



Hawaii Regional CG Retiree Council Newsletter

Nov 03, 2012



QUARTERLY COUNCIL MEETING, WEDNESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2012

Our next quarterly meeting is at 1900 on **Wednesday 14 Nov** at Club 14. Normally the meetings are held the second Wednesday of the second month of each quarter. We usually complete any business within an hour preceded and followed by a social adjustment period. Let us know if you are not a regular attendee but have an idea or two that might make you more inclined to join.

OUR WESITE

It is straight forward and has a link to forward any questions to Rod and Tom. Our newsletter is attached to the site so that it can be opened and viewed. Website: <http://www.uscg.mil/d14/cmd/assoc/rc/> Pass it on to your friends and fellow retirees!

EMAIL

If you know of any retiree with an e-mail and would like to receive this please have them get a hold of Rod or Tom and we will set you up. If you want to get a message out to everybody on our email list, please send it to Tom or Rod who will, if its "politically correct", relay it to all hands as blind copies. You can call Tom @ 672-9065 (home) or 221-3274 (cell). Please leave a message if I don't pick up.

BINNACLE LIST

I have not received any word of any of our shipmates who have passed away or ill.

If you know of any local retirees or retiree spouses who are sick or have passed away, please contact: Tommy Dutton Council Co-Chair's DuttonM003@Hawaii.RR.Com or Rod Schultz, schultz369@gmail.com

QUESTION ON RETIREE DEATH NOTICES on PSC Website

Our website has been updated to provide a monthly listing of retirees who have crossed the bar. The first list was posted this month. You will find this information on the RAS website, left hand side of the page under TAPS.

<http://www.uscg.mil/ppc/ras/>

JARVIS' DECOMMISSIONING CEREMONY

UNCLAS //N05441//

ALCOAST 443/12

COMDTNOTE 5441

SUBJ: FAREWELL TO USCGC JARVIS (WHEC 725)

1. After 40 years of faithful service to our nation, Coast Guard Cutter JARVIS has completed her last patrol and been retired from active service. Throughout her long and proud service to this nation, JARVIS has always lived up to her motto: Dedicated to Excellence.
2. CGC JARVIS was commissioned on 04 August 1972, the 182nd birthday of the Coast Guard. She was named in honor of CAPT David H. Jarvis, a Revenue Cutter Service officer who spent much of his career in the Bering Sea off of Alaskas west coast. During the winters of 1897 and 1898 he planned and led the famous Overland Relief Expedition to rescue 300 stranded whalers near Barrow, Alaska. During this daring rescue, Jarvis, along with Ellsworth Bertholf and Dr. Samuel Call, drove a herd of 400 reindeer from Cape Vancouver to Barrow to help provision the stranded whalers. The final trek covered 1500 miles and took almost four months. The rescue party walked most of the way and endured temperatures as low as minus 45 degrees. This is still considered one of the greatest Arctic rescues of all time and earned Jarvis the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor. In recognition of his service, the Navy League presents the Captain David H. Jarvis Award for Inspirational Leadership annually to a Coast Guard officer who has made outstanding contributions to the high standards of competence and leadership.

3. Even prior to commissioning, CGC JARVIS began her proud tradition of assisting those in peril on the sea. In June of 1972, during her pre-commissioning shakedown cruise, JARVIS received a call that the Japanese fishing vessel KAIGATA MARU was engulfed in flames 500 miles southwest of Honolulu. The JARVIS and her embarked helo raced at top speed and located the only survivor, who had been adrift since abandoning ship days earlier. With this very first life-saving response, JARVIS was anointed to a life of service. She has proven her mettle again and again, whether serving on Ocean Station, protecting our shores from illicit narcotics, preserving our natural resources, or being that last, best hope for mariners in distress. CGC JARVIS leaves a long, proud legacy of honorable service to her country.
4. To current and past CGC JARVIS crews, plank owners, shellbacks (golden, emerald, horned, or otherwise), subjects of the Golden Dragon, blue noses, and even pollywogs, well done. Throughout 40 years of service, JARVIS and her crews served the Coast Guard and the nation. Congratulations and Bravo Zulu.
5. Stand a taut watch. Semper Paratus.
6. ADM Bob Papp, Commandant and Gold Ancient Mariner, sends.
7. Internet release is authorized.

