

Retiree Update 9 October 2014

BASE NEW ORLEANS RETIREE COUNCIL SCHEDULED MEETING

15 OCTOBER (3RD WEDNESDAY)

BASE NEW ORLEANS, 1790 SATURN BLVD, NEW ORLEANS

1030 TO 1130 AND REMAIN FOR LUNCH \$4.55

(Grilled NY Strip, Twice Baked Potatoes, Sauteed Asparagus)

Don't have to be a member, everyone is invited...including spouses

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FLU SHOTS:

In a first-of-its-kind partnership, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced that it will join forces with retailer Walgreens to provide greater access to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-recommended vaccinations to Veterans across the country. Through its nearly 8,200 locations nationwide, Walgreens will offer flu and other recommended vaccinations to Veterans. Pharmacists can administer vaccinations to Veterans and will leverage eHealth Exchange, through its Walgreens Cloud Electronic Health Records platform, to securely share immunization records with VA to help ensure complete patient medical records.

Vaccinations are available daily during all pharmacy hours with no appointment necessary and are subject to availability. For more information about VA's immunization program, visit <http://www.ehealth.va.gov/Immunization.asp>

Flu shots will NOT be available at Coast Guard Clinics for retirees

In case you missed it... **Admiral Paul Zukunft** assumed the duties of the **25th Commandant** of the U.S. Coast Guard on May 30, 2014. He leads the largest component of the Department of Homeland Security, composed of 88,000 personnel including active duty, reserve, civilian and volunteer Auxiliarists. Admiral Zukunft has commanded six units and served extensively in the cutter fleet where he commanded the cutters CAPE UPRIGHT, HARRIET LANE, and RUSH. A native of North Branford, Connecticut, Admiral Zukunft graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 1977.

Turtle ReHab? Members of U.S. Coast Guard Station Gulfport and the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies transported rehabilitated sea turtles to a safe location in the Gulf of Mexico, Wednesday. The Coast Guard acted as a transport to release 10 rehabilitated turtles to the ocean, which according to IMMS, is safer than the beach, where a variety of factors can pose dangers to their safe release.

HELP END VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

In New Orleans, it will be Oct. 14 & 15 (Tuesday and Wednesday) of next week and again 12, 13 Nov. and 9, 10 Dec.

(Check in your area to see if the same initiative is taking place.)

These weekday evenings are selected by the local homelessness experts because the homeless veterans are much easier to find on a weekday night as opposed to the weekend or daylight spots.

The plan is for the volunteers to report to the VA's CRRC at 1530 Gravier St. in New Orleans at 1930 on the dates of the outreach. There will be about 90 minutes of training and a tour of the CRRC. The military volunteers will then be paired with homeless outreach professional and then they will go out and talk to homeless veterans and attempt to get them to take advantage of the very comprehensive housing, medical and job programs available to the veterans. If interested for New Orleans, contact PAC Bobby Nash, APAO D8 External Affairs, 504-671-2020.

Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) is applauding the Obama administration's decision to have the Coast Guard inspect cargo ships that are coming to the United States from African nations that have are battling Ebola for signs of the deadly virus among passengers.

Don't Forget to Update DEERS

Retirees and their family's lives are full of transitions. Children graduating college, moves to better climates, even deaths in the family. The good news is that your TRICARE coverage can stick with you through these life changes, but you do have to make sure that your records in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) are up to date with your latest life events. This means you should keep all your personal information – address, duty status, phone numbers, and email addresses – up to date.

For more information, visit www.tricare.mil/UpdateDEERS100814



During an October 6, 2014, homecoming, Coast Guard Cutter Boutwell offloaded 28,000 pounds of cocaine, with an estimated wholesale value of more than \$423 million, seized by joint and combined forces during 16 different interdictions as part of Operation Martillo. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Henry G. Dunphy.

- See more at: <http://coastguard.dodlive.mil/2014/10/coast-guard-western-hemishpher-partners-seize-423m-in-cocaine-during-multiple-drug-busts/#sthash.gqeDaxJv.dpuf>