC - gmcpkup@cs.com
 Dubord, Maurice, SFC - FordMan1945@aol.com
Duehring, David LTC duehring@gwi.net
 Duffy, Dick, COL - mengcold1@adelphia.net
Dumas Francis Jr SSG dumasmcb12@peoplepc.com
 Dumond, David R., SGT - roadrunner.com
Dummond Gary CW4 - wardenpilot@fairpoint.net
 Dyer, Rita, SSG - rita.dyer@verizon.net
Dyer,Wayne Sgt wdsearsport76@yahoo.com
Fate Michelle SGT michelle.fate@gmail.com
Ferris,William F. SFC BillMar1981@aol.com
 Fecteau John D., SFC - jfecteau@att.net
 Fields, Scott, COL - sfields@maine.rr.com
 Footer, Joseph, CPT - joseph-footer@webtv.net
 Foster, Lawrence F. Jr., MAJ - LFFJR4200@aol.com
 Freeman, David, 1SG - dfreeman@maine.rr.com
 Fuller, Vivian, SSG - Vivianmf@verizon.net
Furrow, David R. SSG - hollyvprays4you@yahoo.com
 Gammon, Edgar E., LTC - genega@aol.com
 Gauthier, Robert D. - rdg453@aol.com
Genz,G.Neal CSM genz@gmail.com
 Gerard, Milton, CSM - miltgerard@usadatanet.net
 Gilbert, Mark, COL - mgilbert362@earthlink.net
 Gilbert, Richard, SFC snowbrd1@embargmail.com
Glidden David MSG- pgdg@verizon.net
Googins David B MSG -dabrugo@earthlink.net
Goodman Bill SGT - tigerstylefighter@yahoo.com
 Gray, Boyd R., Jr., COL - whaler@prexar.com
 Gray, Leslie, 1SG - bassgray@aol.com

Grass, Nathan, BG - ngrass@maine.rr.com
 Gravelle, Raymond, SFC - -gravelle2ray@gmail.com
 Graves Richard CSM dick.graves@verizon.net
 Grimard, Ronald L., SFC - rgrimard@gwi.net
Grimm,Clayton SFC- grimmwc@gwi.net
Grinnell Donald Col - grinnell@firpoint.net
 Haley, Dan, COL - dan@haleyins.com
Hallee Eugene R MSG eclipse31@verizon.net
 Hanson, Peter, MSG - pvh@gwi.net
Harmon Dennis SSG - dpharm@prexar.com
 Harris, Robert Jr. - harrishaven19@adelphia.net
Hawkes, Paul phawkes3.5@hotmail.com
 Higgins, Robert F., SGM - sgtbob@midmaine.com
Horsman,Susan MAJ- horsmsnb@adelphia.net
 Howland, Peter, SFC - -howlands3@verizon.net
Hughes Michael 1ST SGT Mb.huges@earthlink.net
 Hutchins, LeeAnne, SSG - allofus@lincoln-midcoast.com
