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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

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SMCRP 36-2



**RETIREE PERSONNEL**  
RETIREE ACTIVITIES PROGRAM  
**NEWS**

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LOS ANGELES AIR FORCE BASE

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**Spring 2004**

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**YEARLY OVERVIEW**

During this past year we responded to 5682 overall contacts. **Volunteers provided 7,763 hours of service.** Each quarter, more than 11,500 copies of the Newsletter were mailed to retirees who live in our area and participate in activities on the base. We again offered four Mature Driving Safety classes attended by 118 retirees. For 2004, our goals are to continue with the Newsletter, our E-Mail alerts of current news to approximately 100 recipients, sponsor the Mature Driving Classes, and support the Staff Judge Advocate in providing free services for completing staff and federal income tax returns. With winter almost behind us, we are including a few articles associated with travel and potential vacation spots that may be of interest for any of you that may be planning to travel over the next few months.

**“Still-Serving”** is our motto.

**INTRODUCING**

We are pleased to introduce Major Robert (Bob) Gerughty. Bob is a Senior Duty Officer each Tuesday. He began as a volunteer in this office in 1986 and was selected as the “Volunteer of the Year” in 1998. He coordinates the labeling and distribution of the Newsletter. Bob is a native Californian, born and raised in San Francisco. On Jan 29, 1941, he joined the Army as the draft had been instituted and his was the third number drawn. He was assigned to the 7<sup>th</sup> Division and spent the next several months protecting the California Coast from possible invasion. He was subsequently reassigned to the 564<sup>th</sup> SAW Battalion and crossed the Atlantic on the “Queen Mary” which was unescorted. He then protected the English Coast until the 564<sup>th</sup> crossed the English Channel landing in Normandy where they leap-frogged through France, Belgium and finally crossed the Rhine River just as the war was ending in Europe. The 564<sup>th</sup> was awarded five battle stars, including one for the Battle of the Bulge. He was discharged to the Reserves in May 1946 ending his one-year enlistment after 5 ½ years of active duty. After stints in the Reserves and the National Guards, Bob retired as Major Nov 18, 1978. In his civilian life, Bob married a CPO in the Waves, rejoined the New Zealand

Fire Insurance Company where he spent many years traveling all over Southern California. He has a son and grandson in Santa Rosa and a daughter and grandson in El Segundo. He and a grandson live in El Segundo keeping each other company.

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT THE RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE**

**Los Angeles Air Force Base Retiree Activities Office** is **seeking** anyone interested in becoming a Volunteer. Primarily the responsibilities include answering the telephone and greeting incoming visitors. Typing and computer skills are always desirable, but not mandatory. There is a particular need for an able-bodied person to fulfill the duties of "Newsletter Mail Expediter and Handler." If you are interested in volunteering, or if you have any questions, please contact us at 310 363-0183.



## **DRIVING CLASS**

The next sessions of the **Driving Safety Program, sponsored by AARP, will be on base in the People Center, Area B, Building 219, Room 1080 Wednesday 5 May, 4 August; and 3 November 2004.** The class is limited to 25 students, and is not restricted to military families; others are welcome. However, non-military attendees must bring a valid driver's license, car registration and proof of insurance to be admitted to the base. Enroll early. The one-day class **starts promptly at 0830** and concludes at **1645**. All automobile insurance companies conducting business in California are required to provide a premium discount to drivers 55 years or older if they have a good driving record and complete this course. It is necessary to attend all day to qualify for a Certificate of Completion, which is provided by the Department of Motor Vehicles. **To enroll, send a check for \$10.00, payable to AARP, to the RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE, ATTN: Lt Col Ervin Heilman. Please include your telephone number.**

## **LAAFB VEHICLE REGISTRATION POLICY**

To obtain a base decal please bring the following items to the Pass and ID office in Building 219, Room 1061, Monday through Friday between 0830-1545:

A valid government ID card, valid driver's license, proof of registration and of insurance. A smog-certificate is required for 1975-2000 model year vehicles registered out-of-state. The smog certificate must be presented for registration within 90 days of issue and is valid for two

years. Decals expire 31 December of the year issued. Additionally, decals must be removed from the vehicle and remnants or shavings should be returned to the Pass and ID office when the following occurs: Sale of vehicle, bumper or windshield replacement, and mutilated or worn decal. If you have any questions, please contact the Pass and ID Office at 310-363-1205, 1204, or 1879. (Donald R. Lewis, Chief, SF Administration, 61st Security Forces Squadron 310-363-5358).

