



RETIRED MILITARY NEWSLETTER

2012



Table of Contents

DFAS Scam	1
TRICARE Prime.....	1
VA Communications.....	1
VA Loan Facts.....	2
ID card	2
Gray area retiree	3
Retiree Expos	3
Navy Retiree Council	3
Jobs	4
MWR	4

DFAS Scam. There are emails being sent to individual military retirees which appear to be sent by a DFAS employee. Although the email appears to come from a DFAS employee and displays a dot mil address it is actually from a non-government email account. This is an example of what's called "spoofing." The emails indicate that individuals who are receiving disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) may be able to obtain additional funds from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). These emails are not issued by DFAS and will likely result in a financial loss if you comply with the suggestions in the email. Bottom line – do not send your personal information or copies of your tax returns and 1099s to the individual listed in the email. The email indicates that individuals receiving VA disability compensation can

receive additional funds from the IRS. The email states that such funds can be obtained by sending copies of your VA award letter, your income tax returns, your 1099-Rs, your RAS statements, and a copy of your DD 214, to a so-called retired Colonel at an address in Florida. **Do NOT** follow the suggestions in the email because you will be providing a significant amount of your personal information to a complete stranger, which could result in a financial loss to you. [Source: <http://www.dfas.mil> Latest News Apr 2012]

TRICARE Prime. TRICARE recommends that any routine medical care should be coordinated through a Primary Care Manager (PCM) before **traveling**. Beneficiaries receiving routine medical care while traveling without an authorization will be billed as Point of Service and require the beneficiary to pay out of pocket expenses. If Emergency Care is needed call 911 or report to the nearest emergency room. Provide the emergency room staff with your ID card. For urgent or acute care, Call Humana at 1-800-444-5445 and ask for the closest urgent or acute care TRICARE authorized facility. While traveling, have prescriptions filled at a TRICARE network pharmacy. To find a TRICARE retail pharmacy, call 1-866-363-8779 or visit <http://www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE>. For more information, visit the TRICARE website at <http://www.tricare.mil/>.

VA Communications. The Department of Veterans Affairs announced 22 DEC that all of its 152 medical centers are now actively represented on Facebook, the world's largest social networking site. By leveraging Facebook, the Department continues to expand access to VA, and

embrace transparency and two-way conversation. The process that began with a single Veterans Health Administration Facebook page in 2008 has now produced over 150 Facebook pages, 64 Twitter feeds, a YouTube channel, a Flickr page, and the VAntage Point blog. Additionally, in JUN 2011, VA produced a Department-wide social media policy that provides guidelines for communicating with Veterans online.

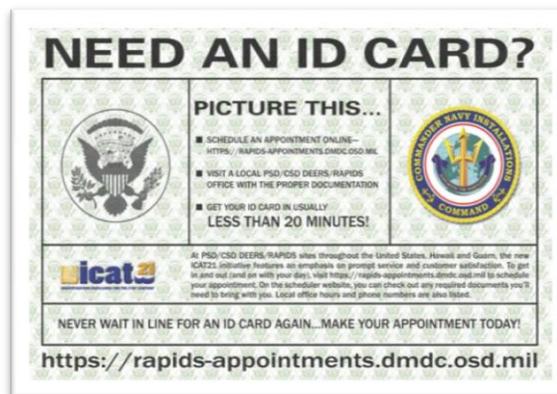
VA Loan Facts for 2012. VA Home Loans allow qualified buyers the opportunity to purchase a home with no down payment. There are also no monthly mortgage insurance premiums to pay, limitations on buyer's closing costs, and an appraisal that informs the buyer of the property value. For most loans on new houses, construction is inspected at appropriate stages and a 1-year warranty is required from the builder. VA also performs personal loan servicing and offers financial counseling to help veterans having temporary financial difficulties. Although there is no maximum VA loan, lenders generally limit the maximum VA loan to \$417,000.

Use your VA Loan in 2012 to buy or refinance with no down payment. Find lenders today.
<http://www.military.com/military-report/va-loan-facts-for-2012-020612?ESRC=mr.nl>

ID card. If you have a retiree ID card that was manually prepared (on a typewriter), it's time to go to the nearest RAPIDS facility (Real-Time Automated Personnel Identification System) to get a new card. How can you tell if you have a manually prepared ID card? If your picture was cut from photographic paper and pasted on the card before lamination, leaving a raised photo on the card; If there are no bar codes on the reverse; or If the card stock is a version prior to Oct 93 (printed at lower left on reverse) then you have a manually prepared card, and should get a new one. In these days of heightened security, manually prepared card just can't meet today's tighter standards.

The military stopped issuing manually prepared ID cards in 1993. A base commander has discretion to bar access to a military facility of any retirees with these manually prepared cards. If you attempt to access that facility, your card may be confiscated. It may be returned to you, but the card will be invalidated, usually with a hole punched through the Social Security Number (SSN). You will need to get a new ID issued. Spouses aren't affected by this issue, because until recently, their ID cards needed to be renewed every four years.

