

SEMPER FIDELIS

NEWSLETTER FOR RETIRED MARINES



Photo by LCpl Pranav Ramakrishna

Sergeant Major Ruiz Appointed as 20th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps

MARINE BARRACKS WASHINGTON, D.C. - Sergeant Major Troy E. Black relinquished his post as 19th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps to Sergeant Major Carlos A. Ruiz during a relief and appointment ceremony at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., Aug. 10.

Sergeant Major Ruiz, a native of Agua Prieta, Mexico, joined the Marine Corps out of Phoenix, Arizona, Nov. 2, 1993. He began his career as a supply warehouse clerk in Okinawa, Japan, and his most recent assignment was serving as the Command Senior Enlisted Leader for U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserve and U.S. Marine Corps Forces South.

During his 30-year career, Sergeant Major Ruiz served in a variety of billets and completed multiple special duty assignments, to include time as a Marine Corps recruiter and a drill instructor. He completed several overseas deployments including combat operations in Iraq in 2003 and two combat deployments to Afghanistan with 1st Marine Division infantry battalions.

“Sergeant Major Ruiz’s accomplishments and successes as a leader make him the perfect Marine to serve as the 20th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps,” said Sergeant Major Black. “I am absolutely certain he will be a relentless advocate for our warfighters and their families, and my wife, Stacie, and I wish his family the very best as they embark on this special and noble journey.”

Sergeant Major Black, a native of Louisville, Kentucky, served as the Marine Corps’ top enlisted Marine from July 26, 2019 to Aug. 10, 2023. His 35 years of military service will continue as he assumes the duties of Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Nov. 3, 2023. He will succeed SEAC Ramón “CZ” Colón-López in this role and will be the second Marine to serve as the most senior ranking enlisted service member in the U.S. Department of Defense.

**SEMPER FIDELIS
DISCLAIMER**

Some of the information compiled for Semper Fidelis comes from other sources to include experts in their respective fields, i.e. , DFAS, VA, and TRICARE. Content was current at the time this publication went to press. Any delays in mailing may be due to unforeseen circumstances and we apologize for the inconvenience.

NOTE: The newsletter is posted online before it is mailed.

Semper Fidelis accepts unsolicited material for publication for regular columns such as Second Career and Reunions, but reserves the right to reject any unsolicited material deemed inappropriate or illegible for publication.

Semper Fidelis is published quarterly by MMSR-6 to inform retired Marines and their family members on information of interest on their rights, benefits, and privileges. Items in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Marine Corps or the Department of Defense.



If you, or someone you know needs help, support is available 24/7. Service members and their families can call Military OneSource at 1-800-342-9647, or chat at military-onesource.mil.

Service members, veterans, and their loved ones can also call the Military and Veterans Crisis Line at **988** and then Press 1, chat online at veteranscrisisline.net, or text to **838255**.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is available to anyone at **988 and then press 1**.

**SEMPER FIDELIS NEWSLETTER
FOR RETIRED MARINES**

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40 Years Ago—We Remember “We Came in Peace”

DSS Physical Security Specialist recalls the 1983 bombing of the U.S. Marine Corps barracks in Beirut

DSS ARTICLES

BY ERIC WEINER, DSS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

APRIL 17, 2018

The Diplomatic Security Service (DSS) Physical Security Division is fortunate to have Richard Truman on its staff. The physical security specialist works to ensure that the strictest possible security standards are incorporated into U.S. embassies and overseas buildings. His advocacy for safety is driven by his harrowing experience with the 1983 suicide bombing of the U.S. Marine Barracks in Beirut, Lebanon.

Truman deployed to Beirut in May 1983 with Marine Helicopter Squadron 162 as part of a multinational peacekeeping force. The squadron was part of the air combat element for the 24th Marine Amphibious Unit (MAU) that had infantry and ground units positioned at outposts guarding the Beirut airport and outlying buildings. As crew chief of the CH46 Sea Knight, Truman flew logistics and supplies between the marine camp located at the north end of the airport known as Rock Base and the USS Iwo Jima (LPH-2), a landing platform helicopter ship anchored five minutes off the coast.

Lebanon was in the middle of a long civil war. In June 1983, factions in Beirut were fighting regularly and Truman and his unit watched the nightly firefights in the mountains across from their camp. The fighting started high up in the mountains and, day after day, moved steadily downhill towards the airport. By mid-July fighting had broken out in the town across from the airport and factions began shooting and shelling Rock Base and the adjacent Lebanese Army boot camp. That same month the USS Iwo Jima departed Beirut on liberty leave, but was promptly recalled because daily fighting had intensified. As shelling and fatalities increased, helicopter operations were moved from Rock Base to the Iwo Jima.

At 6:22 am on October 23, 1983, a truck drove through the airport barriers and Marine guard post and detonated 12,000 pounds of TNT underneath the four-story building housing the barracks of the 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regimental Battalion Landing Team. 220 marines, 18 sailors and 3 soldiers were killed in the explosion. Truman and his unit were waking up onboard the Iwo Jima when they received word that the barracks had been bombed. They thought it was another mortar attack, but soon learned that the barracks had been leveled. They were ordered to stand by for mass casualties.

Truman was asked to stay on board USS Iwo Jima. As a trained EMT he was needed to help treat the wounded. Every available helicopter deployed to the airport to retrieve wounded, and fly them back to the ship where large aircraft elevators lowered the wounded to the hangar deck triage area. Injured marines were stabilized and the more serious cases were flown back to the Beirut airport and transported to three U.S. military hospitals in West Germany on large passenger planes.

Just the night before, Truman had been eating at the barracks chow hall with the marines who were now on the operating table in front of him. Truman vividly remembers assisting a chief surgeon by inserting a chest tube into a badly wounded Marine who was going in and out of consciousness while holding onto his hand. The marine kept telling him he didn't want to die. Truman went into what he called "EMT mode" for the next 12 hours. When he finally stopped treating the wounded, he went up to the flight deck and noticed that it was dark outside; the entire day had passed in a surreal blur.

The next day Truman flew to the airport to help with recovery. "Unloading bodies from ambulances and putting them into body bags was one of the most difficult things I have ever done."

Truman and his unit deployed to Beirut thinking nothing was going to happen to them because they were part of a peacekeeping force. A suicide bomb changed all that.

A decade after the attack, Truman ran into the marine whose hand he had held on the operating table; he too, had lived to tell his story.

40 Years Ago—We Remember “We Came in Peace”



U. S. Marines marched across the runway apron of Beirut International Airport in Lebanon upon their arrival (National Archives identifier: 6370471)



Marines from the 32d Marine Amphibious Unit walked down the row ramp of tank landing ship USS Manitoewoc (LST-1180). (National Archives identifier: 6370377)



U. S. Marines armed with M16 rifles took cover behind sandbags during a terrorist attack, 1 April 1983. The Marines deployed to Lebanon as part of a multinational peacekeeping force following confrontation between Israeli Forces and the Palestine Liberation Organization. (National Archives identifier: 641703)



This is the scene in the aftermath of the bombing of the U.S. Marines barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, Oct. 23, 1983. (AP Photo/Jim Bourdier)

40 Years Ago - We Remember “We Came in Peace”

The Beirut Memorial wall has re-opened to the general public after the completion of repairs and adjustments to the wall’s granite panels at the Lejeune Memorial Gardens in Jacksonville, North Carolina, May 16, 2023. The Beirut Memorial wall was built as a tribute to the 273 Marines killed in Lebanon and Grenada on Oct. 23, 1983. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Jennifer E. Douds)



Photos by Cpl. Jennifer E. Reyes
Marine Corps Installations East



About the United States Marine Band



Official Marine Corps photo

Established by an Act of Congress in 1798, the United States Marine Band is America's oldest continuously active professional musical organization. Its mission is unique—to provide music for the President of the United States and the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

President John Adams invited the Marine Band to make its White House debut on New Year's Day, 1801, in the then-unfinished Executive Mansion. In March of that year, the band performed for Thomas Jefferson's inauguration and it is believed that it has performed for every presidential inauguration since. In Jefferson, the band found its most visionary advocate. An accomplished musician himself, Jefferson recognized the unique relationship between the band and the Chief Executive and he is credited with giving the Marine Band its title, "The President's Own."

Whether performing for State Dinners or South Lawn arrivals, events of national significance, or receptions, Marine Band musicians appear at the White House an average of 200 times each year. These performances range from small ensembles such as a solo pianist, jazz combo or brass quintet to a country band, dance band or full concert band. The diversity of music often presented at the Executive Mansion makes versatility an important requirement for Marine Band members. Musicians are selected at auditions much like those of major symphony orchestras, and they enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps for permanent duty with the Marine Band. Most of today's members are graduates of the nation's finest music schools, and more than 60 percent hold advanced degrees in music.

