

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Revision 6

10/12/2010

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FAQ 01

How do I contact the USCG Historian?

The US Coast Guard Historian may be contacted as below.

The Historian's Office provides various types of USCG information, including USCG photos. They can e mail photos, sent on CDs, or the requested material can be picked up at HQ Rm B717.

Dr. Robert Browning at the 2006 National Retiree Council Meeting discussed their verbal history program and expressed interest in hearing from USCG members regarding their USCG experiences to consider them for inclusion in the program.

Dr. Robert Browning
US Coast Guard Historian
USCG HEADQUARTERS
RM: B717
2100 2nd St. S.W.
Washington, DC 20593
202-372-4650
robert.m.browning@uscg.mil

FAQ 02

What is an SF-50 Form?

An SF-50 is an Office of Personnel Management Form titled "Notification of Personnel Action". It formally lists and identifies the person's affiliation (job and series of position descriptions) with any federal agency. It includes all personnel actions that were taken during the period of employment with that agency; i.e., pay, raises, bonuses, rate, rank, step level, promotions, separation, retirement, etc.

When a Federal Civil Servant applies for a job with a federal agency or department; or requests benefits, the last SF-50 issued to the individual in the OPM file is the document used by the agency to determine the base allowances the individual is due.

<Note: Additional research is needed to determine how one requests a copy of SF-50B from an Agency a person worked for if the original is lost etc.>

FAQ 03

How do you contact the Retiree & Annuitant Services, USCG Pay & Personnel Center, Topeka Kansas

The Retiree & Annuitant Services, USCG Personnel Service Center, Topeka Kansas can be reached at:

On the Web <http://www.uscg.mil/ppc/ras> gives specific contact information.

Or contact:

Debbie Farley, Retiree & Annuitant Services
USCG Personnel Service Center, Topeka Kansas
Phone: (785) 339-3420 1-800 772-8724
Fax: (785) 339-3770
Email: Debra.G.Farley@uscg.mil

Retirees should contact them by letter or e-mail for Topeka to respond directly.

The USCG Personnel Service Center does not keep service personnel or medical records. They are located at the National Personnel Records Center is located in St Louis, MO. (See FAQ 18).

FAQ 04

Why are Civilians Being Considered for Council Membership?

The National Council has proposed to amend the basic Council Charter to add civilians.

The Charter is being reviewed in HQ.

Comment from National Council Co-Chair Patton relative to a recent telephone inquiry by a Retiree ----

“ We've had some similar feedback among a few other regional councils regarding the inclusion of civilians in the CG Retiree Council membership. It was also debated and lively discussed among the co-chairs of the National Retiree Council meeting last year. The decision to include civilians was based on addressing the 'Team Coast Guard' concept, which the past three commandants (Kramek, Loy, Collins), and now current Commandant (Allen) fully embraces to incorporate all members of the Coast Guard team to be involved collectively in activities.

Although it's without argument that civilians do have different compensation measures than military retirees, the decision of allowing their inclusion is strictly more of a social aspect than anything else. Civilian retirees, many whom had served 20 or more years of service with the Coast Guard, have felt a deep sense of connection with our service, and in retirement many also felt the need to remain connected.

It's strictly voluntary for civilian retirees to become active with regional councils or not. While most functionary meetings at retiree councils discuss some military related matters such as TRICARE, use of military privileges (commissary, exchange, morale), there are also some combined interests areas such as CG Mutual Assistance fund-raising activities, social functions such as the annual CG Day picnic, and maybe other local social activities at the hosting retiree council's Coast Guard facility, which also includes civilians. Some civilian retirees feel the need that they also want to be proactively involved and feel that some connected membership with an established group such as our retiree councils meet their needs.

The USAF Retiree Council this year on their conference agenda, discussed some inclusion of civilian USAF retirees membership with their councils, as it was discussed dozens of civilian USAF retirees are actively involved with running their retirement activities offices.

Our CG regional retiree councils operate very differently around the country, some have monthly or quarterly meetings, some don't. Some connect only electronically through email, sharing Coast Guard and military retiree news, as well as organizing annual gatherings during Coast Guard Day and/or assisting with the local hosting installation in a variety of affairs. That said, civilian retirees could indeed be actively involved if they choose too with the intention of making some contribution of support to the retiree council activities.

There still remains a great number of things that the civilian retirees have to get together on that's separate of the CG Retiree Council program. First of all, there is no collectively manner of communication for civilian retirees as we have within our CG retiree system. Once they've addressed that through the CG civilian personnel system, there may very well be a need for a separate civilian retiree council concept. This is what brought up the subject of civilian CG retirees wanting to remain connected and in some way continued involvement if they reside near a CG installation. Issues such as pay and compensation of course really have no platform for civilian retirees because of the way their retirement system is set up - and the military retiree councils are actually established by law - with the intent of providing some feedback to the service chiefs on the issues that impact the military retiree community; which of course the service chief (our commandant) formally endorses in his annual appropriations requests. So for this reason, the retiree council's focus on issues that does address the military retiree community must remain intact - as it is the feedback mechanism to the Commandant.

The Coast Guard itself has made some 'out of the box' thinking and lead the way in the inclusion of civilians as a identified proactive members of our service. This concept is now being modeled among other DOD services, which I mentioned the Air Force as one such organization that is also looking to embrace their civilian retirees as 'part of

the family.' Another point of note here is, the Coast Guard is the only branch of service that allows its civilian employees to openly use the CG-operated exchange facilities. This is currently under study by DOD to look at incorporating this practice for their civilians, and appears to be leaning to some type of limited opportunities inside CONUS only. Incidentally, DOD civilians are authorize use of commissary and exchange privileges at overseas installations.

So, the inclusion here of civilians is primarily to allow those who wish to remain connected in some way with the Coast Guard and willing to contribute, support and assist with whatever the regional retiree council's activities are with their host installation that involves and incorporate the teamwork concept of 'Team Coast Guard.' The decision of allowing civilians to participate in regional retiree council activities itself is very manageable. We won't need to do anything outside of what's already covered on the current and the draft update instruction.

Again, participation from the civilians is strictly voluntary (as is with any other military retiree and annuitant). It's simply an opportunity to allow those who feel that they have been a part of our organization to feel welcomed - and of course needed.

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Comment from National Council Co-Chair RADM Ames relative to a recent telephone inquiry by a Retiree-----

Subject: RE: 2006 National Retiree Council Meeting Report; comments

Vince said this all extremely well and I don't want to repeat him, but there are just a few thoughts I would like to add.

I worked extremely hard during my last four years on active duty as Assistant Commandant of Human Resources to build on the concept of Team Coast Guard. While certainly military and civilian systems are different and will remain different for good reasons, the Coast Guard's missions performed are consistent across the entire workforce. I think the CG has been more successful than the other services in the team concept and has shinned (most recently with Katrina/Rita) due in great part to the full team. Just like when I entered the organization in the 60's, we had built large barriers between active duty and reservists, let alone civilians and auxiliaries. During my career we have pretty much wiped out those barriers to the betterment of the nation -- witness our call out in the days, weeks and months post 9-11. I have found many civilian, reserve and auxiliary members as true CG blue through and through as any who served like myself for a long AD career.

My second thought is that from what I understand, none of our councils are being overwhelmed with volunteers/participants to keep them viable. I think we could use any help we can get to carry out solid programs at the regional level to serve the CG and its people better. If any council becomes "overrun" by civilian retirees, please let me know.

And it's the right thing to do...

Thanks for listening & Semper Paratus"

FAQ 05
**Headquarters Support Command Coast Guard Liaison to Arlington
National Cemetery**

Jay Fowler is the Headquarters Support Command Coast Guard Liaison to Arlington National Cemetery. If there are questions or assistances is needed:

Contact Jay Phone (202) 372-4086; E-mail jay.h.fowler@uscg.mil.

FAQ 06

How to Purchase a U.S. Flag That has Flown Over the Capitol



Anyone can purchase a U.S. Flag that has flown over the United States Capitol building in Washington D.C. This can be accomplished writing a letter to your Senator with your request. Their address can be obtained by calling your local Public Library and asking for it or use the [Senators of the 109th Congress](#) web site to locate contact information for your Senator.

You may request that your flag be flown on a certain date such as a birthday or anniversary. Be sure to mail in your request at least 4 weeks prior to the date you have selected. Your flag will be mailed to you and arrive 3-4 weeks after the date you have specified (**Since September 11th, 2001 it may take longer to receive your flag**). Enclosed with your flag will be a Certificate from The Architect of the Capitol certifying that your flag was flown as requested. If you mention in your letter that this flag is for *any* specific occasion, that information will be included on the certificate.

