



EDUCATE – CONNECT - INFORM

THE HOG CALL!

**Newsletter of the Arkansas Chapter
of the
Association of the United States Army
2nd QUARTER 2017**

Chapter News

- **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!** “Once A Soldier, ALWAYS A Soldier!” – ALL Soldiers are invited – Serving, Retirees, and Veterans.



The Army's 242nd Birthday WILL be celebrated in Arkansas on Saturday, June 17th at the Clinton Presidential Center's Choctaw Building (the red one), from 13:00-15:00 hrs.

AUSA will co-sponsor the celebration with the Army Recruiting Command (USAREC) and our AUSA Corporate Members. Class A/Service Dress or business attire is preferred. RSVP as early as possible at ausa.ar.pres@comcast.net
This will be a General Membership meeting.

If you will not be in the greater Little Rock area, but would still like to celebrate AUSA-style,

please contact President Tucker for information on hosting a local birthday celebration.

- **Arkansas Chapter to Host 2018 AUSA Fourth Region Leadership Conference!** – MARK YOUR CALENDARS for the **biggest event to come to AUSA-Arkansas, EVER!**

Fourth Region has selected AUSA-Arkansas to host their 2018 Conference 12-15 April 2018, at the Holiday Inn Presidential in Little Rock. More information – agenda, social events, lodging options, costs, etc. – will be forthcoming over the next year. But we want to ensure everyone has sufficient lead time to plan to attend!

- **AUSA Leadership Award Presentations** – Chapter President Harold Tucker has had a BUSY time on the road representing AUSA-



COL(R) Tucker presents award to University of Central Arkansas Cadet Hams

Arkansas and being on hand to present AUSA Leadership Awards to outstanding Senior and Junior ROTC Cadets across Arkansas.



President Harold Tucker presents leadership award to Arkansas State University ROTC Cadet Sanchez.



Chapter President Tucker presents award to North Little Rock JROTC Cadet Angela Wells.



State President David Cooper, aided by LTC(R) Waldo (program Senior Army Instructor), presents award to Brookland JROTC Cadet Jacob Hall.

Cadet awards ceremonies are an annual AUSA-AR program. If you would like to present awards to outstanding and deserving young Arkansans at Junior or Senior programs in your area, **PLEASE** contact Chapter President Tucker at ausa.ar.pres@comcast.net

• AUSA-AR Congressional Alert

Please contact our US Senators and Representatives and encourage them to sign on in support of S.B. 66 (Retired Pay Restoration Act) and H.R. 303 (Retired Pay Restoration Act). Both bills intend that disabled military retirees receive their full, and earned, retired military pay (or Combat-Related Special Compensation) AND disability compensation from the VA for service-related disability. Currently the law requires that their military pay be reduced by the amount of their disability pay and the **ONLY** disability compensation actually received is that portion of their pay is tax-free.

For direction to reach our Constitutional officers:

- Senate: (202) 224-9126, <https://veterans.senate.gov/>
- House: (202) 225-3527 <https://veterans.house.gov/>

• **Show Your Commitment – AUSA-AR Apparel Now Available** – Our proactive Chapter President has acquired quality AUSA-AR polo shirts and hats that are now available. They are a classy way to identify yourself and your Chapter when you visit local Army Community events or activities, or to give as gifts! Modest prices do NOT include any profit for the Chapter – you get them “at cost”. Contact Chapter President Tucker at ausa.ar.pres@comcast.net if you want to purchase or order either.



COMING SOON – The AUSA-AR challenge coins will be in shortly and will be made available for purchase by members!!!

• **Arkansas Chapter Recognized for Chapter Membership Growth!** For the first time in the history of membership growth tracking, AUSA-Arkansas was recognized in the AUSA NEWS for growth! This is outstanding, not only for our Chapter, but also for what it means for our ability to support the entire Arkansas Army Community. Many thanks to all those who are earnestly seeking to “get one more” member in accordance with the AUSA goals for this year! **GREAT, GREAT WORK!!!!**

Thanks for your commit to “getting just one more” member. Please refer prospective members – individual or corporate to <https://www.ausa.org/about-us>, and tell them to click on the “JOIN” tab at the top of the page.

