



# Still Serving in Korea



Newsletter 03-3

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

Jul-Sep 2003

## Medical Care Matters

### Osan Retiree Routine Dental Care Now Standby

Non-emergency dental care for retirees at the Osan AB Hospital has been affected by a combination of factors: 1) dental staff vacancies; 2) influx of over 2,800 new personnel in summer turnover; and 3) Right Start program requiring medical and dental evaluation of all incoming active duty personnel. Retirees are limited now to standby service, that is, waiting in the dental clinic to see if a vacancy appears in the appointment schedule.

Although this situation may be alleviated by the end of the year, there's no guarantee. Retirees are reminded that they can help themselves by teaming with the dental clinic to start a retiree-maintained standby list. This would be a service manned by a retiree volunteer at the dental clinic with a signup list of retirees seeking dental care. When a vacancy occurs as the result of a cancellation or no-show, the retiree would call the first person on the list for that type of service. If that person could not make the short-fuze schedule, the next person on the list would be called. With teamwork, retirees could establish a rotating schedule of volunteers to maintain the standby list. And before you suggest it: No, the dental clinic is not manned to provide this service. If you want the service, then team up and pitch in to become part of the solution.

*Osan AB Retiree Activities Office*

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*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

### Cost of Living Allowance (COLA)

Little has been published recently on the expected Cost of Living Allowance we can expect to receive effective December 1. A few sources have speculated in the vicinity of two percent (2%). The COLA would increase military retired pay, disability pay and all other annuities.

*Osan AB Retiree Activities Office*

### Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) Update

During the week of Sept. 15-19, the Air Force received 202 applications, and approved 46 applications while disapproving 33 applications. Since the program started, the Air Force has received a total of 6,937 applications. Of that number, 584 cases have been approved and 546 disapproved. The Physical Disability staff has started reviewing the 700 applications received during the week of June 16-20. [Air Force Retiree News, Sep 24]

Three months after the start of Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC), the Army had received almost 16,000 applications. Six hundred thirty-two applications had been approved; 680 were denied and 1,744 were waiting for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) records. [Army Echoes, Sep 2]

As of Sep 10, the Navy had received approximately 5,900 applications. There were 342 approved, 195 denied, and approximately 1,098 in work/pending receipt of additional records. [CRLegislation.com]

*compiled by Osan AB Retiree Activities Office*

### VA Seeks Former POWs for Possible Benefits

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is asking former prisoners of war not currently using VA benefits to contact VA to find out if they may be eligible for disability compensation and other services.

More than 23,000 former prisoners of war (POWs) already receive compensation from VA. This year, the department mailed information about benefits to another 4,700 known ex-POWs not on its rolls. However, VA estimates there could be as many as 11,000 more POWs for whom it does not have an address.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi said VA has expanded policies to cover increasing numbers of former POWs as new illnesses have been found related to

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### Agent Orange 50/50 Test

On June 9, 2003 the Supreme Court ruled in a decision that affirmed the 2nd Circuit ruling that after the beginning of January 1995 veterans could bring new lawsuits against the manufacturers of Agent Orange (AO). The standard for positive action by the Department of Veterans Affairs is that a disorder can be compensated if it is "at least as likely as not" to have been caused by Agent Orange a 50/50 balancing test. To bring a successful suit in civil court against the chemical companies who manufactured AO it must be proven that the veteran's medical condition is more likely than not caused by AO exposure.

This is a higher level of certainty than the standard used by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Under very strict rules that have been put in place in various courts a case cannot proceed without having a scientist or medical doctor testify to the "more likely than not" level of certainty with a substantial basis for their testimony. Many of the top medical and scientific specialists in the world believe that they could testify to a standard of "as likely as not" level of certainty but not to "more likely than not". This means that at the present time law firms cannot proceed in a civil court setting and be able to prove that Agent Orange causes many of the cancerous conditions veterans are experiencing. Veterans interested in this issue who have access to email can request their name be placed on a list that will provide updates on the status AO litigation at [Gerson@texasinjurylaw.com](mailto:Gerson@texasinjurylaw.com). [Source: [www.texasinjurylaw.com](http://www.texasinjurylaw.com), 23 Aug 02]

