



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 914TH AIR REFUELING WING
2720 KIRKBRIDGE DRIVE
NIAGARA FALLS ARS, NEW YORK 14304-5000**



**MILITARY RETIREE NEWSLETTER (October - December 2020)
"STILL SERVING"**

**JOSEPH T REELE
1SG USA RETIRED
DIRECTOR/EDITOR
Co-editor: Janice Reece**

Building 314

RAO Office Contact/Hours	
Telephone:	(716) 236-2389
Email:	Jtreele117@hotmail.com
Mon - Fri (UTA Sat)	1000-1400

From the Editor's Desk

RAO news.

During this "pandemic", we have lost the services of three volunteers to resignations. They have contributed over 60 years of service to their fellow veterans and spouses. Another volunteer is also undergoing surgery. This is just another gliche in operating an all volunteer organization. We wish them well and thank them for their service. We wish to thank their spouses, again, for their service. Not many people give up part of their life in order to help others. We can always use your talents in our office to help your fellow brothers, sisters and surviving spouses. You have a lot more to contribute than you think. If you even thought about helping, give us a call and come see what we do.

Our "boss", Major Mary Dugan, has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Congratulations Maam !

LAST CALL

The new physical Fitness Center on base should be finished early 2021. I have asked a few times if anyone would be interested in a "retiree program". It could be just about any physical program that would be designed for over 60 guys and gals. The employees at the "gym" have been educated and trained to conduct these type activities. The CAC would also be available after the sessions for lunch. There is no charge to use the new, state of the art physical fitness center, exercise equipment and comaraderie for you and your friends. Give us a call so that we may request this free benefit for our fellow retirees. I have asked twice before with no interest at all.

There isn't much activity going on for retirees on the base, but the unit is really busy training and some crews have been deployed. Some are also scheduled to be deployed. We wish them well and may God watch over them and protect them. We also thank their families for their service and may God also protect them.

The ITT/MWR offices are open and selling tickets for amusement parks and other discounted venues. They can be reached at (716) 236-3061.

Megan Colero is the new Airman and Family Readiness leader. Their job has many facets, mostly concerning Airmen and Families, Duh ! If any reservist, or full timer, runs into uncomfortable financial situations, they can help. They have also financially helped retirees in the past. If you know of a military person that needs any kind of assistance, call Megan. They may be able to help. (716) 236-3214. Welcome aboard Megan.

QUICK HITS

Retirement Pay Assistance

We have found out that the military does not mail packets for new retirees in any branch of service. *Supposedly*, you should receive a packet about one year from your proposed retirement date. This does not happen in all cases !

We know that the Army Reserve does conduct a "pre-retirement briefing" once a year at their Niagara Falls facility. They send a team of personnel (about 6 people). The Air Force has one person come to Niagara once a year to discuss reservists retirement. We are not aware of any other branch that conducts retirement briefings in the area.

We, at the RAO, can help with the proper forms, etc. You can fill out the forms and we can help check it with you. Your spouse should also be with you, in that she must sign the SBP form to consent or not.

We strongly suggest that you begin "getting your stuff together" about a year out !

There are at least two web sites for help.

- [Opm.gov/retirement-services/retirement-faqs/](https://www.opm.gov/retirement-services/retirement-faqs/)
- [Usa.gov/military-pay](https://www.usa.gov/military-pay)

Most of the submission should be done on line for expedience.

You may call us for further assistance. (716) 236-2389.

Space Available Travel

Space A travel is still not available ! The main reason is that we do not want to jeopardize the safety and health of the great crews that fly these aircraft. There is no timeline to resume flights, at this time. We will let you know, when we find out ! God Bless and watch over our crews wherever they go. God Bless their families while they wait !

There are still opportunities for Space A lodging. " Armed Forces Vacation Club" and "American Forces Travel" are still options. There are usually great deals at this time of the year.

TRICARE OPEN SEASON

That time of the year again. Each year, in this time frame, you have a choice for your health care coverage through the military. This year, TRICARE Open Season is from 9 November, ending 14 December 2020. Actions made during this period take effect on 1 January 2021.