In the past I had provided a link here to a **Flag Ordering Form**. I have discontinued the Form because prices can vary at different [Senators web sites](#). Flag order information is typically found under "Constituent Services"

Flag Page Authors Note: I have purchased several of these flags in this way and I can attest to their high quality. The stars are embroidered and the stripes are individually sewn; a great gift to yourself or to a person of any age on a special occasion.

FAQ 07 HQ Flag and SES Listing

Available on the Web at <http://www.uscg.mil/flag>

CG Flag Officers and SES's in Washington, DC						Updated: 10 Jul 2006	
Office	Flag / SES			Sig #	Admin	202-26x-xxxx	Dep/EA/Aide/Asst
G-C	Allen	Thad W.	ADM	1	Susan Baicar	372-4411	CAPT Cynthia Coogan; LCDR Adrian West
G-CV	Crea	Vivien S.	VADM	2	John Hecker	372-4422	LT Frank DeRosso
G-CCS	Papp Jr.	Robert J.	VADM	5	Belinda Jerry	372-4546	CAPT Keith Taylor; LTJG Anne O'Connell
CG-1	Pearson	Clifford I.	RADM	11	Teresa Stevenson	7-0905	CAPT John Santucci; LT Jessica Crandell
CG-11	Higgins, USPHS	Paul J.	RADM		Darlene Byrd	7-1098	CAPT Michael Selavka; LTJG Matt Dowditt
CG-12	Mr. Tom Taylor, Acting				Loverna Miller	7-0641	
CG-12D	Mr. Tom Taylor, Acting				Mia Huff	7-0679	
CG-13	Capt Fritz Dutch, Acting				Brenda Felder	7-2350	CAPT Francis Dutch
CG-2	Sloan	James F.	Mr.		Beverly Ware	7-2126	CAPT John Felker
CG-2D	Rosa, Jr.	Fred M.	RADM	18	Shameem Williams	7-6354	LCDR K Higgins
CG-4	Gabel	Dale G.	RADM	9	Alan Rees	7-1844	Cdr Doug Menders; LCDR Jim Kammal (CDR Bob Paulson)
CG-4D	Orner	Jeffery G.	Mr.		Nicole Boone	7-1846	
CG-6(CIO)	Hewitt	Ronald T.	RDML	28	Barbara McCauley	475-3500	CAPT Chaz Johnson
CG-6(CKO)	Heiner	Nathaniel	Dr.		(Vacant)	475-3500	
CG-8	Branham	Robert S.	RDML	26	Joanie Ridnour	7-1088	CAPT Pam Russell (CAPT Robert Wagner)
CG-8D	Horowitz	Robert S.	Mr.		(Vacant)	7-6681	
G-A	Currier	John P.	RDML	24	Kathy Andrews	475-3101	CAPT Mike Wallace
G-CI	Johnson	Katie	Ms.		Yvette Novak	7-2248	CAPT David Forslund
G-CJ	Ingolia	Joseph N.	Hon.		Veronica Dickey	7-2940	George Jordan
G-CR	Dickerson	Terri A.	Ms.		Deborah Gant	7-1562	CAPT Carl Uchyl
G-D	Blore	Gary T.	RDML	22	Ronda Young	475-3000	LCDR Joyce Alvalots
G-DD	Mr. Joe Milligan, Acting				Lily Fitz-Gerald	475-3003	
G-I	Burhoe	J. Scott	RDML	33	Gwen Bradford	7-1530	CDR Winston Leslie
G-L	Baumgartner	William D.	RDML	35	Susan Tew	372-3726	CAPT Gilbert Teal
G-LD	Lederer	Calvin	Mr.		Beverly Smith	372-3728	
G-P	Bone	Craig E.	RDML	27	Deborah Smith	7-2200	CAPT Tim Skuby
G-PC	Salerno	Brian M.	RDML	31	Germaine Jefferson	7-2201	LCDR Jason Neubauer
G-PS	Lantz	Jeffrey G.	Mr.		Wanda Wilson	372-1351	
G-PW	Capt Wayne Mullenberg				Joyce Short	372-1504	
G-R	RDML Wayne Justice, Acting (Pekoske)				Tina Buggs	7-0977	CAPT Rick Kenin; LT Jay Guyer
G-RC	Parker	Robert C.	RDML	32	Jeanette Washington	7-1436	CDR Michael Dickey
G-RP	Justice	Wayne E.	RDML	30	Mary Proctor	7-2267	CAPT Doug Wisniewski; LCDR Steve Fabian (LCDR Kevin Jones)
G-X	Nimmich	Joseph L.	RDML	25	Dottie Mozell	7-0342	CAPT Mike Lapinski; CDR Lisa Hettlinger
DHS Military Advisor to S-1	Lloyd	Daniel B.	RDML	29	CPO Deborah Ghanayem Deborah.Ghanayem@dhs.gov	282-8239	LT Kevin Duffy
NPFC	Lane	Jan	Ms.		YN1 Angela White	493-6700	Wm. Grawe

FAQ 08 Field FLAG Listing

Available on the Web at <http://www.uscg.mil/flag>

Flag Officers in the Field							Updated: 10 Jul 2006
Office	Flag Officer		Sig #	Admin		Chief of Staff/EA/Aide	
LANTAREA	Peterman	D. Brian	VADM	3	Regina Harris	757-398-6287	Asst: Capt Chris Colvin; EA: CDR Diane Durham; Aide: LT Vargo
Dpty Area Cdr, Sr Reserve Officer Atlantic	Acton	John C.	RDML	Res #1	Laura Cottom	757-398-6285	LT Charles Ellis
D1	Sullivan	Timothy S.	RDML	19	Paula Marcangelo	617-223-8480	Asst: Capt Mark Campbell; Aide: ENS Jake Ferreira
D5	Hereth	Larry L.	RADM	12	Bertha Green	757-398-6640	Asst: Capt Steve Ratti
D7	Kunkel	David W.	RADM	8	Charlotte Jones	305-415-6670	Asst: Capt James Watson; EA: LT Charles Banks
D8	Whitehead	Joel R.	RDML	23	Angela Songy	504-589-6298	Asst: Capt Ron Branch; Aide: LT Pete Zauner
D9	Crowley	John E.	RADM	14	Sue Linville	216-902-6001	Asst: Capt Joseph Castillo; Aide: LT Greg Fordran
MLCLANT	Rochon	Stephen W.	RADM	10	Anita Milligan	757-628-4275	Asst: Capt Ron Rabago; Aide: LT Cheryl Bair
PACAREA	Wurster	Charles D.	VADM	4	Jan Freeman	510-437-3522	Asst: Capt Dan Neplun; EA: CDR June Ryan; Aide: LT Gregory Haas
Dpty Area Cdr, Sr Reserve Officer Pacific	Seward	Michael	RDML	Res #2	Jan Freeman	510-437-3522	LT G Ruocco
D11	Breckenridge	Jody A.	RADM	16	Olga Barnes	510-437-3968	Asst: Capt Robert Lorgan; Aide: LTJG Dorain Dailey
D13	Houck	Richard R.	RADM	15	Constance Nethkin	206-220-7090	Asst: Capt Keith Cook; Aide: LT Khris Johns
D14	Brice-O'Hara	Sally	RADM	7	Uaaree Matsuda	808-541-2051	Asst: Capt Paul Zukuntz; Aide: LT John Tilchen
D17	Brooks	Arthur E.	RADM	17	Sam Widner	907-463-2025	Asst: Capt Dave Glenn; Aide: LT Jeff Ferlauto
MLCPAC	Brown	Manson K.	RDML	34	Debra Briggs	510-437-3535	Asst: Capt Roger Gibson; Aide: LT Ken Langford
Miscellaneous Units							
J1ATF South	Hathaway	Jeffrey J.	RADM	6	YNC Abby Yebba ayebba@j1atfs.southcom.mil	305-253-5636	Aide: LT Christopher D. Dellow, USMC
J1ATF West	Kelly	Richard R.	RADM	20	Alicia Finley alicia.finley@pacom.mil	808-477-9708	Capt William Reig, USNR
Superintendent, CG Academy	Van Sice	James C.	RADM	13	Pam Plenninger	860-444-8285	Asst Sup: Capt Dan May; Aide: LT Elizabeth Kico
Dpty Director of Operations (J-3), NORTHCOM	RDML John Acton, Acting				Katherine Quick katherine.quick@northcom.mil	719-554-4598	J3 EA's: LtCol Keith Dastur & LtCol Pat Matthews

FAQ 09

Tools to Navigate Through All of the “xxx.gov” Websites

Word has come out via the Washington Post on Google's plan to launch a tool for searching US Government web sites. The tool, <http://usgov.google.com>, is meant to be used by Federal employees who may need to search across several different sites for information, and it is also designed to help citizens navigate convoluted pages of government-speak and tailor news feeds to their interests.