The modern ID card has some distinct advantages. It will mask your SSN for one thing. It will also enable electronic scanning at military facilities for another, making your identification quicker and less prone to errors.



You can make an appointment at a RAPIDS facility to get a new card issued to you. Visit <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsi/appi/site?execution=e1s1> or type *RAPIDS Site Locator* into your internet search engine. Once on the RAPIDS page, enter your zip code and RAPIDS will serve up the ID card facilities in your geographic area. Call ahead to the ID Card issuing facility for any special requirements. Remember that you will need two forms of ID to receive a new card. Your old ID and a passport or state-issued driver's license is usually sufficient.

Gray area retiree. Retired reservists under the age of 60 who have questions regarding their entitlements and benefits should call 1-866-827-5672 and ask for PERS 912.

Retiree Expos.

These seminars/expos are for you. Personnel from all branches of the service are invited to attend. Many base and support organizations will have information booths and presentations of interest (DFAS, VA, TRICARE, Medicare, Cal Vets, etc.). You can ask questions and receive answers to the many subjects that are of concern (medical benefits, MWR, spouse support, local base support, travel, etc.). Spouses are highly encouraged to attend. Here are some expos of which we are aware:

1. The **Los Angeles AFB** will hold its annual Armed Forces Retiree Appreciation Day on **Saturday, June 2**. Events will begin at 0800 in the Gordon Conference Center, located in Building 270. For more information, call 310-653-5144
2. The **Marine Corps Recruit Depot** in San Diego will hold their Expo on **Saturday, 2 June** from 0830-1400 at the Post Theater. For additional information contact the MCRD RAO at 619-524-5301/5732.
3. The **Nellis AFB**, Las Vegas, will be holding a Retired Appreciation Day in **September**. They would love to have you attend either as a vendor or guest. This may be the excuse you have been looking for to visit Las Vegas—kill two birds with the same outing. For more information contact Jean Putney, Director, Nellis AFB, Retiree Activities Office, (702) 652-8712 or (702) 898-1888 or email her at jeanputney@cox.net .

Navy Retiree Council. Applications are now being accepted for the Secretary of the Navy Retiree Council. Applications must be received by Sept. 30. Here's how to apply:

- Submit a one (1)-page bio/resume with the following:
- Your full name, address, phone number, e-mail address and Social Security Number. (Left side top)
- One paragraph highlighting your military career to include highest rank achieved, designator (if applicable), military specialty, total years of active duty, total years of service (if applicable) and entry date. Additionally, provide a brief summary of current civilian career.
- One paragraph identifying all volunteer work, Retired Activities Office (RAO) affiliation, and/or membership in civic and other organizations.
- Education (Associate Degree, Bachelors Degree, Masters Degree, Ph.D and field of study as appropriate).
- Include a brief statement on how you can contribute to the RC.
- A recent snapshot photo. It is requested that picture be placed on the one page application at the top right hand corner (head and shoulder shot). Photo should be no larger than 2 ½ inches by 3 inches. (Right side top) Send applications to:

Department of the Navy
OPNAV N135C
Retired Affairs
5720 Integrity Drive
Millington, TN 38055-6200

Selection is scheduled for October with appointment scheduled for December. For more information, contact Navy Retired Affairs toll-free at (866) 827-5672 or (901) 874-4308. (Source: Shift Colors, spring 2012 issue)

Jobs. Honoring Veterans' Service with Jobs NBC Universal

<http://hiringourheroes.today.msnbc.msn.com/> is joining forces with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Hiring Our Heroes Initiative. Acknowledging the difficulty veterans face when seeking employment, more than fifty companies including NBC News are helping get the nation's veterans back into the workforce. For more information on the Hiring Our Heroes Initiative and events in your area, visit the U.S. Chamber of Commerce <http://www.uschamber.com/hiringourheroes>. Goodwill Industries also has jobs for veterans program. To view available jobs visit: www.goodwillsoal.org

MWR. The Armed Forces Recreation Center Resorts are really great places to visit. Just click on any of these places to see what it has to offer. If you do not have access to a computer, call a local *Retired Activities Office* or Base travel office for information.



How to contact us

The Retired Activities Office, Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach, California is located at 800 Seal Beach Blvd in Bldg. 22, Rm 2, Seal Beach, CA 90740-5000. We are here to serve all Armed Forces retirees and are open M-Th 0900 to 1500; Fri 0900 to 1200. You may contact us at (562)-626-7152 or by emailing us at rao-nwssb@navy.mil



Ralph Vogel, RAO Director, Captain SC, USN (Ret).
James Angeley, Don Cullen, and Rick Fuller—Editors
John Ryan, Publisher

[Retired Activities Website](#)