

January

2010

Volume: 4



Issue: 01

BLACK MARINE NEWSLETTER

We Served, We Endured, We Perservered

*We don't gossip, we don't pass on Bum Scoop,
We sometime Bulls- -t,
We Tell Sea Stories
But, you always get*

“The Word”!

Purpose:

This Newsletter provides information about Black Marines, to Black Marines as Black Marines see it.

Topics are:

- ***“Muster”*** To give account for all persons on the Mailing List!
 - *Illness, Deaths, etc.*
 - ***“Events”***, Provide notice of scheduled events relative to Marines!
 - *Reunions, Meetings, Conventions, etc.*
 - ***“Notes from the members”***
 - ***“Mailing List Additions”*** To list new Marines added to the Mailing List or other changes affecting the lists.
 - ***“Sea Stories and down right Marine Lies”***
No jokes, because we just don't know any! (Smile)
-

BLACK MARINE NEWSLETTER

January

2010

Volume: 4

Issue: 01

Muster:



All present and counted for, Sir/ Mam!

- 1. Frank “Papa” Maney Sr. SSGT. USMC (Ret.) passed away Saturday December 26, 2009 at his residence. He was born March 18, 1936 Scott, Mississippi. He died peacefully in his sleep the morning of December 26, 2009. He was predeceased by his mother, Lenola Maney in November 2006 and his daughter, Cynthia McKinstry in April of 2009. He is survived by his wife of 48 years Joan Maney. His children: Michael A. Petty, Cathy Petty, Angela (Wayne) Sorrell, Frank (Pamela) Maney and Thomas Maney. He has eleven Grand Children and 9 Great Grand-Children and a host of relatives and friends. We will miss him dearly.**



BLACK MARINE NEWSLETTER

January

2010

Volume: 4

Issue: 01



Sick Bay

**** New Section

This section will announce those that have been reported to be in the hospital or in residence ill or incapacitated. Report this information **“Only”** with the individual’s consent. The individuals are Marines and include spouses or significant other.

News From The Membership And Other Sources:

2010 Benefit Alert for Service Members

In 2010 you may have more than \$67,000 worth of education benefits. Start your new year's resolutions today by [finding military friendly schools](#) that work with your benefits and give service members college credit for military service. This is Your Money so don't let it go to waste. [Find Military Friendly Schools Now](#)

Military.Com

Week of January 18, 2010

DD-214

Please pass on to other vets. It's official; DD-214s are **NOW** Online. The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214s online:
<http://vetrecs.archives.gov/>

This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes. NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to

BLACK MARINE NEWSLETTER

January

2010

Volume: 4

Issue: 01

obtain copies of documents from their military files.

Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents.

Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the online web site. Because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized. The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records centers mail room and processing time.

Source: Military.com

Please pass this information on to former military personnel you may know and their dependents.

Retirees Get Wrong Pay Statements

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) reported that approximately 18,000 Concurrent Retirement and Disability recipients in the Norfolk, Virginia area received statements containing another retiree's data. There is no indication that anyone other than the intended recipients received privacy data such as Social Security Numbers, bank account numbers, or phone numbers. However, page two of the form did include data such as allotment type, the name of the payee and the amount of the allotment. [Read the full press release for more details](#). Retirees that have any questions regarding their accounts, should contact DFAS at 1-800-321-1080.

Source: Military.com
Week of January 18, 2010

Eye Glasses for Retirees

All retirees, even TRICARE for Life recipients, may receive one pair of standard issue glasses each year from the Naval Ophthalmic Support and Training Activity. Visit the [NOSTRA website](#) and select the "How to Order: Retirees" link for more information. Family members and surviving spouses are not entitled to NOSTRA support. Learn more about TRICARE vision benefits at the [TRICARE beneficiary portal](#).

BLACK MARINE NEWSLETTER

January

2010

Volume: 4

Issue: 01

Military.com surveys have found that most service members and their families are confused by TRICARE.

Source: Military.com
Week of January 18, 2010

Get That Eye Exam!

