



## JEFFERSON BARRACKS SATELLITE RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE NEWSWIRE May-June 2019

*The Volunteer staff of the Jefferson Barracks Satellite Retiree Activities Office publishes this NEWSWIRE to inform all military retirees, spouses, widows, widowers and their families of changes to their benefits, the status of current legislation impacting their retirement, health related information, defense policies and other matters affecting their military rights, benefits and other obligations. It contains information about Scott AFB; Jefferson Barracks AFS and the local retired community.*

### **Schedule of Events for: May-June 2019**

**May 16 Thursday** --- Monthly luncheon 1100 Hrs. **Joey B's Food & Drink** 189 Concord Plaza Shopping Center, St. Louis, MO (314) 843-2121. Concord Plaza at Lindbergh and Baptist Church Road in South County.

**June 3 Monday** ---- Area VI Retirees quarterly dinner meeting. Located on the Drill Floor in Building 24 at Jefferson Barracks. Social hour at 5 PM and dinner at 6:30 PM. BBQ ribs will be provided. You are asked to bring a side dish or desert. Refreshments are provided. Please **R.S.V.P.** Larry Kelley at [lk001@mail.win.org](mailto:lk001@mail.win.org) by May 27, 2019.

**June 20 Thursday** --- Monthly Luncheon 1100 Hrs. **Cracker Barrel Old Country Store**. 6233 Heimos Industrial Park Dr., St. Louis, MO 63129. Off of Meramec Bottom Rd and I-55. (314) 416-8880

### **FROM THE DIRECTOR**

Gray Area Information:

Seems as if computers are here to stay, so there are no more retirement packages being mailed out prior to turning age 60. You will now receive a notification which will inform you to visit the web site [www.arpc.afrc.af.mil](http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil) four months before your 60<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Four months prior to turning 60 go [www.arpc.afrc.af.mil](http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil). Go to the link for MY PERS and set up an account in order to make you personnel records available to you. Return to [www.arpc.afrc.af.mil](http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil) and go to RETIREMENT. There you will find a Form 83, request for retirement, and DD FORM 2656, Direct Deposit that need to be filled out and submitted.

Need help. Call the Retirement Office Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 0900 till 1200 hrs at 314-527-8212.

## **TRICARE after Retirement - Must Enroll Within 1-YR**

Source: TRICARE Communications

When you retire from active duty or turn age 60 as a retired reserve member, your TRICARE coverage changes. After either of these [Qualifying Life Events](#) (QLEs), you must take action and enroll in a TRICARE retiree health plan so that you and your family members don't have a gap in your TRICARE coverage after retirement. Under a recent change, you have up to 1-YR after your retirement date to enroll in a TRICARE plan as a retiree. If you don't, you and your family members will only be able to get care at a military hospital or clinic if space is available.

Each service is responsible for updating the [Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System](#) (DEERS) with your retirement date. Until that date is posted to DEERS, you can't enroll in a retiree TRICARE plan. In some cases, the retirement date doesn't show up in DEERS until days or even months after you've retired. "This allows plenty of time to update DEERS and enroll in a TRICARE health plan as our new retirees adjust to civilian life."

Coverage must begin effective the day after you ended your previous TRICARE coverage, and any TRICARE enrollment fees must be paid retroactive to that date. Continuing TRICARE health care coverage isn't automatic following these QLEs. If you don't enroll in a plan after retiring from active duty or turning age 60, you'll lose TRICARE coverage and only be able to receive care at military hospitals and clinics if space is available. After the 12-month period, you may only enroll in or make changes to your health plan during the annual [TRICARE Open Season](#) or following another QLE.

You'll need to make sure you update your and your family's information in DEERS. You and your family members will also need new identification cards upon the sponsor's status change. No matter when you enroll within the 12-month period, coverage begins on the first day of your retirement and you must pay all enrollment fees back to that date.

