

Retiree Appreciation Day



Fort Detrick, MD
November 8, 2012

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Deputy Chief, Army Retirement Services
Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1



**My goal today
is to deliver a
CLEAR
message**





**I'll TRY to
alleviate some
of your worries**



Church Of The Cross

DONT LET WORRIES
KILL YOU
LET THE CHURCH
HELP

United Methodist Church

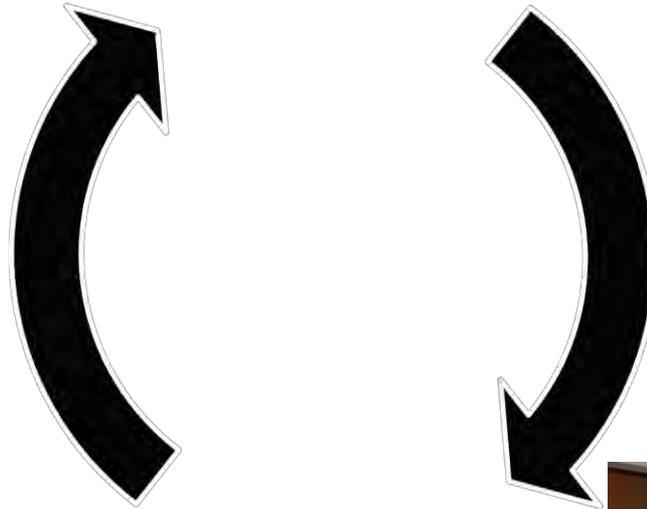


**I'm always
optimistic**





HQDA



Installations





Retirees ARE



- Force Multipliers
- Recruiters/Influencers
- Strong supporters of
 - PX – \$\$ to MWR
 - Commissary – DeCA attributes nearly 50% of its \$6B in FY11 sales to retirees
 - Military organizations – Provide millions of volunteer hours

So, our support of YOU should be conducted by full-time, appropriated fund employees

DFAS paid \$17.1B in retired and annuitant pay to Soldiers and surviving spouses in FY11

TRICARE spent \$20.25B on direct health care for Retirees in FY11 -- 54.9% of all direct health care costs



The Human Brain Sees the Big Picture

According to a research at Cambridge University, it doesn't matter in what order the letters in a word are, the only important thing is that the first and last letter be in the right place.

The rest can be a total mess and you can still read it without problem

This is because the human mind does not read every letter by itself, but the word as a whole.



Population Served -- Growing

<u>Year</u>	<u>Active Soldiers</u>	<u>Retired Soldiers</u>
1920	204,000	6,000
1950	593,000	42,000
1960	873,000	102,000
1970	1,323,000	282,000
1980	777,000	425,000
1990	732,000	489,000
2000	482,000	526,000

Active Soldiers
Retired Soldiers
1993

**In FY11, the Army paid \$17.1 Billion
in retired and annuitant pay to
Retired Soldiers and surviving
spouses**





Army Retirement Services

An Army Program Since 1955

***Retirement is a Process;
NOT an Event!***

About 28,000 Soldiers retire each year

2012 Population Served	Active Army			Retired Soldiers		Surviving Spouses	Total
	<u>ARNG</u>	<u>USAR</u>					
	565,463	361,561	204,803	878,403	249,162	2.26M	

Pre-Retirement Policy

- 120 Retirement Services Officers
- USAR/ARNG Initiatives
- Active Duty Death SBP
- MyArmyBenefits Website
- Pre-Retirement Counseling
- SBP/RCSBP Counseling
- Retiring Soldier Commendation Program
- SBP Counselor Certification

Post-Retirement Policy

- Lifetime benefits advice & support
- Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)
- Annuity for Certain Military Surviving Spouses
- *Army Echoes* Newsletter
- CSA & Installation Retiree Councils
- Retiree Appreciation Days
- Strategic communications & websites
- AAFES/DeCA/AFRH Advisory Boards
- Army Family Action Plan GOSC

AR 600-8-7 – “Retirement Services Program”



First . . .

**Some *GOOD NEWS*
about your benefits**



Temporary Early Retirement Authority (TERA)

- Public Law 112-81, NDAA for FY 2012, Section 504, 31 DEC 2011
- Retirement with 20 years of service is still the standard
- This TERA is discretionary authority, not an entitlement
- Intended for
 - NCOs on active duty denied continued service as a result of the Qualitative Service Program who have 15-20 years of service
 - Officers/warrant officers on active duty at risk for continued service by virtue of non-selection for advancement who have 15-20 years of service
 - Soldiers pending evaluation for disability retirement are NOT eligible
- Interested Soldiers who qualify should contact HRC or NGB G-1.



Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)

- SBP annuity now 55% FOREVER (no reduction at 65)
- Paid up after Age 70 AND making 360 monthly payments
- \$1.39B were distributed to 149K Army SBP annuitants in FY11 (about \$10K per annuitant)
- Active Duty Soldiers are “enrolled” in SBP at no cost to them
- Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance
 - For surviving spouses of Soldiers who die on Active Duty when their SBP Benefits are off set by the VA’s Death & Indemnity Compensation

--FY13: \$90/month

--FY15: \$200/month

--FY14: \$150/month

--FY16: \$275/month

--FY17: \$310/month



Concurrent Retirement & Disability Pay (CRDP)

- In FY 11, DOD paid \$5.3B to 319,000 retirees
(Avg = \$16.5K/yr)

Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC)

- In FY 11, DoD paid \$881M to 76,000 retirees
(Avg = \$11.5K/yr)



TRICARE Improvements

- **Elimination of TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery Copays for Generic Drugs:**
 - Generic drugs were \$3 for a 90-day supply, now \$0
 - Brand name drugs still \$9; Non-formulary drugs were \$22, now \$25
- **TRICARE Retired Reserve:** TRICARE is available to Gray Area retirees, though it's not subsidized by the federal government



TRICARE Improvements

- **TRICARE For Life**: TRICARE acts as secondary payer to Medicare, minimizing your out-of-pocket expenses.
- **TRICARE Young Adult Program**: TRICARE for unmarried dependents under 26 who are not eligible for their own employer-sponsored care. Cost is \$186/month for TRICARE Standard.



