



**The Santa Fe Trail Scout
Santa Fe Trail Chapter
Military Officers Association of America**
Serving the Military Community of Leavenworth County and Vicinity

Chapter Newsletter Number 2006-5

November 2006

TRICARE Information

New Allowable Charges Web Site

TRICARE Management Activity has posted its allowable charges on an easy-to-use Web site, in support of the health care initiatives in President Bush's management agenda. On the Allowable Charges Web Site, you will find the TRICARE Maximum Allowable Charges (TMAC) for the most frequently used procedures or services. These charges are the maximum amounts TRICARE is allowed to pay for each procedure or service and are tied by law to Medicare's allowable charges. The Allowable Charges Web site is located at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/allowablecharges/>

Updated TRICARE Reserve Select Web Site

The 2006 National Defense Authorization Act extends the opportunity to purchase the TRICARE Reserve Select health plan to all members of the Selected Reserve. Open season for qualifying and purchasing TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3 will begin Aug. 1, 2006, and coverage becomes effective October 1, 2006. Members who qualify for TRS Tier 1 should consult their Reserve Component personnel office for details about qualifying. To get to the TRICARE Reserve Select Web Site, go to <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/reserveselect/index.cfm>

- TRICARE AND MAILING LIST INFO -----

1. DOD Worldwide TRICARE Information Center (Toll-Free) 1-888-DoD-LIFE (363-5433), 1-877-DoD MEDS (363-6337) or 1-888-DoD-CARE (363-2273). Operating Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (ET) (excluding federal holidays).

2. Want to receive only TRICARE For Life Information? Send a message to TFL-ON@pasba2.amedd.army.mil (message subject and body may be left blank). You also have to send a message to HEALTH-OFF@pasba2.amedd.army.mil to get off this mailing list.
3. To get TRICARE answers, assistance via E-mail, send your message to <mailto:QUESTIONS@tma.osd.mil>
4. To be automatically removed from this mailing list, send a message to Health-OFF@PASBA2.AMEDD.ARMY.MIL (subject/body may be left blank).
5. To be automatically added to this mailing list, send a message to Health-ON@PASBA2.AMEDD.ARMY.MIL (subject/body may be left blank).
6. Report mailing list problems to POSTMASTER@PASBA2.AMEDD.ARMY.MIL

FALLS CHURCH, Va. - TRICARE is making a handbook available to all beneficiaries covered under TRICARE Standard. This new manual goes into much greater detail than the old booklet, making it as useful as the TRICARE Prime and Prime Remote handbooks.

"We are publishing the Standard handbook to help beneficiaries fully understand their medical care," said Army Major General Elder Granger, deputy director, TRICARE Management Activity. "Explaining the benefit more clearly promotes beneficiary satisfaction, and is in keeping with the President's initiative to make health care more transparent."

Although the handbook is chock full of useful data from what's covered to how to file a claim, it does not include cost information. Because of annual cost changes, TRICARE created a separate summary of beneficiary costs flyer that contains costs for all TRICARE programs, including dental and pharmacy. TRICARE will update the flyer whenever the rates change.

Starting in early October, beneficiaries may ask for copies of the TRICARE Standard handbook or the summary of beneficiary costs flyer from their regional contractors or from a local TRICARE Service Center, or view the documents on the TRICARE Smart Site at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/TRICARESmart>

Basic information on TRICARE Standard is available at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/Factsheets/viewfactsheet.cfm?id=318>

MOAA Santa Fe Trail Chapter Calendar for 2006 (as of 22 October 2006)

19 Sep 06: Chapter Dinner, 1800, Leavenworth Country Club. Our Guest Speaker will be Mr. Phil Dyer, MOAA National.

26 Oct 06: BOD Luncheon, 1130, Village Square

21 Nov 06: Chapter Dinner, 1800, Elections/awards/2006 Wrap Up/2007 Plans

Santa Fe Trail Chapter, MOAA, meets for dinner on Tuesday, November 21, 2006, at the Leavenworth Country Club, 455 W. Eisenhower Road, Lansing. Hospitality begins at 6:00 PM; dinner will be served at 7:00 PM. Our special entertainment for the evening will be Dr. Bill Worley who will give us his impressions of President Truman. Our program will also include the election of officers and their induction into office; and, presentations to representatives of the organizations/programs to which our chapter is making financial contributions.

Please make your reservations with menu choices and check payments to Treasurer Stan Johnson, 1101 Holman, Leavenworth, KS 66048, by not later than 17 November 2006. **If you have not paid your dues for 2006 please add \$15.00.**

Menu (1): Tournedos Argentina w/Pommes Anna - \$24.00; Menu (2): Shrimp Iberville w/Rice - \$22.00. For all: Leek & Potato Soup, Asparagus and Coconut Crème Caramel Dessert. Prices include gratuity. Drinks: Coffee, Ice Tea.

