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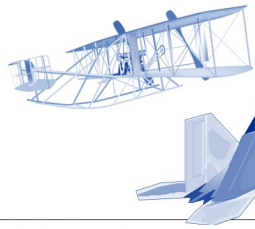
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Afterburner

News for USAF Retired Personnel



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Newest co-chairman joins Air Force Retiree Council

by Tammy Cournoyer
Air Force Retiree Services

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas – A new co-chairman will share the head of the table at this year's Air Force Retiree Council annual meeting in May.

Retired Lt. Gen. Stephen Hoog, who left active duty in October 2015, succeeds retired Lt. Gen. Steven Polk as council co-chair with retired Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney McKinley.

The co-chairs serve as personal advisers to the chief of staff and the secretary of the Air Force on all issues regarding retirees and their families. Gen. Hoog's appointment was announced by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III.

Meeting at the Air Force Personnel Center, the council receives briefings on today's Air Force structure from senior members of the Air Staff and other Air Force elements. This information helps the 19-member panel address issues submitted from 100 base Retiree Activities Offices worldwide. Subjects range from health care to publication of the *Afterburner* newsletter to various benefit and entitlement enhancements. Recommendations on key issues are forwarded to the Air Force chief of staff and subject-matter experts.

Hoog attended a council orientation in early February where he was able to meet with Polk and McKinley to

discuss his new role and responsibilities.

"As a fairly new retiree myself, I am impressed with the support and services the Air Force strives to provide its retirees, their families and surviving spouses," Hoog said. "I'm looking forward to serving on the council beside others who care deeply about our retiree family."

A native of the Bay Area in California, Hoog is a distinguished graduate of the Air Force Academy.

During his tenure as co-chair, Polk was instrumental in bolstering commander support for base-level Retiree Activities Offices and reviving the hard-copy mailing of the *Afterburner* for retirees and annuitants without Internet access.

"It was an honor and a privilege to serve with each council member and with CMSAFs (Gerald) Murray and McKinley - professionals all and still serving!" said Polk. "I'm proud of the work and accomplishments we handled as a team, and I'm grateful for the strong support of (former CSAF) Gen. Norton Schwartz and Gen. Welsh. I'm especially proud of the enthusiastic RAO volunteers worldwide who continue to serve our Air Force every day."



Lt. Gen. Stephen Hoog.

SBP annuity now payable to special-needs trust

by Tammy Cournoyer
Air Force Retiree Services

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH -- The National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 2015 now gives retirees the option of having Survivor Benefit Plan annuity payments go directly into a special-needs trust for a disabled child. This special-needs trust statute does not apply to disabled spouses.

"This new option is the result of an amendment to the public law covering SBP and is a welcome change for parents of disabled dependent children," said Tammy Hern, the Air Force's SBP program manager.

Basically, a special-needs trust is a legal tool specifically designed for managing money set aside for the benefit of a disabled person, according to Department of Defense officials. Unlike many other trusts, a special-needs trust is governed by state law.

Retirees who have SBP coverage for a disabled dependent child may now - or at any time -- have a special-needs trust created and elect to direct SBP annuity payments to the trust.

This irrevocable decision may be made during the life of the retiree through a written statement that designates future SBP payments go into the special-needs trust. In situations where SBP payments are made to more than one dependent child, the special-needs trust will be treated as a dependent child for the purposes of determining the shares payable to each child.

To irrevocably add a special-needs trust to existing child SBP coverage, retirees must submit a written statement requesting the annuity be paid to a trust. The statement must include the name and tax identification number of the trust. An attorney certification letter from an actively licensed attorney verifying that the trust is a special-needs trust created for the benefit of the disabled dependent child must also be submitted. Examples of both statements can be found at <http://www.retirees.af.mil/sbp/>.

"It is vital that people wanting to create a special-needs trust exercise due diligence and consult with an attorney well-versed in this specialized and complex area of law," said Hern.



(Courtesy photo)

In accordance with the SBP statute, a special-needs trust for a dependent disabled child must also meet federal statute, and once it is created, it is irrevocable.