In addition to its White House mission, "The President's Own" performs an annual season showcase series of indoor concerts and a popular outdoor summer concert series on the National Mall. Musicians from the band are frequently highlighted in solo performances and participate in more intimate chamber ensemble recitals that feature a wide range of smaller instrumental groups. Marine Band musicians also perform in many different types of ceremonies and events throughout the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area including the Presidential Inauguration, Full Honors funerals at Arlington National Cemetery, Honor Flight ceremonies for veterans at the National World War II Memorial, Friday Evening Parades at Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., and educational programs in schools throughout the National Capital Region.



Photo by: GySgt Rachel Ghadiali

Continued from page 6

Each fall, the Marine Band travels throughout a portion of the continental United States during its concert tour, a tradition initiated in 1891 by “The March King” John Philip Sousa, who was the band’s legendary 17th Director. As Director from 1880–92, Sousa brought “The President’s Own” to an unprecedented level of excellence and shaped the band into a world-famous musical organization. Since Sousa’s time, the band’s musical reach has extended beyond America’s borders on several occasions with performances in England, Norway, Ireland, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Singapore, and the former Soviet Union. During Sousa’s tenure, the Marine Band was one of the first musical ensembles to make sound recordings. By 1892, more than 200 different titles were available for sale, placing Sousa’s marches among the first and most popular pieces ever recorded.

While the Marine Band is firmly dedicated to preserving the unique musical traditions established over its long history, it is equally committed to serving as a leading ensemble in the development of new repertoire for winds. In 2000, “The President’s Own” commissioned David Rakowski’s *Ten of a Kind*, a piece honored as a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in music in 2002. In 2007, the band commissioned “Scamp” by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Melinda Wagner, and the Marine Band premiered Scott Lindroth’s *Passage* at the 2010 Midwest Clinic in Chicago. In 2011, the band commissioned and premiered *Flourishes and Meditations on a Renaissance Theme* by Michael Gandolfi at the American Bandmasters Association’s annual convention in Norfolk, Va. Most recently, music written for the Marine Band has included Gerard Schwarz’ *Above and Beyond*, Jacob Bancks’ *The Information Age* and Laurence Bitensky to write *Fearsome Critters*, the latter of which was premiered at the Texas Bandmasters Association Convention in San Antonio in July 2012.

On July 11, 1998, the Marine Band celebrated its 200th anniversary with a command performance at the White House and a gala concert at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington attended by President and Mrs. Clinton. Also during its bicentennial year, the Marine Band was the only ensemble inducted into the inaugural class of the American Classical Music Hall of Fame in Cincinnati.

Given its status among American musical organizations, “The President’s Own” continues to attract prominent guest conductors from major orchestras around the globe, including Osmo Vänskä, Leonard Slatkin, José Serebrier and Gerard Schwarz. On July 12, 2003, the Marine Band returned to the Kennedy Center to celebrate its 205th anniversary in a concert featuring guest conductor John Williams, renowned composer of American film and concert works and laureate conductor of the Boston Pops Orchestra. Williams returned to the podium in 2008 to conduct the final concert of the *Living History* concert series celebrating the Marine Band’s 210th anniversary. In honor of the Marine Band’s 215th birthday, John Williams composed and dedicated an original work to the Marine Band aptly titled “For ‘The President’s Own.’”

The Marine Band’s integral role in the national culture and in the government’s official life has affirmed the importance of the arts as a bridge between people. Since 1798, the Marine Band’s mission has been to provide music for the President of the United States and the Commandant of the Marine Corps. As the only musical organization with that mission, the Marine Band looks to the future, viewing its history and tradition as the foundation upon which to build its third century of bringing music to the White House and to the American people.

MARINE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Established by an Act of Congress in 1798, “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band is America’s oldest continuously active professional musical organization. Its mission is unique—to provide music for the President of the United States and the Commandant of the Marine Corps. Due to the musical demands of this mission, “The President’s Own” began using stringed instruments for performances at the White House as early as 1878. This practice continued during the directorship of John Philip Sousa (1880-92) and records indicate that an orchestra derived from the Marine Band also gave regular concerts at the Marine Barracks auditorium in Washington, D.C., as early as 1893.

The U.S. Marine Symphony Orchestra officially emerged as a concert ensemble in 1899 under the leadership of Captain William H. Santelmann (1898-1927), and was staffed by band musicians who doubled on a stringed instrument. In an effort to achieve a level of performance commensurate with that of the concert band, the doubling requirement in “The President’s Own” ended in 1955 under Colonel Albert Schoepper (1955-72), and a chamber orchestra with full-time string players was formed. Downsizing the ensemble also increased its flexibility within the tight quarters of the Executive Mansion and this model has continued to the present day.

Whether performing for State Dinners, events of national significance, ceremonies, or receptions, Marine Chamber Orchestra musicians appear at the White House approximately 200 times each year. These performances range from small ensembles such as a solo harp or string quartet to events that feature the full chamber orchestra, making versatility an important requirement for members. The musicians of today’s Marine Chamber Orchestra hail from some of the nation’s most prestigious universities and conservatories. Musicians are selected at auditions much like those of major symphony orchestras, and they enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps for permanent duty with “The President’s Own.”

Marine Chamber Orchestra public performances significantly increased beginning in 1978 and a regular concert series took shape under the directorship of Colonel John R. Bourgeois (1979-96) and Colonel Timothy W. Foley (1996-2004). Today, the Marine Chamber Orchestra frequently performs for the public during both the annual showcase and summer concert series. Performing a wide variety of music from the staples of the orchestral repertoire to modern works, Broadway and light classical selections, these concerts give patrons a virtual glimpse inside the Executive Mansion. The musicians are frequently highlighted in solo performances and also participate in chamber ensemble recitals and educational outreach programs that feature a variety of smaller instrumental groups.

Whether performing for Presidents, heads of state, concert patrons or students across the National Capitol Region, “The President’s Own” Marine Chamber Orchestra continues to be a cornerstone of the historic artistic life of the White House and a proud representative of the rich and diverse musical heritage of America.

2023 TOUR TO THE MIDWEST

In **October 2023**, "The President's Own" United States Marine Band will tour the Midwest, performing free, public concerts in the following states: **Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.**

Since 17th Director John Philip Sousa was first granted permission to tour the country by President Benjamin Harrison in 1891, the Marine Band has delivered a White House experience from Washington, D.C., to the far-reaching corners of our nation. These special concerts have now grown into an experience shared across generations of Americans as well as a cherished tradition for families, veterans and music-lovers alike.

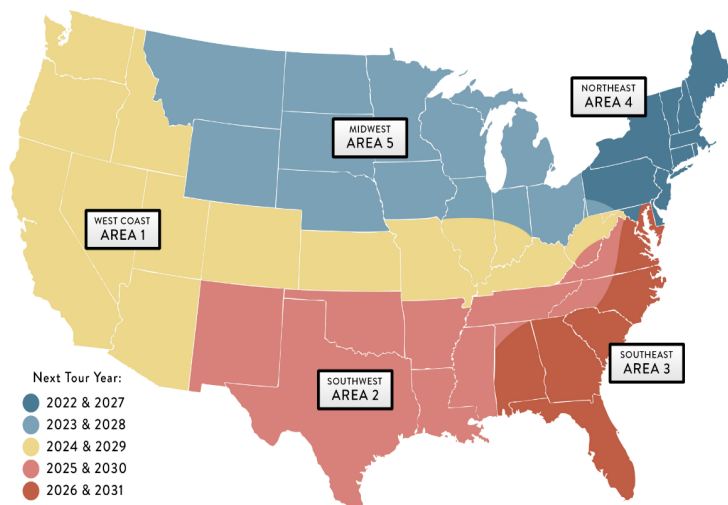
Marine Band Director Col. Jason Fettig has programmed musical selections in the style of the Sousa: Concertgoers can expect a mix of works including traditional band repertoire, Sousa marches, contemporary compositions, vocal and instrumental solos and a patriotic salute to the Armed Forces.

Tickets are free and will be made available one month before the concert date. Please select a date and city below for more information.

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7478770/2023-Marine-Band-Tour> to receive an email reminder when tickets become available.

