



Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, December 11, 2016
Volume 7, Issue 46

This-N-That

Over the last few days USA Today managed to get their hands on and publish another “secret” list, a ranking list of all VA Medical Facilities nationwide.

Out of more than 140 facilities, only 10 were ranked the highest, a 5, meaning they’re the best where most are rated between a 2 and a 3 meaning not too good.

The San Diego facility had a high 4 rating until 18 months ago when it dropped to a 3.

The question now is why is this list secret? Why should Veterans not be made aware of the problems in the VA Medical Centers nearest them? Is this yet another way of Veteran population control?

And the facility that is still currently rated the worst and is of no surprise at all is the West Los Angeles VA Medical Facility under the control of Director Donna Beiter.

To find out more on this secret list, read this article:

[USA TODAY Publishes Secret VA Health Care Quality List](#)

This only adds to the most serious of problems in that 300,000 Veterans have died waiting to be taken care of! And of this 300,000 and estimated 8,030 committed suicide. Then add to that the number that seems to be so mysterious, our homeless Veterans.

The VA and most states seem to continually under estimate, but the various organizations trying to resolve the problem place this number at approximately 1.5 million homeless Veterans.

Most VA Staffers right along with all 535 members of Congress have become so complacent, and are feeling very protected that they won’t lose their jobs they flat out don’t give a damn.

One, Senator McCain of AZ who many of us thought would finally lose his seat, managed to pull off a miracle only because the residents of AZ wouldn’t put another person in that seat who just might do the will of the people and help protect our Veterans.

Senator Boxer of CA will be replaced by Kamala Harris who hasn't a single clue about anything regarding the VA or our Veterans, and I can almost assure you not a single one of the Nationally Chartered Veteran Service Organizations are speaking our with the exception of one, Disabled American Veterans. Why is that?

These are just some of the reason why we need ALL Veterans to speak out. I know you think members of Congress don't listen to you, but imagine if you will if we had 4 million plus Veterans flooding the offices of Congress with phone calls, faxes and E-Mails and preventing them from what they do best, lining their pockets, what we could accomplish!

If we had the 4 million plus Veterans all saying the same thing at the same time and flooding their offices, they would pay attention and do something positive for a change all just so they could get back to lining their pockets.

We (Veterans-For-Change) are always asking for you help, sadly I've only had maybe a little more than 100 people write me and ask what the talking points are and have sent the E-Mails and faxes and made the calls. And to all those people I sincerely thank you because we cannot do it alone.

And if you think the incoming President can do it alone, think again, it has and always will take WE THE PEOPLE getting involved and pushing issues to make things better.

On behalf of our Volunteers nationwide and myself, we wish you and your family good health and a Very Merry Chistmas!

Respectfully,

Jim Davis

Founder

Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change.org

Holiday Donor Blood Drive

The annual American Legion Holiday Donor Blood Drive lasts until Dec. 31. Legionnaires everywhere are encouraged to give blood and host blood drives at posts as part of The American Legion Blood Donor Program, an organizational effort that has existed since 1946. Posts interested in hosting blood drives can set one up by visiting the Red Cross' [blood drive registration page](#). For information on how to donate blood, visit the [American Red Cross website](#), the [American Association of Blood Banks website](#), and the [Council of Community Blood Centers](#).

The NDAA Conference Report has arrived ...all 3076 pages of it

Last week the House and Senate Armed Services Committees released the 2017 NDAA Conference Report. Then on Friday, December 2nd the House of Representatives passed the NDAA report 375 to 34. The Senate is expected to pass it this week so now we have to start studying its 3076 pages. We will probably be writing several articles on this as we get into the very important weeds. But now here are a few important provisions.

For those serving today there will be a 2.1% pay raise. This is .5% higher than that requested by President Obama. HASC Chairman Mac Thornberry (R-TX) said :“(This bill) provides the full pay raise to which the troops are statutorily entitled for the first time in six years.”