If officials determine the special-needs trust is invalid or otherwise faulty, then SBP annuity payments will revert back to being made directly to the dependent child. If this occurs, the dependent child's entitlement to other benefits such as Supplemental Security Income and Medicaid may be affected.

A special needs trust election can be added to child SBP coverage even after the retiree dies.

"When the retiree dies, if SBP child coverage has been elected and the child is disabled, the dependent child's legal parent, grandparent or court-appointed legal guardian may irrevocably elect to have the SBP annuity payments made to a special-needs trust," said Hern.

For more information or help with completing election statements, call 1-877-353-6807 to contact the SBP or casualty assistance representative at the nearest Air Force base.

(NOTE: This article does not constitute legal advice. Readers should consult an attorney if they have questions about the legal ramifications of having the SBP annuity go to a trust.)

Afterburner

News for USAF Retired Personnel

The *Afterburner* is authorized by Air Force Instruction 36-3106. When funding permits, it is printed and mailed twice a year by Air Force Personnel Center's Retiree Services Office. Distribution: Individuals entitled to Air Force retired pay; unmarried surviving spouses of retirees (automatically if they are entitled to an annuity under Survivor Benefit Plan and/or the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan, or the Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan); unmarried non-annuitant surviving spouses of deceased Air Force members who were entitled to receive retired pay, may receive the *Afterburner* by requesting it from the address below. The *Afterburner* is not sent to former spouses nor to retirees of other services, or to retirees and survivors overseas. Additional copies are not available. The *Afterburner* address is:

Air Force Retiree Services-Afterburner
AFPC/DPFFF
550 C Street West
JBSA Randolph TX 78150-4713

Email address for opting out of receiving the hard copy is afpc.retiree@us.af.mil and the phone number is (210) 565-2126. The *Afterburner* is available on the Internet at www.retirees.af.mil. PLEASE DO NOT SEND CHANGE-OF-ADDRESS NOTIFICATIONS TO THE AFTERBURNER. AFPC relies on the address people have on file with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service to create mailing labels. Contact DFAS at 800-321-1080, or make changes using myPay online.

Burial honors:

Official urges families to learn about eligibility

by Terri Moon Cronk
DOD News, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON -- Planning funerals for military veterans and retirees can be overwhelming for their families, and the Defense Department's director of casualty and mortuary affairs wants family members to familiarize themselves in advance, when possible, to know what to expect with military funeral honors.

Deborah S. Skillman said families should learn about military funeral honors eligibility ahead of time to know what choices are available. She also recommended that family members should ensure they have access to the veteran's discharge papers, also called a DD Form 214, to prove eligibility.

It's also critical for family members who want military funeral honors to tell the funeral director, who can make the request for them, Skillman said. The honors are not automatic, and must be requested through the veteran's branch of service, she noted.

"Families (also) need to know DOD is going to be there when the honors are requested," Skillman added.

DOD policy is mandated by law to provide a minimum of a two-person uniformed detail to present the core elements of the funeral honors ceremony, and one service member must represent the veteran's branch of service, she said. The core elements include playing taps, folding the American flag and presenting the flag to the family.

Burials with military funeral honors can be conducted at national, veterans' or private cemeteries, she said.



(Courtesy photo)

"While DOD is required to provide a (two-service-member) detail, policy encourages each service secretary to provide additional elements, such as the firing team and pallbearers, if resources permit. However, full honors are always provided for active-duty deaths," Skillman said.

"Military honors may consist of three-rifle volleys by a firing team," she said, and added that veteran service organizations often participate in burials with military honors to serve as pallbearers and to provide a firing team.

The Veterans Affairs Department also offers other benefits, such as headstones, Skillman said.