## **MANDATORY TRAINING FOR 61ST MEDICAL SQUADRON (CLINIC)**

Effective 8 January 2004, The 61st Medical Squadron (Clinic) including pharmacy is closed the first Thursday of each month. Mandatory training is being conducted and the entire day is dedicated for this event. In the event of a life-threatening emergency, please dial 911. The on-call provider can be reached at 310 352-5443. (Ms.Manning/SGSB 310 363-0261)

## **NEW RV STORAGE NOW OPEN IN PICO RIVERA**

With approximately 350 sites ranging in size from 15 to 60 square feet and very competitive pricing, this new facility located off the 605 Highway between the Peck and Rose Hill Road exits in Pico Rivera offers much to those who have a RV or other vehicle that requires storage.

Managed by Outdoor Recreation, this secure facility features an eight-foot fence topped with razor wire and an electronically controlled security gate. Storage fees are assessed at \$1.25 per linear foot with a \$20 minimum.

Use of the facility is open to all military retirees, active duty, National Guard, reservists and DoD civilians. Additional information can be obtained by contacting Outdoor Recreation at Los Angeles AFB, (310) 363-2190. (David C. Porter 310-363-1593).

## **RETIREES ARE ENCOURAGED TO PLAY ATWIND**

Retirees should "Get Into It" and try to win some of the thousands of prizes available in the AMC and AFSPC super summer promotion, *Around The World In Ninety Days*, or ATWIND. Starting June 1, the goal of this promotion is to increase awareness and participation in programs, services and activities throughout the command.

Last year, the entire military and civilian team at Los Angeles AFB got into it and won the AFSPC base competition segment of the promotion. In doing so, it brought \$30,000 in quality-of-life monies to the base. Those who would like to know more about the promotion

via e-mail as the June 1<sup>st</sup> start date comes closer should send e-mail to [david.porter@losangeles.af.mil](mailto:david.porter@losangeles.af.mil)

## TICKETS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE COMMUNITY CENTER

Tickets to entertainment and theme parks, area attractions and more can be purchased from the Community Center in Fort MacArthur. The availability of such tickets in San Pedro could save a trip to Outdoor Recreation in El Segundo and prove to be an advantage to those who live in Southern L.A. Call the Community Center at 363-8225 for additional information.

## YOU'RE INVITED...

Area retirees are cordially invited to attend these major second quarter Services' activities and events: Contact the Community Center at 310 363-8225 for costs and reservation deadline.

**Easter Brunch.** Sunday, April 11, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Community Center at Fort MacArthur.

**Art Auction Benefit.** Friday, April 30, starting at 5 p.m. in the Community Center at Fort MacArthur

**Mother's Day Brunch.** Sunday, May 9, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Community Center at Fort MacArthur.

**Retiree Expo & Dance.** Friday, June 4. Details are being finalized at press time.



## AF ENLISTED VILLAGE

The Air Force Enlisted Village, (formerly, the Air Force Enlisted Widows Home), has provided a home to over 1,500 enlisted widows since 1975. They are proud to have played a role in caring for this very special part of the Air Force Family. Enlisted widows who are 55 years or older and receive retirement benefits may be eligible. Low-income Air Force enlisted widows may be eligible for rent subsidy. In some cases, there's no waiting period. In addition to two independent living facilities, Bob Hope Village and Teresa Village, they will open their very own Assisted Living Facility in early 2005. They are located in the Florida panhandle one mile south of Eglin AFB, in the Fort Walton Beach area. For more information, call 1-800-258-1413, e-mail [afef@afenlistedfoundation.org](mailto:afef@afenlistedfoundation.org) or visit their website, [www.afenlistedwidows.org](http://www.afenlistedwidows.org) (Spikes, Minnette L., MSgt, 61 MSS/DPM)

## PATRIOT EXPRESS RESTRUCTURING AFFECTS SPACE A TRAVEL

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. (AFPN) Patriot Express is the military's chartered commercial air service for transporting service members on permanent-change-of-station orders and their families to and from overseas locations. Many military retirees and their families have used it to travel to overseas destinations on a Space Available basis.

Air Mobility Command manages the Patriot Express program on behalf of DoD. The Patriot Express system has four contracted U.S. gateway international airports: Atlanta-Hartsfield, Baltimore-Washington, Los Angeles and Seattle-Tacoma, and four passenger reservation centers, or PRCs, in Germany, Japan, Hawaii and the continental United States.

Beginning next fiscal year through fiscal 2008, a restructure will lead to fewer flights and leave only one gateway, at Baltimore-Washington. Duty passengers will be able to travel on commercial airlines through the General Service Administration's City Pair program.

All Patriot Express routes, except for those into locations with no commercial service or where there are force protection considerations, will be phased out over a four-year period. The restructure will mean a reduction in the number of space-available seats, but space-A travel is still available at many AMC passenger terminals on military transports.

In fiscal 2005, the Atlanta gateway will close, and Patriot Express flights to Rhein-Main Air Base, Germany, will end. The military will also adjust the frequency and size of flights to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and Keflavik, Iceland.

