U.S. COAST GUARD

EVENING COLORS

A Newsletter for Coast Guard and NOAA Retirees "Semper Paratus"

JULY 2003 | "AN HONORABLE CAREER OF SERVICE" | ISSUE III

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Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty

Coast Guard Cutters "Mission Complete" in Arabian Gulf

May 6, 2003 – Coast Guard Cutters (from L-R) Baranof, Walnut and Boutwell steam in the North Arabian Gulf in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. They each represent the three classes of the six cutters deployed to the Gulf as part of OIF, along with Port Security Units, Law Enforcement Detachments, National Strike Force pollution response personnel and support units. Photo by PA1 John Gaffney

ARABIAN GULF – Coast Guard cutters Boutwell, a 378-foot high endurance cutter homeported in Alameda, Calif., and Walnut, a 225-foot buoy tender homeported in Honolulu, began heading home today after completing their missions in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Both cutters conducted a wide range of missions while serving in the Gulf, including maritime force protection, coastal and terminal security, and maritime interception and marine environmental response. The cutters also assisted in the post-Saddam economic recovery of Iraq by securing vital oil infrastructure and improving the safety of the navigational approach to its only international seaport.

"Without question, the skill and dedication of the crews of Walnut and Boutwell were instrumental to the overall success of our naval forces and underscored the

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importance of the Navy-Coast Guard team," said Vice Adm. Tim Keating, the commander of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command. "The can-do spirit demonstrated by the Coast Guard forces in Operation Iraqi Freedom has solidified their service's character as a maritime, multi-mission, military service and continued its proud history of service to the country in time of conflict."

The Coast Guard's role in Operation Iraqi Freedom represents its largest overseas deployment in support of military operations since the Vietnam War. Cutter Boutwell departed Alameda on Jan. 3 and began operations in the Arabian Gulf on Feb. 14. At one point in the deployment, from Feb. 14 until April 25, the cutter spent 70 days at sea without a port call.

Prior to the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Boutwell's crew conducted maritime interception boardings to enforce U.N. sanctions against Iraq. At the outbreak of hostilities and throughout Operation Iraqi Freedom, they operated in the strategically critical and politically sensitive Khawr Abd Allah and Shaat Al Arab Waterways, providing force protection to the massive coalition fleet, securing the Iraqi oil terminals, and preventing the movement of weapons, personnel or equipment by Saddam Hussein's regime or other guerilla or terrorist forces.

The Walnut was originally deployed to the North Arabian Gulf with an oil spill recovery system in the event the regime of Saddam Hussein committed any acts of environmental terrorism. When those threats did not materialize the cutter conducted maritime interdiction operations enforcing U.N. Security Council resolutions, participated in the search for two downed United Kingdom helicopters, and patrolled and provided assistance to captured Iraqi offshore oil terminals being secured by Coast Guard port security personnel.

When the coalition's efforts shifted to humanitarian assistance and economic recovery, the Walnut was ideally suited to provide a valuable service through her aids to navigation capability. The cutter's crew completely replaced 30 buoys and repaired an additional five along the 41-mile Khawr Abd Allah Waterway. This 20-day mission vastly improved the navigational safety of the waterway for humanitarian aid, commercial, and military vessels sailing to the port and was a critical step to economic recovery for the people of Iraq.

Coast Guard Port Security Units from San Pedro, Calif., Port Clinton, Ohio, and Tacoma, Wash., along with four East Coast-based 110-foot patrol boats, remain in the region to provide maritime security in the Northern Arabian Gulf.

Source: CG Online

USCG Personnel Service Center (PSC)

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The Retiree Newsletter is a publication containing news of general interest, suggestions, and information to keep Coast Guard and NOAA retirees and their dependents informed of recent developments. This publication shall not be considered authority and is non-record material.

National Commandant's Retiree Council Meets

(Left to Right) PSCM (Ret.) Adrian Rymer, Co-Chair Yorktown Chapter; CAPT (Ret.) Ed Ard, Chair, Tidewater Chapter; CAPT (Ret.) William Wilkins, Chair, North Coast Chapter; Mrs. Lois Dolliver, Representative, Northern California Chapter; CAPT (Ret.) Kenneth Harrison, Co-Chair Miami Chapter; Admiral Thomas H. Collins, Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard; CWO (Ret.) Betty Splaine, Member, Capital Area Chapter; RADM (Ret.) Gordon Piche, National Co-Chair; CAPT (Ret.) Dana Starkweather, Co-Chair, Pacific Northwest Chapter; CAPT (Ret.) Charles Glass, Chair, Capital Area Chapter; RADM Ken Venuto, Assistant Commandant for Human Resources, U. S. Coast Guard; MCPOCG Vincent Patton III (not pictured)

The Commandant's Retiree Council met in Washington DC on 7 – 11 April 2003. Our Chairman, RADM Gordon Piche (USCG, Ret.) and Co-Chair MCPOCG Vince Patton (USCG, Ret.) were in attendance along with representatives from various Regional Councils, and experts from DoD, Tricare, and other pertinent guests. The following is a synopsis of discussions and results of a very productive week:

Coast Guard Move to Department of Homeland Security. The Coast Guard was really "Semper Paratus" when it became apparent that legislation establishing a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) would be enacted. As a result of its advance planning, the Coast Guard moved in tact with all its missions retained. The Commandant is the only DHS agency head reporting directly to Secretary Ridge. Coast Guard members are filling key roles in DHS and the Coast Guard has become the model of "best practices" for many DHS administrative and support functions. The Commandant told us that over the next two years the Coast Guard will grow by 4,000 people and its budget will increase by 10% per year. The Commandant did say that the Coast Guard will have to be "flexible and responsive" to Secretary Ridge's mantra of "One team, one fight!"

TRICARE and TRICARE for Life. Various briefers provided information showing that TRICARE and TRICARE for Life have matured well over the past year. Earlier problems of untimely claim processing have essentially disappeared. TRICARE for Life beneficiaries have also begun to recognize that they no longer need supplemental medical insurance. There is still some problem with getting eligible beneficiaries to sign up for the required Medicare Part B when they turn 65. The biggest TRICARE issue that surfaced was getting doctors in some areas to accept the TRICARE/Medicare payment rates. There is a wealth of information about TRICARE and TRICARE for Life on the TRICARE WEB site at www.tricare.osd.mil. Individuals with specific TRICARE claim problems may also contact their Coast Guard Health Benefits Advisor at 800-942-2422. In his briefing to us, the Navy's Surgeon General calculated the cost for a family to obtain commercial medical coverage equivalent to TRICARE at more than $14,000 per year.

Veterans Administration Healthcare. The VA currently has a list of 165,000 veterans waiting for their first appointment at a VA healthcare facility. Because the demand far exceeds VA's current capacity, the agency is considering placing veterans in one of eight categories based on disability and financial need. Most retirees without service-connected disabilities would be in Category 8, which would be the lowest priority for treatment. If this occurs, those retirees who are not already enrolled with VA will have difficulty getting treatment at many VA medical facilities.

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Coast Guard Recruiting. The Commandant told us that retention and recruiting are currently the best they have ever been. As a result, the Coast Guard has adopted a SMART program for recruiting individuals to produce the specific skills and workforce diversity that it needs. The goal is for the Coast Guard to be reflective of the diversity of our country as a whole. To learn more about opportunities to serve in the Coast Guard, you can go to the recruiting WEB site at www.gocoastguard.com

Communicating the Coast Guard Message. The Commandant recently published his *Coast Guard Engagement Plan* with a comprehensive strategy for building external relationships and partnerships to communicate and build support for the missions and values of the Coast Guard. Responsibility for engaging government, media and community leaders rests mainly with district and local commanders. The plan recognizes that Reservists, Auxiliarists and Retirees often have unique opportunities to engage local leaders and creates a mechanism for them to work through district and local commanders to do so. Retirees can stay current on Coast Guard issues by reading the monthly *Coast Guard Magazine* on line at www.uscg.mil.

Coast Guard Exchange System. The Coast Guard Exchange System has 84 locations and sales of $125,000,000 per year. It generates more than $2,500,000 per year for the Coast Guard's morale, welfare and recreation programs. Retirees who don't live near an exchange can place orders through the North Coast Exchange Special Orders Department in Cleveland at 800-242-9157 or access the AAFES catalogue on line at www.cg-exchange.com. Retirees must provide their SSN and DOB when logging on to verify eligibility through DEERS records. All profits from sales to CG members from the AAFES catalogue are returned to the Coast Guard.

Social Security Offset of the Survivor Benefit Plan. Enactment of legislation to eliminate the SBP reduction from 55% to 35% when annuitants reach age 62 is one of the two top 2003 priorities for each of the retiree organizations in the Military Coalition. However, they acknowledge that the cost of eliminating the offset in the current budget climate will make it a difficult sell to both the Congress and the Administration.

Concurrent Receipt of Retired and Disability Payments. A compromise provision in the 2003 Defense Authorization Act eliminated the prohibition against concurrent receipt of retired and disability pay for veterans disabled as a result of combat. To be eligible, disabled veterans must have served 20 years on active duty and either hold a Purple Heart medal with a 10% or higher rating or have a 60% or higher rating for a combat or hazardous duty related disability. While the provision became effective on June 3, 2003, DoD is still writing definitions including what constitutes a "combat related disability." Headquarters estimates that less than 200 Coast Guard retirees will actually be eligible. More details and application procedures appear in pages 5 and 6. The Military Coalition's other top 2003 priority is to eliminate the prohibition for all veterans with rated disabilities. Again, the cost will be a major roadblock.

Retirees Joining the Coast Guard Auxiliary. The Coast Guard Auxiliary has changed and grown dramatically since 9/11. It has prepared and is executing an *Auxiliary Maritime Homeland Security Strategic Plan* with a major focus on providing more boat patrols and augmenting Coast Guard units. The Auxiliary is actively recruiting up to 500 retirees to serve in specific roles consistent with their active duty experience. Retirees won't have to start at Auxiliary boot camp. The Ninth District's "North Coast Retiree Council" has already begun an aggressive program partnering with Auxiliary flotillas. Hopefully this initiative will carry on in other parts of the country.

