



Introducing . . . TRICARE for Life

The most sweeping improvements to the Department of Defense's healthcare system in nearly 30 years begin October 1, 2001. You will gain access to expanded medical coverage known as TRICARE for Life, as long as you are a uniformed services beneficiary who is Medicare eligible, and has purchased Medicare Part B.

- TRICARE for Life acts as a secondary payer to Medicare
- Claims filed automatically
- No monthly premium (except Medicare Part B)

Sound interesting? Please go to page 4 for more information on the TRICARE for Life program, as well as a schedule of briefings (page 3) where you can learn more about the program.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Introducing TRICARE for Life
- 1 Air Expo at Moffett Field
- 2 The Prez Sez – President's Column
- 2 Planes, Planes, & More Planes
- 3 TRICARE for Life Seminar Schedule
- 4 & 5 And Still More on TRICARE for Life
- 6 TRICARE Information Web Sites
- 6 Air Show Pictures
- 7 129th AHA Jackets Are Back!
- 7 Change of Address Information
- 8 Are You Missing in Action?
- 8 Board of Directors

Air Expo at Moffett Field

August 11 & 12, 2001

The 2001 Annual Air Expo at Moffett Field was held on Saturday and Sunday, August 11 & 12, 2001. At the request of the 129th Rescue Wing, the 129th Alumni & Heritage Association (that's us, gang!) sponsored five concession stands (interpretation: beer booths) during the air show. All five booths were staffed both days by members of the 129th AHA, the 129th RQW, and assorted family members. Proceeds will be split between the 129th AHA Scholarship Fund and the 129th RQW Foundation.

The crowds both days were quite large (and quite well behaved - considering the volume of beer and Smirnoff Ice we sold!). The Smirnoff MIGs flew impressive routines, as did the small acrobatic planes. An F-15, a Harrier FA-18, and an A10 Warthog showed their stuff, as well. What some pilots will do for a thrill! These guys were all very skilled and very impressive!

Static displays were plentiful and varied - ranging from a beautifully restored P-51 to FA-18 Harriers, little single-seat aerobatics planes, helicopters of many types and sizes, the 747 that carries the space shuttle, and the C-5 and C-17 cargo planes. Lots of great aircraft, lots of knowledgeable pilots and crew, and lots of kids (old and young) who know that flying is the greatest pastime of all!

Our own crews from the 129th RQW provided air drops - the PJs were right on target, of course - as well as demonstrations of mid-air refueling, line-drops, and other assorted rescue-related skills. The static displays of the C-130 and the H-60 were great and gave everybody a real up-close and personal look at the equipment and a chance to meet the great members of the 129th RQW.

All in all, a great weekend. Plan to attend next year!

The Prez Sez

The President's Column

CMS Ken Moore (Ret.)

Thank you to all the members of the 129th AHA, the RQW, and various and assorted family members who worked the beer booths during the Air Expo at Moffett Field. Although this was an opportunity made available on very short notice, response and support were great. The \$1,400 proceeds from this weekend will help fund our Scholarship Fund and will also be shared with the 129th RQW Foundation. Thanks to all of you for your time and hard work.

The Air Show Network, the organization behind the Air Show, is planning a weekend at Moffett FAF next year. Sponsoring concession booths seems to be a great fund-raising opportunity, and we are planning on participating again next year. With your support, perhaps we can manage to staff 2 or 3 more booths than the 5 we had this year, increasing our potential for income. We welcome your comments and ideas.

The Department of Defense has revamped the TRICARE program, and the new changes go into effect on October 1, 2001. During the month of September, there will be briefings on the new program, TRICARE for Life. Please plan to attend one of these meetings near you. The expanded program could be of great benefit to you. See page 4 for more details and for the briefing locations and dates.

Do you have your 129th AHA jacket yet? If not, they are once again available. Contact Don Delucchi (see page 7 for details) to place your order.

Due to ill health, Tommy Brooks has cancelled the September golf tournament. If all goes well, the next tournament will be scheduled for May 2002. Feel better soon, Tom.

Did you know you can access the newsletter on-line? The Alumni Association web site currently resides within the Wing web site. The Wing page with the table of organization lists the Alumni Association. This is the link to our site. We are currently working to develop a direct link to our site. More information will be available in the December newsletter.

Ken

Planes, Planes, & More Planes



Do you recognize this bird?



Didn't we used to have one of these, Dad?