Retirees and eligible beneficiaries may also enroll in FEDVIP vision and dental plans during Federal Benefits Open Season.

(for more information, please call the RAO (716) 236-2389 or Ralf Sosnowski (Martin's Point Health Care) @ (716)839-0285 or Patrick Gaffney (Humana Military) @ (315) 316-7174. Ralf and Pat can meet with you or answer ALL your questions regarding you health care options.

For those over 65, TFL has no changes. Those who have TRICARE or Martin's Point, do not have to do anything to remain with your present coverage, unless you are turning 65 !

If you are turning 65, you must opt for MEDICARE Part B in order to keep TRICARE coverage. Your dependent must also get Part B when they turn 65.

Expired ID Cards

For those who have expired ID cards since 1 January 2020, You now have until the end of June 2021 to renew with no problems. Any questions, call the Niagara Falls ARB at (716) 236-2197 for the 914th ARW and/or (716) 236-2435 for the 107th ATKW to schedule an appointment. **Mandatory!**

Cost of living SSA increase for 2021 should be 1.6%. There will also be the same increase on your military pension check.

FUN PAGE

Wierd, But True Facts

- Forest fires move faster uphill than downhill
- The color orange was named after the fruit and not the other way around.
- You can't hum while holding your nose closed.
- I told you.

Snapple Facts

1. There are 18 different animal shapes in the animal crackers cookie zoo.
2. Zero is the only number that cannot be represented by Roman numerals.
3. Potatoes have more chromosomes than humans

Proverbs as told by a First Grade Class

- The pen is mightier than thepigs.
- A penny saved is.....not much.
- Don't change horses.....until they stop.

Church Bulletins

1. Don't let worry kill you off - let the church help.
2. At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell"? Come early and listen to our choir practice.
3. The sermon this morning: Jesus Walks on Water. The sermon tonight: Searching for Jesus.

Yogiisms

- If I didn't make it in baseball, I wouldn't have made it in workin'. I didn't like to work.
- Little League baseball is a very good thing because it keeps the parents off the streets.
- I don't blame the players for the money. I blame the owners. They started it. They wanna give it to 'em, more power to them!

914th Air Refueling Wing
 2720 KIRKBRIDGE DRIVE (RAO)
 NIAGARA FALLS, NY 14304-5001

**OFFICIAL BUSINESS
 FIRST CLASS**



Airman & Family Readiness (716) 236-2097
 Base Exchange (716) 236-2100
 Base Billeting (716) 236-2014
 Base Gym (Fitness Center) (716) 236-2101
 Casualty Assistance 877-353-6807
 Pittsburgh Office (Casualty Assistance) 800-235-7780
 Chapel (716) 236-2395
 Credit Union (716) 236-2085
 Customer Service ID (716) 236-2197
 DEERS 800-538-9552
 DELTA Dental 888-838-8737
 DFAS (Cleveland) 800-321-1080
 Equipment Rental (716) 236-3511/2101
 Express Scripts Pharmacy 877-363-1303
 Falcon Club Café (716) 236-2027
 Family Support Center (716) 236-2097
 Ft. Drum SB 800-772-6900
 Ft. Drum Pharmacy 800-354-9280

IRS 800-829-1040
 IT&T Services (tickets) (716) 236-3367
 Legal Aid (716) 236-2133
 Medicare 800-442-8430
 Pass & ID Security (716) 236-2281
 PAX Terminal (Niagara) (716) 236-2360
 Retired Activities Office (716) 236-2389
 RAO Fax (716) 236-3173
 Recreation Center (716) 236-2450
 Social Security 800-772-1213
 Space-A Travel (716) 236-2389
 TRICARE 877-874-2273
 TRICARE for LIFE 866-773-0404
 VA Affairs 800-827-1000
 VA Affairs 888-VETS-NYS
 VA Hospitals 800-532-8387
 VA Hospital (Buffalo) (716) 834-9200
 Veterans One-Step Center (716) 898-0110

