

## NEWS FOR USAF RETIRED PERSONNEL

Volume 1, No. 3 AFI 36-1 December 2008

#### Inside this issue:

- COLA rate for 2009
- Annual tax, pay statements due soon
- What's going on in your Air Force
- The cost of doing business
- Editor's note
- Call ahead before seeking an ID card
- RAO Spotlight
- When a surviving spouse dies
- Honor flight offers veterans a free ride
- Officials revise Purple Heart eligibility criteria
- Burial at sea an option for retirees
- News Nibbles
- AAFES offers Retiree Corners
- Association seeks Officer Candidate School alumni
- If you need to contact the e-Afterburner...

## COLA rate for 2009

Based on the increase in the U.S. Consumer Price Index, there will be a 5.8 percent cost-of-living adjustment increase for most retired pay and Survivor Benefit Plan annuities effective Dec. 1, according to Pentagon officials. This increase will be reflected in the Jan. 1 payment.

# Annual tax, pay statements due soon

Believe it or not, another tax season is just around the corner. Now is the time to prepare to receive your 1099R in a timely manner.

Military retirees and annuitants paid by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service will receive their tax statements and end-of-year statements beginning mid-December on myPay. DFAS sends a combined mailing to those retirees who do not have access to myPay and to those retirees who have requested a hardcopy of a Retired Account Statement or a 1099R.

All annuitants will receive a combined mailing of both the Annuity Account Statement and the 1099R from DFAS. Do not call the Retiree Services Section at the Air Force Personnel Center, as the section has nothing to do with pay or tax matters.

If the statements are not received by Jan. 15, it is typically for one of two reasons. The most common reason is when retirees and annuitants move from one place of residence to another and do not contact DFAS to change their correspondence address. In these cases, the statements will be returned to DFAS to process as a change-of-address request.

The other reason for non-receipt of the end-of-the- year statements for retirees is because the retiree has requested or already has a myPay Personal Identification Number and accessing myPay is consenting to receive ONLY an electronic 1099R. The exception to this rule is if the retiree has requested that either the account statement or the 1099R be mailed to them, in which case both forms will be mailed to the retiree's current correspondence address on record at DFAS.

If either of these situations occurs, customers have several options to obtain their earning statements or their 1099Rs. The quickest and simplest way is by accessing the myPay system. If the customer has a myPay PIN, they have the ability to access their pay account to change their current correspondence address and to view and print their current earning statements and their 1099Rs.

Another way a customer can request a 1099R is by calling (800) 321-1080.

Retirees who have forgotten or do not have a myPay PIN can request a new one at the myPay Web site (https://mypay.dfas.mil). If the retiree's e-mail address information has been submitted, a temporary PIN will be sent to this address. Otherwise, a temporary PIN will be mailed to the correspondence address on the pay file. (Courtesy of DFAS)

# What's going on in your Air Force

In order to keep you better informed about your Air Force, the e-Afterburner will regularly highlight current events affecting all Airmen.

## Air Force senior leaders take up key decisions

WASHINGTON (AFRNS) -- The nuclear enterprise, cyber organization, end strength, force shaping, and command and control of Air Force operations were just some of the topics discussed when Air Force senior leaders met Oct. 1 to 3 during Corona at the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Corona meetings allow Air Force senior leaders to come together for frank, open discussions and decision-making about the future of the Air Force.

Secretary of the Air Force Michael B. Donley set the tone stating, "Over the past two days we addressed several issues, making decisions on key Air Force missions necessary to move our Air Force in the right direction."

The Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. Norton Schwartz, followed with comments on the importance of the conference saying, "Corona is a forum for decision. The teamwork manifested in this room will allow us to accomplish what our Air Force needs done."

As a follow-up to the recent nuclear summit, the briefings and decisions at Corona were dominated by discussions on the nuclear enterprise. Discussions included options to reconfigure the command structure for nuclear forces, roles and responsibilities of the Nuclear Weapons Center, the required skills and force development for personnel conducting the nuclear mission, and stand-up of the new nuclear-focused staff element organization within Air Force headquarters.

The leadership also decided to establish a nuclear focused major command to concentrate Air Force support for the nuclear and deterrence missions.

"We will announce decisions soon because they are crucial steps toward attaining excellence in our nuclear enterprise and revitalization of the nuclear culture across the Air Force," said Secretary Donley.

Initial planning will be integrated into the Air Force Nuclear Roadmap, which will be unveiled in a few weeks.

