

Afterburner

NEWS FOR USAF RETIRED PERSONNEL

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Combat-Related Special Compensation Many vets missing out on money

Just because an Air Force veteran was not injured storming the beaches at Normandy does not mean he or she may not be entitled to receive Combat-Related Special Compensation.

Many Air Force veterans may be missing out on hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars every month because they have not applied for the compensation, said Ann Lacey of the CRSC office at the Air Force Personnel Center here.

"Don't let the term 'combat' throw you; there are many circumstances which are combat related that could justify approval of extra tax-free money for you!" she said.

CRSC is designed to restore military retirement pay that has been offset by Department of Veterans Affairs compensation when evidence exists to confirm the associated disabilities are combat related. For example, if a veteran is currently rated for a disability of 10 percent with the VA, he or she receives a check from the VA for \$115 each month, but his or her retired pay is reduced by that same amount. If that disability is found to be combat-related by the CRSC review board, he or she would continue to receive the monthly check from the VA for \$115 along with the remainder of the retired pay, but begin to receive an additional monthly check from CRSC for \$115.

Many disabilities that resulted from conditions during

peacetime may meet the criteria for CRSC, said Ms. Lacey. As examples she cites an aircraft mechanic who works on the flight line and begins to lose his hearing while in-service; a personnel technician who dives for cover during a simulated air raid and injures her shoulder; and a pararescue journeyman who makes a peacetime parachute jump and breaks his ankle upon landing.

"If you're not sure the circumstances surrounding your disability meet the combat-related criteria, it would be beneficial for you to apply for CRSC and let the board make a determination for you," Ms. Lacey said.

There are a few prerequisites to consider before submitting an application. To meet the basic eligibility **(See CRSC on Page 3)**

SBP officials offer reminders to military retiree community

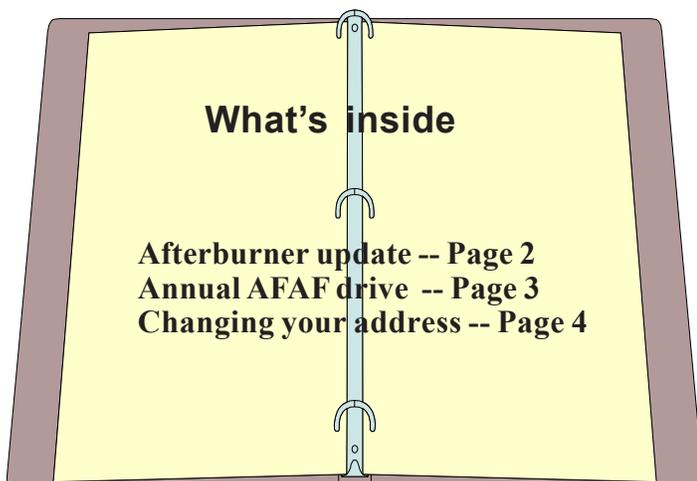
Survivor Benefit Plan officials offer the following reminders to members of the military retiree community:

The SBP "Paid Up" provision which allows retirees to stop paying premiums after 30 years of premium payment and reaching age 70 does not go into effect until Oct 1, 2008. Retired pay received in the Nov 1, 2008, payment will be the first to reflect no deduction.

In the event of the death of an Air Force retiree, the next of kin should call the Air Force Casualty Assistance Office toll free at (877) 353-6807 and the Defense Finance and Accounting Service at (800) 269-5170.

Retirees who are not married on the date of retirement have one year after marrying to provide SBP coverage for the first spouse after retiring. A written request must be received by DFAS before the first anniversary of that marriage.

Remarriage options (increase base amount, terminate coverage, or resume previous coverage) are available when spouse coverage has been suspended due to death or divorce. It is important to contact DFAS immediately at (800) 321-1080 upon marriage to ensure the change time does not expire.



There's a new editor in town!

It's a pleasure to meet you! My name is Tammy Cournoyer and I'm replacing Bill Turner who retired last year. Although no one can replace Bill, I hope to carry on with the great things he has accomplished.

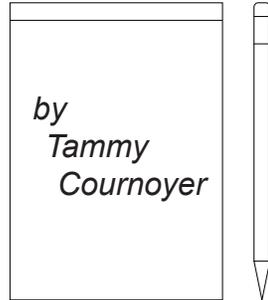
I hope that my background will help me help you. I retired as a master sergeant in March 2005 after 24 years in Air Force Public Affairs. I spent 1991 to 1995 in this building on the public affairs staff so I can speak a little of the "personnel" language and know a little bit about how the place works. In fact, I remember when the personnel center got this new-fangled thing called "e-mail." That really changed things!