### **Retiring from Active Duty**

If you're [retiring from active duty](#), you previously paid nothing out of pocket and your family's costs were minimal (if covered under TRICARE Select). As a retiree, you'll now pay retiree costs for care. Depending on the retiree TRICARE health plan you choose, you may see an increase in your enrollment fees, deductibles, copayments, cost-shares, and other fees.

### **Retired Reservists Turning Age 60**

If you're a [retired reserve member who turns age 60](#) and were enrolled in TRICARE Retired Reserve (TRR), your TRR coverage ends the day you turn age 60 and become eligible for TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select coverage. You must have your retirement fully completed with your service personnel office or command. This means your retirement pay is processed and activated

To confirm your retired status is properly reflected in DEERS, visit <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect> or call the DEERS Support Office (1-800-538-9552). Once DEERS is accurate, enroll in a TRICARE health plan based on your residence within 12 months from your 60th birthday. As a retiree, you'll pay retiree costs such as enrollment fees, deductibles, copayments, and cost-shares.

### **Health Plan Options**

You and your family members may be eligible for one of the following TRICARE health plans:

- TRICARE Prime (if residing in a Prime Service Area)
- TRICARE Select or TRICARE Overseas Program Select
- US Family Health Plan
- TRICARE For Life

Visit the [TRICARE Plan Finder](#) to learn more about your options. Once you enroll in a TRICARE health plan, you also have [pharmacy coverage](#)...

### **Dental and Vision Options**

Retiring service members and their eligible family members have the option to enroll in the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP). You don't have to be enrolled in a TRICARE retiree health plan to purchase dental coverage. However, you must be enrolled in a TRICARE health plan to potentially qualify to purchase vision coverage through FEDVIP. For more information about FEDVIP and to check your eligibility, visit the [FEDVIP website](#).

Learn more about retiring with TRICARE by downloading the [Retiring from Active Duty Brochure](#) and [Costs and Fees Sheet](#). Take command of your health and understand your benefits before you retire.

### **Prescription Drug Costs S.64: Prohibit Delaying Generic Drug Market Entry**

*Source: Brainerd Dispatch*

Sens. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Chuck (R-IA) announced Sens. Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Kevin Cramer (R-ND) have joined their bipartisan legislation to bring down the skyrocketing prices of prescription drugs. The **Preserve Access to Affordable Generics and Biosimilars Act** would limit anticompetitive pay-for-delay deals that prevent or delay the introduction of affordable follow-on versions of branded pharmaceuticals. The use of "pay for delay" deals—the practice in which drug companies use pay-off agreements to delay the introduction of cheaper substitutes—could make some critical prescriptions unaffordable for patients and impose significant costs on the U.S. health care system. Sens. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., and Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, have previously co-sponsored this bill.

"I'm glad that we have the support of Sens. Durbin and Cramer for our bipartisan legislation to spur competition in prescription drug markets, which will help to reduce prices and ensure patients can access the medications they need," Klobuchar stated in the release. "By promoting increased competition from generic drugs and biosimilar, this legislation will help curb the skyrocketing costs of prescription medications."

### **Simpler, Streamlined, Mobile-Friendly myPay**

*Source: Tammy L. Cournoyer, DAFC Air Force Retiree Services*

Officials from the Defense Finance and Accounting Service will unveil a new look for [myPay](#) on May 4. Besides the new look, myPay will be simpler, streamlined and more mobile-friendly, said officials. What will not change is login IDs and passwords; they will transfer over. The same login ID and password used before the transformation, will be used after (as long as the password has not expired). And the "Forgot your Login ID?" and "Forgot or Need a Password?" options will be the same. Find out more about the changes to myPay on the DFAS website at <https://www.dfas.mil/mypayinfo/myPay2019.html>.

### **Other Associations Join NGAUS Call for TRICARE Reform**

*Source: National Guard Association of United States*

NGAUS, the Adjutant General Association of the United States, the Air Force Association, the Association of the U.S. Army, the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the U.S, the National Governors Association and the Reserve Organization of America sent congressional defense leaders a letter asking for support of the Guard and Reserve.