Army News

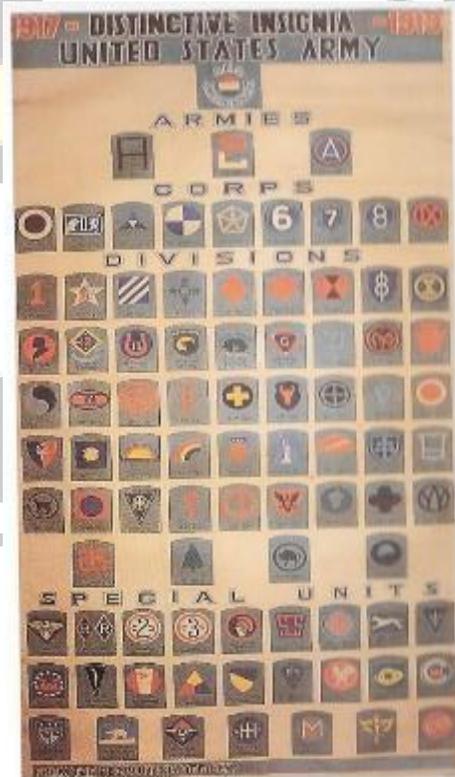
• **Army Divisions Celebrate 100th Birthdays** As one of the most well-known of the Army’s Divisions, the 82nd Infantry (Airborne) Division is leading the way in celebrating its centennial

this year with historical podcasts that began in January. But it isn’t alone in reaching this historic milestone.

With the outbreak of war on August 6, 1917, the Army began to reorganize from its previous peace-time regimental structure to form divisions. This new structure began with existing Regular Army infantry regiments, to be numbered as divisions 1 through 8. The “Big Red One” was the first to be formed and deployed. The newly established National Guard would organize its existing state militia units into standardized infantry regiments and be allocated divisions numbered 26 through 42. Finally, the Army Reserve Corps, the Federal Reserve created by Congress in 1912, would absorb the bulk of the nearly 2,000,000 volunteers and draftees into Organized Reserve Divisions numbered 75 through 102. (WWII would change this as the need for more forces saw divisions numbered 103 through 106 created. Also the 82nd and 101st Divisions would remain as Regular Army Divisions and not be deactivated at war’s end.)

Not all the divisions allotted to each component were filled or deployed in WWI (as shown on the patch chart). But this is the Centennial Year for the majority of the Army’s divisions and those legacy formations that still remain.

Today, some units of the Arkansas Army Guard are organized



under the 36th Infantry Division while the 90th Infantry Division's lineage continues with Arkansas Soldiers of the Army Reserve's 90th Sustainment Brigade. Congratulations to all Soldiers celebrating their units' Centennials! And the heartfelt thanks of a grateful Nation to the millions of men and women who have proudly worn the unit patches of these great formations on their uniforms over the past century.

- **New Reserve Component Affiliation Units Organized** – Until the Regular Army can recover from the personnel cuts necessitated by “sequestration”, the on-going fix has been the creation of “Main Command Post Operational Detachments” or MCP-ODs for short. These units in the Army Guard and Army Reserve are made up of Soldiers with specific skill sets required to round-out operational divisional and corps headquarters for the Regular Army. Since these MCP-ODs will be regionally aligned to better enable the Reserve Component Soldiers to train with their affiliated unit, we won't see any here in Arkansas. So far, one detachment has already deployed with the 1st Infantry Division and those for the 1st Armored Division and III Corps have been alerted. There will ultimately be 13 detachments, nine Guard and one Reserve at the divisional level and three Reserve at the Corps level. The challenge facing Army leaders is how to synch-up the one-in-fiver readiness cycle of the Reserve and Guard Soldiers with the more rapid one-in-three cycle of their new parent units. But if the GWOT experience has taught us anything it is that **the Soldiers of the Reserve and Guard will step up, adapt, volunteer, or do whatever is asked of them for success!**