ID SCANNING AT NAVY BASES TO GO NAVY WIDE

Delays expected, but next step is automated system

By [Jacqueline Klimas](#) - Staff Writer

Posted : Tuesday Oct 9, 2012 6:47:15 EDT

Wait times to get on base will get worse before they get better.

That's the message from Navy officials preparing the service for 100 percent ID scans — a policy that should be implemented at every base by fiscal 2014.

The latest step is a pilot program, already underway at Naval Station Norfolk, Va.

Officials with Navy Installations Command said the scanning eventually will speed up the process — but not anytime soon.

During the Norfolk trial, the scanning was expected to cause delays at the gates, a base news release stated, and commuters were told to allow more time to get to work.

The end goal is to perform 100 percent ID scanning, 100 percent of the time, said Pat Foughty, a public affairs specialist at Navy Installations Command. Base commanding officers will have some flexibility during the implementation phase to adjust the program if wait times become a problem, he added.

ID scanning at entrance bases will help officials make the leap to automated vehicle gates, also expected to occur in fiscal 2014, said Tony Reid, anti-terrorism program director at Navy Installations Command, who called it a “soft deadline.”

“Automated gates will allow individuals to drive up [and] swipe their card, and the gates will open to allow access to the facility,” Reid said. “It will reduce manpower requirements placed on security forces.”

Once implemented, automatic gates should speed things up, Reid said.

The pilot program, which will end Oct. 31, operates like this: When a car pulls up to the gate for the first time in the trial, the guard scans the ID — the common access card for base personnel or Teslin card for dependents and retirees. The first scan takes about eight seconds, Reid said; subsequent scans take about two seconds.

“That two seconds doesn't sound like much, until you multiply it by 1,500 cars,” Reid said. “The time piece is part of what the trial is all about: to make sure the infrastructure is supporting the process.”

By comparison, a guard visually inspecting an ID and examining the photo takes about 10 to 12 seconds.

No data is stored on the hand-held device used to scan cards, Reid said. Rather, the scanner displays data it has fetched from a secure database, then deletes it after a few seconds.

Staying up to date

The scanning process also will let guards know whether a card is current — and legit.

“It lets you know that I'm still an employee with the Navy, I'm still current, my background is still good to go,” said Scott Silk, the program's assistant manager. “It will allow me access to the gate, versus walking up and using a piece of plastic anyone can duplicate if they try hard enough.”

This will be especially helpful in cases where an employee may have been fired but kept his card, or in cases where a dependent got divorced but retained a military ID.

The scans will help dependents stay current, too. Dependents with service members deployed to the war zone, for example, often have cards that are expired because the service member has not been able to renew them, Silk said. Identifying an expired card and fixing the problem allows dependents to avoid issues down the road, when the card may be needed for medical services or access to the commissary.

“In the past, they wouldn’t know until there was a need,” Silk said.

If a card is found to be invalid, there are procedures to either reissue or confiscate the card, Reid said.

People without ID cards, such as visitors, will still have access to the base but will need to go into the Pass and ID Office, Reid said. These offices are located on each base near the gate; even before the new scanning program, visitors went there to show a license or passport and get a one-day access pass to the base.

Don’t worry visitors will use a different line from the one employees are waiting in, so no sailors or staffers will get stuck in line behind a visitor.

While it is not unheard-of for visitors to simply be waved on to military bases, Foughty said issuing visitors a day pass is the policy. He could not comment on cases where that rule is not followed.

Other trials of 100 percent ID scanning have taken place at 23 installations in the San Diego metro area and at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Wash., on a smaller scale, Reid said.

The Norfolk trial is the first large-scale pilot.

At the conclusion of the trial, feedback will be collected from major stakeholders at the base and electronic data will be analyzed, Reid said. Random people stationed at Norfolk will be asked about their experience.

“Our people are not hesitant to tell us what they think,” he said. “If they get delayed too long at the front gate, they’ll talk about it.”

Employees can help speed the process by having their ID cards ready for the guard when they pull up to the gate, Reid said.

