



# Still Serving in Korea



Newsletter 03-2

The newsletter for U.S. military retirees in the Republic of Korea

Apr-Jun 2003

## Medical Care Matters

### RAO Temporary Closure

The Osan AB Retiree Activities Office (RAO) will be closed from Jul 21 to Aug 1 for summer vacation. It will be closed from Aug 4 to Aug 8 for a TDY to the U.S. to attend the Army Retirement Services Officer (RSO) Conference in Arlington, Virginia. During this time, retiree and widow services will be very limited to non-existent. If you have a real emergency, call 017-477-1441 for whatever assistance may be available.

*Osan AB Retiree Activities Office*

### Yongsan Retirees Lose Most Dental Care

On May 15, the 618<sup>th</sup> Dental Company issued a memorandum by COL Marcus McDonald, the OIC of Dental Clinic 2 at Yongsan. Following are relevant portions:

The demand for dental services from active duty soldiers and their family members has increased. There is now a large daily shortfall in the number of appointments available to meet the demands of the active duty soldiers and their family members. Due to our legal and regulatory obligations to satisfy the appointment demands of the active duty soldiers and their family members before those of all other beneficiary groups, all available Dental

*continued on page 2*

## IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 VA Foreign Medical Program
- 3 Concurrent Receipt – Yes or No?
- 4 Applying For Social Security
- 5 RAO Network
- 8 UNC Seeking Korean War Vets

*Still Serving in Korea* is published quarterly by the Osan Air Base Retiree Activities Office to inform retirees and family members on information of interest on rights, benefits and privileges, and on the status of legislative initiatives which affect military retirees and beneficiaries. Items in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the 51 FW, 7AF, PACAF, USAF, USFK, or DOD.

## Pay Matters

### DoD Announces CRSC

The Department of Defense (DoD), working together with the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA), announces the start of a new compensation program for many disabled military retirees, Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC). The new special compensation becomes effective May 31, 2003, for qualified combat-related disabled retirees. Payments for qualified retirees will accrue beginning June 1, 2003, with first payments possible on July 1st.

Eligible members are those retirees who have 20 years of service for retired pay computation and who either have disabilities because of combat injuries for which they have been awarded the Purple Heart or who are rated at least 60 percent disabled because of armed conflict, hazardous duty, training exercises, or mishaps involving military equipment.

Payments will equal the amount of VA disability compensation for combat-related disabilities, but will be reduced for those retirees whose retired pay exceeds what they would have received for length of service. Payments are limited to the amount of the retired pay reduction resulting from receipt of VA disability compensation.

The payments are considered to be tax exempt pending a review by the Armed Forces Tax Council.

Members must apply to their own branch of service using DD Form 2860, Application for Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC). The form will be posted as soon as it is released – we expect it within the next week [*available at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/crsc/> as of May 28*]. It will provide details on where and how to apply.

Each uniformed service will review the applications of their own retirees, with the Department of the Navy reviewing applications for both the Navy and Marine Corps. Payments will be retroactive to June 1, 2003, for all approved applications, no matter when received, to the extent otherwise allowed in law, providing the applicant is otherwise qualified.

Service reviews will determine which disabilities, if any, are combat-related or are the result of an injury for which the member was awarded a Purple Heart. Combat-related includes those disabilities that are the direct result of

*continued on page 3*

Clinic #2 resources must be dedicated to these two highest-priority groups.

Effective 01 June, 2003, space-available care for retired military members and their families will be limited mainly to emergency care. Routine scheduled appointments for examinations, cleanings, fillings and other treatments will not be available. However, "Quick-Call" lists will be maintained at the front desk. If you have a current examination, you may request to be placed on the Quick-Call list for fillings or cleanings. If you do not have a current examination, you may request to be placed on the Quick-Call list for an examination. Individuals on these lists may be contacted when appointment space is available due to a late cancellation or failure of a previously appointed patient, in order to avoid wasting the limited dental treatment resource and to provide retirees and their family members some access to routine dental care.