In fiscal 2006, service to Osan and Kunsan air bases, Korea; Kadena AB, Japan; Keflavik, Iceland; and Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England, will end. The reservation center at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, and the gateway at Los Angeles International Airport will close. Fiscal 2007 marks the end of service to three American bases in Japan: Yokota and Misawa air bases and the Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni, as well as the Japan passenger reservation center. The Seattle gateway will also close, and AMC's main PRC at Scott AFB, Illinois, will increase its operating hours.

In the last phase, slated for fiscal 2008, service to Lajes Field, the Azores; Aviano AB, Italy; Rota, Spain; and Sigonella, Sicily, will end, the PRC in Germany will close, and AMC's center will begin continuous operations. Information on space-A travel is available at <http://public.amc.af.mil/SPACEA/spacea.htm>. (Cynthia Bauer, Air Mobility Command Public Affairs)

## VA TO GAIN SIX NEW CEMETERIES

The National Cemetery Act of 2003 authorizes VA to establish six new national cemeteries to serve veterans in the areas of Bakersfield, Calif.; Birmingham, Ala.; Jacksonville, Fla.; Sarasota County, Fla.; southeastern Pennsylvania; and Columbia-Greenville, S.C. All six areas have veteran populations exceeding 170,000, which is the threshold VA has established for new national cemeteries. Information on VA burial benefits can be obtained from national cemetery offices or from VA Web sites on the Internet at <http://www.va.gov> or <http://www.cem.va.gov>.

## MEDICARE PART B PREMIUM PENALTY WAIVED FOR SOME RETIREES

One or more of the provisions in the "Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003," will affect many members of the retiree community in the near future and in the years to come.

At the top of the list in the Act, signed into law by President Bush on Dec. 8, 2003 are three very important changes relating to enrollment in Medicare Part B. The first two changes affect persons not enrolled, or paying surcharges because they enrolled after they were initially eligible for Part B, such as those individuals who reside overseas where Medicare doesn't pay and those who thought a local military medical facility would always be available for their health needs.

Uniformed services beneficiaries who would be eligible for TRICARE for Life, but are not enrolled in Medicare Part B, may enroll without penalty during a special enrollment period through Dec. 31, 2004. The special enrollment period will be announced via Medicare on the TRICARE Web site and will be widely publicized.

Second, uniformed services beneficiaries who enrolled in Medicare Part B in 2001 thru 2004 and are subject to a premium surcharge for late enrollment in Part B can get those surcharges eliminated by demonstrating that they are covered under TRICARE.

The elimination of surcharges is effective Jan. 1, 2004, but the Department of Health and Human Services must work out procedures to be followed.

The third change made by the bill affects all seniors, not just uniformed services beneficiaries. The Part B premium will be tied to income beginning in 2007. Premiums for individuals with incomes above \$80,000 and couples with incomes above \$160,000 will increase.



## OPERATION HERO MILES

Rep. C. A. "Dutch" Ruppertsberger (D-Md) launched the Operation HERO Miles Web site at [www.heromiles.org](http://www.heromiles.org) to encourage airlines to allow the public the opportunity to donate unused and extra frequent-flyer miles to troops returning to the states on R&R leave. This site is a clearinghouse for soldiers, their families, and travelers and is filled with information about how to donate frequent-flyer miles, how soldiers can receive complimentary tickets, and other ways to help our troops serving in Iraq. Currently, Delta and Southwest airlines have signed up. (Dec Issue Reserve Officer Assoc magazine)

## AAFES ADDS SHIPPING CHARGES TO SOME ONLINE CATALOG ORDERS

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service will update its shipping policy for Internet and catalog purchases effective Jan. 20 to include a shipping charge of \$4.95 on orders of \$48.99 or less. However, there will be exceptions to this policy.

Customers who place orders using their Military Star card or include a Military Clothing Sales Store (MCSS) item in their order will always receive free shipping regardless of order amount. Orders of \$49 dollars or more incur no shipping charges unless the item is classified as oversized. Fee will be indicated after the item price (\$S/H). " Last year AAFES contributed more than \$200 million dollars to MWR in support of youth activities, outdoor recreation, bowling facilities and other quality of life programs on military installations worldwide.