In total the bill authorizes \$134.6 billion in base funding for military personnel including pay, allowances, bonuses, death benefits and permanent change of station moves. (approx \$700 million less than the President’s request.) But it also provides an additional \$3.64 billion in OCO funding would be authorized for military personnel.

The big personnel changes occur in military healthcare. There are numerous changes. Hundreds of them, in fact. But the first thing that you should realize is **THERE ARE NO CHANGES TO TRICARE FOR LIFE (TFL). NONE** So if you use TFL relax.

For the rest of TRICARE beneficiaries there are numerous changes. TRICARE Prime stays pretty much the same. It is the military version of an HMO/managed care. And then they placed all the many different TRICARE programs (ex: TRICARE Standard, TRICARE Extra, TRICARE Young Adult, TRICARE Guard and Reserve into one TRICARE Select, a military PPO (a non-referral network system.) **ALL BENEFICIARIES OF TRICARE SELECT MUST ENROLL YEARLY IN THE PROGRAM.**

It places the responsibility of running the MTF’s into the Defense Health Agency (and out of the individual services.) It also

- Eliminates referral requirements for urgent care and ensure urgent care access for military families
- Extends care at Military Treatment Facilities (MTF) primary care clinics to 11 p.m.
- Enables retirees to purchase durable medical equipment at the DOD cost
- Standardizes appointment scheduling and first-call resolution when contacting MTF clinics
- Directs the creation of an online, device-accessible system.
- Requires Telehealth services to be available throughout the system

And this is just a few of the changes.

Source: TREA

More on TRICARE and the Affordable Care Act

With the implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) in 2010, TRICARE beneficiaries have had questions about how it will affect them. The ACA and TRICARE are very different, governed by two different pieces of legislation, so changes in one have no effect on the other. ACA is a law that was intended provide affordable health insurance options to everyone. TRICARE is not health insurance; it is a federal health care entitlement program only for eligible uniformed servicemembers including active duty and retired members. The ACA does affect civilian health insurance plans for most Americans, but does not apply to the TRICARE program. For more information about TRICARE, the ACA or minimum essential coverage, visit the [TRICARE website](#).



Navy to Test Clinics in Commissaries

Need medical attention? You might be able to do some grocery shopping while you're there, if the Navy's planned test of putting medical clinics in some commissaries is successful.

The test, which will take place in the Jacksonville, Florida, area, is in the planning phase. The clinics will be run by Navy corpsmen, said Vice Adm. Forrest Faison III, the Navy surgeon general, during a Dec.1 session at the conference of the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States, held just outside Washington, D.C.

"Those corpsmen who save lives on the battlefield need to be doing more than taking vital signs and pushing records in the records room," Faison said. "We're letting them run clinics in our commissaries to give them the clinical experience they need, to build confidence in patient care that they need."

Further information about the test – what types of care would be offered, whether appointments would be required, or the role (or interest level) of the Defense Commissary Agency or other service branches in the pilot, for instance – was not immediately available.

Along with providing experience for military medical personnel, the clinics also would offer convenience, helping keep young service members connected to military health care. Faison noted that service members and their families have more choices now with their health plan, "so our challenge is to get them to choose us, in an environment and with a generation that's driven by convenience."

Source: NAUS



Enact Defense Authorization Bill (S. 2943) into Law

Ask President to Sign NDAA into Law

The House and Senate have approved the FY 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA-S. 2943) and it will now go to President Obama to be signed into law or be vetoed. The Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter has recommended that the President veto the bill. FRA believes this NDAA is a good bill that dropped various TRICARE fee increases and pharmacy co-pay increases for current retirees from the final version. The bill also eliminates cuts to active duty Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH), and provides a larger than requested active duty annual pay increase.

Please use the Action Center to ask President Obama to sign the bill into law.

Click [HERE](#) to Take Action!

