



The Retiree Newsletter

(USCG—PHS—NOAA)

“Semper Paratus”

October—December 2017

Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty

Issue 4 / 2017

The Retiree Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Director of Reserve and Military Personnel (CG-13), produced in support of the Coast Guard Retiree Services Program’s mission to: *Provide, support, and strengthen CG military retiree communications and information services, as well as helping to sustain the life-long connection & mutually beneficial relationship between the CG and its military retiree community, the **Long Blue Line**.* This publication shall not be considered authority and is non-record material.



Coast Guard Retiree Services Program Director

Rear Admiral Andrew S. McKinley, Acting Director, Reserve & Military Personnel (CG-13)

CG Retiree Services Program policy, CI 1800.5H, requires CG Regional Retiree Councils (RRCs) to *maintain a bridge between the active service and the retiree family*. It’s been said that a “**bridge** is a type of social tie that connects two different groups in a social network.” The CG National Retiree Council and RRCs have an awesome responsibility, and my full support, to be the bridge connecting our active service & retiree family in a social network. As I assume responsibility for *The Retiree Newsletter*, a key communications link in that social network, I want to extend my sincere appreciation to the prior owner of the newsletter, CG PPC, in particular to Mr. Matt OConnell, editor, and Mr. Rich Etheridge (e-newsletter/web support) for all their efforts in producing this legacy publication that has improved the lives of our CG retiree community - BZ!

Coast Guard Retiree Services Program Manager

Mr. Robert Hinds, 202-475-5451, Robert.C.Hinds@uscg.mil

To the CG, PHS, and NOAA retiree community, I’m both honored and humbled to be your new editor of *The Retiree Newsletter*. I want to maintain the time-honored tradition of this publication as I work with you, the CG National Retiree Council, and the Regional Retiree Councils in aligning the newsletter with the mission and goals of the retiree services program, within available resources. The primary purpose of the newsletter remains to share substantive information, tools, and resources of interest to the retiree community, including **Notices/Reunions** (as submitted). Due to legal and other concerns about personal privacy, the **Retirements** and **TAPS** sections have been removed. **Directory Assistance/Phone Numbers/Websites** will normally only appear in **October** editions of the newsletter and are accessible at www.dcms.uscg.mil/retiree and www.dcms.uscg.mil/ppc/ras/. Other changes, including plans to transition to an exclusively digital newsletter will be discussed in future editions. In closing, I look forward to your regular comments/feedback on this publication.

Coast Guard National Retiree Council (CGNRC) Co-Chairs

RADM Ron Rábago, USCG (Ret), Rabago.CGNRC@yahoo.com

MCPO Kevin Isherwood, USCG (Ret), Kevin.D.Isherwood@gmail.com

The Coast Guard National Retiree Council conducted our annual meeting on April 11-12, 2017 that included representatives from our Regional Retiree Councils, CG leadership (including the Commandant) and the CG Pay & Personnel Center. The updated Retiree Services Program (RSP) Instruction (COMDTINST 1800.5H) was signed by VADM Stosz (DCMS) and our highest priorities for 2017 were addressed during very collaborative working sessions. Work continued this summer by the CGNRC on these priorities: Development of a RSP Communication Strategy, standard procedures for our existing National Help Desk and a “Framework” for our Regional Retiree Councils. Our other 2017-2018 priorities include improved integration with the TAPS program, increasing retirees’ knowledge of benefits, identification of volunteer opportunities, recognition of retiree contributions and ensuring the “Caregivers Guide” remains up to date. All of this will be in our annual letter to the Commandant. Once signed, we will post the letter to the website.