In addition, the senior leaders discussed the Air Force active-duty end-strength ceiling, now to be 330,000 Airmen, and addressed which missions and functional specialties should obtain additional allocations based on emerging missions as well as critically manned career fields.

"Force shaping across the Air Force is hard work. There are many factors that need to be considered as we determine where manpower billets will be placed ... everything from new missions that are directly contributing everyday to joint operations to shortfalls in specific functional areas," said General Schwartz.

"The leadership will work to close this issue for this budget cycle in the coming weeks."

A key component of the Air Force's contribution to the current global war on terrorism is the execution of command and control of air assets supporting theater operations.

Leaders initiated discussions on how the service can better fulfill the responsibilities to organize, train, and equip command and control capabilities for the joint force commander, as well as how the Air Force can best identify and overcome potential shortfalls in our capabilities.

"How we prioritize and utilize our command and control capabilities in support of joint force operations are key to the overall success of every mission," said General Schwartz.

Also discussed was how the Air Force can improve support to joint force commanders. One decision made is to assign a senior Air Force officer to appropriate JFCs with command authority to direct air support. The leadership also decided to strengthen air to ground integration by increasing the number and training of the Airmen supporting tactical air control systems, and accepting offers from other services to integrate their personnel into command and control units.

Leadership also decided to establish a numbered Air Force for cyber operations within Air Force Space Command and discussed how the Air Force will continue to develop capabilities in this new domain and train personnel to execute this new mission.

"The conduct of cyber operations is a complex issue, as DoD and other interagency partners have substantial equity in the cyber arena," said Secretary Donley. "We will continue to do our part to increase Air Force cyber capabilities and institutionalize our cyber mission."

Locations for the new nuclear command and cyber NAF were not addressed and require further deliberation.

Other key AF issues discussed include an update on the status of joint basing initiatives, the development of a common Logistics Standardization Evaluation Program, and review of the concept of integrating the networks used to repair the Air Force's weapon systems.

"We came together to discuss key issues, chart a way ahead and move forward with sound decisions," said General Schwartz. "Our goal is a more stable Air Force, focused on our core missions, as a key member of the joint team."

"What Airmen do every day across the Air Force is not easy work. What our leadership team did over the last couple days at Corona was not easy work," said Secretary Donley. "But we all know how to rise to the challenge and the Air Force is better because of everyone's efforts at making key decisions." (Courtesy of SECAF Public Affairs)

### Report calls for new command, headquarters agency

WASHINGTON (AFRNS) -- Establishment of a Global Strike Command and a Headquarters Air Force staff agency to handle Air Force nuclear assets are some of the recommendations found in the Nuclear Enterprise Roadmap released Oct. 24 by senior leaders.

Titled, "Reinvigorating the Air Force Nuclear Enterprise," the roadmap also recommends a nuclear weapons center and a single process for inspections.

The roadmap follows an unauthorized transfer of munitions from Minot Air Force Base, N.D., to Barksdale AFB, La., in August 2007 and an inadvertent shipment of sensitive

missile components to Taiwan in 2006. The secretary of the Air Force created the Air Force Nuclear Task Force to develop a strategic roadmap to rebuild the service's nuclear enterprise.

"This roadmap will enable the Air Force to effectively secure, maintain, operate and sustain our nation's nuclear capabilities and expertise," said Secretary of the Air Force Michael B. Donley. "It will also correct long-standing systemic and institutional weaknesses in our stewardship of nuclear matters.

"This roadmap is our commitment to the nuclear enterprise," Secretary Donley said. "It's the foundation for reinvigorating the Air Force nuclear enterprise to reestablish the confidence in our ability to provide nuclear deterrence to our nation and our allies."

The chief of staff of the Air Force said the roadmap is going back to fundamentals.

"This roadmap reflects a back-to-basics approach in accountability, compliance, precision and reliability," said Gen. Norton Schwartz, chief of staff of the Air Force.

According to Air Force officials, the roadmap is vital to improving Air Force stewardship of the bomber, missile and associated logistics capabilities that form the foundation of America's strategic nuclear deterrent.

"These changes will be institutionalized across our nuclear enterprise, ensuring our commitment to excellence regardless of changes to our force structure, competing mission requirements or the size of our nuclear arsenal," Secretary Donley said.