Jacques,Andre SGT- cote2001@highstream.net
 Jandreau, Lincoln, SSG - fkbarbershop@hotmail.com
Johnson.Peter COL-shussking@yahoo.com
 Joy, John F., LTC - jsjoy@adelphia.net
 Kinney, Sumner, SFC - icanrent@kinneyrentals.com
 Knight, Richmond, LTC - captnmidnight@aol.com
 Knowles, Terry, CSM - mawtrk@midmaine.com
 Lachance, Geoff, CW2 - gllach@suscom-maine.net
 Laflin, Donald, COL - dbll_1@yahoo.com
 Laflin, James, LTC - jlaflin@adelphia.net
 Lagace Donald Sr, CW4 - donairspa@msn.com
 Lajoie, Gary, SSG - gclcarpenter@aol.com
 LaPlante, Norm, SFC - norml@exploremaine.com
 Lundquist Arnold Col - Alundq@roadrunner.com
 Lunney, Dennis, COL - dslunney@embarqmail.com
 Luke, Joe, SFC - joeme27@aol.com
McFarland, William LTC - billmcfarland@fairpoint.net
Macleod,Stanley SFC - stanmacleod@hotmail.com
 Mairs, Steven, CSM - usnv6973@aol.com
Madore,Greg MSG- gmadore@maine.rr.com
 Marden, Donald H., BG dhmarden@adelphia.net
Merrifield,Justine SFC bluejay1962@fairpoint.net
 Michaud, Joel, LTC - michaudj@adelphia.net
 Mullett, Alan, CW4 - allinmullet@gwi.net
 Joseph L Murray Jr., SSG - jsmurray@midmaine.com
 Nault, Raymond C. MSG - msgret@earthlink.net
 Nichols, Donald E., BG - den7807@adelphia.net
 Nichols, Robert, 1SG - isg152top@aol.com
 Noel, Lorraine - memererain@aol.com
 Norton John L. Jr. SFC - john.l.norton@verizon.net
Frank Norwood MSG Frank.norwood@us.army.mil
 Oak, Earl, 1SG - eandb379@netzero.net
Ogden,Adam MAJ ---aogden@gwi.net
 Ogden, Peter W., COL - Peter.Ogden@me.ngb.army.mil
 O'Clair Roger CPT - Rrotrax2@aol.com
 O'Hara L. Michael SPC onnac@ainop.com
Orr,Nicholas 1SG nickdawnorr@earthlink.net
 Otstott Ellen SGT windingroad7@aol.com
 Owen, Gary, SFC - gsowen@dialmaine.com
Paiment,Dick SSG ---paiementp@aol.com
 Parker, Leverette J., SSG - CAMERLOT@webtv.net
Pellett, Harry CW4 freeman@midmaine.com
Pelletier, Arnold MSG ---maineiac@earthlink.net
 Pelletier, Donald, 1SG - hernelle@sjv.net