Users can customize the layout of their page to remain updated on government-related news from official and commercial sources, including the White House, Department of Defense, The Washington Post and CNN. Google is also working with agencies to increase the frequency of news updates to keep content current." You can also navigate through the 'dot mil' websites using another Google search tool – <http://www.searchmilitary.com> - it minimizes your searches to just 'dot mil' websites.

FAQ 10

How to Start a Retiree Council

To form a new or to reactivate a Council. doesn't really take much, just an active interest of about 10 other retirees, and getting a local command nearby, perhaps the Sector Field Office (formerly known as Marine Safety Office) to sponsor the Council. The details are outlined in the Commandant Instruction 1800.5F which is found on the National Retiree Council website.

Basically what's to be expected is up to the Council forming.

There are what are called 'virtual councils' like the North Coast (covering the entire Great Lakes region), where the membership communicates via email, and they put together one big reunion each year in Grand Haven, MI during the Coast Guard Anniversary celebration in August.

The Northwest Council is another almost 'virtual council' covering Oregon, Washington state and Alaska. However they have 'branches' to their council, with quarterly meetings in Juneau, Seattle and Portland, where their council members get together mostly socially, but they do provide some liaison work with the units in the area, assisting with newcomers settling into the area, individuals transitioning to retiree status to help in finding jobs, and a host of other things.

The Councils essentially keeps others informed on what's going on, through the correspondence that's forwarded to them by either myself or my co-chair, RADM Fred Ames. One co-chair from each council gets all expense paid trip to Washington, DC each year for the National Retiree Council meeting, held in the spring of each year (April or May) - where councils trade ideas, thoughts and secrets on what they're doing, as well as provide a detailed report to the Commandant of the Coast Guard on what the retiree councils views and opinions are on various topics of interest.

The first step is getting ten other retirees interested in the Council, draw up some guidance on what the Council would like to do, present it to the sponsoring command, and then command in turn will submit a request for a charter to Coast Guard Headquarters, per the details of the instruction. It's that simple.

BMCM Ib Andersen out of Cape May has all the good documents that will help get a council started. Ib can be reached at: kc2jpo@comcast.net

FAQ 11

VA Identity Theft

The following information from the VA and USCG HQ gives info as it stands on 6/24/06.
The ALDIST gives advice on what to do...

MOAA keeps this site updated with the latest status etc

http://www.moaa.org/controller.asp?pagename=serv_benefits_pay_miscellaneous_personalsecurity_letter

MOAA's advice on how to protect yourself:

http://www.moaa.org/controller.asp?pagename=serv_financial_gpn_tips_13

VA Offers Free Credit Monitoring

Associated Press | June 22, 2006

WASHINGTON - The government said Wednesday it would provide free credit monitoring to millions of veterans whose personal information was stolen last month, and it acknowledged it was not close to catching those responsible.

Veterans Affairs Secretary Jim Nicholson said the agency would seek to protect veterans and military troops against identity theft after their names, Social Security numbers and birthdates were taken from a department data analyst's home on May 3.

Any of the 17.5 million people known to have had their Social Security numbers compromised will be eligible for one year of credit monitoring. The VA has said up to 26.5 million could be affected, although some appeared to be duplicate names.

The move is expected to cost millions of dollars. Credit monitoring on average costs \$50 to \$150 per person each year, although rates are often lower when purchased in bulk. That price tag is in addition to the \$14 million the VA has spent to notify and assist veterans in what has become one of the nation's largest security breaches.

"It's not going to be cheap," Nicholson said at a news briefing, adding that authorities were no closer to finding the stolen data. "Free credit monitoring will help safeguard those who may be affected, and will provide them with the peace of mind they deserve."

He said those who have gotten letters from the VA saying they are at risk will receive additional information - probably in early August after the VA solicits bids from contractors - on how to sign up for the free monitoring for a year.

The VA also will hire a company for data analysis to look for possible misuse of the personal information. There have been no reports so far of any identity theft stemming from the burglary in suburban Maryland.

Veterans groups and lawmakers from both parties have criticized the agency about the theft and noted years of warnings by auditors that information security was lax. The data analyst - who is in the process of being dismissed - had taken the information home, apparently without his supervisor's knowledge.

The VA has been criticized for waiting nearly three weeks - until May 22 - to notify veterans about the theft.

Earlier this month, more than 150 House Democrats called on President Bush to request new money to provide credit monitoring to veterans. Veterans groups have filed suit against the VA, charging their privacy was violated and demanding \$1,000 in damages for each person.

On Wednesday, veterans advocates praised the announcement as a good first step.

"Any resources expended to address the VA data breach must not be taken from the VA's current budget but rather should be new funds, as veterans and military families must not be punished for the administration's failures," said Rep. Lane Evans, D-Ill., the top Democrat on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Joe Davis, spokesman for Veterans of Foreign Wars, agreed. "We fully expect the Congress and the administration will provide the additional funding so that no VA program is negatively impacted," he said.

At the briefing, Nicholson said the VA was working with the White House to identify money to pay for the credit monitoring. No money will come out of program services, although there may be ways administratively to "tighten the belt," he said.

The VA has said it cost the government about \$14 million to set up an information call center as well as notify veterans and troops of the data theft by letter. An additional \$200,000 is being spent per day to maintain the call center.

It will cost millions of dollars to notify veterans by letter in early August about the credit monitoring and then to pay the contractor to provide the monitoring to veterans and military troops, said Sen. Larry Craig, chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee.

"This is a tremendous move by the administration which should put minds at ease," said Craig, R-Idaho. "The VA is responsible for the data breach, and it should be responsible for providing services to correct it. But it won't be free to taxpayers."

For the latest news on the VA's Identity Theft, please go to <http://www.military.com/identity>

R 230928Z JUN 06 ZUI ASN-A00174000005
FM COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC//CG-1//
TO ALCOAST
BT
UNCLAS //N01000//
ALCOAST 351/06
COMDTNOTE 1000
SUBJ: POTENTIAL COMPROMISE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION OF COAST
GUARD
ACTIVE DUTY, RESERVE, AND RETIRED PERSONNEL
A. DHS CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER EMAIL MEMO FOR DHS
EMPLOYEES AND CONTRACTORS REGARDING DATA SECURITY AND
PRIVACY DTD 08JUN06

1. AS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED IN THE MEDIA, A LAPTOP COMPUTER HARD DRIVE WAS STOLEN FROM THE RESIDENCE OF A DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (DVA) EMPLOYEE. THE HARD DRIVE CONTAINED IDENTIFYING INFORMATION INCLUDING THE NAMES, SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS, AND DATES OF BIRTH FOR ABOUT 26.5 MILLION MILITARY VETERANS AND THEIR SPOUSES, AS WELL AS VETERANS WITH A DISABILITY RATING. THE DVA RECEIVES RECORDS FOR EVERY NEW ACCESSION AND MILITARY ENLISTEE BECAUSE ACTIVE DUTY PERSONNEL ARE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE CERTAIN VA BENEFITS, INCLUDING GI BILL EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND LOANS UNDER THE HOME LOAN GUARANTY PROGRAM.

2. THE COAST GUARD WAS RECENTLY NOTIFIED THAT PERSONAL INFORMATION OF OUR ACTIVE DUTY, RESERVE AND RETIRED

WORKFORCE MAY HAVE BEEN INCLUDED ON THE HARD DISK. COAST GUARD PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES NEED TO BE AWARE OF THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE THEFT OF THE DATA AND STEPS THEY CAN TAKE TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM ANY SUBSEQUENT MISUSE OF THEIR PERSONAL INFORMATION.

