

AFA Texas News

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**Official Newsletter of Air Force
Association Texas**

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The Air Force Association is a civilian, nonprofit aerospace organization, and is privately operated and financed. Our mission is to advocate and support the men and women of the United States Air Force, to educate the members and the public at large as to what these men and women do, and to advocate and support the military preparedness of the United States in order to maintain the security of this nation and its allies.

Fall Texas State Meeting

The Fall Texas State AFA meeting was held via conference call on 2 November

Fall 2019

Future Meetings

Spring 2020: San Jacinto

Summer 2020: Seidel

Fall 2020: Online Meeting

Spring 2021: Austin

Summer 2021: TBD

Terry Thomas - Receives first-ever, Texas Air Force Association (AFA), President's Citation:

CMSgt (Ret) Terry Thomas received a President's Citation from Texas AFA Vice-President, Paul Hendricks. Hendricks spoke about the newly created award and how Terry was a perfect fit for its intent with his lifelong achievements in chapter 416 and Texas State level AFA.

Thomas has local positions in Chapter 416 of President, and others, as well as been the long-standing Vice President for Community Partners. He also held various state level positions and has been sought out for advice and counsel from local, state, and national level people for his programs and efforts.

Vance Clarke, President 416, said that it was a labor of love nominating Terry for this prestigious award. The Texas AFA Board determined it did not have an award that warranted these accomplishment's and created the new President's Citation.

This memento represents thousands of hours of time and energy donated to Advocating, Educating, and Supporting our AFA Association as well as our US Air Force.



Fall State Meeting Notes

State President: A special thanks to those members who attended the National Convention. AFAs Strategic Plan will be updated this year.

Region President: Start working on the chapter reports due in January. Check AFA online for references. AFA Field Operations Guided is on website. State plans need to be consistent with the national plan.

Unfinished Business: AEF Texas scholarship status. CAP is due in March. AFROTC should go out by the end of the year. Great deal of information on CAP, ROTC, Silver Wings on the AFA website.

New Business: Zip code realignments. Starting to put Denton Chapter members into more active chapters. No plans to close the chapter at this time.



AFA National News

Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)

When planning your IRA withdrawal strategy, you may want to consider making charitable donations through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). The GDVDP qualifies as a QCD. A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA custodian, payable to a qualified charity. QCDs can be counted toward satisfying your required minimum distributions (RMDs) for the year, as long as certain rules are met. You must be 70½ or older to be eligible to make a QCD. Funds distributed directly to you, the IRA owner, and which you then give to charity do not qualify as a QCD. QCDs don't require that you itemize, which due to the recent tax law changes, means you may decide to take advantage of the higher standard deduction, but still use a QCD for charitable giving

RPA Building Dedicated to Ollie Crawford

The Air Force's sole center for undergraduate remotely piloted aircraft training, located at JBSA-Randolph, Texas, was renamed "Crawford Hall" on Nov. 13 in honor of the late Ollie Crawford, a World War II pilot and Air Force Association charter member who went on to lead the organization as national president and chairman of the board. "Crawford was instrumental in the formation of the Air Force Memorial Foundation and his efforts led to the dedication of the Air Force Memorial in Washington, D.C., in October 2006," according to a USAF release. Crawford was also known—among other accomplishments—for encouraging the Air Force to formally recognize the efforts of the Flying Tigers, an American volunteer group in China, in the lead-up to WWII; for helping to get the Commemorative Air Force's P-40 Warhawk restored; and for becoming the oldest recipient of a U-2 Dragon Lady orientation flight at age 84. Crawford died on July 21 in Texas. He was 94.

James Clark, director of Air Force warfighting integration capability, who said he led the charge to immortalize Crawford at Randolph, called him "one of the most gracious, giving gentlemen I've had the honor to know," in a Nov. 8 interview with Air Force Magazine. "He always concentrated on the warfighter, on the airman, ...and, you know, he loved aviation, but [he had] a true and abiding passion for our airmen and taking care of those airmen, and I saw that firsthand on many, many occasions," said Clark, who also spoke at the Nov. 13 ceremony. Retired Maj. Gen. Douglas Raaberg, who serves as AFA's executive vice president and was also among the ceremony's keynote speakers, said Crawford's life was characterized by passion.

"Ollie Crawford represents the passion for his service and for his service to his nation," he said. "If every airman could have just a thimbleful of that passion that he had and strongly believed in, it'd be even more powerful for our Air Force and for our joint forces and our nation today." Raaberg said that honoring Crawford in this way also pays homage to AFA. "Personally and professionally, it's a dedication to the Air Force Association, and Ollie would want it that way, as well as to his Air Force and to all his allied partners that he flew with and worked so closely with," Raaberg said. The 558th Flying Training Squadron, which heads up all undergraduate RPA pilot and sensor operator training for USAF and the Marine Corps—including three courses taught in the newly dedicated building—produces 440 pilots and 440 operators each year, AETC told Air Force Magazine.