Pelletier, Gilman R., LTC - gmp@gwi.net
 Pelletier, Jerry CW3 - Jerrypellet@aol.com
 Perkins, Allen, 1SG - alsan19420@hotmail.com
[Perry, William Col- 2perrys@verizon.net](mailto:Perry.William.Col-2perrys@verizon.net)
Picard Glen SSG- glenpi@verizon.net
 Pike, Arthur, CW4 - cntypike@ainop.com
Pippin.Franklin.1.SSG_dfpippin@verizon.net
[Pottle, Leonard F Maj_lppottle@verizon.net](mailto:Pottle,Leonard.F.Maj_lppottle@verizon.net)
 Preble, David, SGT - Preble@adelphia.net
 Race, Byron A., LTC - majmoose@yahoo.com
 Raymond, Ed, SFC - Raymondeddy1@aol.com
 Ricker, Arnold, MSG - jricke@usadatanet.net
[Rivers Wayne LTC Wayne.Rivers@sappi.com](mailto:Rivers.Wayne.LTC.Wayne.Rivers@sappi.com)
[Rogers, Peter Maj_Progers1@hotmail.com](mailto:Rogers.Peter.Maj_Progers1@hotmail.com)
[Roy.Donald SFC_ardo@pivot.net](mailto:Roy.Donald.SFC_ardo@pivot.net)
 Roy, Frank, SFC - fdroy@linc-net.net
 Roy, Irvin, CW4 - iandmroy@mail.sjv.net
 Roy Louis SFC - dianna.roy2@verizon.net
 Scammon, J.R., CW4 - rays01@midmaine.com
 Scribner, Carroll G., LTC - scrib3540@comcast.net
[Smith,Karl maj jcanniff@mac.com](mailto:Smith,Karl.maj.jcanniff@mac.com)
[Smith Craig SSG_welder@maineline.net](mailto:Smith.Craig.SSG_welder@maineline.net)
 Soares, Frank, LTC- crossbowme@pivot.net
 Soucy, Gerald, SFC - geraldsoucy@roadrunner.com
 Soule, Dean, SFC - deanovet@tampabay.rr.com
 Soule, Richard, MSG - dickcarolsoule@aol.com
 Sowers, Dave, MAJ - Dave.Sowers@sad1.org
 Stanchfield, Wilma, SFC - wstanch@localnet.com
[Stanhope Edward CW4 STANHOPERT@aol.com](mailto:Stanhope.Edward.CW4.STANHOPERT@aol.com)
[Stearns, Donald CW4_stearnsdd@earthlink.net](mailto:Stearns.Donald.CW4_stearnsdd@earthlink.net)
 Stickney, Harry J., CSM - hjstickney@yahoo.com
 Stilphen, Wayne SFC - Wayne.Stilphen@maine.gov
[Stultz Mick 1SG_mickstultz@roadrunner.com](mailto:Stultz.Mick.1SG_mickstultz@roadrunner.com)
 St. Peter, Timothy A., SPC - tspasp@ainop.com
 Tamburo, Al, SSG - gatamburo20@midmaine.com
 Taylor, Paul N., SFC - pollentailor@yahoo.com
 Taylor, Scott, LTC - Taylorst@aol.com
 Tenney, Brian, SSG - seascamon@hotmail.com
[Theriacult Reynold LTC cecray@pivot.net](mailto:Theriacult.Reynold.LTC.cecray@pivot.net)
 Thibodeau, R. Lloyd, SFC - tibodo2@maine.rr.com
 Tibbetts, David, SFC - davescot@midmaine.com
 Tibbs, Dan, SFC - dctibbs1@yahoo.com
 Tinkham, Joe, MG - tinksrus@adelphia.net
 Toppan, Wellington, Co; wctoppan@roadrunner.com
 Trimm Fred SFC - trimm48@ainop.com
[Umphrey, Fred Col_fumphery@msad48.org](mailto:Umphrey.Fred.Col_fumphery@msad48.org)
 Vaillancourt, Brenda, SSG - brenda2877@msn.com
 Wardwell, Joel, SFC-
JDWardwell@laneconstruct.com
[Wheeler, Pauk Maj_pandr43@verizon.net](mailto:Wheeler.Pauk.Maj_pandr43@verizon.net)
[Welsh,Michael MSG_runner793@aol.com](mailto:Welsh.Michael.MSG_runner793@aol.com)
 Welton, Bob, CW5 bobwelton@embarqmail.com
 West, Dan, SFC - dwest@masiello.com
 West, Richard, MAJ - major063@aol.com
[Weymouth.Robert LTC_gramsgarden@peoplepc.com](mailto:Weymouth.Robert.LTC_gramsgarden@peoplepc.com)
[Wilcox.Wendy SFC_w40m73@yahoo.com](mailto:Wilcox.Wendy.SFC_w40m73@yahoo.com)
[Wilson,Donald SGM_dwilson6@roadrunner.com](mailto:Wilson.Donald.SGM_dwilson6@roadrunner.com)
 White, Albert, BG -albertwhite@suscom-maine.net
 Wickham, Arthur, COL - arthurwickham1@aol.com
 Williams, Clyde, CW4 - cw4clyde@roadrunner.com
 Wynne, Kelley D., MSG - wynnek@dwi.net