"We want to honor every eligible service member and make sure (the services) are there to render honors," Skillman said. (Courtesy of Air Force News Service)

Month	Pay Dates for Retirees	Pay Dates for Annuitants
April	4/29/2016	5/2/2016
May	6/1/2016	6/1/2016
June	7/1/2016	7/1/2016
July	8/1/2016	8/1/2016
August	9/1/2016	9/1/2016
September	9/30/2016	10/3/2016
October	11/1/2016	11/1/2016
November	12/1/2016	12/1/2016
December	12/30/2016	1/3/2017

(Provided by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service)

The following is a message to all retirees and annuitants from William D'Avanzo, the chief of Air Force fundraising at the Air Force Personnel Center:

"As the 43rd annual Air Force Assistance Fund Campaign continues, please give serious thought to donating this year to the AFAF Campaign supporting those in uniform, your fellow retirees and their surviving spouses.

"Congratulations on raising more than \$760K last year. Most importantly, thank you all for your faithful service to our Air Force and this great nation."

2016 Air Force Assistance Fund Retiree Contribution Form			Mail To: Air Force Assistance Fund HQ AFPC/DP3SA 550 C Street West JBSA-Randolph TX 78150		
Name (last, first, middle initial)		Ret Rank	SSN (Payroll Deduction Only)		
Address		City	State	Zip Code	
A. CASH		B. PAYROLL DEDUCTION PLAN		Allotment	Months
IF CASH, COMPLETE SECTION A IF PDP, COMPLETE SECTION B		(The minimum allotment to any affiliate is \$1 per month).		706	X 12 =
Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation (AFVCF)		Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation (AFVCF)		\$	\$ 0
Air Force Aid Society (AFAS)		Air Force Aid Society (AFAS)		707	X 12 = \$ 0
Air Force Enlisted Village (AFEV)		Air Force Enlisted Village (AFEV)		705	X 12 = \$ 0
The General and Mrs Curtis E. LeMay Foundation (LeMay)		The Gen and Mrs Curtis E LeMay Foundation (LeMay)		704	X 12 = \$ 0
TOTAL GIFT: \$		Please Read: I hereby authorize deductions from my monthly retired pay beginning July of the campaign year for a period of 12 months in the amount shown to the affiliate(s) designated. This allotment will remain in effect for 12 months unless I request to terminate in writing to Defense Finance and Accounting Service - US Military Retirement Pay, PO Box 7130, London, KY 40742-7130		TOTAL PDP \$ 0	
		SIGNATURE:		FOR AFO USE ONLY CLASS C ALLOTMENT FOR AFAF CONTRIBUTION EFFECTIVE DATE: 1 JUL 2016 PREPARED BY:	
INFORMATION RELEASE AUTHORIZATION:					
Let us thank you, and update you on what your donation is accomplishing! Information you enter here (optional) will be released, along with your name and amount given to the Charity(ies) to which you made a pledge. Please do not enter your work email address.					
Home Mailing Address:					
Personal Email Address:					
Release of information authorization (Signature)					
Contributions deductible for Federal income tax purposes as itemized deduction. Contributors receive no goods or services. AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 301, Departmental Regulations; 37 U.S.C.; and E.O. 9397 (SSN) PURPOSE: To document and account for retired military pay and allowance disbursements and collections ROUTINE USE(S): May specifically be disclosed outside the DoD as a routine use pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(b)(3), to the Treasury Department, Internal Revenue Service, military relief societies, and the Blanket Routine Uses. DISCLOSURE VOLUNTARY: Not providing SSN may result in delaying or the inability to process your allotment					



As we begin our 43rd annual Air Force Assistance Fund (AFAF) Campaign in 2016, I think back to all the heartwarming stories of aid and assistance our four affiliate charities have provided to our Air Force families over the years; our permanent theme of “A Commitment to Caring” resonates passionately with me. I’d like to take this opportunity to thank you for your service and sacrifice, and to remind you we will always continue to look to you for advice, encouragement and support. Please consider donating to the AFAF Campaign this year to assist our Airmen in uniform as well as fellow retirees and their surviving spouses. I can’t thank you enough.

Deborah Lee James
Secretary of the Air Force



For over five decades now, Active, Guard and Reserve Airmen, retirees and family members have relied on our four Air Force Assistance Fund-affiliated charities whenever life challenged them the most. Over those many years, those charities have always been there to provide a full range of much-needed services. Our retiree population knows better than anyone the vast amount of support given *by Airmen for Airmen* through the four AFAF charities. As you look back over the years of your career and recall the way we take care of our own in the USAF, I hope you’ll give careful consideration to making a donation. This year, it’s not about Airmen giving more, but about more Airmen giving!

