



Misawa AB Retiree
Activities Office

Col R. Scott Jobe
35th FW/CC

Col Travis B. Rex
35th FW/CCV

MSgt (Ret) Joseph Roginski
RAO Director
Managing Editor

CMSgt (Ret) Dave Barton
RAO Deputy Director

SMSgt (Ret) Lee Martin
Staff & Newsletter Editor

SCPO (Ret) Paul H. Sayles
RAO Staff

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2017

Happy
Fourth
Of
July

Misawa AB Retiree Activities Office Newsletter

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Articles appearing in this newsletter are compiled from local sources, newsletters received by the RAO, and from other military sources. Information has been edited and reprinted for the benefit of our retiree population. Absolutely no commercial gain is derived from this publication. Our appreciation is extended to those agencies and newsletter sources. Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy of any agency of the U.S. Government.

SBP annuity now payable to special-needs trust

The National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 2015 now gives retirees the option of having Survivor Benefit Plan annuity payments go directly into a special-needs trust for a disabled child. This special-needs trust statute does not apply to disabled spouses.

"This new option is the result of an amendment to the public law covering SBP and is a welcome change for parents of disabled dependent children," said Tammy Hern, the Air Force's SBP program manager.

Basically, a special-needs trust is a legal tool specifically designed for managing money set aside for the benefit of a disabled person, according to Department of Defense officials. Unlike many other trusts, a special-needs trust is governed by state law.

Retirees who have SBP coverage for a disabled dependent child may now - or at any time -- have a special-needs trust created and elect to direct SBP annuity payments to the trust.

This irrevocable decision may be made during the life of the retiree through a written statement that designates future SBP payments go into the special-needs trust. In situations where SBP payments are made to more than one dependent child, the special-needs trust will be treated as a dependent child for the purposes of determining the shares payable to each child.

To irrevocably add a special-needs trust to existing child SBP coverage, retirees must submit a written statement requesting the annuity be paid to a trust. The statement must include the name and tax identification number of the trust. An attorney

certification letter from an actively licensed attorney verifying that the trust is a special-needs trust created for the benefit of the disabled dependent child must also be submitted. Examples of both statements can be found at:

<http://www.retirees.af.mil/sbp/>.

"It is vital that people wanting to create a special-needs trust exercise due diligence and consult with an attorney well-versed in this specialized and complex area of law," said Hern. In accordance with the SBP statute, a special-needs trust for a dependent disabled child must also meet federal statute, and once it is created, it is irrevocable. If officials determine the special-needs trust is invalid or otherwise faulty, then SBP annuity payments will revert back to being made directly to the dependent child. If this occurs, the dependent child's entitlement to other benefits such as Supplemental Security Income and Medicaid may be affected.

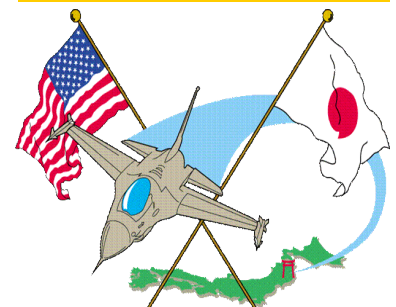
A special needs trust election can be added to child SBP coverage even after the retiree dies. "When the retiree dies, if SBP child coverage has been elected and the child is disabled, the dependent child's legal parent, grandparent or court-appointed legal guardian may irrevocably elect to have the SBP annuity payments made to a special-needs trust," said Hern.

For more information or help with completing election statements, call 1-877-353-6807 to contact the SBP or casualty assistance representative at the nearest Air Force base.

Extracted from the Air Force's Afterburner Newsletter

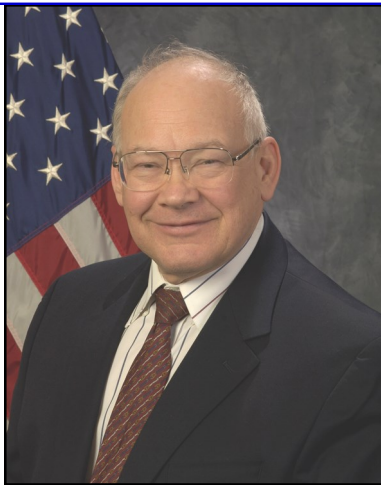
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YOUR RAO STAFF



MSgt (Ret) Joseph Roginski
DIRECTOR



CMSgt (Ret) Dave Barton
DEPUTY DIRECTOR



SMSgt (Ret) Lee Martin
Webmaster / Newsletter



SCPO (Ret) Paul Sayles
Staff

Red Feather Recognition

The RAO's own SCPO (Ret) Paul Sayles was part of the executive team for the 2016 red Feather Campaign. He was the public affairs representative, making AFN broadcasts to explain the purpose of the campaign and coordinated additional speakers for AFN.