Young Jeffery D. SGT jyoungarn@gmail.com

Correct Mailing Address

HELP!!!!

It is imperative that we have your correct mailing address in order for you to receive your newsletter.

Please provide your correct mailing address by contacting a member of the Retiree Council or mailing it to:

Dept. of Def., Vet. & Emerg. Mgmt.
 33 State House Station
 ATTN: MS. Lori Jones
 Augusta, Maine 04333-0033

We are now up to 1,454 members str

****RETIREE COUNCIL MEMBERS****

Albert White, Jr.	Chairman
Robert Weymouth	Vice Chairman
James Laflin	Secretary
	Chairman Retiree List
Martin Asdourian ,	Ro main Savoie
David Blair ,	David Shorey
Jeanne Clements,	Dean Soule,Donald Laflin
Edward Davis	Douglass Welsh Jr
Mac McClintock	Nathan Grass,
Clifton Johnson,	

There is a move afoot in the associations of the Maine National Guard to get General (Ret) H. Norman Schwarzkopf to be a guest speaker at what could be a large joint meeting of all retirees, active, and veterans organization. Will keep all informed.

MAINE MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY LOOKS FOR NEW MEMBERS.

SEE THE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION ON PAGE 14. THE SOCIETY RUNS THE ONLY PURE MILITARY MUSEUM IN MAINE. IT IS LOCATED AT CAMP KEYES. IT 'S ENTRANCE IS JUST OUTSIDE THE MAIN GATE AT CAMP KEYES.

The society is a non-profit organization under Section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal revenue Code of 1954, as amended It is financed through membership dues, grants and tax deductible donations. Any donation big or small will be appreciated and will be put to good use!

There is no cost to tour the museum, a donation jar is available for those who wish to donate. For a

tour contact CW5 (RET) Ronald Rousell at (207) 582-7568 or MS Soraya Thomas at 626-4350.

The society honors a segment of the military at the annual meeting each year normally held in October. During 2007 the Society honored Military Medical Personnel (Past and Present).

Retirees, this is YOUR museum the Board of Directors hope that you will join today or make a donation to keep this valuable piece of military history going!

THE SOCIETY RECEIVED SEVERAL DONATIONS OF \$100 TO SUPPORT THE ANNUAL MEETING DURING 2007. LARGE DONATIONS WERE RECEIVED FROM THE DANIEL T. HALEY INSURANCE AGENCY AND THE MAINE SAVINGS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION. Many Thanks to Colonel (RET) Daniel T. Haley ,BG (Ret) Robert Carmichael and MSG (Ret) Michael S Welsh.

The Society is looking for volunteers who live in close proximity of the museum at Camp Keyes to give tours, to house clean, to catalogue new items to act as security when large groups are visiting etc. Training will be provided by Ron Rousell, or other qualified MMHS members. If you are interested call Ron at (207) 582-7568.

Family Assistance Center Volunteer Fact Sheet

Address:
State Family Assistance Center
State Armory
179 Western Avenue
Augusta, Maine 04330-0033

Wanted: Volunteers to assist families of deployed soldiers. All of us have interests/skills we are good at and want to share with others. If you want to help our soldier's families please take a minute and complete this form. With winter fast approaching the FAC would appreciate your offer to support our families in need.

Volunteer Information:

The Family Assistance Center Closest To You

Name: _____

____Augusta

Address: _____

____Portland

____Bangor

Phone: Home: _____

____Caribou

Work: _____

Cell: _____

____Statewide

Organization If Applicable: _____

Skills/Interests to share:

____ Clerical
____ Notary Public
____ Yard Work
____ Electrician
____ Plumber
____ Gen Home Maint/Repair
____ Carpentry
____ Wood Splitting
____ Auto Maintenance
____ Heating/Furnace Issues
____ Run Errands
____ Provide Transportation
____ Make Phone Calls

____ Babysitting/Childcare
____ Provide Refreshments
____ Make Phone Calls
____ Nurse/Med Tng
____ Plowing/Shoveling Snow
____ Lawyer or Legal help
____ Tax Help
____ Computer Skills
____ Support Events/Activities
____ Financial Planning
____ Crisis Comfort
____ Mentorship
____ Whatever Is Needed

Your Skills Not Listed:

Please Fax to 626-4512 ATTN: Kerry Birmingham

QuickTime™ and a
Photo - JPEG decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

