



Wyoming National Guard Retiree News

Volume VII, Number 5

July 2011

WyANG AIR SHOW

The WyANG will again host their Air Show July 27, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., on the base grounds.

The only entrances are via bus from the Frontier Mall or by walking through the main base gate. No parking will be allowed on base.

Continuous free shuttle bus service will be available at the Dillard's entrance, close to Sears.

There will be parachute jumps, aerial flyovers and equipment and aircraft static displays. The USAF Thunderbird F-16s will also be on display.

FLOOD CONTROL

The Wyoming National Guard remains ready to assist Wyoming communities with flood and fire responses this summer.

Gov. Mead has asked employers to cooperate in releasing their employees for such state active duty.

The Guard is called to active duty when local first responders can no longer handle the disaster. Contingency plans are in place which have issued alert orders that can mobilize more than 800 Wyoming National Guard personnel to state active duty.

On May 31, five teams consisting of 23 members each were deployed on state active duty from around the state to help first responders and local emergency workers in preparing for flood control.

The teams were deployed to Carbon and Albany Counties, Fremont County and Wind River Reservation area and Lincoln and Teton Counties.

The WyNG remained on state active duty orders through the month

of June to prevent extensive damage to Wyoming communities.

WING COMMAND CHANGE

A major change in commands at the Wyoming Air National Guard will occur on July 9, during formal ceremonies held in the nose dock at the WyANG base.

Col. Steven E. Rader will assume command of the 153rd Airlift Wing from Col. Dennis D. Grunstad II.

Lt. Col. Pete Linde will take command of the 153rd Mission Support Group from Col. Paul Lyman who will become the 153rd Airlift Wing vice commander.

Grunstad will be assigned to the Wyoming National Guard Joint Headquarters staff.

BRIDGE COMPANY TRAINS

For years the 1041st Assault Float Bridge Company, WyARNG, has used the water at Flaming Gorge as a training site, until this year.

Parts of the unit are located in Rock Springs, Evanston and Afton.

This year the unit gained the opportunity to use the Fontenelle Reservoir near Kemmerer, Wyo.

Flaming Gorge is 250 miles from Afton and about 100 miles from Evanston. Previously, a lot of training time was lost in travel.

Fontenelle is 80 miles from Rock Springs, 100 miles from Evanston and 140 miles from Afton. Another advantage of using Fontenelle is the company can now train simultaneously with the Dry Span Bridge

and the improved Ribbon Bridge using non-moving water and fast moving water.

At present the unit has permission to use Fontenelle thru 2012. A long range permit from the BLM will be obtained by the WyMD if the site proves out.

FIRE FIGHTING

The WyANG 153rd Airlift Wing conducted its annual Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAFFS2) training and certification with other assigned units in Boise, Idaho, May 1-7.

Wyoming is one of four units equipped with the latest second generation MAFFS2 which now dispenses retardant out the C-130 rear side doors rather than out the ramp enabling the aircraft to be more stable during flight. The new system can drop up to 3,000 gallons of retardant per run on wildfires.

Thirteen personnel and one C-130 supported the Texas wild fires during April 18-26, dropping more than 27,000 gallons on three separate Texas wildfires.

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MUSEUM NEWS/WMHS

It is always exciting times at the WyNG Museum.

The newest display is a tribute to the 1920s, 1930s and early 1940s history of the Wyoming National Guard.

Rolf Skoetsch has spent months preparing a cavalry tribute. He drove his truck and horse trailer to Nebraska to round up a life-sized fiberglass black horse. He has searched and re-searched all the tack necessary to make the display accurate. A life-sized Soldier, trees and ground treatment completes the scene to look like Pole Mountain.

Some items and facts about the 1933 annual training where the commander died, add to the exhibit.

The outdoor static area now contains a new "toy". We have acquired a M7 "Priest" which is like the equipment used in Korea by our 300th AFA Bn.

We found a picture of a Btry B Priest with the name Bugs Bunny.

That may become the name of our new toy.

Cindy and Chuck Breedlove visited the museum recently. When they saw the Lt. Gen. Esmay silver punch bowl and cups that raised a question.

Chuck said years ago the WyANG Chiefs Council purchased a large silver punch bowl along with engraved cups with a name on each. They used it for several functions each year. He wanted to know if we had seen it. We checked with Milo Dawson who also has not seen it. The punch bowl and cups would look nice on display at the museum. It could be checked out for WyANG events. Does anyone know of their whereabouts?

