



Retiree Activities Office

Yokota AB, Japan

Newsletter



Vol 4, Issue 4

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A publication of the Yokota Retiree Activities Office (RAO) whose mission is to support the base commander in providing information and assistance to military retirees, their family members, and surviving spouses residing in the local area. Articles appearing in this newsletter are compiled from various government sources. Information has been edited and reprinted for the benefit of our retiree population. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information herein, no absolute guarantee of accuracy or currency can be given nor should be assumed.

Yokota Military Retiree Association

(YMRA): The YMRA is holding its monthly meeting this coming Saturday the 1st of September in the Enlisted Club dining room. The business side of things will begin at 0900. At this meeting we will have a guest speaker; the recently arrived Audiologist, Major Williams from the base hospital. If you have any questions concerning yours or a dependents hearing, this would be a good time to ask them. As usual, we will be offering a free breakfast to those that arrive and order prior to 0830.

The next meeting of the YMRA is scheduled to be held on Saturday the 6th of October at the same location and time.

Quarterly Widows Support Lunch: The next luncheon will be held on Friday the 7th of September from 1200 to 1400 in the auditorium of the Airman & Family Readiness Center (AFRC), building 535.

This luncheon is sponsored by the AFRC and is open to all surviving spouses of military retirees and those whose spouses passed away while on active duty.

This luncheon serves as a venue for the widows to get together, share experiences, and to let them know that they are still part of the overall military family. In addition to enjoying good food and company there will be some form of entertaining games that will be hosted by one or two of the Base Command staff's spouses.

If you know of a widow who is not aware of this luncheon please pass this information on. For additional information call the AFRC at DSN 225-8725 or 042-552-2510 ext. 58725 (if calling from off base). You can also call the RAO at DSN 225-8324 or 042-552-2510 ext. 58324 (if calling from off base).

Personal PII Shred Day: The next individual personal shred day is Thursday, the 6th of September from 0800 to 1500. This is open to all DoD ID card holders and their spouses to shred their home documents.

Drop off location is building 4350, between the East Side Shoppette and the Base theater. If you have any questions please call DSN 225-8361 or 042-5552-2510 ext. 58361 (if calling from off base).
(Source: 374AW Information Protection Office)

374th Medical Group Closure Dates in September:

3 September - Labor Day Holiday

4 September - Family Day

20 September - Training Day

The Urgent Care Clinic and Inpatient Unit will remain open.

For all medical emergencies dial 911 from on base, or 119 from off base. (Source: 374th Medical Group)

Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP):

The current TRICARE Retiree Dental Plan (TRDP) will automatically end on December 31, 2018. For those retirees currently enrolled or for new enrollments you will need to enroll in the new FEDVIP during open season which will run from November 12 through December 10 of this year. Coverage will be effective January 1, 2019.

FEDVIP offers a choice between 10 dental and 4 vision options. Retired service members and their families who were eligible for TRDP are eligible for FEDVIP dental coverage. Also, they're eligible for FEDVIP vision coverage if enrolled in a TRICARE health Plan. For more information visit www.tricare.benefeds.com

Do's and Don'ts for Taxpayers Who Get a Letter from the IRS:

Every year the IRS mails millions of letters to taxpayers for many reasons. Here are some tips and suggestions for taxpayers who receive one:

Don't ignore it. Most IRS letters and notices are about federal tax returns or tax accounts. Each notice



deals with a specific issue and includes specific instructions on what to do.

Don't panic. The IRS and its authorized private collection agencies do send

letters by mail. Most of the time all the taxpayer needs to do is read the letter carefully and take the appropriate action.

Do take timely action. A notice may reference changes to a taxpayer's account, taxes owed, a payment request or a specific issue on a tax return. Taking action timely could minimize additional interest and penalty charges.

Do review the information. If a letter is about a changed or corrected tax return, the taxpayer should review the information and compare it with the original return. If the taxpayer agrees, they should make notes about the corrections on their personal copy of the tax return, and keep it for their records.

Don't reply unless instructed to do so. There is usually no need for a taxpayer to reply to a notice unless specifically instructed to do so. On the other hand, taxpayers who owe should reply with a payment. IRS.gov has information about payment options.

Do respond to a disputed notice. If a taxpayer does not agree with the IRS, they should mail a letter explaining why they dispute the notice. They should mail it to the address on the contact stub at the bottom of the notice. The taxpayer should include information and documents for the IRA to review when considering the dispute. The taxpayer should allow at least 30 days for the IRS to respond.