Walgreens returns to TRICARE Network; CVS in out

Starting on December 1st there has been another change in the TRICARE Pharmacy Network Now Walgreens is in and CVS Pharmacies whether standalone or in Target Stores are out. It is important to stop filling your prescriptions at CVS now or you will be charged the full retail price. We have written about this many times, we know but it is urgent that everyone knows this NOW.

For more details go to: <https://www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE/index.shtml>

Source: TREA

To Contact your Members of Congress

To Call your Representative: 202-225-2305

To call your Senator: 202-224-3841 or 202-224-3553

To call different members of Congress: 202-224-3121

Toll FREE Number: 866-272-6622

Private Label Brands Coming to Commissaries

Commissary customers worldwide will start seeing private label products on their stores' shelves in May 2017, with an initial assortment of about 400 items, officials announced today.

Defense Commissary Agency officials announced they have selected MDV SpartanNash, a long-time distributor of products to commissaries and exchanges, to supply the private label products to commissaries. They conducted "a rigorous selection process" to identify the supplier for the products, according to the announcement.

Private label products are sometimes referred to as "generic" products, usually costing less than national name brands. Many other grocer retailers offer private-label products, sold under their own, in-house brand

or under a brand developed by their suppliers. That includes the military exchanges, who have developed their own lines of private label products.

Over the next few months the commissary agency will work with SpartanNash to decide on an initial assortment. That assortment of about 400 items will be available to commissaries worldwide in May 2017 and will continue to grow to about 1,000 items by the end of 2017, officials said. Over the next two years, they'll add more products.

"Our customers have been asking for private label for a long time," said Joseph Jeu, DeCA's director and CEO, in the announcement. He cited a DeCA patron survey in which 60 percent of respondents said they would like to see commissaries offer private label products.

"They are smart, savvy shoppers who know that private label products are cost-effective alternatives to national brands," Jeu said. "We're excited to help them save more at our commissaries."

Source: NAUS



Program Helps Some Vets Avoid Child Support Issues

Child support payments can be a major issue, particularly for veterans experiencing or at risk for homelessness. To help veterans avoid the serious risks that come with falling behind on child support payments, Homeless Veteran Community employment coordinator Charles Franklin at the VA Boston Healthcare System began working with the Child Support Enforcement Division of the Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR/CSE). Starting in May 2016, the department's 50 volunteer case managers have been making regular visits to VA facilities in Brockton and Jamaica Plain, where they are available to meet with veterans. Together, veterans and their case managers map out a plan and set a payment schedule for their child support payments. For more information, read the [VA Vantage Point Blog](#).

Operation Mail Call

*Troops resting on long deployments
- your support matters*



Veterans-For-Change - Operation Mail Call

Operation Mail Call needs your help! We need cards and letters to send to our troops currently serving on foreign soil.

Our men and women in uniform often go months without hugging their children, walking through the park with a significant other or enjoying Mom's home-cooked Sunday dinners.

Ask them where they'd go if they had a free plane ticket anywhere in the world, and the overwhelming majority would say, "home."

Of course, we can't replace the hugs, the love or the secret family chili recipe – but with your help, we can provide them a connection to their fellow Americans who are grateful for their service.

Now, we're hoping you'll take your support to the next level by sending more cards and letters. Hand made cards by your children, or class mates are a terrific means of putting smiles on their faces even if only for a moment.

Cards and Letters of encouragement to help boost moral and let them know we sincerely appreciate the job they are doing and look forward to they day they are all brought home. Your card or letter will show your appreciation and help thousands more American heroes feel connected to the people they love and the country they serve.

Please help us to make a powerful expression of how much their fellow Americans care about them.

Thank you so much for all you're doing to show our service men and women they are appreciated missed and loved.

If you're a school teacher, please contact me at my E-Mail address at the top, our troops love to hear from kids too!

For more information, visit: <http://veterans-for-change.org/5439-operation-mail-call-2>

DOD Tried to Hide a Shocking Study About Its Wasteful Spending

According to a report in the *Washington Post* that was just released, the Pentagon wastes about \$125 billion – nearly a quarter of its annual budget – on back-office administrative functions. But because DoD officials feared this would cause Congress to cut its budget instead of giving it more money they buried the study and hoped it would never be revealed.