- **New Leadership for the United States Army Reserve** – It is old news now that LTG Jeffrey Talley retired last year and was replaced by LTG Charles Luckey as the Commander, United States Army Reserve Command (USARC), which is the largest subordinate command in US Army Forces Command (FORSCOM), and dual-hatted as the Chief of

Army Reserve, working directly for the Chief of Staff of the Army. But LTG Luckey now has a new “battle buddy” with the selection of Command Sergeant Major Ted Copeland to be the 13th CSM of USARC. CSM Copeland has served for more than thirty years and has mobilized and deployed to Saudi Arabia for Desert Shield/Storm, Turkey, Guantanamo Bay, OIF, and OEF.

- **More Training Days for the Reserve Components** – In response to growing demands upon the Army, funding for additional training days for the Army Reserve and Guard will be part of the new Army budgets, with the goal of boosting readiness for all three Components of the Total Army. The G3 of the Army, LTG Joseph Anderson, was reported as saying only about one third of the Army's Brigade Combat Teams (BCTs), one quarter of its Combat Aviation Brigades (CABs), and one half of its Division Headquarters (HQs) are currently ready to deploy.

During the Global War On Terrorism (GWOT), the Army learned that the best way to incorporate the Reserve and Guard as part of the operational Army was to institute a rotation cycle of increasing readiness and training culminating in their deployment, followed by a reset and a repeat of the 5 year cycle. Sometimes this is referred to as “AR-FOR-GEN”, short for Army Force Generation.

Under the new budget increase, the Reserve and Guard units will increase from the standard 39 days of training (2 days/month + 15 days of “annual training”) limits, Soldiers in the designated units will increase to 45 total days in the first year, and 60 days in the second, third, and fourth years, followed by a year of deployment.

The Army in Arkansas includes one BCT, one CAB (both ARNG), and one Sustainment Brigade (SUSBDE) (USAR).

- **DoD Establishes Two New Devices For Combat Awards** – Retroactive to January

2016, the services will add “C” and “R” devices to the current “V” device for valor. Both new devices are the same size, color, and font as the current “V” device. The “C” will denote combat awards and “R” will denote awards for “remote” service during wartime. In part these new devices are intended to recognize the changing domains of war that now include remote drone operators and “cyberwarriors” who contribute significantly despite their geographic separation from the actual combat location or theater. Devices are approved as follows:

DDSM – “C”	MSM – “R”
DSM – “C”	AM – “V”, “C”
DSSM – “C”, “R”	JSCM – “V”, “C”, “R”
LOM – “C”, “R”	ACM – “V”, “C”, “R”
DFC – “V”, “C”	JSAM – “C”, “R”
BSM – “V”	AAM – “C”, “R”
DMSM – “R”	

Specifically, “C” will denote awards for “meritorious service or achievement under combat conditions, and authorized only if the service or achievement was performed while personnel were exposed to hostile actions or significant risk.” The “R” device recognizes hands-on employment of a weapon system or other war-fighting activities with direct or immediate impact on an operation.

- **New VA Secretary Says Department Will Begin Treatment for Veterans with Other-Than-Honorable Discharges** – Secretary David Shulkin says the issue is too important to wait for Congress to act as up to 20 veterans – with all levels of discharges – are committing suicide, daily, due to lack of care. He explained he will extend this care, upon his existing authority, to an estimated 300,000 veterans with “bad paper” who will still remain ineligible for other veterans’ benefits.

- **“Dreadlock” Braids Just Approved** - The Army released new grooming and appearance standards in AR 670-1 on January 5th that now include allowing female Soldiers to braid their hair into the distinctive “dreadlocks” as long as

they conform to the current size and shape restrictions as required for “corn rows”. They still must fit into a bun that will fit with Army headgear for females.

Now the Sergeant Major of the Army must decide if he will follow suit with the Navy and Air Force and allow female Soldiers to wear ear rings and nail polish while in uniform!