RETIRED BRANCH MOVES

The Reserve Component Retirement Branch has moved from St. Louis to Fort Knox.

The new address is: HRC, ATTN: AHRC-PDR-RCR, 1600 Spearhead Division Ave., Dept. 420, Ft. Knox, KY 40122-5402. The phone number is 502-613-8950.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

As I look back on the immediate past and the near future, I see exciting changes for the Wyoming National Guard.

To start off, the first woman general was appointed in the Wy-ARNG. There is a new commander in chief and new adjutant general.

The Wyoming National Guard Association elected a new president who happens, to be a general.

Unless something unforeseen happens, the new Joint Forces Readiness Center will be fully occupied by the end of the summer. After two years of Retiree Council promising, we finally will be able to hold the annual retiree/spouse conference in the new building's auditorium in October.

We hope every WyNG retiree and spouse can attend and tour this outstanding state-of-the-art building, equal in size to almost three football fields. Your WyNG museum has added some new won-

derful exhibits, one being a display dedicated to the 115th Cavalry Regiment depicting the time in the mid 1920s at Pole Mountain, with a life-sized horse and Soldier.

Another is in the static display, which now features a M7 Priest 105mm self propelled howitzer. It is the same weapon our 300th AFA Bn used in the Korean War firing more than 100,000 rounds.

Come visit your museum at 624 E. Pershing Blvd., in Cheyenne. It is open every Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and for special occasions.

To help the WyMD save postage costs, and if you would like to receive this newsletter via email, please send your email address to RHolmes632@aol.com. We send an email message as soon as it is published with the issue attached as a PDF.

We also send out messages from time to time where there is information of immediate nature.

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OBITUARIES

We dedicate this portion to honor those who have passed on.

JOHN M. ADAMS, 94, was born in Toledo, Ohio, Nov. 13, 1916. His family moved to Texas where he was a member of TxARNG from March 1934 to March 1940. In August 1942 he was drafted into the Army for WWII and sent to OCS. He was assigned to the 124th Inf Div and saw combat in the South Pacific. John was a member of the USAR from after the war until he was appointed MAJ CE in the WyARNG Aug. 15, 1956, and commander of the newly organized 1022nd Engr Bn. In October 1961 LTC Adams took the Bn to Fort Lewis for the Berlin Call Up. The unit was relieved from mobilization in August 1962 and John was transferred to HHD, WyARNG as COL. He was transferred to the Retired Reserve on MRD in October 1972 with a state appointment as BG, Assistant Adjutant General for state affairs. He then served in that state capacity for the next nine years. John served in the military for more than 38 years and earned two Bronze Stars and the Infantry Badge.

KARYN HOOPEs, 62, was born Oct. 27, 1948, in Boise, Idaho, and died in Afton, Wyo., on Feb. 21, after a long and hard battle with a rare cancer. Karyn was a very supportive National Guard spouse and donated many hours to the WyNG Family Support Program. Karyn was the wife of retired CSM Bill Hoops to whom she was married for 43 years.

FLORENCE ESMAY HOWAR, 105, passed away April 8, at Cheyenne Life Care. Florence was the wife of the late LTG R.L. Esmay who was the TAG for more than 35 years, retiring in 1962. Florence was also the mother of WyANG LtCol (Dr) (retired) John Esmay and later widowed by the late COL (Dr) Howar. The Military Wives Club was originally organized in the early 1950s by Florence.

MARY ELLEN JURENKA, 78,

died April 9, at Davis Hospice Center, in Cheyenne. She was born Nov. 26, 1932, in Hartington, Neb., and had lived in Cheyenne for 54 years. Mary Ellen was the first nurse appointed in the WyANG on Aug. 9, 1961, and was discharged as Capt. in 1964. She was the surviving spouse of the late retired WyANG aviator LtCol Frank Jurenka who passed away in July 1999 as well as the mother of retired WyANG MSgt Mark Jurenka.

GERALD (GERRY) F. JORDAN, 83, died at his home, in Rawlins, on May 16, and was born April 24, 1928, in Rawlins. He was a member of the USNR April 1947 to March 1949 and joined the 141st Tank Bn, WyARNG March 22, 1949. The Bn was mobilized for the Korean War but never left stateside. He volunteered for combat duty, served one year in Korea and was discharged in 1952. He enlisted in 351st AFA Bn, WyARNG in 1955, was appointed 2LT in 1956 and honorably discharged as CPT in 1967. Jerry enlisted again with WyARNG as SFC in 1981 in order to compete 20 years for retirement and was transferred to the Retired Reserve as CPT on Nov. 6, 1987.

