

Guam
Retiree
Activities
Office

Serving Those Who Have Served or Still Serving



*Serving the Retired Military Community of Guam
and Surrounding Pacific Islands*



find current retiree and veteran news and information 24/7 | facebook.com/GuamRAO

FETROW CREATIONS



TO
THOSE
WHO WEAR MY
COUNTRY'S
UNIFORM AT
CHRISTMAS...

Thank You



**TIME TO
SERVE**
THE ONES WHO
SERVED



Guam Retiree Activities Office Newsletter

December 2013 Special
Volume 3, Issue 5

Guam Retiree Activities Office

BG Steven D. Garland

36th Wing Commander

Col Jason R. Armagost

36th Wing Vice Commander

Col John J. Dunks

36th MSG Commander

CMSgt (Ret) David Ehlers

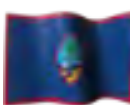
RAO Director/Newsletter Editor

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*The Guam Retiree Activities Office
Andersen Air Force Base, Guam
wishes all
Retired, Active Duty, Guard, Reserve
Merry Christmas
Happy New Year*



Guam RAO Director's Comments



Greetings Fellow Retirees, Veterans, Spouses, Widows and Widowers, dependents and beneficiaries.

First and foremost, Hafa Adai & Thank You for your service to our great nation and your contributions to our country's history & future.

This newsletter is a special end of year edition – – – I wanted to take a moment to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season no matter where you are or how you spend this time of year.

I also wanted to give a shout out to everyone who made the 2013 Retiree Appreciation Day such a great success. With the increase in support from both the volunteers and the attendees, I can only envision next year's event to be even better.

CONTACT US at: Guam.RAO@us.af.mil or Guam.RAO@gmail.com or calling 671-366-2574.

Hours: *(based on volunteers availability & schedule)*

Mailing Address:

Guam Retiree Activities Office
36 MSG, RAO
Unit 14041
APO AP 96543-4041

Lastly, I needed to put out some reminders of issues of concern at this time of year regarding your pay and benefits.

Respectfully yours,

Dave

David L. Ehlers, CMSgt (Ret), USAF
Director, Guam Retiree Activities Office

REMEMEBR - the Guam RAO is for the entire Guam Military retiree and veteran community – all services, all ranks - as well as their dependents.

Please let me know if there are any issues or concerns you need assistance with or would like to see articles, comments or other information on.

“You Served – You Deserve”

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Articles appearing in this newsletter are compiled from local sources, newsletters received by the RAO, and from other military sources. Information has been edited and reprinted for the benefit of our retiree population. Absolutely no commercial gain is derived from this publication.

VA warns of marketing scam

The Department of Veterans Affairs recently posted an alert on its Facebook page warning of a marketing scam targeting veterans....

A marketing company has purchased telephone numbers that differ by one digit from the VA's national call center and the GI Bill call center.

Callers who misdial and reach the fraudulent numbers will be offered a gift card in exchange for personal and financial information -- including credit card information.

According to the warning, after the caller's information is obtained, they may even be transferred to the VA number they were attempting to reach.

The VA will never ask for credit card or banking information over the phone. Law enforcement authorities have been notified of the situation.

The VA's national call center number is 800-827-1000, and the GI Bill call center's number is 888-442-4551. VA's customer service numbers can be verified online at <https://iris.custhelp.com/>.

by Claudette Roulo, American Forces Press Service

SCAMS
TARGET YOU
PROTECT YOURSELF

Retiree Appreciation Day 2013

~ **THANK YOU to EVERYONE** ~

who attended or helped out

~ **11th Annual Retiree Appreciation Day** ~

~ **144 in attendance**

40 of 46 vendors attended (w/ 70 personnel assisting)

THANKS to the Coral Reef Fitness Center Staff for event accommodations.

THANKS to the 36 CES troops who did all the cooking, prep and serving for the lunch.

THANKS to the AAFB honor guard.

Thanks to the following

SPONSORS:

Guam Pacific Daily News

Exchange New Car Sales

36 FSS Marketing

Pacific Sign Shop

Defense Commissary Agency

AAFB Top 3

VFW Post 1509

AAFB Chief's Group

Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter 1560

AAFB Company Grade Officer's Council

AAFB Network 5/6

Fleet Reserve Association BR73

Latte Stone Lodge #5

Thanks to the following Supporters

for their Donations:

AAFB Exchange

Personal Finance Center

Defense Commissary Agency

Jamaican Grill

36 Force Support Squadron

Archway, Inc.