To fortify current operations, develop personnel and sustain and modernize current capabilities within the nuclear forces, Air Force officials will undertake a series of action plans to address the root causes of the recent problems. The action plans implement approximately 100 recommendations grouped into a composite set of major actions that serve as the foundation of the roadmap. These major actions include:

- -- Increase institutional focus and oversight by establishing an Air Force Global Strike Command, led by a lieutenant general, and a HAF strategic deterrence and nuclear integration staff office, to be known as A10. Both will focus on nuclear enterprise matters.
- -- Consolidate sustainment functions under Air Force Materiel Command's Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center.
- -- Implement a centralized Nuclear Surety Inspection process and increase NSI oversight.
- -- Align strategic deterrent and nuclear operations-based education, training, career development and force development actions.

- -- Implement a Global Deterrent Force approach for bomber operations that balances current global commitments with dedicated periods for personnel to focus on nuclear operations training and proficiency.
- -- Consolidate planning, programming, budgeting and execution of nuclear enterprise elements.
- -- Create Strategic Investment Plans that address long-term nuclear requirements, including those for cruise missiles, bombers, dual-capable aircraft and intercontinental ballistic missiles.
- -- Establish positive inventory control measures for nuclear weapons-related material.
- -- Create a coordinated, advocacy-based engagement strategy that enables thoughtful Air Force input to national and joint policy, strategy and planning processes.
- -- Present roadmap implementation results to oversight committees established by the secretary of defense.

The roadmap incorporates ongoing corrective actions, as well as new initiatives suggested by experts from inside and outside the Air Force. It provides the fundamental guidance to organize, train and equip the Air Force's nuclear forces to ensure effective nuclear deterrence and nuclear surety in an integrated and synchronized manner, Air Force officials said.

In addition to the roadmap, an implementation plan is being developed to identify the appropriate steps and timeline required to stand up the new Global Strike Command. Included in the implementation plan will be details on the criteria to be used for identifying a location for the command headquarters and the realignment of personnel and resources from under their current major command to the newly established AFGSC.

In the past year, Air Force officials identified and funded initiatives that were immediately executable. A total of \$84.7 million was funded in the areas of nuclear sustainment, security, training and facility projects. For fiscal 2009, officials are identifying funds from within the current budget to continue implementation of nuclear enterprise initiatives and addressing emerging requirements with Congress.

Click here (http://www.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-081024-073.pdf) to view the entire roadmap. (Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

# The cost of doing business

On average, it costs the Air Force approximately \$7,900 to send a person through the enlistment process -- computed from the time the applicant first walks into a recruiting office until the day they ship out to basic training.

The next closest service is the Marine Corps that spends a little more than \$13,000 per recruit, followed by the Navy at approximately \$14,500 per recruit. The Army, meanwhile, is triple the Air Force at \$26,000.

For every Air Force recruiter there are nine Army, five Navy, and three Marine Corps recruiters. According to a recent Department of Defense market survey, about 73 percent of Americans ages 18 to 25 are not qualified to join the military. Weight, medical or conduct reasons disqualify more than half of them. (Courtesy of VetJobs Veteran Eagle)

### Editor's note

Where does DFAS mail the \$10,000 check?

If Defense Finance and Accounting Service officials all of a sudden decided they wanted to mail you a check for \$10,000 – no direct deposit allowed – would you receive it?

Many Air Force retirees and annuitants would not because DFAS has a wrong address on file for them. Many of you assume that as long as DFAS has your correct direct-deposit information, there is no reason to keep DFAS informed of your whereabouts. Not true.

DFAS must have current mailing addresses so it can mail out important information and documents regarding your state/federal taxes, the Survivor Benefit Plan, a Retiree Account Statement, etc. And there is always the possibly for that big check! (A person can dream.)

You can check your current address on file by calling (800) 321-1080, or accessing your MyPay account online.

And while we're on the subject of DFAS, the best time to call for routine matters is NOT at the beginning of the month. More people call DFAS at the beginning of the month to report pay problems than any other time, so naturally the wait times will be much longer. If possible, wait until at least the middle of the month to call or use the online services at <a href="http://www.dfas.mil/">http://www.dfas.mil/</a>.

Remember, there are more than 750,000 Air Force retirees and annuitants. Mix in those from the other services and it is safe to assume the DFAS representatives stay busy. We all get frustrated after fighting our way through a challenging phone menu only to be told our "wait time" is somewhere in the high double digits. But when you finally reach that "live" person, remember that a little kindness goes a long way.

Enjoy the latest *e-Afterburner*!

# Call ahead before seeking an ID card

People needing to renew or replace their military identification cards should call ahead to the ID cards issuing facility to ensure they bring the necessary forms of identification. It is also a good idea to confirm hours of operation, appointment requirements, scheduled closures, and system capabilities.