For those who don't know, Akahane, or Red Feather is the Japanese national fundraising drive for their Community Chest. It is one of Japan's largest nonprofits and is the one Japanese charity that is allowed to solicit donations from base personnel.

The campaign on base had a goal of raising \$18,000 for this season and, thanks in large part to Paul, it was able to exceed that goal. He also coordinated a donation from the Misawa Military Retiree Association. He has been active in this program since 2004.

We commend Paul for his efforts on behalf of this worthy cause and for representing our RAO in such a positive way.

RAO Staff member, SCPO Paul Sayles



(Ret)



赤い羽根共同募金



Veterans Administration

VA Reduces Processing Time for Veterans' Claims, Saves Future Taxpayer Dollars

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently started digitizing older, inactive paper records, which will save taxpayer dollars through reduced, leased office-space that currently houses these records.

“This is just one of the ways in which we are modernizing our capabilities, not only to be more responsive to Veterans and their families, but also to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars,” said VA’s Acting Under Secretary for Benefits Thomas Murphy.

This new “paper-extraction” process ensures that when a claim is filed, the Veteran’s electronic record is already available in VA’s computer systems, reducing processing time for benefit claims from Veterans and their survivors. In the past, when a Veteran filed a new or supplemental claim, if a medical condition had worsened, the retired paper files were boxed and shipped to a central site to scan into VA’s systems before work would begin on the new claim.

Nearly 2 million inactive files were housed in 33 regional offices across the country before the change. As of April 14, more than 500,000 files have been collected from eight regional offices for scanning. Once the records have been digitized, VA will archive and store them in less expensive long-term storage for safekeeping.

The agency plans to remove and scan paper claim records from the remaining regional offices by the end of 2018. “This modernization initiative seeks to eliminate delays

caused by shipping and digital conversion,” said Bradley Houston, director of VA’s Office of Business Process Integration, which oversees the initiative. “It will give claims processors nationwide the ability to instantly access millions of inactive claim records when needed.”

Over the past five years, VA has made concerted efforts to modernize the way it processes compensation and pension claims. Since 2012, 397 million records — consisting of 2.6 billion images — have been scanned, indexed and uploaded into the agency’s electronic-claims processing system, Veterans Benefits Management System. In fiscal 2016, VA provided compensation and pension benefits to more than 5.1 million Veterans and family members, totaling over \$80 billion.

For more information about VA’s benefits, go to [benefits.va.gov/benefits/](https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/benefits/) or call 800-827-1000

Courtesy of veteransresources.org.

Education and Career Counseling

VA’s Education and Career Counseling program is a great opportunity for Veterans and dependents to get personalized counseling and support to help guide their career paths, ensure most effective use of their VA benefits, and achieve their **goals**.

Eligible are:

- Veterans within one year following discharge from active duty.
- Any veteran currently eligible for a VA education benefit.

All current VA education beneficiaries Services include assisting the Servicemember/Veteran with:

- Career Choice - understand the best career options for you based on your interests and capabilities.
- Benefits Coaching - guidance on the effective use of your VA benefits and/or other resources to achieve your education and career goals.
- Personalized Support - Academic or adjustment counseling and personalized support to help you remove any barriers to your success.

It's simple to apply. Just follow these steps:

- Log in to your eBenefits account at <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov>
- Select "Apply"
- Select "Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Benefits"
- Apply for "Educational and Career Counseling"

If it is determined that you are eligible, you will be invited to attend an orientation session at the nearest [VA Regional Office](#).

If you do not have access to eBenefits you may:

- Open and Print [VA Form 28-8832](#)
- Complete and mail the form to your nearest [VA Regional Office](#) - Attention: Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment

Courtesy of va.gov.



VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

“Veteran’s Choice” Imposter Phone Line.

VA is taking action in response to a phone line that appears to be set up to take advantage of Veterans who misdial the Veterans Choice Program phone line.

The two phone lines differ only in area code. The correct Choice Program phone line is 1-866-606-8198, while the imposter phone line is using 1-800-606-8198. The fake line does not provide information on the Choice Program or its eligibility criteria, instead it claims to offer callers a \$100 rebate if they provide a credit card number.