PAUL M. LACEK, 82, died March 19, at the Sheridan VA Medical Center and was born Jan. 20, 1929, in Sheridan. He enlisted with 300th AFA Bn October 1947 and was activated and saw combat with the unit in Aug. 1950 for the Korean War. Paul was separated in 1951 but re-enlisted one year later and was appointed 2LT in 1955, resigned his commission in 1957 to re-enlist with 300th AFA Bn terminating that enlistment in July 1963. Paul again joined the WyARNG on Feb. 5, 1977 and was transferred to the Retired Reserve as SSG on Jan. 19, 1989.

DEAN W. LOGAN JR, 85, died April 18, at Ivinson Memorial Hospital, in Laramie. Dean was born Jan. 21, 1926, in Bayard, Neb., and served in the US Army during WWII from June 1944 until Dec. 1946 where he was placed in the ERC to be recalled for active duty for the Korean War

from November 1950 to July 1951. Dean enlisted in the 1022d Engr Bn, WyARNG as MSGT in Aug. 1956 and was appointed a WO1 in March 1957. He was activated with the Bn for the Berlin Call Up and remained active with the WyARNG until he was transferred to the Retired Reserve as CW4 on Oct. 1, 1983. Dean was noted for his expertise mechanical skills and as an exceptional machinist as well as always having his imaginary dog.

JOE R. McMILLAN, 70, died April 25, at the VA Medical Center, in Denver. Joe was born Dec. 11, 1940, in Independence, Va. He served on active duty with the US Army from July 1962 until October 1976. He enlisted in 1st Bn 49th FA, WyARNG Oct. 7, 1981 and served continuously until he was transferred to the Retired Reserve as SSG on March 19, 1994.

KEITH E. RODEKOHr, 79, died May 9, at the Mountain Towers Health Center, in Cheyenne. Keith was born Aug. 3, 1931, in Battle Creek, Neb., and had lived in Cheyenne since 1947. He began his military career when he enlisted in the WyANG in September 1950 and subsequently became a full time employee. He was activated with the unit for the Korean War and flew numerous missions into combat zones during the Vietnam War. Keith was transferred to the Retired Reserve as SMSgt at age 60 on Aug. 1, 1991, competing more than 41 years of military service and full time civil service. He began as a motor pool mechanic, graduated to motor pool supervisor and ended his WyANG career as C-130 loadmaster. Keith was the father to retired C-130 pilots and full time WyANG Bob & Larry Rodekohr and brother-in-law to deceased Col. Louie Wheeler.

HAROLD (HAL) E. RUSSELL, 91, died May 22, in Redwood, Calif., and was born Sept. 16, 1919, in Great Falls, Mont., but graduated from Laramie, Wyo. high school. In 1939, Hal joined the CCCs and then served in the Army Air Corps from July 1940 to

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August 1945 seeing WWII action in Africa and Italy. He was among the first to join and help organize the WyANG in 1946 and was the first WyANG base supply officer. He was mobilized with the WyANG for the Korean War in 1951 and remained on USAF active duty until he retired as Maj in 1965. He was a very close friend of deceased CWO Gabe Ben-skin.

JOHN D. SLAY, 72, died May 9, while backpacking in the Utah mountains. He was born May 22, 1938, in Vicksburg, Va., and served 2 years in the USNR (55-57) and then from July 1957 to September 1965 on active duty with the USAF. John was an expert percussionist. From March 1983 to November 1989 he was a member of the ARNG bands in Arkansas and Colorado. He joined the 67th Army Band, WyARNG Nov. 27, 1989, as SSG and served continuously, ending with being the 1SG and band leader. He was transferred to the Retired Reserve May 22, 1998.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

The following is offered for information purposes only. Upon the recent death of a retired WyANG member, this legal statement, in part, was issued when the family asked for the memorial services to be held at WyANG facilities.

“Joint Ethics Regulations prohibits the WyMD from acting in such a way as to compete with services available in the community. Since there are numerous churches, funeral homes, and venues in Cheyenne to hold memorial services, WyMD cannot offer to host such an event even for one of our own retirees.”