RETIREE NEWSLETTER

MAINE AIR NATIONAL GUARD DEPLOYMENTS				
Unit	Mission	Personnel	Location	Status
101 st Air Refueling Wing, Bangor	Air Expeditionary Force / Operation Enduring Freedom	2	Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan	Deployed
101 st Air Refueling Wing, Bangor	Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom	223	Bangor International Airport, Maine	Activated - Home Station
101 st Air Refueling Wing, Bangor	Other/Air Reserve Component Volunteer	1	Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona	Deployed
101 st Air Refueling Wing, Bangor	Operation Jump Start	1	Deming, New Mexico	Deployed
101 st Air Refueling Wing, Bangor	Air Expeditionary Force / Operation Enduring Freedom	1	Incirlik Air Base, Turkey	Deployed
101 st Air Refueling Wing, Bangor	Air Expeditionary Force / Operation Iraqi Freedom	5	Iraq	Deployed
101 st Air Refueling Wing, Bangor	Other/Air Reserve Component Volunteer	12	Royal Air Force Alconbury, United Kingdom	Deployed
101 st Air Refueling Wing, Bangor	Air Expeditionary Force / Operation Enduring Freedom	2	Royal Air Force Lakenheath, United Kingdom	Deployed
101 st Air Refueling Wing, Bangor	Other/Air Reserve Component Volunteer	1	Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina	Deployed
132 nd Air Refueling Squadron, Bangor	Air Expeditionary Force / Operation Iraqi Freedom	9	Guam	Deployed
243rd EIS, South Portland	Air Expeditionary Force / Operation Enduring Freedom	7	Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar	Deployed
265 th CBCS, South Portland	Air Expeditionary Force / Operation Enduring Freedom	6	Al Dhafra, United Arab Emirates	Deployed
265 th CBCS, South Portland	Air Expeditionary Force / Operation Enduring Freedom	15	Iraq	Deployed
Total:		285		

1-2-3 GO!

DO LIKE TO VOLUNTEER?

DO YOU LIKE TO HELP MILITARY FAMILIES?

**DO YOU ENJOY WORKING WITH THE PUBLIC, COMMUNITIES
AND LOCAL BUSINESSES?**

If you answered "yes-yes-yes", then OPERATION RECOGNITION is the place for you. Operation Recognition is a non-profit organization founded in Edgecomb, Maine for the main purpose of saying "Thank You" to military service members and their families with a week of relaxation, rejuvenation and healing as a family unit. To date, Operation Recognition has provided 20 military families with a week of R & R at The Sheepscot Harbour Village and Resort in Edgecomb, Maine. As the request for this opportunity grows, so does the need to have volunteers. They need a few good men and women to volunteer their time to help with some terrific fundraising opportunities.

If you would like to know more about whom they are and what projects they have coming up, please contact them at 207-882-9319 or visit their website at: www.operationrecognition.com/support-opportunities.htm

You will be glad you did!

Media Relations Office
316-2224

Tel. 617-

Peggy Riley

NH-2007-46

Fax: 617-316-2244

For Release: Immediate

December 12, 2007

Certain Payments to Disabled Veterans Ruled Tax-Free; Some May Be Due Refunds

Portsmouth...Payments under the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Compensated Work Therapy (CWT) program are no longer taxable and disabled veterans who paid tax on these benefits in the past three years can now claim refunds, the Internal Revenue Service said today.

Recipients of CWT payments will no longer receive a Form 1099 from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Disabled veterans who paid tax on these benefits in tax-years 2004, 2005 or 2006 can claim a refund by filing an amended return using IRS Form 1040X. According to the VA, more than 19,000 veterans received CWT in Fiscal Year 2007.

The IRS agreed with a U.S. Tax Court decision issued earlier this year, which held that CWT payments are tax-free veterans' benefits. In so doing, the agency reversed a 1965 ruling which held that these payments were taxable and required the VA to issue 1099 forms to payment recipients.