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Personnel Service Center. (PSC), formerly named HRSIC. During a telephone conference, the CO, XO and *Evening Colors* editor at PSC reaffirmed their commitment to providing the best service to the 38,131 Coast Guard / NOAA retirees and annuitants made up of 20,449 enlisted, 5,691 officers, 4,458 warrant officers, 4,457 annuitants and 4,261 officer and enlisted Reservists. PSC already modified its WEB home page at www.uscg.mil/hq/hrsic at our request to make information for retirees more readily accessible. They will be adding more local/regional retiree features and information to Evening Colors and they encourage retirees to read the color version of *Evening Colors* on their WEB site.

Source: MCPOCG (Ret.) Vince Patton III

Concurrent Receipt for Disabled Veterans

Combat Related Special Compensation

Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) was authorized by the FY 2003 National Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 107-314, sec. 636) for certain retirees with combat or operations-related disabilities. The details about how the program will be administered have only recently become available.

Eligible Retirees: Must have 20 or more years of active duty service in the Uniformed Services (retired reservists are not eligible unless they have accumulated 7,200 points, equivalent of 20 years for pay, or more). Retirees with less than 20 years active service are not eligible for CRSC. Retirees are not eligible if they have waived military retired pay to credit military service toward their civil service retirement, or for any other reason, other than to receive Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) disability compensation. DoD expects approximately 35,000 retirees to qualify for the new compensation. (The Coast Guard expects only a minute fraction of this number – perhaps greater than 100 – to qualify under either Purple Heart or Combat-Related criteria.)

Qualifying Disabilities: A combat-related disability associated with the award of a Purple Heart decoration, regardless of the DVA disability rating (10-100 percent). Or, any disability (or combination of disabilities*) with an assigned medical diagnosis code from the DVA Schedule for Rating Disabilities (VASRD) that results in a DVA rating of 60-100% that was incurred either:

- As a direct result of armed conflict (e.g., in a combat setting but not qualifying for a Purple Heart – like breaking a leg by jumping for cover when hearing the warning "Incoming!")
- While engaged in exceptionally hazardous service (e.g., in the performance of flight, diving, or parachute duties; or other extraordinary operational settings);
- In the performance of duty under conditions simulating war (exercises, field training, combat training);
- Through an instrumentality of war (combat vehicles, weapons, Agent Orange, etc.)

(*Note – only disabilities from the preceding four classifications can be used to meet the 60% or higher combat-related threshold. Disabilities that are not combat-related cannot be combined with combat-related disabilities to meet the 60% criteria.)

For Coast Guard CRSC applicants, the Coast Guard Personnel Command (CGPC-adm-1) will

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determine which disabilities qualify under the above criteria and notify applicants of their decision. CRSC will not be paid for disabilities that are not combat or hazardous duty operations related. Applicants who qualify for CRSC will have their applications forwarded to the Retiree & Annuitant Services Division of the Personnel Service Center (PSC (RAS)) for computation of the actual CRSC payment, which will be included in their monthly Retired Pay, along with any back payments that may be applicable.

Certain disabilities will be presumed to be combat-related when the DVA disability rating form indicates that the DVA rating for the disability is based on one of these presumptions: disabilities rated by the DVA on the basis of exposure to radiation, mustard gas or lewisite, Agent Orange, and those associated with Persian Gulf service. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) must be evaluated by the member's Service to determine if it is combat-related. Other chronic disabilities that are incurred over time (arthritis; heart, respiratory, or circulatory disabilities; and the like) will typically not be eligible for CRSC.

Application Processing: Eligible retirees must apply for CRSC using the approved application form DD-2860 in accordance with the instructions published on the form. Processing times have not been established, but it is anticipated that there will be a large number of initial applications submitted and the process may take months due to the backlog of records requests at DVA and other records archives. However, payments will be retroactive to June 1, 2003, for those determined to have qualifying disabilities that existed as of that date. Disabled retirees who have qualified for and are in receipt of Special Compensation for Severely Disabled Retirees (SCFSDR) may not receive CRSC unless they waive SCFSDR. (If an applicant is qualified for both SCFSDR and CRSC, PSC (RAS) will pay them the higher of the two entitlements once the retiree has executed a waiver of the lesser.)

The CRSC application form is available from PSC (RAS) upon request (toll-free at 1-800-772-8724; commercial: 785-339-3415; or fax: 785-339-3770) or on the web at: http://www.dior.whs.mil/forms/DD2860.pdf

TRICARE Complying With Stricter Rules on Healthcare Information

By Rudi Williams
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, April 25, 2003 – TRICARE, like all other healthcare providers nationwide, is working under stricter rules when it comes to protecting patients' rights and the privacy of their health information.

And like its civilian counterparts, the TRICARE Management Activity implemented the privacy portion of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act by the April 14 compliance deadline.

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"Privacy of health information is extremely important to beneficiaries and the TRICARE activity," said Navy Cmdr. Sam Jenkins, TRICARE's HIPAA privacy officer. "The message we're trying to convey is that we're committed to the protection of the privacy of health information. We'll do everything we can to maintain its confidentiality and security."

The act, which Congress passed in 1996 and became Public Law 104-191, was designed to "combat waste, fraud and abuse, improve portability of health insurance coverage, and simplify administration of healthcare," according to a TRICARE brochure issued in January.

The measure affects health plans such as TRICARE, companies that perform electronic billing on behalf of military treatment facilities, physicians, dental clinics, pharmacies and business associates such as managed-care support contractors.

Laws that were already on the books, such as the Privacy Act, have always protected patients' medical information, Jenkins noted. "But what HIPAA does is inform individuals of what their rights are and TRICARE's responsibilities to protect health information, which hasn't been done in the past.

"The Notice of Privacy Practices describes patients' rights under HIPAA clearly and has been provided to beneficiaries in plain language so they can easily understand these rights," Jenkins said. "The act also requires us to have a contact to help patients manage their health information and those rights."

Complying with the new rules meant assigning treatment facility HIPAA privacy officers to assist patients in managing their health information and training nearly 130,000 healthcare professionals and workers worldwide. Implementing HIPAA also includes incorporating policies and procedures at treatment facilities to protect information.

It also included identifying and training more than 500 military treatment facility privacy officers worldwide, developing marketing and training materials and mailing the Notice of Privacy Practices to TRICARE sponsor households.

TRICARE mailed more than 5 million notices to beneficiaries' homes between December 2002 and March 2003. The notices are also available at military treatment facilities.

"About 95 percent of the people who received the notice have understood it," Jenkins noted. But, he said, "we have received some further questions from people who don't understand why we've done that. We've screened and responded to those letters to help further explain the information." In addition, the privacy officers can "answer questions from beneficiaries."

Besides explaining the patients' rights under HIPAA and TRICARE's responsibilities, the notice tells beneficiaries how to file a complaint if they feel their health information has been inappropriately used.
Jenkins said patients have the right to read their medical records, have a copy made, request amendments or request restrictions of usages and disclosures of their health information.

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"HIPAA makes us accountable to them for our management of their health information," he emphasized. However, he pointed out that TRICARE and military treatment facilities are allowed to use health information for treatment, payment and healthcare operation activities.

"But there are other uses and disclosures of information that we must document," he said. "Patients can request an accounting of disclosures so they'll know exactly how their health information was used. This gives the individual control over their health information. We're obliged by the rule to do that for them."

Patients have the right to request an accounting of disclosures for up to six years, Jenkins noted.
"If the patient thinks there is erroneous information in his or her record, they may make a request to the treatment facility where the records are held for review of the information," Jenkins said.

But under some circumstances, information could be withheld from patients if healthcare professionals determine that releasing it would be harmful to them. For example, Jenkins said, "if some patients know they have a catastrophic disease, it may adversely affect how their body reacts to treatment." He said the same thing applies to other patients who may react adversely if they find out their treatment is going to take a year as opposed to a month.

"These are good medical practice guidelines that allow us to withhold information from a patient where knowledge of the course of treatment or prognosis might cause them to think adversely," Jenkins said.
Not only is the patient's privacy protected in treatment facilities, it's also protected in the patient's home. For instance, Jenkins said, a patient might not want to share information left on his or her home answering machine about a follow-up appointment notice. In such a case, the patient could request a confidential communication at an alternative location.

Jenkins said HIPAA privacy applies to individually identifiable health information -- paper, electronic or oral communications. This includes information that identifies the patient and relates to his or her past, present or future health condition.

But he noted that TRICARE and military treatment facilities are required to give health information about any individual to the Department of Health and Human Services for use in an investigation of a complaint.

"We're permitted to use and disclose health information for many reasons, such as to assist public health officials in doing disease surveillance in a community," he said. "We can also share military health information on active duty people to help commanders determine an active duty member's ability to perform a particular element of a mission, or to determine their fitness for duty.

"We can also use health information to inform appropriate authorities, law enforcement (officials) and others of victims of spousal or child abuse," Jenkins noted.

Patients who have complaints about their privacy being compromised should contact the military treatment facility privacy officers or the TRICARE privacy officer.

They can also go directly to the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Civil Rights Web site and follow the complaint and inquiry process at http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa/.

TRICARE Enhances Dental Benefits for Uniformed Services Retirees

Under a new five-year dental contract between the Department of Defense and the Delta Dental Plan of California, dental benefits for uniformed services retirees and family members enrolled in the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) have been enhanced. Beginning May 1, 2003, the mandatory enrollment period is reduced from 24 to 12 months. The annual maximum benefit per enrollee and lifetime maximum benefit for orthodontic care was increased from $1000 to $1200.