- [Oct. 13 - Rock Island, IL](#)
- [Oct. 14 - Cedar Falls, IA](#)
- [Oct. 15 - Mason City, IA](#)
- [Oct. 16 - La Crosse, WI*](#)
- [Oct. 17 - Weston, WI](#)
- [Oct. 23 - Kalamazoo, MI](#)
- [Oct. 24 - Ann Arbor, MI](#)
- [Oct. 25 - East Lansing, MI*](#)
- [Oct. 26 - Notre Dame, IN](#)
- [Oct. 27 - Carmel, IN](#)
- [Oct. 28 - Fort Wayne, IN](#)
- [Oct. 29 - Toledo, OH*](#)
- [Oct. 30 - Cleveland, OH*](#)
- [Oct. 31 - Columbus, OH](#)

UPCOMING TOURS



USMC REUNIONS



ORGANIZATION/POC	DATE	PHONE	EMAIL/WEB
ANGLICO Association Reunion Carnival Cruise Lines, Jack Olson. Joe L. Luque Cape Carnival, FL	30 October to 3 November	1-800-764-7419 1-219-552-5121 1-661-725-3415	Jackolson79@gmail.com Jlluque47@gmail.com
ANGLICO Association Biennial Reunion Ebassy Suites, Marine Corps Ball, Jack Olson, Joe L. Luque West Palm Beach, FL	30 October to 5 November	1-219-552-5121 1-661-725-3415	www.anglicoassociation.vet Jackolson79@gmail.com Jlluque47@gmail.com
Marine Corps Vietnam 3rd MarDiv 1965-1972 CAP/CAG Units 2023 Reunion Hilton Doubletree Riverfront Jacksonville, FL	8-13 November 2023	630-310-0013	Bulldog_8762@yahoo.com
TBS Class 7-83 Golf Co Col Steve Labadie, USMCR (Ret.) LtCol Jim Brader, USMCR (Ret.) Quantico, VA	8-10 March 2024		https://sites.google.com/view/tbs-7-83/home
Women Marines Association Convention Atlanta Hilton, Atlanta, GA	8-12 August 2024	Convention Treasurer 816-916-5812	WMANatPresident@womenmarines.org https://www.womenmarines.org
A - 6 Intruder (USMC/USN) San Diego, CA	9-13 April 2024	571-437-5912	IntruderAssociation.org Robert.weber51@gmail.com
Marine Corps Weather Service Reunion Billings, MO	16-21 June 2024	Kathy 252-342-8459, Dave 812-630-2099	kathy.donham@hotmail.com englertd@psci.net
3rd LAAM BN—Alpha Battery 1978-1985 Louisville, KY	19-23 June 2024		alphabatterymarines@gmail.com
50th TBS Class Reunion Quantico, VA	28 June 2024	703-660-9713	dkfranklin@yahoo.com
USMC/Combat Helicopter & Tiltrotor Association Washington, DC	30 July - 4 August 2024	703-463-6192	skatz@popasmopke.com admin@popasmoke.com www.popasmoke.com
HMM-262 (Rein) Officers/Pilots (1988-1991) Hilton Garden Inn Downtown, Pensacola, FL	20-22 August 2024	Col Fred Geier 1-352-209-2519	fgeier3360@comcast.net
USMC A-4 Skyhawkers Reunion Hilton and Holiday Inn Resorts Pensacola Beach, FL	11-13 November 2024	Mark Williams 702-778-5010	Rogerwilco14@gmail.com
E Company 2/7 Vietnam Veterans Tucson, AZ	TBD	William Dyer 904-504-1582	parthree@comcast.net

Note to Reunion Planners: Send your reunion events as soon as possible to our organizational mailbox (smb.manpower.mmsr6@usmc.mil) to ensure timely inclusion in this publication. We apologize for the inconvenience with any delayed or missed events due to an unforeseen change in the distribution of this publication. Visit the MCCS web site (<http://www.usmc-mccs.org/reunion/>) for information on how to organize your reunion and lists of upcoming events.



Immunizations

By TRICARE last updated 18 September 2023

TRICARE covers age-appropriate doses of vaccines, as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

- TRICARE regularly adds coverage for new vaccines based on CDC recommendations.
- You can also talk to your provider or regional contractor to see if the vaccine you need is covered.

Getting Vaccines at a Military Hospital or Clinic

Contact your local military hospital or clinic for vaccine instructions and availability.

Getting Vaccines from a TRICARE-Authorized Provider

You can get covered vaccines from any TRICARE-authorized provider. TRICARE covers vaccines at no cost. But when you get the vaccine from your provider, you may have to pay copayments or cost-shares for the office visit or for other services received during the office visit. Your copayment and cost-share amounts vary according to your plan.

Enrolled in a TRICARE Prime option? Visit your primary care manager or a network provider to avoid point-of-service fees.

Getting Vaccines at Network Pharmacies

You can get some covered vaccines for \$0 at participating network pharmacies. To find a pharmacy that participates in the vaccine program:

- Search online or <https://militaryrx.express-scripts.com/find-pharmacy>
- Call 1-877-363-1303

Be sure to call the pharmacy first to:

- Verify the days and times you can come in for a vaccine.
- See if there are any restrictions.
- Make sure the pharmacy has the vaccine you need.
- Make sure a pharmacist gives the vaccines and not a provider to avoid potential out-of-pocket costs.

Vaccines Needed for Travel Outside of the United States

- TRICARE only covers these vaccines for active duty family members traveling with their sponsor on permanent change of duty station orders or other official travel.
- Claims must include a copy of the travel orders or other official documentation to verify the official travel requirement.



**GETTING THE
FLU VACCINE**



Explosives Expert Discusses Mission to Recover WWII Remains

By David Vergun DoD News 25 September 2023



Photo by Army Staff Sgt. John Miller

Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Matthew Sponagle, 30, is a member of a 25-person team from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency searching for the remains of 10 airmen from a B-24H Liberator bomber that crashed in a field in northern Germany in 1945.

Besides helping to identify personal effects and remains of the crew, Sponagle's other important job is explosive ordnance disposal technician for the team. When the team first arrived on Aug. 1, Sponagle established liaison with the local police and the German explosive ordnance disposal technicians who would dispose of any bombs or ammunition found.

After graduating from boot camp in September 2011 at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina, Sponagle spent eight months learning his craft at the Naval School Explosive Ordnance Disposal at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

But going to school doesn't mean you learned everything there is to know, he said. "You learn something new at each site," he said. For instance, Sponagle had to research the World War II ordnance that the bomber carried to better mitigate any hazards in Germany. He learned all about the bombs the aircraft was carrying - including information on the bomb fuses, small arms and ammunition, such as the 50-calibre machine gun.

Sponagle, a native of Reading, Pennsylvania, said this is his fourth recovery mission.

His first recovery mission was on a jungle mountain in Panama, where he helped search for two naval aviators whose plane crashed during a training mission. The team found some of the airmen's personal effects and parts of the aircraft; however, they found no remains, so that was pretty frustrating, he said.

Sponagle's next recovery mission was searching for missing airmen who crashed in Thailand in World War II.

Sponagle said his third recovery mission was special because they were searching for remains of Marines who fought on Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands during World War II.

As for future plans, Sponagle said he plans to stay in the Marine Corps and then work overseas on humanitarian assignments with a nongovernmental organization.

Sponagle said he volunteered for the recovery missions because he wanted to give back to the families whose loved ones paid the ultimate sacrifice.

The agency, which is part of the Defense Department, searches in 45 countries for missing service members from World War II and later conflicts, including the Korean War, Vietnam War and Desert Storm. Some 81,000 are still missing.

Once remains are recovered and the agency's laboratory determines the person's identity through DNA analysis and other means, the service member's family is notified and arrangements are made for a military funeral.

TAPS



The Marine Corps wishes to extend heartfelt sympathy to the loved ones and friends of our fallen comrades. Because of the Privacy Act, we cannot release addresses of the next of kin. The following list includes the Marine's name, last grade held that was reported to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, month and year of retirement, and month and year of death.