According to the VA, the CWT program provides assistance to veterans unable to work and support themselves. Under the program, the VA contracts with private industry and the public

sector for work by veterans, who learn new job skills, re-learn successful work habits and regain a sense of self-esteem and self-worth.

For your info. LarryDSr

Task force: Raise retiree TRICARE fees, require enrollment
12/26/2007

By Tom Philpot

The Task Force on the Future of Military Health Care says the Bush administration should propose and Congress should approve higher TRICARE fees, deductibles and co-payments for retirees to slow program cost growth and to be fairer to American taxpayers.

In a lengthy report delivered Thursday to Defense leaders and to Congress, the task force endorses even steeper increases in retiree out-of-pocket costs than pushed by the Bush administration over the past two years. But fee increases would be phased in over four years instead of two.

The task force, co-chaired by Air Force Gen. John D.W. Corley, commander of Air Combat Command, and economist Dr. Gail R. Wilensky, goes much farther in calling for sweeping changes to the business of military health care. Even on the matter of retiree cost shares it is more aggressive, proposing phased adoption of a \$120 annual enrollment fee for TRICARE Standard, the traditional fee-for-service health insurance, and for TRICARE for Life, the prized wrap-around insurance to Medicare for service elderly.

The task force also wants retirees under 65 restricted from shifting between using TRICARE Prime, the managed-care program, and TRICARE Standard except during designated annual open seasons.

The task force concluded that TRICARE fees and co-pays, frozen since they were set in 1996, have allowed a steady slide in the relative costs paid by working-age military retirees, a pattern “so out of step with overall trends in the U.S. health care system that (it is) unfair to U.S. taxpayers.”

Retiree costs shared have fallen from 11 percent to 4 percent. Yet premiums for employer-provided health insurance in the private sector, and out-of-pocket health costs for federal civilian employees, have held fairly steady, enough to cover 25 percent of overall program costs.

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The proposed fee hikes are aimed at retirees and their dependents, and not active-duty members, reservists or their families. The task force also endorses indexing of fees to ensure they keep pace with health costs. Pharmacy co-pays under the TRICARE retail network, now \$3 to \$22, would be raised to a range of \$15 to \$45. Select mail order drugs would be free — to encourage use of this cheaper point-of-service. Here are more details:

Under-65 retiree cost shares

Higher TRICARE fees, deductibles and co-payments would apply both to TRICARE Prime and Standard.

Prime enrollment fees — \$460 a year for families and \$230 for individuals — would be raised over four years, but tiered based on gross retired pay amounts. A retiree receiving less than \$20,000 in retired pay would pay \$570 the first year for Prime family coverage. That enrollment fee would slide to \$900 a year by 2011. Prime enrollees with retired pay of between \$20,000 and \$40,000 would pay \$640 in 2008 and \$1,190 by 2011. Retirees drawing more than \$40,000, most of them officers, would pay \$780 to enroll their family in Prime the first year and \$1,750 by 2011.

The average of these fees, roughly \$1,100, would still be “generous,” the task force said, when compared to premiums of \$1,820 to \$4,620 paid by federal civilians in 2007 to be covered under comparable health plan options.

“Tiering” of fees is uncommon but seems appropriate for the military, the task force said. But this would be “half proportional” tiering. For example, if there is a 100 percent disparity in retired pay, the difference in enrollment fee would be only 50 percent. The retired pay ranges used should be indexed themselves to health cost inflation so that more retirees aren’t pushed by cost-of-living adjustments into higher tiers, the report said.

Prime co-payments, including \$12 for outpatient visits, would more than double, again to restore cost shares to 1996 levels. This change should be delayed two years to give retirees and contractors time to prepare.

Catastrophic cap

The current yearly cap of \$3,000 on out-of-pocket costs for retirees with dependents would be lowered to \$2,500. However, the task force recommends that enrollment fees not count toward

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meeting the cap. The idea is to deny higher paid retirees an advantage because of their higher enrollment fees. The cap should be reviewed every five years for possible adjustment.