Lunchtime for Fat Albert?



Thank You!

Champagne glasses were a class act. The star on them added icing to the cake. My thanks to you all for that. They are on display for all to see.

JCS

**Health Net Federal Services
TRICARE Region Ten & Region Twelve**

Area	TFL Briefings Location & Address	Briefings Dates / Times
Alameda / East Bay	Coast Guard Island Alameda Building 21, Room 115	September 13, 2001 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 p.m.
Beale AFB	Beale Base Theater	September 12 & 13, 2001 10:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.
Chico	Chico Area Recreation & Park District 545 Vallambrosa Avenue Chico, CA	September 21, 2001 10:00 a.m.
Merced	Atwater Community Theater	September 5, 2001 10:00 a.m.
Moffett Field	Moffett Training & Conference Center	September 7, 2001 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 p.m.
Monterey	Fort Ord Military Community Base Theater	September 29 & 30, 2001 10:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.
NAS Lemoore	NAS Lemoore Hospital	September 24 & 25, 2001 1:00 p.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Petaluma / North Bay	Coast Guard Training Center Petaluma Post Theater	September 20, 2001 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.
Redding	Veterans Hall 805 Yuba Street Redding, CA	September 27, 2001 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 p.m.
Sacramento	McClellan Theater	September 19, 2001 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.
Travis AFB	David Grant Medical Theater Auditorium	September 17 & 19, 2001 12:00 p.m. & 2:00 p.m.
Barstow	Marine Corp Logistics Base Oasis Club	September 11, 2001 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.
Camp Pendleton	Camp Pendleton South Mesa Staff NCO Club	September 15, 2001 9:00 a.m. September 17 & 18, 2001 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.
Fort MacArthur	Fort MacArthur Community Center Garden Room	September 19, 2001 9:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.
Laguna Hills	The Florence Sylvester Senior Center 23721 Mouton Parkway Laguna Hills, CA	September 18, 2001 1:00 p.m.
Los Alamitos	Los Alamitos Joint Force Training Base Theater	September 20 & 24, 2001 9:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Los Angeles AFB	Los Angeles Air Force Base Club Ball Room Area A	September 18, 2001 9:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.
March Air Reserve Base	March Air Reserve Base, Cultural Center (Old Base Theater) Bldg. 467	September 17, 2001 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Palm Springs	Mizell Senior Center 480 S Sunrise Way Palm Springs, CA	September 25, 2001 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.
Port Hueneme	Port Hueneme Base Theater	September 11, 2001 9:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Riverside	Air Force Village West "Residents Only"	September 14, 2001 9:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.
San Diego	MCRD Base Theater	September 10, 17, & 24 2001 10:00 a.m.
San Diego	MCAS Miramar Chapel	September 12, 19, & 26 2001 10:00 a.m.
Yuma	MCAS Yuma Chapel	September 25, 2001 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR UPDATES TO THESE SCHEDULES, PLEASE CALL 1-800-977-6753

TRICARE for Life - continued from Page 1

Eligibility

TRICARE for Life is provided to:

- Medicare-eligible military retirees, including retired guard members and reservists
- Medicare-eligible family members and widows/widowers (dependent parents and parents-in-law are excluded)
- Certain former spouses if they were eligible for TRICARE before age 65

Cost

There is no fee for TRICARE for Life. All you need to do is pay your monthly fee for Medicare Part B. Your monthly fee for Medicare Part B is automatically deducted from your Social Security check once you are enrolled.

Benefits

TRICARE for Life is comprehensive healthcare coverage for you and your eligible family members.

Services in Military Facilities - You may continue to obtain medical services at military hospitals and clinics. Under a program known as TRICARE Plus, some beneficiaries may be allowed to enroll for primary care at military facilities, based on local availability. Check with your local military treatment facility for details.

Services Payable by TRICARE and Medicare - In most cases, Medicare will pay first and the remaining out-of-pocket expenses will be paid by TRICARE.

Services Payable by TRICARE but Not Medicare, such as overseas care - TRICARE will pay and the patient will be responsible for an annual deductible and cost share.

Services Payable by Medicare but Not TRICARE, such as chiropractic services - Medicare pays as usual with TRICARE paying nothing. You must pay Medicare co-pays.

Services Not Payable by Medicare or TRICARE, such as most cosmetic surgery - You are responsible for the cost of non-covered services.