Note: In an effort to reduce erroneous listings, Semper Fidelis will only announce deaths that have been confirmed from DFAS. Telephonic reporting of deaths to MMSR-6 are first confirmed before posted in this column.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL		MAJOR	
JOHNSTON, ROBERT B.	Oct 75/Oct 23	ELLIS, BILLIE R.	Aug 77/May 23
MAJOR GENERAL		MULLEN, ARTHUR L. JR	Aug 72/Jul 23
MURPHY, DENNIS J.	Nov 87/Aug 23	PERRY, LEON E.	Aug 74/Jun 23
SULLIVAN, LAWRENCE F.	Aug 82/Jul 23	SHUBERT, JAMES D.	Sep 69/Jun 23
		STOUT, ALAN B.	Jun 81/Jun 23
COLONEL		CAPTAIN	
CARR, RICHARD W.	Jul 81/May 23	BODE, WICHARD H. JR	Jul 73/Jun 23
FULTON, SAMUEL J.	Oct 80/May 23	COFFEY, ALLIN L.	Dec 69/May 23
GAVLICK, MICHAEL H.	May 92/May 23	DARITY, MARTIN H. JR	May 73/Apr 23
MARSDEN, RICHARD W.	Feb 85/Jun 23	DOHERTY, ARTHUR D. JR	Jan 81/Mar 23
RODNEY, GLENN W.	Sep 75/Jun 23	DURHAM, SIDNEY E.	Oct 76/May 23
SCHUMACHER, JAMES A.	Jul 86/Jun 23	FONTENOT, ROBERT H.	Jun 81/Jun 23
SHAVER, GLENN J. JR	Sep 82/Apr 23	FORD, ROBERT	Nov 69/May 23
STONE, MARION F.	Oct 88/May 23	HALEY, DALE A.	Sep 85/Jan 23
WHITEHURTS, CORNELIUS B.	Feb 06/Jun 23	JEFFERY, HARRY D.	Feb 70/Apr 23
WOOLSEY, BLAIR D.	Oct 90/May 23	MALOY, THOMAS D. JR	Feb 74/May 23
LIEUTENANT COLONEL		MATTHEWS, MILLARD F. JR	Sep 75/May 23
ANSEMAN, NORMAN E.	Apr 81/Sep 22	NIENSTEDT, JAMES F.	Apr 71/Jul 23
BOSWELL, JOHN D.	Sep 91/Jul 23	ROBERTS, HARRY F.	Aug 75/Jun 23
BURGER, JOSEPH C. JR	Dec 78/Dec 22	ROSENTHAL, DAVID H. JR	Oct 46/Jul 23
CARR, JOHN B. JR	Sep 70/May 23	STELMAN, BOBBY	Jul 84/May 23
COOGAN, RICHARD J.	Apr 78/Jun 23	TULEYA, ROBERT W.	Nov 70/Mar 23
CUFF, JAMES J. JR	Jul 03/May 23	FIRST LIEUTENANT	
HUDSON, FLOYD G.	Aug 68/Oct 22	BROPHY, DANIEL R.	Nov 69/May 23
JONES, ROBERT D.	Oct 94/Jan 23	CECIL, WILLIAM H.	Nov 59/May 23
LEE, ROBERT B.	Jun 95/Jan 23	FLORIAN, FREDERICK J.	Jul 73/Jul 23
LOCKIE, JOHN E.	Jul 75/Jun 23	JOHNSON, GARY W.	Feb 73/May 23
MANGAN, JAMES P.	Jun 84/Jun 23	CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 4	
MATLAK, MARIA	Mar 99/Mar 23	BLASCHAK, JAMES M.	Dec 91/ Jun 23
MERRITT, JERRY A.	Sep 91/Jul 23	JULIAN, CHARLES J.	Feb 86/Apr 23
SHARPLES, JOHN P.	Jul 97/Jun 23	KUSTURIN, MARTIN	Jul 78/Jun 23
TUMMILLO, PETER F.	Jul 91/May 23	MURA, JOHN D.	Jun 01/Jun 23
WHITE, JEAN P.	Apr 75/Jun 23	CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 2	
		KERR, THOMAS G.	May 73/Jun 23

Continued from page 12

TAPS



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Note: In an effort to reduce erroneous listings, Semper Fidelis will only announce deaths that have been confirmed from DFAS. Telephonic reporting of deaths to MMSR-6 are first confirmed before posted in this column.

SERGEANT MAJOR HOPPER, CLYDE J.	Jan 90/ Jun 23	YOUNG, JACK	Aug 68/ Apr 23
MASTER GUNNERY SERGEANT ANDERSON, CLYDE F. BAYARD, HENRY D. DRURY, ARTHUR S. RODENBO, KENNETH E. WAHNON, JOHN	Jan 82/ Jul 23 May 80/ May 23 Jan 85/ Feb 21 Apr 00/ Jun 23 Jul 86/ Jun 23	GUNNERY SERGEANT ARATA, WILLIAM F. BENSON, ALFRED E. BLAKE, EDWARD BURHOP, RAYMOND R. CRISPIN, CARL C. DAVIS, THOMAS E. DIXON, CHARLS W. DOUGLASS, JACK G. EMMERS, HAROLD H. JR ESPINOSA, PETER P. HANCOCK, MICHAEL R. HARRISON, HAROLD K. HARTMAN, JOHN L. HERON, THOMAS J. HUNTER, HAROLD L. JACKSON, RICKY L. KIMIAK, KEVIN R. KLINE, STEPHEN C. LOWE, RICHARD A. MATHEWS, MCCLURE G. JR MISCHOCK, E. A. NYBERG, RICHARD A. PATE, MELTON B. ROBINSON, HURT JR ROSS, ROGERS B. RYAN, JAMES P. SMITH, MARK S. SMITH, WALTER W. SUMMERS, DERRICK E. TUFTS, GEORGE R. JR VIER, ROY G. WHITEROCK, ERNEST A.	Jul 01/ May 23 Oct 82/ May 23 Jul 73/ Jun 23 May 75/ Apr 23 Jul 07/ Jun 23 Jun 14/ May 23 Aug 80/ Jun 23 Jun 73/ May 23 Dec 95/ May 23 Dec 96/ May 23 Jul 04/ Jun 23 Sep 75/ Jun 23 Feb 85/ Dec 22 Jul 00/ Oct 22 Jun 94/ May 22 Sep 04/ May 23 Mar 00/ Jun 23 Nov 89/ May 23 Feb 04/ May 23 Apr 88/ Jul 23 Oct 69/ Jul 21 Aug 86/ May 23 Jul 69/ May 23 Aug 89/ May 23 Aug 92/ Jun 23 Mar 96/ Jun 23 Feb 87/ Jun 23 Jun 99/ Jun 23 Jan 96/ Jun 23 Jun 74/ May 23 Jun 80/ Jun 23 Nov 89/ Feb 22
FIRST SERGEANT BOYLAN, LESTER I. BURKE, GEORGE E. GREER, LUCHER D. HANSEN, ENOCH C. LAWRENCE, JAMES W. MALAVE, ALFONSO PILGER, JAMES A.	Mar 98/ Apr 23 Jun 70/ May 23 Mar 62/ Aug 22 Jul 73/ Jul 23 Jul 72/ Jun 23 Nov 71/ Jun 23 Jun 88/ May 23		
MASTER SERGEANT BOEHRINGER, ROGER A. BOLLMAN, TERRY D. CASTRO, HERIBERTO JR CURTIS, CARL D. BROWN, JOHN E. FERTSCH, NORMAN K. FISCHER, STEVEN R. FLORES, LOUIS J. FROST, CHESTER W. GRACE, JOHN B. GUBSER, ARTHUR G. HANKS, JOSEPH M. JONES, CURTIS W. KENWORTHY, EDWARD L. LAWRENCE, FREDERICK W. JR LEEPER, MICHAEL J. MACKAY, JOANNE M. MANYPENNY, WILLIAM D. MARTIN, DAVID C. ODELL, JAMES E. PHINNEY, ALAN R. RUMPZA, DENNIS J. SANFORD, CLIFFORD A. SHAW, HERBERT L. TAPPER, JOHN V.	Jun 82/ Mar 23 Dec 12/ Jun 23 Jun 79/ May 23 Aug 68/ May 23 Aug 93/ May 23 Feb 71/ Jan 23 Jun 75/ Aug 20 Mar 78/ Apr 23 Mar 79/ Apr 23 Feb 78/ Jun 23 May 82/ Jun 23 Sep 06/ Jun 23 Nov 79/ Apr 23 Oct 80/ May 23 Sep 92/ Apr 23 Aug 88/ Jun 23 May 94/ May 23 Jan 69/ Jan 23 Sep 85/ Jul 23 Oct 76/ Jun 23 Oct 86/ May 23 Jul 88/ May 23 Sep 75/ Aug 22 Aug 83/ Apr 23 Jul 69/ Jun 23		

Continued from page 13

TAPS



The Marine Corps wishes to extend heartfelt sympathy to the loved ones and friends of our fallen comrades. Because of the Privacy Act, we cannot release addresses of the next of kin. The following list includes the Marine's name, last grade held that was reported to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, month and year of retirement, and month and year of death.

Note: In an effort to reduce erroneous listings, Semper Fidelis will only announce deaths that have been confirmed from DFAS. Telephonic reporting of deaths to MMSR-6 are first confirmed before posted in this column.

STAFF SERGEANT

FARMER, KENNETH W.	Jan 67/Jun 23
FRANCIS, WILLIAM B.	Dec 96/Jul 23
MCCORMICK, TEX	Feb 76/Jun 23
PHILLIPS, EDWARD N.	Sep 72/Jan 23
ROJEK, VERNON W.	Sep 91/May 23

SERGEANT

BLONDIN, JASON M.	Feb 11/Jun 23
CARLSON, RUSSELL A.	Dec 68/May 23
DELAGUARO, MARK G.	Sep 75/May 23
JOHNSON, TIMOTHY P.	Jan 70/May 23
JONES, ELI JR	Jan 68/Mar 23

CORPORAL

BRASWELL, JOHN S.	Feb 70/Jun 23
PEARSON, JAMES D.	Aug 14/Apr 23
SYKORA, MARCUS L.	Mar 68/Apr 23

LANCE CORPORAL

ISCHAY, DUANE K.	Oct 67/May 23
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PRIVATE FIRST CLASS

MASON, JAMES A.	Dec 69/Jun 21
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Before Natural Disasters Strike, Know Your TRICARE Benefits

By TRICARE Communications NEWS 2 August 2023



Photo by Spc. Samuel Herman

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – Natural disasters are so frequent that it can be difficult to predict where the next hurricane, tornado, or flood may occur. That’s why you must always be prepared. In case of a natural disaster, one of the most important preparations is to ensure you and your family have your prescription drugs and access to health care services. Understanding how your TRICARE benefit works during emergencies is crucial.