Mark A. Welsh III
General, USAF
Chief of Staff



The Air Force Aid Society (AFAS) helps over 35,000 Airmen—active and retired—and eligible family members annually with financial assistance programs totaling about \$17 million. When you make a donation to the AFAS through the AFAF Campaign, you’re helping Airmen fighting for our freedoms. Many are deployed and look to AFAS to be there for their loved ones while they are away. Please help us continue the proud tradition of *Airmen helping Airmen* by making a donation to AFAS. You have my promise that every dollar will be used to help Airmen. To learn more, visit www.afas.org

John D. Hopper, Jr.
Lt Gen, USAF (Ret)
CEO, AFAS



Your Air Force Enlisted Village (AFEV) provides a home to surviving spouses of retired enlisted Airmen. Thanks to your continued generosity, AFEV provides over two million dollars annually to ensure our over 500 residents live in a safe, dignified, and caring community. We provide support not just once, but for the life of our residents as they age. Spouses are our priority, but we serve the entire Air Force Family by helping active duty members and their families in times of crises, and with your continued support, we will always be there for you and your fellow Airmen when we’re needed. Thank you in advance for your gift. www.afev.us.

Brooke P. McLean
CMSgt, USAF (Ret)
President/CEO, AFEV



For Nearly 50 years, we have provided confidential financial support to the widows and widowers of those who have worn the cloth of our nation. These members of our retired Air Force family have, most likely, experienced a catastrophic medical crisis that drained their savings or they have outlived the money they so diligently set aside for retirement. Your contribution allows us to provide an aging widow or widower peace of mind, a modest but comfortable lifestyle, and quality long-term health and Alzheimer’s care, all with the dignity they deserve. Today and tomorrow, more than ever, you can make a difference in each of their lives. www.afvgiving.org.

Loyd S. Utterback
Lt Gen, USAF (Ret)
President/CEO, AFV



The LeMay Foundation continues to provide assistance to widow/widowers of retired Air Force personnel. It is our dedication to “taking care of our own” that has encouraged us to help provide a safe and wholesome lifestyle to the spouses who served along with their Air Force spouses. We provide all types of assistance from monthly grants to one time help. It is with my parents’ initiation that the Foundation was started and I am proud to continue their dedication to our military families. Your donations help us provide a comfort and security that would otherwise be unavailable to these spouses. www.lemay-foundation.org.

Jane LeMay Lodge
Chairman

Retiree dental program helps with good health

Because the mouth is the gateway to the rest of the body, maintaining good oral health is important, say officials with the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program; however, even routine dental care can be costly, sometimes averaging several hundred dollars a year.

Currently, there are more than 1.5 million TRDP enrollees who are maintaining their overall health at an affordable cost, said TDRP officials.

Program enrollees get routine annual services including two cleanings (or three for diabetics), two exams and an X-ray with no cost share when seeing a TRDP network dentist. These services do not count toward annual maximum or deductible amounts. Each enrollee gets a \$1,300 annual maximum, a \$1,200 annual dental accident maximum and a \$1,750 lifetime orthodontic maximum.

TRDP officials said seeing a network dentist helps save people an average of 22 percent on their covered dental care, there is a large nationwide network of dentists from which to choose. To find a network dentist near you, use the "Find a Dentist" link at trdp.org.

The TRDP coordinates benefits with other dental plans, allowing people to maximize coverage under both plans.

To enroll in the TRDP, people can visit trdp.org and choose the method that works best for them. People can



(Courtesy photo)

also print an application from the TRDP website and mail it to Delta Dental along with their prepayment amount.

After enrolling, TRDP officials encourage people to register for the online toolkit where they can verify program eligibility; review benefits, coverage levels and remaining maximums and deductibles; check the status of processed claims and claim payments; and sign up for electronic explanation-of-benefits statements. (Courtesy of TRDP)

Online ID card services available for retirees

Retired Airmen can now complete tasks online that were normally done in person at an ID card office using IDCO, or ID Card Office Online.

