



RETIREE RAG

February 2015



RETIREES...Not gone, Not forgotten.

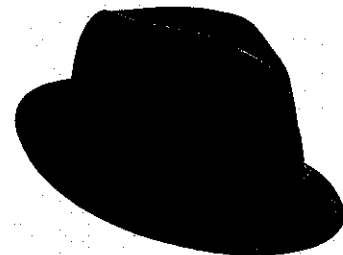
NGAUS CONFERENCE IN TOPEKA APRIL 17-18, 2015! All Retired or Separated Kansas National Guardsmen are welcome to attend the JOINT NGAKS/EANGKS conference in Topeka on April 17-18. There will be lots of events for all participants and for retirees, too! Come and Visit with old friends and make new ones, pass on your wisdom and just have fun! Register TODAY at <http://www.ngaks.org> . **More Conference Detail and Events for Retirees on Page 2.....**

➔ **ARMY & AIR NEWS:** Two great publications for Army and Air Force Retirees. You can get news, travel information, discounts, deals and policy and legislative information—Online, anytime. See:

- For USAF Retired Personnel - "Afterburner" www.retirees.af.mil
- For Army Retired Personnel - "Echoes" www.armyg1.army.mil/retire

Vietnam 50th Anniversary - 2015. The Kansas National Guard has participated in conflicts the world over, and Vietnam was no exception. **1966-1969 --Vietnam War:** The 69th Brigade was mobilized into active federal service in May 1968. The 69th went to Fort Carson, Colorado and some 2,350 members were deployed to Vietnam. The 995th Maintenance Company was also mobilized in May of 1968 and was sent to Fort Hood, Texas. The unit sent some 60 of its soldiers to Southeast Asia. The 184th Tactical Fighter Group also was mobilized in January of 1968 and it was sent to Kunsan Air Base in the Republic of Korea. Watch for events at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard among other locations. See what is happening or volunteer/donate at www.kansasguardmuseum.org .

Throw your hat in the ring! Are you interested in serving as the Retiree Representative to the National Guard Association of Kansas? Elections will be held on Saturday, April 18 at the Annual Joint Conference during the Retiree Luncheon. Contact Michele Henry at ngaks@aol.com to throw your hat in the ring!



Join NGAKS/EANGKS Day at the Kansas Statehouse on

February 16, 2015. Retirees and Guard members will join together can carry important messages for Kansas National Guard members and their families to the Kansas Legislature and Congress. Please consider attending the day, starting at 0800 with briefings on hot topics, bills in play and our legislative priorities. Then go with a team and meet with legislators. From 5-7pm meet us at the Celtic Fox, 8th & Jackson in Topeka for a Joint Legislative reception and visit with your legislators. Come to some or all events during the day and share your National Guard perspective. **PLEASE RSVP BY FEBRUARY 10, 2015** to Sheli Sweeney at shelisweeney@hotmail.com or 785.213.9053.

Do you need a new ID Card? There are several locations statewide that you can get an ID made.

- 184th Intel Wing, McConnell AFB, Wichita ANG 316-759-7433
- 190th Air Refueling Wing, Forbes Field, Topeka ANG 785-861-4131
- Ft. Leavenworth USA 913-684-4452
- Ft. Riley USA 785-239-3654
- KSRTI, Salina, KS ARNG 785-822-6610
- JFHQ, Topeka, KS ARNG 785-274-1517
- Coast Guard Pay & Personnel Center, Topeka USCG 785-339-3600
- 287th, Wichita, KS ARNG 316-681-6200
- 635th, Hutchinson, KS ARNG 620-728-4200
- 891st, Iola, KS ARNG 620-365-4034
- 287th, Hays, KS ARNG 785-623-6431

JOINT NGAKS/EANGKS CONFERENCE DETAILS – April 17-18, 2015

Friday night April 17 from 7pm on Joint Retiree/Separated Hospitality Room

Prizes drawn at 9pm – 1st conference; farthest distance travelled; most Space A trips taken; Most recently retired/separated.

50/50 Raffle to win cash money!

Raffle for prizes (tires, lottery tickets, and more)

Sheli-Ritas for \$2 donation (to Kansas Military Funeral Honors Program)

Saturday April 18 0700 to 0830 JOINT RETIREE BREAKFAST

Visit with friends

Hear from United Health West, 190th ARW Space Available Travel, Senator Jerry Moran's office (invited) and more!

Prize for the newest Life Member of NGAKS/EANGKS!

0830 to Noon Sessions for members on what NGAUS has done for you lately--how to get involved in committee work; Briefing by Adjutant General and more

Noon Retiree Luncheon –Elections for Retiree Rep for 2015-2017 and entertainment!

1600-1830 Joint Retiree Hospitality Room open 1830 Evening Social and award ceremony

2100 Joint Hospitality Room open; 50/50 cash drawing and other prizes!

TAG RETIREE UNIT: The Kansas Adjutant General's Department has a dedicated Retiree Unit, led by SFC ETOI PURNELL AT 785-274-1085 OR VIA EMAIL AT ETOI.D.PURNELL.MIL@MAIL.MIL She is very knowledgeable and holds two Retiree Briefings each year that any current or Former KNG members can attend.