Active duty family members can get a routine eye exam every year, and retirees and their family members using TRICARE Prime can get one every two years. Children in both TRICARE Prime and Standard can receive eye and vision screenings at birth and 6 months of age, along with two eye exams between the ages of 3 and 6. Active duty service members (ADSMs) enrolled in TRICARE Prime must get their eye care from military treatment facilities (MTFs) and may receive eye glasses at MTFs at no cost. Eligible retirees and their families can make an appointment with any TRICARE-authorized optometrist or ophthalmologist for an exam. TRICARE Prime beneficiaries do not need a referral unless they see a provider outside of their region's TRICARE network.

Learn more about TRICARE vision benefits at the [TRICARE beneficiary portal](#).

Source: Military.com

TRICARE Introduces New Benefits

TRICARE introduced several new programs in 2009. The TRICARE Assistance Program (TRIAP) provides short-term professional counseling assistance. For information about TRIAP and other behavioral health resources, visit the [TRICARE Mental Health Resources Center](#). TRICARE's new [Extended Care Health Option \(ECHO\)](#) benefits for eligible family members who are diagnosed with extraordinary physical or psychological conditions. For more information on TRICARE's new dental program and pharmacy benefits, visit the TRICARE Active Duty Dental Program website at www.addp-ucci.com and the TRICARE Pharmacy Program webpage at www.TRICARE.mil/pharmacy.

Source: Military.com
Week of January 11, 2010

Will I need a Supplemental Policy?

TRICARE HELP

Q: When I get Medicare and Tricare for Life, do I need to buy a supplemental policy as well?

A: Under Tricare for Life, you will have the combined coverage of two full-coverage, stand-alone health care "insurance" policies. Medicare is the primary coverage, and Tricare Standard automatically is second payer to Medicare.

On the majority of Medicare claims,

BLACK MARINE NEWSLETTER

January

2010

Volume: 4

Issue: 01

Tricare pays whatever Medicare doesn't for every service that is also covered by Tricare.

Tricare essentially acts as a free Medicare supplement, and its payment, combined with Medicare's, pays the Medicare claim and provider's bill in full.

Tricare cost shares and deductibles are waived on those claims.

Occasionally, you may have a Medicare claim on which Medicare does not cover all the services you received and only Tricare will be able to pay anything for one or more items.

All Tricare claims processing rules, including the deductible and cost share, will apply to these "Tri-care-only" claims. They will be the only claims on which a Tricare supplement would be of any benefit.

But such claims are unpredictable. You might go a year without such a claim, or you could have several in a row. I have never heard of a supplement that covers both Medicare and Tricare. It would take two such policies to provide complete coverage, and that would be expensive.

Only you can weigh the potential need for, or benefit from, a Tricare supplement when compared with its premiums, based on your particular situation and medical needs.

Q:

What will happen to my wife's Tricare coverage if I die?

A:

Your death would have no effect on your wife's Tricare eligibility - as long as she does not remarry. If she remains single, her Tricare eligibility, including Tricare for Life, would continue for as long as she lives. However, if she remarried, she would immediately lose her Tricare eligibility under your sponsorship.

And even if her second marriage ended by death or divorce, her Tricare eligibility under your sponsorship could never be restored.

Write to Tricare Help,
Times News Service,

6883 Commercial Drive, Springfield, VA
22159; or
tricarehelp@militarytimes.com.

In e-mail, include the word "Tricare" in the subject line and do not attach files: Get Tricare advice

On line at:
www.militarytimes.com/tricarehe/p.

WH: TRICARE is Safe and Sound

According to the White House Blog, a particularly disturbing myth about health insurance reform has resurfaced. Opponents of reform have dredged up the baseless charge that reform somehow will affect or increase the cost of the TRICARE benefits on which America's troops and veterans depend. [Read the full article.](#)

CRSC (Combat Related Special Compensation):

Another path to concurrent receipt for some retired troops

In my last column, I talked about the Concurrent Retirement and Disability Payments program, or CRDP, one of the two concurrent-receipt programs for veterans who are entitled to both military retired pay and veterans disability compensation.

In this column, I'll talk about the other program, Combat-Related Special Compensation. It's possible for a veteran to be eligible for both programs, but he can be paid by only one. You need to know the key differences between the two to help you decide which one is best for

BLACK MARINE NEWSLETTER

you.

January

2010

Volume: 4

Issue: 01

The CRSC program launched May 31, 2003, and has been expanded twice since then. The most important difference between the two programs is that to be eligible for CRDP you must have a service-connected disability, while to be eligible for CRSC, your disability must be combat-related.