3. CURRENTLY, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT ANY OF THE COMPROMISED DATA HAS BEEN USED ILLEGALLY. HOWEVER, DVA IS ADVISING ALL VETERANS, SERVICE MEMBERS AND RESERVISTS WHO POTENTIALLY COULD BE AFFECTED TO EXERCISE EXTRA VIGILANCE AND TO CAREFULLY MONITOR THEIR BANK STATEMENTS, CREDIT CARD STATEMENTS, AND ANY OTHER INFORMATION RELATED TO RECENT FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS. THE DVA IS MAILING INDIVIDUAL LETTERS TO THOSE WHO MAY BE AFFECTED. BECAUSE IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER OR NOT THE DVA HAS CONTACTED ALL AFFECTED VETERANS, ALL COAST GUARD ACTIVE DUTY, RESERVE, AND RETIRED MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE THE PRECAUTIONS AND CONSIDER USING THE RESOURCES OUTLINED BELOW.

4. THE FOLLOWING TIPS ARE PROVIDED FOR DETECTING SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY:

A. CLOSELY MONITOR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR FRAUDULENT TRANSACTIONS. MONITORING ACCOUNTS ONLINE IS THE BEST WAY TO DETECT FRAUD EARLY.

B. PLACE A 90-DAY FRAUD ALERT ON ALL CREDIT REPORTS. THIS DIRECTS CREDITORS TO CONTACT THE ACCOUNT OWNER BEFORE OPENING ANY NEW ACCOUNTS OR MAKING ANY CHANGES TO EXISTING ACCOUNTS. THIS ACTION MAY CAUSE DELAYS WHEN TRYING TO OBTAIN NEW CREDIT.

C. INITIATE STEPS TO CONTACT ANY ONE OF THE THREE CONSUMER REPORTING COMPANIES FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO OBTAIN A COPY OF YOUR CREDIT REPORTS AND/OR TO PLACE A FRAUD ALERT **ON YOUR ACCOUNTS**. THE CONSUMER REPORTING COMPANIES ARE:

-EQUIFAX: 1-800-525-6285, WWW.EQUIFAX.COM

-EXPERIAN: 1-888-397-3742, WWW.EXPERIAN.COM

-TRANSUNION: 1-800-680-7289, WWW.TRANSUNION.COM

THE COMPANY YOU CHOOSE TO CONTACT IS REQUIRED TO NOTIFY THE OTHER TWO OF YOUR REQUEST. ONCE THE FRAUD ALERT IS CREATED, FREE COPIES OF YOUR CREDIT REPORTS WILL BE AVAILABLE. COAST GUARD PERSONNEL ARE ENCOURAGED TO REVIEW THEIR CREDIT REPORTS FOR INQUIRIES FROM COMPANIES/ORGANIZATIONS THAT THEY HAVE NOT CONTACTED OR ACCOUNTS THEY DID NOT OPEN.

5. IF FRAUDULENT ACCOUNTS OR TRANSACTIONS ARE IDENTIFIED, THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN:

A. CONTACT THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTION TO CLOSE THE FRAUDULENT AND/OR TAMPERED ACCOUNTS.

B. FILE A REPORT WITH THE LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENT.

C. FILE A COMPLAINT WITH THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION (FTC). COMPLAINTS MAY BE FILED ONLINE AT WWW.FTC.GOV

6. THE DVA HAS CREATED A SPECIAL WEBSITE (WWW.FIRSTGOV.GOV) AND A TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBER (800-FED-INFO OR 800-333-

4636) THAT FEATURES UP-TO-DATE NEWS AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE DATA COMPROMISE. THE SITE ALSO OFFERS TIPS ON CHECKING CREDIT REPORTS,

HOW TO GUARD AGAINST IDENTITY THEFT, AND WHOM TO CALL IF AN INDIVIDUAL BELIEVES ANY FRAUDULENT ACTIVITY IS OCCURRING DUE TO THE USE OF THEIR PERSONAL INFORMATION. SHOULD YOU CHOOSE NOT TO INITIATE A FRAUD ALERT, BUT STILL WISH TO ACQUIRE A FREE COPY OF YOUR CREDIT REPORT, YOU MAY DO SO VIA THE SPECIAL WEBSITE.

7. REF A WAS RECENTLY DISTRIBUTED TO ALL COAST GUARD E MAIL ACCOUNTS. IT CONTAINS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE ON HANDLING PRIVACY ACT AND SENSITIVE PERSONNEL DATA WITHIN DHS.

8. INTERNET RELEASE IS AUTHORIZED.

9. RADM PAUL J. HIGGINS, ACTING ASSISTANT COMMANDANT FOR HUMAN RESOURCES, SENDS.

BT
NNNN

FAQ 12

Common Questions About SBP

Q: I understand my retired pay stops when I die. However, my spouse will be eligible for other Government benefits from the VA and Social Security Administration, right?

A: Your spouse could be entitled to a benefit called Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from the VA. However, DIC is only payable if your death is found to be "service connected". A surviving spouse can also get social security survivor benefits if the spouse is over age 59, or if you have minor children. However, if you turn down SBP and you die from a nonservice connected cause, and you don't have any minor children, your spouse will be without any Government benefits until reaching age 60.

Q: Does my spouse lose SBP if she or he remarries after I die?

A: If your spouse remarries before age 55, the monthly SBP annuity will be stopped. If this remarriage terminates, the annuity restarts.

Q: Does my spouse have any say in what SBP decision I make?

A: A spouse sure does. If you don't elect full coverage, your spouse must be notified and must sign a statement agreeing to your election of no coverage or reduced coverage. If your spouse doesn't agree or doesn't sign the statement, you are put on automatic full SBP coverage.

Q: What are some of the differences between SBP and life insurance?

A: (1) SBP has no cash value, whereas whole life insurance has a cash value and can be borrowed against.
(2) SBP is government-subsidized.
(3) SBP annuities rise with inflation, but insurance policies don't.
(4) SBP premiums are exempt from taxes, whereas insurance premiums are not exempt. SBP annuities paid out are taxable income, whereas insurance proceeds generally are not taxable. SBP coverage cannot be denied due to your age or health, whereas insurance coverage can be.

Q: What are probably the most important factors in making an SBP decision?

A: Your health and that of your spouse, your family longevity and that of your spouse, the difference between you and your spouse's age, and your private financial planning (commercial insurance, etc.).

Q: Is my SBP decision irrevocable?

A: Yes, with the following exceptions.

(1) For future retirees, the window to discontinue SBP will open on the second anniversary after the retired member begins to receive retired pay, and will close on the third anniversary date. Retirees may not elect to discontinue participation without the written concurrence of the spouse, and participants who elect to withdraw will not be entitled to a refund of premiums.

(2) There have been open enrollment seasons once about every 10 years since SBP was adopted in 1972, whereby a retiree could come into the program. However, the costs to come in during open season were much higher based on the retiree's age and how many years the retiree had been retired.

Q: Are there any cases where I should consider SBP a must-an extremely good buy?

A: Yes, in the case of an incapacitated child. If you have a mentally or physically handicapped child, SBP provides excellent protection at little cost.

Q: If I buy SBP coverage for my four children, do they each receive an annuity of 55 percent of my SBP base amount?

A: No, the annuity will be equally divided among your four children. When the oldest child reaches majority age, it would be divided into thirds, etc., etc.

Q: Is there a down side to purchasing SBP coverage for both my spouse and children?

A: One down side might be that the children will only be eligible for an annuity if you have no surviving spouse and your children are still under age 18 - thus you may end up paying for coverage that won't reap benefits. However, remember that child costs are very inexpensive.

Q: When do my children become ineligible under SBP?

A: At age 18, or if they attend school full-time, at age 22.

Q: I know that SBP annuity for my spouse is reduced when my spouse reaches age 62. I also know that SBP stops if my spouse remarries before age 55. Are there any other instances where SBP is reduced or stopped?

A: Yes, if your spouse becomes qualified for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from the VA (a tax-free benefit) due to your service connected death, then the SBP annuity is reduced dollar-for-dollar. For example, if your spouse's SBP annuity was \$1,000 per month and your spouse is awarded \$850 DIC per month, the SBP annuity is reduced to \$150 per month. HOWEVER, a partial or full refund of the SBP costs you have paid will be provided to your spouse.

Q: Since the SBP annuity benefit gets reduced upon my spouse reaching age 62, does that mean my SBP costs also get reduced when my spouse or I reach age 62?

A: No, SBP costs do not change when member or spouse reach age 62.

Q: What about dependents I acquire after I retire - can I cover them under SBP?

A: It really depends on your status at retirement. If you have a spouse at retirement, and elect not to cover your spouse under SBP, you would be precluded from electing SBP coverage for a new spouse acquired after retirement, unless there was an SBP open enrollment season. On the same hand, if you have eligible children at retirement, but don't elect SBP child coverage, you would be precluded from electing coverage for children you acquire after retirement. If you have no dependents at retirement, then later acquire dependents, you have one year to request SBP coverage for these dependents.