“TRICARE has policies that allow beneficiaries to get needed prescriptions and health care during emergencies,” said Sapna Surana, chief of the TRICARE Private Sector Care Integration Office. “When a natural disaster strikes, these policies may apply to your area.”

When the government issues a state of emergency, TRICARE may temporarily change its procedures to ensure that you receive timely medical care. Here’s what you need to know.

How to get emergency prescription refills

TRICARE may authorize early refills for prescriptions during emergencies or prior to natural disasters, as stated in the *TRICARE Pharmacy Program Handbook*. To get an emergency refill, take your prescription bottle to any TRICARE retail network pharmacy. You should try to visit the pharmacy where you originally filled the prescription. If you used a retail chain, you can fill your prescription at another store in that chain. You can also ask your provider to call in a new prescription to any retail network pharmacy. Copayments will apply to your emergency prescription refill.

If your prescription bottle is unavailable or the label is damaged or missing, you should contact the TRICARE pharmacy contractor, Express Scripts, or your retail network pharmacy.

How to get emergency referral waivers

What if you’re displaced during a disaster and can’t visit your primary care manager? TRICARE may authorize blanket referral waivers in certain areas during emergencies. If a waiver is in place, it means you can see any TRICARE-authorized provider without paying point-of-service costs. If you need to file a claim, be sure to keep your receipts and file the claim as soon as possible. This will help you avoid unnecessary out-of-pocket costs.

If you’re displaced and need to find a doctor, use TRICARE’s Find a Doctor <https://www.tricare.mil/GettingCareFindDoctor> tool to find one nearby.

How to keep up with your TRICARE coverage

If your area experiences a natural disaster, there are a few things you should remember to do to after a disaster to make sure your health care needs are met.

- Check to see if you have your Uniformed Services ID card with you. If you lose your ID card, go to the nearest ID card office to get a new one.
- Follow appropriate referral and authorization procedures.
- Don't forget to transfer your TRICARE enrollment if you move after an evacuation.
- Continue to pay your plan's enrollment fees or monthly premiums on time, if applicable.
- File claims in a timely manner.

How to prepare for an emergency

What you do to prepare before a disaster is also important. Do you have an emergency plan? <https://www.ready.gov/plan> Take time to outline how you and your family would communicate, how you would evacuate, and where you would shelter. It's also important to have your essential items <https://newsroom.tricare.mil/Disaster-Information/Before-a-Disaster> in a place that's safe and easy to find.

When a natural disaster strikes your area, check TRICARE Disaster Alerts to learn if TRICARE has issued emergency policies such as early prescription refills or referral waivers. Follow up with your TRICARE contractor if you have any questions.

Looking for Older Disaster Alerts?

Go to the Weather Notices <https://militaryrx.express-scripts.com/notices/weather> page on the Express Scripts website.

If you live in an area that has a disaster declaration but do not see your state or county listed on our alerts, contact Express Scripts at 1-877-363-1303 to find out if emergency refill procedures have been enacted for you.

Disaster Information

We'll give you up-to-date, critical information that may affect your health benefits. We'll include information gathered from a variety of sources, including other federal agencies and departments, state and local government and the news and media.

- You can get care during any time of crisis - check current disaster alerts for details
- Learn about your health benefits before, during, and after a disaster
- If you're evacuated, take the necessary precautions
- In an emergency, dial 911 or go to the nearest emergency facility

7700 Arlington Boulevard
Suite 5101
Fall Church, VA 22042-5101

Stay Connected



The Fiscal Year 2023 National Defense Authorization Act: Survivor Benefit Plan Open Season

By DFAS 23, December 2022

SBP premium costs that would have been paid if the member had enrolled at retirement (or enrolled at another earlier date, depending on the member's family circumstances).

For retirees receiving pay, enrollment does require paying the premiums plus interest for the time period since the date they were first eligible to enroll, as well as the monthly premiums moving forward.

The SBP Open Season also allows eligible memThe SBP Open Season allows for **retirees receiving retired pay, eligible members, or former members awaiting retired pay** who are **currently NOT enrolled** in SBP or RCSBP (Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan) to **enroll**. For a member who enrolls during the SBP Open Season, the law generally requires that the member will be responsible to pay retroactive bers and former members who are **currently enrolled** in either SBP or RCSBP to **permanently discontinue** their SBP coverage. The law generally requires the covered beneficiaries to concur **in writing** with the election to discontinue. Previously paid premiums will not be refunded.

DFAS is working to prepare the forms, policies, and processes required to facilitate this SBP Open Season. We will be not be able to answer specific questions until we obtain official DoD guidance on the new law, policy, and processes.

Please check our special focus webpage for news and information - <https://www.dfas.mil/sbpopenseason23>
In the meantime, we created a special focus webpage to post information and instructions as they become available.

Please check our special focus webpage for news and information - <https://www.dfas.mil/sbpopenseason23>

The Vietnam War Commemoration is partnered with the Air and Space Forces Association for "A celebration of character and service" to honor Vietnam Veterans and their Families Jan. 13, 2024 at the Washington National Cathedral.

Save the Date
**VIETNAM WAR 50TH
CELEBRATION OF
CHARACTER AND COURAGE**

January 13, 2024
4:00 pm

*Washington National Cathedral
Washington, D. C.*

with a Legacy Reception to Follow

**Honoring Our Vietnam War Veterans
and Their Families**

- Joint Candlelight Program
- Musical Performances
- Veteran and Family Engagement
- Share your Story with Wreaths Across America Radio
- PACT ACT Information
- POW/MIA Flag Signing





VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC)

<https://www.va.gov/careers-employment/vetsuccess-on-campus/> Last updated 12 October 2022

VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC) supports Veterans and service members who are transitioning from military to college life, and certain qualified dependents. We have vocational rehabilitation counselors, called VSOC counselors, at 104 college campuses across the country.

Am I eligible for VetSuccess on Campus?

You may be eligible for this service if you're a service member, a Veteran, or a dependent, and you meet some of these requirements.

As a service member or Veteran, you must be eligible for educational assistance under any VA educational program.

As a dependent, at least one of these must be true:

- You're eligible for the Fry Scholarship, **or**
- You're eligible for the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance program, **or**
- You have had GI Bill benefits transferred from a spouse or parent, **or**
- You're eligible for educational assistance under any GI Bill program

Learn more about the Fry Scholarship: <https://www.va.gov/education/survivor-dependent-benefits/fry-scholarship/>

Learn more about the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance program: <https://www.va.gov/education/survivor-dependent-benefits/dependents-education-assistance/>

Learn more about educational assistance under any GI Bill program: <https://www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/>

How can VSOC counselors help me?

VSOC counselors can help you with vocational testing, career counseling, or getting faster access to certain VA benefits while you're attending college. VetSuccess on Campus is part of the larger Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) program.

VSOC counselors can also help you by:

- Showing you how to get referrals for campus health services
- Making referrals to VA health services
- Helping you get disability accommodations, like help with taking notes or writing assignments, in the classroom

Learn more about VetSuccess on Campus

Play these videos to learn more about how VetSuccess on Campus can help you.

Go to VetSuccess on Campus overview video (YouTube)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GdoqPObM8dg>

Go to VetSuccess resources available to Veterans video (YouTube)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NWLCIB5TX_k

Go to VetSuccess mentor program video (YouTube)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9bSkspOd_uo



**Employment Compensation from a Foreign Government
Can Impact Your Retired Pay**

Did You Know: Your military retired pay can be impacted if you receive compensation from a foreign government without advance permission?

The U.S. Constitution prohibits federal government employees from accepting compensation, gifts, or titles from foreign governments without the prior consent of Congress. This prohibition also applies to military retirees. Congress granted its consent to retirees seeking foreign government employment so long as the retirees obtain the advance approvals required by 37 U.S.C. § 908. Retired Marines who are considering accepting foreign government employment for compensation must receive approval in advance of receiving the compensation. In general, the Secretary of State and the Service Secretary from which you retired must *both* approve the employment/compensation. If the foreign government payment or award is limited to speeches, travel, meals, lodging, registration fees, or non-cash awards, you only need approval by the Service Secretary from which you retired. The purpose of this restriction is to prevent the exercise of undue influence by foreign governments on retired members of the United States military.

If a retired Marine accepts compensation from a foreign government or foreign government controlled entity for employment or for speeches, travel, meals, lodging, registration fees, or non-cash awards without prior approval, the Marine’s retired pay becomes subject to a withholding and/or debt, generally in an amount equal to the total amounts received from the foreign government.

To request approval of compensation from a foreign government for employment, speeches, travel, meals, lodging, registration fees or a non-cash award, retirees should contact Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps (MMSR-6) at the address listed below. Retirees may also review the Service Instructions listed below that are publicly available on the web at: https://www.quantico.marines.mil/portals/147/docs/resources/officesofcounsel/counsel_pge%20reference%20guide.pdf or by contacting the appropriate POC listed below. There are other laws that restrict some retirees from representing a foreign government entity before a U.S. Government agency or official, or that may require additional approvals, such as the Foreign Agents Registration Act and the International Traffic in Arms regulations. Retirees should consult with their employer’s human resources or general counsel offices for guidance on whether these other requirements apply.

