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# JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER AND FORT POLK RETIREE BULLETIN



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VOLUME 1

MAY 2007

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## A LETTER FROM YOUR RETIREE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Dear Service Retirees and Spouses:

On 1 March 2007, I was appointed Chairman of the Fort Polk Retiree Council by Brigadier General Daniel P. Bolger due to the untimely death of COL (R) Alva Lary who served as the Chairman since 1 April 2004. COL Lary was a true officer and gentlemen and served the Fort Polk retirees in an outstanding manner. He will truly be missed by all that had the privilege of knowing him. His life can be characterized as one of service to his country; a true patriot. I personally had the opportunity to have both known him and worked with him on many occasions.

The topic of service always seems to be thought of when thinking of all persons in the military and military retirees. Service is characterized by something done for others, whether out of helpfulness, in supply of goods or services, or supporting activities associated with the government. We should all be proud of our years of dedication and service to our country. We should also be cognizant of the duties and responsibilities we have as retirees to assist the Fort Polk Commander and all responsible individuals in promoting the great qualities of this installation. Fort Polk is vital to this state and our nation. It has a tremendous impact on assigned Soldiers, retirees that reside in the area, and to the local and state economy.

We should all be concerned about our responsibilities in being active role models for those serving on active duty in the military, as well as those who may wish to serve in the future. Military retirees can make a difference and we should assist in making Fort Polk a better place to serve, work, and live.

In closing is some advice from an old farmer: Live simply, love generously, care deeply, speak kindly, give to those in need, and leave the rest to God.

“Retired Still Serving.”

HARRY J. MONTGOMERY  
Colonel, AUS (Retired)  
Chairman, Fort Polk  
Retiree Council

## JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER AND FORT POLK WEB SITE

Visit the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk website at <http://www.jrtc-polk.army.mil> and learn more about available installation services and activities. On this home page you will find a special link to Retirement Services that will provide the latest information on retiree benefits and services.

## 2007 RETIREE COUNCIL

COL(R) MONTGOMERY, Harry J., Sulphur, LA  
COL(R) THOMPSON, Ronald, Baton Rouge, LA  
LTC(R) GRIFFITH, Lessie A., DeRidder, LA  
LTC(R) GIBSON, Stephen C., Shreveport, LA  
MAJ(R) BREWER, Alvie, Ruston, LA  
MAJ(R) SAUCIER, Charles E., Alexandria, LA  
SMA(R) GATES, Julius W., DeRidder, LA  
CSM(R) HENDERSON, Carl C., Metairie, LA  
SGM(R) BARATTINI, Anthony L., Chauvin, LA  
MSG(R) BOURG, Rudolph, Lafayette, LA  
MSG(R) CLARK, Lathern P., Bossier City, LA  
MSG(R) STALNAKER, Mary R., DeRidder, LA  
MSG(R) BURRELL, George, Bossier City, LA  
SFC(R) HORN, Dan M., Anacoco, LA  
SFC(R) HUMPHRIES, Stephen D., Leesville, LA  
SFC(R) WILLIAMS, Lovelace, Port Arthur, TX  
MRS. SMITH, Dianne H., DeRidder, LA



## HONORARY COUNCIL MEMBER

COL(R) ANDERSON, Warren S. DeRidder, LA  
COL (R) CLAYBROOK, Linden, Baton Rouge, LA  
COL (R) KEITH, Norman A., Leesville, LA  
COL(R) ORPHE, Wilson, Lake Charles, LA  
COL (R) TUCKER, Thomas A., Baton Rouge, LA  
LTC (R) GILES, Jimmie, Shreveport, LA  
LTC (R) MILLER, Richard W., Shreveport, LA  
MAJ(R) DEBNEY, Charles A., Village Mills, TX  
MAJ(R) THOMPSON, George, Leesville, LA  
CW3(R) CLEARY, Joseph, Leesville, LA  
CSM(R) MARCANTEL, William, Lake Charles, LA  
CSM (R) MYRICK, James C., Leesville, LA  
CSM (R) POTTER, Bobby G., Waskom, TX  
CSM (R) WARE, Vernon, Oakdale, LA  
CSM (R) WHERLE, Greg, Leesville, LA  
ISG (R) DEKARSKE, Don, Anacoco, LA  
ISG (R) ESQUIVEL, Daniel J., Donaldsonville, LA  
MSG (R) OTTS, Ancil, Baton Rouge, LA  
SFC (R) DIXON, Harold, Colfax, LA  
CPO (R) VINCENT, Robert, Crowley, LA  
BM1 (R) CLARK, Glenn C., Goodrich, TX