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Coast Guard Regional Retiree Councils (RRCs)

www.dcms.uscg.mil/retiree



CG Regional Retiree Council Co-Chairs

CG Regional Retiree Council Responsibilities

<u>RRC</u>	<u>RRC Co-Chair</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>
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Yorktown	Al Buechler Dave Bunch	abuechler1@cox.net debunch52@verizon.net
East Cent,FL	Barry Compagnoni Ted Stacy	barrycompagnoni@gmail.com cstacy@cfl.rr.com
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Northwest	RADM Bert Kinghorn Phil Johnson	CoChairs@cgretirenw.org CoChairs@cgretirenw.org
Kodiak	Robert Lachowsky John Whiddon	roblachowsky@yahoo.com jbwhiddon52@gmail.com
Hawaii	Rod Schulz	rschultz369@gmail.com

In accordance with CG Retiree Services Program, CI 1800.5H, https://media.defense.gov/2017/Apr/27/2001738867/-1/-1/0/CI_1800_5H.PDF, RRCs have the following responsibilities:

- Maintain a bridge between the active service and the Retiree family providing information to the supported military retiree community that includes, but is not limited to communicating retiree program news, disseminating information from the appropriate resource office on active duty service activities, events of interest to retirees, updates, and changes pertaining to retiree benefits and services.
- Serve as a communication link between the supported CG retiree community and a sponsoring regional active duty command such as a base or major training command. The sponsoring command provides the needed resources, including an active duty retiree services coordinator, to support this communication link and collaborate with the RRC to communicate, in an effective/timely manner, key information of interest to the supported retiree community.
- Operate a National Retiree Help Desk (NRHD) to respond to inquiries from the world-wide CG military retiree community - “connecting” individuals with needed retiree services information/ resources. The NRHD is administered and operated by the Capital Area CG Retiree Council (CACGRC).
- Foster military service collaboration and increase program effectiveness by maintaining close relationships with DoD military service retiree activity offices within the local geographical area. Keep abreast of local military events sponsored by DoD, such as retiree appreciation days or other activities of interest and that share that information with CG retirees in the region.

CG Regional Retiree Council Organization





CG Pay & Personnel Center, Retiree & Annuitant Services (PPC-RAS)
www.dcms.uscg.mil/ppc/ras/



See retiree-related news updates at: www.dcms.uscg.mil/ppc/news/Tag/83799/retirement/

Under the general direction and supervision of the PPC Operations Division, the Chief, PPC RAS Branch shall:

- Provide personnel and pay support and services to USCG, USCGR, PHS, and NOAA retirees and annuitants.
- Provide pay support to former spouses covered under the Former Spouse Protection Act (FSPA).
- Provide determinations of ID card eligibility for former spouse initial determinations, incapacitated children, parents and parents-in-law.
- Provide complete paperwork and manage all Coast Guard Reserve personnel accounts once they've entered the RET-1 (Retired, With Pay at Age 60) status and RET-2 (Retired, Awaiting Pay at Age 60) status.
- Execute alimony, child support, bankruptcy, and IRS tax levy garnishments.
- Provide accounting reports to Coast Guard Headquarters, Finance Center, the Financial Accounting and Review branch, and other internal stakeholders.
- Provide reports to outside stakeholders, i.e. Internal Revenue Service, Census Bureau, as requested.
- Provide complete paperwork and manage all Coast Guard Reserve personnel accounts once entered as complete.
- Mail Retirement and Spousal Retirement Certificates for all Coast Guard retirees.

Direct Access II Self Service for Retirees, Annuitants, and Former Spouses

Make sure you review your account at least once each year to ensure your correspondence address, financial institution, beneficiary, and other information are correct.

Self-Service is accessible at www.dcms.uscg.mil/ppc/ras/gp/, where you can perform the functions listed below. If you don't have internet access or need more assistance, contact PPC Customer Care at 1-866-772-8724 or email at ppc-dg-customer@uscg.mil

[View My Payslip](#)

This link will allow you view/download all your available Payslips.

[View My 1099R](#)

This link will allow you to view/download all your available 1099R tax documents.

[View/Change My Phone Number\(s\)](#)

This link will allow you to view/change your phone #s.

[Change My Delivery Options](#)

This link will allow you to change delivery options for communications.