Moreover, you must be receiving VA disability compensation for the combat-related injury or condition to qualify for CRSC.

Other key differences:

- CRSC is available to combat disabled retirees with VA disability ratings of 10 percent or higher. CRDP is available to retirees with service-connected disabilities rated at 50 percent or higher.

- To correct something I said in my last column: Both CRDP and CRSC are open to nondisability retirees who served less than 20 years and left service under Temporary Early Retirement Act authority.

CRSC also is open to "Chapter 61" retirees who received medical disability retirement short of 20 years of service: However, CRDP is available to Chapter 61 retirees only if they served at least 20 years in uniform.

- CRSC is a special payment equal to the monthly dollar-for-dollar reduction in military retired pay previously required of retirees who also are eligible for VA disability compensation.

CRDP is simply a restoration of retired pay. As such, CRSC payments are tax-free, but any extra retired pay received under CRDP remains taxable.

- Finally, CRSC is an application-based program. Unlike for CRDP, which is supposed to be paid automatically to eligible retirees by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, you must file a claim for CRSC with your service, much as you file a VA disability claim

with documentation to show that your disability is combat-related.

If you need more assistance in sorting out CRDP and CRSC and how they may apply to you, the legal assistance office at your nearest military installation should be able to help.

In my next column, I'll talk about a number of sources and contact information for these two programs, including where to file applications for CRSC.

By Alex Keenan

Retired Command Master Chief served 28 years in the Coast Guard. E-mail him at

retired@atpco.com

Agent Orange Presumptive Disease Addition:

The cost of war -- on veterans' health and taxpayer wallets -- will loom a little larger in the New Year when the Department of Veterans Affairs issues a final rule to claim adjudicators to presume three more diseases of Vietnam Veterans, including heart disease, were caused by exposure to Agent Orange.

The rule, expected to be published soon, will make almost any veteran who set foot in Vietnam, and is diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, B cell leukemia or ischemic heart disease (known also as coronary artery disease), eligible for disability compensation and VA medical care. The exception would be if credible evidence surfaces of a non-service cause for the ailment.

Katie Roberts, VA press secretary, said no estimates will be available on numbers of veterans impacted or the

BLACK MARINE NEWSLETTER

January

2010

Volume: 4

Issue: 01

potential cost to VA until after the rule change takes effect sometime in 2010. But the National Association for Uniformed Services was told by a VA official that up to 185,000 veterans could become eligible for benefits and the projected cost to VA might reach \$50 billion, said Win Reither, a retired colonel on NAUS' executive board. NAUS also advised members that VA, to avoid aggravating its claims backlog, intends to "accept letters from family physicians supporting claims for Agent Orange-related conditions." It said thousands of widows whose husbands died of Agent Orange disabilities also will be eligible for retroactive benefits and VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation.

"This is huge," said Ronald Abrams, co-director of the National Veterans Legal Services Program. NVLSP has represented veterans in Agent Orange lawsuits for the last 25 years. The non-profit law group publishes the "Veterans Benefits Manual," a 1900-page guide for veterans' advocates to navigate the maze for VA claims, appeals and key court decisions. Abrams said he can't guess at how many more thousands of veterans previously denied disability claims, or how many thousands more who haven't filed claims yet, will be eligible for benefits. But numbers, particularly of those with heart disease, will be very large, he suggested.

All of the veterans "who have been trying to link their heart condition to a service-connected condition won't have to do it now if they're Vietnam vets," Abrams said. For VA, it will mean "a

significant amount of money -- and many, many, many people helped." The excitement over expansion of benefits for Vietnam veterans, and worry by some within the Obama administration over cost, flows from an announcement last October by VA Secretary Eric K. Shinseki. He said three categories would be added to the list of diseases the VA presumes were caused by Agent Orange. Veterans with the presumptive Agent Orange ailments can get disability compensation if they can show they made even a brief visit to Vietnam from 1962 to 1975. With a presumptive illness, claim applicants don't have to prove, as other claimants do, a direct association between their medical condition and military service. Shinseki said he based his decision on work of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academies. VA contracts with IOM to gather veterans' health data and investigate links between diseases and toxic herbicide used in Vietnam to destroy vegetation and expose enemy positions. In a speech last July, Shinseki, former Army chief of staff and a wounded veteran of Vietnam, expressed frustration that "40 years after Agent Orange was last used in Vietnam, this secretary is still adjudicating claims for presumption of service-connected disabilities tied to its toxic effects." VA and the Defense Department should had conducted conclusive studies earlier on presumptive disabilities from Agent Orange, he suggested. "The scientific method and the failure to advocate for the veteran got in the way of our processes," Shinseki bluntly concluded.