- **“Blended Retirement System” (BRS) is Definitely Coming** – Effective 2018, new Soldiers entering the three Components of the Army will be covered by the BRS, which will require contributions to the Federal Government’s Thrift Savings Program (TSP), which have been voluntary in the past, but will now receive matching Army contributions. There will be a reduced defined payout – 40% of base pay after 20 years – but also will include Army matching contributions to the Soldiers’ TSP accounts. There is an automatic 1% of base pay government contribution after 60 days of service, but that jumps to up to 4% after 3 years of service. This may seem like it is less fair for some current and all future Soldiers, but most our Soldiers do NOT serve for 20 full years. Thus, they are denied ANY retirement compensation for their less-than-20-years of service and sacrifice. Under the new system, they are immediately vested in their TSP accounts and can take that retirement savings with them if/when they leave the Army. Specific application to the Army Reserve and Guard – with their retirement points system – will be disseminated to/through their units prior to the “opt in” date.

Accordingly, serving Soldiers in Arkansas will need to go to the mandatory “opt in” course on-line at Joint Knowledge Online (JKO) at <http://jko.jten.mil> well prior to the January 1st, 2018, implementation date.

For traditional (aka “drilling”) Soldiers in the Army Reserve and Guard WITH LESS THAN 4,320 retirement points as of December 31, 2017, and Regular Army Soldiers with fewer than 12 years of service as of the same date,

you will be given the choice of remaining with the current “high three” retirement system. All Soldiers with more points or years will remain, WITHOUT OPTION, in their current retirement system.

- **Department Of Defense Ends Obama-era Directive Forcing DOD Schools to Allow Cross-Gender Use of Bathrooms of Choice**

– In line with the Trump Administration’s determination that this is not an issue appropriate to any Federal mandate, and releasing the States to follow their own values, the DOD has determined that cross-gender use of restrooms and locker rooms will be left up to the individual military school principles to decide as their respective military communities desire.

*“Once A Soldier,
Always A Soldier!”*

News From National

- AUSA has committed to being “The Total Force Army’s Professional Association” and appointed Patricia Mcquistion, LTG, USA, Ret. as the AUSA vice president for membership. In a recent interview, she guaranteed, “Whether you are in the Regular Army, Army National Guard, or Army Reserve; a veteran with three years service, or a retiree with 35; a spouse or other family member; a cadet at the Military Academy or in ROTC preparing to serve; a major defense supplier; a business trying to understand how to do business with the Army, or a citizen of the U.S. or an allied country who believes strongly in what our Army stands for, AUSA has something of value for you.”

In keeping with this new corporate philosophy, GEN(R) Hamm hosted a meeting with senior Reserve Component leaders during the 2016 Annual Meeting and Exposition, for the first-ever Guard/Reserve Reception. Also at the 2016 meeting, AUSA sponsored a senior NCO

professional development session jointly hosted by Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey, Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Kepner, USAR, and Command Sgt. Maj. James Wills, ARNG, conducted a joint senior NCO professional development session.

AUSA now has a dedicated Army Reserve page/link from its online homepage at <https://www.ausa.org/programs/army-reserve> and a dedicated Army Guard page/link at <https://www.ausa.org/programs/army-national-guard>

AUSA is continually expanding its programs that provide education, professional development, networking, and mentoring opportunities to assist Reserve and Guard Soldiers advance in their careers.

They also may find AUSA’s educational materials valuable. These include monthly editions of ARMY Magazine and AUSA News, that will be exclusively digital with the April issue, the weekly electronic AUSA Bulletin and the 5 Things Weekly Tip Sheet, and the Institute of Land Warfare lecture series and books. (AND, the AUSA-Arkansas Newsletter!)

But perhaps the single thing that provides universal value to all our members is the ability to **stay connected with America’s Army and each other**. To facilitate this, AUSA’s national leadership is encouraging all 119 AUSA chapters to reach out and explore avenues and events by which to provide support to local Army Reserve and Guard Soldiers, their families and units.

“Why should Army Reserve and Army National Guard Soldiers and family members join AUSA?”