Do remember that there is usually no need to call the IRS. If a taxpayer must contact the IRS by phone, they should use the number in the upper right-hand corner of the notice. The taxpayer should have a copy of the tax return and letter when calling.

Do avoid scams. The IRS will never initiate contact

using social media or text message. The first contact from the IRS usually comes in the mail. Taxpayers who are unsure if they owe money to the IRS can view their tax account information on IRS.gov.

Yearly Audit of myPay Account Information:

DFAS recommends that all retired members review their account information on a yearly basis to insure that information is up-to-date, so that they can get in touch with you if there is a problem, change, or update with your account.

Here is a list of things to check at least once a year.

1. Update your mailing address. If you have moved and haven't told them, they won't know how to reach you.



2. Update your email address: Make sure you have an email address on file that is current. Email is the easiest and fastest way for DFAS to communicate with its members.

3. Check your state and federal income tax withholding. Don't wait until the April 15th deadline to discover that taxes are being deducted for a state you no longer have to file in. You can verify and update your tax withholding information yourself in myPay. Click on your Federal Withholding to see if your marital status and number of exemptions are correct. Then click on the State Withholding to make sure both the state and the amount are what you want.

4. Review your allotments. Check each allotment and your allotment amounts. Make sure each allotment is current and the amount is correct.

5. Have there been changes in your family? When you get married, lose a spouse or have children, the change can affect your account. From federal income tax withholding to Survivor Benefit Plan costs, the amount of retired pay you receive each month can change.

6. Check your beneficiary designations. Who have you chosen as a beneficiary for any arrears of retired pay when you die? Make sure you're still satisfied with your designation, and check your address book to confirm that their addresses are up to date. You can check this information by clicking

on the Beneficiary for Arrears link in myPay.

So pick a date. It doesn't matter if it's your retirement date, birthday or the first of the year. Set a yearly reminder to look over your information to make sure your account is up to date. (Source: www.DFAS.mil)

VA Benefit Description:

Disability Compensation is a tax free monetary benefit paid to Veterans with disabilities that are the result of a disease or injury incurred or aggravated during active military service. Compensation may also be paid for post-service disabilities that are considered related or secondary to disabilities occurring in service and for disabilities presumed to be related to circumstances of military service, even though they may arise after service. Generally, the degrees of disability specified are also designed to compensate for considerable loss of working time from exacerbations or illnesses. [Learn More](#)

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is a tax free monetary benefit generally payable to a surviving spouse, child, or parent of Service members who died while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training or survivors of Veterans who died from their service-connected disabilities. [DIC for parents](#) is an income based benefit. [Learn More](#)

Special Monthly Compensation (SMC) is an additional tax-free benefit that can be paid to Veterans, their spouses, surviving spouses and parents. For Veterans, Special Monthly Compensation is a higher rate of compensation paid due to special circumstances such as the need of aid and attendance by another person or a specific disability, such as loss of use of one hand or leg. For spouses and surviving spouses, this benefit is commonly referred to as aid and attendance and is paid based on the need of aid and attendance by another person. [Learn about special monthly compensation benefit rates](#)

Other Benefits: VA provides additional housing and insurance benefits to Veterans with disabilities, including [Adapted Housing grants](#), [Service-Disable Veterans' Insurance](#), and [Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance](#).

RAO Contact Information

Located: Building 535, (Airman & Family Readiness Center), Room 108

Office hours: 0800-1500 Monday through Friday, closed holidays

Telephone: From on base: 225-8324, from off base: 042-552-2510 extension 58324. Leave a message on our voice mail if calling after normal office hours.

Organizational E-mail: yokota.rao@us.af.mil

Web Page: The RAO is on the www.yokota.af.mil web page. You can find previous editions of our newsletters and links to other sites that may be of interest.

Facebook: Look for us on the Yokota Facebook page by searching for Retiree Activities Office



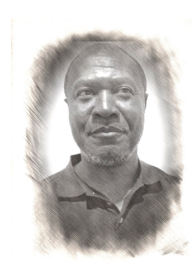
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Jon Gallock



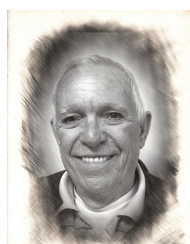
Vic Colon



Tony Cohns



Ernie Richardson



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Rod Bradish