Retirees and family members need to have two types of unexpired documents, including one with photo ID, to renew or replace their military ID card. Examples of unexpired documents that establish identity include a driver's license or ID issued by a state or outlying possession of the United States; ID card issued by federal, state or local government agencies or entities; and a U.S. passport. Children who are younger than 18 years can also submit a school record or report card; clinic, doctor or hospital record; and day care or nursery school record.

To find out the nearest ID card issuing facility and for contact information, visit <a href="http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/owa/home">http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/owa/home</a>.

# **RAO Spotlight**

(Editor's Note: There are nearly 1,800 volunteers "Still Serving" in Retiree Activities Offices worldwide. These volunteers deserve our heartfelt thanks for all they do. If you wish to shine the spotlight on a volunteer who has provided you with outstanding service, please send an e-mail to afpc.retiree@randolph.af.mil)

No widows/widowers are left behind at Misawa AB, Japan.

The Retiree Activity Office staff at Misawa AB offers a support program for the surviving spouses of military retirees who die. This great program ensures they are not "left behind" without life's essentials.

My first experience of this program came just after I arrived at Misawa AB when the RAO director asked me to escort an 80-year-old grandmother from Sapporo who was attending the Retiree Appreciation Day the next day. Her husband had passed away several years before and she needed an ID card. The base re-issued her ID card, then I took her to the exchange and commissary, and watched as she attacked both stores with a vengeance.

The RAO staff now publishes a newsletter in Japanese for widows/widowers, giving them pertinent information on subjects specific to their needs. One topic covers receiving annuity/survivor compensation by check versus direct deposit. When they receive a check in dollars and convert it to yen at the bank, they not only lose money in

the exchange rate, but they are charged a service fee -- usually a percentage of the check amount.

The newsletter advised them to establish a direct deposit to the USA Federal Credit Union on base and get a debit card. This card can be used at any Japanese post office to receive yen with only a 1 percent fee.

Most retiree widows/widowers are Japanese, yet the U.S. government was deducting 30 percent out of their checks for taxes. The RAO staff has submitted IRS Form W8BEN which exempts them from further tax payments. The tax treaty between Japan and the United States establishes no residency requirements for Japanese spouses to receive U.S. Social Security as there usually is for other nationalities -- normally five years.

Also, the staff worked with several insurance companies, as well as private annuity firms, to acquire significant sums of money for the surviving children of retirees. One child will receive more than \$500,000 by her 18th birthday. The RAO staff worked with the Office of Personnel Management to re-start annuity checks for a widow whose checks stopped in December 2005. This widow is receiving annuity checks again, plus received retroactive payments to 2005.

Retired Chief Master Sgts. Herman Tinnirella and David Barton exhibit the highest degree of professionalism/humanism I have seen throughout the Pacific. They certainly have gone above and beyond "service before self."

Retired Maj. Dave Whitford Area XIV Representative for the Air Force Retiree Council

# When a surviving spouse dies

Family members of surviving spouses of military retirees may not know where to turn when a death happens. This information is intended as a general guide and is not all-inclusive. Provide this listing to appropriate family members or legal representatives, and discuss which portions apply.

- Notify the Defense Finance and Accounting Service at (800) 321-1080 if the surviving spouse was receiving an annuity for the Survivor Benefit Plan, Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan, Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan or "Forgotten Widows" payments.
- If the survivor was a civil service retiree or receiving an annuity from the federal government, notify the Office of Personnel Management at (800) 767-6738; in the Washington area call (202) 606-0500.

- If the survivor was receiving Dependency and Indemnity Compensation or other compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs, contact that agency at (800) 827-1000.
- Notify private sector or retirement custodian if the deceased received funds from an employer-sponsored plan.
- Notify financial institutions where the deceased invested, saved or maintained funds.
- Notify insurance companies.
- Contact your nearest Retired Activities Office for assistance. The RAO contact information can be found at <a href="http://www.retirees.af.mil/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=11603">http://www.retirees.af.mil/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=11603</a>.
- If the deceased was receiving Social Security benefits, notify the Social Security Administration at (800) 772-1213; TTY (800) 325-0778.
- If the deceased participated in the federal government's Thrift Savings Plan, contact the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board at (877) 968-3778; TDD (877) 847-4385.

## Honor flight offers veterans a free ride

Every time the VA physician assistant would ask one of his patients from World War II if they had ever visited "their" memorial in Washington, the answer was, "No." They simply could not afford the journey -- financially or physically.