IDCO is a self-service application developed at the Defense Manpower Data Center that



(Courtesy photo)

allows retirees to perform a myriad of tasks such as updating a family member's contact information and authorizing an ID card replacement.

Retired sponsors with a valid Department of Defense self-service logon credential, called a DS Logon, may now perform all family member transactions using IDCO, including electronically signing the DD Form 1172-2, Application for Identification Card/DEERS Enrollment, for their family members online. Once electronically signed, the family member may visit his or her local ID card office and be issued an ID card without their sponsor present.

The ID Card Office Online web application is accessible from

milConnect at <http://milconnect.dmdc.mil>. Retired Airmen may obtain a DS Logon account at an ID card facility during the ID card issuing process; online anytime at <https://myaccess.dmdc.osd.mil/>; or by visiting a participating Veterans Affairs regional office.

Click [here](#) to locate the nearest VA regional office online. Locations for the nearest ID card issuing facility can be found at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rs/>.

In addition to IDCO, DS Logon provides retirees access to more than 30 partner websites such as myPay, TRICARE Online and eBenefits. (Courtesy of DEERS)

NDOSM eligibility extends to more units

In 1992 and 1993, the primary nuclear Air Force mission was transferred from Norton Air Force Base to Travis AFB, both in California. It has been determined that Airmen assigned to the two 141st flying squadrons, plus the operations support and the maintenance squadrons, during this time are now eligible for the award of the Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal.

There are two ways veterans of these units can request award of the medal. They can write a letter to the AFPC recognition office at:

**HQ AFPC/DP1SP
(Recognition Office)
550 C Street West
JBSA-Randolph TX 78150**

They can also complete a Standard Form 180 – available online at <http://www.archives.gov/research/order/standard-form-180.pdf> -- and mail it to the address on the form.

To speed up the process, veterans should attach documentation to verify they were part of these units; otherwise, there will be a delay as AFPC staff will need to request official personnel records from the National Personnel Records Center.

Once verified the NDOSM will be awarded to the veteran and his or her DD Form 214 will be updated to reflect the award.

For more information, go to [MyPers](#). Select "search all components" in the drop down menu and enter "NDOSM" in the search window. More information is also available on the Air Force Retiree



Eligibility for Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal expands.
(Courtesy graphic)

Services website by clicking [here](#).

Guard and Reserve retired and separated Airmen and their family members may also contact the Air Reserve Personnel Center at 800-525-0102 for assistance.

Many facilities now require appointments for ID card services

Many ID card issuing facilities now rely on set appointments rather than walk-in service.

Appointments help resolve customer traffic and wait-time issues.

All retirees and family members can find the nearest ID card issuing facility by clicking [here](#) and entering a ZIP code.

Retired Airmen do not have to visit a facility on an Air Force or sister-service installation to schedule an appointment.

The website allows people to make an appointment online, or provides information on how to schedule an appointment.

People without Internet access can call the Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102 to determine the nearest facility and contact information.

Retiree survivor's guide outlines general information about benefits

A Retiree Survivor's Guide to Benefits is available on the [Library page](#) of the Air Force Retiree Services website.

This guide provides general information about most federal benefits and entitlements available to eligible family members of deceased retired Airmen, and it explains various application processes. People can direct specific questions to the government agency administering the benefits or discuss these matters with an Air Force casualty assistance representative.

Government agencies outside the Air Force administer most of the benefits discussed in this guide.

This guide is designed to provide general information on most federal benefits and privileges people may be entitled to as survivors of a deceased Air Force retiree. In addition, it contains a list of important necessary documents (see Section H), and a Benefits/Entitlements Checklist (see Section I).

A letter unites pair 25 years later

by Mike Raynor

Air Force Special Operations Command Public Affairs

HURLBURT FIELD, Fla. (AFRNS) -- Bringing a little holiday cheer to an unknown service member was all an 8-year-old boy was trying to do 25 years ago.