Emergency treatment continues to be available during sick-call hours from 0730-1000, Monday – Friday. This service is for conditions such as significant pain, trauma, and infections and does not necessarily provide definitive care for all conditions. The purpose is to stabilize the emergency situation when time and resources may not allow the final treatment to be provided.

LtCol (Ret) Al Chellis, President of the U.S. Military Retirees Association Korea and Vice Chairman of the USFK Retiree Council sent an e-mail to the USFK Retiree Council, which said in part:

We on the Retiree Council have tracked this issue for a number of years, and I believe the problem is indeed with a lack of available dentists, and lack of funding, and failure to extend the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program to overseas retirees. We should be complaining to Congress and not to the local Dental folks.

COL MacDonald does not know how long this cut-back in retiree dental care will last, but he told me it would probably be for a long time. He says this really is not because of summer rotation of dentists or because of the war in Iraq.

In an e-mail to COL McDonald, Mr. Chellis made the following observation:

Most military retirees understand the resource constraints you have, and the mandated priorities for dental care.

We do want to see retiree dental care here in Korea improved and will continue to press this issue with

our elected senators and representatives. We ask you to relay our concerns up the chain in Army Dental channels, i.e., that retiree dental care for retirees overseas in areas where there is a U.S. military presence should be improved, and that we would like to see HQs DA work with the Congress and the TRICARE Retiree Dental Plan contractor to come up with innovative ways to make it happen.

In the e-mail to the Retiree Council members, Mr. Chellis added:

FYI, I have written (e-mailed) my two U.S. senators asking that they introduce, sponsor, and/or support legislation that will authorize an off-post dental care program for overseas retirees in areas where the military has already established an off-post plan for active duty dependents (as is the case here in the ROK). Since there is a retiree dental plan in CONUS, and since there now is off-post authorized care for active duty dependents, it is unfair to exclude the retiree population. You all should also write your senators and representatives on this issue.

*Osan AB Retiree Activities Office*

#### **Glen Painter Follow-up**

In the previous newsletter I reported Glen Painter's experience with Medicare and TRICARE for Life. He provided some details on the costs. The first operation to restore normal circulation in his one of his legs cost more the \$27,000. The second operation on the other leg cost more than \$28,000. Glen's total out-of-pocket expense was \$150. If you're 65 or over and have serious medical problems, consider Glen's experience on where you'll get the best and most cost-effective health care. And ***if you're 65 or more and don't have Medicare Part B, you don't have TRICARE for Life***, which means all your expenses for civilian health care are out of your pocket. You decide: \$150 or \$55,000?

For those who know Glen, he recently underwent heart surgery and is recovering at home. He hopes to be able to visit friends in Korea in the autumn.

*Glen Painter  
and Osan AB Retiree Activities Office*

#### **VA Foreign Medical Program (FMP)**

For veterans with a service-connected disability who are living outside the U.S., the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) offers reimbursement of medical care for related to the service-connected disability. Here's one Korea retiree's recent experience:

"My leg was amputated last October at the 121 Hospital here in Seoul. Since the hospital had no prosthetic capability, I had to go to a Korean source to have a prosthesis fitted and made. I had previously enrolled in the VA's Foreign Medical Program (FMP)

armed conflict or from conditions that simulate combat, or that result from the performance of uniquely hazardous military duties, or caused by an instrumentality of war.

Services will presume that disabilities awarded VA disability compensation based on service-connected exposure to hazards, which are clearly combat-related, are combat-related for the purpose of CRSC. These include Agent Orange, Gulf War illnesses, Radiation Exposure, Mustard Gas and Lewisite. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) will require combat-related documentation.

Retirees will be informed of denied applications and the reason for denial. They may reapply later if they are able to show they meet the program criteria or appeal the decision if they believe their disabilities were combat-related, but were denied compensation by their Service.