Rest assured, we at AUSA-AR continually ask ourselves that question and are working with local Reserve and Guard units to provide value, voice, and recognition to our great Soldiers and the entire Army Community in Arkansas!

• **AUSA online services for Retirees and Veterans** – As further commitment to the entire Army Community, AUSA has also established a page/link dedicated completely to serving the Army's Retired and Veteran communities. You can go to it directly via: <https://www.ausa.org/programs/retiree-and-veteran-affairs> or link to it from the AUSA home page under the "Professional Development" banner tab. From there, members have a wide variety of links to issues important to the entire Arkansas Army Community:

- 2016 Pre-Retirement Guide
- Retired Soldier Handbook (PDF)
- VA - Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors
- Army Echoes
- Army Referral Bonus Program (SMART)
- Army Retirement Services Officers
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
- Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC)
- Defense Finance and Accounting Service
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Human Resources Command - Reserve Component Retirement
- Mesothelioma Veterans Center
- Mesothelioma Veterans Guide
- Military Records Request
- Social Security Administration
- TRICARE for Retired Soldiers
- TRICARE Retired Soldier Dental Program
- VA Burials and Memorials

There is a "Search Jobs" button that takes the Retiree/Veteran to: <http://careers.ausa.org/> where a nation-wide resource for employment is available.

There is also a convenient link for Retirees to the Army's "Soldier For Life" website, "Echoes" at:

<https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/echoes>



It is difficult to read from this screen shot, but the list down the left are additional issues, information, and resources of particular interest to Retirees:

- Retired Soldiers - Home
- Army Echoes
- Army Echoes Blog
- Preparing to Retire
- After Retiring
- Survivor Benefit Plan
- Career Status Bonus
- Retirement Services Officers
- RC Retirement Services
- Survivor Assistance
- CSA Retired Soldier Council
- Former Spouse Information
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Calculators
- Active Officer Retirement
- Active Enlisted Retirement
- RSO - Mission
- Helpful External Links

There are also page links from the Professional Development tab for DACs & Miltechs, NCOs & Soldiers, and ROTC.

• **Institute of Land Warfare** – The most recent publication from ILW (Nov 2016) also highlights the new, broader, agenda of AUSA.

“Characteristics Of Army Reserve Officer Training Corps Leader Development”

(Land Warfare Paper 111) looks at two ROTC programs in the light of two models of leader development over a period of eight years to assess leader development characteristics and the effectiveness of program implementation. The models were observed as being properly implemented at the two ROTC programs, resulting in characteristics of commitment, values, cultural orientation, experiential learning, intellectual self-development, mentoring and leader assessment. Based on these observations, it is argued that Army ROTC leader development curriculum is meeting the needs of both Army officer training and higher education leader development goals.

Educate – Connect – Inform

Fourth Region Leadership Update

Fourth Region President, Mr. Stan Lennox, recently had the good fortune to be appointed to a political role in Texas. This move requires him to sever all connections with clubs, professional associations, and groups. Accordingly, he stepped down from his leadership within AUSA effective March 1st.

In accordance with 4th Region by-laws, he has been succeeded by Mr. Gus (Gustavo) J. Rodriguez Jr., a businessman from the El Paso, TX, area, and AUSA West Texas State President. As a long time, and very active AUSA member, and twice past Chapter President (2008-2010 & 2012-2014) of the VERY successful General of the Army Omar Bradley Chapter of AUSA, he is a great fit to lead Fourth Region to continued success. **Welcome and Congratulations, Mr. Rodriguez!**



State President

I would like to give two short shout outs.

One, as noted above, Mr Stan Lennox had to stand down as 4th Region President. Stan was an excellent president and a friend to the Arkansas chapter. He routinely visited and supported our chapter and was a key supporter of the Arkansas Chapter hosting the 2018 regional conference. Thanks for everything, Stan, and best wishes in your new job!

Number two, goes out to the Brookfield High School JROTC. This last Saturday I had the privilege to present the AUSA certificate and medal to Cadet Jacob Hall. But the shout out goes to all cadets, cadre parents and supporters of the this outstanding JROTC program. They had over 220 attendees at their 14th Military Ball. But you see, Brookfield Arkansas only has a population of just over 2000. What a program!