## NOTE FROM FORT POLK'S DIRECTORATE OF HUMAN RESOURCES

I cordially invite you and your family to attend the JRTC and Fort Polk's 32d Annual Retiree Appreciation Day on 20 October 2007. It is our pleasure to recognize the efforts of the men and women who have made the United States military the outstanding active force that it is today. I thank you, the military retiree, for your dedication, contribution, and continued support. This is a great opportunity to renew old acquaintances and meet new members of the retired community. Please make plans to attend.

If you need any assistance with retiree benefits, feel free to contact the Fort Polk Retirement Services Officer or staff at (337) 531-0363, or you may write to Consolidated In/Out Processing, RSO, Bldg. 1830, 2030 14th Street, Suite 128, Fort Polk, LA 71459-5302. E-mail: [RSO@polk.army.mil](mailto:RSO@polk.army.mil). Please include your telephone number in your correspondence.

BOBBI STARK

Directorate of Human Resources

## CASUALTY ASSISTANCE CENTER (CAC) INFORMATION

On 1 January 2007, I assumed the position as Chief of Fort Polk's Casualty Assistance Center and consider it an honor to provide these important services to Soldiers and their families whether they are active, inactive, or retired. Soldiers often remark that serving on an Honors Detail is one of the most rewarding and important duties that they perform. All of us at the Casualty Assistance Center (CAC) are privileged to facilitate those honors.

We have encountered family members that were under the impression that "someone" from the Army would call them and tell them what to do upon the death of their loved one. It is the

individual's responsibility to prepare and inform their family members about what to do in the event of their passing. Make sure your Will is in a safe place and your family knows where it is located. Keep a copy of your DD Form 214 with the Will and explain to your family what the document is and what it represents. If you have questions about a Will or need to prepare one, please call the Fort Polk Legal Assistance Office at (337) 531-2112/2580, Monday through Friday during normal business hours. If your family is in need of emergency financial assistance, they can contact Army Emergency Relief at (337) 531-1957/1958. The Social Security Administration and Veterans Administration provide a small amount of funding for funeral/burial expenses.

Your family should contact the Retirement Services Officer (RSO) at (337) 531-0363/0402 or the CAC at (337) 531-6316 or toll free at (888) 474-0377 to report the passing of a retiree. The RSO and CAC have a wealth of information and can provide advice on Retiree pay, SBP, VA Benefits, DEERS, and other needs, they can also direct them to other agencies/service organizations such as VFW and DAV.

Currently, an Army Retiree is authorized a full nine-man Honors Team, if permitted by the resources of the servicing installation. Fort Polk will try to provide every retiree with this detail. The detail provides a twenty-one gun salute, performs as pall-bearers, plays Taps, and folds/presents the National Colors to the next of kin. An honorably discharged veteran who served at least thirty days receives a minimum of a two-man detail to play Taps and fold/present the National Colors. The request for a funeral detail must come to the CAC from the funeral home providing the funeral services with a copy of the DD Form 214 and should be done immediately upon completion of funeral arrangements.

In closing, take time to do responsible, educated planning. Discuss the plan with your family and ask questions. Most importantly do not wait until the time of passing, prepare your affairs in advance. It is my pleasure to serve you. Please do not hesitate to call or visit the CAC.

Steve Humphries  
Chief, Casualty Assistance Center

### **ARMY CAREER AND ALUMNI PROGRAM (ACAP) – REACHES OUT TO RETIREES**

Soldiers may retire from the Army, but they do not retire from life. More and more retirees are reentering the workforce each day. Their reasons are many and varied. Whatever the reason, and regardless of how long you've been retired, ACAP is available. ACAP has a number of services available to assist retirees and their eligible family members, regardless of their ambitions.

ACAP provides trained counselors to assist with resume preparation and posting (on and off line); conducting effective job searches; locating and taking advantage of alternative options for a second or subsequent career; and preparation/posting of federal resumes and applications. There are also a number of automated tools available for clients to aid in their job search and career decision.