Organizational mailbox: smb.manpower.mmsr6@usmc.mil	Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Separation & Retirement Branch (MMSR-6) 3280 Russell Rd Quantico VA 22134-5103 Telephone: (703) 784-9310/9311 Fax: (703) 784-9834	NAVSO P-1778 (Rev Apr 2000) "Reference Guide To Post Govern- ment Service Employment Activities of DON Personnel"
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The Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program 2023 Enrollee Decision Period **Deadline: November 9, 2023**

Long Term Care Partners, LLC, administrator of the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP), mailed Enrollee Decision Period letters to FLTCIP enrollees impacted by the current premium increase effective January 1, 2024. The mailings started in September 2023 and were sent over several days, so you may not receive your letter at the same time as other enrollees. The letter includes information about the premium increase with personalized options to help mitigate the impact of the increase. You can also view your options online in your My LTCFEDS account..

Who's impacted Impacted

Most FLTCIP enrollees are impacted by the current premium increase effective January 1, 2024. In general, you are impacted if you have FLTCIP 1.0, FLTCIP 2.0, or FLTCIP Alternative Insurance Plan (AIP) coverage and are not currently eligible for benefits or waiting for a decision on a pending claim.

There may be exceptions to this depending on your issue age (the age you applied and were approved for coverage). If you are excluded from the current premium increase, you will receive a letter indicating this.

Not impacted

If you have FLTCIP 3.0 coverage, you are not impacted by the current premium increase.

If you are currently eligible for benefits or waiting for a decision on a pending claim and you have FLTCIP 1.0, FLTCIP 2.0 or FLTCIP AIP coverage, you are not impacted. In the event your condition improves so that you are no longer eligible for benefits, or your pending claim is not approved, then your coverage, if you have not exhausted your Maximum Lifetime Benefit, will be subject to a premium increase.

You may not be impacted by the current premium increase; however, this does not mean your premiums are guaranteed. Your premium will not change because you get older or your health changes, or for any other reason related solely to you. Premiums may only change if you are among a group of enrollees whose premium is determined to be inadequate and OPM approves the change.

Premium increase

The FLTCIP premium increase will take effect on January 1, 2024.

The exact amount of the premium increase can vary based on your group. Each group is determined based on a combination of benefit options (such as your Benefit Period and/or inflation protection option), issue age (the age when you applied and were approved for coverage), and current plan (FLTCIP 1.0, FLTCIP 2.0, or FLTCIP AIP).

Take Action 2023 Enrollee Decision Period Q&As

Get answers to general questions about the 2023 Enrollee Decision Period and premium increase effective January 1, 2024.

Your Personalized Options

View your Enrollee Decision Period options online and access important information you should consider before you make your selection.

Select an Option by November 9, 2023

If we don't receive a selection by this date, your premium will automatically increase as outlined in Option 1 of your personalized options.

USMC Retired Services Offices

MCAS Yuma Arizona

<https://yuma.usmc-mccs.org/marine-family-support/transition-readiness>

geraldine.tirado@usmc.mil

(928) 269-3159

MCAGCC Twentynine Palms California

<http://mccs29palms.com/index.cfm/marine-family-programs/ppd/information-referral-with-relocation-services/>

plmsppd@usmc.mil

(760) 830-6344

MCAS Miramar California

<https://miramar.usmc-mccs.org/marine-family-support/military-family-life/retired-affairs>

sbmiramarmccs.iandr@usmc.mil

(858) 307-1428

MCB Camp Pendleton California

<https://pendleton.usmc-mccs.org/marine-family-support/retired-affairs>

ernesto.bulli-cruz@usmc-mccs.org

(760) 725-5704

(760) 277-4643

MCLB Barstow California

<https://barstow.usmc-mccs.org/marine-family-support/military-family-life/information-referral>

irr.mclbb@usmc-mccs.org

(760) 577-6533

MCRD San Diego California

<http://sandiego.usmc-mccs.org/marine-family-support/retired-affairs>

Perlita.rodriguez@usmc.mil

(619) 524-5298/5732

MCLB Albany Georgia

<http://albany.usmc-mccs.org/marine-family-support/transition-readiness>

raymond.breaux@usmc.mil

(229) 639-9122

MCB Camp Lejeune North Carolina

<https://www.mcieast.marines.mil/Staff-Offices/Retired-Affairs/>

luis.alers@usmc.mil

Luis J. Alers-Dejesus, (910) 451-0287

Fax: (910) 451-0677

MCAS Cherry Point North Carolina

<https://cherrypoint.usmc-mccs.org/marine-family-support/retired-affairs>

omb.ppd@usmc-mccs.org

(252) 466-7149

MCAS/MCRD South Carolina

<https://southcarolina.usmc-mccs.org/marine-family-support/transition-readiness/transition-readiness-seminars-crmc>

MCRD (843) 228-4574

bfrt_crmc_trs@usmc.mil

MCAS (843) 228-7701

MCB Quantico Virginia

<https://quantico.usmc-mccs.org/marine-family-support/transition-readiness>

mccsquanticoppdregistrtrion@usmc.mil

(703) 784-2659

MCB Camp SD Butler Okinawa Japan

<https://www.okinawa.usmc-mccs.org/marine-family-support/retired-affairs>

rao@okinawa.usmc-mccs.org

MCB Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii

<https://hawaii.usmc-mccs.org/marine-family-support/transition-readiness>

MCBH.TRP.INQUIRY.SMB@usmc.mil

(808) 257-7790

Ask the Retired Services Officer

Things to know when traveling outside the United States

This column addresses questions and issues commonly raised by retirees to Retired Services Office (RSO) representatives of the Marine Corps' Separations and Retirement Branch, which apprises the military retired community of benefits, entitlements, rights, privileges, and changes in retirement law, and provides customer service to military retirees, families, annuitants, and survivors. RSO representatives research questions, provide reliable answers, and refer personnel to appropriate service providers, thus helping retirees and their families obtain the rights, benefits, and privileges to which they're entitled.

Volunteer opportunities exist at several RSOs in CONUS and OCONUS. Check the listing of offices printed elsewhere in this edition of Semper Fidelis.

The information below was submitted by the Outreach/Overseas/Resources Committee of the SECNAV Retiree Council. To learn more about the Council, visit <https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Support-Services/21st-Century-Sailor/Retired-Activities/> SECNAV-Retiree-Council/. Access the Council's Facebook page by searching for Navy and Marine Corps Retirees, then like and follow for frequent news updates.

Q: Does Medicare cover me when I travel outside the United States?

A: Medicare will not cover you outside the United States, except in rare situations. For example, Medicare may cover treatment at a Canadian hospital if you have a medical emergency while traveling between Alaska and another state. Medicare may also cover treatment if you have a medical emergency while in the U.S. or a U.S. territory and the nearest hospital is across the border in Canada or Mexico.

If you're on a ship that is within six hours of a U.S. port, you'll likely have Medicare coverage.

Some Medical Advantage (Part C) plans may cover certain emergencies if they occur outside the United States. In most cases, you'll need supplemental travel insurance.

Q: What about TRICARE coverage while I'm traveling overseas?

A: Medicare does not provide coverage outside the United States or U.S. territories. Therefore, TRICARE For Life becomes your primary payer for health care received in all other overseas locations. You're responsible for paying TRICARE's annual deductible and cost shares.

Q: Am I eligible for medical treatment at overseas U.S. military medical treatment facilities?

A: Before embarking on overseas travel, check to see if the U.S. has a military base or bases in the country or countries you'll be visiting. Then check on the military treatment facility or facilities to see what is covered.

In case of a medical emergency, it may be helpful to have more than one credit card account. Medical expenses can be high. If you must make payments, you will have your credit cards available. If you must pay for medical out of your own pocket, you may be able to get some portion reimbursed from TRICARE.

Consider purchasing medical insurance before you travel outside the U.S. and U.S. territories. Keep your information current with the organizations that have a role in your health care enrollment and coverage:

DEERS: 1-800-538-9552

Health Net Federal Services (TRICARE West): 1-844-866-9378

Humana Military (TRICARE East): 1-800-444-5445

Medicare: 1-800-633-4227

Steps to Take When an Annuitant Dies

ELIGIBILITY FOR SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN ANNUITY PAY ENDS WITH THE DEATH OF THE ANNUITANT (BENEFICIARY)

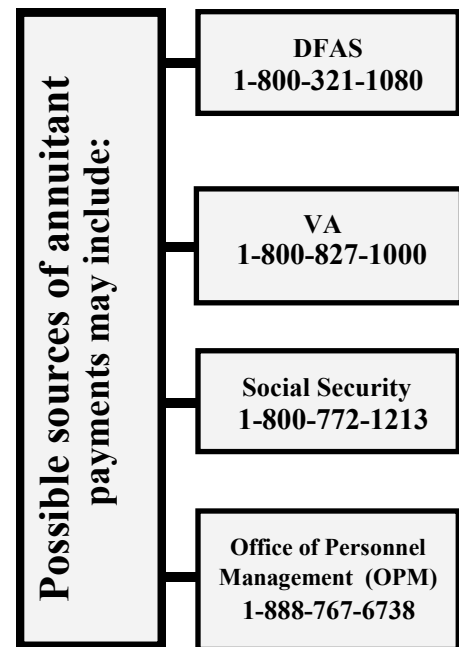
Prompt reporting of a deceased military annuitant’s death can help avoid delay and prevent possible financial hardship for the surviving family members or executors, who will be required to return any unearned payments of the decedent’s annuity pay if payment is erroneously received.