We value your presence. Robert Atkins, Chapter Secretary

Combat-Related Special Compensation

Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) provides military retirees a monthly compensation that replaces their VA disability offset. This means that qualified military retirees with 20 or more years of service that have "combat related" VA- rated disability will no longer have their military retirement pay reduced by the amount of their VA disability compensation. Instead they will receive both their full military retirement pay and their VA disability compensation. For more information, visit the Military.com website at <http://www.military.com/benefits/military-pay/special-pay/combat-related-special-compensation>.

Free SAT/ACT Software for Military Families

For the second year, a group of NFL, NFL Europe, AFL and CFL football players have sponsored several million dollars worth of \$199 SAT and ACT test prep programs to every family in the U.S. Military (all branches —active or retired). Specifically, the sponsorship allows any military person (active or retired) to request as many programs as they need for the students in their lives. The Department of Defense has created a secure website to quickly confirm a person's military status. Personnel can access the confirmation and request pages through several military related associations and organizations, including: Military Home Front website for families (www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil), offers access to the forms to confirm military status and process the order. Programs ship to domestic U.S. addresses and APO addresses. The sponsorship covers the regular purchase price of \$199 and the family pays only the S&H.

Fight Over Reserve Montgomery GI Bill

Proponents for strengthening Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) benefits for the National Guard and Reserve have received opposition from Defense officials who say there is no reason to raise Reserve GI Bill benefits as long as enough personnel join and reenlist with reserve components. The critical issue is how

best to manage finite resources. For more information, read the article on the Military.com website at <http://www.military.com/features/0,15240,115140,00.html>

Featured Job: Management Training Program

Learn how to run your own business and share in the profits you help create in our fun, fast-paced, 100% promote-from-within environment! Start your own personal enterprise today!
<http://s0b.bluestreak.com/ix.e?hy&s=2483422&a=3041095>

Kansas Program Gets Military Spouses Working

Military spouses facing a permanent change of station into or out of the Fort Riley, Kan., area can get help with job training and placement thanks to a \$500,000 Workforce Investment Act grant through the Department of Labor that is being administered by Heartland Works, Inc., a private nonprofit company, promoting economic growth in northeastern Kansas. Military spouses who were employed and had to terminate that employment because of their servicemembers' change of station, including separation from the military, qualify for the grant. For more information about the Heartland Works program, contact Lesa Crockett, a career counselor with Heartland Works, Inc., at (785) 762-WORK (9675).

Military Installations Now Online

The Department of Defense recently introduced MilitaryINSTALLATIONS, a gateway for members of the military community to directories of programs and services located at over 250 military installations in the United States and overseas. For more information, visit the MilitaryInstallations website at <http://www.militaryinstallations.dod.mil/ismart/MHF-MI/isw/home.jsp>.

Money for Child Care for Reserve Families

Army Reserve families will receive a minimum of \$100 per child per month towards their child care costs when they begin participating in the Child & Youth Services child care programs. Some families may qualify for more money based on their individual situation. To apply, visit the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NCCRRRA) website at www.naccrra.org. NCCRRRA and Dod also offer child care services to severely injured servicemembers in locations across the United States when they are receiving in-patient or out-patient medical care. For more information, visit <http://www.naccrra.org/MilitaryPrograms/injured.php>.

Navy Professional Reading Program Debuts

The Navy introduced the Navy Professional Reading Program (NPRP) last week, which replaces the CNO and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy reading lists of the past. The program includes five 12-book collections with subjects focused on leadership, military heritage, joint warfare, cultural awareness, critical thinking and management. To make the books readily accessible, the Navy is providing collections to every operational unit in the Navy. Book sets will also be available in base libraries and liberty centers, and audio versions of some books will be available for free download on the Navy Knowledge Online (NKO) Website. For more information, visit the Navy Reading Website at www.navyreading.navy.mil.

Personnel Recovery Training to Begin

Beginning in November, the Army's Personnel Recovery Branch will kick off formal personnel recovery training to all units slated for deployment. The goal is to train all Soldiers in personnel recovery tactics, techniques and procedures within the next 24-48 months. Personnel recovery training will be included in all Soldier readiness programs, in unit training, drill schedules for the Reserve and National Guard, and in monthly training schedules for the active component. Field Manual 3-50.1, "Army Personnel Recovery," is the official doctrine that applies to all Soldiers. FM 3-50.1 is available at Army Knowledge Online, www.us.army.mil and at the Training and Doctrine digital library, www.train.army.mil.

Schools Told to Watch Out for Gang

Stars and Stripes reports that the Department of Defense Dependents Schools (DODEA) says in a newsletter sent to its schools worldwide that it is trying to stop one of the most dangerous U.S. gangs — MS-13 — from gaining a foothold among its students. The newsletter warns that students recruited in civilian schools in the United States may try to establish a clique when transferred to a DODEA school. MS-13 stands for Mara Salvatrucha, which means "Salvadoran Gang." It is organized and highly violent.