Retirees can also access ACAP on-line at [www.acap.army.mil](http://www.acap.army.mil), and clicking on the "Army Military Retirees" link. The site has a wide range of information to assist retirees in whatever their employment endeavors are. Retirees can also contact the Fort Polk ACAP Center at (337) 531-1591 or visit the office located at 7950 Alabama Avenue, Building 2155, Suite 105, Fort Polk, Louisiana.

## NEW ID CARD REQUIREMENTS

In compliance with Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 (HSPD-12), the DOD ID card system has been updated to implement new requirements. The establishment of this system will enhance security of federally controlled facilities and computer systems, ensuring a safer work environment. It will also increase efficiency, reduce identity fraud, and protect personal privacy.

In order to renew or obtain a new ID card, eligible ID cardholders must present two forms of identification (one from the primary list and one from the secondary list, or two from the primary list) as follows:

### PRIMARY

US Military ID Card  
Military Dependent ID Card  
Driver's license or ID Card issued by a state or outlying possession of the US provided it contains a photograph  
ID Card issued by federal, state, or local government agencies or entities provided it contains a photograph  
US Passport  
US Coast Guard, Merchant Mariner Card  
Permanent Resident Card or Alien Registration Receipt Card with photograph (INS Form I-151 or I-551)  
Temporary Resident Card (INS Form I-688)  
Employment Authorization Card (INS Form I-688A)  
Employment Authorization Document issued by the INS which contains a photograph (INS Form I-688B)

### SECONDARY

Certificate of US Citizenship (INS Form N-560 or N-561)  
Certificate of Naturalization (INS Form N-550 or N-570)  
Foreign Passport  
Reentry Permits (INS Form I-327)  
Refugee Travel Document (INS Form I-571)  
School ID with a photograph

Voter's Registration Card  
Native American tribal documents  
Driver's license issued by a Canadian government authority  
US Social Security card issued by the Social Security Administration  
Certification of Birth Abroad issued by the Department of State (Form FS-545 or Form DS-1350)  
Original or certified copy of a birth certificate issued by a state, country, municipal authority or outlying possession of the US bearing an official seal  
US Citizen ID Card (INS Form I-197)  
ID Card for use of Resident Citizen in the US (INS Form I-179)  
Employment authorization document issued by the INS  
Persons under the age of 18 who are unable to present a document listed above may use: School record/report card; Clinic, doctor or hospital record; Daycare/nursery school record.

The ID Card Section is located at 2030 14<sup>th</sup> Street, in building 1830. Hours of operation are: Monday through Friday from 0730 to 1630. Please ensure that you have all supporting documents for changes that are made in DEERS. If you are traveling from a long distance or you are from out of state, please call beforehand if you have questions. The telephone numbers for information and/or assistance are (337) 531-1891/1430.

## COMMISSARY NEWS

The Commissary gladly accepts special orders. For grocery items, allow four days lead time; meat products allow seven days lead time; and fruit and vegetable trays/baskets allow three days lead time.

Hours of operation are Sunday – 1000-1800; Monday – Closed; Tuesday through Saturday – 0930-2000. Point of contact is Commissary Store Director, Fort Polk, LA (337) 531-2747.

## **MORALE, WELFARE, AND RECREATION (MWR) SERVICES**

Fort Polk Breaks Ground for Public/Private Venture: The Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) and Fort Polk, broke ground in November for a new Public/Private Venture restaurant in partnership with Doughboy Foods LLC, of Augusta, Georgia. The new restaurant will be a 2400 square foot Huddle House, serving 24 hours, seven days a week year round. Doughboy Foods is currently operating a successful Huddle House restaurant at Fort Gordon, Georgia.

The name “Doughboy” was a common reference to American Soldiers serving overseas in World War I, and may actually date back to the Civil War.

The retro-themed restaurant will offer inside and outside dining while overlooking a small kids’ fishing lake called Catfish Cove and nearby Warrior Hills Golf Course. It is located across the street from Fort Polk’s main lodging facility, Welch-Magnolia House. From concept to ground breaking, the process took about two years, and was undertaken with cooperation from local and regional business and political leaders. The final agreement was signed in October. The new Huddle House is scheduled to open by May 2007 and will create 30-50 new jobs, according to Doughboy Foods president Doug Harris.