30TH AIRLIFT SQUADRON

Lt. Col. Rodney Simpson assumed command of the 30th Airlift Squadron of the 153rd Airlift Wing, WyANG, from Lt. Col. Eric Mayheu on May 13.

The 30th Airlift Squadron is the first

ever USAF active duty combat unit assigned under the control of an Air National Guard command.

Mayheu's next assignment will be at Scott Air Force Base as the deputy chief of standardization and evaluation. Previous assignment for Simpson was as director of operation for the 30th Airlift Squadron. He has more than 18 years of USAF service.

115TH OPEN HOUSE

The 115th Fires Brigade, WyARNG, held an open house demonstration near the new Joint Forces Readiness Center grounds on May 19.

It showed the community how the unit would operate under a battlefield environment.

They showcased their equipment and demonstrated what our Soldiers do during a deployment.

The open house demonstration was held during the unit's 15 days annual training period.

This was the first annual training held by the brigade since it returned from Operation Iraqi Freedom in April 2010.

The 115th Fires Brigade has more than 850 Soldiers in two battalions and two companies around Wyoming.

UNIT RETURNS

On May 11, Wyoming Air National Guard personnel returned home from Afghanistan.

Nineteen members of the 30th Airlift Squadron and 187th Airlift Squadron had been deployed for 60 to 130 days in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

BUSY SUMMER

Wyoming National Guard Camp Guernsey Joint Training Center will increase in activities during the summer and fall months.

About 44 units will be training with more than 5,000 troops participating, both ARNG and ANG.

They will be coming from numerous states besides Wyoming, including Wisconsin, Colorado, New Mexico, *Retiree News -- Wyo. Military Dept.*

Nebraska, Montana and Minnesota.

In addition, active duty units and Civil Air Patrol will also be training at the camp.

NORTH TRAINING AREA

The Wyoming Military Department has retained Ayres Associates to conduct a boundary survey of Camp Guernsey North Training Area this summer.

The field work for the survey will consist of searching for existing property corners and re-establish missing property corners.

Missing survey corners will be reset with 24-inch rebar driven into the ground with an aluminum cap on top.

The surveyors will use metal detectors and service grade GPS to establish all corners.

YOUTH CHALLENGE

Twenty-seven cadets of the WyNG Youth Challenge Program Class #11 graduated on June 11, at the Eastern Wyoming College auditorium, in Torrington.

Don Smith, director of the program says the WyNG Youth Challenge Program provides at-risk students a second chance at responsible citizenship by giving them courage to change.

Applications for the next class, that begins in July, are being accepted.

For information about the program and cadet applications or information on becoming a mentor, visit the web site at <http://www.ngycp.org/state/wy>, or call 307-836-7500. Mentors are urgently needed and WyNG retirees make great mentors.

TROPHIES AWARDED

The Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce presented the Cheyenne Trophy to WyARNG Det. 53, and the WyANG's 153rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

The trophies are presented each year to outstanding military units.

WyANG 65th ANNIVERSARY

By now everyone is aware the celebration scheduled for 3-4 June has been canceled. Every retired WyANG should have received their personal invitation to the new scheduled WyANG 65th Anniversary on 4-6 August by snail mail. Scheduled events are:

4 Aug. – 1 p.m., Golf Tournament at FE Warren AFB Golf Course, registrations begins at noon.

5 Aug. – 8-11 a.m., Tour of new facilities.

5 Aug. – 5 p.m., Cocktails/social hour at the WyANG Social Club.

5 Aug. – 6:30 p.m., Milk Can Dinner at the WyANG base.

6 Aug – 9 a.m., work center tours.

Maj. Gen. Reiner will be the guest speaker at the milk can dinner. Also there will be a 50/50 raffle, silent auction and more. Make reservations at 307-772-6456. Any additional questions call Maj. Rachel Bennett at 307-772-6320 or Chief Master Sgt. Milissa Fowler at 307-772-6339.

WyANG UNIT AWARDED

NGB awarded the 2010 Curtis N. “Rusty” Metcalf Trophy to the 187th Airlift Squadron, WyANG, for meeting the highest standard of mission accomplishment.

KEY SPOUSE AWARD

Heather Mayheu, wife of Lt. Col. Eric Mayheu, 30th Airlift Squadron, WyANG, was selected as the 2010 ANG Key Spouse.

Each major command selects a key spouse who represents the total ANG of the United States.

