



Tennessee Ernie Ford Chapter #361
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Chapter Officers 2010

President	Gaylord Green	gaylord@aol.com
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President's Letter

Gaylord Green

This year our Chapter's Awards banquet was a wonderful success. Every year we take time to recognize all the outstanding achievements made during the past year by various individuals of our local Air Force organizations. We were also joined by our corporate sponsors from Boeing, Raytheon, and Lockheed. We had a great time and we hope you did too!

With the closure of Onizuka AFS, the birthplace of spacecraft on orbit operations, the Tennessee Ernie Ford Space Operations Hall of Fame was formed. General Shelton, the Tennessee Ernie Ford honoree this year, has a background in space operations and presented the awards to the four inductees, three of whom are from outside the area. Visit the Moffett Museum and see the plaque recognizing past inductees into the Hall of Fame, most of who came through the "Blue Cube". Keep in mind we seek nominees for induction into the Space Operations Hall of Fame anytime during the year.

Please feel free to contact me with nominations: gaylordg@att.net

This coming year, we are planning a few luncheons that we hope will be interesting and fun. Our first luncheon is to be held January 27th, 2012. We are very lucky to have the opportunity to hold this luncheon at the Moffett Museum. Our speaker will be Mr. Gaylord Green who is in the Space Technology Hall of Fame for his efforts in creating GPS, and who also is our Chapter President. Mr. Green will be speaking about a topic he knows well: GPS and the current issues and modernization efforts. The cost is \$20 for a BBQ meal. Please RSVP by 20 January, 2012 to John Olson, 4780 Archbow Ct., San Jose, CA 95136.

The meal will consist of BBQ Smoky beef or pork ribs, hot and spicy BBQ chicken, baked beans and franks, corn on the cob, build your hamburger (w/all the trimming), ceasar salad, potato salad, cole slaw salad, fresh fruits, iced-tea, coffee and dessert. We hope you'll join us!

Calendar

January 16, 2012

Martin Luther King Day

January 27, 2012

AFA Chapter 361
 Chapter Luncheon

March 14, 2012

Oak Grove High School
 AF Junior ROTC
 Spring Blood Drive



**TENNESSEE ERNIE FORD CHAPTER #361
LUNCHEON**

Mr. Gaylord Green talks about GPS Technology

The TENNESSEE ERNIE FORD CHAPTER of the Air Force Association invites you to our first luncheon of 2012. The luncheon will be held on FRIDAY, 27 January 2012, at the Moffett Museum. Mr. Green will be speaking about GPS Technology, a subject so many of us interact with every day! Do you have an iPhone or Android, or when you jump in your car do you use the navigation system? If you do then you benefit from GPS Technology. Come join us!

The luncheon program will commence 1130 hrs until approximately 1300 hrs. at the Moffett Museum on Friday, 1/27/2012. Reservations for \$20 are required *No Later Than* 1/20/2012.

The meal will consist of BBQ Smokey beef or pork ribs, hot and spicy BBQ chicken, baked beans and franks, corn on the cob, build your hamburger (w/all the trimming), ceasar salad, potato salad, cole slaw salad, fresh fruits, iced-tea, coffee and dessert.

RESERVATION FORM:

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

Affiliation _____ E-Mail _____

Number of Guests: _____

Enclosed is my check made out to *AFA Chapter 361*, in the amount of: \$ _____

Mail reservation form to: AFA Chapter 361, John Olson, 4780 Archbow Ct, San Jose, CA 95136-2500

PLEASE RESPOND NO LATER THAN: 20 January 2012

Contact 408-972-0315 or olsonjn@yahoo.com

2012 Chapter Officers

Your Air Force Association Tennessee Ernie Ford Chapter 361 is currently looking for any volunteers to serve as chapter officers. We are looking for folks who can help us keep the chapter running smoothly and efficiently. With the passing of John Barbour, we've noticed how important his skills and expertise were to the strength of our organization.

We really need members who are able to help with fund raising, or coordinating events, or taking the lead engaging the greater the community in support of our mission. Please help us keep on track and laser focused on Aiming High – volunteer today!

We are looking for AFA Chapter 361 officers for next year. If you want to participate in generating Chapter activities or are a candidate for an office or know of a good candidate, please take a moment and contact Liliana Ramos: lilramos@pacbell.net

AFA TEF 361 **Get Involved!**

If you can help and want to volunteer, please contact our membership chair
Liliana Ramos:

lilramos@pacbell.net

Air Force Junior ROTC Blood Drive

On Tuesday, November 15, Oak Grove's Air Force Junior ROTC hosted the annual fall blood drive. The cadets prepared for months to ensure success for this big event, gathering information, publicizing to the community, and signing up potential donors. Some cadets arrived at school before 6:00 AM on the day of the event to help transform the small gym into a blood collection center, and the Corps supported the staff from the Blood Centers of the Pacific throughout the day.

This blood drive has been such a great success that the Blood Centers call it the largest single-day blood drive in the Bay Area! Over 150 students reserved time slots in advance to donate blood, and on Tuesday, over 200 students, staff, and community members registered to participate. They donated 184 units of blood, which potentially can save over 400 lives!

The results of the blood drive explain how important giving back to the community and saving lives is to AF Junior ROTC Cadets. The Corps will host the Spring Blood Drive on March 14th in front of the AF JROTC building. Hope to see everyone there!

TRICARE Standard Handbook

The handbook provides information about qualifying for and purchasing TRICARE Reserve Select, TRICARE Retired Reserve and TRICARE Young Adult Standard. This handbook is available for download at: <http://www.tricare.mil/tricaresmart/product.aspx?id=430&CID=71&RID=3>

DD 214 - Increased Social Security Benefits for Vets

You qualify for a higher social security payment because of your Military service, for active duty any time from 1957 through 2001 (the program was done away with 1 January 2002). Up to \$1200 per year of earnings credit credited at the time of application - which can make a substantial difference in social security monthly payments upon your retirement.