VA would never ask Veterans for this information or offer this type of financial incentive through the Choice Program phone line. This potential attempt to impersonate VA's Veterans Choice Program phone line is being taken very seriously. VA is acting to ensure Veterans are not exploited by getting the word out and also by working with the Office of Inspector General to take legal action and ultimately shut the fake line down.

Veterans can tell if they have reached the correct phone line, if the phone line automatically states the caller has reached the "U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs." Please note, the fake line will incorrectly confirm callers have reached the "Veterans Choice Program" if the caller asks this question. If Veterans are unsure if they have reached the correct phone line, they should hang up and make sure they dial 1-866-606-8198

correctly.

Please do not hesitate to call the Veterans Choice phone line at 1-866-606-8198 to ask questions about the program and determine if you are eligible. More information on the Veterans Choice Program can also be found at <https://www.va.gov/opa/choiceact/>

In addition, the VA Identity Safety Service <https://www.va.gov/IDENTITYTHEFT/index.asp> offers a toll-free identity theft help line to Veterans and their beneficiaries who believe that they are at risk for identity theft. The number is [1-855-578-5492](tel:1-855-578-5492), and it operates Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. EST with voicemail for after-hours calls. Any calls pertaining directly to VA data are referred to VA staff and investigated accordingly. Find out more about how you can protect yourself from identity theft at VA's More Than A Number: Identity Theft Protection website at <https://www.va.gov/IDENTITYTHEFT/index.asp>

Courtesy of www.va.gov



TRICARE’s Nurse Advice Line Helps with Care Options

Older adults can have multiple health problems and may not know whether they need to see a doctor or can administer self-care, so TRICARE officials want people to consider calling the Nurse Advice Line first before deciding.

TRICARE officials report that more than half of all adults 65 and

older have three or more chronic medical problems, such as heart disease, diabetes, cancer, or arthritis.

People suffering from a rash, a sinus infection, or perhaps just have a common cold, can speak with a registered nurse who will help assess if self-care or if you need to see a medical professional.

The Nurse Advice Line provides access to care, especially after hours and when traveling, which is helps retirees on the move. It can also help find doctors and schedule next-day appointments at military hospitals and clinics when available.

You can call the Nurse Advice Line 24/7, at no cost to you, to talk to a registered nurse who can:

- Answer your urgent care questions
- Give you health care advice
- Help you find a doctor
- Schedule next-day appointments at military hospitals and clinics.

Do you have a sick child?

- You can talk to nurses with specialized pediatric training.
- We can call you back after a few hours to check on your child.

If you still need an appointment, we can help.

To access the Nurse Advice Line call 800-TRICARE (874-2273) and select Option 1. Visit the [Nurse Advice Line](#) webpage for more details.

Courtesy of Tricare .mil



DFAS

DFAS ADDRESS FOR RETIREEES AND ANNUITANTS CHANGE

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service's addresses changed effective May 1, 2017. The old addresses are being discontinued and will be replaced by addresses in Indianapolis. The new addresses are:

Retired Pay:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service
U.S. Military Retired Pay
8899 E 56th Street
Indianapolis IN 46249-1200

Annuitant Pay:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service
U.S. Military Annuitant Pay
8899 E 56th Street
Indianapolis IN 46249-1300

The old PO Boxes in London KY will remain open and all mail will be forwarded to the new address for one year. However, sending mail to the old address will add three to five days to the normal processing time.

The telephone and fax numbers are not changing.

Please copy and paste the following web address into your web browser for additional contact information:



MISCELLANEOUS

<https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary.html>
Courtesy of www.dfas.mil



Protect Your Lost or Stolen Navy Federal Credit or Debit Card

If you've ever reached for your wallet to discover your card isn't where you thought it was—this new feature is for you. Now, when you temporarily misplace your Navy Federal Credit or Debit Card, you can freeze the card while you locate it. Once you locate the card, you can unfreeze it in seconds on the mobile* app and continue using it as you did before it was frozen.

Freezing your card isn't a notification that your card is lost or stolen, or that there have been unauthorized transactions on your account. It's simply a way to confirm no transactions can be made until you find your card. If your card is lost or stolen, or if you notice unauthorized transactions, please call 1-888-842-6328 immediately

For instructions on how to freeze or unfreeze your card go to: <https://www.navyfederal.org/account-management/freeze-unfreeze.php>

NEW V.A. "OPEN DATA"

The VA is working to make information resources easier to find, access and use, while protecting individual personal data. VA's Open Data initiative strives to provide easy access to information

that can **fuel entrepreneurship, innovation and public policy research**, such as:

- Patterns and comparative rates of health conditions for vulnerable Veteran groups
- Location information for Veteran gravesites across the U.S.
- Analysis on the growing number of women Service members and Veterans

How can VA data help you?