Such a selection shows a “Total Force Concept” since the unit she represents is the first active duty unit assigned to an ANG command.

ROBOTS AT GUERNSEY

In a joint effort, The Joint Training & Experimental Center, the US

Army Corps of Engineers, the USAF Research Labs, WyARNG and the University of Wyoming are developing and testing a variety of robotic systems at the Camp Guernsey Joint Training Center.

A robotics competition will be held in August highlighting the center’s accomplishments.

HONOR FLIGHT

Honor Flight Wyoming is a program that allows Wyoming WWII veterans to view the WWII Memorial and other displays in Washington, D.C., at no expense to them.

The last flight departed Cheyenne on May 17, with more than 100 veterans plus guardians.

It appears the final flight for the program is scheduled for Oct. 11-12, and it will depart from Casper.

There are approximately 45 veterans already on the waiting list and the maximum load is 110 veterans.

This is the last chance for deserving WWII veterans to make the trip. DVDs of previous flights are available to show doubting WWII veterans what it is all about.

Contact Bobbie Swanlund of WVC at 307-772-5145 if you know of a prospective WWII veteran and she will mail applications, DVD or FAQ info.

TROOPS TO TEACHERS

Troops to Teachers is a federal program that assists qualified retired military personnel to serve in public school classrooms by providing counseling and/or financial benefits.

They provide information regarding teacher preparation, certification, and job search resources as well as up to \$10,000 financial assistance.

Current teachers who are retired military or are currently serving in the National Guard may also qualify for a financial bonus just for continuing to teach.

Visit the web site www.montana.edu/ttt or call (888) 478-3224 for more info.

Bill Hardesty, of Cheyenne, is the Wyoming representative for the Troops to Teachers Program.

Bill served in the USAF and went on to have a successful career in the Cheyenne public education system.

He is an alumnus of University of Wyoming and is now the education director for challenged youth in Cheyenne.

Bill can be reached at wc56@msn.com or 307-630-0466. Troops to Teachers will have a booth at the Retiree Conference on Oct. 1.

BLACK BERET GONE?

The new Sergeant Major of the Army has taken the task of eliminating the much hated black beret which turned 10 years old on Jan. 14.

He has the blessing of the new Chief of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey.

Biggest complaints were the beret is not practical, it does not shade the face, it takes two hands to put it on, it is difficult to wear properly and Soldiers are stuck with holding it when removed in public because they cannot stuff it in their pocket.

The Sergeant Major of the Army plans to take his finding to the July meeting of the Army Uniform Board.

It is time the black beret was replaced with the patrol cap or similar practical headgear and give the black beret back to the Rangers.

VERIZON DISCOUNT

You may not be aware, but Verizon has, for years, given a 15 percent discount to military retirees/spouses and veterans.

For military, show your ID card, for veterans show your DD form 214.

The discount can be applied to current plans or new plans.

RSOs

Permanent Retirement Service Offices, or RSOs, are located in Cheyenne to serve retirees, family members and surviving spouses with their administrative needs.

Recently widowed spouses are encouraged to contact the RSOs ASAP.

Personal visits should be prearranged by appointments: POCs are:

ARNG: Sgt. 1st Class Kristy Breitenbeker, toll-free 866-992-7641, ext. 5238, local 772-5238, 5500 Bishop Blvd., Cheyenne, WY 82009; email: kristy.breitenbeker@us.army.mil.

ANG: Master Sgt. Denise Hondel, toll-free 866-992-7641, ext 6457, local 772-6457, 217 Dell Range Blvd., Cheyenne, WY 82009; email: denise.hondel@ang.af.mil.

In addition, the most up-to-date computer software systems, for issuing military ID cards and DEERS registration (active, gray area, retired and dependents), are permanently located as follows:

1. WyMD, 5500 Bishop Blvd., Cheyenne.
2. Laramie Armory, 2901 Armory Rd.
3. Sheridan Armory, 3219 Coffeen Ave.
4. Casper Armory, 5905 CY Ave.
5. WyANG, 217 Dell Range Blvd., Cheyenne.

All WyARNG locations are open during duty hours. The WyANG hours are 7:30-9 a.m., Monday - Friday, with additional hours from 1-3 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday.

Please note: U.S. Air Force installations no longer require the display of a DoD vehicle ID decal; however, most other services do, particularly the U.S. Army. The WyANG will continue to issue decals at the WyANG base, 217 Dell Range Blvd., Cheyenne. Hours of operation are 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday. Check with the front gate for office directions.