Registering in DEERS

To take advantage of this benefit, you and your eligible family members must enroll in Medicare Part B and have up-to-date information in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). As a retiree, you are registered in DEERS through the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), so any information updates are made through DFAS. Your family members with valid military ID cards are registered in DEERS, so updates must be made through DEERS. Contact DEERS at: **1-800-538-9552**. Update your information on-line at

<https://www.tricare.osd.mil/DEERSAddress/>

Medicare-eligible family members and widows/widowers 65 years of age and over who do not possess a valid military ID card will need to register in DEERS. To obtain a military ID card, contact your local military personnel office.

Enrolling in Medicare Part B

DEERS automatically notifies eligible beneficiaries within 90 days prior to their attaining the age of 65 that their medical benefits are about to be changed. They will ask you to contact the nearest Social Security Office regarding enrollment in Medicare. When you receive your initial information from Medicare, you will receive a Medicare Card indicating both Medicare Part A and Part B coverage.

If you only have Medicare Part A, you can enroll in Medicare Part B during the annual General Open Enrollment Period, which runs from January 1st to March 31st every year. Medicare Part B coverage will then begin on July 1st of the year in which you enroll.

For more information on enrolling in Medicare Part B, beneficiaries should visit the Social Security Administration online at www.ssa.gov; or call toll free: 1-800-772-1213; TTY/TDD: 1-800-325-0778.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

TRICARE for Life: www.tricare.osd.mil
1-800-DOD-LIFE (1-800-363-5433)

Legs #1 belong to Ed Boddington.

Legs #2 belong to Ken Moore.

TRICARE for Life - continued from Page 4

How Reimbursement works

When you receive medical care, your doctor or hospital will usually file a claim with Medicare since by law Medicare must pay your bills first. When Medicare receives your claims, they will determine if the services you received are a benefit and, if so, pay your doctor and/or hospital. Medicare will then automatically send your claim to TRICARE for payment of the remaining amount. The TRICARE payment will automatically be sent to your doctor or hospital. You will receive an Explanation of benefits from TRICARE indicating the amount they paid with a tear-off notice/appeal.

Receiving Care Overseas

If you and/or your family members are receiving health care overseas and are enrolled in Medicare Part B, you can take advantage of TRICARE for Life. Because Medicare typically does not provide benefits for medical care received overseas, TRICARE becomes your primary source of health benefits. TRICARE for Life will provide the same level of coverage afforded retirees under the age of 65 and you will be responsible for the same TRICARE cost shares and deductibles as under-65 retirees.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **When can I begin using this program?** October 1, 2001, as long as you and other eligible family members are enrolled in Medicare Part B and registered in DEERS.
- **Is there an annual fee?** There is no fee for TRICARE for Life.
- **Is TRICARE for Life a permanent program, or must Congress renew it each year?** TRICARE for Life is a permanent program.
- **I'm thinking about dropping my other health insurance (Medigap or other private insurance). What should I be aware of?**

More Frequently Asked Questions

- **I'm thinking about dropping my other health insurance (Medigap or other private insurance). What should I be aware of?** This is a personal decision. We suggest you carefully evaluate your health insurance needs to determine if you should continue purchasing coverage. If you have other health insurance and you drop it, keep in mind that you may not be able to get this coverage back if you change your mind. The other consideration is that according to some state laws you may not get back your annual premium.
- **When should I drop my other health insurance coverage?** If you choose to drop your coverage, the best time to do so is after you are entitled to TRICARE for Life.
- **How do I drop my other health insurance?** You will need to contact your other health insurance program for details on disenrollment. Remember to allow yourself enough time to disenroll so it coincides with the date you become eligible for TRICARE for Life.
- **If I keep my other health insurance, what happens?** TRICARE becomes the third payer.
- **Should I wait until October 2001, when TRICARE for Life begins to check my DEERS status?** No. Update your DEERS information as soon as possible to ensure a smooth transition to TRICARE for Life for you and your eligible family members.

Please see the listing of TRICARE for Life briefings listed on Page 3. Plan to attend one of these meetings to learn more about this expanded benefit provided by the Department of Defense.

More Air Show Pictures



Some of the Beer Tent crew!
John Ruppel, Ken Moore, Rose & Ed
Boddington, Myron Tejada & Joe Preciado

Who do these legs
belong to?



Come on, now!
Take a guess!

The answer is
hidden
somewhere in
the newsletter.
Find it if you can!