Q: Just how important is the COLA protection of SBP?

A: Extremely. SBP annuities, for instance, increased 296% between 1972 and 1988 - an annuity that was \$500 in 1972 was \$1,483 in 1988.

Another good example of the COLA protection would be SGLI. In 1972, SGLI coverage was \$15,000. Now, 20 years later, SGLI coverage is \$400,000. Just think, at this rate, 20 years from now, SGLI would have to be worth between \$600,000 and \$2,000,000!!!

Be sure to remember the COLA features of SBP when your insurance salesman presents information about purchasing a life insurance policy.

Q: Once I elect SBP, what responsibilities do I have after I retire?

A: To notify PSC if your family status changes. If your spouse or child dies, you divorce, your child marries or reaches age 18, immediately notify PSC so we can stop the SBP deductions from your pay.

FAQ 13

How to Get a copy of the enlisted and officers' Billet Manuals

From Vince Patton----

I got an email from a retiree asking about getting a copy of the enlisted and officers' billets manuals to do a research project for his thesis, working on a master's degree. I pointed him to the enlisted billets manual online, which is rather out of date (dated 1999), and there's nothing else available.

The enlisted and officers billets manuals are now incorporated with the Coast Guard intranet system

The billets are now all done online through the Coast Guard's Intranet portal, meaning you have to do it on the Coast Guard system, or have some type of access to it.

The 1998 Enlisted Billets Manual is online in a pdf form:

http://www.uscg.mil/ccs/cit/cim/directives/CIM/CIM_5320_6N.pdf. It's obviously not up-to-date.

The officers' billets manual was not found.

FAQ 14

Coast Guard Mutual Assistance Disaster Assistance Guideline

In the time of a major disaster, such as a hurricane, CGMA's initial objective is to rapidly provide emergency assistance for evacuation and cash needed to meet basic living expenses such as food, shelter, clothing, etc. In these instances, CGMA normally uses appropriate modified procedures to provide rapid emergency assistance, including reducing normal paperwork and approval procedures to a minimum. In the initial stages of a crisis, such as a major hurricane, it is impossible to adequately assess each individual's situation as to financial need. Active duty members and civilian employees may be eligible to receive reimbursement from the federal government for evacuation expenses and assistance in the form of per diem payments under the "safe haven" orders. Other expenses and losses sustained by members of the Coast Guard family may qualify for reimbursement from government agencies or from commercial sources, such as insurance.

It is CGMA's policy during these extraordinary times to meet the client's immediate financial needs with a "no-interest" loan and then at a later date when more specific data and information are available, determine whether the financial assistance should be a grant, loan or a combination of grant and loan. In these situations, the start of any "nointerest" loan repayments is deferred until some point in the future (in the past repayments have been deferred as much as eight months). This provides time for the situation to stabilize and for reimbursements entitlements to be determined, allowing CGMA to objectively assess what an individual's true out-of-pocket losses and financial needs may be.

It must be recognized that CGMA is not in a position to cover losses due to lack of adequate insurance coverage, the failure of an insurance company to settle claims, or to bridge the gap between pre-disaster property values and insurance recoupment. While CGMA would like to see those affected made whole, even agencies of the federal government and major charities do not have sufficient funds to cover every individual's actual losses.

CGMA's disaster assistance priority for losses and expenses not reimbursed by other sources is:

Priority 1 - Emergency disaster assistance for basic living expenses to prevent privation and temporary home repairs to prevent further damage.

Priority 2 - Basic household setup/re-establishment and personal property items and other emergency needs.

The disaster assistance will be provided in the order of priority indicated, subject to the availability of funds and financial need. Normally, CGMA does not provide assistance for major structural loss.

FAQ 15

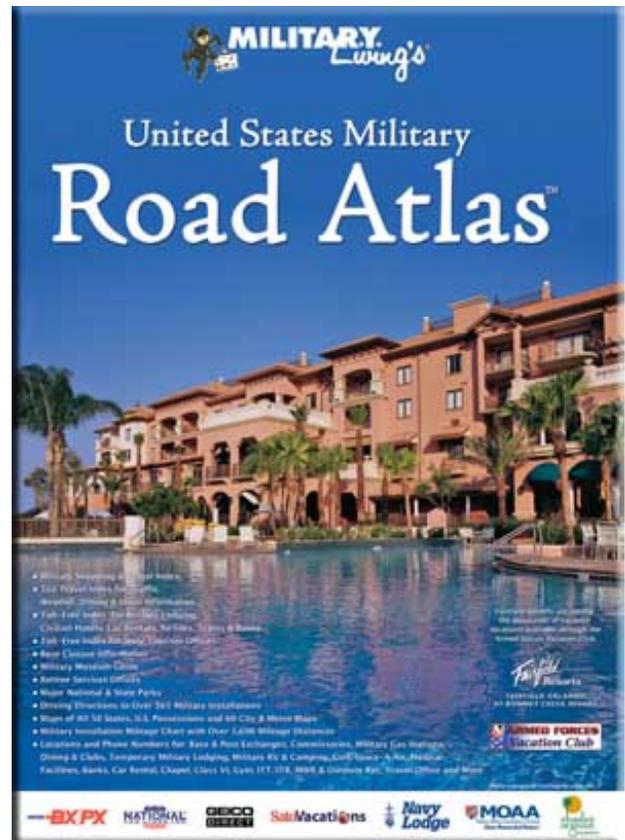
How to Obtain a US Military Road Atlas

Available at your military exchange, or by ordering from AAFES (Order Code I830P) for under \$15.50 plus postage. Call toll-free 1-800-527-2345 or order Online @ www.AAFES.com.

Military Living's® United States Military Road Atlas™ can also be obtained at your military exchange, or order it toll-free from the AAFES catalog online.

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- Digital maps of All 50 States, U.S. Possessions and 60 City & Metro Maps
- Locations and Phone Numbers for: Base & Post Exchanges, Commissaries, Military Gas Stations, Dining & Clubs, Temporary Military Lodging, Military RV & Camping, Golf, Space-A Air, Medical Facilities, Banks, Car Rental, Chapel, Class VI, Gym, ITT/ITR, MWR & Outdoor Rec, Travel Office and More
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- 511 Travel Index for Traffic, Weather, Dining & Hotel Information
- Toll-Free Index for Military Lodging, Civilian Hotels, Car Rentals, Airlines, Trains & Buses
- Toll-Free Index for State Tourism Offices
- Base Closure Information
- Military Museum Guide

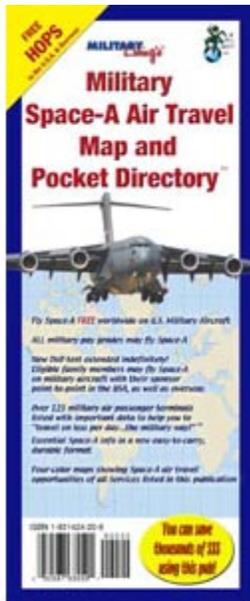


Your military ID card is your Passport to Savings all over the world with more installations in the United States than in any foreign country. The new *Military Living's® United States Military Road Atlas™* will show you the way to these havens.

The military installations shown on the four color, digital road maps almost jump off the page. In addition, it has the phone numbers you need to make reservations or obtain information about temporary military lodging and military RV/camping areas. It also shows the availability of military gas stations, commissaries, exchanges and much more.

FAQ 16 Space A Flights

Many active duty and retired military personnel are taking advantage of the free flights by flying Space-A point to point within the USA and convenient worldwide locations with their eligible military family members. All services are included -- the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Air Force!



AAFES Order Code **Q103Z**



A recently published, Space-A Air Travel Map and Pocket Directory map, from Military Living provides helpful info.

Military Living has published a handy plastic *Military Space-A Air Travel Map and Pocket Directory*™. The sturdy plastic map size is an easy to use 36.5"W x 20"H and folds to a convenient 4"W x 10"H.

- Fly Space-A FREE worldwide on U.S. Military Aircraft.
- ALL military pay grades may fly Space-A.
- New DoD test extended indefinitely! Eligible family members may fly Space-A on military aircraft with their sponsor point-to-point in the USA, as well as overseas.
- Over 125 military air passenger terminals listed with important data to help you.
- Essential Space-A info in a new easy-to-carry, durable format.
- Four-color maps showing Space-A air travel opportunities of all Services listed in this publication.