MITECO Pacific

Matson Navigation, Inc.

(apologies if I forgot someone)

THANKS to all the active duty members and spouses who helped with advertising, parking, set-up, registration, cooking and clean-up.

and of course,

Special THANKS to Lt Israel Brito, MSgt Jeffrey Womack and MSgt Alicia Tyler *for leading the Planning committee and ensuring such a successful event.*

If you attended and did not get a chance to ask your specific questions, let me know and I will get it to the proper folks. If you did not get a change to fill out a feedback – please let me know any concerns or issues – so we can continue to improve your event.

If you were not able to attend this year's event – hope to see you next year!



An Airman's Christmas



*Tw'as the night before Christmas and down in The Zone
 The Airmen were working, Nobody was home
 Tw'as just about midnight, As they all made their way
 To take a small break, Before Christmas day
 Tw'as quiet and calm, Not a single man spoke
 They thought about home, But nobody broke
 Tw'as then Christmas morning, And down in The Zone
 Some of the Airmen Were then missing home.
 Tw'as the saddest of sights, No family around
 No presents to see, Not a single sound
 Tw'as then that they realized, That they belonged there
 For they made a difference, And no one else cared
 Tw'as the day of Christmas, And whilst some tears did fall
 None were of sorrow, Oh no not at all
 Tw'as the difference they made, Down in The Zone
 The Airmen then feasted, And then their pride showed
 Tw'as past Christmas time, Down in The Zone
 The Airmen finished their jobs
 And then they went home*

This Christmas season brings to mind, the many mothers, fathers, husband, wives, children, brothers, sisters and families who will go through this time while remembering a loved who gave it all!!

I know you will not forget but, let's remind all to reach out to a hurting family and wrap them in our warmth, friendliness and love. Support them and constantly remind our communities that their freedom is at a high cost. For all of you who wrote that same check....I am so grateful.

It's likely we will all see things differently but one thing I will never see differently is you...brothers and sisters in purpose and service. *Dave*

TRICARE Updates / Info



New TRICARE.mil “I Want To...” Feature Offers Easy Access to Popular Customer Service Options

TRICARE beneficiaries now have an easy way to access customer service features. The TRICARE.mil home page has a new “I want to...” section offering beneficiaries a gateway to links that help them manage their health care from prescriptions to enrollments and much more.

The “I want to...” section of TRICARE.mil launched Dec. 1, 2013. The redesigned home page focuses on tools for beneficiaries to manage their health care benefits. “I want to...” has quick links to secure login portals for more than a dozen customer service features including:

- Managing prescriptions
- Enrolling or purchasing a plan
- Finding a doctor
- Updating personal information
- Filing or checking on a claim
- Paying a bill
- Booking appointments at a military hospital or clinic
- Changing a primary care physician
- Viewing military health records



Many beneficiaries may not even know these resources are available online. The new look TRICARE.mil home page is a hub for beneficiaries to manage their health care benefits from the comfort of home or on the go with mobile sites. Mobile, online and toll-free customer service options are time savers and prevent unnecessary trips to a military hospital or clinic.

Other common requests, such as comparing plans or seeing what’s covered, are also featured in the “I want to...” section as well as links to download forms, or subscribe to TRICARE email alerts.

SOURCE: TRICARE News Release at http://tricare.mil/CoveredServices/BenefitUpdates/Archives/12_3_13_Iwantto.aspx

TRICARE Retiree Dental UPDATE!

The new TRDP changes will be starting on January 1st, although all the new info is already out.

The annual maximum has increased from \$1200 to \$1300 per person/per year.

The Ortho benefit has increased from \$1500 to \$1750 per person/per lifetime (not age restrictive).

The emergency benefit has increased from \$1000 to \$1200 per person/per year.

People with type 1 or 2 diabetes are now covered for 3 cleanings per year.

In addition to all that, monthly premiums have decreased!

To find rates or other pertinent program information please visit the new TRDP website which is included

<http://trdp.org/>.