After the mandatory enrollment period ends, eligible enrollees which include uniformed services retirees and their family members; Medal of Honor recipients and their family members; and survivors and family members of deceased retirees or active duty sponsors who served on active duty for more than 30 consecutive days, may continue their enrollment in the TRDP on a month-to-month basis. During the mandatory 12-month enrollment period, TRDP enrollees are covered for basic restorative services, periodontics, endodontics, oral surgery and dental emergencies. After 12 months of continuous enrollment, TRDP enrollees are covered for cast crowns, cast restorations, full and partial dentures and orthodontics for adults and children.

As an incentive, sponsors and family members who enroll within 120 days of the sponsor's retirement from active duty receive an extra benefit. They and their family members are covered by the enhanced dental services starting the day they enroll. Sponsors and family members who wait and enroll after the 120 day period are not eligible for the enhanced dental services until they complete the mandatory 12 months of continuous TRDP enrollment.

The TRDP is a voluntary dental program with enrollee-paid premiums deducted automatically each month from the sponsor's retired military pay. If retired military pay is not available, sponsors and family members can arrange with Delta Dental to pay the monthly premiums either by mail or an electronic funds transfer.

Under the TRDP, there is a $50 deductible per enrollee, with a $150 yearly deductible per family. Premiums vary depending on where enrollees live and the number of family members they choose to enroll. During the enrollment period May 1, 2003, to April 30, 2004, enrollees pay approximately $22 to $37 a month for single coverage, $42 to $71 for two or $71 to $120 for a family of three or more.

Dental coverage is available throughout the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, Guam, the U. S. Virgin Islands, America Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Enrollees may seek dental care from any licensed dentist or specialist within the TRDP coverage area. To minimize out-of-pocket expenses, enrollees are encouraged to seek dental care from more than 67,000 participating dental providers. A directory of participating Delta Dental providers is available online at www.ddpdelta.org. Retirees and family members may also request a provider directory by calling the Delta Dental Customer Service number at (888) 838-8737. Additional information on the TRDP is available on the TRICARE Web site at: www.tricare.osd.mil/dental.

Source: www.osd.mil

Nautical Terms, Phrases & Trivia

The term "Nautical" is rooted in the Greek word "NAUT", meaning sailor.

Son of a Gun

1) In the early days, sailors were permitted to keep their "wives" on board ship. The term was used to refer to children born alongside the guns of the broadsides. In fact, the expression questioned the legitimacy of a person. The old definition of a man-o'-war was: *"Begotten in the galley and born under a gun. Every hair a rope yarn, every tooth a marline spike; every finger a fish hook and in his blood right good Stockholm tar."* A British officer commanding a brig off the Spanish coast in 1835 wrote in his diary. *"This day the surgeon informed me that a woman on board had been laboring in child for twelve hours, and if I could see my way to permit the firing of a broadside to leeward, nature would be assisted by the shock. I complied with the request and she was delivered of a fine male child."* Gunners Mate's to the rescue!

2) A male child conceived on a man-of-war's gun deck. There was a time in sailing history when wives, lovers, and ladies of pleasure were permitted on board to entertain the men while in port. In most cases, - especially during war, crewmen were not permitted to leave the ship for the very plausible fear that they would desert. Thus were visitors allowed. Since the only place a couple could find any privacy was between the massive cannons of the ship's armament, the term was applied to the child that resulted. Purists argue the term should be applied only to the male child that was actually born in these circumstances, since this sometimes occurred as well, but far less often. A further elaboration states that women experiencing difficulty during child birth were laid next to one of these cannons, which was then fired in the belief that the noise and shock would be enough to hasten the birth.

Bilge

1) The area below the deck gratings in the lowest spaces of the ship, where things, especially liquids, tend to collect.

2) To fail or do poorly. "Poor Smitty bilged the quiz."

3) To name a classmate or shipmate involved in wrongdoing, or to identify a mistake made by someone else.

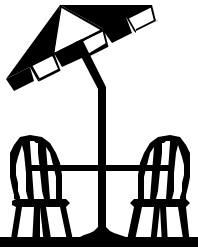
4) Old English in origin. A variation of 'bulge'. Where the ship 'bulged' most was at its bottom. There, sea water seeping in through the bottom planks became stagnant and foul, which was mixed by dripping water and 'slops' from the upper decks. Pumping out the bilges was a smelly, very disagreeable chore. The term became used to describe anything unpleasant or unbelievable. *Source: Net Research*

Editor's Note: We were notified recently that the request to change our name from HRSIC to **Personnel Service Center (PSC)** was approved.

Please note that RAS snail mail, email addresses and phone numbers will remain the same at this time, with update / changes on items as I receive word.

Hope all are having a well and safe summer.

~Ron



Former Academy Life Insurance Policyholders May Be Eligible for Payments

By Sgt. 1st Class
Doug Sample, USA
American Forces
Press Service

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20, 2003 -- The Academy Life Insurance Co. seeks immediate contact with an estimated 110,000 current and former service members who may be eligible to receive payments from a fund established as part of a settlement it reached with the Justice Department Dec. 19, 2002.

Col. Steve Strong, director of legal policy in the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, said the insurance company will mail notices and payment applications to the last address it has for thousands of former policyholders it believes are eligible. Notices will be mailed by Feb. 24, he added.

Eligible persons have until June 24 to file, he said. After that deadline, applications won't be considered, Strong emphasized.

The payments of up to $200 per policy are part of a $160 million settlement reached after the Justice Department filed a civil complaint against Academy Life for defrauding service members from 1991 to 1998. The complaint alleged the insurers sold more than 92,000 policies of a particular life insurance plan to service members and their families between 1993 and 1998 and reaped more than $200 million in premiums. Academy Life has not admitted to any improper act.

As part of the settlement the company will pay more than $2.7 million to persons who purchased their policies from 1991 to 1998.

Academy Life also agreed in the settlement to never again sell another insurance policy in the United States or ask DoD for permission to conduct business on U.S. military installations. The Defense Department in 1998 barred the company from doing business on military installations for three years.

Strong said former policyholders must meet all the following conditions to be eligible for payment from the settlement fund:

- The person was the last owner of a Genesis Series policy issued from Jan. 1, 1991, through Dec. 31, 1998.
- The policy terminated prior to Sept. 30, 2002.
- No death benefit was paid under the policy.
- The person was living on Sept. 30, 2002.

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- The person accurately completes an application for payment and mails it to Academy Life by June 24.

- Academy Life verifies eligibility.

For more information on eligibility requirements or a notice and application,
Strong said call Academy Life at toll free (800) 523-5625.

PSC Email Data

PSC-RAS now has the capability of capturing your Email addresses for future correspondence, announcements, and notifications. This option/tool is very helpful to both the member and personnel working at PSC. If you have an Email address you would like to add, please send to:

hrsic-ras@hrsic.uscg.mil. Please include your SSN and full name. If you change your Email address in the future, simply send us the new one for updating.

If you were previously receiving an E-mail notification that Evening Colors was available for viewing on the Internet, please make sure you mention this when changing your e-mail address. The editor works in a different branch, and PSC-RAS will forward if mention is made.

Possible Overpayment of Retirees

There have been a few recent instances on retiree accounts where retirees failed to report the unfortunate passing of his/her spouse. It is critical to report when the spouse predeceases the retiree and Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) costs were being deducted for spouse coverage. In one of these cases, the spouse had predeceased the retiree 20 years prior to the retiree himself passing, which PSC (RAS) only became aware of during final pay processing. Title 31, U.S. Code 3702 states "A claim against the Government presented under this section must contain the signature and address of the claimant or an authorized representative. The claim must be received by the official responsible under subsection (a) for settling the claim or by the agency that conducts the activity from which the claim arises within 6 years after the claim accrues…" Following enactment of the Public Law 107-314 (Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003), for claims presented on or after December 2, 2002, waivers of the 6-year time limit can be made by the Secretary of Defense upon application by the secretary (Department of Homeland Security for U.S. Coast Guard) for amounts less than $25,000. Any waivers submitted to Secretary of Department of Homeland Security would require clear documentation as to why the necessary information had not been reported in a timely fashion.

All retirees are reminded to inform PSC (RAS) as soon as possible following changes of marital status, death of a designated SBP beneficiary, or any other changes which could impact retired pay.

Quotes of the Quarter…

Sometimes I wonder if men and women really suit each other. Perhaps they should live next door and just visit now and then. --Katharine Hepburn

We are not retreating - we are advancing in another Direction. --General Douglas MacArthur

Picture of the Quarter:

PORT HURON, Mich., May 22--The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Bramble man the rails for the last time during the cutter's decommissioning ceremony. Bramble has served the Coast Guard for almost 60 years participating in almost all of the Coast Guard's core missions at least once in her career. Bramble has been turned over to the city of Port Huron for use as a museum. Many of the crew will be cross decking to the Bramble's replacement the 225-foot cutter Hollyhock. USCG photo by PA2 Paul Roszkowski

Directives Allow "Agent" To Shop For Commissary Patrons

Recent activities have brought to the forefront the issue of having someone shop for eligible commissary patrons. It doesn't just apply to children with a deployed parent, but to other authorized patrons who may have difficulty shopping on their own.

Known as the agent privilege, it's for any authorized commissary shopper who needs assistance shopping or who cannot shop on his or her own behalf because of disability, illness or infirmity. That privilege also extends to grandparents, guardians or caregivers of children of service members who may not be available due to deployment or remote assignment.

The agent does not have to be an authorized commissary shopper. The military member may request an agent pass for approval to allow the individual who is the primary caregiver for the children of deployed parents to enter the installation.

The installation commander authorizes agent privilege.

Non-military primary caregivers should contact the identification card section on the installation to determine what legal documents, i.e., power of attorney, may also be needed to establish proof of caregiver status. At the same time, the individual can also ask what documents are required to enter the installation.