Available now from AAFES (Order Code Q103Z) for under \$11.00 plus postage. Call toll-free 1-800-527-2345 or order online at www.AAFES.com. Also available at most military exchanges worldwide.

FAQ 17

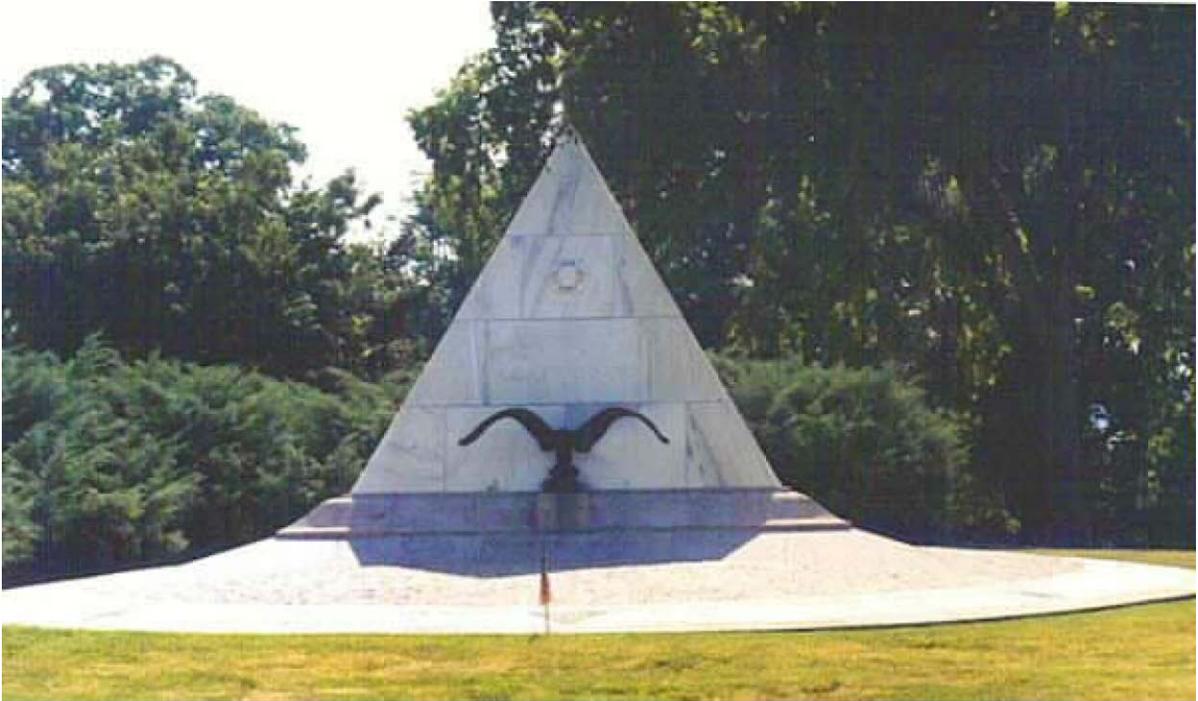
Coast Guard Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery

Two tragic episodes in U.S. Coast Guard history prompted the construction of this memorial, which sits atop a hill near the southern edge of the cemetery. On September 21, 1918, the cutter Seneca was lost while attempting to salvage the British steamer, Wellington, which had been torpedoed in the Bay of Biscay. All officers and crew of the Seneca were lost. Only five days later, on September 26, 1918, the cutter Tampa was sunk by an enemy submarine in the British Channel, and all on board that ship were lost as well.

The names of these vessels and their crewman, as well as of all Coast Guard personnel who lost their lives during the Great War, are inscribed on the sides of the monument. The U.S. Coast Guard Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery was dedicated May 23, 1928.

The Coast Guard was formed as the successor to the Revenue Cutter Service and the Life Saving Service June 28, 1915. By law, the Tampa and the Seneca had been ordered to operate as part of the Navy when the United States entered World War I April 6, 1918.

In the monument's rock foundation and pyramid design, architect George Howe and sculptor Gaston Lachaise have captured the spirit of the Coast Guard's legendary steadfastness. A bronze sea gull, poised with its wings uplifted, alights below the Coast Guard motto *Semper Paratus* (Always Ready). This bird further symbolizes the tireless vigil that the U.S. Coast Guard maintains over the nation's maritime territory.



Photos Courtesy of [Ron Williams](#)



Photos by [M. R. Patterson](#) (22 April, 2004)

FAQ 18

Contact the Nation Personnel Records Center

National Personnel Records Center is located in St Louis, MO. which is where service and medical records are kept. They are not kept at the USCG Personnel Service Center in Topeka Kansas.

National Personnel Records Center (NPRC)
Coast Guard/Navy Personnel Command
Retired Records Section,
9700 Page Avenue, Room 5409,
St. Louis, Mo 63132-5100
Ph 314-801-0800
Web <http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/>

Within six months of separation from active duty, service member's records are sent directly to St. Louis.

There is no Coast Guard contact person at the National Personnel Records Center.

There is a phone number that can be used – The number is: 314-801-0800

The National Personnel Records Center also has a website: <http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/> where members can access form SF-180 , along with information on obtaining a certified copy of their DD-214.

Sometimes it might be useful for a Retiree to contact or visit a VFW or DAV office. Some VA hospitals and VA Community Centers have them onsite. These offices are very good at assisting the veterans with whatever is needed. They have veteran services counselors who are experts at cutting through the red tape.

Comment from Topeka: sometimes it can take up to 6 months to get the requested information. For VA purposes, VA normally makes the request for the info on behalf of the service member. It is recommended that for the CG service member follow up.

FAQ 19 Locate a Shipmate

Available on the Web at: <http://www.uscg.mil/locator/>

Active Duty Member Information

The Coast Guard World Wide Locator has duty stations for active duty personnel. To locate Active Duty Personnel Only: Send us an e-mail with the person's full name to [CG Locator](#)

Coast Guard Personnel Command does not have custody of crew lists or current addresses for former Coast Guard service members.

For all other inquires: www.fredsplace.org

Separated Member Information

The Military Reference Branch, [National Archives](#), Washington, D. C. 20408, holds copies of most deck logs. The Suitland Reference Branch, National Archives, Washington D. C. 20409 has custody of muster rolls.

The [National Personal Records Center](#) in St. Louis, Missouri has a repository of records for retired and separate military members.

You will need to fill-in [Standard Form 180](#) to request military records information.
(<http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/standard-form-180.html>)

The address is:

National Personnel Records Center
Military Personnel Records
9700 Page Ave
St. Louis, Missouri 63132

Individuals have also had success locating former and retired military personnel by placing advertisements or reunion notices in Coast Guard periodicals. These magazines have a combined circulation of several hundred thousand. Please contact the individual editors for assistance.

FAQ 20

How do I get a medal I am entitled to?

With regard to obtaining earned medals, send a letter, along with a copy of the service members Separation from Active Duty, Form DD-214 to the following address, requesting the award:

Commandant (CG-122)
ATTN: Medals and Awards
U. S. Coast Guard Headquarters
2100 Second St., SW
Washington, DC 20593-0001

For WWII veterans also include in the letter a request for a honorable discharge button. They usually do not supply them, but they may be able to obtain the discharge button from the Coast Guard Personnel Services Center in Topeka, KS.

The Honorable Service Lapel Pin was issued to WWII era veterans at the time. They may not remain in stock.

For Letters of Appreciation and similar documents related to service, the record is not held by USCG but by the National Personnel Records Center in St Louis, MO. A Request should be sent by writing to:

National Personnel Records Center
Military Personnel Records
9700 Page Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100
Ph 314-801-0800

On the Personnel Records Center website, you can download the Standard Form 180, which must be filled out to request documents.

<http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/>

Note, it may not be possible to retrieve such letters, as the Records Center does not have all of a veterans service record information. The request should provide as much information on the desired document as possible --the date it was signed or issued, name of the signing authority, etc

It generally takes about 4-6 weeks on requests of this nature.

Refer to FAQ 23 for obtaining the Global War on Terrorism Medal.

FAQ 21
How Can I Obtain a Copy of the Register of Officers?

A copy of the current edition of the Register of Officers, 1 January 2006, can be obtained by clicking on the following web link:

<http://www.uscg.mil/opm/Opm1/opm-1Register.asp>

The Register is a snapshot of the officer corps on ONE DAY in the current edition. During the year there are many promotions and separations (and accessions) that will not be reflected until the next edition.