TRICARE Retiree Dental Program

- Authorized by the U.S. government especially for Uniformed Services retirees and their families
- Members of the National Guard/Reserve in Retired Reserve status are eligible, including “gray-area” retirees under age 60
- Special enrollment opportunity for new retirees
- Comprehensive coverage under the Enhanced Program includes crowns, bridges, dentures, orthodontics and dental implants
- Affordable premiums, choice of dentists
- Enhanced Program coverage now available for enrollees living overseas



www.trdp.org



888-838-8737

DFAS / MyPay updates

Make Sure DFAS Has Your Email Address

DFAS uses the email address you provide in [myPay](#) to send you newsletters, breaking news, notifications when your account statements and 1099R tax statements are available, and your Password or Login ID if you forget it.

Have you gotten a copy the quarterly Retiree Newsletter in your inbox lately? If you haven't, you might need to update or add your email address in [myPay](#).

Log in to your account today to make sure your email address is current!

Don't have a myPay account –get one today at:

<http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/newsevents/newsletter/createmypayacct.html>

DFAS Retiree & Annuitant Pay is primarily a payroll office. We establish and maintain military retired pay and annuity accounts, and issue monthly payments to both military retirees and their eligible survivors.

- Regular and Reserve Retirement payments
- Temporary and Permanent Disability Retirement payments
- Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay
- Combat Related Special Compensation payments
- Survivor Benefit Plan

Customer Service Reps available:
Toll Free 1-800-321-1080 Opt 1
Mon thru Fri – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Eastern Time)
<https://mypay.dfas.mil>



End-of-Year DFAS Mailing of Retiree Account Statements and 1099Rs –

Along with the holidays, there's one thing retirees and annuitants can look forward to shortly after winter begins – their annual Retiree Account Statements and 1099R tax documents.

The IRS Forms 1099R for the 2013 tax year will become available online in mid-December. People with an online myPay can access their forms the minute they are available; however, people without a myPay account may not receive their forms until mid-January.

Please note that 1099R's are not automatically issued for deceased members. If next-of-kin or another representative needs a 1099R on the behalf of someone who passed away, a certificate of death must be on file, and they must request that a 1099R be issued.

Retiree Account Statements are available each month for people with an online myPay account (another reason for retirees to sign-up for myPay). Although DFAS has not announced specific mailing dates for those people who rely on mailed statements, the RAS is normally mailed along with the 1099R.

See the **"2013 tax statement delivery schedule"** on the next page...

Why use myPay?

Information is made available faster electronically. This is why **myPay** users get their W-2s and 1099s up to a week earlier than those who wait for the mail to arrive. Retrieving tax statements and other pay information online is a lot more secure as long as they protect their password.

There is also convenience in printing W-2s and 1099's when they're needed rather than searching through papers, files and drawers for an envelope you received weeks or months before.

The DFAS website has information about online security at

<http://www.dfas.mil/pressroom/onlineprotection/mypaysecurity.html>.

2013 tax statement delivery schedule

INDIANAPOLIS (Dec. 3, 2013) – Pay customers of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service are scheduled to receive their 2013 tax statements between mid-December through January.

Most of the W-2 and 1099 forms will be available a week earlier via the online [myPay](#) pay account management system for active duty and reserve military members, retired military members, annuitants and federal civilian employees paid by DFAS.

2013 tax statement *myPay* and USPS mail schedule:

Form/Document	Date available on <i>myPay</i>	Dates mailed via the U.S. Postal Service
Retiree Account Statement	Dec 5, 2013	Dec 19, 2013 to Jan 10, 2014
Retiree 1099R	Dec 18, 2013	Dec 19, 2013 to Jan 10, 2014
Annuitant Account Statement (AAS)	Dec 15, 2013	Dec 19, 2013 – Jan 10, 2014
Annuitant 1099R	Dec 15, 2013	Dec 19, 2013 – Jan 10, 2014
Military VSI/SSB W-2 *	Not available via <i>myPay</i>	Jan 5-10, 2014
Civilian employee W-2 (DoD/Non-DoD)	Jan 5, 2014	Jan 8-12, 2014
Reserve Army, Navy, Air Force W-2	Jan 8, 2014	Jan 10-14, 2014
Army Non-Appropriated Fund Civilian Pay W-2 **	Jan 14, 2014	Not available via USPS
Marine Corps Active & Reserve W-2	Jan 15, 2014	Jan 16-20, 2014
Vendor Pay 1099	Not available via <i>myPay</i>	Jan 20-31, 2014
Savings Deposit Program 1099INT	Jan 23, 2014	Jan 23-24, 2014
Active Duty Army, Navy, Air Force W-2	Jan 24, 2014	Jan 24-29, 2014
Vendor Pay MISC W-2	Jan 31, 2014	Jan 20-31, 2014
Travel PCS W-2 ***	Jan 31, 2014	Jan 20-31, 2014