*<https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/crsc/>*

*(Note for Korea Retirees: The Osan AB Retiree Activities Office has the DD Form 8260. It can be e-mailed to you, mailed to you or you can stop by the office and pick it up. E-mail [retact@osan.af.mil](mailto:retact@osan.af.mil), phone DSN 784-1441 or commercial 031-661-1441 to request the form.)*

### **Logging on to CRSC**

If you are logging on to the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) web site to access the Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC) information from a .mil or .gov computer, you will see a warning notice, and then select to enter the CRSC page. If you are logging on from any other type of computer connection (.com, .net, etc.), you must first verify that you are an authorized user. You will be prompted to enter your Social Security number (no dashes, please), your birth date and your last name. Your information is verified in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS), which is managed by DMDC.

*Osan AB Retiree Activities Office*

### **Concurrent Receipt Rejected, Reintroduced**

In May, the Senate yanked an amendment to the fiscal 2004 Defense authorization bill by Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., that would have authorized concurrent receipt of military retired pay and disability compensation awarded by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The reason given was that the measure was irrelevant to the Defense budget. Subsequently, Sen Reid reintroduced Concurrent Receipt and it currently has 63 sponsors. If you're interested in Concurrent Receipt, read the next item.

*Various Sources*

### **No Constituent Support for Concurrent Receipt**

Despite military association representatives continued, proactive push for concurrent receipt, authorizers in the House and Senate report it is a non-issue, because they are not hearing about it from their constituents. Without grassroots action there is no congressional interest.

As reported in earlier [National Association for Uniformed Services, NAUS] Updates and within this Update, there are no provisions regarding the authorization or funding of concurrent receipt in either the Senate or House version of the FY04 NDAA now being debated on the floor of each chamber.

This is especially true in view of some speculation that the passage of the Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC) provisions in the FY03 NDAA has resolved the issue for many on the Hill.

The gauntlet is down. If you are satisfied with the yet untested CRSC, there is nothing more to do but wait for DOD to announce the program, apply and see what each service's board decides; fortunately, we have DOD assurances that payments will be retroactive to 1 June 2003.

However, those who believe that concurrent receipt of military retired pay – earned by a career of military service and veterans' disability compensation payment for the service connected loss of a function or body part – have to reaffirm grassroots interest in concurrent receipt with their congressional delegations.

NAUS testified before the Senate for the National Military Veteran's Alliance in March, as did the Military Coalition. This House and Senate won't listen to the associations alone. Grassroots support is needed.

*NAUS Update, May 23*

### **Medicare Easy Pay**

Up to now, those who waited for the full Social Security (SS) retirement benefits at age 65 enrolled at the same time in Medicare Part B, which starts at age 65, and the Medicare premiums were automatically deducted from the SS benefits. Although your full retirement age may be delayed, Medicare Part B eligibility still occurs at age 65. If you decide to hold off taking Social Security until after age 65, you still have to enroll in Medicare Part B in order to qualify for TRICARE for Life to replace TRICARE Standard coverage that ends the month you reach 65.

I discovered that the monthly Medicare premiums could be deducted from a bank account, such as checking or savings. However, I learned that it only applies to people with a U.S. bank account and who are living in the U.S. I contacted Social Security and explained that we have U.S. banking facilities supporting the military in Korea, but the response was that for now the rule is being enforced and we cannot use Medicare Easy Pay.

However, on June 12, I received an e-mail from SSA that they have reconsidered and will now accept Medicare Easy Pay applications from military retirees, their dependents and widows in Korea, as long as they have an account in a U.S. banking facility, including those on overseas bases. ■

*Osan AB Retiree Activities Office*

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to cover such a case with my service-connected condition. The orthopedic/podiatry clinic at the hospital arranged for the Korean source (they do a lot of business with it) to come to the hospital to measure for the prosthesis. I initially received the prosthesis on 25 November and had the final fitting on 10 December. I paid the bill for the prosthesis in full on 10 December and mailed a claim to FMP on 23 December. I got a check from FMP reimbursing me for the full price of the prosthesis in early April.