FAQ 22
How do I Obtain an ID Card for Myself or my Dependent at Coast Guard Headquarters?

Military Identification Cards (Active Duty, Reserve, Retired, Dependent)

NEW - Hours for issuing Military ID Cards are Mon, Wed, and Fri 0700 - 1530 by appointment only.

Tue, and Thu 0700-1130 Walk ins. Tue, and Thu 1200-1530 by appointment only.

All appointments for ID card services should be made by calling 202-372-4036 or email to fjennings@comdt.uscg.mil or in person in room B442.

When scheduling appointments, or coming in as a walk in, please allow 30 minutes for the appointment.

Walk in appointments could take longer than the initial 30 minutes if there are others a head of you, as walk in customers are taken on a first come first served basis.

HSC will also be issuing Military ID Cards one weekend each month.

Appointment times are from 0830 - 1500.

FAQ 23
How do I Contact Reserve Programs?

For issues pertain to Reserve Programs, including retirement information, the Headquarters POC is Mr Curtis Jones at (202) 493-1772 in RPM (Reserve Program Management Team).

FAQ 24

How do I obtain a Decal for my Vehicle?

A decal is required for each vehicle that travels in a military reservation that has a security gate at the entrance. If a decal is not affixed to the vehicle's windshield, a temporary pass must be obtained. Decals are issued by military facilities that have security gates at the entrances. Generally, people obtain decals from the facility that they most frequently visit (e.g., commissary and exchange). However, USCG Headquarters issues decals as a courtesy to active duty and retired Coast Guard personnel, although a vehicle decal is not required for people assigned to Headquarters.

To obtain a vehicle decal at USCG Headquarters, an appointment can be made by calling 202-372-4014. Walk-ins are welcome also on a first come, first served basis during normal working hours. The vehicle's current registration, current insurance, and an ID card are required. A form that will be provided needs to be filled out to process the request.

The question of obtaining a decal by mail from USCG Headquarters has been considered, but due to security reasons, will not be implemented. An onsite visit is required.

FAQ 25

Concurrent Receipt of VA Disability Payments

A new law recently went into effect (1 January 2005) that changes concurrent receipt legislation related to VA disability payments and pensions. While DOD has made the policy call on how this will be handled, the Coast Guard is still reviewing the policy. The Personnel Service Center in Topeka is currently waiting on guidance from CGHQ on the retroactive payments. Once they receive the guidance, the PSC will have to manually review over 2500 files to inform the VA of the amount of money that may be due. The retroactive payment will come from the VA. Any VA compensation that was withheld during the period between 1 January 2005 and the present time will be refunded.

FAQ 26

New Longevity Raises for Senior Personnel

New law increases pay, retirement for some currently serving members*

Certain senior service members with more than 30 years of service will be happy to be on active duty in 2007, thanks to several provisions in the new FY 2007 Defense Authorization Act that increase pay and retirement credit.

The improvements don't apply to service members who retired before the effective dates indicated below, but members currently serving with more than 30 years of service will get special raises in April and extra retirement credit as of Jan. 1.

First, new longevity raise "fogies" will go into effect April 1, 2007, for certain senior officers and enlisted service members:

- 30 years of service: "top 2" NCOs, W-4s, W-5s, and O-6s and above;
- 34 years of service: E-9s, W-5s, and O-8s and above; and
- 38 years of service: E-9s, W-5s, and O-9s and above.

Second - and much more significant for the long term - service members retiring on or after Jan. 1, 2007, who have more than 30 years of service will be awarded retirement credit for that extra service. Under current law, retired pay can't exceed 75 percent of basic pay (2.5 percent x 30 years of service = 75 percent).

As of Jan. 1, each year of extra service will add another 2.5 percent of pay. Therefore, a service member who had 10 years of enlisted time and 30 years as an officer will qualify for 100 percent of basic pay in retirement.

Finally, a small number who retire on or after Oct. 1, 2006 (the most senior general officers (O-10s), whose past pay raises have been capped below the overall military pay raise percentage) will have their retired pay calculated on the regular "uncapped" rate shown on the military basic pay table

*Military Officer December 2006, a publication of the Military Officers Association of America

FAQ 27

Persons Eligible for Burial in Arlington National Cemetery

The following regulations identify who is eligible for burial in Arlington National Cemetery. For further information or clarification call 703- 607-8585.

(a) Any active duty member of the Armed Forces (except those members serving on active duty for training only).

(b) Any retired member of the Armed Forces. A retired member of the Armed Forces, in the context of this paragraph, is a retired member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or a Reserve component who has served on active duty (other than for training), is carried on an official retired list, and is entitled to receive retired pay stemming from service in the Armed Forces. If, at the time of death, a retired member of the Armed Forces is not entitled to receive retired pay stemming from his service in the Armed Forces until some future date, the retired member will not be eligible for burial.

(c) Any former member of the Armed Forces separated for physical disability prior to 1 October 1949 who has served on active duty (other than for training) and who would have been eligible for retirement under the provisions of 10 U.S.C. 1201 had that statute been in effect on the date of his separation.

(d) Any former member of the Armed Forces whose last active duty (other than for training) military service terminated honorably and who has been awarded one of the following decorations:

- (1) Medal of Honor.
- (2) Distinguished Service Cross (Air Force Cross or Navy Cross).
- (3) Distinguished Service Medal.
- (4) Silver Star.
- (5) Purple Heart.

(e) Persons who have held any of the following positions, provided their last period of active duty (other than for training) as a member of the Armed Forces terminated honorably:

- (1) An elective office of the United States Government.
- (2) Office of the Chief Justice of the United States or of an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.
- (3) An office listed in 5 U.S.C. 5312 or 5 U.S.C. 5313.
- (4) The Chief of a mission who was at any time during his tenure classified in class I under the provisions of 411 of the Act of 13 August 1946, 60 Stat. 1002, as amended (22 U.S.C. 866, 1964 ed.).

(f) Any former prisoner of war who, while a prisoner of war, served honorably in the active military, naval, or air service, whose last period of active military, naval, or air service terminated honorably and who died on or after November 30, 1993.

(1) The term “former prisoner of war” means a person who, while serving in the active military, naval, or air service, was forcibly detained or interned in line of duty—

(i) By an enemy government or its agents, or a hostile force, during a period of war; or

(ii) By a foreign government or its agents, or a hostile force, under circumstances which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs finds to have been comparable to the circumstances under which persons have generally been forcibly detained or interned by enemy governments during periods of war.

(2) The term “active military, naval, or air service” includes active duty, any period of active duty for training during which the individual concerned was disabled or died from a disease or injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty, and any period of inactive duty training during which the individual concerned was disabled or died from an injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty.

(g) The spouse, widow or widower, minor child and, at the discretion of the Secretary of the Army, unmarried adult child of any of the persons listed above.

(1) The term “spouse” refers to a widow or widower of an eligible member, including the widow or widower of a member of the Armed Forces who was lost or buried at sea or officially determined to be permanently absent in a status of missing or missing in action. A surviving spouse who has re-married and whose remarriage is void, terminated by death, or dissolved by annulment or divorce by a court with basic authority to render such decrees regains eligibility for burial in Arlington National Cemetery unless it is determined that the decree of annulment or divorce was secured through fraud or collusion.

(2) An unmarried adult child may be interred in the same grave in which the parent has been or will be interred, provided that child was incapable of selfsupport up to the time of death because of physical or mental condition. At the time of death of an adult child, a request for interment will be submitted to the Superintendent of Arlington National Cemetery. The request must be accompanied by a notarized statement from an individual who has direct knowledge as to the marital status, degree of dependency of the deceased child, the name of that child's parent, and the military service upon which the burial is being requested. A certificate of a physician who has attended the decedent as to the nature and duration of the physical and/or mental disability must also accompany the request for interment.

(h) Widows or widowers of service members who are interred in Arlington National Cemetery as part of a group burial may be interred in the same cemetery but not in the same grave.

(i) The surviving spouse, minor child, and, at the discretion of the Secretary of the Army, unmarried adult child of any person already buried in Arlington.

(j) The parents of a minor child or unmarried adult child whose remains, based on the eligibility of a parent, are already buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

[42 FR 25725, May 19, 1977, as amended at 59 FR 60559, Nov. 25, 1994]

FAQ 28

Become a Member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary

The Auxiliary has members in all 50 States, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and Guam.

Membership is open to any U.S. citizen at least 17 years of age. Retired Coast Guard personnel are welcomed.