Upon verification of caregiver status, the individual receives written authorization from the commander's representative designating him/her as an "agent" to accompany the children. Usually, the letter is for a 12-month period, but it can be extended in cases of continued hardship.

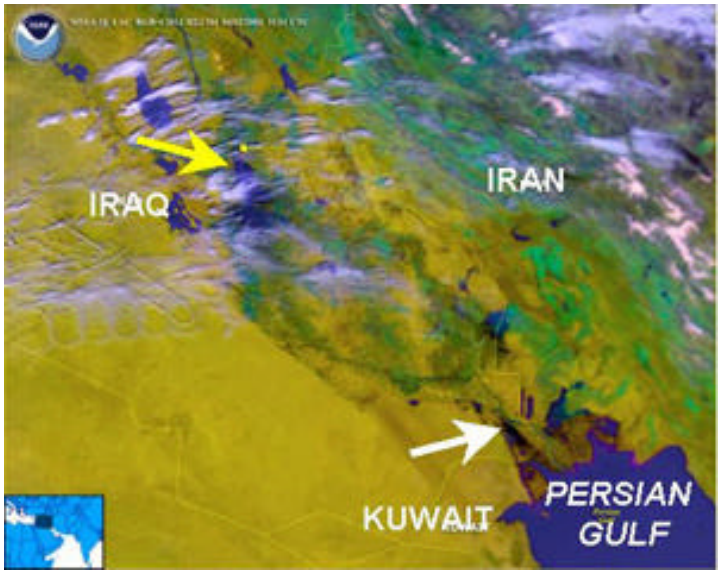
Authorized shoppers, who are elderly or disabled, and unfamiliar with the 'agent' privilege, should contact the identification card section on the installation to determine what proof is needed to have an agent shop in the commissary on their behalf.

NOAA's Participation in the 2003 Gulf War and Reconstruction Efforts

NOAA is currently working with the U.S. Defense Department's Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance and with the Department of State's Task Force on Environmental Security to prepare for the post-war reconstruction in Iraq (i.e., environmental issues — including science, technology and health issues that arise in the post-conflict period), should such work become necessary. Note that many of NOAA's capabilities will not necessarily be called upon in this instance given extant circumstances. Furthermore, NOAA's readiness to engage and/or participation in these significant undertakings is dependent on the availability of funding.

Current Involvement: NOAA has already contributed to the U.S. efforts in Iraq. NOAA's polar-orbiting satellites have already been called into service to support ongoing disaster monitoring and forecasting activities in Iraq, including pinpointing of "hot spots" identified as burning oil facilities, as well as dust and sand storms. Operational Significant Event Imagery program analysts in the Satellite Services Division review all available Polar and Geostationary satellite imagery, including AVHRR, Meteosat, and Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) imagery for features of interest, including hot spots, smoke plumes, sand storms and contrails. Imagery containing features of interest is posted to the OSEI Web site and is forwarded to NESDIS management for evaluation. This NOAA-16 AVHRR image taken April 2, 2003, shows smoke blowing south from burning oil wells in Southeastern Iraq. Airplane contrails are also visible in Western Iraq. Likewise, NOAA HAZMAT personnel were stationed in Bahrain and at the Naval Oceanographic office in Mississippi assisting the U.S. Navy in the development of oil spill response strategies by providing operational spill trajectory support and training in preparation of another catastrophic release.

Future Involvement: The most likely areas of expertise that NOAA may be asked to provide would involve, wetland/marshland injury assessment and restoration, an assessment of the fisheries, and both coastal and inland water quality. Other areas may become apparent as the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance continues its work.



Reunions and Notices

Reminder from the Editor: If you are searching for one individual vice a group of people please send us a self addressed and stamped envelope, and we will be glad to forward to the person you are trying to locate. Mail to:

Commanding Officer (RAS)
USCG Personnel Service Center
444 SE Quincy Street
Topeka, Kansas 66683

Thanks!!!

All "8x6" Retirees are requested to please contact Cdr. Bill Lordge at walordge@earthlink.net to discuss your TRICARE benefits if you are using the VA as your primary care provider.

A Reunion is in the planning stage for USCGC CHASE this August 8th in Boston. If so it would be great. The reunion is open to all former and present members of the ship. We are working out details for hotels and transportation around Boston during the event. The Reunion is August 8th thru the 10th. We will be having some events during the weekend and a Happy Hour Friday night and a formal dinner on Saturday night. Anyone interested should contact myself, Pete Levine, email at plevine@keeneadvertising.com. We are trying to get a number as soon as possible for planning purposes.

Come be a part of Maritime history. **Join the Indian River Life Saving Station Foundation**. For more information contact:

Indian River Lifesaving Station
130 Coastal highway
Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971
(302) 227-0478, Email dspf@splus.net We also have a web site which is, www.irlss.org

REUNION OF THE USCG LIGHTSHIP SAILORS ASSN
On 2-3-4 October 2003, Lewes, DE. Contact Lou Toobert, 111 Sonant Dr., Newark, DE 19713, Tel: 302-738-9020, Email: jtruffles@aol.com

USCGC Rockaway (W-377) 2 - 5 October 2003
Cape May, New Jersey
All who ever sailed on the USCGC Rockaway (W-377), or on the USS Rockaway (AVP-29) in WWII, are welcome to join over 100 shipmates for the second reunion of her crews from 2 to 5 October 2003 where many of their memories began: Cape May, New Jersey. Events include the graduation ceremony of our newest Coast Guardsmen, a dinner dance at the officers club, war-story sessions in the hospitality suite as well as rooms on the beach with seaside balconies.

Details, registration forms and photos are available on the Internet at http://www.cccnews.net/rockaway and shipmates may add their names to the reunion information list by phoning Chief Harris at 623 933-2226, or by emailing Lou Woods at rockaway311@earthlink.com or Tom Woloski at tomwoloski@aol.com .

COAST GUARD CW OPERATORS ASSOCIATION. Fifth Annual Reunion at Honeysuckle Inn & Conference Center (800-942-3553) Branson, MO, October 29-November 2, 2003. Mention Coast Guard CW Operators Association when making reservations. Recreation Vehicles contact Chastain's RV Park (800-467-7611), mention same. For information on reunion contact RMCS Jim Huffman USCG (Ret.) bird63@ak.net, ETCM Lee Morris USCG (Ret.) leemar@charter.net or LT David Johnson USCG (Ret) zut213@earthlink.net

The USCG National Association of Former Stewards and Stewardmates Inc. will be celebrating their 14th Reunion at the Ramada Inn, 850 South Beltline Highway, Mobile, Alabama 36609 from August 1st thru August 3rd 2003. Please contact CPO Norman McGlone, USCG (Ret.) at 632 Henry St. – Attucks, Norfoks, VA 23510,
Tel: 757-640-0524.

Regional Retiree Council for Savannah GA Area.
My name is Jason West. I am an intern at the Marine Safety Office in Savannah, Georgia. The MSO is wanting to encourage retirees and annuitants to establish a Regional Coast Guard Retiree Council in the Savannah area. My phone number is (912) 652-4353 ext. 218, and my email address is jrwest@msosavannah.uscg.mil. We are in the initial stages of establishing the council and would love to hear from you..

USCGC COURIER (WAGR-410, WTR-410) Association will hold next reunion at San Diego on September 1 thru 6 2003. All crew members and guests are invited. Please contact Gill Riggs, P.O. Box 28, San Rafael, NM 87501, Tel: 505-287-3338, or Email Dave Newell, at dnewell3@charter.net.

USCG Manned Attack Transport 37th Reunion. ALL HANDS – USS CALLAWAY (APA-35) - Former crew members will gather on 8 – 11 September 2003 in Orleans, Massachusetts at Orleans Holiday Motel. For more details contact Wallace E. Shipp, 5319 Manning Place NW, Washington DC 20016-5311, Tel: 202-363-3663.

USS CAVALIER (APA-37), USCG Crews will hold a Reunion September 5 – 8, 2003 at the Marriott Hotel, Schaumburg, IL (suburb of Chicago). Please contact CWO4 John E. Giles, USCG (Ret.) at P.O. Box 325, Pacific City, OR 97135 or phone (503)965-6732, Email jegiles@oregoncoast.com.

North Coast New York CG Assn. Seeking any CG Personnel who served at Erie, PA Lifeboat Station, Buffalo Base, Fort Niagara LBS, Rochester LBS, Sodus Pt. (AUX OP), Oswego LBSU, Big Sandy Life Saving Station, Galloo Island LBS, Sackets Harbor (AUX OP), Cape Vincent Light Attendant Station, Station Clayton, WWII, CG Station Alex. Bay, MSD Massena, Burlington Base, VT, ATON Saugerties, Reserve Unit (PSU) Buffalo/Syracuse , Loran Station Seneca. Also any Lighthouse, small unit or CG Cutter that was home ported or worked in the above area. Any year, regular, reserve, auxiliary and civilian CG including M&R teams and Ets. Contact NORTH COAST NEW YORK COAST GUARD ASSN., 4712 Glenwood Dr., Mantua, OH 44255, Tel: 330-274-2927. Reunion is set for 12 thru 14 September 2003, Sackets Harbor, NY.

USCG AIR STATION SALEM

In conjunction with an oral history project, a Salem researcher wishes to contact all personnel assigned to USCG Air Station Salem from 1935 to 1970.

