

Montana National Guard Retirees Newsletter October 2007

PO Box 4789, Fort Harrison, MT 59636-4789 Phone: (406) 324-3235

By SGT Kaimy Marks, Retirement Services

Greetings from Helena! We would like to invite you to two upcoming events at Fort Harrison. Please share the information below with other retirees that may not be on our mailing list. If your address needs to be updated or you are not currently receiving announcements and information from me through e-mail, please go to our website, www.montanaguard.com and click on the **Veterans & Retirees** link on the left side of the page. Enter your personal contact information so our records will be complete and accurate. Military ID card support will be available during both events. You can call (406) 324-3249 for questions about ID cards.

Commissary Case Lot and AAFES PX Sale

1 - 2 November 2007 from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM

3 November 2007 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Simulations Center Building

Valid Military ID Card required.

Quantities will be limited on certain items.

14th Annual NCO Holiday Breakfast

14 December 2007 from 7:00 to 9:30 AM

Training Site Support Facility Dining Hall

Cost: \$4.00 per person

Space Available Travel

Space Available Flight, better known as Space A or military hops, is a unique privilege provided to servicemembers, retirees and their families. Retirees fall under Category VI for Space A travel and eligibility is as follows:

- National Guard members of the Ready Reserve and members of the Standby Reserve who are on the Active Status List.
- Retired military members who are issued DD Form 2 (retired ID Card) and eligible to receive retired or retainer pay.
- Family members (with a valid identification card) of retired members (must be receiving retired pay) when accompanied by a sponsor.

Under the Space A program, passengers can fill unused seats on DoD-owned or controlled aircraft once all the space-required (duty) passengers and cargo have been accommodated. Space A travel is allowed on a non-mission interference basis only. Space A Travel has undergone a great deal of change in the past few years. What was once an easy and economical, if not always predictable, way for personnel to travel around the world has now become less prevalent and much harder to access. Previously, mission schedules were available on the web and you could even sign-up online. In post 9/11 world, however, flight information has been removed from the public domain, making travel planning more challenging. There are increasingly fewer Space A seats, and that will become even scarcer in the near future due to planned reductions in Space A gateways.

In stark contrast to civilian air travel, there is no centralized process for booking seats on Space A flights. It is a fragmented system that requires extra diligence on the part Space A travelers. It should be noted that while flying on U.S. military aircraft usually costs next to nothing, it is not a reliable means of travel. Unlike a commercial airline there are usually no backup flights if the plane is diverted or if there are not enough seats.

That having been said, if you have the time and flexibility, Space A travel offers incredible discounts. A list of flight gateways and other valuable

resources to help you better understand the Space A system and prepare you for what to expect can be found on the Military.com website:

<http://www.military.com/Travel/TravelPrivileges/>



Retiree Payment Procedures

Retired servicemembers, except those recalled to active duty and entitled to active duty pay and allowances, and those who elect to waive all their pay in favor of VA compensation or civil service annuity, will have their retired pay electronically transferred to their

financial institution on the last business day of each month. Retired pay is administered by Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), US Military Retirement Pay, PO Box 7130, London, KY 40742-7130 Toll Free: 1-800-321-1080
FAX: 1-800-982-8459

Retired Pay Operations will mail a **Retiree Account Statement (RAS)** when an account is established. Revised RASs are sent only when a change occurs in retired pay. To make changes in retired pay, Retired Pay Operations should be advised before the 10th day of the month preceding the month of payment. Changes received after the 10th may not be made until the following month. All change requests must contain the retiree's signature and Social Security number, unless you choose to manage your retirement pay through the myPay system online.

The myPay System

MyPay offers faster enhanced services, security, accessibility and reliability to all customers of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) worldwide. The website for myPay is:
<https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>

With myPay, you can:

- View, print, and save annuitant and retiree account statements
- View, print, and save tax statements
- Change federal and state tax withholdings
- Update bank account and electronic fund transfer information
- Manage allotments
- Make address changes
- Manage U.S. Savings Bonds
- Control Thrift Savings Plan enrollment
- Update certificate of eligibility
- Turn off hard-copy W-2 tax statements

Retired servicemembers who waive all retired pay in favor of VA compensation will be paid by VA. Retired servicemembers who waive a part of their retired pay to receive an equal amount of VA compensation will receive monthly payments from both VA and Retired Pay Operations.

As a reminder... all current myPay military retired users who request or already have a myPay Personal Identification Number (PIN) and access myPay are consenting to receive **ONLY** an electronic 1099R

Montana National Guard
Joint Force Headquarters – MT
Attn: J-1 Retirement Services
PO Box 4789
Fort Harrison, MT 59636-4789