[View/Change My Email Address](#)

This link will allow you to view/change your email addresses stored in the Retired Payroll system.

[View My Final Pay Beneficiary](#)

This link allow you to view your Final Pay Beneficiaries.

[View/Print Affordable Care Act \(ACA\) Forms](#)

This link will allow you to view/print ACA Forms.

[View/Print My Year End Forms](#)

This link will allow you to access your year-end ACA, W2, and 1099R forms and choose not to receive a paper copy of your tax forms in the mail.

[View/Change My Mailing Address](#)

This link will allow you to view and make changes to your mailing address.

[Change My EFT/Direct Deposit](#)

This link will allow you to view and make changes to your EFT/Direct Deposit.

[Change My Voluntary Deductions](#)

This link will allow you to view, add, change, or stop your voluntary deductions.

[Change My Password](#)

This link will allow you to view/change your password and set your Forgot Password security question/answer.

[Change My Federal & State Tax](#)

This link allows you to view/change your W-4 information.

Federal and State Income Tax - The 1099R's will be issued in January 2018. Please ensure your home mailing address is correct so the forms will be mailed to the correct address. The Affordable Care Act forms 1095-B will also be mailed out in January 2018. These forms will need to be filled with your federal income tax.

State Income Tax – Be sure to check your state tax withholding. If you move during a given period, be sure to also update your state tax information. It is not automatically changed when you change your home mailing address. If you are not withholding state tax, your state of residence is where the taxable gross will be reported. State tax cannot be refunded as it is paid out on a monthly basis and 1099R's will not be corrected to show a different state. To obtain any money that may be due, contact the local Department of Revenue.

Foreign Government Employment of Retired Uniformed Service Personnel

By Bob Hinds, CG Retiree Service Program Manager

General: The Emoluments Clause is a Constitutional restriction that prohibits a person “holding any office of profit or trust” in the federal government from accepting any gift, emolument, office, or title of any kind from any king, prince, or foreign state without the consent of Congress. The Emoluments Clause prohibits receipt of consulting fees, gifts, travel expenses, honoraria, or salary by active-duty, reserve, and Retired Uniformed Service Personnel (RUSP), including USCG, NOAA, and PHS personnel, unless Congressional consent is first obtained. Federal law grants blanket Congressional approval on the condition that these personnel get permission of the Secretary concerned and the Secretary of State (DoS), PRIOR to accepting employment. Failure to obtain prior approval may result in irrevocable loss of pay, allowances, and benefits (including Retired Pay or any Reserve compensation, including retirement point credit) for all periods employed by a foreign government (e.g., no retroactive approvals). There are U.S. operated companies that are totally or partially foreign government owned (e.g. Qatar Airways is 100% foreign owned).

Requesting Approval: CG military retirees must submit a written request for approval to the Director of Reserve and Military Personnel (CG-13), approving authority for DHS and the Commandant. Prior to submitting requests, contact Mr. Robert Hinds, CG Retiree Services Program Manager, at 202-475-5451 or email at Robert.C.Hinds@uscg.mil. Mr. Hinds will provide additional guidance on the approval process (normally 6-8 weeks) and a sample letter and forms. Requests should be addressed to:

COMMANDANT, U. S. COAST GUARD
2307 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR AVE SE STOP 7907
WASHINGTON, DC 20593-7907

NOAA POC: U.S. Department of Commerce, Ethics Law and Programs Division, Office of General Counsel, 14th Street & Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230, Office: (202) 482-5207, Current POC: David Brodian, Attorney-Advisor .

PHS POC: Division of Commissioned Corps Personnel & Readiness, ATTN: Chief (currently CDR Tracy Farrill, PHS), Officer Support Services, U.S. Public Health Service, 1101 Wootton Pkwy, Plaza Level, Rockville, MD, 20852, Phone: 240-276-8233.



eBenefits - Have YOU registered?