“Most of my contact with the VA FMP office in Denver, CO has been by e-mail. They were very helpful in explaining the system to me and how to submit a claim. I am very satisfied with the service and timeliness of processing my claim. I would recommend FMP to any veteran with service-connected conditions living here in Korea.”

Keep in mind that FMP covers **medical care related only to service-connected disabilities** for which a VA disability rating has been assigned.

*Osan AB Retiree Activities Office*

### Yongsan TRICARE and Samsung Hospital

An Osan retiree had a heart attack and was evacuated to the 121<sup>st</sup> General Hospital in Seoul. From there he was transferred to Samsung Hospital, where he underwent a triple bypass operation. During his recovery, the Yongsan TRICARE office called every day to determine if there was anything he needed that was not being provided. This aggressive support of the patient’s needs is truly commendable.

The retiree also reports on the excellent care provided by everyone at Samsung Hospital. All his care providers spoke English, and the food was all Western style and very palatable.

*Osan AB Retiree Activities Office*

### SSN or Other Number Required for Medical Care

Everyone using military treatment facilities to obtain medical care (including TRICARE) must have an individual identification number. In most cases, this is the Social Security number (SSN), which is displayed on your ID card. The SSN is a nine-digit number starting with the first three digits of 001-733. Many Korea retirees are married to non-resident alien spouses. If the spouse has never been to the U.S., she or he may not have a SSN. In this case, a Temporary Identification Number (TIN) is assigned by the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS). This is a nine-digit number starting with 8 and ending with D.

Recently, the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) announced that it will begin enforcing the limited nature of the TIN, which is normally good for 90 days. This may be extended for up to two additional 90-day periods. When the TIN is no longer authorized, a permanent Foreign

Identification Number (FIN) is assigned.

Some retirees have obtained an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN), a number issued by the Internal Revenue Service for tax purposes. In October of this year, the DEERS software will be upgraded to allow use of the ITIN. If your spouse has an ITIN, or if you intend now to apply for an ITIN for her, then you should be able to get the TIN extended until the ITIN can be used. If you are contacted to replace your spouse’s ID card, bring the ITIN card as proof to justify the TIN extension and avoid the hassle of the FIN. ■

*Osan AB Retiree Activities Office*

### Applying for Social Security

**Social Security Number:** Only U.S. citizens and resident aliens are entitled to receive a Social Security number (SSN). Non-resident aliens will not be issued a SSN until they become eligible to receive Social Security benefits. Otherwise, non-resident aliens will be issued a SSN only when proof is presented that it is required by a federal agency. (An Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, ITIN, should be used until your non-resident alien spouse becomes eligible for SS benefits.)

**Retirement Benefits:** You are eligible to receive early retirement benefits starting at age 62, from 70-80% of the full entitlement, depending on your year of birth. For those born in 1937 and earlier, Full Retirement Age (FRA) is age 65. Starting with those born in 1938, the FRA is gradually being increased to age 67.

**Spouse Benefits:** Spouses are entitled to half of the worker’s benefits. This amount may be reduced if the spouse takes early benefits. Early benefits for the spouse are reduced similar to the worker’s early retirement benefits and depend on the spouse’s year of birth. The spouse benefits can only be started when the worker becomes eligible for retirement benefits, whether or not the worker actually starts to draw retirement benefits. Korean non-resident alien spouse’s have a non-refundable income tax of 25.5% withheld from benefits.

**Mother/Child Benefits:** When a worker starts to draw retirement benefits and there is minor child, the child and the mother are also eligible for benefits. If the mother is under age 62, the mother’s benefits continue until the youngest child reaches age 16. Child’s benefits continue until the child completes high school or reaches age 19, whichever is earlier.

**Disability Benefits:** A worker who becomes totally disabled and unable to perform his/her normal job or other meaningful employment is eligible for disability benefits.

The Osan AB Retiree Activities Office has the forms and information to apply. Call 784-1441, commercial 031-661-1441, or e-mail [retact@osan.af.mil](mailto:retact@osan.af.mil).