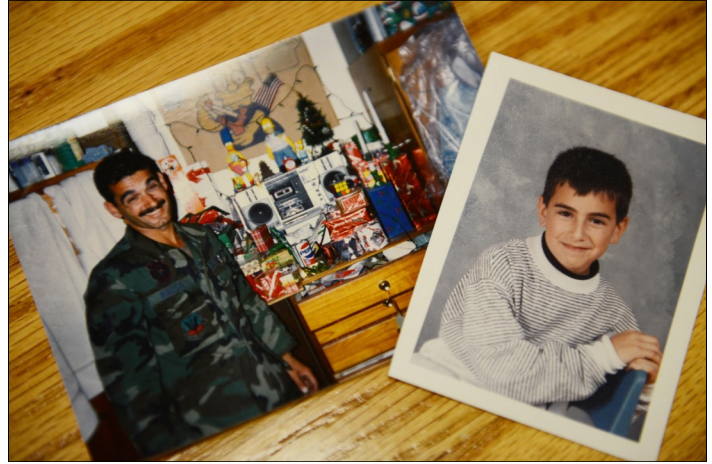
A single letter united a pair of Air Force veterans, and the handwritten greeting made its way back to its author -- now an Air Force major -- at Hurlburt Field on Jan. 25.

It started 25 years ago, when students from Fulmar Elementary School in Mahopac, New York, wrote letters to military members who were deployed and supporting Operation Desert Storm.

A young Stephen Rausa started his letter anonymously with "Dear Any Service Member," and ended it with "Please try to write back." As he sealed his letter, he never knew for sure if he would receive a response.

He never dreamed that he would get back a letter from someone with such a familiar name.

"There were a lot of letters boxed up, all addressed to 'Any Service Member,'" recalled retired Master Sgt. Ben Rausa. "As I dug through the box, a return sender's name caught my eye. He had the same last name as me. Rausa isn't a very common name."



While deployed to Operation Desert Storm in 1990, retired Master Sgt. Ben Rausa and then 8-year-old Stephen Rausa, (not related) began exchanging letters. (U.S. Air Force photo/Mike Raynor)

Ben wrote back to his new little friend, and they started an unlikely relationship.

"Getting that letter from someone with the same last name was so cool," Stephen said. "My entire family was sitting at the table, and they were all floored, in that loud Italian way. Everyone thought we must be related somehow, someday."

They exchanged a couple of letters with photos, but over time they lost track of each other. They sporadically

See **LETTER** on Page 9

Do not send address changes to *Afterburner* office

Please **DO NOT** send your U.S. Postal Service change-of-address announcements to the *Afterburner* office as the editor does not have the ability to make official address changes.

Mailing labels used to send out the *Afterburner* are based on addresses already on file with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service. Any change announcements sent to the *Afterburner* cannot be processed or forwarded, and are shredded.

Retirees must change their address by calling 800-321-1080. (Do not mention the *Afterburner* or you may be referred elsewhere.) If you have a [myPay](#) account you can make the change online. You can fax your change to 800-469-6559, or send it to DFAS, US Military Retirement Pay, PO Box 7130, London KY 40742-7130.

Air Force Survivor Benefit Plan annuitants must call DFAS at the number above, or use their online myPay account. The fax number for annuitants is 800-982-8459 or mail the change to DFAS, US Military Annuitant Pay, PO Box 7131, London KY 40742-7131.



(Courtesy photo)

LETTER — continued from Page 8

contacted each other, enough so that Ben knew Stephen was a pilot in the Air Force stationed at Hurlburt Field.

Today, Ben lives near Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida. With the anniversary of Desert Storm in January, he was determined to find his little pen pal from so many years ago.



Maj. Stephen Rausa with retired Master Sgt. Ben Rausa (not related) during their first meeting Jan. 25 at Hurlburt Field, Florida, since becoming pen pals 25 years ago. (U.S. Air Force photo/Mike Raynor)

"It got me thinking about bringing this around full circle and meeting Stephen and letting him have these old keepsakes," Ben said. "I guess I never really thanked him for the nice holiday letter."

The two finally met over lunch at the Soundside Club on Hurlburt Field.