BLACK MARINE NEWSLETTER

January

2010

Volume: 4

Issue: 01

In last October's announcement he said VA "must do better reviews of illnesses that may be connected to service, and we will. Veterans who endure health problems deserve timely decisions based on solid evidence."

When a disease is added to VA's list of ailments tied to Agent Orange, veterans with the disease can become eligible for retroactive disability payments, back to the date original claims were rejected, if after 1985.

Joe Violante, legislative director for Disabled American Veterans, praised Shinseki's decision. But he said VA faces a "logistical nightmare" in trying to find veterans turned down on earlier on claims. A VA official told Violante, he said, that cost of the search could be part of that nightmare.

Chairman of government affairs for Vietnam Veterans of America until last October was John Miterko. He said he wasn't surprised that Shinseki added ailments to the Agent Orange presumptive list including heart disease. "If you look at the Vietnam veteran population, the diseases we've contracted and the mortality rate, the only group dying faster rate are the World War II veterans," Miterko said. "We're picking up diseases by our '60s that we shouldn't be getting until our late '70s, early '80s. So his adding other diseases, heart disease in particular, isn't a surprise."

Both Shinseki and his predecessor, James Peake, former Army surgeon general, had long military careers and served in Vietnam. "That's a hell of a bonus for us," Miterko said. Both of them have shown "much more empathy, much more understanding. They would

have seen many of their own peer group suffering from the effects of exposure to Agent Orange."

Miterko doesn't believe anyone can estimate how many veterans will benefit from the new presumptive diseases. VA will continue to process claims individually, he said, and likely won't be accepting Agent Orange as the cause of heart disease for someone "who has smoked for 40 years and is morbidly obese. Common sense is going to have to prevail as well."

Source: Military.com

Estimate Your Disability-Retired Pay

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) launched their new Medical Disability Retired Pay Estimator, an interactive online tool for medically retiring Wounded Warriors, available at the [DFAS website](#). The user input driven tool helps medically retired service members estimate their retired pay, Combat Related Special Compensation and VA disability compensation. Visit the DFAS [Retired Disability Income Estimator](#).

Find out how much you'd make with a promotion or at your next duty station. Calculate pay by rank, location or duty with the [Military Pay Calculator](#)

Source: Military.com

BLACK MARINE NEWSLETTER

January

2010

Volume: 4

Issue: 01

Inglewood Ca, Holds MLK Celebration March

City of Inglewood California, held their 27th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration, symbolic civil rights march, on Saturday January 16, 2010 at 09:00 am, Location: The Tabernacle at Faithful Central Bible Church. 321 N. Eucalyptus Ave, Inglewood Ca.90312. March from the church to the

Inglewood Form and ending at Hollywood Park Racetrack:

A City's Festival celebrations included entertainment, interactive games, commercial and food vendors:

The City also hosted their Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Speech Contest Winner: All winners will receive a cash prize and certificate of recognition from the City Council. The presentation of awards took place at the King Day Family Festival.

Winners:

Heaven Lee Williams 2nd grader, category K-2

Jezelle De. Leon 3rd grader, category 3-5

Anthony Jones 6th grader, category 6-8

Gerald Evans 12th grade category 9-12

The Los Angeles Chapter #8 of the Montford Point Marine Association

was the Honorary Grand Marshals of the day, along with Inglewood's

Mayor Roosevelt F. Dorm, Actress: Wendy Raquel Robinson,

(Mistress of Ceremony) Actors James Picken Jr. and Malcolm David

Kelley (Grand Marshals)

The MPMA National President James Averhart was in attendance with

the Los Angeles Chapter #8. Montford Point Marine Association Inc.