Please stay safe and support a Memorial Day program in your area.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- For those who use the LRAFB Pharmacy for medical prescriptions, the 19th Medical Group will be closed on **27 April 27th, May 18th, and June 29th** for training.
- **April 29th – “Welcome Home”** event at the Jacksonville Museum of Military History to remember and honor **Vietnam Veterans**. Hours 10-6pm. 100 Veterans Circle Jacksonville, AR. There will be a ceremony, displays, live music, a movie, dinner and veterans service organizations during the event. Contact the museum for more information at 501-241-1943. **AUSA-Arkansas**

will be supporting this event, and supporting our Army Veterans, so please come out and visit our table (10-2). **See you there!**

- **May 6th – 39th Infantry BDE 50th Anniversary commemoration.** 1-4 pm, Kordsmeier Hall, Camp Robinson, North Little Rock, AR

- **Heads up:** For the remainder of April through May there are many JROTC and ROTC programs across the state that have awards ceremonies and AUSA needs representation to each of these schools. **PLEASE** contact Chapter President Tucker **ASAP** at ausa.ar.pres@comcast.net if you have the time to volunteer for this great effort.

- **Memorial Day, May 29th –** AUSA-Arkansas will continue its support to the annual Arkansas Veterans Coalition Memorial Day Ceremony and picnic at the Veterans Ceremony and Sherwood Forest hall on Maryland Avenue in Sherwood. Following the Governor's Memorial Day speech at the Veteran's Cemetery in the early morning, attendees will be bused to the Sherwood Forest facility for the picnic. Please mark your calendars as this will be a **General Membership meeting**.

- AUSA-Arkansas will, again, be supporting the **Arkansas Army JROTC Junior Cadet Leadership Camp**, 4-9 June. This is an aggressive event that trains and challenges Army ROTC cadets in military and leadership skills in the classroom and at a variety of field locations at Camp Robinson. State President LTC(R) Cooper will present awards to the top male and female cadets on 9 June. All are welcome. Please consider attending.

- **REMINDER - June 14th is the Army Birthday.** Join AUSA-AR and the Arkansas Army Community at the Clinton Presidential Center's Choctaw Building (the red one), from 13:00-15:00 hrs on June 17th.

- The Army/AUSA hasn't had a **military ball** in years in Arkansas. Accordingly, AUSA-

Arkansas will be reaching out to other military and veterans organizations to schedule a Dining Out on **Saturday, November 11th** – in conjunction with Veteran's Day – at a location to be determined. **BUT WE NEED TO GAUGE THE LEVEL OF INTEREST** before we can lock in a location and begin to really plan. **Please give us your feedback ASAP** at ausa.ar.pres@comcast.net

Other News You Can Use

- **AUSA Membership Rates** – As you spread the word about all that AUSA Arkansas does to **Educate, Inform, and Connect** with all Arkansans, they will undoubtedly ask about the cost of membership (and for your own renewal!). For cadets and junior enlisted, the cost is only \$10 for two years. For all others it is \$40 for two years, \$75 for five years, or only \$400 for a Life Membership. Joining or renewing can be done on-line at www.ausa.org or email to membersupport@ausa.org. Don't forget to include our Chapter (C4101) when completing the application form.

- **"Soldiers Taking Care of Soldiers"** – Financial emergencies can happen to anyone, even retirees, and **Army Emergency Relief** not only stands ready to assist serving Soldiers and their families, but also retirees of the Regular Army, (non-gray-area, under age 60) Army Reserve and Army Guard! This is just **one more resource supporting the Army Community in Arkansas**.

While serving Soldiers typically apply for assistance through their chain of command with company commander or first sergeant approval, retirees will need to contact the Air Force Aid Society at Little Rock Air Force Base or call the American Red Cross 24 hour Military Assistance office (877-272-7337). Retirees can begin their applications online at www.aerhq.org and following the prompts to "apply for assistance". Financial assistance is also available to surviving spouses of Soldiers killed in action.