"I was so excited to meet Stephen and see how far he has come," Ben said. "The Air Force has meant everything to me. I am happy ... to see he has chosen to be part of the Air Force family, too."

As the two caught up, they realized there are so many similarities in their family tree. Both trace their roots back to Sicily. One more notable coincidence is that Stephen's father was a crew chief with the 33rd Fighter Wing, stationed at Florida's Eglin Air Force Base in the 1960s. Sometime later, Ben was also a crew chief in the 33rd.

Although Stephen has been stationed here for several years, the friendship never fully rekindled until now.

"I certainly hope I stay in contact with him. I regret not reaching out sooner," Ben said.

By the end of lunch, the two made a standing promise to stay in touch -- whether by email or by telephone.

"I never really thought much about writing that letter back then," Stephen said. "But now it really makes you think about never passing up even the smallest of opportunities, you never know where it will lead 25 years later." (Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

Retiree personnel service available 24/7

The Total Force Service Center can deliver personnel services to the retiree family via telephone any time and from any location.

To reach a Total Force Service Center agent, call 800-525-0102 and select the menu option for retired military with personnel inquiries.

This number is available worldwide using the AT&T USA Direct global dialing codes at www.business.att.com/bt/dial_guide.jsp.



Defense Finance and Accounting Service officials urge all retirees and annuitants who have Internet access to sign up for an online myPay account because myPay provides faster service, security, accessibility and reliability to all DFAS customers worldwide.

People who have never used myPay should visit <https://mypay.dfas.mil> and click "Forgot or Need a Password" to have a temporary password mailed to them. Once a password is received, return to the myPay home page and click "Create an Account" to get started.

If you have trouble, call myPay at 888-332-7411 to speak to a customer service representative.



Air Force Retiree Activities Offices

Retiree Activities Offices are made up of retired volunteers from all services, including surviving spouses. Their charter is to coordinate, establish and staff an office on an active-duty, Reserve or Guard base through command channels that will assist retirees and surviving spouses with a myriad of actions.

These actions include: serving as an information center for TRICARE, base services, etc.; offering referrals for financial assistance and pay matters; counseling active-duty Airmen nearing retirement; and providing

guidance on retirement issues.

Another major activity involves working with base agencies to set up Retiree Appreciation Day events offering briefings by different agencies on respective services, tax preparation and advice (at selected locations); staff judge advocate assistance, base tours, Defense Finance and Accounting Service, etc.

Not all states or countries have an established Air Force RAO. The phone numbers and email addresses of RAOs Air Force-wide are listed below.

Alabama
MAXWELL
Phone: 334-953-6725
email: retiree.affairs@us.af.mil

Alaska
JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-
RICHARDSON
Phone: 907-552-2337
email: jerry.beale@yahoo.com

Arizona
DAVIS-MONTHAN
Phone: 520-228-5100
email: dmafbrao@us.af.mil,
355msg.rao@us.af.mil

LUKE
Phone: 623-856-3923
email: 56fw.rao@us.af.mil

Arkansas
LITTLE ROCK
Phone: 501-987-6095
Toll Free: 877-815-3111
email: 19.aw.cvr@us.af.mil

California
BEALE
Phone: 530-634-2157
email: nasva70a@hotmail.com

EDWARDS
Phone: 661-277-4931
email: 412tw.rao@us.af.mil

LOS ANGELES
Phone: 310-653-5144
email: rao.laafb@gmail.com

MARCH
Phone: 951-655-4077/4079
email: rao.riv@us.af.mil

MCCLELLAN
Phone: 916-640-8445/8446
email: george.moses@va.gov

MOFFETT FIELD
Phone: 650-603-8047
email: bfrench2905@gmail.com

TRAVIS
Phone: 707-424-3904
email: raotravis@yahoo.com

VANDENBERG
Phone: 805-606-5474
email: vandenber30swretiree-
activityoffice@us.af.mil

Colorado
BUCKLEY
Phone: 720-847-6693/9213
email: david.coellela.2@us.af.mil

USAF ACADEMY
Phone: 719-333-7877
email: thadeus.gembczynski@us.af.mil

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