In March 2007, the President's Commission on Care for Returning Wounded Warriors was established by Executive Order 13426. The Commission recommended creation of a Web portal that would provide service members, Veterans, their families, and authorized caregivers with a single sign-on, central access point to clinical and benefits information. The *VA eBenefits Personal Web Portal* is the result of the Commission's recommendation. eBenefits users can check the status of compensation packages, compensation & GI Bill payments, and claim status, apply for VA programs, request home loan certificates, and access employment and other resources.

ALL active duty/veteran service members and authorized caregivers are encouraged to create an eBenefits account. There are two account types (Basic and Premium). The Basic Account provides limited accessibility. The Premium Account is recommended and there are three methods of registration:

- Online at www.va.gov (click on eBenefits) or www.ebenefits.va.gov using a CAC card.
- At a VA Regional Office. VARO locations are accessible at: www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/offices.asp.
- With a MyPay PIN, which may be requested through www.ebenefits.va.gov.

For answers to questions and further assistance you may contact VA eBenefits Customer Support at: 1-800-983-0937

Upcoming Changes to TRICARE www.tricare.mil/About/Changes

The Military Health System (MHS) is modernizing TRICARE to better serve you and respond to changes in law and policy. Most provisions will go into effect on January 1, 2018, with full implementation occurring on January 1, 2019.

Annual Consent for Automatic Prescription Refills Begins Sept. 1 www.tricare.mil/CoveredServices/BenefitUpdates/Archives/08_16_17_Annual_Consent_for_Prescription_Refills

Beginning 01 September 2017, Express Scripts will need annual consent from patients who want to receive automatic refills of their maintenance medications enrolled in TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery. This means that just before one of your prescriptions runs out of refills, Express Scripts will reach out to you to find out if you would like your doctor to be contacted to renew the prescription and if you'd like to continue in the Automatic Refill program.

[Welcome Aboard to New Retirees](#)

To the more than 1,000 CG military members and their family who have joined the CG military retiree community since the last edition of *The Retiree Newsletter*, April 2017 - CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME ABOARD! The mission of the CG Retiree Services Program is to: *Provide, support, and strengthen CG military retiree communications, information services, and other retiree services. Support the life-long connection and mutually beneficial relationship between the Coast Guard and its military retiree community, the long blue line.* CDR Gary Thomas, USCG (Ret), Capital Area CG Retiree Council, is one of the many dedicated CG Regional Retiree Council members putting words into action, as he leads the CG mentoring initiative discussed below. As Gary said, there are a “huge repository of skills, knowledge, and networks within the retiree community that could substantially benefit CG members transitioning to civilian life.” Please consider joining a Regional Retiree Council and, most importantly, “stay-connected” with the CG as you close one chapter and *TELL THE REST OF YOUR STORY!*

[CG Retiree Council Presentations at 2017 SECNAV Retiree Council Meeting](#)

By CAPT David Bernstein, USCG (Ret), dberns01@gmail.com

CAPT David Bernstein, Co-Chair of the Capital Area CG Retiree Council (CACGRC), and CDR Gary Thomas, CACGRC, were invited to make presentations at the SECNAV Retiree Council meeting on 20 Aug 2017, addressing two questions: *What is your organization doing or planning to do for retirees? What can the Council do to facilitate that?*

CG National Retiree Help Desk (NRHD): CAPT Bernstein provided a synopsis of the origin, function, implementation, and current state of the CG Retiree National Help Desk (NRHD), sharing that the NRHD was established by the CACRC in 2006 to help CG Retirees connect with needed resources to address their questions/concerns. The NRHD is staffed by volunteers who each stand one week *virtual* watches, 24/7, 365 days per year, monitoring and responding to messages left on the NRHD 800/202 V-Mail and G-Mail boxes. NRHD watch-standers serve only to *connect* CG Retirees with needed resources and do not offer personal opinions. The NRHD has responded to 500+ requests for help each year and is now formalized within the CG Retiree Services Program, as an activity of the CG National Retiree Council.