This project, supported in part by Historic Salem, Inc., hopes to interview and record on tape the experiences of many veterans of Air Station Salem in war and peace. Copies of these tapes wil be sent to the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. One other copy will be donated to the archives of the Peabody/Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts. Please contact:

Douglas P. Sabin, 34 Northey St., Salem, MA 01970

Tel: 978-745-2508 Email: dpsabin@aol.com

West Coast EMtel/TT/IT Reunion - 2003
The annual West Coast reunion of the Electricians Mate (Telephone), Telephone Technician, Information Technologies rates will be held in Forest Grove Oregon during the weekend of July 25th - 27th. Any person who is active duty or a former member of these rates and their families are urged to attend. Discounted hotel rates and free camp sites and trailer parking spots are available. Activities begin on Friday with the traditional chili 'meet & greet', Saturday afternoon bar-b-que followed by a Sunday brunch to conclude the weekend. For more information contact: Rich Paris TTCM(ret), 1500 NW Martin Rd Forest Grove OR 97116, Rich Paris: rgparis@peoplepc.com, (503) 359-1442 or Tom Juratovac TTC(ret), juratovac@bctonline.com, (503) 518-3132 or Darrel Mattoon TT,trains@ipinc.net, (503) 681-0507.

RES GRU MO/SK REUNION for past and current members of GRU MO/SK on 11 OCT 2003 @ ANG NCO Club, Westhampton Beach Airport. Details via QM1 S Wade USCGR (ret) @ bravepenguin2@aol.com. or BMC E Neale USCGR (ret) @ 42 Indian Head Drive, Sayville NY 11782-1703 Phone: 631/589-3940.

U. S. COAST GUARD VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL

The Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association is sponsoring the construction and installation of two identical memorials to the more than 8000 Coast Guard personnel who actively participated in our country's war in Vietnam.

One memorial will be placed at the USCG Training Center at Cape May, NJ. The second memorial will be placed at the USCG Academy, New London, CT.

The design includes the names of all CG vessels, units, detachments, and support activities involved in the war. Also it will include an abstract of CG theater missions, activities and operations.

Contributions in support of this project should be made payable to: CGCOMVETS Vietnam Memorial Fund and is tax deductible. Please mail your contribution or direct questions to:

William G. Hicks
586 Fairwood Drive
Talmadge, OH 44278-2026

USCG Retirements

Name	Rank	Date of Retirement	Years of Service
ACESTA, STEVEN	LT	20030501	23
ALM, JEFFREY	MED4	20030401	30
APPELL, WARREN	CAPT	20030214	42
ASTLEY, JOHN	CAPT	20030501	26
ATKINSJONES, SHELBY	YN1	20030227	18
BANKSTON, BARRY	ET1	20030401	20
BARANCZYK, WAYNE	F&S4	20030501	30
BARKER, KEITH	CDR	20030215	37
BATISTA, ORLANDO	FS1	20030401	21
BAUMAN, FORREST	CAPT	20030429	37
BENEVIDES, EVERETT	BM1	20021224	37
BENKELMANN, MARK	ETCS	20030501	23
BERGMAN, JACK	AVTCM	20030301	25
BERQUIST, DONALD	CDR	20030228	37
BIGART, MARK	AMTCM	20030501	30
BOBAL, MARK	CDR	20030501	23
BOBEK, WILLIAM	DC1	20030328	35
BONCZEWSKI, PETER	QM2	20030404	03
BOWERS, JOSEPH	ET1	20030215	25
BRANUM, BOBBY	PS3	20030128	31
BRESSLER, ANDREW	SK1	20030301	23
BRIDGE, ROBERT	TC1	20030401	20
BRITTAIN, CHARLES	BM2	20030307	34
BROUILLARD, RICHARD	QMCM	20030405	42
BRYAN, WILLIAM	SKC	20030501	27
BRYANT, JOHN	LCDR	20030301	25
BURNS, JIMMY	BMC	20030226	35
CAMPBELL, JOHN	SK1	20030313	24
CAMPBELL, RONALD	YNCM	20030306	41
CASTER, DIANE	YNCS	20030309	30
CHRISTIAN, CRISS	MKC	20030501	22
CLAPCICH, JOSEPH	YN1	20030414	32
CLAYTOR, GARY	PERS4	20030301	30
CLIFTON, JAMES	LCDR	20030408	38
COLEMAN, PEYTON	CDR	20030501	20
COLLINS, STANLEY	YNCS	20030402	34
CONNOLLY, GERARD	PSC	20030203	33
COULSON, MARK	PSCS	20030227	34
CRAM, ROGER	PSCS	20030407	34
CROLEY, BYRON	TC1	20030501	20
CUCULICH, DAVID	PSS3	20030407	34
CUNNIFF, JOSEPH	CDR	20030405	37
CURRAN, DAVID	DC1	20030501	20
CURTIS, STEPHANIE	PERS2	20030501	23
DANN, THOMAS	CDR	20030416	38
DAVIDGE, ROBERT	BMC	20030222	38
DAVIS, JAMES	BM2	20030402	36
DAWSON, AUDREY	YN1	20030401	21
DAYMONT, RICHARD	AVTC	20030320	39
DICKEN, RANDOLPH	BMCS	20030301	20
DICKERSON, DENNIS	CAPT	20030308	36
DICKINSON, BRUCE	QMC	20030401	21
DICKINSON, JASON	FS3	20030307	01
DOWNING, RICHARD	BMC	20030401	21
DOWNS, WILLIAM	YNC	20030419	31
DREHER, KERWIN	ENG3	20030318	34
DUGGAN, MARTIN	PSCM	20030422	37
DUTTON, STUART	LT	20030501	21
ELLIOTT, RANDALL	BOSN4	20030301	26
ELLIOTT, RONALD	CDR	20030427	32
ENGELBRECHT, MARC	BM1	20030501	20
EPPS, DARMARTE	DC1	20030311	20
ERICKSON, RONALD	EM2	20030327	33
EVANS, JOHN	MAT4	20030501	30
EVANS, ROBERT	LT	20030501	27

Name	Rank	Date of Retirement	Years of Service
FACCHIN, STEVEN	WEPS4	20030501	28
FEEGER, FRANK	ENG2	20030416	38
FERGUSON, CINDY	SK1	20030301	20
FIELDS, HOWARD	LT	20030501	21
FLORES, NANCY	AMT1	20030201	20
FOERSTER, BARBARA	TCCS	20030424	41
FONNER, BRENT	MAT3	20030401	24
FOX, JEFFRY	QM1	20030401	20
FREEMAN, RAYMOND	CDR	20030217	36
FRIEDMAN, DANIEL	HSC	20030501	20
FRIEDT, ROGER	PERS4	20030501	30
GAINES, ALLAN	AMT1	20030501	20
GARLAND, CHAD	MK2	20030307	09
GARRISON, CHARLES	YNC	20030401	22
GARRY, DENNIS	PS1	20030306	26
GENSEL, STEVEN	MKCM	20030501	22
GIBSON, STEPHEN	LCDR	20030301	20
GILHEANY, KEVIN	BOSN2	20030501	20
GORDON, DAVID	ET1	20030501	20
GORDY, JAMES	MKC	20030401	20
GRAHAM, DANIEL	LCDR	20030414	35
GREENOUGH, ROBERT	ETC	20030403	14
GRIFFIN, FRED	F&S3	20030301	30
GUACCI, JOHN	PS3	20030429	31
GUGLIOTTA, VITTORIO	YNCS	20030220	28
GUILLEREAULT, ROBERT	YN1	20030421	39
HARLEY, ROBERT	MAT4	20030401	30
HASSELL, RONALD	CAPT	20030420	37
HATFIELD, DOUGLAS	LCDR	20020701	20
HEINLEIN, REBECCA	QMC	20030501	24
HENNESSY, JAMES	FS1	20030211	37
HENSON, KEVIN	MKC	20030301	22
HESTER, LYNDA	LT	20030501	22
HOLLINGHEAD, TIMOTHY	RDC	20030401	20
HORROCKS, BLAINE	CAPT	20030301	25
HOSKING, CHRISTINA	CDR	20030319	36
HOTTER, GEORGE	IV1	20030217	35
HOULE, DALE	YNCS	20030301	24
HOYT, KATHLEEN	QMC	20030301	21
HUTCHINSON, DAVID	MST1	20030401	21
ISAACSON, JACK	YN1	20030326	33
IVY, LARRY	LCDR	20030211	27
JOHNSON, CHARLES	LCDR	20030215	32
KAISER, ARTHUR	LT	20030501	20
KEYERLEBER, PHIL	PS1	20030404	37
KEYMON, DAVID	YN1	20030401	20
KLEIN, MICHAEL	MST1	20030309	34
LANGLINAIS, ROBLEY	PS1	20021127	26
LANNING, MICHAEL	AMT1	20030501	20
LEFTWICH, PATRICK	LT	20030401	25
LEWIS, JUANITA	YNCM	20030303	30
LEWIS, THOMAS	DCC	20030401	20
LITTLEHALES, JOHN	CAPT	20030324	36
LOPER, GENE	QM1	20030301	20
LOPES, NORMAN	ET2	20030315	31
LUCKRITZ, ROBERT	CDR	20030224	37
LUGO, CARLOS	TT1	20030401	20
MAEHLER, KEVIN	CDR	20030401	23
MANN, GARY	BM1	20030501	20
MANN, VERNON	LT	20030501	30
MANSON, ROBERT	DC2	20030401	40
MANTEUFEL, JEFFREY	ELC2	20030501	22
MARSHALL, JOHN	TCCS	20030417	35
MARTIN, KENNETH	SK3	20030417	29
MARTIN, MARTY	MSTC	20030227	30