TRICARE standard costs

Under-65 retirees would begin paying \$120 a year to enroll in TRICARE Standard. This fee would rise annually to match the percentage rise in civilian-provided care to beneficiaries. The \$120 fee would have to be paid even to use military pharmacy benefits.

Deductibles for Standard users would double to an average of \$600 a year for families and to \$300 for individuals, up from \$300 and \$150. But Standard deductible amounts, as with Prime enrollment fees, would be tiered based on level of retired pay (under \$20,000, etc.). Deductibles would not be raised annually but reviewed for possible hikes every five years.

Even with these changes, the task force said, Standard would remain a “clearly generous” option. Federal civilians, it said, pay annual fees of \$2,000 to \$3,500 for like “preferred provider organization (PPO) plans.”

Seven of 14 task force members are civilian pay experts. The other seven are star-rank active or retired officers. Besides Corley, they include: retired Army Maj. Gen. Nancy Adams, former commander of Tripler Army Medical Center; Rear Adm. Dr. John M. Mateczun, commander of health care delivery in the National Capitol Region; retired Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers, former joint chiefs chairman; Lt. Gen. Dr. James G. Roudebush, Air Force surgeon general; Navy Rear Adm. David J. Smith, surgeon to the Joint Staff; and retired Army Reserve Maj. Gen. Robert W. Smith III, who serves on the Reserve Officers Association executive committee.

A report footnote explains that one task force member opposed a TRICARE-for-Life enrollment fee, arguing that TFL users already pay Medicare Part B premiums, and the benefit of a fee wouldn't justify its imposition. The lone dissenter on this issue was not named.

Proposed TRICARE fees

The Task Force on the Future of Military Health Care is recommending a series of health care fee increases for retirees. Generally, the tiered fees are linked the rate of annual retirement pay.

Enrollment fees for TRICARE Prime Families

Year	Annual retired pay		
	Under \$20,000	\$20,000-\$39,999	\$40,000 and above
2008	\$570	\$640	\$780
2009	\$680	\$830	\$1,110

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2010	\$790	\$1,010	\$1,430
2011	\$900	\$1,190	\$1,750

Note: Current Prime Enrollment fee is \$460. Actual fees beyond 2008 would be higher due to annual indexing to keep pace with health care cost growth.

Enrollment fees for TRICARE Standard Family

Year	Annual retired pay		
	Under \$20,000	\$20,000-\$39,999	\$40,000 and above
2008	\$30	\$30	\$30
2009	\$60	\$60	\$60
2010	\$90	\$90	\$90
2011	\$120	\$120	\$120

Note: TRICARE Standard users currently pay no enrollment fee. Proposed annual fees after 2008 would be higher than shown due to annual indexing based on TRICARE cost growth.

Deductibles fees for TRICARE Standard Family

Year	Annual retired pay		
	Under \$20,000	\$20,000-\$39,999	\$40,000 and above
2008	\$350	\$390	\$470
2009	\$390	\$470	\$630
2010	\$440	\$560	\$800
2011	\$490	\$650	\$960

Note: The family deductible for TRICARE Standard is \$300 a year. Proposed deductibles after 2008 actually would be higher than shown 2008 due to annual indexing tied changes in

TRICARE cost growth. Mail

Pharmacy Co-payment Structure

Current Plan		Task Force Plan	
Retail Network	Mail	Retail Network	Mail
30 days	90 days	30 days	90 days
Tier 1: Preferred	\$3	\$3	\$15
Tier 2: Other	\$9	\$9	\$25
Tier 3: Nonformulary	\$22	\$22	\$45

Note: Task force also calls for a new Tier 4 for "special category medications," very expensive drugs that would have a higher co-payment and be limited to a particular point of service.

We have room for but one flag, the
 American flag.. We have room for but one
 language here, and that is the English
 language.. and we have room for but one
 sole loyalty and that is a loyalty to

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the American people."

Theodore Roosevelt 1907