*RAO Baguio, Aug 29*

### TRICARE Standard Over Age 65

*(Osan RAO Note: This item is included because some retirees are marrying non-citizens other than Korean. Korean citizen spouses are allowed to receive Social Security benefits and enroll in Medicare Part B.)*

TRICARE Standard eligibility expires upon reaching the Social Security Medicare eligibility age which is at 12:01 a.m. on the first day of the month in which the beneficiary becomes entitled to hospital insurance benefits (Part A) under Medicare. There are no plans to raise this age even though social security full retirement age is rising to 67. Anyone who is a military dependent and is not eligible for Medicare benefits can retain TRICARE Standard benefits provided they can provide to the ID card issuing activity or DEERS a notice of disallowance of Medicare Part A benefits. This applies to many alien dependent widows because they do not meet the U.S. five-year residency requirement to draw on their sponsor's social security account and have elected to continue to reside overseas. *(Osan RAO Note: Korean spouses and widows who are Korean citizens are eligible for Social Security benefits and Medicare Part B. This applies as long as they are living in Korea, or if the move to the U.S. and become resident aliens.)*

DEERS requires all dependents upon turning age 65 to

obtain a new ID card, which allows them to update their records on each individual's TRICARE eligibility. Eligibility is removed for those who are eligible for Medicare and do not elect to pay for Medicare Part B. By enrolling in Medicare Part B, the person automatically enrolls in TRICARE for Life.

*RAO Baguio, Aug 20*

### Experience in Asan Medical Center

I am a USAF military retiree, and I was recently rushed from the 121st ER to the ASAN Medical Center with kidney failure. I cannot say enough about the great professional staff and care that was afforded to me. I was first put on dialyses to stabilize my condition then, had an operation on my right kidney to remove three large stones that were blocking my urethra. Later, I received three ultrasound treatments to break-up kidney stones in my left kidney. After coming out of the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), I was put in a private room with around-the-clock care. Everyone, to include the doctors, interns, orderlies, nurses, dietitian and even the cleaning staff were so very kind and courteous and showed a "genuine concern" for my comfort and health. Even when I was taken (many trips) to undergo the dreaded urethroscope procedures, the person who brought me via gurney would pat me on the leg and say, "good luck!" I was even provided western type meals with several different choices. I spent a total of eighteen days there in the hospital and I am quite impressed at the professional care and treatment that I received. Additionally, the case worker at the Yongsan TRICARE office contacted me continuously to see if there was anything I needed and to check on my progress. "Thank you" doesn't seem enough for all the people that gave my life a "second chance." ■

*Jeff Evans*

### JROTC Seeks Retiree Applicants

The Air Force needs more military retirees to take on teaching roles in high school classrooms as the service expands its Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) programs.

Applicants are encouraged to apply for the many vacancies for the upcoming school year. The Air Force JROTC web site, [www.afoats.af.mil](http://www.afoats.af.mil) (select "AFJROTC") lists current vacancies and provides applications.

Air Force officer or enlisted members who retired from active duty within the past five years or less and who served at least 20 years or who retired under the Temporary Early Retirement Authority with at least 15 years of active duty service may apply. In some instances, the five-year date of retirement can be waived for up to 10 years. Waiver consideration is based on the needs of the program and applicant qualifications.

Instructors receive a salary equal to the difference between retired pay and active duty pay and allowances.

*from Air Force Retiree News, Sep 10*

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captivity. The administration currently is pressing to get even more compensation and medical care benefits for former POWs.

"These veterans sacrificed for their country in time of war, and it's the nation's turn to serve them, to help them determine if they are entitled to compensation, health care or other services," Principi said.

Nine out of ten former POWs are veterans of World War II, and their service predates the use of Social Security numbers as a military "service number." That, coupled with the decades that have elapsed since their service, makes it difficult for VA to track down those who have not opened a file with VA in recent years.

The most recent expansion of VA benefits for former POWs was a July regulation that added cirrhosis of the liver to the list of diseases to which entitlement to disability compensation is presumed.