The March 27 letter is addressed to Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., and Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., the chair and ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee; and Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash., and Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, the chair and ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee.

[Read Here](#)

## VA Individual Unemployability - What it is in Plain, Understandable English.

Source: USVCP

Unfortunately, many veterans are too often confused about Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) 100 percent disability ratings and whether or not they are allowed to secure gainful employment if rated at 100 percent. While complex, and sometimes confusing to the most experienced VSO, let's take a look at the four types of 100 percent disability ratings in plain, understandable English.

**1. Combined.** When a veteran's service-connected disabilities are combined to reach 100 percent, he/she is allowed to work full time or part time. For example, if a veteran is rated 70% for PTSD, and 30% for IBS, the two disabilities equal 100% (sometimes – see rating table), and the veteran is allowed to hold a full time or part time job.

**2. TDIU or IU.** Total Disability/Individual Unemployability. This is a specific type of claim made by a veteran, requesting that he/she be paid at the 100 percent rate even though his/her disabilities do not combine to reach 100%. The request is often made because the veteran is unable to maintain "gainful employment" because his/her service-connected disabilities prevent him/her from doing so. The basic eligibility to file for Individual Unemployability (IU) is that the veteran has one disability rated at 60 percent or one at 40 percent and enough other disabilities that result in a combined rating of 70 percent or more. The one disability at 40 percent criteria can be a combined rating of related disabilities.

Meeting the basic criteria is not a guarantee that the veteran will be awarded 100 percent under IU criteria. The medical evidence must show that the veteran is unable to work in both a physical and sedentary job setting. A veteran not meeting the percentage criteria may still be awarded IU if the disabilities present a unique barrier to gainful employment. If a veteran is granted 100 percent under IU he is prohibited from working full-time, because in filing the claim for IU the veteran is stating he/she is unable to work because of his/her service-connected disabilities. However, receiving IU does not necessarily prevent a veteran from all employment circumstances. The veteran can work in a part-time "marginal" employment position and earn up to a certain amount annually, but not allowed to surpass a certain amount.

**3. Temporary 100 percent rating.** If a veteran is hospitalized 21 days or longer or had surgery for a service-connected disability that requires at least a 30-day convalescence period, the VA will pay at the 100 percent rate for the duration of the hospital stay or the convalescence period. For example, if a veteran has a total hip replacement for a service-connected hip disability, the VA will pay 100 percent compensation for up to 13 months, the standard recovery period for a replacement of a major joint. The duration of 100 percent temporary disability for any other type of surgery will depend on what the doctor reports as the recovery period.

**4. Permanent and total.** A 100 percent "permanent and total" rating is when the VA acknowledges that the service-connected conditions have no likelihood of improvement and the veteran will remain at 100 percent permanently with no future examinations. The P&T rating provides additional benefits, such as Chapter 35 education benefits for dependents, among others. Veterans sometimes make the mistake of requesting a P&T rating simply because they want education benefits for their dependents. The one caveat that veterans need to keep in mind is that when P&T is requested, all of their service-connected disabilities will be re-evaluated. If improvement is noted during the subsequent examinations, a reduction from 100 percent can possibly be proposed.

Because many veterans are service-connected for conditions that VA says have a "likelihood of improvement," most ratings are not considered permanent and are subject to future review. The only time veterans can't work a full-time position, that is considered a gainfully-employed job is if they were awarded 100 percent disability through a claim for IU. Additionally, a 100 percent rating under either IU or combined ratings may or may not be rated as permanent and total. A temporary 100 percent rating is just that: temporary due to being hospitalized or recovering from surgery on a service-connected condition.