"We at the 558th are honored that our one-of-a-kind mission can be represented by a one-of-a-kind hero like Col. Ollie Crawford," 558th FTS Commander Lt. Col. Eric Bissonette told Air Force Magazine via email.

Clark said the airmen who pass through Crawford Hall have its namesake to thank for it.

"They're there because of the legacy of great airmen like Ollie Crawford that made our Air Force possible today, and they are part of a very proud legacy that we hope they will continue," he said. "I know that Ollie would be proud of those young RPA operatives coming out of Crawford Hall."

AFA 2019 National Award Winners

NAME	AWARD	CHAPTER
Kelly Jones	AFA Chairman's Award	
John Campbell	Medal of Merit	Seidel
Jennifer Deinhart	Medal of Merit	Alamo
Joel Hatch	Medal of Merit	Northeast
Thomas Peterson	Medal of Merit	Alamo
Deb Landry	Exceptional Service Award	Alamo
Mitzi Morrison	Exceptional Service Award	Donnelly
Molly Mae Potter	Exceptional Service Award	Austin
Seidel Chapter	Outstanding Chapter Award	
Northeast Chapter	Community Partner Gold Award	
Abilene Chapter	Chapter Growth Award	
Denton Chapter	Chapter Growth Award	
Fort Worth Chapter	Chapter Growth Award	
Northeast Chapter	Chapter Growth Award	

Photos from AFA 2019 National Conference



News You Can Use

Military Retirees & Veterans Events Schedule As of 1 NOV 2019

The Military Retirees & Veterans Events Schedule is intended to serve as a one-stop resource for retirees and veterans seeking information about events such as retirement appreciation days (RAD), stand downs, veterans town hall meetings, resource fairs, free legal advice, mobile outreach services, airshows, and other beneficial community events. The events included on the schedule are obtained from military, VA, veterans service organizations and other reliable retiree/veterans related websites and resources. The current Military Retirees & Veterans Events Schedule is available in the following three formats. After connecting to the website, click on the appropriate state, territory or country to check for events scheduled for your area. •

HTML: http://www.hostmtb.org/RADs_and_Other_Retiree-Veterans_Events.html. • PDF: http://www.hostmtb.org/RADs_and_Other_Retiree-Veterans_Events.pdf. • Word: http://www.hostmtb.org/RADs_and_Other_Retiree-Veterans_Events.doc. Please note that events listed on the Military Retirees & Veterans Events Schedule may be cancelled or rescheduled. Before traveling long distances to attend an event, you should contact the applicable RAO, RSO, event sponsor, etc., to ensure the event will, in fact, be held on the date\time indicated. Also, attendance at some events may require military ID, VA enrollment or DD214. Please report broken links, comments, corrections, suggestions, new RADs and/or other military retiree/veterans related events to the Events Schedule Manager, Milton.Bell126@gmail.com. [Source: Retiree/Veterans Events Schedule Manager | Milton Bell | October 31, 2019

TRICARE Website:

DoD Medical Facility Microsites Four of the largest military hospitals have new pages (microsites) on the Tricare website an early step in a transition that will move the Defense Department's medical facilities under the Defense Health Agency. • Fort Belvoir Community Hospital in Virginia • Naval Hospital Jacksonville in Florida • Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Maryland • Womack Army Medical Center in North Carolina The newly launched microsites on <https://www.tricare.mil> have easy tabs to access the Tricare portal and view the hospital's directory. "We hope this change to the website will make it easier for you to find information about your benefit and get care," Karen Roberts, Defense Health Agency deputy director of communications, said in a news release. "You won't have to learn a new website every time you move to a new location." The Tricare website's expansion is part of an ongoing consolidation of medical treatment facilities under the Defense Health Agency. Lawmakers hope the change will allow the individual service branches to focus on military readiness and keep costs down. By the end of the transition, in 2021, more than 350 individual military hospital and clinic websites will be hosted on the Tricare.mil website, officials said. All the websites have the same blue horizontal menu with links to make an appointment and review Tricare options. Womack Army Medical Center so far is the only website with forms to download other than the Active Duty Dental Claim Form, and Fort Belvoir Community Hospital's directory under the "About Us" tab includes a maps in addition to departments' phone numbers and hours. The directories on each site contain listings ranging from medical services like dentistry and cardiology to shops like Starbucks, Subway or the flower shop. [Source: Military.com | Dorothy Mills-Gregg | 18 Oct 2019 ++]

Free Cash Scam False Promise of Unclaimed Rewards Free cash you didn't know you had?