2012 Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents & Survivors Handbook

The handbook is now linked to the CG Retiree Website page:

<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg1/cg122/Compensation/Retirees/benefits.asp>

Scroll down to "Veterans Affairs (VA)"; click on "2012 Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents & Survivors Handbook"

TRICARE Prime Fee Changes Effective October 1

TRICARE Prime enrollment fees for retirees and their families will increase to \$269.28 for individual retirees and \$538.56 for retirees and their family members, effective October 1, 2012. Survivors of active duty deceased sponsors, medically retired service members and their dependents are exempt from these increases. Active duty service members and their families also continue to have access to TRICARE Prime with no enrollment fee.

Prime beneficiaries who enrolled before October 1, 2011, did not incur the 13-percent fee increases imposed on new enrollees last year. The increases that take effect next week reflect the 13-percent increase that were levied on new enrollees last year, plus a 3.1-percent increase that is equal to the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for 2013.

- Those who enrolled before October 1, 2011, currently pay \$230/year for individuals and \$460/year for families.
- Those who enrolled on or after October 1, 2011, pay \$260/year for individuals and \$520/year for families.
- After October 1, 2012, all Prime beneficiaries (except those exempted) will pay \$269.28/year for individuals and \$538.56/year for families.

Beneficiaries can opt to pay their enrollment fee monthly, quarterly or annually. To make changes visit <http://www.tricare.mil/mybenefit/home/Costs/HealthPlanCosts/TRICAREPrimeOptions/EnrollmentFees> or call the representative for your TRICARE region:

- North Region/HealthNet Federal Services - 1-877-874-2273
- South Region/Humana Military Healthcare Services - 1-800-444-5445
- West Region/TriWest Healthcare Alliance - 1-888-874-9378

Walgreens still out of Tricare pharmacy network

<http://www.navytimes.com/news/2012/09/military-walgreens-tricare-pharmacy-network-090612w/>

By Patricia Kime - Staff writer

Posted : Thursday Sep 6, 2012 9:41:50 EDT

Walgreens, the drug giant that left Tricare's retail pharmacy network in December over a dispute with the company that manages Tricare's pharmacy program, will remain outside the network of pharmacies serving military beneficiaries, Pentagon officials said Wednesday.

In a statement posted on Tricare's website, officials said pharmacy manager Express Scripts "has determined that it will maintain the same robust retail pharmacy network" that it already has, and "Walgreens will remain designated as a non-network pharmacy provider."

The decision locks Walgreens out of the group of pharmacies approved by Tricare and Express Scripts to provide in-network discounts.

A dispute between Walgreens and Express Scripts terminated their relationship at the end of 2011. In July, the two struck an agreement that allows many Express Scripts-managed health plans to fill prescriptions at Walgreens starting on Sept. 15.

But Tricare won't be among them.

A Walgreens spokesman said in July that the decision ultimately would be up to individual health care plans to decide whether they would bring Walgreens back into their networks.

In January, Rear Adm. Thomas McGinnis, chief of Tricare's Pharmaceutical Operations Directorate, predicted that Walgreens' exit from the Tricare pharmacy network would benefit the Defense Department because it would push more beneficiaries to use military pharmacies and home delivery — both of which cost the government less money than retail service.

Tricare announced in August it received a record 1.38 million prescription orders in May through its home delivery option.

Use of mail order for the year to date increased by 30 percent, and retail pharmacy use dropped by 10 percent compared with the same time period in 2011, according to figures provided by the Tricare Management Activity.

Without Walgreens participating as a network provider, Tricare still maintains a network relationship with 57,600 retail pharmacies — "more than the worldwide number of McDonald's and Starbucks combined," Tricare spokesman Austin Camacho said.

<http://www.navytimes.com/news/2012/10/military-tricare-prime-changes-west-region-101812w/>

DoD to cut Tricare Prime in 5 West areas

By Patricia Kime - Staff writer

Posted : Thursday Oct 18, 2012 22:05:45 EDT

The Pentagon is moving ahead with plans to slash its network of Tricare Prime providers, starting by eliminating the Prime option in three states and two cities in the Tricare West region.

As of April 1, as many as 30,000 Prime beneficiaries — retirees, Active Guard and Reserve troops, and family members — in Iowa; Minnesota; Oregon; Reno, Nev.; and Springfield, Mo., will have to switch to Tricare Standard, a traditional fee-for-service health plan, according to a source with knowledge of the reorganization.

Pentagon officials would not confirm that the five areas will lose Prime in April.

The areas lie outside Prime service areas covered under new Tricare regional contracts awarded by the Pentagon.