The Kansas Army National Guard Retiree Handbook is available online. It has lots of information for both Army and Air National Guard members. It has contact information about Healthcare, Survivor Benefit Plans, Retirement Age and status, and helpful web sites and phone numbers.
[http://www.kansastag.gov/AdvHTML_Upload/files/RETIREMENT%20HANDBK%20November%202010\(1\).pdf](http://www.kansastag.gov/AdvHTML_Upload/files/RETIREMENT%20HANDBK%20November%202010(1).pdf)

YOUR NGAKS RETIREE REP IS SHELI SWEENEY, MAJ, RET (2013-2015)

Please feel free to contact me anytime for information or with ideas and input.

shelisweeney@hotmail.com or call me at 785.213.905

Check out NGAKS web page for Retiree and Continuity Committee Updates! www.ngaks.org . Thanks to LTC Dana Duggins for the fantastic updates and for Retiree/Continuity Information.

Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission (MCRMC) has taken military pay and retirement under review for the past year, accepting public comments to develop recommendations on how to improve or change the current systems. Note that the NGAKS and EANGKS Retiree Committees submitted joint recommendations in November to the MCRMC. The Military Officers Association of America has developed a good analysis of the proposals that have come out of the MCRMC as of January 29, 2015.

Below is the MOAA analysis of the report. Fifteen Major changes are recommended in the MCRMC report. They will be implemented by legislation or executive order. These proposals for legislative action are listed at <http://mldc.whs.mil/public/docs/report/MCRMC-Legislative-Proposals-FINAL-LO.pdf> . Watch for opportunities to advocate as NGAKS retirees, when warranted. More to come.....You can view the report at <http://mldc.whs.mil/index.php/reports> .

The following is the MOAA analysis of the MCRMC Recommendations released on January 29, 2015.

Military Retirement: At the top of list is replacing the current 20 year cliff-vesting military retirement system with a blended defined benefit and 401k-style retirement package. The proposal would be optional for the current force, and mandatory for new service entrants. Current retirees would not be affected by the recommended reform.

The MCRMC recommendation would allow servicemembers who don't reach the 20 year threshold to leave with a personal retirement account, but it would also create more uncertainty for the retirement benefits of those who serve a full career.

Key facets of the retirement proposal include:

- Reduce the defined benefit modifier from 2.5 percent of base pay per year of service to 2 percent.
- Increase flexibility in delivery of retirement annuities by monthly payments, lump sum payments, or combination
- Automatic enrollment of all servicemembers in the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) at a contribution of 3 percent of their base pay (servicemembers can alter their contribution)
- Services automatically contribute an amount equal to 1 percent of servicemembers base pay into the TSP
- Matching service contributions up to 5 percent of base pay after two years of service
- Servicemembers become fully vested in TSP after 2 years of service

Health Care: Most controversially, MCRMC recommends eliminating TRICARE for military families and working age retirees and replacing it with a selection of commercial insurance plans similar to those available for federal civilian employees. The cost of the insurance would be subsidized.

Key recommendations include:

- Active duty: continue to use Military Treatment Facilities (MTF) and specialists at no cost to the member
- Active duty families: create a new Basic Allowance for Health Care (BAHC)
- For active duty military families to pay for families to purchase commercial health care and cover most out of pocket expenses
- Retirees under 65 and dependents: Eliminate TRICARE options and replace with a number of commercial health insurance options (similar to the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program). Retirees would initially pay 5 percent of the cost share, but it would grow 1 percent per year until reaching 20 percent of the cost share in 15 years
- Guard and Reservists: Activated reservists and families receive similar health care to Active Duty and Active Duty families. Inactive reservists are eligible for commercial health care options and must pay a 25 percent cost Share
- Retirees over 65 and dependents: TRICARE For Life remains as is
- TRICARE Dental Program: remains as is

Survivor Benefits: Another recommendation MOAA is closely scrutinizing is one that would create a new cost structure for Survivor Benefit Plan deductibles. A higher cost, unsubsidized premium option would be available in exchange for relief from the current offset of SBP annuities from VA Dependency Indemnity Compensation payments in the event that a service-connect disability causes a servicemembers death. However, the premium is so high that we believe few servicemembers would elect the coverage.

Other notable recommendations include:

- Consolidate the commissary and exchange systems while maintaining the access and savings at these facilities
- Expand Space-A travel to the families of servicemembers deployed for 30 days or more
- Consolidate 30 Reserve component duty statuses into six
- Create a four star joint medical command structure across the services

It's important to note that the MCRMC put forth recommendations. At this time these recommendations are not legislative proposals. However, there are to be legislative proposals developed and submitted to Congress. You can see the extensive list of these proposals at <http://mldc.whs.mil/public/docs/report/MCRMC-Legislative-Proposals-FINAL-LO.pdf> .

See the MOAA review at

<http://www.moaa.org/Main Menu/Take Action/Top Issues/Retired Still Working/Compensation/Commission Suggests Radical Reforms.html> .