If a veteran is approved by the VA for IU, not only do they receive the 100-percent service-disabled rate of pay but they may also receive additional benefits including health insurance for their dependents, Property Tax Credit, a service-disabled military ID card and a \$10,000 life insurance policy with a waiver on monthly premiums. To apply for IU download Veteran's Application for Increased Compensation Based on Unemployability form [VA Form 21-8940](#). Complete the form, and mail it to Department of Veterans Affairs, Evidence Intake Center, PO Box 4444, Janesville, WI. 53547. Veterans may fax form to 1-844-531-7818. Keep in mind, it is always best for a veteran to work with an accredited Veteran Service Officer (VSO) who can explain the complex workings of the VA benefit system.

## **A Well Known Corporate Support for Wounded Warriors Program**

*Source: Snopes.com*

On Monday, I (name withheld) played the Disney, Lake Buena Vista course. As usual the starters matched me with three other players. After a few holes we began to get to know each other a bit.

One fellow was rather young and had his wife riding along in the golf cart with him. I noticed that his golf bag had his name on it and after closer inspection it also said "**wounded war veterans**".

When I had my first chance to chat with him I asked him about the bag. His response was simply that it was a gift. I then asked if he was wounded and he said yes.

When I asked more about his injury, his response was "I'd rather not talk about it, sir".

Over a few holes I learned that he had spent the last 15 months in an army rehabilitation hospital in San Antonio, Texas. His wife moved there to be with him and he was released from the hospital in September. He was a rather quiet fellow; however, he did say that he wanted to get good at golf.

We had a nice round and as we became a bit more familiar, I asked him about the brand-new set of Ping woods and irons he was playing. Some looked like they had never been hit. His response was simple.

He said that this round was the first full round he had played with these clubs. Later in the round he told me the following.

As part of the discharge process from the rehabilitation hospital, **Ping** comes in and provides three days of golf instruction, followed by club fitting.

Upon discharge from the hospital, **Ping** gives each of the discharged veterans, generally about 40 soldiers, a brand-new set of custom fitted clubs along with the impressive golf bags.

The fellow I met was named Ben Woods and he looked me in the eye and said that being fitted for those clubs was one of the best things that ever happened to him and he was determined to learn to play golf well enough to deserve the gift Ping had given him.

Ben is now out of the service medically discharged just a month ago. He is as fine a young man as you would ever want to meet.

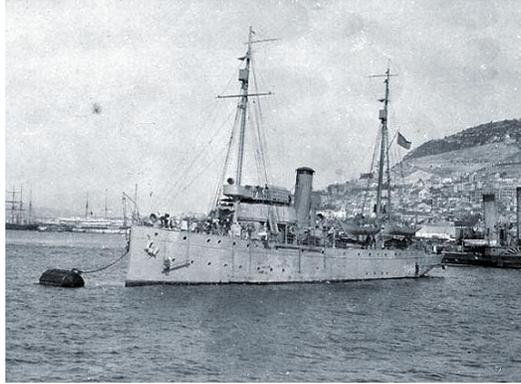
**Ping**, whose products are made with pride here in America (Arizona), has the good judgment not to advertise this program.

God Bless America and the game of golf.

Thank you, PING,  
May God Bless our Military!

## **USCGC Tampa - WWI's Greatest Combat Loss by the U.S. Naval Forces**

Source: *Together We Served*; James Patton



On September 26, 1918, the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Tampa (operating as the USS Tampa under wartime rules) was lost with all hands, a total of 131 men. This was the greatest combat loss taken by the U.S. Naval forces during World War I as well as the greatest loss of life incurred by the U.S. Coast Guard in its entire history. The Tampa's short story began on August 9, 1912, when the U.S. Revenue Service Cutter (UCRC) Miami, built by the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Corp., was commissioned at Arundel Cove, MD. The ship was named for the Miami Indian tribe rather than for the then little settlement in south Florida. At the time, several revenue cutters were named after Indian tribes. The Miami was 190 ft. long, with a 14.6-ft. draft and a displacement of 1,181 tons. Her normal crew complement was 70 Officers and men, she carried three quick-firing six-pounders and various small arms, and she could do 13 knots.