July 2011

WyNG RETIRED CAPS

Wyoming (Army or Air) Guard Retired Caps are available for purchase from the Wyoming Militia Historical Society (WMHS). Cost is \$12 and \$3 for shipping. Caps are of the latest design in dark brown with lettering and traditional bucking horse with rider in gold. Be sure to specify if you want Army or Air. Make your \$15 check payable to WMHS and send to the WyNG Museum at 624 E. Pershing Blvd., Cheyenne, WY 82001. Caps will be sent upon receipt of your money or you can pick one up for \$12 at the WyNG Museum.

RETIREE COUNCIL

Your WyNG Retiree Council is made up of volunteer military retired people and appointed by the adjutant general. The council held its spring meeting on May 21, and formed plans to hold the 8th Annual WyNG Retiree Conference in Cheyenne, at the new WyMD Joint Readiness Center auditorium on Oct. 1, the same day as the Governor's Reception. Formal invitations, agenda and registration requirements will be distributed mid August.

Listed below is the current council membership and their points of contact. All numbers are in area code 307 unless otherwise indicated. Use them to voice your concerns or desires.

Co-Chair:

Bob Holmes, Cheyenne: 630-1676

Nick Kricken, Cheyenne: 631-2947

Air Guard Reps:

Rich Ames, Cheyenne: 630-1413

Dick Simmons, Arvada CO: 303-829-0810

Bob Born, Cheyenne: 631-2268

Mary Barrett, Cheyenne: 514-3956
Army Guard Reps:

Terry Wilkerson, Lovell: 299-3001

Dennis Russell, Torrington: 631-2314

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Ken Persson, Lander: 349-2881

Sue Reed, Sheridan: 673-5354

Surviving Spouse:

Liz Escobedo, Cheyenne: 632-2490

Larry Barttelbort, ex-officio: 631-0812

Command Sgt. Maj. Kenton Franklin, recorder: 772-5250

Sgt. 1st Class Breitenbeker, WyMD ARNG RSO rep: 772-5238

Master Sgt. Hondel, WyMD ANG RSO rep: 772-6457

WYNGA

The annual WyNGA Conference was held April 9, at the new WyMD Joint Forces Readiness Center auditorium with about 30 in attendance.

Brig. Gen. Harold Reed was elected president. Enthusiasm about the WyNGA is at an all-time low. More effort is needed on getting corporate sponsors but need to find ways of giving something in return for their money.

The association needs to put more emphases on encouraging retirees to become lifetime members; Cost is only \$25.

It also needs to promote the fact that E1-E4s are given free membership.

Officers contact Jim Edington 307-772-5968 and enlisted contact Greg Wheeler 307-772-5968 for procedures. Payment can be accomplished online by credit card.

The EANGUS 40th Annual Conference will be held in Charleston, W.Va., Aug. 14-17.

The NGAUS 133rd Annual Conference will be held in Milwaukee, Wis., Aug. 27-29. WyANG C-130 aircraft should be available for both conferences.

COLA TRENDS

The retirement community should finally see a COLA increase in January 2012.

VETERAN STATUS

You are urged to contact your Congressional Delegation and ask them to support HR 1025 and S 491.

These two bills would authorize National Guard and Reserve members entitled to Reserve retirement pay the honor of claiming veteran status.

Many members of Congress are not aware that a Reserve Component member can complete a full Guard or Reserve career and not earn the right to be called a veteran of the US Armed Forces.

Title 38 (veteran status) excludes career reservists from the definition of veteran if they have not served under Title 10 (active duty) for other than training purposes.

All Reserve Career duty is under Title 32.

SPACE A TRAVEL

Contact your Senators and Representatives and ask them to support S542 and HR 1003.

These bills would expand and authorize space available travel on DoD aircraft for National Guard and Reserve members on the same basis as the Active Components; gray area retirees on the same basis as retired military members receiving retired pay; widows of retired members entitled or eligible to receive retired pay; and accompanying dependents.

NO MORE PAPER CHECKS

Effective May 1, the paper checks from the federal government will no longer be an option for anyone applying for new federal benefits, whether it is Social Security, military retirement, VA benefits or federal employee retirement.

Applicants must arrange for direct

deposit to a checking account or savings account.