Similar policies making it easier for former POWs to obtain compensation have been enacted for POWs detained for 30 days or more who develop specific illnesses.

Former POWs have a special eligibility for enrollment in VA medical care and are exempt from making copayments for inpatient and outpatient medical care. They have the same copay rules as other veterans for medications and for extended care. Free dental treatment for any dental condition is available to former POWs held for more than 90 days. More information about VA services for former POWs is available at <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Benefits/POW/>.

*Air Force Retiree News, Sep 21*

### FEHBP Premium Up 10.6% Next Year

The Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) insurance premiums for federal workers and retirees will rise next year by an average of 10.6 percent, which is much less than the increases planned by many private employers, the Bush administration said last Tuesday. Administration officials noted the new rates suggested that the federal employee program was a model for the private sector and for Medicare, the insurance program for people who are elderly or disabled. Kay Coles James, director of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), said the premiums for federal workers and retirees would average \$277 every two weeks, or \$7,202 a year, in 2004. The government pays slightly more than 70 percent of this amount, on the average. Premiums for health maintenance organizations (HMO's) will increase an average of 9.9 percent next year, while federal workers in fee-for-service plans will see an average increase of 10.7 percent, the government said. James told reporters that the lower increase for federal workers was "a product of tough negotiations." Abby Block, an OPM deputy associate director, said the government had held

premium increases below the national norm without making any significant reductions in benefits. Many private employers have trimmed benefits. For the first time in five years, the number of health plans participating in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) will rise next year, to 205, from 188 this year. About 4.3 million federal employees and retirees are in Blue Cross and Blue Shield plans.

*Federal Employee News Digest, Sep 22*

### Medicare Part B Premiums Increase in 2004

Medicare recipients face the largest premium increase in 11 years. According to Medicare's chief actuary, in 2004 the Medicare premium is expected to rise to \$66 per month, an increase of \$7.30 or 12.4% over the 2003 premium of \$58.70. The 12.4% Medicare premium increase is five times higher than the estimated Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). Recently the Social Security Trustees estimated that the COLA effective on January 1, 2004, would be 2.3%.

The higher spending (for health care) caused the Medicare Trustees to adjust all their estimates of beneficiary premiums upward as illustrated in the following chart:

**Medicare Premiums On the Rise**

Year	Estimated in 2002	Estimated in 2003
2003	\$57.00	\$58.70 (actual)
<b>2004</b>	<b>\$59.80</b>	<b>\$66.00</b>
2005	\$63.90	\$68.60
2006	\$67.70	\$72.20
2007	\$71.60	\$76.20
2008	\$76.00	\$80.80
2009	\$80.60	\$85.50
2010	\$86.10	\$90.50
2011	\$90.80	\$95.60

*Source: 2002 and 2003 Medicare Trustees Report, March 2002 and 2003.*

One significant cause of "higher than expected" Medicare expenditures is likely to be a result of billing abuse, indicating a need for stronger oversight.

For more on this story, see: "Legislative Update: Medicare Fraud is Picking Our Pockets" at <http://www.tscl.org/NewContent/101806.asp>

*TREA Senior Citizens' League, <http://www.tscl.org>*

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# Legislation Matters

## **Restoration of Retired Pay (Concurrent Receipt)**

Concurrent Receipt continues to be a hot issue. TREA and other veterans' organizations have held several meetings this week with Congressional members and their staffs to work out a plan for expanding benefits. As we've said before, there are several sensitive issues involved and it is important that ALL disabled military retirees – present and future – are protected. It is possible that a resolution could come as soon as next week. This is a critical time; Congressional leaders are feeling the pressure from veterans on one side, and the Administration on the other. Senate and House conferees are meeting now to iron out the final Defense Authorization bill. We encourage you to continue to contact your Congressional representatives, and the White House, and urge them to end the disabled retiree tax.