### **BAYNE-JONES ARMY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL NEWS AND HEALTH BENEFITS ISSUES**

#### TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy

With gas prices continuing to rise and hectic schedules, stopping by to pick up refill prescriptions at Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital (BJACH) may not always be convenient, especially if you live over 30

minutes or more away. One TRICARE benefit – Mail Order Pharmacy – eliminates unnecessary trips and may even be cheaper based on the distance and fuel costs. TRICARE’s Mail Order Pharmacy can be accessed via the BJACH website at [www.bjach.polk.army.mil](http://www.bjach.polk.army.mil).

The link is located on the left hand side of the page near the bottom. Prescriptions ordered through this site are delivered directly to your home address. Both refills and new prescriptions are available for a minimal charge of \$3 for a generic prescription and \$9 for a name brand drug. Prescriptions filled through TRICARE’s Mail Order Pharmacy are for a 90-day supply. However, to use this service, beneficiaries cannot have any other prescription drug coverage. TRICARE’s Mail Order Pharmacy also carries medications that are not available on BJACH’s formulary. BJACH’s current formulary is available on the website. To access this listing, click on Clinical and then Pharmacy. Checking the formulary before turning in new prescriptions especially if it is for a new drug, may save you time, gas, and even some money.

#### Ophthalmology Clinic

BJACH’s Ophthalmology Clinic is still seeing TRICARE for Life beneficiaries for eye surgical services. Although senior beneficiaries may no longer receive primary care at BJACH, some ophthalmology services are still available to them including those who need cataract surgery, eye lid/brow surgery, and patients with glaucoma and other eye problems. However a referral is required. For more information, please call the Ophthalmology Clinic at (337) 531-3276.

#### Retiree at Cost Hearing Aid Program

Hearing aids are not a TRICARE benefit for retirees and many retirees experience some type of hearing loss. However, BJACH does have a program that gives retirees the opportunity to purchase hearing aids at government cost. The Retiree at Cost Hearing Aid Program has been

available to retirees since the early 1990's. Currently, there are 48 different military treatment facilities that offer this program. Under this program, retirees pay up to \$300 to \$500 per hearing aid. Depending on the type of hearing aid and how well it is taken care of, some hearing aids can last between five to ten years.

Retirees who are interested in the program need to be referred to the Audiology Clinic by their primary care provider. TRICARE providers may also make the referral. This is a very good benefit and provides quite a savings for retirees. The program is only available to military retirees. Retiree family members are not eligible to participate in the program at this time. Retirees who are enrolled in TRICARE Prime are given priority.

### **TRICARE RETIREE DENTAL PROGRAM**

The TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP), first authorized by Congress in 1997, offers one of the few affordable, comprehensive dental benefit programs available to the nation's Uniformed Services retirees, **including members of the National Guard and Reserve who, regardless of their age, have transferred to Retired Reserve status (as defined under Title 10 of the U.S. Code, Section 10141(b))**. The TRDP currently covers nearly one million Uniformed Services retirees and their family members.

Enrollees may seek care from any licensed dentist within the TRDP service area. Optimal benefits are available to enrollees who choose a dentist from the Delta Dental Select and Delta Dental PPO participating TRDP networks located in over 90,000 locations nationwide.

As the nation's largest voluntary, all-enrollee-paid dental program, the TRDP offers coverage for diagnostic and preventive services, basic restorative services, periodontics, endodontics, oral surgery, dental emergencies, and a separate

dental accident benefit with no waiting period. Additional benefits available after a 12-month waiting period include orthodontics, crowns, bridges, onlays, and full and partial dentures.

Eligible retirees and their family members can find answers to their questions about the program, as well as enroll, on the TRDP web site at [www.trdp.org](http://www.trdp.org). Prospective enrollees can also call Delta Dental's toll-free number for the TRDP, (888) 838-8737, for program details.

### **THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS IN ALEXANDRIA EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT REOPENS**

To accommodate our eligible veterans and to ensure that treatment is available to them at all times, the Alexandria VA Medical Center's Emergency Department is now open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including holidays.

Located on the South side of Building 7, our emergency department is available to treat non-traumatic injuries of service connected and non-service connected veterans. For traumatic or other life-threatening medical emergencies (i.e. stroke, heart attack, motor vehicle accidents), veterans should seek assistance at their nearest hospital emergency room; for routine office visits and medication requests or refills, veterans should continue to seek treatment from their Primary Care provider.