MARTINEZ, ALAN	LCDR	20030401	20
MASON, SCOTT	AMT2	20030501	20
MATTFELD, MARK	BM2	20030501	20
MATUSEK, ROBERT	MKCM	20030501	37
MCADAMS, DIANE	YNC	20030301	20
MCANDREW, JEROME	FS1	20030310	23
MCCARTHY, JOHN	QM1	20030401	20
MCCARTHY, ROBERT	PSC	20030420	40
MCGOWAN, MAGGIE	LT	20030416	07
MCKENZIE, MICHAEL	TC1	20030401	22
MCLAUGHLIN, JAMES	ASTC	20030301	23
MILLS, FREDERICK	PS1	20030328	32
MINER, EDMOND	LT	20030501	25
MOELLER, HARRY	SK1	20030202	21
MONDA, EDWARD	LCDR	20030226	32
MOONEY, WILLIAM	MSTC	20030310	26
MOORE, JOEL	LCDR	20030301	23
MOORE, STEPHEN	MED4	20030401	26
MURPHY, DENNIS	TT1	20030501	20
MURRAY, JOAN	EMC	20030401	20
MURRAY, JOHN	TC1	20030301	20
NEEDHAM, PAUL	CDR	20030408	38
NELSON, WILLIAM	MK2	20030310	32
NIELSEN, NIELS	TC1	20030321	24
ONEIL, TIMOTHY	AMT1	20030301	20
ORNELAS, MARTIN	BM1	20030401	20
OSHAUGHNESSY, JOHN	BMCS	20030210	37
OUELLETTE, ROBIN	PERS4	20030401	30
PADRON, MANUEL	MK1	20030301	20
PARNELL, BOBBY	MKCM	20030301	29
PATTERSON, MICHAEL	LT	20030301	20
PAYNE, RHY	TC1	20030501	20
PENNEY, JONATHAN	BMCS	20030501	20
PEREZ, DONALD	ENG3	20030301	23
PETTY, ANDREW	FS1	20030501	20
PFEIFLE, BRIAN	BM2	20030401	20
PHILPOT, CHARLES	LT	20030501	25
PHILYAW, RAYMOND	BOSN2	20030301	23
PITTA, JOHN	CAPT	20030227	31
POOLE, RONALD	LT	20030301	29
RADICE, JAMES	TC1	20030323	40
RALSTON, DONALD	YN1	20030301	20
RAMIREZ, DAVID	TC2	20030401	20
REASER, JOHN	LCDR	20030329	36
REDWINE, VIRGINIA	YN2	20030313	26
REEVES, PAUL	ETCS	20030401	22
RHOADES, WILLIAM	PERS4	20030301	25
RICHARD, JEFFREY	AVT1	20030301	20
RILEY, MARK	LCDR	20030401	20
ROBB, KEVIN	CDR	20030301	27
ROCHE, WILLIAM	AMT1	20030501	20
ROCK, DAVID	YN1	20030501	20
ROHLFS, EDWARD	MKCS	20030321	41
ROSE, CLEVEN	FTC	20030301	20
ROWELL, CHARLES	ET1	20030501	20
RUBENSTEIN, MARC	F&S4	20030216	38
RUNKLE, WILLIAM	GMCS	20030423	39
SAVERY, RALPH	BMC	20030411	29
SCHIFFELBEIN, RANDALL	MAT2	20030501	23
SCHRAMM, WILLIAM	GMC	20030501	20
SCHULTE, PAUL	CDR	20030501	24
SCHWEIGHARDT, ROBERT	PSC	20030307	38
SEALE, BEDFORD	YN2	20030401	20
SERRANO, FERNANDO	BM1	20030501	20
SHELTON, JAMIA	TC2	20030201	20
SHIELDS, ROBERT	LCDR	20030501	29
SIMON, HARRIS	MSTC	20030428	35
SKAHILL, MATTHEW	COMM2	20030501	21
SLUPSKI, RONALD	CDR	20030313	34
SMITH, JAMES	AST1	20030301	22
SOCHA, CHESTER	QMC	20010927	35
SORENSEN, VICTOR	BMC	20030501	20
SORRELL, ROBERT	ENG4	20030201	30
SPEARS, SANDELLA	MST2	20021220	26
STOKES, DARWIN	GM2	20030328	33
SULLIVAN, RAY	AMTC	20030401	24
SWANSON, ROBERT	IVCM	20021126	41
SWEENEY, ROBERT	YN1	20030325	34
TALIANCICH, PETER	BMCM	20030213	38
THOMAS, JAMES	AVT1	20030501	20
THOMAS, MICHAEL	RD2	20030501	20
THOMAS, WAYNE	SK1	20030304	28
THOMPSON, WINSTON	BMC	20030401	25
TINEL, PETER	TCC	20030315	35
TOMPKINS, DAMON	LT	20020924	36
TRAWICK, TERRY	AMT1	20030501	20
TRIPLETT, MICHAEL	ET1	20030401	20
UNGER, LOUIS	CAPT	20030307	38
VANARSDALE, BRUCE	EM1	20030501	20
VANWERRY, JOHN	MK1	20030225	39
WALSH, DEBORAH	AVI2	20030401	24
WANGLER, LOUIS	LT	20030401	20
WARD, MICHAEL	BMC	20030401	20
WASKEVICH, ALBIN	LCDR	20030428	35
WATKINS, JAMES	PS1	20030304	27
WEAVER, ROBERT	AST1	20030501	20
WEST, ROBERT	MK1	20030501	22

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

REST

In America, we hurry--which is well; but when the day's work is done, we go on thinking of losses and gains, we plan for the morrow, we even carry our business cares to bed with us, and toss and worry over them when we ought to be restoring our racked bodies and brains with sleep. We burn up our energies with these excitements, and either die early or drop into a lean and mean old age at a time of life which they call a man's prime in Europe. When an acre of ground has produced long and well, we let it lie fallow and rest for a season; we take no man clear across the continent in the same coach he started in--the coach is stabled somewhere on the plains and its heated machinery allowed to cool for a few days; when a razor has seen long service and refuses to hold an edge, the barber lays it away for a few weeks, and the edge comes back of its own accord. We bestow thoughtful care upon inanimate objects, but none upon ourselves. What a robust people, what a nation of thinkers we might be, if we would only lay ourselves on the shelf occasionally and renew our edges!

- *The Innocents Abroad*

Lake Chiemsee Resort hosts Last Summer Celebration By: Corey Henderson

The Armed Forces Recreation Centers' Chiemsee Resort Area, set in the beautiful Bavarian Alps on the shores of Lake Chiemsee, brings one last summer of rich culture, exciting recreation and peaceful tranquility before closing it's doors for the last time on September 2, 2003.

AFRC Resorts in Europe will host 'Chiemsee's Sunset Summer", a summer long celebration of special events, recreation, tours, all leading to the last day of operations on September 2, 2003. The summer will salute the Chiemsee Resort and it's 58 years serving our nation's Armed Forces as an AFRC Resort.

"Whether you consider Chiemsee an "old friend" or you are simply looking for an excuse to experience it's magic for the first time, from now until September 2, 2003, I urge everyone to take the opportunity to participate in Chiemsee's Last Summer," said Richard LeBrun, General Manager, AFRC Resorts in Europe. "With so many recreation options, there is something for everyone to do at the Chiemsee Resort. It would be a shame to miss out."

A visit to Chiemsee for recreation, beckons guests to get out on the lake. Known as the "Bavarian Sea", Chiemsee is Bavaria's largest lake. With the spectacular Alpine view in the background, Chiemsee is one of the most popular destinations in Germany.

The Chiemsee recreation department can you suit you up for a multitude of water sports for the whole family. Try the famous Sailing Week for only $179, which takes you out on the lake for five days where you'll learn to skipper your own boat. The course includes five days of instruction, log book, and a certificate of completion.

"A Sail week at Chiemsee this summer is a must for anyone wanting to learn the sport,"said Al Warren, AFRC Chiemsee Recreation Director. "There is no where else in the world that will give you this amount of instruction for the price."

Guests can also participate in windsurfing lessons, white water rafting on the nearby Inn River in Austria, and a SCUBA diving course to receive the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) certification. The certificate allows a diver to go out on their own, or enter more advanced classes in the future.

Chiemsee is also a perfect place for the family to hangout at the sun-drenched beach. From there you can jump in for a swim or rent sea kayaks or paddleboats for a fun day on the water.

Not all Chiemsee recreation takes place on the lake. The beautiful alpine region makes a perfect backdrop for hiking, biking and rollerblading with equipment from the fully stocked rental department. Taking a loop on the lakeside trail gives a beautiful perspective to the lake and the surrounding Bavarian resorts.

Make sure to bring the kids! The Chiemsee Just For Kids program for ages 5-7, gives kids a different adventure every day of the week. Activities include sailing, swimming, miniature golf, tours, and much more. During the evenings send them on a Kids Night Out, where the kids can enjoy movies, games, crafts and food, while the parents do their own thing.

Chiemsee's location in the Bavarian Alps, allows a full menu of wonderful tours throughout Bavaria and Southern Europe. The star attraction takes guests on a boat ride across the lake to Herrenchiemsee, King Ludwig's glorious castle. With tours departing daily, this is a do not miss for everyone. Other exciting tour destinations include Salzburg, Berchtesgaden, Vienna, and the Sound of Music tour.

In addition to the ongoing summer recreation programs, Chiemsee will host a full program of special events through out the summer to commemorate "Chiemsee's Sunset Summer". Guests will not want to miss the summer Concert on the Lake series in July, Chiemsee Summer See Fest on August 16, or the Sailing Regatta on August 23. .

Guests are encouraged to contact AFRC to build their own vacation during Chiemsee's last summer. To make reservations for "Chiemsee's Sunset Summer", or find out more information about AFRC programs, visit the AFRC website at www.afrceurope.com or call the Vacation Planning Center at CIV 08821-72981 or DSN 440-2575.