The Miami's first duty was with the International Ice Patrol, operating out of Halifax and looking for icebergs. Subsequently, she was based at Tampa, Florida, and developed a relationship with the city. In January 1915 the Revenue Cutter Service and the Lifesaving Service were merged and re-named the U.S. Coast Guard. It was then decided that the Indian tribal names were to be phased out, so in February 1916 the Miami was renamed the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter (USCGC) Tampa.

Soon after war was declared on April 6, 1917, according to law the U.S. Coast Guard was transferred to the U.S. Navy for the duration of the war. Three days later, the USS Tampa, along with the former USCGC Tallapoosa, seized the Austrian merchant ship Borneo, the first overt action by Coast Guard ships in the war. At the time the USCG had 23 cutters capable of ocean service, which were sent to east coast Navy yards where they were up-gunned and outfitted with depth charges. In August and September of 1917 the cutters Ossipee, Seneca, Yamacraw, Algonquin, Manning, and Tampa left for European service. They were designated as Squadron 2, Division 6 of the Atlantic Fleet's patrol forces (the flagship was the slightly larger gunboat USS Paducah PG-18), and the squadron was based at Gibraltar. These cutters escorted hundreds of vessels convoying between Gibraltar and UK and also performed escort and patrol duty in the Mediterranean.

On the evening of her loss, USS Tampa was detached from escorting Convoy HG-107 in the Bristol Channel with orders to proceed to Milford Haven, Wales, to discharge passengers. At 8:45 p.m. an explosion was noted by a hydrophone operator in the convoy. Subsequently, the Tampa failed to arrive at her destination and a search was made for her by U.S. and British patrol craft. A small amount of wreckage identified as belonging to the Tampa and two unidentified bodies in naval uniforms were found. Two other bodies later washed ashore. Losses were 111 U.S. Coast Guard, four U.S. Navy, eleven Royal Navy, and six civilians.

The British Admiralty notified Rear Admiral William Sims, USN, commander of the U.S. Navy in Europe: Their Lordships desire me to express their deep regret at the loss of the USS Tampa. Her record since she has been employed in European waters as an escort to convoys has been remarkable. She has acted in the capacity of ocean escort to no less than 18 convoys from Gibraltar comprising 350 vessels, with a loss of only 2 ships through enemy action. The commanders of the convoys have recognized the ability with which the Tampa carried out the duties of ocean escort. Appreciation of the good work done by the USS Tampa may be

some consolation to those bereft and Their Lordships would be glad if this could be conveyed to those concerned.

The German U-boat UB-91 claimed credit for sinking the Tampa. Her captain, Kapitänleutnant Wolf Hans Hertwig, wrote in his service log that he had spotted the Tampa while he was running on the surface and submerged and fired the torpedo from the stern tube at a distance of 550 meters, which hit the Tampa amidships. Clearly, UB-91 wasn't spotted by any lookouts on the Tampa, which took no action or countermeasures whatsoever. From the reported distance at the time the UB-91 launched her torpedo, the ships had been quite close together. Why did Hertwig submerge? With his 105mm deck gun, he had the Tampa out-ranged. He could easily have fallen back and engaged Tampa with his gun, which would have saved a torpedo.

Hertwig was a very new U-boat commander in a new craft; the UB-91 had been commissioned in April. He had spent nearly all of the war with the High Seas Fleet, having served at the Battle of Jutland on SMS Westfalen, had only recently graduated from the U-boat training program, and his first patrol had no results. How did an inexperienced U-boat commander and crew pull off a tricky stern shot at very close range so flawlessly? In any event, the official U.S. Coast Guard history doesn't concede that UB-91 sank the Tampa.

The men of the USS Tampa are commemorated at the Brookwood ABMC Cemetery and Memorial in Surrey, UK, and also on the U.S. Coast Guard memorial in Arlington National Cemetery.

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