After I left here, I went on to have an exciting career with my last 10 years spent as a print journalist at the Air Force News Agency, and as a Stars and Stripes reporter in Seoul, South Korea.

The best part of my career was traveling around the world and meeting new people. Although I won't be traveling anymore (my dog is very happy about this!) I will still be able to meet new people – you!

Since I came onboard in December, I've had the opportunity to talk with many of you and it has been my pleasure assisting you and answering your questions. There is a lot for me to learn so please bear with me. If I can't answer your question or assist you, I will do my best to point you in the right direction.

I look forward to "still serving" with you.



Lack of funds cancels issues of the Afterburner

(Editor's note: I need your help in spreading the word about the Afterburner's current status. Please share the information below with your fellow retirees, widows and widowers who do not have access to a computer.)

A lack of funds necessary to mail the Afterburner means there will be only one hard-copy edition printed this year -- most likely in late fall.

Only one Afterburner was printed and mailed last year in August. This edition, along with previous editions dating back to September 2001, are currently posted on the Air Force Personnel Center's Web site at <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil/> and can be found by clicking on the "Retirees/Veterans" icon. After clicking on the "Retirees/Veterans" icon, then click on "Afterburner, News-USA Retired Personnel" under the blue "Military Retiree Services" heading in the upper left-hand corner. Next, click on the appropriate answer number for "Afterburner -- News for USAF Retired Personnel" and then scroll down (using the innermost scroll bar) and all the Afterburners will be there.

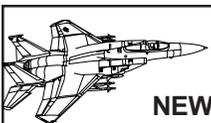
Retirees and survivors, who are interested in maintaining currency with information and news affecting military benefits, are urged to subscribe to the Air Force Retiree News Service for the latest information affecting the retiree community. Instructions on how to subscribe, unsubscribe and change an e-mail address can also be found on the Web site.

In addition, retired members are encouraged to join one or more military-related organizations serving the total military force. Some print monthly publications, and offer Web sites that are kept current and disseminate updates by electronic mail.

For a list of military-related organizations and information on the services they offer, go to the AFPC Web site at: ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil/ then click on the "Retirees/Veterans" icon in the Site Map box. Next click on "Links to military related organizations and other agencies."

Important phone numbers

Defense Finance and Accounting Service
(800) 321-1080
DFAS Casualty Reporting
(800) 269-5170
AFPC Casualty Reporting
(877) 353-6807
Veterans Affairs
(800) 827-1000



AFTERBURNER NEWS FOR USAF RETIRED PERSONNEL

The Afterburner is authorized by Air Force Instruction 36-3106. When funding permits, it is printed three times a year by the Retiree Services Branch. Distribution: individuals entitled to Air Force retired pay; unremarried surviving spouses of retirees (automatically if they are entitled to an annuity under Survivor Benefit Plan and/or the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan, or the Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan); unremarried nonannuitant surviving spouses of deceased Air Force members who were entitled to receive retired pay, may receive the Afterburner by requesting it from the address below. The Afterburner is not sent to former spouses nor to retirees of other services. Additional copies are not available. The Afterburner address:

HQ AFPC/DPPRT
550 C Street W Ste 3
Randolph AFB TX 78150

E-mail address is afpc.retiree@randolph.af.mil and the phone number is (210) 565-2126. The Afterburner is available on the Internet at <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil>. Retirees may write to the Co-chairmen of the Air Force Retiree Council by using the office symbol, HQ AFPC/CCU, at the address above. To change your address to receive the Afterburner and other official correspondence, see the procedures information in this issue.

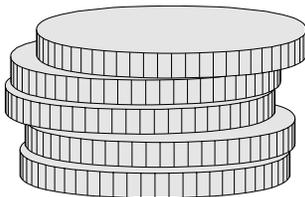
Commitment to Caring

Annual Air Force Assistance Fund drive continues for retirees

Although the annual Air Force Assistance Fund campaign ends May 4, AFAF officials will continue accepting contributions giving the Air Force retiree community the opportunity to participate.

Donations from Air Force retirees are accepted throughout the year, and retirees can send a cash/check donation, or they can contribute via the Payroll Deduction Plan.

The AFAF campaign supports the four official charities of the Air Force – the Air Force Aid Society, the Air Force Enlisted Village Indigent Widows' Fund, the Air Force Village Indigent Widows' Fund, and the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation. These organizations provide comfortable and secure retirement environments for



indigent Air Force spouses, and provide educational, financial and emergency assistance to active-duty and retired members in times of need. The 2006 AFAF campaign raised more than \$7.33 million for the AFAF charities.