What sort of assistance is available?

- Tornado/storm-related Emergencies
- Emergency Travel
- Funeral Expenses
- Vehicle Replacement
- Repair/Replace Major Appliances
- Minor Home Repairs

AER also provides scholarships for children and spouses of eligible Soldiers/Retirees.

The AER annual fund campaign is on-going until May 15th and retirees are eligible to make tax-deductible contributions. For more information on this and all AER services, visit www.aerhq.org.

• **New Changes Coming At The Commissary** – In a statement last month, the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) announced that central management will loosen and individual store flexibility will increase in response to FY17 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) directives that DeCA find more savings and profits and receive less appropriated operational funding. Key among the coming changes will be the fielding of new “DeCA brands” of store labels much like major civilian grocery retailers such as WalMart, Kroger, and Safeway. Specifically, commissaries world-wide will now stock



“Freedom’s Choice™” food items and “Home Base™” non-food items on their shelves beside more costly name brand choices.

Remember, DoD Commissaries are YOUR benefit. But they will only last as long as YOU support and patronize them. There continues to be a tremendous lobby to shut them down. The LRAFB commissary warmly welcomes all

serving Soldiers (Regular, Reserve, Guard), their families, and retirees.

• **Eligibility for the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program includes "gray area" retirees**

The TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) is available to all military retirees (including "gray area" retirees under age 60) and their eligible family members, un-remarried surviving spouses and their eligible children, as well as Medal of Honor recipients and their eligible immediate family members. The program covers cleanings, exams, fillings, root canals, gum surgery, oral surgery and dental accidents on the first day that coverage becomes effective; after 12 months of being in the program, it then covers crowns, bridges, partials, braces and dental implants. (New retirees who enroll within four months after retirement from the Uniformed Services or transfer to Retired Reserve status are eligible to waive the 12-month waiting period for major services; supporting documentation is required)

Monthly premiums are based on the zip code in which you reside and how many family members you enroll. Find your specific premium at <http://www.trdp.org/retirees/premiums.html>

The TRDP provides every enrollee an annual maximum of \$1,300 per person, a \$1,200 annual maximum for dental accidents and a \$1,750 lifetime maximum for orthodontics. It is important to note that the money that the TRDP pays out for preventive and diagnostic services doesn't count against the annual maximum - those benefits are in addition to the \$1,300. Retirees can find more information on the program, as well as enroll 24/7/365, online by visiting trdp.org.

Combining Coverage - You can combine the TRDP with another dental program and have them pay together to defray, or even eliminate, your cost-share (even if they're both Delta Dental programs).

Enrolling - Enrolling online in the TRDP is easy via the TRICARE Beneficiary Web Enrollment (BWE) portal. Once you've retired and your retirement status is reflected in DEERS, simply access our Enroll Today <<http://www.trdp.org/retirees/enroll-today.html>>page and follow the instructions. (The TRICARE BWE portal doesn't work well with Google Chrome, so use Internet Explorer.)

Two month's premium prepayment is required upon enrollment and then the monthly premiums are automatically deducted from your retired pay via an allotment. Be sure to watch the "Enrolling is Easy" video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_gnc0g8Xis&feature=youtu.be> before enrolling online, as it makes the process much easier.

- **Base Clinic Eye Exams Open to Retirees**

Retirees enrolled at the Little Rock Air Force Base Medical Treatment Facility AND under age 65, not on Medicare, are now eligible for eye exams. These include treating and managing ocular health, dry eye syndrome, contact lens and eye glass prescriptions, and any prescription eye drops. Referrals can be made for any special or non-routine care required. Retirees are also eligible for one pair of prescription glasses per year. For appointments call (501) 987-8811 or on-line at www.tricareonline.com. Optometry Clinic hours are M-F, 0730-1630, and closed on training holidays.

- **Base Offers Legal Services** – The 19th Airlift Wing Legal Office offers advice on: wills & estates, marital separations & divorce, adoption, child custody, dependent non-support, consumer affairs, debt collection, hiring a civilian attorney, Service Members' Civil Relief Act and Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). (Call ahead to 501-987-7886 to clarify on all other matters.)