Under those contracts, Tricare will offer Prime networks only within "catchment areas," defined as a 40-mile radius around military treatment facilities and in areas affected by the 2005 base closure and realignment process.

However, there are provisions to allow Prime beneficiaries who see a physician outside the 40-mile service area to stay in Prime if they live within 100 miles of an available primary care manager and sign an access waiver.

New enrollments also would be allowed for those outside Prime service areas if there is network capacity and the primary care manager is less than 100 miles from the beneficiary's residence.

Spokeswoman Cynthia Smith said the intent is to bolster health care support for the core active-duty populations near military treatment facilities that have been left short-handed "due to the deployment

requirements of military medical providers.”

But the move would save big money for the Pentagon because it cuts contract administration overhead in these Prime areas and shifts more of the costs of care to beneficiaries.

What it means for beneficiaries

Active-duty family members in Prime pay no enrollment fees or co-pays. Military retirees pay annual enrollment fees of \$269.26 for an individual and \$538.56 for families, and their co-pays for outpatient care are just \$12. Prime requires no deductibles.

Under the changes that will start April 1, as many as 170,000 Prime enrollees across all three regions eventually may have to drive longer distances to see a Prime provider or switch to Tricare Standard, which has no enrollment fees but carries greater out-of-pocket costs:

- Cost shares are 20 percent for active-duty family members and 25 percent for retirees and other eligible beneficiaries.
- Annual deductibles for outpatient care are \$50 for an individual and \$100 for a family for active-duty members in paygrades E-4 and below, and \$150 for an individual and \$300 for a family for all others.
- The annual catastrophic cap — the maximum health care costs a beneficiary must pay in any one fiscal year — is \$1,000 for active-duty families and \$3,000 for retirees.

The move to eliminate Prime service areas away from military installations has been in the works since 2007, when the Defense Department released a draft of its new Tricare contract proposal. But a series of contract disputes delayed the launch of the new initiative.

“The can got kicked down the road” because of the contract protests, said retired Air Force Col. Steve Strobridge, director of government relations for the Military Officers Association of America. “Beneficiaries are going to have to change what they are used to. With something as basic as health care, this always raises a certain level of angst.”

With the contract disputes now resolved, the changes in the initial five areas could be just the beginning.

Under the old contracts, the entire Tricare South region was designated a Prime service area. In the West and North regions, the companies that managed the contracts also expanded Prime into areas not located near military bases, populated mainly by retirees, Active Guard and Reserve troops and their families.

“We’re worried mostly about the South” because Humana Military Health Services, the contractor for that region, “now provides Prime everywhere,” said Barbara Cohoon, deputy government relations director for the National Military Family Association.

Beneficiaries in the South “already are hearing from their providers” that they will not remain in Prime, Cohoon said.

Health Net Federal Services manages the North region contract. Beginning April 1, UnitedHealth Federal Services takes over the West region from TriWest Healthcare Alliance.

Officials with all three regional contractors declined to comment and referred all questions to the Defense Department.

Dismantling Prime networks outside the immediate vicinity of military treatment facilities also will eliminate Tricare Extra in these places; that option allowed non-Prime users to lower their costs by seeing Prime network providers.

“All beneficiaries can choose to use Tricare Standard, which gives the beneficiary the most flexibility and greatest choice of any of the Tricare products,” Smith said.

According to the Pentagon, those in Tricare Prime Remote — a program for active-duty troops and their families living in rural areas — as well as those on or near an installation with a hospital or clinic will see no change to their health benefits.

“This will not affect active-duty military and their families,” Smith said. “This change also will not impact areas where there is a military treatment facility.”

SUBJ: RESTORING THE U.S COAST GUARD MEMORIAL AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL

R 161550Z OCT 12

FM COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC//VCG//

TO ALCOAST

BT

UNCLAS //N01110//

ALCOAST 459/12

COMDTNOTE 1110

SUBJ: RESTORING THE U.S COAST GUARD MEMORIAL AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

1. I am proud to announce a project is currently underway to restore the U.S. Coast Guard Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. During the 2011 Veterans Day wreath laying ceremony at the Coast Guard Memorial, the Commandant announced the "Lest We Forget" campaign to preserve the eighty-four year old monument to our fallen shipmates. Initially dedicated on 23 May 1928, the memorial commemorates our shipmates who lost their lives in WWI resulting from the sinking of the Cutter TAMPA on 26 Sep 1918 and the action involving the Cutter SENECA and the British collier WELLINGTON on 16-17 Sep 1918. Over the last ten months, the Chief Petty Officers Association (CPOA) has worked diligently to develop a project, start a fund-raising campaign, and identify a contractor suited to restoring and preserving this important piece of our history so that we might honor our heroes for generations to come.