NOTES:

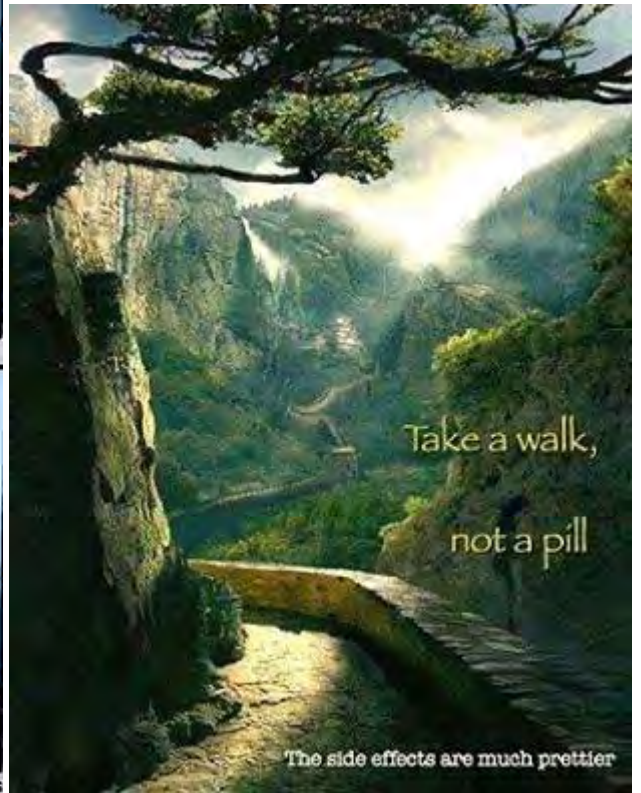
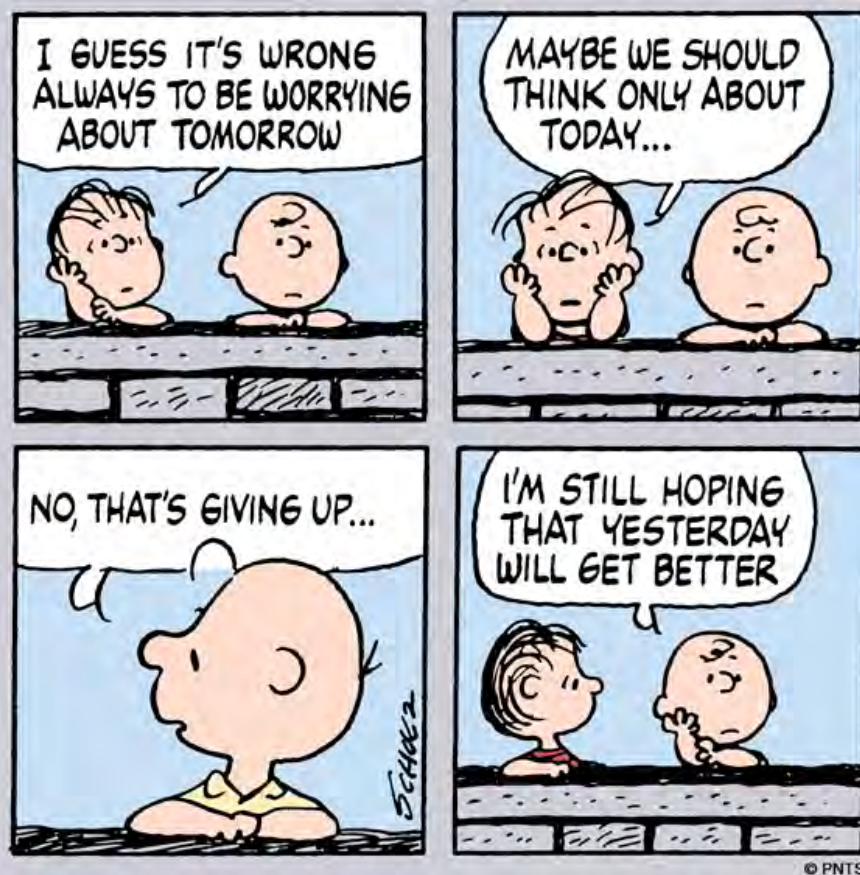
* VSI/SSB: Voluntary Separation Incentive/Special Separation Benefit