It sounds like a dream come true, but it's actually a trick many consumers have reported to BBB.org/ScamTracker. In this scheme, con artists use the false promise of unclaimed rewards to fool consumers into giving up their credit card information. How the Scam Works • You receive a postcard in the mail, an email, or a message on social media stating you have an unclaimed reward that can be redeemed with major retailers, such as Walmart and Target stores. According to the message, your reward is worth \$100 dollars or more. But you had better act quickly, because you only have a few more days to redeem it. You are given a phone number to call to find out how to get your reward. • When you call, you are asked for personal information in order to "confirm your identity." Con artists may ask you for your name, address, government ID number, or other sensitive details. Once your identity is confirmed, you may be asked to pay a small fee to cover mailing costs. Now, the person needs your debit or credit card number. Scammers will have gained access to your personal information and may attempt to make fraudulent charges using your card information. And, of course, your "unclaimed money" will never arrive because it never existed. Tips to avoid this scam • Think you have unclaimed assets? In the United States, there is no central place to look for unclaimed assets. Unclaimed.org has links to resources for each US state (and some Canadian provinces). In Canada, unclaimed balances are transferred to the Bank of Canada, where residents can claim them. • Be wary of unsolicited correspondence. If you receive an unsolicited letter, phone call, email or any other kind of correspondence from a stranger, be careful! Most legitimate companies will not contact you this way unless you have previously given them permission to do

so. • Never give your personal information to strangers. Never give anyone you don't know and trust access to any of your personal information. This includes your full name, phone number and address, your ID numbers, and your banking information. For More Information To find out more about how to protect yourself from scams and con artists, visit www.BBB.org/ScamTips. In the United States, learn more about unclaimed money and how find it at USA.gov/unclaimed-money. If you've been the victim of a scam, help others avoid the same fate by reporting your experience on the www.BBB.org/ScamTracker. [Source: BBB Scam Alert | October 11, 2019 ++]

Passports

Passports are available to family members free of charge for the purpose of visiting their loved one's grave or memorialization site at the American military cemeteries on foreign soil.

TSA

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) offers expedited screening to severely injured members of the U.S. Armed Forces. In addition to offering curb to gate service for our nation's Wounded Warriors, these individuals will also be eligible to move through security checkpoints without having to remove shoes, light outerwear jackets or hats.

Tricare Pharmacy Copay Update 19:

More on 1 JAN 2020 Increase At the beginning of 2020, TRICARE recipients will see an increase of up to 40% or slightly more to their prescription drug copayments. The 2018 defense authorization act mandates price increases for drug copayments under the insurance plan. TRICARE recipients can expect to see increases when ordering through mail-order pharmacy Express Scripts. Copayments for 90-day supplies of generic medications will increase from \$7 to \$10. Brand name drug copayments will increase from \$24 to \$29 and non-formulary drug copayments will increase from \$53 to \$60. Prices will go up when buying drugs at an in-store pharmacy as well. Brand name medications for a 30-day supply will increase from \$28 to \$33 and generic drugs will increase from \$11 to \$13. Non-formulary drugs will see the same bump as mail order copays, \$53 to \$60. There is one way to skirt the fees, however. Prescriptions filled on base are free. "Military pharmacies and TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery will remain the lowest cost pharmacy option for TRICARE beneficiaries," Air Force Lt. Col. Ann McManis of the Defense Health Agency pharmacy operations division said in a statement last year. Service member advocacy groups were not pleased when the cost bumps were announced. "The added cost sounds minimal compared to what a lot of civilians pay," said Karen Ruedisueli, deputy director of government relations at the National Military Family Association. "But you have to keep in mind a couple of things. One is that they are introducing these fees at the same time that the new retirement system is rolling out." Congress decided to up prices because health benefits are starting to add up for the military. A Congressional Budget Office report stated that the Defense Department spent \$52 billion in health care for service members, retirees and their families in 2012. "The cost of providing that care has increased rapidly as a share of the defense budget over the past decade, outpacing growth in the economy, growth in per capita health care spending in the United States and growth in funding for DoD's base budget," the report states. The cost of providing health care to military members and their families rose 130% from 2000 to 2012, according to the report. The report also named expanded benefits, medical costs of wars and the increased use of TRICARE as causes that contributed to the cost increase. [Source: Federal News Network | Scott Maucione | October 4, 2019 ++]

TRICARE Podcast 527 Plan Costs

TRICARE Webinar – TRICARE/FEDVIP Open Seasons 2020 TRICARE Plan Costs -- If you're thinking about changing your health plan during TRICARE Open Season, you can now review 2020 TRICARE health plan costs at www.TRICARE.mil/costs. You can also download the 2020 TRICARE Costs and Fees Sheet for an additional cost reference when making a choice for next year. Remember, TRICARE Open Season begins on November 11th and ends on December 9th. At TRICARE.mil/costs, you'll be able to see copayments, enrollment fees, deductibles, and costs for TRICARE-covered services. You can also use the TRICARE Compare Cost Tool to view side-by-side comparisons for the various TRICARE plans. And you can compare 2020 costs to 2019 costs. If you have TRICARE For Life, remember that TRICARE Open Season doesn't apply to you. TRICARE For Life coverage is automatic if you have Medicare Part A and Part B. To make sure you have the latest Medicare cost information, visit the Medicare website at www.medicare.gov. To learn more about 2020 costs and open season, read the article, "Compare TRICARE Plan Costs to Prepare for TRICARE Open Season," at www.TRICARE.mil/news.