People, who do not have banking accounts or simply prefer it, can receive their payments on a prepaid Direct Express debit card.

People who currently receive federal paper checks must switch to direct deposit by March 1, 2013.

For people already receiving payments electronically no action is required.

The US Treasury Department says the change will save more than \$1 billion over the next 10 years.

REMOVING SSN FROM IDS

The program to remove Social Security Numbers (SSN) from military IDs continues.

The program began in 2009 and will continue thru 2013, the end of the expiration period, and then become standard operating procedure.

All IDs will be replaced as they expire.

Those with indefinite expiration dates can get theirs changed at any issuing station.

Starting in 2009 SSNs were removed from dependent cards but sponsor SSN remained.

On June 1, all SSNs will be removed and replaced by DoD ID numbers.

It is expected that in late 2012 the SSN will be removed from the bar code on the back of IDs.

Note, at age 65 your ID card expires and a new one must be issued.

INCOME TAX CHANGES

Military retired and annuity pays were badly affected on Jan. 1, 2011, due to changes in the tax law, tax tables and expiration of tax credit laws.

Those changes were not implemented until March, thus creating some *Retiree News -- Wyo. Military Dept.*

short fall on income tax withheld.

With the entire variables that can be applied, it will be very hard to know how much income tax is owed for 2011 until you process your return in 2012 or seek help from a financial advisor or tax consultant.

MYPAY ACCOUNTS

Retirees and annuitants can make routine updates to their DFAS account using MyPay.

You can change your bank account, print your 1099R, print current LES, adjust your tax withheld, update your email/ mailing addresses and change or add allotments.

Electronically it can be done 24/7 from anywhere in the world at <http://mypay.dfas.mil>.

Customer support is also available by calling 866-671-5031, Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. EST

MEDICAL COVERAGE

At the time of this writing, the proposed 13 percent increase for Tricare that covers military retirees and family members was still being considered by Congress.

That would mean the family plan goes from \$460 to \$520 and the single plan from \$230 to \$260.

Active duty and family members still have free health care and still no fees for TCL.

If these fees are increased annually, those 73 percent of military retirees earning less than \$30,000 a year will be hit hardest.

Congress is considering holding increases, after the initial established amount, to the amount of COLA each year. It is planned that monthly premiums for Medicare Plan B will go from present \$96.50 to \$104.20 in 2012, to \$120.20 in 2013 and \$247 in 2014.

Your monthly Social Security benefits do not withhold income tax. Only payment for Medicare Part B is withheld and that is taxable income. Some of the Social Security but not all is taxable. That depends on your total income. The federal tax laws about Social Security benefits provide that: Up to 50% of Social Security benefits may be subject to income tax for a single with combine income from \$25,000 to \$34,000 or couples with a combined income from \$32,000 to \$44,000. Up to 85% of Social Security benefits may be subject to income tax for a single with combined income above \$34,000 or for couples with a combined income over \$44,000. Combined income is adjusted gross income plus taxable interest plus ½ of Social Security benefits.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Visa alone reports that 402 million debit cards are in use in the US. They are convenient and interest free, but there are times when you should not use them. For online purchases, credit card offers greater protection. Debit cards purchases are not covered by law that gives you the right to dispute a purchase if merchandise is not delivered as agreed. At a restaurant not only is your debit card out of sight, there is a possibility a tip can be added without the diner knowing it. Credit cards offer better safety. Using debit cards for hotel reservations, allows the hotel to put a hold on your account. Using debit cards for automatic payments pulls money out of your account before you can address any mistake.

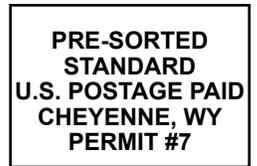
DEBIT CARDS

Here are four tips on how to lower your chances of osteoporosis. Choose cereals that are fortified. Go for those with added calcium or vitamin D, two nutrients that help keep bones strong. Milk offers both. Other sources are low-fat dairy, almonds and dark leafy greens for calcium: oily fish and egg yolks for vitamin D. Squash those vices. You don't have to rid all of them but smoking and drinking are the worst. Take the stairs, or go for a walk, play tennis, whatever you prefer. Bones are living tissue that gets stronger with exercise. Get a bone density test. It is the only test that can diagnose osteoporosis before you break a bone. Early detection can afford a doctor to prescribe remedies to prevent bone loss.

TO YOUR HEALTH

Wyoming Military Department
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