*Osan AB Retiree Activities Office*

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# A Simple Soldier

He was getting old and paunchy,  
And his hair was falling fast,  
And he sat around the Legion,  
Telling stories of the past.

Of a war that he once fought in,  
And the deeds that he had done,  
In his exploits with his buddies,  
They were heroes, every one.

And 'tho sometimes, to his neighbors,  
His tales became a joke,  
All his buddies listened quietly,  
For they knew of whence he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer,  
For 'ol Bob has passed away,  
And this world's a little poorer,  
For a soldier died today.

He won't be mourned by many,  
Just his children -- and his wife,  
For he lived an ordinary,  
Very quiet sort of life.

He held a job and raised a family,  
Going quietly on his way,  
And the world won't note his passing,  
'Tho a soldier died today.

When politicians leave this Earth,  
Their bodies lie in state,  
While thousands note their passing,  
And proclaim that they were great.

Papers tell of their life stories,  
From the time that they were young,  
But the passing of a soldier,  
Goes unnoticed -- and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution  
To the welfare of our land,  
Some jerk who breaks his promise,  
And cons his fellow man?

Or, the ordinary fellow,  
Who, in times of war and strife,  
Goes off to serve his country,  
And offers up his life?

The politician's stipend,  
and the style in which he lived,  
Are often disproportionate,  
To the service that he gives.

While the ordinary soldier,  
Who offered up his all,  
Is paid off with a medal,  
And perhaps, a pension -- small.

It's so easy to forget them,  
For it is so many times,  
That our Bobs, and Jims, and Johnnys,  
Went to battle, but we know,

It is not the politicians,  
With their compromise and ploys,  
Who won for us the freedom,  
That our country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger,  
With your enemies at hand,  
Would you really want some cop-out,  
With his ever-waffling stand?

Or, would you want a soldier,  
His home, his country, his kin,  
Just a common soldier,  
Who would fight until the end?

He was just a common soldier,  
And his ranks are growing thin,  
But his presence should remind us,  
We may need his likes again.

For when countries are in conflict,  
We find the soldier's part,  
Is to clean up all the troubles,  
That the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor,  
While he's here to hear the praise,  
Then, at least, let's give him homage,  
At the ending of his days.

Perhaps just a simple headline,  
In this paper, that might say:  
"Our country is in mourning,  
a soldier died today."

*Author Unknown ♥*

*News of the Force, May 5*

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# RAO Network Matters

The Osan AB Retiree Activities Office (RAO) maintains a network of retirees at installations where most retirees live. These retirees serve as your local contact point to assist in dealing with the RAO. The only qualifications are that they must have a phone, fax and e-mail, and a desire to help. All the retirees shown below work either as civil service, non-appropriated fund, or contractor employees. This provides them with an office on the installation, and the office is generally easily accessible to retirees, their dependents and widows.

Following is the current listing, alphabetically by city name, of RAO-Net representatives:

Chunchon – Camp Page  
Bob Fuentes, Fire Dept  
Ph: DSN 721-5827, Comm 033-259-5827  
E-mail: [FuentesR@usfk.korea.army.mil](mailto:FuentesR@usfk.korea.army.mil)

Kunsan – Kunsan Air Base  
Bob Dunn, Commissary  
DSN: 782-5143, Comm 063-470-5143  
Fax: 782-5166  
E-mail: [rok\\_diamond@yahoo.com](mailto:rok_diamond@yahoo.com)

Pusan – Camp Hialeah  
George Clinger, ACS  
Ph: DSN 763-7479, Comm 051-801-7479  
Fax: 763-3904  
E-mail: [ClingerG@usfk.korea.army.mil](mailto:ClingerG@usfk.korea.army.mil)

Pyongtaek-Songtan – Osan Air Base  
Jack Terwiel, RAO  
Ph: 784-1441, Comm 031-661-1441  
Fax: 784-3894  
E-mail: [retact@osan.af.mil](mailto:retact@osan.af.mil)