Source: AFRC Web

TAPS

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	RANK	DATE	CITY	STATE OF DEATH
AARON	JOHNNY	BM1	20030429	ALBANY	KY
ALBRECHT	MILOS	SKC	20030211	CHEBOYGAN	MI
AMARAL	ERIC	HS1	20030302	HOMOSASSA	FL
ANGLE	ALLIE	CAPT	20030416	SEMINOLE	FL
ANKRUM	LAWRENCE	BTC	20030224	MT VERNON	WA
ANTHONY	BENEDICT	LTJG	20030428	HARTLAND	ME
BAKER	BRYAN	ETCS	20030330	GLADE	KS
BALZER	PAUL	ELC3	20030323	MYRTLE BEACH	SC
BARBER	FRED	LT	20030414	ROUND HILL	VA
BARCO	LEVY	BMCM	20030223	VIRGINIA BCH	VA
BASNIGHT	WILLIAM	SD1	20030215	ELIZABETH CITY	NC
BAUCHAN	LOUIS	ENC	20030420	CHEBOYGAN	MI
BELLOW	WILLIAM	BOSN4	20030426	COCOA BEACH	FL
BENEVIDES	EVERETT	BM1	20021224	FALL RIVER	MA
BOOLE	MAWOOD	BMLC	20030404	EXMORE	VA
BOYER	JOHN	ENC	20030415	PACIFIC CITY	OR
BRAY	GEORGE	CAPT	20030221	CAPE CORAL	FL
BRIM	CHARLES	GM1	20030116	PANAMA CITY	FL
BROWN	CHARLES	MAT4	20030512	ATMORE	AL
BURKE	PAUL	CAPT	20030413	MARION	MA
BURTON	SAMUEL	CAPT	20030220	LUTHERVILLE	MD
CALICCHIO	DOMENIC	CAPT	20030307	PLANTATION	FL
CALINGASAN	GREGORIO	SS2	20030407	LAKE CHARLES	LA
CAMPBELL	JACK	EMCS	20030207	BELLEVIEW	FL
CAMPBELL	JAMES	MED3	20030331	JUNEAU	AK
CARL	WILLIAM	ENCM	20030423	COLUMBUS	OH
CASALE	ROBERT	COM4	20030509	BRADENTON	FL
CATER	KENNETH	BMCM	20030328	ISLAMORADA	FL
CORNISH	JAMES	CAPT	20030421	MELBOURNE	FL
CREEDON	WILLIAM	CAPT	20030308	BELLINGHAM	WA
CROWE	JOSEPH	CAPT	20030222	PORT ANGELES	WA
DARDZINSKI	JOSEPH	PSC	20030417	BOWIE	MD
DAVIS	JOHN	SDC	20030421	BALTIMORE	MD
DAVIS	LOUIS	BOSN1	20030314	LEAGUE CITY	TX
DILLON	ROY	BM1	20030502	MCCOMB	MS
DONLON	MICHAEL	F&S3	20030131	HENRIETTA	NY
DONOVAN	RONALD	YN2	20030325	LEWES	DE
DOYLE	JAMES	CDR	20030213	THOUSAND OAKS	CA
EDMONDS	JAMES	CWO2	20030501	BARNESVILLE	GA
ELLIS	JESSIE	SS1	20030125	MT. PLEASANT	SC
ELLIS	WAYNE	DCC	20030427	SAN LEANDRO	CA
ENGELBERGER	JOHN	LCDR	20030228	MORRISVILLE	PA
EVANS	DOYLE	DCCS	20030519	KNOXVILLE	TN
FELKER	RAYMOND	GM2	20030407	FAIRVIEW	NM
FETTY	JOSEPH	YNCS	20030421	NORFOLK	VA
FLETCHER	WILLIAM	ENC	20030503	ARNOLD	CA
FONSS	VICTOR	GM1	20030324	NORWAY	NO

If you have lost a loved one and would like their name printed in Dependent TAPs, please contact the Editor with their name, date of death, your name and retired rank, and city/state of residence. You can write the Editor at USCG Retiree Newsletter, PSC (RAS), 444 SE Quincy Street, Topeka, KS 66683; or e-mail the Editor at: "HRSIC-rasnewsletter@hrsic.uscg.mil". You may also fax your request to (785)-339-3772.

FOULKS	CHARLES	YNC	20030331	OLYMPIA	WA
GASKINS	EARL	CSC	20030412	OCRACOKE	NC
GIBBINGS	STUART	DCC	20030225	FULTON	AR
GIBBS	HALLETT	MACH1	20030502	ENGELHARD	NC
GIBBS	SAMUEL	PSC	20030315	NORFOLK	VA
GOLENIECKI	LEONARD	CSC	20030402	HAMILTON SQ	NJ
GROLZ	GEORGE	LCDR	20030319	SPRING HILL	FL
HERNEST	ALEXANDER	PSCS	20030425	MELBOURNE	FL
HIGGINS	DENNIS	BMC	20030413	CLOSTER	NJ
HJALTELIN	LAWRENCE	YNCM	20030507	HUNTINGTON BC	CA
HOLLERBACH	JAMES	AMC	20030409	HUNTINGTON BH	CA
HORNE	LAWRENCE	EMC	20030417	OCALA	FL
HUBBARD	ROBERT	YNC	20030518	FT MYERS	FL
JAKLITSCH	DONALD	BM1	20030402	UNION BEACH	NJ
JESTER	LAWRENCE	ENC	20030421	WACHAPREGUE	VA
JUNTUNEN	TOIVO	LT	20030404	PUYALLUP	WA
KABACZY	MICHAEL	BOSN3	20021222	SILVER SPRING	MD
KARR	HARRY	ENC	20030424	GREELEY	CO
KEARNS	THOMAS	PSS3	20030501	JESSUP	MD
KIBITLEWSKI	EDWARD	AEC	20030501	CLEARWATER	FL
KIERUM	ELTON	TT1	20030303	MARION	TX
KLANG	JOHN	LT	20030223	VENICE	FL
KLIMENT	LAWRENCE	DCC	20030401	ST LOUIS	MO
KRUEGER	WAYNE	RMC	20030219	CASTLE HAYNE	NC
KUHN	RALPH	BM2	20030216	MOUNDSVILLE	WV
LAREZA	SERGIO	SS1	20030316	PHILIPPINES	RP
LAROCHE	RICHARD	BMC	20030416	CEBTERVILLE	VA
LEONARD	WALTER	HMC	20030330	HILLSBORO	OR
LESLIE	KENNETH	ENC	20030214	MUSKEGON	MI
LEVIN	JACOB	LCDR	20030224	TOPANGA	CA
LEWIS	NORMAN	BMC	20030509	LAGRANGE	NC
LIPSEY	L	FS1	20030212	CLARKSVILLE	TN
LLOYD	JOHN	SA	20021221	MESA	AZ
MACDONALD	CATHERINE	LCDR	20030312	NEW ORLEANS	LA
MAGEE	EDWARD	BOSN4	20030215	E STROUDSBURG	PA
MAHONEY	JOSEPH	CDR	20030217	PHILADELPHIA	PA
MANN	BURL	ENG4	20030422	MOORE	OK
MARTINEZ	JOSE	BM1	20030220	PONCE	PR
MASON	EDGAR	ENG2	20030504	STACY	NC
MCALLISTER	HENRY	LT	20030420	KETCHIKAN	AK
MCCLENDON	RICHARD	RMC	20030422	BRANT ROCK	MA
MCDONALD	DON	WEP4	20030311	BUSKIRK	NY
MCKINNEY	ERVIL	MKCS	20030318	POINT HARBOR	NC
METTS	JOHN	CAPT	20030420	WILMINGTON	NC
MICHAELS	CHARLES	LT	20030307	STATEN ISL	NY
MONTGOMERY	JAMES	CDR	20030304	LEBANON	TN
MOORE	ROBERT	RMC	20030317	SEBRING	FL
MORAN	JAMES	DCC	20030213	RUMSON	NJ
MOREL	BERTRAND	AMC	20030419	COVENTRY	RI
MORONG	CLIFTON	EN1	20030515	BREWER	ME
MORRISSEY	JAMES	BM1	20030331	KINGSTON	WA
MULCAHY	THOMAS	ENCM	20030418	BRENTWOOD	CA
MURPHY	EUGENE	ENG4	20030414	NEW PRT RCHY	FL
MYERS	ROBERT	ENCM	20030416	LINNEUS	ME
ONEAL	JIMMY	BM1	20030314	MOYOCK	NC
ORENSTEIN	LEO	HMC	20030401	BROOKLYN	NY
PATTEN	CHARLES	EMC	20030418	BRIDGEPORT	WA
PHARRIS	LILBOURN	CAPT	20030226	OLD LYME	CT
PHILPOT	JULIAN	F&S2	20030428	RENO	NV