CG Mentoring Initiative: CDR Gary Thomas, USCG (Ret), provided a synopsis of the CG Mentoring initiative, based on an awareness of the huge repository of *untapped* skills, knowledge, and networks within the CG retiree community that could substantially benefit CG military members transitioning to “civilian” life. This would include help with job search, resuming writing, interviewing, and other “post CG” events. Transitioning members would be accompanied by a “mentor” who would support and advise them as retirement approaches. Simply put, CG members deserve support like the “Marine for Life Network (M4L).” CDR Thomas shared that the CG Regional Retiree Councils around the U.S. would carry out the mentoring program, drawing on retired CG resources in their AOR. Since the mentoring initiative is in an early stage of development, there are challenges which must be considered in implementation, including: access to contact information; connecting with transitioning/recently retired members; and PII issues. The CACGRC would conduct the “proof of concept” of the CG Mentoring Initiative. CDR Gary Thomas’s e-mail: GMThomas@aol.com

The USN does not have similar activities and the SECNAV Retiree Council expressed interest in both, thanked CAPT Bernstein and CDR Thomas for their presentations, and looks forward to continued collaboration with the Coast Guard.

[Coast Guard Auxiliary](#)

By Bob Hinds, CG Retiree Service Program Manager

The United States Coast Guard (USCG) Retiree Services Program serves retired members of the USCG active duty and Reserve, United States Public Health Service (USPHS), and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). There is also another retired component of the Coast Guard, the Auxiliary. A uniformed component of the USCG, it was established by Congress on 23 June 1939, as the USCG Reserve (USC Title 14, Section 2). In 1941, it was re-designated as the USCG Auxiliary. The Auxiliary exists to support any USCG mission (USC Title 14, Section 822), limited by the Commandant to exclude roles that require “direct” law enforcement or military engagement. There are more than 30,000 members of the Auxiliary who collectively contribute over 4.5 million hours of service each year and complete nearly 500,000 missions in service to the USCG. Every year, Auxiliarists help to save approximately 500 lives, assist 15,000 distressed boaters, conduct over 150,000 safety examinations of recreational vessels, and provide boater safety instruction to over 500,000 students. After 15 years of volunteer (non-paid) service, Auxiliarists are eligible for retirement. They receive no USCG benefits, such as exchange privileges, eligibility for Mutual Assistance, and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) services, which they enjoyed as active members. These approximately 7000 retirees, who have trained and been an inspiration to so many, may well benefit from a USCG Auxiliary Retiree Services Program. Such a program would help to ensure retirees are informed of USCG events and help their survivors provide proper interment.

**Mr. Norman G. Paulhus, Jr.
No Greater Friend to the Coast Guard**

By Bob Hinds,
CG Retiree Service Program Manager

I'm deeply saddened to share that Mr. Norman G. Paulhus, Jr. passed away on Aug. 25, 2017. It was a sincere honor and privilege to attend Norm's funeral with family and friends on Sept. 6, 2017. Norm, for almost half his 67 years, was a loyal *FAN* and friend of the CG. For years, every day, Norm scanned media reports, press releases, newsletters, and stories from nationwide sources about the CG and sent five-six selected items to friends & followers within and outside the CG. The Posthumous COA to Norm, which I presented to his sister, Ms. Kathy Fain, with family and friends, capture the heart of the story:

*United States Coast Guard Retiree Services Program
Presents This:*

***Posthumous Certificate of Appreciation
To:***

MR. NORMAN G. PAULHUS, JR.

A famous poet once said...

"A Friend May Well Be Reckoned the Masterpiece of Nature."

For 35 years, there has been no greater friend to the Coast Guard.