TREA has long advocated that the Department of Defense needs to be audited because of the huge amount of waste we believe takes place. The DoD, which has been under orders from Congress for years to get its books in order so it can be audited, kept making excuses and putting it off time after time. It is the only department of the federal government which has never been audited.

Amazingly, this study, done by outside businessmen, took less than a year to complete. According to the report in the *Post*, high ranking DoD officials had to intervene at times to get some information out of the bowels of the Pentagon because some people were trying to hide the information in the hope that the request would be forgotten and blow over.

The study identified ways DoD could save \$125 billion over five years. According to the *Post*, “The plan would not have required layoffs of civil servants or reductions in military personnel. Instead, it would have streamlined the bureaucracy through attrition and early retirements, curtailed high-priced contractors and made better use of information technology.”

And yet, instead of trying to save money DoD officials tried to bury the report.

The Pentagon has complained that retirees and uniformed personnel cost too much, and year after year it has proposed dramatic cuts in retirement pay and health care for retirees and active duty personnel. Fortunately, Congress has blocked many of those proposals, but last year a new retirement system was put into law that will force active duty personnel to fund part of their own retirement.

In addition, Congress is on the verge of overhauling the military health care system and forcing active duty personnel and some retirees to pay more for their health care. This is because health care costs are supposedly “eating the Defense Department alive” in the words of former Defense Secretary Robert Gates.

TREA is not happy with the increased costs of health care that have been forced upon active duty personnel and some retirees but we hope that this new report will at least take the steam out of the constant calls for more cuts in health care and other benefits that have become so constant in recent years.

Finally, we have proof that what’s actually eating DoD alive is the incredible waste in its administrative and other functions. This is a story that should receive nation-wide attention by the media. The Pentagon needs to be held accountable and they bureaucrats need to stop blaming military personnel for the high costs of its operations.

You can read the entire *Washington Post* story [here](#):

Source: TREA

American Samoa: Alternatives for Raising Minimum Wages to Keep Pace with the Cost of Living and Reach the Federal Level. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-83>

Hazardous Materials Rail Shipments: A Review of Emergency Response Information in Selected Train Documents. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-130>

Motor Carriers: Establishing System for Self-Reporting Equipment Problems Appears Feasible, but Safety Benefits Questionable and Costs Unknown. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-132>

VA Health Care: Improved Monitoring Needed for Effective Oversight of Care for Women Veterans. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-52>

Human Trafficking: State Has Made Improvements in Its Annual Report but Does Not Explicitly Explain Certain Tier Rankings or Changes. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-56>

Joint Intelligence Analysis Complex: DOD Needs to Fully Incorporate Best Practices into Future Cost Estimates. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-29>

Telecommunications: Information on Low Power Television, FCC's Spectrum Incentive Auction, and Unlicensed Spectrum Use. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-135>

Data Act: OMB and Treasury Have Issued Additional Guidance and Have Improved Pilot Design but Implementation Challenges Remain. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-156>

Federal Building Management: Building Disposal Authorities Provide Varying Degrees of Flexibility and Opportunities for Use. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-123>

DATA Act: Implementation Progresses but Challenges Remain. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-282T>

Littoral Combat Ship and Frigate: Slowing Planned Frigate Acquisition Would Enable Better-Informed Decisions. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-279T>

State and Local Governments' Fiscal Outlook: 2016 Update. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-213SP>

401(K) Plans: Effects of Eligibility and Vesting Policies on Workers' Retirement Savings. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-69>

Unemployment Insurance: Various Factors Affect Head Start and Other Early Childhood Teachers' Eligibility for Benefits. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-34>

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act: Selected States' Planning Approaches for Serving Job Seekers and Employers. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-31>

Youth with Autism: Roundtable Views of Services Needed During the Transition into Adulthood. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-109>