** PCS: Permanent Change of Station

*** Military non-appropriate fund civilian employees receive tax statements from their respective military service. Army NAF employee tax statements are made available via *myPay*.

Smartphone myPay users beware! App stores are offering myPay apps claiming to make your smartphone access easier or more productive. WRONG! Other than the DFAS Info2Go app, there are no officially sanctioned myPay apps and those that are available only take you to the myPay mobile site already available and designed specifically for smartphones and tablets. Those who download and use the third party apps may even have their user names and passwords compromised without their knowledge. See the alert from the [Army's Computer Crime Investigative Unit](#) for more info.

SOMETHING TO PONDER – The humor of life



Dear Optimist, Pessimist and Realist,
 While you guys were busy arguing about the glass, of water, I drank it!
 Sincerely, the Opportunist

Military Retiree Websites: A Wealth of Information

ARMY

<http://www.armyg1.army.mil/rso/>

NAVY

http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/support/retired_activities

AIR FORCE

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

MARINES

https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/portal/page/portal/M_RA_HOME/MM/SR/RET_ACT

COAST GUARD

<http://www.uscg.mil/retiree/>

ALL SERVICES

DFAS

<http://www.dfas.mil/>

TriCare

<http://www.tricare.mil/>

TriCare Dental

<http://www.trdp.org/>

Military Records

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/>

Casualty Assistance

<http://www.militaryonesource.mil/casualty>

General Information / News

<http://www.militaryonesource.mil/>

<http://www.military.com/benefits/>

For those of you with computer access, you can get a lot more up-to-date information as well as specific answers to your questions, just by going to these websites.

This is not a complete list and we will post more useful sites in future newsletters. You can find community use computers at the Guam RAO, Andersen AFB and Naval Base Guam Libraries, as well as other locations (Library and Senior Citizen Centers) across the island.

Visit any of these locations to access these sites, update accounts, download forms and statements, etc.

2013 US Military Handbooks

<http://militaryhandbooks.com/>



[transition](#) [VA](#) [veteran](#) [education](#) [career](#) [Tricare](#) [finances](#) [gi bill](#) [jobs](#) [medical](#) [retirement](#) [benefits](#)

Someone once asked me
how I hold my head up so high
after all I've been through.
I said, it's because of what I've been
through that I am who I am...
a **Survivor!**
- Unknown Author





Guam Retiree Activities Office Newsletter

Serving the Retired Military Community in Guam and Surrounding Pacific Islands

Mailing Address: 36MSG ATTN: Guam RAO Unit 14041 APO AP 96543-4041	Phone: DSN: 315-366-2574 Commercial: (671) 366-2574 <i>Please leave a message and we will return you call as soon as possible.</i>	Social Media: Email: Guam.RAO@us.af.mil or Guam.RAO@gmail.com Webpage: http://www.andersen.af.mil/units/retireeactivitiesoffice/index.asp Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/GuamRAO Twitter: http://twitter.com/Guam_RAO
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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Saipan RAO PO Box 506680 Saipan MP 96950-0000	Hours: 0900 - 1200, Mon, Wed, Fri Phone: 607-288-3021 email: PeterC11@yahoo.com
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Have you had Great Service or Want to Report a Problem or Concern – Use the DoD ICE System.
Select your service and area, then the Community (installation), then service provider.
[\[http://ice.disa.mil/\]](http://ice.disa.mil/)



Request your assistance –

*please forward this newsletter to as many friends and family as you can –
encourage your fellow military retirees / survivors to provide us an email address so
they can keep in touch with the latest news. **Senseramente***

Guam Retiree Activities Office
36 MSG
Unit 14041
APO, AP 96543-4041

OFFICAL BUSINESS
Return Service Requested