*For all your work and friendship, most recently "Norm Net" as a member of the
Capital Area Retiree Council, YOUR Coast Guard family thanks you - BZ!*

For the Commandant,

A. S. MCKINLEY

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard Reserve
Acting Director of Reserve and Military Personnel



U.S. Coast Guard Recruiting ► 4,000 Recruits Needed

"In order to recruit 4,000 enlisted personnel, the recruiting offices have to interview 40,000 applicants," said Chief Petty Officer Benjamin Harris, RIC, Recruiting Office Los Angeles. "Only 80 percent of those applicants processed by the recruiting offices will complete boot camp at Cape May. In 2018, Harris expects that the target number of enlisted personnel will be reduced to 3,900. Most reserve applicants are interested in maritime law enforcement, so it's the recruiter's job to expose them to other opportunities for service and provide them options for their final decision. Finding 4,000 recruits is an unenviable task, but the personnel of the recruiting offices are and will continue to meet their goals. You can help by referring qualified candidates to the recruiting offices or to the Coast Guard's website: <https://www.gocoastguard.com/chat-now>.

U. S. Public Health Service (PHS) Symposium

53rd U.S. Public Health Service Symposium in Dallas: Join us in Dallas the week of 4 June 2018 for the 2018 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium. The Intercontinental Dallas will host this annual gathering of over 1,000 attendees. Reconnect with fellow retired members of the Public Health Service. Learn about the latest work of active duty members. Hear from 20th Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams and Assistant Secretary for Health Dr. Brett Giroir. Speak directly with the Chief Professional Officers for each of the PHS professional categories. Do you have questions about retirement from the Public Health Service? A Retirement Seminar will be hosted on Monday, 4 June. Take your Dinner Dress White Jacket uniform out of the closet. Get a ticket to the formal Anchor and Caduceus Dinner. Find more details at: <http://symposium.phscof.org/>

Survivor Benefit Plan and Dependent Children with a Disability

The Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15 NDAA), amended the law to permit military members and retirees the option to direct payment of a Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) Annuity for a dependent child to a Special Needs Trust (SNT). A SNT is a legal instrument specifically designed for the benefit of a person with a disability. In some cases, this may preserve the beneficiary's eligibility for other federal or state benefits. To be eligible to elect the option to cover the SNT under SBP, the member or retiree must have previously elected Spouse and Child or Child Only coverage for a disabled child under the SBP. There must also be an established and certified SNT. If you have a dependent disabled child, we recommend you consult with an attorney about establishing a SNT and then contact PPC-RAS for information about changing your child coverage to the SNT.

PPC-RAS POC: Mr. Robert D. Teetsel, Chief, Legal Services Office, 785-339-3596, Robert.D.Teetsel@uscg.mil.
Additional information is available at: www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/provide/sbp/special-needs-trust.html.

Important Information Regarding Your Medical Benefits. Are You Nearing Your 65th Birthday?

When you turn 65, your medical benefits will change. MEDICARE will become your primary medical coverage and TRICARE pays secondary to MEDICARE. You MUST enroll in MEDICARE PART B to retain your TRICARE coverage. If you are within 90 days of your 65th birthday, you should log on to www.ssa.gov or www.medicare.gov to enroll in MEDICARE PART B. Additional information is accessible at: www.tricare.mil/Welcome/Eligibility/MedicareEligible.aspx?sc_database=web or by phone at 1-866-773-0404. You may also call the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) at 800-538-9552.

Pay & Personnel Center, Retiree & Annuitant Services (RAS) - Directory Assistance

Directory Assistance and Other Important Phone Numbers & Websites (Pgs 7-9) will only be published in the October editions of the newsletter and will be accessible at: www.dcms.uscg.mil/portals/10/cg-1/ppc/ras/rasdirectory.pdf

Questions, Address or Direct-Deposit Changes

If you need information or have questions about:

- ◆ Your retired or survivor benefit plan (SBP) annuity payments
- ◆ Your retired/annuitant statement
- ◆ IRS Form 1099-R (reporting taxable income)

or you need to change:

- ◆ Your and your dependents' home mailing address (for retired/annuitant statement, newsletter, 1099-R, correspondence)
- ◆ Your financial institution or account number for your direct deposit
- ◆ Report a change to your designation of beneficiary for payment of unpaid retired pay (Note: use Form *CG PPC -3600 Designation of Beneficiary for Payment of Unpaid Retired Pay)