Is this how you spell TROUBLE?

For More TRICARE Info

On-Line Information Sites

If you would like more information, access the
TRICARE website:

www.tricare.osd.mil

If you are unable to access the TRICARE website, or
would like more information, try using the contractor
websites listed below.

TRICARE Golden Gate Service area: Northern
California

Foundation Health Federal Services, (800) 242-6788
http://www.fhfs.com/shared/select_region.asp?action=ChangeRegion&ps=bb

TRICARE Southern California Service area:
Southern California and Yuma, Arizona

Foundation Health Federal Services: (800)-242-6788
http://www.fhfs.com/shared/select_region.asp?action=ChangeRegion&ps=bb



If you do not have inter-net access, contact:

Col John L. Ruppel, Jr. (ret)
6718 Zerillo Drive
Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

(209) 869-2879

New to the Gang

Our Newest Members

SRA Roberto Aldape MSG Larry Avilla
MSG Ralph Heydeck SMS Roger Higby
LTC Steven James MSG Dennis Largo
LTC Bill Marion LTC Lori Marion

TSG Donald Zumsteg

Welcome!

Do you know someone who has been affiliated with the 129th RQW or its predecessor organizations - and is not a member of the Association? Let's get them signed up!

129th AHA Jackets Available

Customized with your name and rank!

After much searching we have found a new source of MembersOnly jackets - so we are once again taking orders for 129th AHA jackets. Order forms will be available at the Old Timers Luncheon.

Want to own a really distinctive jacket to show your affiliation with the 129th AHA? Order your navy blue, MembersOnly, summer-weight poplin jacket today. The left breast has the current wing patch and the original troop carrier group patch (now worn by the Rescue Squadron), with 129 AHA embroidered below. The right breast sports the Air Force Patch with your name embroidered below. Jackets are available for \$70 (\$35 deposit per jacket required).

Order your jacket from Don Delucchi at:

(925) 689-2683
or online at Nonononi@aol.com

Have you moved? Know a former member of the 129th who isn't a member yet?

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / CHANGE OF INFORMATION FORM 2001 Dues \$10.00

NAME: _____ SPOUSE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP+4: _____ + _____

TELEPHONE: _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

RANK: _____ 129TH SERVICE DATES FROM: _____ TO _____

Please complete the above information and mail to:
129th Alumni & Heritage Association
c/o Col John L. Ruppel, Jr. (ret)
6718 Zerillo Dr.
Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

**If your personal information has changed,
PLEASE USE THIS FORM AND NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY!!**

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION
AND
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

CCMS Ken Moore – (510) 656-1529 – kande@pacbell.net

VICE PRESIDENT

Ltc Jesse Craddock – (650) 968-0446 – B25jay@aol.com

SECRETARY - TREASURER

Col John L. Ruppel, Jr. – (209) 869-2879
J-L.RUPPEL@worldnet.att.net

DIRECTORS

CCMS Edward L. Boddington – (209) 536-1777

LTC(s) Cindy Kepple – (408) 241-2670

Cindy_kepple@yahoo.com

SMS Donald Delucchi – (925) 689-2683

Nonononi@aol.com

Col Tommy Williams – (650) 603-9129

Tommy.Williams@camoff.ang.af.mil

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Lynda Taft Fawcett – (916) 349-1019

LTFWCETT@hotmail.com

129th Alumni & Heritage Assn.
C/O Col John L. Ruppel, Jr. (Ret)
6718 Zerillo Drive
Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Are You Missing in Action?

Dead Letter Department

Have you moved recently - or not so recently? Do we have your correct mail and e-mail addresses & phone number? Please let us know when you move.

The newsletter is mailed out with a request for address correction. The post office does not forward the newsletter to you. They return it to us - and charge us 34¢. Then we update your file, put your newsletter in an envelope, put a 34¢ stamp on the packet, and mail it out to you. Total additional cost to the association is nearly \$1.00 per returned newsletter.

Please take a moment to remember the 129th AHA when you notify your correspondents of your new address. A member information form is included in every issue.

Col. John L. Ruppel, Jr. (Ret.)

6718 Zerillo Drive

Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

E-mail: J-L.RUPPEL@WORLDNET.ATT.NET

NON-PROFIT ORG.

US POSTAGE

PAID

RIVERBANK, CA

PERMIT #20

Have a safe Labor Day Weekend!