Learn more about how VA information is improving Veteran services and sign up for future updates on VA Open Data:. The program is still under development but you can learn about it at data.va.gov.

Note from the National Institutes on Aging

Healthy communication with your doctor can sometimes require talking about sensitive subjects https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/publication/talking-your-doctor/can-i-really-talk-about-discussing-sensitive-subjects?utm_source=20170612_senitivesubj&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ealert].

Even if you feel embarrassed or uncomfortable talking with your doctor about something, chances are your doctor has heard similar things before. Get information about talking to your doctor about topics like:

- * Alcohol
- * Falling and fear of falling
- * Grief, mourning, and depression
- * HIV/AIDS
- * Incontinence
- * Memory problems
- * Sexuality
- * Family problems

Courtesy of the National Institutes of Health.



AF Retiree Employment

Retirees Seeking Employment With a Foreign Government Need Approval

Military retirees seeking any civil employment with a foreign government agency -- or any instrumentality of a foreign government agency -- must apply for permission in advance or **risk losing their military retirement pay.**

For retired Airmen, the Secretary of the Air Force and Secretary of State serve as approval authorities for requests, though the Air Force Personnel Center's Airman & Family Readiness functions as the administrative manager for Foreign Government Employment program.

Legally, there are certain situations in which an employee receives compensation where the payment is indirectly received from a foreign state. Examples include consulting and legal services, as well as payments from domestic professional corporations. Before accepting employment, retirees should contact an ethics attorney at their local base legal office to discuss the implications, according to AFPC legal officials.

"This is a very complex program, and retirees should know the rules anytime they consider working for a foreign government or a company in a foreign country," said Tom Badman, the program's manager at AFPC. "Pre-approval is required whether or not compensation is received."

If retired Airmen start working for a foreign government without pre-employment approval, Badman says they take the risk of having to repay some or all of their retirement pay.

Air Force Instruction 36-2913, Request for Approval of Foreign Government Employment of Air Force Members, outlines the rules and necessary paperwork, as well as application instructions. The application package includes the Foreign Government Employment Memo, Foreign Government Employment Questionnaire and a Standard Form 312, Nondisclosure Agreement, which can all be found on the Air Force Retiree Services website Foreign Government Employment page.

Retirees can mail application packages to: AFPC Directorate of Airmen and Family Care, Airmen and Family Readiness Division, 550 C Street W, JBSA-Randolph TX 78150. Packages can also be faxed to 210-665-2322, or emailed to afpc.retiree@us.af.mil.

Retired Airmen with questions about foreign government employment can send email to afpc.retiree@us.af.mil. To protect personal privacy, applicants are asked not to include Social Security numbers or any other personally identifiable information in emails.

180-Day Hiring Restriction

Military retirees seeking to enter civil service in the Department of Defense now require a waiver if they are within 180 days following their official date of retirement.

The new DoD requirement took effect Dec. 23, 2016, as part of the National Defense Authorization Act of fiscal 2017; however, personnel who fall under a special salary rate table, such as air traffic controllers and information technology managers, are exempt from the 180-day requirement.

Enacted in 1964, the 180-day policy was waived after a state of na-

tional emergency was declared on Sept. 14, 2001. After that, the Air Force had the flexibility to appoint retired military members within 180 days of retirement without needing to first seek a waiver.

The Air Force is committed to sustaining and supporting a diverse civilian workforce, said Sandy Pyott, Civilian Force Management branch chief. We recognize the virtues that retirees, veterans and career civil servants bring to the table and how working together we can continue to be a world-class organization.

This policy applies to all non-appropriated and appropriated-fund civilian positions in the competitive and excepted service, senior executive service and senior-level positions, and scientific and professional positions. The policy also includes all permanent, temporary, term, part-time, flexible and intermittent positions.

Waivers may be submitted when it is determined that the retired military member is more highly qualified than the other candidates on the referral certificate. Members who are separating from the military and are not entitled to receive retirement pay from the armed services are not impacted by the 180-day wait period. Positions that fall under the special salary-rate table are also exempt from the policy.