Active Duty and Dependents are authorized walk-in legal assistance Mondays (2-3pm) and Wednesdays (1-11am). Wills can be executed

by appointment only on Mondays (3pm) or Wednesdays (11am), **by appointment only**. Call the Legal office with a ticket number after completing a will worksheet at <https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil/las/las.html>. **Arrive for all appointments at least 15 minutes early.**

Retiree legal assistance and will consultation are by appointment only and are scheduled between 9-11am on the second and fourth Fridays of each month. The same online site and worksheet is required for retirees, as is the requirement to set up the appointments and arrive 15 minutes early.

Power of attorney and notary services are available to both active and retired members and their dependents Monday thru Friday (9-11am) and afternoons (2-3pm) on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

- Download the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs' Veteran Resource Directory" at: <http://www.veterans.arkansas.gov/assets/uploads/2016/08/20160805173902-20160805-resourceguidepdf.pdf>

- **Other News From Little Rock Air Force Base:**

- o No more discount on any tobacco products purchased at the Commissary
- o The base Burger King will be closed on Sundays until further notice
- o Job Openings @ LRAFB. Apply at <http://nafjobs.org>.
 - Lifeguards, and recreation assistants for Outdoor Recreation
 - Sales clerks, laborers, and cashiers for Deer Run Golf Course

Corporate Page

AUSA-Arkansas is indebted to the growing list of Corporate Members who so generously are showing their support for the Arkansas Army Community. We all thank you for your patriotism and commitment to Supporting the Soldiers – past, present, and future – their families and units!

- **Whole Hog North Little Rock** – Great barbecue, Arkansas hospitality! 10% off for



military Every Monday!

- **Clinton Museum Store** – 15% discount for military, everyday!



- **Arkansas Flag & Banner** – everyday 15% military discount!



- **Security Signals, Inc.** – Quality Products since 1948!



- **Spectra Technologies, LLC** – Serving all branches of the U.S. Military . . . from Camden, Arkansas!



- **Lynwick LLC** - Military discount on string quartet performances at military functions and church events.



- **BEI** – “Innovators and Integrators of Advanced Sensing Solutions for Critical Applications”



Finally, A special warm, AUSA welcome to our two newest Corporate Members . . .

- **Metova Cybercents** – Preeminent, customizable, state-of-the-art cyber network simulators and training



- **Jordan P. Johnson Consulting, LLC**

2016 AUSA-AR Officers

Positions are still open!

State President – LTC(R) David Cooper
Little Rock Chapter President – COL(R)
Harold Tucker (ausa.ar.pres@comcast.net)
Chapter VP for Membership – Lyn Lewis
Chapter Treasurer – Terry Hirsch
Chapter Legal Counsel – OPEN
Chapter Chaplain – OPEN
Director of Public Relations – BG(R) Bud
Jameson
Chapter Web Master – OPEN



Editor's Final Thoughts

We are seeing a slow, but measurable, increase in our AUSA Life Member rolls here in Arkansas. We welcome these Soldiers for Life to the Natural State and to AUSA-AR. I certainly expect this trend to continue as word spreads Army-wide of the new Retiree-friendly tax law changes here in Arkansas. Beginning in January 2018, **100% of military retired pay will be exempt from state income taxes.** This is good for retirees and good for Arkansas as you bring your drive, your energy, and your Army values to enhance our economy and our communities.

My family and I have lived here for over 20 years. I hope you will share our experience that Arkansas is a family-friendly, military-friendly state where you can raise a family, start a business, or just recreate and enjoy a well-earned retirement.

I ask that you contact us when you arrive to let us know how AUSA-AR can better serve you and your families. I also urge you to share just a bit of your time to benefit our Arkansas Army Community by offering to assist AUSA-AR in its mission to educate, connect and inform as needed in your neighborhood or region of the State. Thanks, and Welcome! BRJ

Activity = Interest = Results