You may make the requests listed above by **telephone**, by **fax** or in **writing**. The telephone and fax numbers are:

Toll free: 1-800-772-8724
Commercial: (785) 339-3415
Fax: (785) 339-3770

Allotments, SBP Coverage and Beneficiary Changes

If you need to:

- ◆ Start, stop or change an allotment (you may use Form *CG PPC-7221 Retired Allotment Authorization Form, fax in the form or a written request, call us or send us an e-mail request).
- ◆ Report a change to your survivor benefit plan (SBP) coverage (must be in writing)

You may **fax** your request to (785) 339-3770 or mail to:

Commanding Officer (RAS)
USCG Pay & Personnel Center
444 SE Quincy St
Topeka, KS 66683-3591

(* Note: Forms are available from the PPC website at: www.dcms.uscg.mil/ppc/pd/forms/ or directly from the IRS.

E-mail: PPC-DG-RAS@uscg.mil

Website: www.dcms.uscg.mil/ppc

Income Tax Withholding Changes

If you need to:

- ◆ Start or change the amount of state tax withholding (retirees can call, e-mail, fax or use *IRS Form W-4, or state form. **If using IRS form, indicate that the form is for state income tax withholding, not federal, which state it's for and the dollar amount to be withheld, (minimum amount is \$10.00, no cents).** We cannot withhold state tax for annuitants
- ◆ Change your federal income tax withholding (retirees use Form W-4, annuitants use Form W-4P)
- ◆ Change exemptions or additional withholding

Federal tax changes **must** be in writing. The original Form IRS W-4 or W-4P must be mailed to PPC (RAS) for action and filing, per IRS requirements. PPC (RAS) cannot accept a faxed W-4 or W-4P. Please mail to:

Commanding Officer (RAS)
USCG Pay & Personnel Center
444 SE Quincy St
Topeka, KS 66683-3591

(* Note: Forms are available from the PPC website at: www.dcms.uscg.mil/ppc/pd/forms/ or directly from the IRS.

Report of Death

To report the death of a Coast Guard, NOAA or PHS retiree/annuitant call:

Toll free: 1-800-772-8724
Commercial: (785) 339-3415
Fax: (785) 339-3770

Or write:

Commanding Officer (RAS)
USCG Pay & Personnel Center
444 SE Quincy St
Topeka, KS 66683-3591

Email articles, reunions, notices, comments, etc. for The Retiree Newsletter to: Robert.C.Hinds@uscg.mil.

The deadline for submission of input for the January 2017 edition of The Retiree Newsletter is 10 Nov 2017.