For more information, select "Any" from the dropdown menu on myPers at <https://mypers.af.mil/> and search "180 days." Individuals who do not have a myPers account can request one by following the instructions on myPers.

Courtesy of the Afterburner



LOCAL HAPPENINGS

VISITORS FROM THE PAST



The Retiree Activities Office had the pleasure of hosting Lt. Col. (Ret) Bill Douglas and his wife Eileen, on 20-21 April. Bill was the base Procurement Officer back in 1973-75.

He contacted us back in February about a planned visit to Japan and was interested in dropping by Misawa to see how much the base had changed over the years. Needless to say, there wasn't very much that was recognizable to them except the Bong Theatre.

We picked them up at the Misawa Airport and got them into billeting before we gave them a tour of the base and also a close up view of an F-16. Bill was on the initial procurement team for the F-16 and had never really seen the finished product of his labors. Thanks to CMSgt Johnson and the weapons load personnel for giving them a detailed indoctrination into the F-16 and its weapons capabilities. After dropping them off at billeting again they spent the evening walking around downtown and eating dinner at the club.

The next morning we ran them by the Contracting Squadron to see the new facilities and personnel working there. He remembered the old building that sat outside the gate until around 2008 when the base relocated the contracting operation to inside the perimeter for security reasons.

We took them out the gate for a walk down White Pole to view the changes in the buildings along main-street. They were also interested in seeing where their house was when they were here. We took them up past the water towers to the area where it would have been and they took several pictures to show their children when they returned to the states. Their children had many happy memories of Misawa back in the early 70s after the aircraft mission was closed here.

After seeing as much as time would allow, we returned them to the airport where they flew out in the afternoon to return to Tokyo to catch their flight back home. They really enjoyed their brief stay and we were happy to provide what support we could for their trip.

Col Jobe, 35FW/CC presented a letter of Appreciation to the RAO for hosing the visitors. See it at www.misawarao.org/loa

Dave Barton

MEMORIAL DAY RETREAT 2017

It was time again for our annual

Memorial Day Retreat at Risner Circle on Friday, 26 May 2017.

Although the weather was not the greatest, very misty and chilly, we braved the elements and stood up a flight of retirees for the ceremony.

Memorial Day and POW/MIA Day are two of the ceremonies where we are able to recognize our fellow war fighters.

There were no fly-overs this year because the runway is closed for repairs and the aircraft are deployed.

We appreciate the opportunity to stand in formation with the active duty troops and pay homage to all those lost to our ranks.

Thanks.

Dave Barton



Birthdates of our Military Services

US Army—June 14, 1775

US Navy – October 13, 1775

US Marines—November 10, 1775

US Coast Guard—August 4, 1790

US Air Force—Sept 18, 1947

Access to retiree publications of each service:

Army Echoes: www.armyg1.army.mil/rso/echoes.asp **Navy Shift Colors:** www.shiftcolors.navy.mil

Air Force Afterburner: www.retirees.af.mil/afterburner

Marine Corps Semper Fidelis: www.manpower.usmc.mil/portal/page/portal/M_RA_HOME/MM/SR/RET_ACT/SemperFidelis

Coast Guard Evening Colors: <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg1/psc/ras>



RECURRING INFORMATION

Retiree Survivor's Guide

A Retiree Survivor's Guide to Benefits is available on the [Library page](#) of the Air Force Retiree Services website.

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

Government agencies outside the Air Force administer most of the benefits discussed in this guide.

This guide is designed to provide general information on most federal benefits and privileges people may be entitled to as survivors of a deceased Air Force retiree. In addition, it contains a list of important necessary documents (see Section H), and a Benefits/Entitlements Checklist (see Section I).

myPay on YouTube

If you've never opened a myPay account, need help changing your myPay password or changing your email address in myPay, check out the online training tutorials available on YouTube. Go to:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLhx_8nsfXqVjnv_WuYeXc84lmlHBMYe6a

Courtesy of myPay.dfas.mil

myPay Support on DFAS

For problems using myPay, or with your myPay password, contact the DFAS Centralized Customer Support Unit toll-free at 1-888-332-7411 or commercial at (216)552-5096. You can also call DSN to 580

-5096. This support line is available Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm, Eastern Time.

The Centralized Customer Support Unit can provide assistance on how to use the options available to you in myPay. The support unit will also provide support for establishing and changing your password. For all other payroll information, please contact your servicing pay office or your customer service representative.