Seoul – Yongsan Army Garrison  
Richard Boyce, ACS Bldg 4106, AER  
Ph: DSN 738-4655, Comm 02-7918-4655  
Fax: 738-4490  
E-mail: [BoyceR@usfk.korea.army.mil](mailto:BoyceR@usfk.korea.army.mil)

Taegu – Camp Henry  
Cris Romero, USA Federal Credit Union  
Ph: DSN 768-7436, Comm 053-470-7436  
Fax: 768-6503  
E-mail: [Romec53@hotmail.com](mailto:Romec53@hotmail.com)

Tongduchon – Camp Casey  
Wnd Thomas, TSAK  
DSN: 730-4128, Comm 031-869-4128  
Fax: 730-4219  
E-mail: [ThomasWA@usfk.korea.army.mil](mailto:ThomasWA@usfk.korea.army.mil)

Uijongbu – Camp Red Cloud  
Wnd Thomas (see above for Tongduchon)

Waegwan – Camp Carroll  
Lonnie Jabour  
Ph: DSN 765-8914, Comm 054-970-8914  
Fax: 765-8549  
E-mail: [JabourL@usfk.korea.army.mil](mailto:JabourL@usfk.korea.army.mil)

Wonju – Camp Long  
Chris Fletcher  
Ph: DSN 721-2250, Comm 033-738-2250  
E-mail: [FletcherC@usfk.korea.army.mil](mailto:FletcherC@usfk.korea.army.mil) ☐

*Osan AB Retiree Activities Office*

## DoD Plan to Consolidate Exchange Systems

DoD is working on a plan to consolidate the service exchanges under one roof, said Charles Abell, principal deputy undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

Congress must approve any move to merge the Army and Air Forces Exchange Service, the Navy Exchange and the Marine Corps Exchange. "We may be looking at a five-year process here," he said. "It may be less if we're more aggressive, and we're going to do it very carefully."

Abell said a consolidation will "be transparent" to exchange workers and shoppers. "Marines are still going to go to a Marine Exchange, sailors are still going to go to a Navy Exchange, ... and airmen go into a BX and soldiers go into a PX," he said. "What we're changing is the 'back room' things and the management above the store level."

He said shoppers should see improved service, availability, variety and the ultimate result of better dividends.

Consolidating the infrastructure above store level means the system could cut down on duplication. "I don't need three people doing the same thing – there will be economies of scale there," he said. "We don't need three trucks driving up and down (Interstate) 95 – one for the Marine Exchange, one from the Army-Air Force Exchange, one from the Navy Exchange ... going past each others' bases. We could have fewer trucks stopping at each base."

Another savings could come from a consolidated information technology system and fewer accountants, comptrollers and chief executive officers.

Store employees do not have to worry about their jobs. "If it takes a certain number of people to run the exchange at one base, it's probably going to take the same number of people to run that exchange after ... consolidation," he said. "If you work at the exchange, if you shop at the exchange, you should not see any difference."

*American Forces Press Service, May 27*

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## Insurance Matters

### Insurance Refunds for Veterans

Veterans insured by the Hartford Life Insurance Company or the USAA Life Insurance Company may be eligible for a refund of their VA copayments.

In a recent settlement with the Department of Veterans Affairs and a coalition of insurance industry groups, Hartford and USAA paid VA approximately \$11.1 million. The settlement **involves payments for care provided by VA to insured veterans with Medicare or TRICARE supplemental coverage** from Jan. 1, 1995 through Dec. 31, 2001.

Veterans insured by Hartford or USAA who paid VA copayments for VA medical care they received from Jan. 1, 1995 through Dec. 31, 2001 may ask VA for a refund of their copayments on a first-come, first-served basis. All requests for refunds must be postmarked by April 1, 2004.

VA will notify by mail those veterans who may be eligible for refunds according to records on file. Other veterans who believe they may be eligible for a refund may obtain a claims application form by calling a special toll-free number (1-866-258-2772) between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., EST, Monday through Friday. The application is available at the VA website at [www.va.gov/hottopic/](http://www.va.gov/hottopic/). ■

*NAUS Update, May 2*

## Laughing Matters

### The Taxi Driver

A passenger in a taxi tapped the driver on the shoulder to ask him something.