RETIREE CUSTOMER SERVICE

1-800-PPC-USCG/1-800-772-8724

Other Important Phone Numbers and Websites

Medical/Dental Benefits	Phone	Websites/Notes
Eligibility (DEERS)/ID Cards	1-800-538-9552 (TTY/TDD) 1-866-363-2883	www.tricare.mil/deers In CA: 1-800-334-4162; In AK & HI 1-800-527-5602
Mail-Order Pharmacy	1-877-363-1303	www.tricare.mil/mybenefit/home/Prescriptions/FillingPrescriptions/TMOP
Retiree Dental Plan	1-888-838-8737	www.trdp.org
TRICARE Overseas	1-888-777-8343	www.tricare.mil/mybenefit/home/overview/Regions/RegionsNonUS
TRICARE United States	Phone numbers on their website	http://tricare.mil
TRICARE For Life	1-866-773-0404	www.tricare.mil/tfl/default.cfm www.tricare.mil/LifeEvents/Retiring
TRICARE Eligibility—Pharmacy (Medicare info)	1-877-363-1303	www.tricare.mil/CoveredServices/Pharmacy/Eligibility.aspx
Federal Long-Term Health Insurance	1-800-582-3337	www.opm.gov/insure/ltc/
CG Health Benefits Advisor	1-800-942-2422	
Veterans Benefits	Phone	Websites/Notes
Department of Veterans Affairs	1-800-827-1000	www.va.gov
Insurance Information	1-800-669-8477	www.insurance.va.gov
Veteran's Group Life Insurance		www.insurance.va.gov/sglisite/vgli/vgli.htm
New VGLI Applications and VGLI Reinstatements: OSGLI PO Box 41618 Philadelphia, PA 19176-9913	1-800-419-1473 Overseas phone (973) 548-5699 Overseas fax# (973) 548-5300	Death and accelerated benefits claims only: Fax: 1-877-832-4943 All other fax inquiries: 1-800-236-6142 or e-mail: osgli.claims@prudential.com All other inquiries: osgli.osgli@prudential.com General Correspondence: Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance 80 Livingston Avenue Roseland, NJ 07068-1733
Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents	1-800-827-1000	www.va.gov/opa/vadocs/current_benefits.asp VA Pamphlet 80-02-1
Headstones and Markers	1-800-697-6947	www.cem.va.gov/hm.htm
<p>To join the PPC mailing list to receive The Retiree Newsletter and other updates via email visit: https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/subscriber/new?topic_id=USDHSCG_56 and enter your email address to subscribe.</p>		

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Other Important Phone Numbers and Websites

Other	Phone	Websites/Notes
Final Active Duty Pay	1-866-772-8724 Overseas (785) 339-2200	www.dcms.uscg.mil/ppc/separations/finalpay/ Commanding Officer (SEP) USCG Pay & Personnel Center 444 SE Quincy St Topeka, KS 66683-3591
Contact PPC (SEP) for information on Severance Pay, Separation Pay, Disability Severance Pay, LES's, IRS Form W-2.		
Travel Claims	1-866-772-8724 Overseas (785) 339-2200	www.dcms.uscg.mil/ppc/travel/ Send final travel claim to: Commanding Officer (TVL) USCG Pay & Personnel Center 444 SE Quincy St. Topeka, KS 66683-3591
Service Records	(314) 801-0800	www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/ Write to: National Personnel Records Center Military Personnel Records 1 Archives Drive St. Louis, MO 63138-1002
Veterans or next-of -kin of a deceased veteran can log on www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records and make requests. All others must write in and include complete name, rank/grade, SSN, dates of service and date of birth of the veteran. DD-214s are also available via the website.		
Social Security	1-800-772-1213	www.ssa.gov
WWII U.S. Merchant Marine Awards and Decorations	(202) 366-2646	www.marad.dot.gov/mariners/mariner Maritime Administration U.S. Department of Transportation 200 New Jersey Ave, SE Washington, DC 20590
CG National Retiree Help Desk	or toll free (202) 475-5381 1-833-224-6743	G-mail: NRHDesk@gmail.com Do NOT send Personally Identifiable Information (e.g. SSN, EMPID) to the CG NRHD. See:
www.dcms.uscg.mil/Portals/10/CG-1/retiree/docs/pdf/NRHD_PII_NOTICE.pdf?ver=2017-08-07-083504-783		

Coast Guard Connection Newsletter

Coast Guard Connection is a quarterly newsletter for retired senior leaders from the U. S. Coast Guard providing a focused sampling of current events and service initiatives, including updates on budget, Human Capital, Legislative, Public Affairs, and Outreach. A link to this publication is accessible at: www.dcms.uscg.mil/retiree

CG Social Media Sites

A list of Official USCG Social Media Sites, including all Social Media (Facebook & Twitter) is accessible at: <http://coastguard.dodlive.mil/official-sites/>

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U. S. Army, Air Force, and Navy Retiree Newsletters

ARMY (*ECHOES*): <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/echoes>

AIR FORCE (*AFTERBURNER*): <http://www.retirees.af.mil/Library/Afterburner/>

NAVY (*SHIFT COLORS*): <http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/reference/publications/shiftcolors/Pages/default.aspx>

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

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