PINE	RAYMOND	BMC	20030307	N SMITHFIELD	RI
POLLARD	JAMES	YNC	20030227	MANDEVILLE	LA
PRINS	PAUL	RADM	20030406	MIAMI	FL
RESOSO	ROGELIO	ENG3	20030427	PHILIPPINES	RP
RICHARDSON	EDWARD	CDR	20030513	MIAMI	FL
RIDER	KENNETH	LCDR	20030430	OAK HARBOR	WA
RODGERS	LONNEY	MKCS	20030515	LAS VEGAS	NV
ROUNTREE	JOHN	CAPT	20030516	LONG BEACH	CA
ROWSOM	JOSEPH	SDC	20030227	JAMAICA	NY
SAGERS	STANLEY	ADC	20030520	SARASOTA	FL
SCHERLER	RUDOLPH	ATCS	20030213	SAN MATEO	CA
SCHWINN	CHARLES	BMC	20030406	MT PLEASANT	SC
SCOTT	RAYMOND	BM1	20020307	KEWANEE	IL
SHANAHAN	BRIAN	BMCS	20030315	ARCOLA	MO
SHAW	TERRY	TCC	20030408	ALACHUA	FL
SHERRY	BENJAMIN	CDR	20030415	WALNUT CREEK	CA
SHERWOOD	KENNETH	BOSN4	20030113	FEDERAL WAY	WA
SIBUG	SERVANDO	SSC	20030411	NEW YORK	NY
SIEDLECKI	JOHN	ATCM	20030324	EL CAJON	CA
SLAVIN	CHARLES	BOSN2	20030225	SAN ANTONIO	TX
SMITH	HOWARD	BM1	20030203	POWDER SPRNGS	GA
SNEERINGER	JAMES	YN2	20030110	BRIDGEPORT	CT
SOARS	EVERETT	AMC	20030301	SAN JUAN	PR
SOUZA	RICHARD	BMCS	20030402	WESTBROOK	ME
STEIGER	REX	SN	20030426	LAKE WALES	FL
STIPHANY	RUDOLPH	BMC	20030415	PALM HARBOR	FL
STOLPE	FRANK	ENG4	20030320	SAULT STE MAR	MI
TAMALONIS	JOSEPH	CDR	20030301	BANDON	OR
TOLSON	ARNOLD	BMC	20030226	MANTEO	NC
TOULOUSE	GEORGE	CDR	20021115	SANTA MARIA	CA
TROMBLEY	ARTHUR	EN1	20030313	SANDSTONE	MN
TURNER	LEONARD	ALC	20030507	GULFPORT	MS
VANHAUTER	CARRIE	YN3	20030422	PALMYRA	IN
VEAZEY	GEORGE	CDR	20030320	CLINTON	MD
VINES	STEVEN	MKC	20030506	BAKERSFIELD	CA
WALSH	ARTHUR	LCDR	20030429	PORTLAND	ME
WALTERS	JAMES	BOSN4	20030512	SAFETY HARBOR	FL
WARD	ALVIN	CDR	20030224	BERWYN	PA
WATT	JAMES	CDR	20030411	FARMINGTN HLS	MI
WELTY	KARL	CDR	20030402	MECHANICSBURG	PA
WHITE	RAYMOND	BMC	20030408	LUBBOCK	TX
WHITMAN	CARROLL	LT	20030305	KINGMAN	AZ
WHITTAKER	RAYMOND	TTCS	20030209	PORT OCONNOR	TX
WILLIAMS	NORMAN	QMC	20030325	HEMET	CA
WILLS	WILLIS	CAPT	20021231	SPRINGFIELD	VA
WILSON	ROBERT	BM1	20030409	SUN CITY	FL

Dependent TAPS

Donna L. Anderson, Mother of SSCM Jerome A. Anderson Jr.	March 24, 2003	Moore, OK
Helen Barbara Ann Salem, wife of CWO4 Hassan S. Salem Jr.	March 6, 2003	Westminster, CA
Eileen C. Brooks, wife of ENC John N. Brooks	January 8, 2003	Bethlehem, PA
Bessie F. McGrath, wife of deceased CWO4 Francis W. McGrath	April 20, 2003	The Woodlands, TX

DIRECTORY ASSISTANCE

Coast Guard/NOAA Retired Pay & Annuities

For information on:

- CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR RAS
- CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR NEWSLETTER
- START, STOP OR CHANGE OF ALLOTMENTS

Write, Call or Fax us at:

Commanding Officer (RAS)
Coast Guard Personnel
Service Center
444 SE Quincy Street
Topeka, KS 66683-3591

Toll Free 1-800-772-8724
Commercial (785)339-3415
Email: HRSIC-RAS@HRSIC.USCG.MIL
FAX (785)339-3770

To change Federal Income Tax Withholding (FITW) Form W-4 must be completed, signed, and mailed to:

Commanding Officer (RAS)
Coast Guard Personnel Service Center
444 SE Quincy Street
Topeka, KS 66683-3591

This also includes requests for additional withholdings.

You may submit by letter, Email, Phone or Fax **us for requests to:**

- Change SITW
- Change Banking Info

Write to:

Commanding Officer (RAS)
Coast Guard
Personnel Service Center
444 SE Quincy Street
Topeka, KS 66683-3591

Or FAX to:
(785)339-3770

Report of Death

To report the death of a Coast Guard, NOAA retiree/annuitant, or a Lighthousekeeper call: 1-800-772-8724

Or write:

Commanding Officer(RAS)
Coast Guard Personnel Service
Center
444 SE Quincy Street
Topeka, KS 66683-3591=
Commercial: (785)339-3415
FAX: (785)339-3770

DEERS

Find DEERS & RAPIDS information on the web at: www.dmdc.osd.mil

Call your local ID issuing office or call:

Toll Free: 1-800-538-9552
In CA: 1-800-334-4162
In AK & HI: 1-800-527-5602

TRICARE/Medical

Visit the TRICARE web site at:
"www.tricare.osd.mil/"

Call your CG Health Benefits Advisor at:

1-800-942-2422

Final Active Duty Pay

For information on Severance Pay, Separation Pay, Disability Severance Pay, LES's, IRS Form W-2, while on Active Duty prior to separation/retirement call or write:
Commercial: (785)339-3550

Commanding Officer (SES)
Coast Guard Personnel
Service Center
444 SE Quincy Street
Topeka, KS 66683-3591

Service

Visit the National Personnel Records Center web site at:
www.nara.gov/regional/mpr.html

For copies of DD214's, personnel records, medical & dental records, and service medals - requests must be in writing and include complete name, rank, SSN, dates of service and date of birth. Write to:

National Personnel Records Center
9700 Page Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

Commercial: (314)538-2050

Social Security

Visit the Social Security Administration's web page at:
www.ssa.gov/SSA_home.html

For information about Social Security benefits contact your local Social Security Office or call Toll Free:
1-800-772-1213

VA

Visit the VA's web page at: www.va.gov/

For information about available VA benefits contact your local VA office or call Toll Free:

General Information	**1-800-827-1000**
Insurance Information:	**1-800-669-8477**
Headstones:	**1-800-697-6947**

Veteran's Group Life Insurance

Find information on insurance coverage for veterans including VGLI on the VA's website at www.insurance.va.gov/benefits/insurfaq.htm

For information on VGLI coverage costs and renewal options write or call:

OSGLI
213 Washington Street
Newark, NJ 07102

1-800-419-1473

Travel Claims

Visit the TVL web page at:
www.uscg.mil/hq/hrsic/tvl.htm

For information, call Toll Free: 1-888-872-4885
Or write: Coast Guard Personnel Service Center (TVL)
444 SE Quincy Street
Topeka, KS 66683-3591

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Where are they Now???

To whom it may concern, I retired in August 1997. I was stationed in the US Navy on board the USS Barnstable County (LST-1197) out of Little Creek, Va. In the Coast Guard I have been stationed on the cutters Bibb out of New Bedford, MA, Chase and Hamilton out of Boston, MA and the Thetis out of Key West, FL. I was also stationed at the District Nine Operations Center in Cleveland, Oh. and Coast Guard Atlantic Area Command Center out of Governors Island, NYC. Since I retired I have moved to Big Flats, New York. I work at Toshiba in Horseheads, NY. as a Team Leader in Shipping and Receiving department. In 1998 I began working on a fictional account of my Coast Guard experiences. It is called, "Primary Target" and will soon be available.

Clyde W. Lahnum, RDC, USCG, Retired (8/97)
5 Berry Lane
Big Flats, New York 14814
607-562-8985

Coast Guard Cutter Firebush Decommissions
May 2003

KODIAK, Alaska -- After 59 years of service, three wars, three homeports and more than a half-million nautical miles past the propeller the Coast Guard cutter Firebush retired from military service.

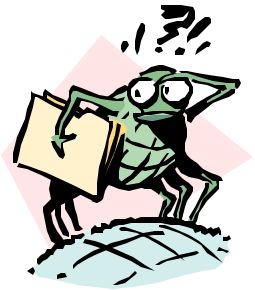
The Firebush was commissioned on July 20, 1942, primarily to conduct aids to navigation duties for the Coast Guard. It has been stationed in New London, Conn., Staten Island, N.Y., and Kodiak.

In addition to the regular duties of aids to navigation, breaking ice, security patrols and search and rescue the Firebush fought a fire at the foot of 35th Street in Brooklyn in Dec. 1956. It served under the Navy during World War II off the coast of Greenland and Iceland. The ship serviced aids to navigation and patrolled the coasts in an effort to prevent the establishment of Nazi weather stations and in 1968 it dumped confiscated weapons at sea.

The Firebush and its crew departed for San Pedro, Calif., where the ship will await the final paperwork before being sold to the Nigerian navy for tender work in the country's oil fields.

NOTE: For those requesting by mail, booklets are being printed at this time. After submitting your request please be patient and they will be mailed as soon as available. The booklet was extensively updated in March 2003, mainly to reflect correct phone numbers and to add Web Links. Most information in previous editions are correct and the Online version is updated as well.

WHEN THE TIME COMES, WILL YOUR SURVIVOR KNOW ----------?



- **How to file a death report**
- **How to claim final retired pay due**
- **How to get the elected survivor annuity started**
- **How to claim other federal benefits that may be due such as:**
  - **Department of Veterans Affairs Entitlements**
  - **Dependency Indemnity Compensation**
  - **Social Security**
  - **ID Cards**
  - **Burial Flags**

After a retiree dies the survivor is faced with applying for many benefits, with little knowledge of the often very confusing processes. All this happens while they are trying to deal with overwhelming grief. To help answer the many questions during that stressful time we have simplified our Survivor Information Booklet. By taking the time now to review this booklet, gather the supporting documents that are required and filing them in a location from which they can be readily retrieved, you can help to ease the stress that is experienced during this time. To further assist your survivors, we have initiated an Express Annuity Start system to simplify the processing and expedite payment of benefits. To take advantage of this new system, fill out the Form HRSIC-1884, (found in booklet or website) sign, date and return to us.

The booklet "**Information for Survivors of USCG, USCGR, and NOAA Retirees**" is available now on our web page:
http://www.uscg.mil/hq/hrsic/manuals-pubs-newsletters/ras/survivorguide.pdf
You may order by providing the following information to us either by mail, fax, or E-mail:

Name and Grade (for Officers) **or Rate** (for enlisted) _____
SSN _____

Address _____
_____

Phone _____

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USCG PSC, ATTN: SURVIVOR PKT
444 SE QUINCY
TOPEKA KS 66683-3591

Fax to: 785-339-3770
E-Mail: hrsic-ras@hrsic.uscg.mil

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