2. Setting proudly atop a hill in Arlington National Cemetery, warmly referred to as Coast Guard Hill, the memorial is a pyramid, constructed wholly of marble twelve feet high and set on a base of Pink Stony Creek granite. Designed by architect George Howe, the memorial is surrounded by a thirty-four foot mosaic circle symbolizing a compass rose. A bronze seagull with a five foot wingspan, made by the famed sculptor Gaston Lachaise, as been set at the base of the pyramid exemplifying the zeal and persistence of the Coast Guard in its duties. Most importantly, the pyramid faces are indelibly engraved with the names of our heroic shipmates lost at sea during the First World War.

3. The dedication of the memorial was a proud day for the Coast Guard. Cutters TAMPA, SENECA, MANNING, and APACHE were anchored in the Potomac River. Cutter TAMPA sounded the twenty-one gun salute for the ceremony. The Coast Guard Academy Corps of Cadets arrived aboard Cutters TAMPA and SENECA to form the honor guard. Several distinguished speakers were on hand, including: Secretary of the Treasury, the Honorable Andrew W. Mellon, Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Curtis D. Wilbur, and Rear Admiral F. C. Billard, Commandant of the Coast Guard. Frank L. Toon captured the significance of the memorial when he wrote, "It is to the Coast Guard, of the Coast Guard, by the Coast Guard, a Memorial by our own to our own."

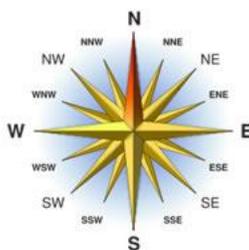
4. The eighty-four year old memorial has suffered extensive damage over the years due to environmental conditions. A large fist size portion of marble has broken off near the apex of the pyramid, and the lettering and the Coast Guard emblem are severely worn. Fortunately, the CPOA has a clear vision to restore the memorial, thus ensuring it will continue to honor the service and sacrifice of our shipmates. 5. The funding needed for this project, approximately 95,000 dollars, must be raised through private donations. Coast Guard funds cannot be used in this undertaking. The Washington, DC Chapter of the Chief Petty Officers Association has stepped forward to lead the CPOA efforts to restore the Coast Guard memorial and is committed to making the project a success. Through the sale of commemorative coins, fundraisers and individual and corporate sponsorship, they are gaining ground on the required funding. I encourage everyone to learn more about the project and follow its evolution at the CPOA Washington, DC Chapter website: <http://wdccpoa.org>.

6. VADM Currier, Vice Commandant, sends

7. Internet release authorized.

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Hawaiian Islands CGOA Leadership Luncheon

Keynote Speaker:

United States Attorney Florence Nakakuni

Florence T. Nakakuni has been the United States Attorney for the District of Hawaii since September 30, 2009. Ms. Nakakuni has been employed by the United States Attorney's Office in Hawaii as an Assistant U.S. Attorney since 1985, and she most recently had served as the Chief of the Organized Crime and Narcotics Section, Criminal Division, for the past four years prior to her appointment as U.S. Attorney. She was previously employed as counsel at the Navy Office of General Counsel, Pearl Harbor, and as an attorney-advisor at the Office of Information and Privacy Appeals, U.S. Department of Justice. She has also been a law clerk for Associate Justice Thomas Ogata of the Hawaii Supreme Court. Ms. Nakakuni has been a member of the Hawaii bar since 1978. She graduated from the University of Hawaii-Manoa in 1975, and the University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law in 1978.

Location: Club 14, Base Honolulu, Sand Island

Date/Time: Thursday, Nov 29th (1115 – 1245)

Uniform: Uniform of the Day

Cost: \$10

(\$15 for USCG Officers not current on dues)

Please RSVP NLT Nov 21st



To sign up contact:

LCDR James Forgy at 843-3801, james.g.forgy@uscg.mil