## **Other Legislation of Interest**

**S 56, Keep Our Promise to America's Military Retirees Act**, a bill to restore health care coverage to retired members of the uniformed services. Introduced by Sen. Tim Johnson (D-SD) on 1/7/03. At this writing, there are 10 co-sponsors. Also on that date, HR 58, a companion bill, was introduced in the House by Rep Chet Edwards (D-TX). HR 58 currently has 197 co-sponsors.

**S 392, Retired Pay Restoration Act of 2003**, to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both military retired pay by reason of their years of military service and disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability. Introduced by Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV) on 2/13/03. There are 67 co-sponsors. The House companion bill is HR 303, introduced by Rep. Mike Bilirakis (R-FL) on 1/8/03. At this time there are 362 co-sponsors.

**S. 451 (Olympia Snowe (R-ME) Military Survivor Benefits Improvement Act of 2003**: to amend title 10, United States Code, to increase the minimum Survivor Benefit Plan basic annuity for surviving spouses age 62 and older, to provide for a one-year open season under that plan. A companion bill, HR 548, introduced by Rep. Jeff Miller (R-FL), has 279 co-sponsors.

**S. 585 (Bill Nelson, D-FL) Military Retiree Survivors Relief Act of 2003**: to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of SBP survivor annuities by Dependency and Indemnity Compensation.

**S. 647 (Edward Kennedy, D-MA)** To amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for Department of Defense funding of continuation of health benefits plan coverage

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for certain Reserves called or ordered to active duty and their dependents.

**H.R. 742**, to amend title 10, United States Code, to reduce the age for receipt of military retired pay for non-regular service (Reserve Components) from 60 to 55. Introduced by Rep. Jim Saxton (R-NJ) on 2/12/03. There are currently 133 co-sponsors.

**H.R. 1111 (Cass Ballenger, R-NC) Uniformed Services Divorce Equity Act of 2003**: To amend title 10, United States Code, to revise the rules relating to the court-ordered apportionment of the retired pay of members of the uniformed services to former spouses.

**H.R. 1653 (Jim Saxton, R-NJ)** to amend title 10, United States Code, to change the effective date for paid-up coverage under the military Survivor Benefit Plan from October 1, 2008, to October 1, 2003. (RAO note: This applies to members who have paid SBP premiums for 30 years or who have reached age 70, whichever is earlier.)

**H.R. 1726 (Henry Brown, R-SC) Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act**, to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the offset from surviving spouse annuities under the military Survivor Benefit Plan for amounts paid by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs as dependency and indemnity compensation.

**H.R. 2816 (Bishop, D-NY)** To amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in the management of health care services for veterans to place certain low-income veterans in a higher health-care priority category.

**H.R. 2998 (Young, R-FL)** To amend title 10, United States Code, to exempt certain members of the Armed Forces from the requirement to pay subsistence charges while hospitalized. Introduced on September 3, 2003, this bill has 114 co-sponsors. ■

*The Retired Enlisted Association Update, Sep 12*

## **Commissaries Nix Home-Printed Coupons**

Commissaries are no longer accepting "home-printed" coupons as the grocery industry comes to terms with the fraudulent use of Internet coupons.

"We still gladly accept manufacturers coupons – the kind you clip out of newspapers and magazines or that you receive in the mail. What we're not accepting are coupons that have been downloaded from the Internet and printed with a home computer because it's too difficult for our cashiers to tell if they are valid," said Bob Vitikacs, Defense Commissary Agency's director of operations and product support. "This is an interim measure we've adopted to protect our customers and industry partners," Vitikacs said.

*from Air Force Retiree News, Sep 11*

# Community Matters

## Area Retiree Councils Forming in Korea

The US Army Installation Management Agency Korea Regional Office (KORO IMA) has begun organizing retiree councils in Areas I, II, III and IV. Although the initiative comes from the active duty side of the house, it's important for retirees in these areas to become involved in the councils. Without active participation from the retiree community, the councils will not know the issues that concern you, the local retirees. And without your involvement, these concerns may not get moved up the chain for action. Participation is open to retirees of all services, and the local councils will be an important adjunct to the USFK Retiree Council.