Questions concerning specific pay account information should contact the servicing payroll office or the appropriate Customer Service rep as follows:

Military Retirees: 1-800-321-1080

Annuitant: 1-800-321-1080

Former Military Spouses: 1-888-332-7411

Military retirees that are in a non-pay status due to a VA Waiver or Combat Pay can still access myPay but will have limited options available. Questions should be referred to the customer service section listed above. You can also access your pay statement from the Main Menu of the myPay website by clicking on the Payment Information option.

If you have trouble reading the graphic version of your pay statement, you can click on the Text Version link. The text version of your pay statement lists all of your pay data item information in a single column.

Courtesy of myPay.dfas.mil

Where to Send Your Tricare Claim

□ Non-active duty, TRICARE Pacific; send to TRICARE Overseas Program, P.O. Box 7985, Madison, WI 53707-7985 USA

□ TRICARE For Life (TFL) claims in the United States and U.S. territories (American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands) send to WPS TFL, P.O. Box 7890 Madison, WI 53707-7890 USA.

Source: The 2011 Publication for TRICARE Standard Overseas Beneficiaries

For TRICARE Overseas Program information, forms and assistance you can contact the Misawa Air Base TRICARE Office at 226-6000 (from off base 0176-77-6000) or visit the office at the base hospital.

Courtesy of www.tricare-overseas.com

International Direct Deposit

International Direct Deposit (IDD) is available to U.S. military retirees and survivors living in eligible locations overseas. IDD electronically deposits funds on the first business day of the month to your foreign bank in the currency of the country of the receiving bank.

See previous editions of the Misawa RAO Newsletter (go to misawa.rao.org and search archived newsletters (April-June 2016 is most recent) for specific details and instructions to use the new DD1199-I for international direct deposit. JJR

Make an Appointment for an ID Card

To make an appointment for an ID card, go to:

<https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil/>

Click "Make an Appointment" from the top menu bar and then follow the directions.



NEW CLUB CARD & MEMBERSHIP

On Tuesday, August 1st, the club will no longer recognize the Chase credit card as the club membership card.

Dues payments to chase will end on July 31st. For all club members who have a Chase Mastercard club membership card, Chase will replace the membership card with their commercial card and convert the accounts to customer accounts, with no affiliation with the club. Their rates and conditions will remain the same for the time being.

If a club member has a proprietary club card account, Chase will close the account and bill as normal until the account is paid.

Current club members will have to log in to the MemberPlanet phone app to claim their account which will already be set up for them. The app is available for Android and iPhone. When the account has been set up, a membership card will be sent which can be printed or downloaded to the phone. The image of the card on the phone can be used for proof of membership.

New club members will have to create a MemberPlanet account and profile, the request to join the Misawa Club.

For all club members, dues can be paid with any bank account. Monthly dues are based on rank. Club membership prices are not changing.

For information and to join the club, contact the club at 957-1556 or visit www.myairforcelife.com/clubs/membership.aspx

Benefits of club membership:

- \$2 off at lunch buffets
- \$2 off at Sunday breakfast
- \$2 off at dinner buffets
- Catering discounts

- Discounted or Free tickets at special events
- Primary card holder birthday coupon for free lunch buffet
- **Six months of FREE dues for new retirees**
- Club dues waived during deployment
- Social Hour buffet at the Sports Bar and Kanpai Lounge on Fridays
- Annual Scholarship Program
- Access to ALL military clubs WORLDWIDE

Courtesy 35th Force Support Squadron

2017 Retiree Appreciation Day Date Set

The 2017 Misawa Air Base Retiree Appreciation Day is set for Saturday, October 14th. Schedule will be the same as past years pending approval by all agencies involved. - RAO

Upcoming Misawa Area Festivals and Events

July

- ⇒ 23—Lake Ogawara Festival
- ⇒ At Misawa City Lake Ogawara Beach (next to base beach) 0915-1600
- ⇒ 28/9—Nango Jazz Festival
- ⇒ Friday 1915-2014,
- ⇒ Saturday 1300-2030 Internationally famous jazz Festival
- ⇒ 28-30—Misawa Tanabata
- ⇒ 31— Aug 4—Hachinohe Taisai
- ⇒ Sansha Matsuri

August

- 2-7—Aomori Nebuta
- 7—Tonami Clan Memorial Village Farm Festival
- 24-27 —Misawa Summer

Festival

27—Misawa Port Festival

September

9-11—Towada City Fall Festival

13-14—Shimoda Town Festival

17—Misawa Air Show

23-24—Aomori 10-City Festival In Towada

October

7-8 American Day

Hachinohe “Hacchi” Portal Museum Worth Seeing

The Hachinohe Portal Museum “Hacchi” opened in 2011 as the focal point for new exchange and creation. Through the promotion of tourism and culture, the aim is to invigorate the downtown area and all the incorporated areas of Hachinohe City.