***While the VA does not provide burial benefits for annuitants, the annuitant may be eligible for burial in a military cemetery.

Follow these steps to report the death of an annuitant:

1. Call DFAS at 1-800-321-1080 to report the death and stop annuity pay.
2. Mail or fax a copy of the annuitant’s death certificate to:

DFAS - U.S. Military Annuitant Pay
8899 E. 56th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46249-1300
Fax: 1-800-982-8459
3. Inform any financial institutions receiving payments about the death of the annuitant. (Provide a copy of the death certificate when it becomes available).
4. If applicable, contact the following agencies/departments immediately to report the death:
 - **Social Security Administration:**
1-800-772-1213 www.ssa.gov
 - **Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System:**
1-800-538-9552
 - **Department of Veterans Affairs:**
1-800-827-1000 (annuitants in receipt of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation)
www.va.gov



If you believe you are the victim of an error or injustice which affects your military record, you may apply for a Correction of Military Records by completing and submitting a DD Form 149, Application for Correction of Military Record. Examples of corrections include: upgraded discharge, promotions, retired pay, household goods, pay date change, bonus, and MGIB programs. DFAS pays military members when the Board for Corrections of Naval Records (BCNR) rule in their favor. If you received a decision from the BCNR and you do not agree with it, write the Board and explain your reasoning. Reference the appropriate address on page 2 of the DD Form 149. If you would like to check the status of your request contact the BCNR directly at (703) 604 - 6884 (Navy/Marine Corps). If you believe DFAS paid you incorrectly for your Correction of Record, provide documentation with a handwritten signature explaining why you are protesting the amount to:

DFAS-IN
 Dept. 3330, Attn: COR/Claims
 8899 East 56th Street
 Indianapolis, IN 46249-3300
 DFAS Inquiry Line: (317) 212-6167
 (Hours: 8:30 am to 3:30 pm, EST)

Steps to Take When a Retired Marine Dies

1. REPORT THE DEATH TO DFAS at **(800) 321-1080** to stop retirement pay and avoid indebtedness. If the retired Marine was receiving pay from another source due to a disability from the VA or civil service retirement from the Office of Personnel Management, contact that agency to return the payment. If you fail to do this, you will have to repay it later.

Additional information from DFAS is available at www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/survivors/Retiree-death/.

For families located overseas, the commercial number is **(216) 522-5955**, select option 3 to be directed to the appropriate representative.

NOTE: DFAS will forward a confirmed death listing to Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps (MMSR-6) for inclusion in an upcoming issue of this newsletter under the TAPS column.

2. Within 7-10 business days after reporting the death to DFAS, you should receive a letter containing the following documents:
 - a. SF1174 Claim for Unpaid Compensation of Deceased Member of the Uniformed Service
 - b. Annuity account forms and instructions (if the decedent was enrolled in the Survivor Benefit Plan or the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan)
 - c. W-4P Withholding Certificate for Pension or Annuity Payments
 - d. Direct Deposit form

Complete the forms you received with your letter and return them with a copy of the retiree's death certificate that includes cause of death to:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service
U.S. Military Retired Pay
8899 E 56th Street
Indianapolis IN 46249-1200

If you need assistance completing your claim forms, please call (800) 321-1080.

3. REPORT SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN ELECTION, *if applicable*. Designated annuitants will receive notification from DFAS if the deceased retired Marine elected SBP. If you are uncertain whether an election was made, call DFAS at (800) 321-1080.
4. UPDATE YOUR MILITARY ID CARD. Your status has changed, and as the survivor of a deceased Marine, your ID card must be updated to reflect it due to the Marine's death. Access your nearest ID site at <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco> or call HQMC (MMSR-6) at (800) 336-4649 or (703) 784-9310 to obtain the sites closest to you.
5. NOTIFY THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION at (800) SSA-1213 (www.ssa.gov) to apply for the \$255 death benefit, *if applicable*.
6. CONTACT THE VA at (800) 827-1000 FOR BURIAL AND OTHER VA BENEFITS, *such as VA disability payments*. A copy of the sponsor's DD 214 is required. Visit www.va.gov for more information.
7. CONTACT THE U.S. OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT at (888)-767-6738 if the sponsor was receiving civil service pay.



MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS FOR BURIALS OUTSIDE ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY (ANC)

The funeral director (preferred) or a family member can contact the HQMC Military Funeral Honors Section at (866) 826-3628 or (703) 432-9524 to request Military Funeral Honors for a veteran. The funeral director (or family member) must be able to provide the Marine's complete name, SSN, rank, status (retired or veteran), date of birth, date of death, and place of death/interment. In addition, a copy of the Marine's DD-214 needs to be provided for verification of "honorable service". If a DD-214 is not readily available, it can be requested through the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, MO. The following link provides additional details:

<https://www.hqmc.marines.mil/Agencies/Casualty-MFPC/Funeral-Honors/>

MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS FOR BURIALS AT ANC

A family member will need to contact ANC directly. The following link provides information on eligibility, required documents, and additional resources for scheduling and attending funerals at ANC. Marine Barracks Washington provides Military Funeral Honors for Marine burials at ANC.

Agencies Providing Aid and Assistance To Surviving Spouses

Arlington National Cemetery: (703) 607-8000

Gold Star Wives of America: (888) 751-6350, www.goldstarwives.org

Military Funeral Honors: (866) 826-3628 or (703) 432-9524

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society: (703) 696-4904, www.nmcrcs.org

National Military Families Association: (800) 260-0218, www.nmfa.org

Society of Military Widows: (800) 842-3451, www.militarywidows.org/home.aspx

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors: (800) 959-8277, www.taps.org



SOME THINGS YOU WILL NEED TO DO:

- Gather important documents for claims processing (e.g., birth certificate, will, etc.)
- Begin to make funeral and burial arrangements
- Start claim process for applicable benefits (e.g., SBP, VA life insurance, Social Security)
- Determine immediate and short-term financial needs and income sources
- Arrange for help with legal affairs of the deceased
- Notify joint account agencies (e.g., credit cards, banks, auto registration, home/auto insurance)
- Review survivor's own legal documents for possible revision
- Obtain multiple certified death certificates (6-12 copies)



Directory Assistance Pages

A

AMC PASSENGER TERMINAL

<http://www.amc.af.mil/Home/AMC-Travel-Site/>

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

(877) 907-8585

www.arlingtoncemetery.mil

ARMED FORCES RECREATION CENTERS

www.armymwr.com/travel/armed-forces-hotels-resorts

- **Edelweiss Lodge and Resort (Germany)**
(011-49) 8821-9440
- **Mokapu Recreational Lodging (Hawaii):**
(800) 955-0555

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOMES (WASHINGTON, DC & GULFPORT, MS)

admissions@afrh.gov/(800) 422-9988

AWARDS:

Marines who have been discharged, separated or retired on or before 1 January 2001 should submit their inquiry to:

National Personnel Record Center
Military Personnel Records
1 Archives Dr., St. Louis, MO 63138
Phone: (314) 801-0800

B

BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS

701 S. Courthouse Rd., Bldg. 12, Suite 1001

Arlington, VA 22204-2490

(703) 604-6884/6885; Fax: (703) 604-3434

<https://www.secnav.navy.mil/mra/bcncr/Pages/default.aspx>

C

CAMP LEJEUNE NOTIFICATION REGISTRY

<https://clnr.hqi.usmc.mil/clwater>

COLD WAR RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Attn: AHRC-PDP-A, Dept. 480

1600 Spearhead Division Ave.

Fort Knox, KY 40122-5408

Fax: (888) 276-9472 or (502) 613-9510

COMBAT-RELATED SPECIAL COMPENSATION

SECNAV CRSC Board

720 Kennon St. SE, Ste. 309; Washington Navy Yard,
DC 20374-5023

(877) 366-2772, Fax: (202) 685-6610

usn.ncr.asstsecnavmrade.mbx.crscc@us.navy.mil

<http://www.secnav.navy.mil/mra/CORB/pages/crsccb/default.aspx>

D

DD 214s

Marines who have been discharged, separated, or retired on or before 31 December 1998:

National Personnel Records Center

1 Archives Dr., St. Louis, MO

63138

(314) 801-0800; Fax: (314) 801-9195

<https://nrd.gov/resource/detail/8432677/The+U.S.+National+Archives+%26+Records+Administration>;

www.archives.gov/st-louis

Marines discharged/retired/separated on or after 1 January 1999:

Commandant of the Marine Corps (MMRP)-10

2008 Elliot Rd., Quantico, VA 22134-5030

(800) 268-3710; smb.manpower.mmrp-10@usmc.mil

DEFENSE FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING SERVICE

(888) 332-7411, www.dfas.mil

U.S. and OCONUS: (216) 522-5955, Fax: (800) 469-6559

DFAS Special Compensation for the Severely Disabled

P.O. Box 998011; Cleveland, OH 44199-8011

(216) 522-6170

E

E-BENEFITS: <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/appmanager/eb/veterans>

F

Federal Employee Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP)

(877) 888-FEDS ((877) 888-3337)

www.BENEFEDS.com/military

Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP)

(800) LTC-FEDS ((800) 582-3337)

<https://www.ltcfeds.com>

M

MARINE CORPS ASSOCIATION

715 Broadway St., Quantico, VA 22134

(866) 622-1775, ext. 100, Fax: (703) 640-0162

mca@mca-marines.org

- **Leatherneck Magazine**

(888) 237-7683; Fax: (703) 640-0823

leatherneck@mca-marines.org

- **Marine Corps Gazette**

(800) 336-0291, ext. 144; Fax: (703) 630-9147

gazette@mca-marines.org

MARINE BARRACKS WASHINGTON



Directory Assistance Pages

MARINE CORPS HERITAGE FOUNDATION

1775 Semper Fidelis Way, Triangle, VA 22172
(703) 640-7965 OR (800) 397-7585; info@marineheritage.org
<https://www.marineheritage.org/>

MARINE CORPS HISTORY DIVISION

Marine Corps University
2044 Broadway Street, Quantico, VA 22134-5001
(703) 432-4874, <https://www.history.division@usmcu.edu>

MARINE CORPS JUNIOR ROTC TECOM (C46JR)

1019 Elliot Rd, 2034 Barnett Ave, Room 200, Quantico, VA
22134-5001 (703) 784-3706; <https://www.mcjrotc.org>

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE NATIONAL HQ

3619 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Suite 115
Stafford, VA 22554, (703) 207-9588: JFoster@MCLeague.org
(Membership Manager)

MARINE CORPS RECORDS CORRESPONDENCE (MMRP-12)

2008 Elliot Rd., Quantico, VA 22134-5030
(800) 268-3710, (703) 784-3930/4646/5616

MARINE CORPS RESERVE ASSOCIATION

3619 Richmond Hwy, Suite 115
Stafford, VA 22554-7771, (877) 289-8780, (703) 289-1204

MCCS COMMUNITY SERVICES: www.usmc-mccs.org

MEDICAL RECORDS: Marines who have been discharged/
separated/retired on 1 May 1994 or later:

VA Records Management Center

P.O. Box 5020; St. Louis, MO 63115-8950
(888) 533-4558; Fax: (314) 538-4571

MEDICARE: (800) 633-4227; <https://www.medicare.gov>

N

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS

1775 Semper Fidelis Way, Triangle, VA 22172
(877) 653-1775; <https://www.usmcmuseum.com>

NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER

(314) 801-0800; <https://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center/military-personnel>

NAVY LODGE WORLDWIDE RESERVATIONS CENTER

(800) 628-9466; <https://www.navy-lodge.com>

NAVY-MARINE CORPS RELIEF SOCIETY

875 N. Randolph Road Street, Suite 225, Arlington, VA 22203
(800) 654-8364; <http://www.nmcrs.org/a/homepage>

Q

QUANTICO NATIONAL CEMETERY

(703) 221-2183; <https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/quantico.asp>

S

SISTER SERVICE RETIREE PUBLICATIONS

- **Air Force Afterburner:** <http://www.retirees.af.mil/Library/Afterburner/>
- **Army Echoes:** <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/army-echoes>
- **Coast Guard Evening Colors:** <https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Human-Resources-CG-1/Pay-and-Personnel-Center-PPC/>
- **Navy Shift Colors:** <https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Media-Center/Publications/Shift-Colors/>

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

(800) 772-1213; <https://www.ssa.gov>

SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN

<https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/provide/sbp>

T

THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN: (877) 968-3778; Fax: (216)

367-3605; TSP mailbox: thriftline@tsp.gov

International callers: (404) 233-4400

<https://www.tsp.gov/index.html>

TRICARE: <https://tricare.mil/>

- **East:** (800) 444-5445; <https://www.humanamilitary.com/east/>
- **West:** (844) 866-9378; <https://www.tricare-west.com>
- **Overseas:** (888) 777-8343; <https://www.tricare-overseas.com>
- **Health Beneficiary Counseling Assistance Coordinator:** <https://www.tricare.mil/bcadcdao>

TRICARE for LIFE: (866) 773-0404; <https://www.tricare4u.com>

TRICARE Network Pharmacy Program

(877) 363-1303;

<https://www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE/index.shtml>

TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery: (877) 363-1296;

<https://tricare.mil/homedelivery>

U

UNIFORM SUPPORT CENTER: (800) 368-4088;

Fax your DD 214 to (800) 551-6289 before placing order.

V

VA: (800) 827-1000; <https://www.va.gov>

VA EDUCATION: (888) 442-4551; <https://www.gibill.va.gov>

www.gibill.va.gov

VA LIFE INSURANCE PROGRAMS:

(800) 669-8477; <https://www.insurance.va.gov>

VA SGLI/VGLI: (800) 419-1473

VA STATUS OF HEADSTONES AND MARKERS:

(800) 697-6947

HEADQUARTERS, U.S. MARINE CORPS (MMSR-6)
 JAMES WESLEY MARSH CENTER
 3280 RUSSELL ROAD
 QUANTICO, VA 22134-5103

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
 PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

Access your newsletter online at <https://www.hqmc.marines.mil/Agencies/Manpower-Reserve-Affairs-MMSR-6/>

Separation and Retirement Branch (MMSR)

Dr. Bobby Anderson, *Branch Head*
bobby.t.anderson.civ@usmc.mil

Maj Deborah L. Queen, *Assistant Branch Head*
deborah.queen@usmc.mil



Retired Services and Pay Section (MMSR-6)

Vincent P. Tate, *Human Resources Manager*
vincent.tate@usmc.mil

Donald J. Saucier, *Writer-Editor*
donald.saucier@usmc.mil

Human Resources Specialists

Beverly T. Britt
 Pamela Karp
 Rose M. Thomas
 Glenda Williams
 Donald Saucier

Marine Admin Staff
 GySgt Justin Ransom

WHO TO CONTACT:

MMSR-2: (703) 784-9322/23 Enlisted
 (703) 784-9324/25 Officer



Active Duty Separations and Retirements

- **Officer**
smb.manpower.mmsr2o@usmc.mil
- **Enlisted**
smb.manpower.mmsr2e@usmc.mil

MMSR-4: (703) 784-9308/09/21
Disability Separations and Retirements
smb.manpower.mmsr4@usmc.mil

MMSR-5: (703) 784-9306/07
 Fax: (703) 784-9834
Inactive Reserve Separations and Retirements
smb.manpower.mmsr5@usmc.mil

MMSR-6: (703) 784-9311/10; 1-800-336-4649
 Fax: (703) 784-9834
Retired Services and Pay

- Address Changes (Note: Annuitants must call DFAS)
- Identification Cards
- Semper Fidelis
- Survivor Benefit Plan

smb.manpower.mmsr6@usmc.mil



TRICARE covers age-appropriate doses of vaccines, as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

- TRICARE regularly adds coverage for new vaccines based on CDC recommendations.
- You can also talk to your provider or regional contractor to see if the vaccine you need is covered.

Getting Vaccines at a Military Hospital or Clinic

Contact your local military hospital or clinic for vaccine instructions and availability.

Getting Vaccines from a TRICARE-Authorized Provider

You can get covered vaccines from any TRICARE-authorized provider. TRICARE covers vaccines at no cost. But when you get the vaccine from your provider, you may have to pay copayments or cost-shares for the office visit or for other services received during the office visit. Your copayment and cost-share amounts vary according to your plan.

Enrolled in a TRICARE Prime option? Visit your primary care manager or a network provider to avoid point-of-service fees.

Getting Vaccines at Network Pharmacies

You can get some covered vaccines for \$0 at participating network pharmacies. To find a pharmacy that participates in the vaccine program:

- Search online or
- Call 1-877-363-1303

Be sure to call the pharmacy first to:

- Verify the days and times you can come in for a vaccine.
- See if there are any restrictions.
- Make sure the pharmacy has the vaccine you need.
- Make sure a pharmacist gives the vaccines and not a provider to avoid potential out-of-pocket costs.

Vaccines Needed for Travel Outside of the United States

- TRICARE only covers these vaccines for active duty family members traveling with their sponsor on permanent change of duty station orders or other official travel.
- Claims must include a copy of the travel orders or other official documentation to verify the official travel requirement.

Find a Doctor <https://www.tricare.mil/GettingCare/FindDoctor>