MyArmyBenefits (MAB)

- **Benefit Library (1)**
 - Federal Fact Sheets
 - State and Territory Benefits Fact Sheets
 - Resource Locators
- **Benefit Calculators (2)**
 - Retirement
 - Survivor Benefits
 - Deployment Calculator
- **Benefits Help Desk Operations (3)**
- **Wounded Warrior Special Module (4)**
 - Disability Ratings Estimator
 - Sustaining Income Calculator
- **Casualty Operations Special Module (5)**
 - Survivor Benefits Report

<http://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil>

Links directly to DEERS information through AKO Single Sign On Authentication. Content available in English and Spanish with click of button

The screenshot shows the MyArmyBenefits website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, Benefit Library, Benefit Calculators, News, Help, and Español. A search bar is located on the right. The main content area features a large banner with a soldier and a woman, with three numbered callouts (1, 2, 3) pointing to different sections. Below the banner, there are several articles and sections, including 'Changes to MyArmyBenefits', 'MyArmyBenefits is the Official Army Benefits Website', 'Finding Your Benefits is as Easy as 1 - 2 - 3!', 'Suicide Prevention', 'Local Moves and Rental Foreclosure', 'Need Help with Army Benefits?', 'Helpful Deployment Links', and 'After Deployment'. On the right side, there are several vertical modules: 'SPECIAL MODULES' (with callout 4), 'NEED BENEFITS HELP?', 'FEDERAL BENEFITS', 'STATE / TERRITORY BENEFITS', and 'BENEFIT NEWS'. A fifth callout (5) points to the 'SPECIAL MODULES' section.



Echoes

- Official Army newsletter for Retired Soldiers and their Families
- 3 issues/year: JAN, MAY, SEP
- Mailed to **980K** readers at \$0.35/reader
- Emailed to **60K** readers at \$0/reader
- Sign up for *e-Echoes* at http://www.armyg1.army.mil/rso/echoes_reg.asp
- Android, iPhone, and iPad apps available now; Nook, Kindle, other eBook versions available soon
- ALARACT 340/2011: Starting 1 JAN 12, all retiring Soldiers ***must*** sign up for *e-Echoes* during out processing; no longer eligible for the hard copy edition





Other Improvements

- **Army Career and Alumni Program (ACAP):**
Job assistance workshops, individual counseling, job search resources, and resume preparation FOR LIFE
- **Removal of the Social Security Numbers from ID Cards**
- **Cost of Living Allowance**
 - 2011 = 0%
 - 2012 = 3.6%
 - 2013 = 1.7%



Federal Long-Term Care Program

- **YOU ARE eligible!**
- **Covers certain care NOT covered by TRICARE**
- **Enroll anytime -- no “Open Season” wait**
- **Statistic: 1 in 4 chance of spending \$100K**
- **More info at: www.ltcfeds.com**
- **Call toll-free: 1-800-582-3337**





2012 CSA Council Report

Healthcare Goals:

- 1) Limit future cost increases so as not to exceed the annual rate of growth of retirement pay
- 2) Support pre-tax payment of TRICARE fees and premiums
- 3) Extensively market elimination of copayments for generic and chronic care drugs to encourage use of TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery. Consider making TPHD mandatory for chronic care drugs.



2012 CSA Council Report

STRATCOM Goals:

- Add Retirees to senior leader talking points
- Incorporate benefits instruction to Soldiers' leadership courses
- Keep funding hard copy *Echoes*, but devote resources to expanding *e-Echoes*
- Maintain funding level for pre and post transition services for all installations
- Give Soldiers 12-18 months to complete transition requirements.
- Complete establishment of USAR/ARNG RSOs



2012 CSA Council Report

Other Hot Topics:

- Do not change the retired pay formulas
- Space available air travel for surviving spouses
- Spouses Indefinite ID card at age 65 (versus age 75)
- Change law to forgive overpayment after death
- Offer space available child care services for medical retirees for 6 months after retirement







And Some Challenges We'll Face . . .

**Because The Only
Constant is Change**



Challenges

- The Federal Budget: No Short-Term, Quick Fix
- TRICARE Prime Fee Increases
 - 2012: \$9.28S/\$18.56F per year (269.28S/\$538.56F)
 - 2013: Depends on inflation
- Military Retirement Pay
 - Changes are unknown
 - Any change would likely be grandfathered



Closing Thoughts

- We are not just an ARMY at war – we are a NATION at war! (*Chief of Staff, Army*)
- Much of our success hinges on **KEY INFLUENCERS** who encourage the notion of service-before-self!
- YOU are **CENTERS OF INFLUENCE** in your communities and the Army and Nation needs YOU!
- Wear the Retired Soldier Pin & display the decal **PROUDLY**



Thank You for YOUR Service!