## BAGGAGE INSPECTION AT US AIRPORTS

The U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is responsible for the safety and security within U.S. airports, including inspecting checked and carry-on luggage. In many instances, your checked luggage will be opened and inspected. TSA advises that you do not lock your luggage, as a screener would then have to break the lock to open your bag. TSA is not liable for damage to your locks resulting from this necessary security precaution. If your bags are opened and searched, TSA will place a notice inside, and close your bag with a plastic seal, similar to the tie wraps used to bundle electrical wires. TSA screeners exercise care during the screening process to ensure that your contents are returned to your bag every time a bag needs to be opened. TSA will assess on an individual basis any loss or damage claims made to TSA. Details on how to make a claim are at:

<http://www.tsa.gov/public/display?theme=87&content=56>

4. Here's the claim form you'll need:

[http://www.tsa.gov/public/interweb/assetlibrary/SF95Claim\\_Form.pdf](http://www.tsa.gov/public/interweb/assetlibrary/SF95Claim_Form.pdf). (Reprinted 35<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, Misawa AB, Japan Newsletter Jan-Mar 2004)

## THUNDERBIRDS 2004 SCHEDULE

Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. (AFPN) -- The U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, known as the thunderbirds, announced its 2004 air show schedule. The team is scheduled to perform more than 65 shows in 22 states, Canada and Asia. The 2004 schedule for California is:

**April 17 and 18** -- San Diego, Calif.

**April 24 and 25** -- March Air Reserve Base, Calif.

**May 29 and 30** -- Moffett Field, Calif.

**October 9 and 10** -- Redding, Calif.

The U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron is an Air Combat Command unit composed of eight pilots (including six demonstration pilots), four support officers, four civilians and about 120 enlisted people performing in more than 25 Air Force specialties. A Thunderbirds aerial demonstration is a mix of formation flying and solo routines. The pilots perform about 30 maneuvers during a demonstration. The entire show, including ground and air, runs about one hour and 15 minutes. Since show schedules are subject to change, members of the retirement community should confirm a performance before traveling a long distance. Call the base public affairs office on the military installation where the event is planned or the local chamber of commerce at civilian locations.

## TRAVEL AND LODGING INFORMATION

Here is a place you can go for a vacation. Priority is given to disabled veterans and their families, veterans age 65 or older, active duty military and non-veteran disabled. Veterans On The Lake is at Fall Lake near Ely, Minnesota. They have cabins and recreational facilities. You can contact them at 800 777-7538, 161 Fernberg Rd, Ely, MN 55731-9346, or <http://www.veterans-on-the-lake.com> for more information. (RAO Minneapolis-St Paul Jars)

Arrangements for Space "A" lodging can be made at 888-AFLODGE or 888 235-6343; 800-GOARMY or 800 462-7691; 800-NAVYINN or 800 628-9466.

A good source of information for military travelers is through the "Society for Military Travelers" at 800 638-8784 or visit their web site at

<http://www.militarytravelers.com/>. Another web site that may be useful for military travelers is <http://www.vetstravel.net/>. This site covers Space "A" and other discount travel information that may help you plan a trip for the least cost. Armed Forces Vacation Club has time-share rental units for \$249.99 per week. Go to [www.afvclub.com](http://www.afvclub.com). Go to [www.aftavelonline.com](http://www.aftavelonline.com) for Air Force Information and Travel Service. (RAO Minneapolis-St Paul Jars)

## KMC NOT YOUR TYPICAL HAWAIIAN VACATION

The Kilauea Military Camp on the big island of Hawaii is not as well known as the Hale Koa and even Camp Bellows. However, this may change as more members of the military retired community, looking for affordable vacations spots, turn to the KMC, a Joint Services Recreation Center that allows visitors to experience another side of Hawaii.

It's lush and tropical as well as dramatic and stark because of the all the lava activity. The center features 77 comfortably-appointed cottages and apartments right in the heart of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park near the crater's edge of the much publicized, active volcano, Kilauea.

Besides a fireplace in the room, there is cable TV, a mini-refrigerator, microwave, coffee-maker, hair dryer, iron and ironing board as well as an umbrella for the those unexpected showers. Cottages and apartments vary from one-, two-, and three-bedroom units. Selected units include a Jacuzzi and/or kitchen. KMC also offers an array of activities from tennis, golf, biking, bowling, hiking, guided island tours and more. There is also a café, general store, recreation lodge, meeting rooms, gas station, theater and chapel.

Open to all active duty military, Reserves, National Guard, retirees and Department of Defense civilian employees and their guests, rates range from \$46 to \$120 per night for double occupancy.

Reservations may be made up to a year in advance except during peak season. Call 438-6707 directly from Oahu or call (808) 967-8333 for reservations and information. Write: Kilauea Military Camp, HQ Building 40, Attn: Reservations Office, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Hawaii 96718. **The email address is [reservations@kmc-volcano.com](mailto:reservations@kmc-volcano.com). Also, visit the web site at [www.kmc-volcano.com](http://www.kmc-volcano.com) for other information as well as photos.**

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### **EDITORIAL POLICY**

All Retirees are encouraged to send articles for the Newsletter. The contents may **NOT** be critical of DoD national policy or veteran's organizations. The Editor reserves the right to reduce the length of the material to fit space available.

**DEADLINE FOR THE SUMMER ISSUE:**  
**1 May 2004**