Drug Compounding: FDA Has Taken Steps to Implement Compounding Law, but Some States and Stakeholders Reported Challenges. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-64>

Emergency Funding for Ebola Response: Some USAID Reimbursements Did Not Comply with Legislative Requirements and Need to Be Reversed. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-35>

Highlights of a Forum: Preventing Illicit Drug Use.
<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-146SP>

Veterans Health Care: Improvements Needed in Operationalizing Strategic Goals and Objectives.
<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-50>

Veterans Health Care: Improvements Needed in Operationalizing Strategic Goals and Objectives.
<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-50>

Defense Business Transformation: DOD Should Improve Its Planning with and Performance Monitoring of the Military Departments. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-9>

Freight Rail Pricing: Contracts Provide Shippers and Railroads Flexibility, but High Rates Concern Some Shippers. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-166>

James Webb Space Telescope: Project Meeting Cost and Schedule Commitments but Continues to Use Reserves to Address Challenges. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-71>

Seafood Safety: Status of Issues Related to Catfish Inspection.
<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-289T>

Army Corps of Engineers: Better Guidance Could Improve Corps' Information on Water Resources Projects Undertaken by Nonfederal Sponsors. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-97>

Nursing Homes: Consumers Could Benefit from Improvements to the Nursing Home Compare Website and Five-Star Quality Rating System. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-61>

Information Technology: Improved Implementation of Reform Law Is Critical to Better Manage Acquisitions and Operations. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-263T>

Medicare Value-Based Payment Models: Participation Challenges and Available Assistance for Small and Rural Practices. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-55>

Permanent Funding Authorities: Some Selected Entities Should Review Financial Management, Oversight, and Transparency Policies. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-59>

Prescription Drug Labels: Actions Needed to Increase Awareness of Best Practices for Accessible Labels for Individuals Who are Blind or Visually Impaired. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-115>



NDAAs Address National Guard Bonus Scandal

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which passed the House of Representatives and is expected to pass the Senate early this week, contains a provision that deals with the National Guard bonus scandal that exploded in the last few days of the election.

It includes a provision aimed at ensuring “fair treatment” for California Guardsmen who have been targeted for recoupment of incentive bonuses paid to them roughly a decade ago by changing the burden of proof from the servicemembers who DOD was accusing of fraud to DOD itself.

While this seems like an acceptable fix on the surface, it is still unclear at this time what constitutes “fraud” from DOD’s perspective. Is it overt criminal activity, or simply the suspicion that the servicemember should have known that they were ineligible for the bonuses that they were offered?

Further, it does not address the tax implications of having a debt forgiven – the IRS considers that taxable income, which is unfair since the debt was created through no fault of the servicemember. Stay tuned for more information.

Source: TREA

Smoke a Joint in These States, But Not on Base

Voters in four more states gave approval for the legalization of recreational marijuana. But that doesn't mean bases in those states will OK the drug for use. Military families stationed at over 40 bases will be impacted by the new laws. And while it may be legal for spouses to smoke pot off base, military families still need to be careful about how and where they do it. Read more about what you need to do on [Military.com's SpouseBuzz blog](#).



TRICARE: Beware of Fraud

Fraudsters often target TRICARE beneficiaries. For example, they conduct fake surveys to collect personal information. They call saying they know you have TRICARE and want to let you know you qualify for a free or low cost knee brace or walker. They then bill TRICARE for services or supplies you do not need and never get. No one from TRICARE will ever recommend a particular product or medicine. If you think you are the victim of TRICARE-related fraud, report it to the [Defense Health Agency](#). Also, report when you think a provider or company is trying to defraud TRICARE. For more information about fraud, visit the [Health.mil website](#).