The driver screamed, lost control of the cab, nearly hit a bus, drove up over the curb, and stopped just inches from a large plate glass window.

For a few moments everything was silent in the cab, then the driver said, "Please don't ever do that again. You scared the daylights out of me!"

The passenger, who was also frightened, apologized and said he didn't realize that a tap on the shoulder could frighten him so much, to which the driver replied, "I'm very sorry, it's really not your fault at all.

"Today is my first day driving a cab. I've been driving a hearse for the last 25 years." ☺

*from the Internet*

## The Director's Corner

### Your Community

Where do you live? Well, if you're a Korea retiree, you most likely don't live on post, or on base. You live in town. So what do you consider to be your community? Is it the city/town/village where you live or just the area where you actually live? Or is it the base where you probably spend many of your waking hours? Or do you still consider yourself just a visitor here, and your real community is someplace "back home" in the States? (Disregarding the fact that you've lived here for many years, you still think of living in Korea as a temporary accommodation.)

No matter, because home is where you hang your hat. And that defines your community. For most of us, the community is defined by the bounds of the post or base because that's where we spend a lot of our time – among people with whom we are comfortable and familiar because of shared customs, culture and language.

And it's natural to take part in and take pride in your community. There are many retirees who participate in extracurricular activities with their active duty compatriots, whether in chapel groups or as volunteers.

This is just a reminder that you should sometimes think of where you live and when you realize that you're spending a large part of your life on the post or base, then that's your community. Take part in it; take pride in it.

### NAACP

I had a visit from Mr. Ray Bellard, a military retiree who is seeking to establish a chapter of the NAACP in Korea. He is particularly seeking retirees in Korea for the executive positions because they are a more stable population. You don't have to be black to join. Just be interested. If you would like more information, Ray can be contacted by mail at:

HQJUSMAGTHAI  
Box 3238  
APO AP 96546

or by e-mail at [legendsheroesoki@hotmail.com](mailto:legendsheroesoki@hotmail.com)

*Jack Terwiel*

**RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE  
51 MSS/CVR  
UNIT 2097  
APO AP 96278-2097**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

**UNCMAC Seeking Korean War Veterans**

The United Nations Command, Military Assistance Command is seeking U.S. military veterans of the Korean War who live in Korea. They are invited to participate in ceremonies commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of fighting and signing of the Armistice.

Out-of-country veterans will arrive on July 23-24. Unofficial events on July 25 include local tours and a Salute to Heroes at 1800 at the Hyatt Hotel. July 26 events include a USO golf tourney and at 1700 there will be events hosted by the participating nations.

Official events will begin at 0900 on Sunday, July 27, at the Joint Security Area to commemorate the Armistice signing. Following the ceremony and reception, events will move to Yongsan with a ROK event at the War Memorial (next to Yongsan Post) and the day's events will end with a ceremony at Lombardo field at 2100 to remember the war dead.

Events on Monday, July 28, include tours of three of the major battlefields and a ground-breaking ceremony for a memorial at Kapyong to commemorate the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division and the 40<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.

Nearly 2,500 veterans and travel companions are expected to attend. They will be coming from Australia, Belgium, Canada, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States.

Korean participants include members of the Korean Veterans Association and other ROK veterans. Approximately 500 general officers are expected to attend as UNC distinguished visitors, and about 100 press representative are anticipated.

If you are a Korean War veteran and wish to participate, please contact Bob Henault at DSN 725-9818, commercial 02-7915-9818, cell phone 011-9944-8950, e-mail [henault@usfk.korea.army.mil](mailto:henault@usfk.korea.army.mil). ■

*USFK Retiree Council*

**In the Next Issue**  
**Legislative Update** – Proposals on benefits that made it into law  
**Military Realignment in Korea** – What retirees face as facilities close

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