For further information, please contact the Alexandria VA Public Affairs Office at (318) 473-0010, extension 2010.

### **NEW CLAIM FORM MAKES IT EASIER FOR COMBAT-INJURED VETERANS TO CLAIM COMPENSATION**

The Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) claim form, which is available now, has several improvements. Simple changes such as a larger font and text boxes make it easier to use. In addition, the new form takes claimants

through a sequence of eligibility questions and prompts them for documentation every step of the way. For example: under the “preliminary Requirements” section, the first question for Active Duty Retirees is “Did you serve at least 20 years on active duty?” And then asks them to attach a copy of their DD Form 214(s) proving 20 years of active duty service. Now there is no question of the supporting documentation needed for the CRSC claim. Everything a retired veteran needs to know is on the form itself.

Even with the improvements, veterans may still have questions. To address those questions, the Army has created an enhanced CRSC website ([www.crsc.army.mil](http://www.crsc.army.mil)). Once there, they can click on “Retired Veterans” to obtain information on eligibility criteria, the claim process, answers to frequently asked questions, claim resources, and download a claim form. In addition, veterans can call the CRSC Service Center at (866) 281-3254 or reach it via e-mail at [crsc.info@us.army.mil](mailto:crsc.info@us.army.mil). The new claim form, along with the enhanced website, is a significant step forward in achieving that goal. Veterans who retired from a branch of service other than the Army should submit their claim to that branch.

## **THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS**

The Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs (LDVA) under the leadership of Secretary, Major General Hunt Downer, is making great strides in its support of Louisiana’s 388,000 Veterans. The LDVA is a statewide department with nearly 1,000 employees, with a headquarters staff in Baton Rouge, which oversees all operations of the department.

Within the department are five major divisions: War Veteran Homes, Benefits, Memorial Affairs

(State Veterans Cemeteries), and Outreach Programs to the Veterans Service Organizations, such as the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Purple Heart, and others.

The LDVA training section works closely with the Louisiana National Guard and Reserve Military Forces to ensure that veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan are supported and served as well as their families. The department is authorized five War Veterans Homes and has five homes. The homes are located in Jackson, LA (near Baton Rouge), Reserve, Jennings, Monroe, and Bossier City. Each home supports 156 veterans, supported by 150 state employees, who provide world quality care to Louisiana’s war time veterans. In 2006, LDVA in partnership with our federal VA region in New Orleans, processed over 30,000 claims and brought into the state 693 million dollars to Louisiana’s disabled veterans.

LDVA has completed a world class Veterans Cemetery in Caddo Parish which will begin operations in April 2007. The department has also started on the Master Plan for its second cemetery in Leesville, near Fort Polk. This project is already in the hands of the architect and ground will be broken by this Fall. It will take approximately 18 months to complete after ground is broken. Future cemetery sites are planned for Southwest, Northeast, and Southeast Louisiana.

LDVA also support activities such as Veterans and Memorial Day Ceremonies with a host of speakers in the schools and in other venues. The LDVA conducts job fairs for veterans each year around the state and we are a Headquarters for ESGR (Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve), ensuring that veterans who deploy to the combat zones have their civilian jobs upon their return.

DHR/AG CONSOLIDATED IN/OUT  
PROCESSING RSO BLDG 1830  
2030 14<sup>TH</sup> STREET STE 128  
FORT POLK LA 71459-5302

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR TO ATTEND  
JRTC AND FORT POLK'S 32D ANNUAL RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY  
20 OCTOBER 2007**



The Secretary of the Army has determined that the publication of this periodical is necessary in transacting public business as required by law of the Department. Use of funds for printing this publication has been approved by the United States Army Forces Command, FCJ6-OAP, Publications and Printing, Fort McPherson, GA 30330-6000 on 30 Nov 90. The local office for publication of this periodical is the Directorate of Human Resources, Retirement Services Office, ATTN: IMSW-POL-HR-OR, Fort Polk, LA 71459-5302. Commercial and DSN Telephone Numbers: Comm: (337) 531-0363; DSN 863-0363. This publication is mailed to all US Army retirees living in Louisiana and in nine counties of Southeast Texas, as well as retirees from all branches of service residing in a 40-mile radius of Fort Polk. Articles in this bulletin do not necessarily reflect the position of the Department of the Army or Fort Polk. We do our best to ensure accuracy; some material was provided by the RSO.