Veteran Crisis Resources

Veterans Crisis Line 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1
Military Crisis Line 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
National Call Center for Homeless Veterans
1-877-4AID-VET (424.3838)
VA Caregiver Support Line 1-855-260-3274

Pin-Ups for Vets

The 2017 Pin-Ups For Vets calendar features 24 female and male veterans, and 17 of them are American Legion members. The nonprofit organization Pin-Ups For Vets has produced World War II-style Pin-Up calendars for the past 11 years to support hospitalized veterans and deployed troops. The organization also raises funds to help improve health care for veterans, delivers gifts to ill veterans, sends care packages to deployed troops, and supports homeless veterans through clothing donations and the delivery of calendars to shelters. To order or donate a calendar, visit the [Pin-Ups for Vets store](#). For more information, visit the [Pin-Ups for Vets website](#) and following [Pin-Ups for Vets on Facebook](#).

Veterans-For-Change Web Site

The Veterans-For-Change website has been under construction since day one back in 2009 and every day since then. The looks pretty much stay the same, but in the background constant improvement and change is being done to make our website the most user friendly “One-Stop-Shop” website to find almost everything you might have tried to find searching the internet.

Almost a hundred people have been involved; collecting web links to documents now houses on the VFC website, collecting thousands of web links for various issues, illnesses and benefits. Creating forums for all eras of service and two forums one just for men and one just for woman where you can go question, comment, share medical and personal concerns, what ever you’d like it to be.

We also have a forum with a licensed Mental Health Worker, again where you can seek help or just ask questions.

We average 1,700 hits per day, and downloads average 1,400 per day with a total **3,112,208** visitors as of Friday.

If you subscribe you will have full access to the entire website and best of all it’s **FREE** of charge! You just need a valid E-mail address so the system can send you a confirmation E-Mail. Once received, click on the link to be authorized automatically.

www.veterans-for-change.org

- Documents Library with over 15,739 documents on-line (Updated: **11/09/16**)
- FAQ’s with more than 1,600 FAQ’s and answers (Updated: **02/20/16**)
- Multiple Forums
- Job Postings (Updated: **09/15/16**)
- Memorial Pages (Updated: **10/10/16**)
- News (Articles On-Line: **6,199**)
- Polls
- Web Links, more than 3,494, Added 1 New Links (Updated: **12/08/16**)

If you have a submission for the memorial pages, E-Mail: Jim.Davis@veterans-for-change.org

Military Divorce Retirement, Pension Rules Change

A change included in a new law governing the Defense Department alters military divorce retirement rules, making things more fair for the divorcing service member while still protecting the financial interests of the divorcing spouse. For more details, see [this Spousebuzz post](#).



<https://twitter.com/Veterans4Change>

Links to Other Stories

- 1) *"Launch Pad" event brings together greatest minds in cancer care to serve Veterans, community*
- 2) *For Marines who carry their own to burial: 'The last to let you down.' - U.S.*
- 3) *Homeless Veterans Personal Scorecard was the Key*
- 4) *IG Report: 300,000 Veterans Died While Waiting for Health Care at VA*
- 5) *Keys to Progress program helps homeless Veterans get ahead*
- 6) *Mandeville man sentenced to 9 months for theft of VA benefits*
- 7) *Medical School Association Praises VA's New National Veteran Health Equity Report*
- 8) *Obama to sign Fairness for Veterans Act*
- 9) *OSS Congressional Gold Medal Act Passed By Congress*
- 10) *San Diego VA hospital is a 3 out of 5 in secret rating system*
- 11) *Transformation of the VA Needs to Begin at the Local Level*
- 12) *USA TODAY Publishes Secret VA Health Care Quality List*
- 13) *VA National Cemeteries Now Offering Pre-Need Eligibility Determinations*
- 14) *VA Now Withholds Healthcare Quality Data In Violation Of Law*
- 15) *VA staffers listen to concerns about Veterans Choice*
- 16) *VA Works with Veteran-Run Company ID.me to Offer Veterans More Secure, Convenient Online Services*
- 17) *World AIDS Day 2016: VHA focuses on Veterans and HIV Prevention*

You can help VFC by reading articles posted and commenting at the bottom and rate the articles. If you don't have an account, sign up today, it's FREE. Your comments and rankings tell us what type of information you want most.