Chapter President: Robert Reid, Vice President: L. E. (Michael)

Johnson and Members: Albert Thames, Willie House, Dave Culmer

E. D. (Dobie) Gillis, Johnny Shelton, Mr. Eddie Q. Hicks, Lewis Brown

and Posey Bridges.



Source: MPMA LA Chapter # 8
VP L. E. (Michael) Johnson

SAD (Seasonal Affect Disorder)

As the season changes and the days get shorter in the Winter, some people develop symptoms of depression. This condition is known as seasonal affective disorder, or SAD, and it usually happens during the winter. Symptoms of winter SAD normally begin in October or November and end in March or April. The symptoms of SAD include: (1) oversleeping, (2) daytime fatigue, (3) carbohydrate craving, and (4) weight gain. TRICARE recently launched the TRICARE Assistance Program, or TRIAP, to help servicemembers and their families get behavioral health assistance for SAD and other conditions. Learn more

BLACK MARINE NEWSLETTER

January

2010

Volume: 4

Issue: 01

about [TRIAP at the TRICARE website](#).
To find out more about getting help,
visit [TRICARE's Mental Health
Resource Center](#).

Source: Military.com

Week of January 18, 2010

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION H. R. 3927
to grant the Congressional Gold
Medal to the Montford Point
Marines.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 26, 2009

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida for herself, Mr. FILNER, Mr. BUYER, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. JONES, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. SNYDER, and Mr. MICHAUD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL:

To grant the congressional gold medal to the Montford Point Marines.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION:

1. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:
On June 25, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order No. 8802 establishing the Fair Employment Practices Commission.



MPMA National President James Averhart and Congresswoman Corrine Brown (D) FL



Above, National President James Averhart (2d from left) meets with US Senators and 3 original Montford Pointers to lobby for Congressional Gold Medal during Congressional Black Caucus in September 2009. From left to right; US Senator Dick Durbin (D) IL, President Averhart, Past National President and current National Legislative Officer, Joseph Geeter, Original Montford Point Marines 1stSgt George Kidd, Corporal James Ferguson, Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Carpenter and US Senator (D) IL, Roland Burris

BLACK MARINE NEWSLETTER

January

2010

Volume: 4

Issue: 01

A Poem:

Closing, The Father and Son Gap

When I think about you
I look for me
Sometime I don't see me
Because I never saw you

That hurts me
But I Love you anyway
I forgive you for all the
Hurt you caused in my life

See Jesus healed me and made me
whole
And only the Lord Jesus can heal you
Ask the Lord for forgiveness today
and repentance also For it is he who
forgives sin
In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

P.S. I still love you daddy
And as long as Jesus is alive
We still have hope for one another's
love and closure

By Larry Pate

Sgt. USMC

What I like about the Marines Corps:

I like the fact that we are
brothers/sisters to the end...and that
no matter what happens in life we
know we have one another's "six"!

Websites of Interest to Visit

ACES Museum honoring Black and minority veterans of World War II and their families

<http://www.acesmuseum.org/main.html?src=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.acesmuseum.org%2Findex2.html>

Montford Point Marine Association:

<http://www.montfordpointmarines.com>

Veterans Benefits, News and Information:

Visit this website for information
regarding veterans!

<http://www.veteransnetwork.org> or
<http://www.veteransnetwork.net>

Dave Culmer is Chairman of the
Board of Directors of the National
Veterans Foundation.

Support These Internet Sites

www.16centsaday.org

www.shoptoearn.net/jarheadenterprises

- www.ytbnet.com/6721*

WWW.JACKIESTRAVELSTORE.COM

JUST ONE CLICK FOR ALL YOUR
TRAVEL NEEDS

[BRENDA MITCHELL](#) HAS A NEW TRAVEL
BUSINESS AND YOU CAN

VISIT HER WEBSITE AT

<http://www.ytb.com/travelwbreez>

BLACK MARINE NEWSLETTER

January

2010

Volume: 4

Issue: 01

Distribution Request:

We ask that you provide a copy of this Newsletter to fellow Marines who do not have access to e-mail. Also, if they have access to a Fax machine we will fax a copy of the Newsletter and other information to them. Tell them to send their fax number to 352-259-2435 or 949-364-4300.



Bobby Wallace

“The Gator”

352-259-2435



Bill Woods

“The Gunny”

949-364-4318