One of the first and most visible actions being planned by the area retiree councils is holding a Retiree Appreciation Day at the major installation in each area. Check it out – get involved.

*USFK Retiree Council*

## Military Realignment in Korea

There has been a lot in the news these days about realigning U.S. military forces in Korea. A major shift is expected to occur at some as-yet-undetermined time to move forces from Seoul and the northern areas of the Republic to more southern locations.

If you are one of those who will be affected, it's not too early to start thinking about what your options are. Without a military installation and support such as medical, exchange and commissary, would you stay where you are? If you decide to move, will you have sufficient funds to cover the expense of moving?

If you decide to relocate, would it be within Korea, within the Pacific, or back to the U.S.? If you relocate within Korea, remember that as consolidation proceeds, prices for housing will be going up wherever the remaining U.S. forces will be concentrated. It started in the Osan-Camp Humphreys area long before the latest announcement. Whether you move within Korea, to another overseas area, or back to the ConUS, you need to start thinking well ahead of time what, where and how much.

Of course, with consolidation comes the inevitable reduction in jobs that retirees would normally fill. That – combined with enforcement of the five-year rule for civil service jobs – means jobs become scarce.

*Osan AB Retiree Activities Office*

## ACAP for Retirees

Army Career and Alumni Program (ACAP) recently announced a policy that provides lifetime job assistance for Army retirees and eligible family members.

This change extends ACAP services beyond the normal 180 days after separation.

"The service is provided on a space-available basis," (James) Hoffman (ACAP Director) said. "With a valid retired identification card, retirees can continue to receive employment assistance in preparing a competitive resume as well as learning important job search skills."

*from Army News Service, Aug 19*

## Seeking Jobs in the U.S.?

The Retiree Activities Office received an e-mail from Corps Careers LLC, a company which provides assistance to military active duty and veterans seeking employment. Their web site is at <http://www.CorpsCareers.com>. The web site lists job fair locations and dates at military installations in the U.S. If you're heading back to the U.S. and looking for a job, you might want to check this out. Also, if you do use Corps Careers, feedback to the RAO would be appreciated so we can pass it along to others.

*Osan AB Retiree Activities Office*

## Letters to NAUS

The following was contained in the *Miscellaneous* section of the *National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS) Update* of July 18.

### Email from Michael

*When I was in the Gulf War, we were there for 11 months and we complained about it. Our Sergeant Major told us when he was in 'Nam he complained about it and that his Sergeant Major told him to that when he was in Korea he complained and that his Sergeant Major told him that when he was in WWII he complained and that when... you get my drift? Nobody in their right mind wants to be in a war zone, but that is their job and, trust me, our troops are going to do their job and do it well. It just so happens that as of 2003, we have the Internet access and embedded reporters and what someone says in one place can be transmitted across the globe in minutes (if not seconds).*

*When soldiers aren't complaining, then it's time to worry. ☐*

*Osan AB Retiree Activities Office*

## U.S. Military Retirees Association Korea (USMRAK) Hosting KORO-IMA Director

The primary guest speaker at the annual meeting of the USMRAK on Dec 13 will be BG Macdonald, Director of the Korea Regional Office of the Installation Management Agency. See the first article on this page for KORO-IMA retiree initiatives, and see page 8 for meeting details.

*U.S. Military Retirees Association Korea*

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# TRICARE Matters

## New TRICARE Contracts

Since TRICARE was first deployed in 1995, the Department of Defense (DOD) has been listening to our beneficiaries, providers, and contractors in order to optimize the next generation of TRICARE contracts (TNEX). Future changes should improve beneficiaries' satisfaction and provide the health care they have earned, while exercising responsible oversight and using our resources wisely. The first of the TNEX contracts was implemented in March 2003 with the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy (TMOP). The most visible aspect of this contract was the change in contract administrators from Merck Medco to Express Scripts. The new contract offers advantages such as Internet refills and other web-based improvements. Over the next 2 years, other TNEX contracts will be implemented. Here are some of the features and improvements you can expect.