Check us out today: www.veterans-for-change.org

3 Things to Know: New Concealed Carry Rules

New concealed carry rules governing troops on base have been released by the Defense Department. The good news is that, thanks to the policy, troops may be able to carry private weapons while off duty. The bad news is that permission is not automatic, and the policy only applies to service members, not their families. Read more about what you need to know on [Military.com's SpouseBuzz blog](#).

How to Protect Your Identity When Buying a House

Applying for a mortgage can expose your data to cyber thieves. [Learn how to protect yourself and your identity during your search for a new home](#).



Are you seeking employment? Been looking and not found the right job?

Well Veterans-For-Change is working hard to bring you more information on Job Fairs and Job postings available across the country.

<http://veterans-for-change.org/documents-library/category/167-job-fairs-job-postings>

If you're an employer and have a job to post, send an E-Mail to: Jim.Davis@veterans-for-change.org



Deployed Sailors and Marines Get Free Holiday Calls Home

In what's become an annual tradition, the Navy Exchange Service (NEXCOM) plans to hand out free phone cards to sailors and Marines who are away from home over the holidays. The AT&T cards, worth \$10 each, will be given to almost 33,000 sailors and Marines on 62 ships and submarines, NEXCOM officials said in a release. The cards can be used with the Afloat Personal Telecommunications Service system, the Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS) system or ashore anywhere in the U.S. or overseas where AT&T has a presence, officials said in a release. For more details, see [this Spousebuzz post](#).

**“We Proudly Support our
Military Personnel & Families”**

House Veterans’ Affairs Committee Get New Leadership

Last week it was announced that the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee (HVAC) would be chaired in the upcoming 115th Congress by Congressman Phil Roe (R-TN). Congressman Roe, who has been in Congress since he was first elected in 2008, served in the Army and retired as an obstetrician/gynecologist. He also spent time training at a VA hospital in Memphis and worked in consultation with the VA to see veterans in his private practice. He replaces the current HVAC Chairman Jeff Miller (R-FL).

Soon-to-be-Chairman Roe has long been a strong advocate for veterans while serving on HVAC, and TREA: The Enlisted Association is proud to work with him to reform the VA system so that it serves veterans better.

The HVAC Ranking Member position has not been decided yet, but it comes down to Acting Ranking Member Mark Takano (D-CA) running against Congressman (and TREA: The Enlisted Association Life Member) Tim Walz (D-MN), a retired Sergeant Major in the Minnesota National Guard who is also the highest-ranking enlisted person to ever serve in Congress.

We will keep you updated on the outcome. The Senate has not announced the new chairman of the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee, but Senator Jon Tester (D-MT) is going to be the new Ranking Member, replacing Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT).

Source: TREA



If you received this newsletter as a courtesy or a forward from a friend or relative, you can sign up to receive in your E-mail every week.

<https://gem.godaddy.com/signups/193302/join>



Veterans-For-Change, Inc.

Riverside County, CA

Visit our website today

www.Veterans-For-Change.org

Serving those who served!

Please pass on to all your Veteran Friends and Family

Distribution	
Express Mail	144,670
Boston	74,168
Courtesy Copies	3,500
Department of VA	12,186
DoD	19,638
Face Book Pages	3,394
Google	21,685

Los Angeles	131,134
Microsoft	3,619
National Guard	2965
New York	153,939
Other Social Media	37,639
San Francisco	77,033
Twitter	37
US House of Reps & Staff	902
US Senators & Staff	102
University of So. California	4,792
US Air Force	15,311
US Army	41,351
US Marines	25,569
US Navy	21,065
Veterans	19,075,566
Washington DC	139,896
Yahoo	134
	20,010,295

Please do not reply to this E-Mail, this is an unattended E-Mail address, please send all correspondence to: Jim.Davis@veterans-for-change.org