You must bring your DD-214 to the Social Security Office **AND** you must ask for this benefit to receive it! You can browse the Social Security website, here: <http://www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm>

This is something to put in your files for when you apply for Social Security down the road. This benefit is **NOT** just for retirees! **ANYONE** who served on active duty between January 1957 to December 31, 2001 is eligible for this benefit.

FYI - this benefit is not automatic, you must ask for it!

Walgreens no longer a TRICARE pharmacy provider

The expiration of the retail pharmacy contract between Express Scripts, Inc. and the Walgreens pharmacy chain means Walgreens is no longer a TRICARE pharmacy network provider as of January 1st 2012.

“The majority of beneficiaries have access to another network pharmacy very close to home as our pharmacy contract requires ESI to maintain high-access standards,” said Rear Adm. Thomas McGinnis, chief of the TRICARE Pharmaceutical Operations Directorate. “There are still 56,000 network pharmacies nationwide -- easily meeting or exceeding our access requirements.”

Besides 56,000 network pharmacies, TRICARE beneficiaries have other pharmacy options including military pharmacies at no cost and TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery. Generic medications are available at no cost through Home Delivery.

Beneficiaries who use non-network pharmacies, including Walgreens, pay full prescription costs upfront and submit their own claims for reimbursement. Reimbursement will occur only after the non-network deductible is met. Out-of-network costs include a 50 percent point-of-service cost share for TRICARE Prime, after deductibles are met. All other non-active duty TRICARE beneficiaries pay the



greater amount of a \$12 co-pay or 20 percent of the total cost for formulary medications, and the greater of \$25 or 20 percent of the total cost for non-formulary medications, after deductibles are met.

For more on pharmacy costs, visit: www.tricare.mil/pharmacycosts

TRICARE beneficiaries changing from Walgreens pharmacy can simply take their current prescription bottle to their new network pharmacy to have the prescription transferred. To find a nearby network pharmacy, use the “find a pharmacy” feature on www.express-scripts.com/tricare. Beneficiaries who want help finding a pharmacy, changing their medications to Home Delivery, or who have other questions can contact Express Scripts at 877-885-6313.

The issues between ESI and Walgreens are not specific to TRICARE. Other employer-sponsored and some Medicare Part D pharmacy plans are also affected. Beneficiaries with questions and concerns about this issue can go to: <http://www.tricare.mil/walgreens>

We are committed to ensuring all our pharmacy beneficiaries are aware of the many options that TRICARE makes available to them,” said Brig. Gen. Bryan Gamble, TRICARE deputy director. “By now, all of our beneficiaries who use Walgreens to fill prescriptions should have been contacted to advise them of their pharmacy options and to take action to ensure their pharmacy benefit remains uninterrupted.”

For more retiree news and information, please visit: www.retirees.af.mil

Defense bill limits retiree health care increases

President Barack Obama signed the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act on Dec. 31 which contains a critical initiative to help control spiraling health-care costs within the Defense Department.

Section 701 limits annual TRICARE enrollment fee increases for retirees and their family members to an amount equal to the percentage by which retired pay increases that year.

The act also contains critical initiatives to develop counterterrorism initiatives abroad, build the security capacity of key partners, modernize the force and boost the efficiency and effectiveness of military operations worldwide.

The NDAA also includes:

Section 347 requires DOD to finance an independent assessment of overseas troop basing, advising retention, closure, realignment or establishment of U.S. military facilities outside the United States “in light of potential fiscal constraints on [DOD] and emerging national security requirements in coming years.”



Section 402 reduces authorized Army minimum end strength from 562,000 to 547,000. The other services' authorized minimum strengths are unchanged, with 325,700 for the Navy, 202,100 for the Marine Corps and 332,800 for the Air Force.

Section 512 of the act creates a new member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, which currently includes the Army and Air Force chiefs of staff, the chief of naval operations and the Marine Corps commandant. The new member will be the chief of the National Guard Bureau, who will have responsibility for "addressing matters involving non-federalized National Guard forces in support of homeland defense and civil support missions."

Section 526 extends voluntary separation pay and benefits authority, formerly set to expire Dec. 31, to the end of 2018. Section 530 converts the high-deployment allowance from mandatory to authorized. The allowance currently pays \$100 a day, in addition to all other pay and allowances, to a deployed service member who has been deployed 401 days or more out of the preceding 730 days.

Section 702 sets mental health assessment requirements for service members deployed for contingency operations. The act calls for a series of assessments: one within 120 days before deployment; another during the period between 90 days after a deployment begins and 180 days after it ends; a third within a year after the deployment ends; and a fourth between 18 months and 30 months of redeployment.

The act states assessments are intended to "identify post-traumatic stress disorder, suicidal tendencies, and other behavioral health conditions ... in order to determine which such members are in need of additional care and treatment for such health conditions."

Assessments are not required for service members "not subjected or exposed to operational risk factors during deployment in the contingency operation concerned," the act states.

Section 954 affirms that DOD "has the capability, and upon direction by the president may conduct offensive operations in cyberspace to defend our nation, allies and interests," subject to the law of armed conflict and the War Powers Resolution.

President Barack Obama acknowledges "serious reservations" about parts of the act, particularly provisions that regulate the detention, interrogation, and prosecution of suspected terrorists.

"I have signed the act chiefly because it authorizes funding for the defense of the United States and its interests abroad, crucial services for service members and their families and vital national security programs that must be renewed," Obama said in a statement released Dec. 31.

For more retiree news and information, please visit: www.retirees.af.mil