“Creating new city attractions while treasuring local resources.” With this concept, promotion of urban development, cultural art, tourism, craftsmanship as a base to awakens new activities and interest in the city through many projects that encourage social exchange between people.

At the Hachinohe Portal Museum “Hacchi,” the appeal of the numerous local Hachinohe resources is showcased through permanent exhibits. The entrance to Hacchi acts as a portal that connects with the various attractions Hachinohe has to offer

Courtesy “Hacchi” Website





アメリカの年金について

アメリカの年金局「SSA (Social Security Administration)」からたまに確認書類が送られてきます。その書類がきてから60日以内に返送しないと年金が停止されることがあります。

日本語の説明書も付いて来ますが、その説明書は分かりやすいが漢字が苦手の方や目の悪い方に、そして時々一般の人にもこの説明書が難しいという人もいます。

今回のRAO Newsletter により簡単な説明書を用意しました。

SSA7162 (年金存在確認用紙) の前と裏の例を見れば前は電話番号を記入、罰点を3つを書いて、裏にサインと日付を記入して。。できあがり！

返信用封筒に入れて、封筒の表の左上に送り先(自分の住所)を記入してから送るだけです。簡単です！

詳しくはこのNewsletterに付いた説明書をご覧ください。

今年の米軍定年退職者感謝日のイベント(Retiree Appreciation Day) は10月14日(土)です。以前と同じように遠い所から参加希望の方は13日(金)の夜ベースゲストハウスに無料で宿泊可能です。ご希望の方はなるべく早めにご連絡をお願いします。

東京のアメリカ大使館に年金の局があります。アメリカの年金の相談は直接大使館の年金局にお電話して下さい。

Federal Benefits Unit フェデラル ベネフィット ユニット
(アメリカ大使館連邦年金部): 03-3224-5055



Still Serving!



Hello fellow retirees and fellow RAOs staff. Here is the 2nd quarter 2017 edition of the Misawa Air Base RAO Newsletter. Lee Martin and I hope that you find useful information and interesting articles within.

The regulation governing Air Force RAOs recommends, but does not require, a newsletter, and there is no recommended frequency.

We at the RAO are charged with the responsibility of getting information to you, our retired military community. Compiling a newsletter is one of the best ways to get information out to you but, frankly, it is a hell of a lot of work. Lee Martin and I ask for your help. We actually have a huge retired community around Misawa, including the six prefectures of Tohoku and territory of Hokkaido, representing all services and all the wars since WWII. You are a treasure of information and history. Don't let it all pass with you without sharing. Anyone can provide information, opinion, history, or even a good story. We will gladly edit and include your contributions in your newsletter. Send your contribution to:

misawa.rao@us.af.mil

MMRA Notes:

1. Membership dues are \$20 a year. If you have not paid your dues for 2016, please call the RAO or e-mail the RAO and talk to Dave Barton, the acting MMRA Treasurer. The Treasurer will arrange to collect your dues and record it in the financial report.
2. Donations to the Misawa Military Retirees' Association are greatly appreciated. Dues and donations are used for the operations of the organization, charitable activities, community activities, assistance grants, and assistance in the case of death in the family. ALL funds go to the community except for the snacks served at the bi-monthly meeting.

The Misawa Military Retirees Association (MMRA) meets bi-monthly on the first Tuesday of even months, at 1700 hours, in the Tohoku Enlisted Club's Gray Room. All military retirees regardless of service affiliation are welcome as members. These meetings are your forum to voice your opinions, concerns, questions and suggestions, and get information about retiree and survivor issues and support on Misawa Air Base. We are your voice to the active duty community and help to support the many retiree programs on the base. We also provide assistance in emergencies to retirees and surviving spouses in times of need. Come out and join our group, share your experiences and skills, contribute to the community. The time you give to your fellow retirees and their families may someday come back as assistance to you or your sur-

MMRA Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held the first Tuesday of even-numbered months at the Tohoku Enlisted Club, Gray Room at 1700 hours.

