



**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
HEALTH AFFAIRS**

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DEFENSE  
HEALTH AGENCY

August 31, 2015  
(Updated September 30, 2015)

MEMORANDUM FOR: MILITARY MEDICAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY PROGRAM OFFICES  
TRICARE REGIONAL OFFICES  
TRICARE MANAGEDCARE SUPPORT CONTRACTORS  
MILITARY AND VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS  
TRICARE CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMUNITY

SUBJECT: AFFORDABLE CARE ACT & TRICARE TOOL KIT

This memo outlines the beneficiary education products included in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and TRICARE Tool Kit and the intended use for these items. DHA Communications is working with the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC), the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), Coast Guard (CG) Pay Center, Public Health Service (PHS) Pay Center, the Services, TRICARE Regional Offices (TROs) and regional contractors to educate our beneficiaries on: (1) TRICARE and Minimum Essential Coverage (MEC), (2) IRS forms for tax season 2015, and (3) importance of updating SSNs and other personal information in DEERS. MHS communications policy on this issue is **ACTIVE**; however, please direct all media queries to MHS Strategic Communications for response. Included in MTF Tool Kit:

Name	Product	Intent	Audience
DFAS.mil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Your taxes and the Affordable Care Act</a></li> <li><a href="#">ACA Tax Information</a></li> </ul>	DFAS will begin providing IRS Forms 1095, Jan. 2016. The form will be necessary for taxpayers (beneficiaries) to file their 2015 federal income tax return	ALL
DFAS Retiree Newsletter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">The July 2015 Retiree Newsletter</a></li> </ul>	Information about ACA reporting, auditing your account, updating your email addresses, and protecting your account from fraud	ALL
DFAS SmartDocs	 Prepare for Tax Season Now.pdf  The ACA, your taxes and you.pdf  Info on Tax Reporting Requirements	DFAS Emails/Smartdocs to Service Members, Retirees, and Annuitants the first week of each month	ALL
DFAS FAQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">ACA FAQs</a></li> </ul>	The FAQs are for the Military, Retirees, Annuitants and Civilians population	ALL

TRICARE.mil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">TRICARE and the Affordable Care Act</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Proof of Minimum Essential Coverage</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System</a></li> </ul>	Refer beneficiaries to TRICARE.mil for updates	ALL
Information Paper	 Updating SSNs and DEERS Info Paper.pdf	Updating SSNs and DEERS: background information	Leadership
TRICARE Publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">TRICARE and the Affordable Care Act Fact Sheet</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Registering in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System Fact Sheet</a></li> </ul>  ACA Slide_2015_092215_!	Provides information on ACA and TRICARE, as well as the requirement for beneficiaries to update their SSN and personal information in DEERS	ALL
TRICARE.mil FAQ Page	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.tricare.mil/FAQs.aspx">http://www.tricare.mil/FAQs.aspx</a></li> </ul>	Use “DEERS” / “ACA” or “MEC” as a keyword in the search engine	ALL
TRICARE.mil Story	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Prepare for Tax Season Now, Register Your Family in DEERS</a></li> </ul>  Prepare for Tax Season Now.pdf	For background information, and for local release/repurposing	ALL
Defense.mil Story	<a href="http://www.defense.gov/News-Article-View/Article/617180/check-health-care-compliance-before-tax-season-kicks-off-official-says">http://www.defense.gov/News-Article-View/Article/617180/check-health-care-compliance-before-tax-season-kicks-off-official-says</a>	For background information, and for local release/repurposing	ALL
Social Media	 SSN Initiative_71315.pdf	For background information, and for local release/repurposing	Comm. Partners
Podcasts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.tricare.mil/podcasts">http://www.tricare.mil/podcasts</a></li> <li>• #312, Tax Season</li> </ul>	For background information, and for local release/repurposing	ALL
DMA/RTPO Youtube “Hot Spot”	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2IZO0dEhC2s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2IZO0dEhC2s</a>	myPay opt-in information/repurposing	ALL
TRICARE News Article	<a href="http://www.tricare.mil/openenrollment093015">http://www.tricare.mil/openenrollment093015</a>	For background information, and for media release/repurposing	ALL

The objectives of the MHS Strategic communications strategy is to ensure beneficiaries understand: (1) DFAS, CG Pay Center, PHS Pay Center will report their health care coverage to the IRS; (2) beneficiaries will get IRS Form 1095 which documents MEC for the sponsor and

their family members; and (3) beneficiaries whose pay or annuity are serviced by DFAS can opt to get the form electronically by using [myPay](#). The Defense Department is encouraging service members, retirees, and annuitants to receive their 2015 ACA forms from the [myPay](#) website if possible in order to cut costs to the Department and provide a convenience to the beneficiary.

**Caveat:** Only those members, retired members, and annuitants serviced by DFAS (i.e., receive some type of pay) can opt in to receive their tax forms electronically. Those eligible for TRICARE that do not receive pay from DFAS (survivors whose sponsors did not participate in SBP, unmarried former spouses still eligible for TRICARE but do not receive a portion of the member's pay, Medal of Honor recipients and their dependents, etc.) will get their forms in the mail. Also, all members, retired members, and annuitants serviced by the Coast Guard or Public Health Services (USPHS) Pay Centers will get their forms in the mail from their respective pay center.

For the Uniformed Services reporting, for those that transition from Active Duty to any other status during 2015, the member or former member will get an IRS form 1095C (for AD care during 2015) and a IRS Form 1095B (for all other statuses during 2015). For those who were enrolled in CHCBP in 2015, they will get their IRS Form 1095B via Humana on DHA's behalf.

The potential exists that if sponsors have not kept their information updated in DEERS, to include SSN, the Pay Centers may be unable to report Minimum Essential Coverage for all dependents to the IRS, which could result in a tax penalty. It could result in an untimely inconvenience to the sponsor to update their information at a RAPIDS location (ID card office) during a busy tax season.

For questions regarding the communications plan, please contact Jean Hogue, MHS Strategic Communications, (240) 750-7161, [jean.e.hogue.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:jean.e.hogue.ctr@mail.mil).

**Please refer all media queries to:**

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// SIGNED //

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