*Dual Eligible Claims Contract.* On 25 July, DOD announced that Wisconsin Physicians Service (WPS) had been awarded the contract to provide claims processing, customer service, and administrative services for individuals who are eligible for both Medicare and TRICARE. This contract will be phased in by Region starting April 1, 2004. With the execution of this contract, TRICARE for Life beneficiaries and all beneficiaries eligible for both Medicare and TRICARE, including those under 65, can expect enhanced customer service and claims processing under a single, experienced contractor.

*TRICARE Retail Pharmacy.* This new contract award should be announced some time in the fall of 2003 with implementation targeted for the spring of 2004. There will be improved portability of the DOD pharmacy benefit with comprehensive retail pharmacy services throughout the United States, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Beneficiaries will be able to fill new prescriptions at any of the thousands of TRICARE retail network pharmacies throughout the country, regardless of the TRICARE region in which they are enrolled. Refill procedures will comply with applicable state laws and any policies of the particular retail network chain. Beneficiaries will be issued a wallet-sized pharmacy information card.

*Managed Care Support Contracts.* These contracts were announced on 21 August 2003. Implementation will be phased in by Region starting with the existing Northwest Region in the spring of 2004 and finishing with the existing Southwest Region in November 2004. The most significant feature of the new contract is the consolidation of the 12 existing U.S.-based regions into three regions. Regions 1, 2, and 5 will become the TRICARE North Region administered by Health Net; Regions 3, 4, and 6

will be consolidated into the TRICARE South Region administered by Humana; and Regions 7 through 12 and Alaska will be grouped into the TRICARE West Region administered by TriWest. ■

*TRICARE Help E-Mail Service Newsletter, Aug 2003*

## Information Needed to Apply for Social Security

When you apply for retirement benefits, we will ask you:

- Your name, gender and social security number;
- Your name at birth (if different);
- Your date of birth and place of birth (State or foreign country);
- Whether a public or religious record was made of your birth before age 5;
- Whether you or anyone else has ever filed for Social Security benefits, Medicare or Supplemental Security Income on your behalf (if so, we will also ask for information on whose Social Security record you applied);
- Whether you have been unable to work because of illnesses, injuries or conditions at any time within the past 14 months (if "Yes," we will also ask when you became unable to work)
- Whether you were ever in the active military service before 1968 and, if so, have you ever been eligible to receive a monthly benefit from a military or Federal civilian agency
- Whether you or your spouse have ever worked for the railroad industry;
- Whether you have earned social security credits under another country's social security system;
- Whether you qualified for or expect to receive a pension or annuity based on your own employment that was not covered by Social Security;
- Whether you are currently married and, if so, your spouse's name, date of birth (or age) and social security number (if known).
- The names, dates of birth (or age) and social security numbers (if known) of any former spouses;
- The dates and places of each of your marriages and, for marriages that have ended, how and when they ended;
- The names of any unmarried children under 18, 18 -19 and in secondary school or disabled before age 22;
- The name(s) of your employer(s) and/or information about your self-employment and the amount of your earnings last year, this year and next year;

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- Whether you had earnings in all years since 1978;
- Whether we may contact your employers for wage information;
- The month you want your benefits to begin; and
- If you are within 3 months of age 65, whether you want to enroll in Supplemental Medical Insurance (Part B of Medicare).

<http://www.ssa.gov>

### Applying for Social Security in Korea

Call the Osan AB Retiree Activities Office for an appointment for assistance in applying for Social Security. Besides information above, Korea retirees and other Social Security applicants living in Korea will be asked to complete Form SSA-21 for overseas resident. It asks for periods you lived outside the U.S. in the past 24 months, and the total number of years you lived in the U.S. (All active duty military service time is considered as living in the U.S.) This information is required for all persons named on your application. Instructions and sample forms are available at the RAO web site <http://www.rao-osan.com>. Look under "Applying for ..."

You must provide an original birth certificate, original DD Form 214, original marriage certificate and other required documents. The RAO can assist in obtaining certified copies at no cost from the U.S. Embassy in Seoul so that you can retain the originals. ■

*Osan AB Retiree Activities Office*

## Laughing Matters

### The Wisdom of Kids ...

While trying to explain to a 6-year old daughter how much technology had changed, the dad pointed to their brand-new computer. He told her that when he was in college, a computer with the same amount of power would have been the size of a house. Wide-eyed, the daughter asked, "How big was the mouse?"