7 February 2017

4 April 2017

6 June 2017

1 August 2017

3 October 2017

5 December 2017

NEXT MEETING—TUESDAY, 1 August 2017

SERVING THE RETIRED MILITARY COMMUNITY IN NORTHERN JAPAN



USEFUL NUMBERS

Exchange: 0176-7788255-7 plus last 4 digits (*)

HRO: 7460 (*)

Manager: 7401(*)

Gas Station: 7428 (*)

Express (main base): 7433 (*)

Express (North Area): 7435 (*)

Base Operator: 226-1110 (0176-77-1110)

Chapel: 226-4630 (0176-77-4630)

Command Post: 226-9880/9881 (0176-77-9880)

Commissary Officer: 226-3482 (0176-77-3482)

Community Bank: 226-4070 (0176-77-4070)

Credit Union Navy Federal: 1-617-938-5097

US HQ: 1-888-842-6328

Emergency Room:

Non-Urgent: 226-6647 (0176-77-6647)

Emergency- 911 / Off Base 0176-53-1911

Fitness Center: 226-3982 (*)

Golf Course: 1-281-657-1563 (*)

Law Enforcement: 226-3600 (0176-77-3600)

Library: 226-3068 (0176-77-3068)

Medical/Dental Appointments

Medical: 226-6111 (0176-77-6111)

Dental: 226-6700 (0176-77-6700)

Misawa Clubs

Admin: 1-281-675-1560 (*)

Catering: 1-281-657-1560 (*)

Misawa Inn (Air Force Lodging) (*)

Front: 222-0282 (0176-66-0282)

Reservations: 222-0284 (0176-66-0284)

Navy Gateway Lodging: (*)

Front Desk: 226-3131 (0176-77-3131)

Reservations: 226-4483 (0176-77-4483)

Navy HRO: 226-4674 (0176-77-4674)

Pass and Registration: 226-3995 (0176-77-3995)

Red Cross: 226-3016 (0176-77-3016)

FSS Auto Center "Pit Stop": 226-9486 (0176-77-9486)

FSS HRO: 226-3108/9275 (*)

Taxi: Official: 226-3328 (0176-77-3328) (*)

Base Commercial (Kichi Cab): 1-469-375-7479 (*)

Fm Off Base—0176-53-6481 (*)

Theater: 1-469-375-7450 (*)

Veterinarian 226-4502 (0176-77-4502)

Weather Forecast: 226-3065 (*)

Numbers that begin with "1" require special dialing. When dialing from a cell, 03-4580-0135, wait for voice, then dial the number. For 226-222 numbers dial 0176-66 (for 222) or 77 (for 226) then the last four. (*) means use the Phone Tree

RAO mailing address in Japan

033-0012 Aomori-ken, Misawa-shi, Hirahata 64

Misawa Beigun Kichi-nai 35FW/CVR

The Misawa Air Base **Retiree Activities Office** is an official activity organized in accordance with AFI 36-3106. The office is here to assist retirees from all military services in the Tohoku and Hokkaido regions of Japan. We can provide assistance in pay, taxes, social security, and personal/casualty affairs as well as other matters the retiree may need help with. We provide a focal point for retirees and/or their survivors with questions/concerns and work closely with the active duty community. Through the office and the activities of the Misawa Military Retirees Association we are able to provide assistance to indigent widows in the area with fuel, food and living expenses. The office is supplied and equipped through organizational funding, while being staffed entirely by volunteers.



The RAO is open Monday through Friday from 0900 through 1500 hours however, volunteers sometimes have to be out of the office. We are located in Room 210, Bldg 653. Please call or e-mail before visiting to make sure a staff member is available when you come to the office. If you are unable to contact the RAO in an emergency, you may contact the Casualty Assistance Representative in the Airman & Family Readiness Center, 226-4735 or from off base, 0176-77-4735. Japanese Nationals requiring assistance, and who have limited English language skills, may contact us and talk with MSgt (Ret) Joseph Roginski, who is bi-lingual. He may be reached at 09040450149 after hours.



35th FW/CVR

Unit 5009

APO AP 96319-5009

Phone: 011-81-176-77-

4428/5675

DSN: (315) 226-4428/5675

Email: misawa.rao@us.af.mil

Cell Phone: 090-4045-0149

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

<http://www.misawarao.org>

This publication is written, edited and published by the Misawa Air Base Retiree Activities Office for the retired community in northern Japan. The information or comments herein do not necessarily represent the position or opinion of the DOD, USAF or the 35 FW. While every effort has been made to assure the accuracy of the information herein, no absolute guarantee of accuracy or currency can be given nor should be assumed.