Officials point out that active-duty and retired Air Force communities have long benefited from these charities whose return on the investments of contributions and loan repayments enable them to provide more than \$7 in assistance for every \$1 contributed during the annual campaign.

Campaign information, contribution forms and links to the AFAF charities are on the World Wide Web at www.afassistancefund.org. The site also offers an assistance fund video hosted by Regis Philbin.

New identification cards

People interested in finding the nearest ID card issuing facility can visit the RAPIDS Site Locator at <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/owa/home>.

Facilities can be found based on city, state, ZIP code or country. The facility's street

address and telephone number are listed. Once a location is found, it is best to call first to ensure hours of operation and any other necessary information.

Whatever happened to my 'ol buddy?

To locate Air Force retirees or active-duty members:

- Write a letter to the person you are trying to locate
- Seal it in a stamped envelope
- Enter your return address (including retired grade) on the stamped envelope
- Send the letter and the addressee's name, grade and Social Security number or service number (if known) in another envelope to HQ AFPC/DPDXIDL, 550 C Street West Ste 50, Randolph AFB TX 78150-4752.

Please keep in mind that the following information is required to make a positive identification:

- Full name to include a middle initial, rank (officer/enlisted/GS)
- Social Security number or Air Force serial number
- Date of birth or an Air Force duty history including the place, month and year of assignments after June 1970. (No assignment information is available before June 1970.)

This locator assistance is not available for Airmen who served on active duty but did not retire.

Call (210) 565-2660 for more information.

CRSC... Continued from Page 1

criteria to be considered for CRSC, veterans must:

- Be retired with 20 (or more) years of active-duty military service, or retired at age 60 from the Guard or Reserve.
- Be receiving military retired pay. Veterans who waived military retirement pay for Civil Service credit are not eligible to apply for CRSC.
- Have a compensable VA disability rating of 10 percent or higher.
- Receive military retired pay that is reduced by VA disability payments.

Copies of the Application for Combat-Related Special Compensation, DD Form 2860, and more information on the program can be downloaded from the AFPC Web site: <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>. People can call the Air Force CRSC office toll free at (800) 616-3775 for assistance, or e-mail them at afpc.dppdc.afcrsc@randolph.af.mil.

Ms. Lacey believes applying is worth the effort.

"It will take a little time to complete the application and make copies of your documentation, but it could mean qualifying for monthly tax-free compensation for the rest of your life," she said.

Mail Call!

Change-of-address procedures -- e-mail, snail mail

The Retiree Services Branch hears from many of you who move or change e-mail address, and in most cases this notification is not necessary.

If you rely on "snail mail" -- meaning you use an envelope and stamp for correspondence -- and you are a military retiree or a surviving spouse who receives Survivor Benefit Plan annuity payments, it is very important that you notify the Defense Finance and Accounting Service of your change of address. There is no need for you to notify the Retiree Services Branch at the Air Force Personnel Center. When, and if, funding for Afterburner postage becomes available again, the branch relies on the address you have on record with DFAS to generate mailing labels.

The only people who need to notify the Retiree Services Branch when they move are those surviving spouses **not** entitled to SBP payments who have already registered with the editor to receive hard-copy Afterburners.

If you are subscribed to receive the Air Force Retiree News Service via e-mail and change your e-mail address, then you should go to the AFPC Web site at <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil/> and click on the "Retirees/Veterans" icon. Next, click on the line "Air Force Retiree News Service" under the blue "Military Retiree Services" heading in the upper left-hand corner. Then click on the appropriate answer number



for changing an e-mail address. Remember, changing your e-mail address involves unsubscribing your old address, and then subscribing with your new address. However, if you no longer have access to an old e-mail address, simply "subscribe" and eventually AFRS releases will stop being sent to that out-of-service address.

If you have any problems with the system, please use the feedback option available on the bottom of the site page.

Where to report a change of address

Retirees

DFAS

U.S. Military Retirement Pay

P.O. Box 7130

London, KY 40742-7130

Phone: (800) 321-1080

Fax: (800) 469-6559

Include your Social Security number and sign the request.

SBP/RSFPP Annuitants

DFAS

U.S. Military Annuitant Pay

P.O. Box 7131

London, KY 40742-7131

Phone: (800) 321-1080

Fax: (800) 982-8459

Include your Social Security number, and that of your deceased sponsor, and sign the request.

Non-SBP/RSFPP Annuitants

HQ AFPC/DPPRT

550 C Street West, Ste 3

Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4713