Retired Capt. Earl Morse got tired of hearing, "No." He could tell most had given up all hope of ever visiting the memorial specifically created to honor their services and the services of comrades who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

It was not long before the captain, who retired in 1998, took matters into his own hands. Besides taking care of veterans for nearly three decades, Captain Morse is also a private pilot and member of the aero club at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. He had an idea.

In December 2004, Captain Morse asked one of his patients if he could personally fly him to Washington -- for free -- to visit his memorial. The WW II veteran broke down and cried, and accepted the offer. More invitations extended to more vets led to more tears and more acceptances.

Realizing that the desire was so great, Captain Morse soon asked nearly 150 members of the aero club for help during a safety meeting. There were two major stipulations to the volunteer program: the veterans pay nothing and the entire aircraft rental (\$600 to

\$1,200 a day) be paid solely by the pilots; and the pilots would personally escort the veterans around Washington for the entire day.

After he spoke, 11 pilots who had never met the captain's patients volunteered to make their dream of visiting the memorial a reality. By the end of 2005, its first year, the pilots took 137 WW II veterans to their memorial. Honor Flight was born.

And my, how she's grown.

The program currently has 69 hubs in 30 states. By the end of 2008, the Honor Flight Network hopes to have a hub in all 50 states. The team remains committed to ensuring WW II veterans, and veterans from any war who have a terminal illness, have a chance to travel to their respective memorial safely and free of charge.

"We count on God and the American public to provide the funding to accomplish our goal," said Captain Morse, who today serves as founder and operations manager for Honor Flight, Inc.

In the future, Honor Flight will also pay tribute to America's other heroes that served during the Korean and Vietnam wars.

For more information about Honor Flight, visit <a href="http://www.honorflight.org/index.htm">http://www.honorflight.org/index.htm</a>.

# Officials revise Purple Heart eligibility criteria

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Department of Defense officials announced Oct. 6 that eligibility criteria for the Purple Heart have been expanded to permit prisoners of war who died in captivity to receive the award.

The revised department policy presumes, for servicemembers who die in captivity as a qualifying prisoner of war, that their death was:

- -- As the "result of enemy action";
- -- As the result of wounds incurred "in action with the enemy" during capture; or
- -- As a result of wounds incurred as a "result of enemy action" during capture.

These presumptions are made unless compelling evidence is presented to the contrary.

The revised policy allows retroactive award of the Purple Heart to qualifying prisoners of war since Dec. 7, 1941. A posthumous award will be made to the deceased servicemember's representative, as designated by the secretary of the military department concerned, upon application to that military department.

Each military department will publish application procedures and ensure they are accessible by the general public. Family members with questions may call:

- -- Air Force Personnel Center, (800) 616-3775;
- -- Army Military Awards Branch, (703) 325-8700;
- -- Navy Personnel Command, Retired Records Section, (314) 592-1150;
- -- Marine Corps Military Awards Branch, (703) 784-9340. (Courtesy of Air Force News Service)

# Burial at sea an option for retirees

Burial at sea is a means of final disposition of remains that is performed on U.S. Navy vessels, and is available to honorably discharged retirees, veterans, and their dependent family members.

The disposition of remains involves getting all paperwork together and coordinating for the burial with a port of embarkation. Available ports can be found by calling Navy Mortuary Affairs at (866) 787-0081.

A committal ceremony is performed while the ship is deployed; therefore, family members are not allowed to be present. The commanding officer of the ship assigned to perform the ceremony will notify the family of the date, time, and longitude and latitude once the committal service has been completed.

To apply for a burial at sea, the person authorized to direct disposition needs to print out and complete a request form, available at <a href="http://www.npc.navy.mil/CommandSupport/CasualtyAssistance/MortuaryServices/Burial+At+Sea.htm">http://www.npc.navy.mil/CommandSupport/CasualtyAssistance/MortuaryServices/Burial+At+Sea.htm</a>. Documents such as a photocopy of the death certificate; burial transit permit or cremation certificate; and copy of the DD Form 214, discharge certificate, or retirement order must be submitted with the form.

Cremated remains, or cremains, must be in an urn or plastic or metal container. The cremains package should be sent via certified mail, return receipt requested. Intact, or casketed, remains require very specific preparation, and all expenses are the responsibility of the person authorized to direct disposition.