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### ... and Parents

Nelly was telling her friend Bernice how she gets her son out of bed in the morning. "I just open his door and toss the cat on his bed ... he sleeps with his dog." ☺

*Christian Voices from [www.christianvoices.org](http://www.christianvoices.org)*

## The Director's Corner

### Newsletter Production

With apologies, the previous retiree newsletter was delivered late. It happened for a number of reasons. First, I was waiting for the outcome on Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) to report the latest to you, so it was completed later than usual. Second, somewhat late in the game USFK approved funding and cut an Invitational Travel Order for me to attend an Army Retirement Services Officer/Transition Coordinator Workshop in Arlington, Virginia, concurrent with my planned vacation. Third, the newsletter when it was finally printed was delivered to the wrong place. Thus, I was unable to receive it prior to abandoning the office for three weeks (Jul 21-Aug10). Upon returning, I was advised of where the newsletter had been delivered and arranged to have the shipment picked up and delivered to Osan AB for addressing and mailing.

I have contacted the Korea Regional Office of the

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Installation Management Agency (KORO IMA) to see if there's a way to improve procedures for newsletter production to allow it to be more efficiently processed.

### Changes in the Wind

Changes are coming to the newsletter and to the Retiree Activities Office web site at <http://www.rao-osan.com>. I am working to develop an electronic version of the newsletter to e-mail to those folks with a computer. It will have the same information as the paper version, and maybe a bit more since I won't be constrained by the eight-page format. If all goes well in testing, you can expect the announcement in the end-of-year newsletter on how to sign up. You will also be seeing (primarily cosmetic) changes to the web site as the design is modified to reduce the "duct tape" approach and to accommodate updates to web site design standards.

Before the end of the year, my office will move again, to a temporary location on the second floor of Building 936 while the first floor is renovated. When it's complete in the Spring, I expect to move into a permanent office.

*Jack Terwiel*

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

### **USMRAK Membership Meeting and Election**

The annual membership meeting and election of officers for the United States Military Retirees Association Korea (USMRAK) will take place **on December 13, 2003, starting at 10am, in the Multipurpose Facility, or multiplex movie theater on Yongsan South Post (Note: change of location from last year)**. This facility is located across from the Elementary School near the former location of the Four Seasons Store.

Al Chellis, who has served as association president, seemingly forever, has announced that he will not stand for re-election. So we are seeking a dynamic person interested in becoming president of the USMRAK. He notes that he has been elected *in absentia* two of the four times he was selected as the association's president, but cannot serve another term and will be at the meeting this year to defend his position.

It is important for retirees to be involved in their own welfare here in Korea. Service in the USMRAK is an important way to do this. If you are one of those who believe in letting the other guy do it, then don't be surprised when your benefits and privileges slip away because there suddenly is no "other guy."

*U.S. Military Retirees Association Korea*

*continued* ►

### **Retiree Activities Office Schedule**

The Osan AB Retiree Activities Office (RAO) is open 8am-3pm Mon-Fri. It is closed for all U.S. holidays and Korean Lunar New Year and Chusok (Korean Thanksgiving) extended holidays. In the temporary location of Building 936, Room 102, it is also closed when Osan AB exercise activities take over the office. On the second Tuesday of each month, the RAO travels to Seoul to provide services at the Army Community Services building, Room 118, from 9am-noon. In November, the RAO will be at Yongsan on the third Tuesday, Nov 18, because Veterans Day falls on the second Tuesday.

During the remainder of this year, the RAO will be closed on the four-day Thanksgiving weekend and start Christmas vacation at noon on Dec 24, returning Jan 5. ■

*Osan AB Retiree Activities Office*

## **In the Next Issue**

**Review Your Personal Papers –**  
Help your survivors while you're here  
**KORO-IMA and Retirees –** Retiree  
Councils, RADs and other support