To meet the increasing demands of the Coast Guard, (due to the sensitive nature of some of its missions), the Department of Homeland Security has also mandated that all prospective Auxiliary members submit to, and be qualified in, terms of security by utilizing citizenship verification, fingerprint and background checks. Those who are cleared will be eligible to become part of the Auxiliary.

Contact the Auxiliary either by telephone or via an online form that can be accessed through the following online link: <http://nws.cgaux.org/index.html> and select "Join the Auxiliary." Your inquiry will be forwarded to an Auxiliary member who lives in your general area for follow-up. Prospective members who live in the greater Washington, DC, area can contact the following Auxiliary members for more information:

Robert T. Platt, CAPT, USCG Ret.: 703-971-5255 or bplatt@juno.com
George Bond, LCDR, USCG, Ret.: 540-659-0118 or gdbond@earthlink.net

On-Line Flotilla Finder

Find Auxiliary Flotillas close to a given location by using our online Flotilla Finder: <http://www.cgaux.org/units.html>.

Telephone

National Coast Guard Customer InfoLine: 1-877-875-6296 (TDD: 1-800-689-0816)
Washington, D.C. Area: 202-267-6896 (TDD: 202-267-6707)

FAQ 29

Concurrent Receipt Back Pay – Issues Concerning

Query by CWO4 Alton McKey, USCG (Ret) to LT Terry Walsh:

I am the individual that posted your name on Fred's Place. I did so because the staff at Pay Center Topeka claims they can not pay retroactive CRDP because they are awaiting guidance from HQ and for better or worse, that's you. Hopefully, you have or will take the time to read the comments/discussion posted on Fred's place to get an idea of the frustration felt by CG retirees regarding this issue. I realize the issue is complicated, but Topeka has provided incorrect information or ignored requests for information for a very long time regarding this issue. Since you recently chose to respond to an email from Senior Chief Gunkel hopefully you might enlighten both the retirees involved and the staff at Pay Center Topeka.

I understand from your response to Senior Chief Gunkel, that your position is that retirees rated 100% IU will not receive retroactive CRDP until after October 2008. Is that correct?

What about a retiree who receives a 100% IU rating effective on or after Feb 1, 2008? Will he/she receive CRDP immediately at the 100% level or not receive 100% CRDP until after October 1, 2008?

What about retirees rated 50 - 90% disabled, when can they expect to be paid retroactive CRDP that is owed? Topeka has yet to provide the VA information needed for the VA to calculate retroactive CRDP payments for this group of people (including myself).

What about someone like myself who is rated 70% service connected and 100%IU and was owed several years retroactive CRDP prior to passage of the 2008 NDAA? Topeka has refused to make payment or provide the VA information to facilitate payment of retroactive CRDP owed to retirees rated 50 - 90% disabled. I was owed over \$20000 retroactive CRDP prior to passage of the 2008 NDAA, now that law will increase the amount I am owed to approximately \$40000.....should I not expect to receive any of the amount owed until after October 2008 or will only the difference attributable to the retroactive 100%IU be withheld until after October 2008?

Is there a Memorandum of Understanding in place between the Coast Guard and the VA regarding payment of retroactive CRDP? If not, when will there be?

All the retirees involved in this issue have fought long hard battles with the VA. They know the VA will not take action to pay any retroactive CRDP until the Coast Guard, ie Topeka, provides the VA with information regarding Coast Guard payments to the retiree and that is not being done. You made a comment that "When we review that retiree's record we find that PSC already paid every dollar that was authorized by law. What was not paid was the retroactive VA disability compensation—which would not come from PSC--is definitely not true regarding disabled veterans rated 50 - 90%, because the CG has not provided VA the info necessary for VA to calculate and make the retroactive payments. Once the Coast Guard has provided the VA

that information, then and only then, can you say non payment is the fault of the VA. Until then the Coast Guard (i.e., you and Topeka) are the roadblock. The Coast Guard has taken no action while DOD has been paying their retirees retroactive CRDP for years, so the wheel should be available for copying and shouldn't have to be reinvented.

Response by Debra Farley, Chief, Retiree & Annuitant Services, USCG Personnel Service Center:

The new legislation in the NDAA says that retirees with a Department of Veterans Affairs disability of less than 100%, and more than 40%, but who are rated as unemployable, are entitled to CRDP in the full amount of the VA offset, or the amount of retired pay based on longevity. This provision is retroactive to 1/1/2005, but any amounts payable, including retroactive payments, will not be made until 1 October 2008 or later. So even though this law was passed, nothing can be paid to the retirees until October or later.

On those retirees in the 50 - 90 percent category, we are in the process of having an memorandum of understanding signed with the VA and are working on these cases. The expected target date is summer 2008.

FAQ 30

Where do I find Information for Support of Wounded Warriors, Families, and Caregivers?

The Department of Defense has launched the National Resource Directory, a collaborative effort between the departments of Defense, Labor and Veterans Affairs.

The directory is a Web-based network of care coordinators, providers and support partners with resources for wounded, ill and injured service members, veterans, their families, families of the fallen and those who support them.

"The directory is the visible demonstration of our national will and commitment to make the journey from 'survive to thrive' a reality for those who have given so much. As new links are added each day by providers and partners, coverage from coast to coast will grow even greater ensuring that no part of that journey will ever be made alone," said Lynda C. Davis, Ph.D., deputy under secretary of defense for military community and family policy.

Located at <http://www.nationalresourcedirectory.org>, the directory offers more than 10,000 medical and non-medical services and resources to help service members and veterans achieve personal and professional goals along their journey from recovery through rehabilitation to community reintegration.

"The VA is extremely proud to be a partner in this innovative resource. This combination of federal, state, and community-based resources will serve as a tremendous asset for all service members, veterans, their families and those who care for them. The community is essential to the successful reintegration of our veterans, and these groups greatly enhance the directory's scope," said Karen S. Guice, M.D., executive director, federal recovery care coordination program at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"The National Resource Directory will prove to be a valuable tool for wounded, ill, and injured service members and their families as they wind their way through the maze of benefits and services available to them in their transition to civilian life. The Department of Labor is pleased to have the opportunity to work with our partners at DoD," said Charles S. Ciccolella, the assistant secretary of labor for the veterans' employment and training service.

The National Resource Directory is organized into six major categories: Benefits and Compensation; Education, Training and Employment; Family and Caregiver Support; Health; Housing and Transportation; and Services and Resources. It also provides helpful checklists, Frequently Asked Questions, and connections to peer support groups. All information on the Web site can be found through a general or state and local search tool.

The National Resource Directory's launch in November is a key feature of Warrior Care Month.
U.S. Department of Defense
Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs)

FAQ 31
DoD to Remove SSN From DoD ID Cards

Did you know?

DoD will begin to remove SSNs from DoD ID cards

Removal will Occur in Three Phases

Changes to cards will be made upon ID card renewal.

Phase One: Remove Dependent SSNs
To begin by end of calendar year 2008

Phase Two: Remove all printed SSNs*
To begin by end of calendar year 2009

Phase Three: Remove SSNs embedded in barcodes
To begin during calendar year 2012



To ensure the safety of Service members and their families' identity information

In response to an increasing awareness of the growing need to protect the safety of Service members and their families' identity information, DoD will begin to remove Social Security Numbers (SSNs) from DoD ID cards.

**Geneva Conventions ID cards will retain the last four digits of the SSN.*

SSN Removal



For more information regarding the SSN Reduction Plan, please visit

www.dmdc.osd.mil/smartcard

FAQ 32

Changing Status From Ret2 to Ret1

RET-1 & RET-2 “Gray Area” Retired Reservists Information/Updates: An issue was raised last year with the USCG National Retiree Council based on input from the National Retiree Help Desk (NRHD) handling several inquiries from RET-2 (Gray Area) Reserve retirees on why they have not been receiving their required paperwork to place them in RET-1 status (RET-1 is retired with pay). In general, retirement eligible reservists must wait until age 60 to begin receiving retired pay. For those in the RET-2 category, Pay & Personnel Center (PPC) runs a report six (6) months out for those turning 60 and sends out a package on the process to begin receiving retired pay. A problem arises when these people have moved and have not provided PPC with their new address. Currently, retirement eligible reservists under the age of 60 must remember to keep their mailing addresses up to date with PPC in order to ensure they begin receiving retired pay on time (or at all). This will continue to be an on-going challenge. The NRHD will continue to have RET-2 retirees with these issues contact PPC Retirement & Annuitant Services (RAS).