For more information contact Navy Mortuary Affairs or visit the Web site listed above. (Courtesy of U.S. Navy)

#### **News Nibbles**

## Opt-in for ads

Authorized Army and Air Force Exchange Service customers may opt-in to receive sales fliers and other offers (direct mail and e-mail) by visiting aafes.com. To subscribe to direct mail/sales fliers, click here https://odin.aafes.com/feedback/docs/flyers.asp. To subscribe to the e-mail list, click here http://odin.aafes.com/emailsubscribe/default.asp. People must first log in, then follow the links to the correct locations. For more information, call (800) 733-5142.

## **Visit Jupiter**

All retirees are invited to shop at the exchange on the U.S. Coast Guard Station in Jupiter, Fla. It is open 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily except Sunday when it is open 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The new manager is expanding the store's inventory and is inviting all retirees visiting or living in the area to drop by. The exchange is located on U.S. 1 at the base of the Jupiter Lighthouse. For more information call (561) 746-5402.

### **AAFES offers Retiree Corners**

Army and Air Force Exchange Service is dedicating a section of some its stores to retirees.

AAFES has kiosk-style Retiree Corners in at least 25 of its main stores including Andrews AFB, Md.; Barksdale AFB, La.; Eglin and MacDill AFBs, Fla.; Lackland and Randolph AFBs, Texas; Langley AFB, Va.; McChord AFB, Wash.; Nellis AFB, Nev.; Scott AFB, Ill.; Tinker AFB, Okla.; and Travis AFB, Calif.

Retiree Corners sell items featuring the Air Force retired logo, including lapel pins, bumper stickers, window strips, magnets, shot glasses, mugs and teddy bears.

Retirees who do not see a Retiree Corner in their local exchange store should ask a store representative if one is going to be added. (Courtesy of AAFES)

## Association seeks Officer Candidate School alumni

The USAF Officer Candidate School's history extends from the early years of World War II until June 1963. During those years more than 40,000 enlisted men and warrant officers earned a commission through OCS. Early graduates include Jimmy Stewart, Ben Hogan, Hank Greenberg and several other notables from Hollywood and sports history, plus less recognizable names that achieved great success in the service of their country.

In later years, the average candidate had five to six years of service, and was motivated to make the Air Force a career. The retention rate was 95 percent. In a 1962 study of undergraduate pilot training, OCS-trained officers maintained academic, flying and military grades equal to Air Force Academy graduates, and superior to those of aviation cadets or officers from Officer Training School and ROTC. Throughout the years, Air Force needs evolved and new programs were developed to meet the changing mission, and the need for an OCS program was eliminated.

Graduates of USAF OCS are determined to keep the history of the program alive. Alumni organized the 63rd Officer Candidate Wing Association at the 2005 class reunion for classes 63A, B, C and D held in Colorado Springs, Colo., for the expressed purpose of memorializing the USAF Officer Candidate Program.

The association has gone forward with plans for two benches in the new base Memorial Park being established at Lackland AFB, Texas. These benches will be engraved with the OCS seal and appropriate lettering. The association has also been working to have an OCS program display in the Lackland History and Traditions Museum. In the future, as funds are available, the association plans a memorial display at the National Museum of the USAF at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

The other major goal is to have OCS reunions open to all graduates of the program, especially those older classes with limited members or resources. There are future reunions planned for Washington, Wright-Patterson AFB, and San Antonio in 2013 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the ending of the OCS program. Association members are continuing to reach out to earlier alumni. At the most recent reunion there were attendees from classes 43C and 56D, and several from classes 60C, 62C and D.

All former OCS classes or individual graduates are welcome to join in on the association's memorial projects and reunions. For more information, contact Tom Hansen, wing commander, at (253) 380-5261 or e-mail c130hans@msn.com, or visit the Web site at hhtp://usafocs1963.org.

## Web site space open for announcements

Air Force-oriented announcements such as reunions, alumni membership opportunities and locator contacts can be posted on the Air Force Retiree Web site. Announcements will be posted on the "Library" page in the appropriate category.

Request for publication of announcements on the site will only be accepted by e-mail and must include at least the name, military affiliation, and address of the contact. E-mail addresses and phone numbers may also be given. Please, no acronyms.

Announcements should be sent to afpc.retiree@randolph.af.mil and will remain posted until the event has passed, for no more than six months without renewal, or until removal is requested by the submitter.

# If you need to contact the e-Afterburner...

The *e-Afterburner* address:

HQ AFPC/DPSIAR 550 C Street W Ste 8 Randolph AFB TX 78150

E-mail address is afpc.retiree@randolph.af.mil and the phone number is (210) 565-2126. Retirees may write to the co-chairmen of the Air Force Retiree Council by using the office symbol, HQ AFPC/CCU, at the address above.