Some Families Due Retroactive Payments

The National Defense Authorization Act 2006 increased the amount of death benefits paid to beneficiaries of all deceased active duty Servicemembers. The amount has been increased for the Servicemembers Life Insurance (SGLI) from \$250,000 to \$400,000 and the death Gratuity from \$12,000 to \$100,000. If you suffered the loss of a loved one between October 7 2001 and December 31, 2006, you may be eligible for a retroactive death payment. For additional information contact the Families First Casualty Call Center at 866-272-5841. The Families First Casualty Call Center (FFCCC) assists surviving family members with their needs for long term advocacy and support services.

Take a Boating Safety Course

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is urging America's boaters to start thinking about taking one of many boating courses offered by the Auxiliary to enhance their boating skills. Courses offered range from the most basic boating safety course, to advanced navigation courses. These courses are offered all across America by local units of the Coast Guard Auxiliary (called flotillas). For boaters wishing to learn principles of navigation, courses range from the basic How To Read A Nautical Chart, to GPS for Mariners to the advanced Weekend Navigator course. To find about boating courses being offered near you, visit http://nws.cgaux.org/visitors/pe_visitor.

TRICARE Expands Health Care Benefit

The expansion of TRICARE Reserve Select by Congress earlier this year allows all qualified members of the Selected Reserve to purchase health care coverage. Tier 2 and Tier 3 coverage began Oct. 1, 2006 for members whose request form and premium is postmarked or submitted to a TRICARE Service Center Aug. 1 through Sept. 25, 2006. Coverage begins Jan. 1, 2007, for members whose request form and premium is postmarked or submitted Sept. 26 through Nov. 25, 2006. TRICARE Reserve Select Tier 1 members must contact their Reserve Component to obtain qualification guidance. Beneficiaries can find the most current information about TRICARE Reserve Select on the TRICARE Website at www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/reserveselect/index.cfm.

The Search For America's World War I Veterans

Time is running out to find and recognize the last remaining veterans of "The Great War." The rolls of World War I veterans have declined so rapidly that the day is fast approaching when there will be one remaining, then none. The VA, with assistance from historians, state agencies and others, is keeping a roster of those veterans. Three years ago, there were about 250 remaining WWI American veterans. Yet, there may be other WWI veterans out there, perhaps in private nursing homes or in the care of family members, who have not been identified by VA. If you know of any WWI veterans in your area, please contact VA's Office of Public Affairs in Washington, DC, at opaweb@va.gov.

TRICARE Prime Portability

When you move to a new TRICARE region where Prime is available, you do not have to change your TRICARE Prime coverage. However, you must transfer your enrollment to the new regional contractor and select a new primary care manager to avoid expensive point-of-service charges and interruption of coverage. In addition, when you move, you must update your address in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS) as soon as possible. You can update DEERS online at www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsi/owa/home.

USA Cares Receives Grant

USA Cares has received a \$2.5 million grant came from the Iraq Afghanistan Deployment Impact Fund administered by the California Community Foundation. USA Cares helps bridge financial gaps for families of servicemembers deployed anywhere in support of operations in Iraq or Afghanistan. Currently eligible families can receive up to \$750 in assistance for family needs, including food, diapers, formula, electricity and rent. When it comes to mortgages, USA Cares can offer a maximum of \$7,500 in assistance to homeowners. For more information, visit the USA Cares website at www.usacares.us.



**SANTA FE TRAIL CHAPTER
THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP & INFORMATION CHANGE FORM

Mail to: LTC Stanley Johnson, 1101 Holman, Leavenworth, KS 66048

- Enroll Me as a New Regular Member
 Enroll Me as a New Auxiliary Member

- Address or Information change ONLY
 Dues payment & Information Update

Please print or type * Dues \$15.00 per year

Last Name	First Name	Middle	Grade	Name of Spouse
Street Address		Apt. #	Phone Number	
City	State	Zip + 4	SSN/Service Number	

PLEASE CHECK APPROPRIATE BOXES:

Member of National MOAA? Yes No

If YES, your card number, please: _____

Spouse's Grade (If Widow(er)): _____

Your Birthdate: _____

Active Duty: from _____ to _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

E-Mail Address: _____(if applicable)

STATUS

SERVICE

- Active Officer
 Retired Officer
 Former Officer
 Widow(er)

- Male
 Female

- Army
 Navy
 Air Force
 Marine Corps
 Coast Guard
 NOAA
 Pub Health Service

* Initial dues Jan thru Apr - \$15.00; May through Aug - \$10.00; Sep through Dec - \$5.00