

Air Force Sergeants Association



September 07, 2007

Volume 2, Edition 31

*Protecting and defending the quality-of-life benefits for the "TOTAL AIR FORCE"
Enlisted Corps and their families since 1961*

ON "THE HILL"

On September 06, 2007, Mr. Jamie Robinson, Manager of Military & Government Relations, attended AFSA's monthly meeting with The Military Coalition, Inc. One of the topics discussed in the meeting involved Full Replacement Value Protection. It is important that our Airmen understand the difference between depreciated value coverage (DVC) and full replacement value (FRV). Also, that all claims must be filed within two years of delivery, with some exceptions.

The Transportation Service Provider (TSP) will provide the FRV for items lost, damaged, or destroyed while in the care of the TSP. In order to be eligible for the FRV you must complete, and submit, your DD Form 1840 or DD Form 1840R to the TSP within 75 days of delivery. Your claim must be submitted to the TSP within **nine** months of delivery.

The Military Claims Office (MCO) will provide DVC for items lost, damaged, or destroyed while in the care of the TSP. The MCO will provide this option to an Airman if they have filed a claim with the TSP and the claim was not settled within 30 days. Claims can be immediately transferred to a MCO for FRV if they meet the following criteria:

1. Notice that the TSP has made a final offer on the claim or denied it in full.
2. Notification by SDDC that the TSP is in bankruptcy.
3. Notification that the TSP DoD approval has been revoked, or contract terminated.
4. The TSP's failure to comply with the catastrophic loss provision in Paragraph 1.13 of the "Guidelines For Full Replacement Value (FRV)", and as verified by the MCO.
5. The TSP's failure to comply with essential items provision in Paragraph 1.14 of the "Guidelines For Full Replacement Value (FRV)", and as verified by the MCO.

To learn more about FRV and DVC, please visit the links provided below.

Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC)

<http://www.sddc.army.mil> (click on the "Full Replacement Value Protection" picture/link)

Guidelines For Full Replacement Value (FRV)

<http://www.sddc.army.mil/sddc/Content/Pub/38216//GuidelinesFRV.pdf>

COSPONSOR NUMBERS RISE: Several bills currently listed on our legislative summary have new cosponsors.

Compensation and Benefits

H.R. 89 -- Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), Combat-Related Special Compensation Act (38)

Reserve Component Issues

S. 648 -- Sen. Saxby Chambliss (R-GA) and **H.R. 1428**, Rep. Tom Latham (R-IA), The National Guard and Reserve Retirement Modernization Act (14) and (26)

Education Issues

S. 644 -- Sen. Blanche Lincoln (D-AR) and **H.R. 1102**, Rep. Vic Snyder (D-AR), Total Force Educational Assistance Enhancement & Integration Act of 2007 (16) and (69)

H.R. 1330 -- Rep. Chris Carney (D-PA), Extends time limit for use of education assistance by Selected Reserves (41)

H.R.81 -- Rep Bartlett, Roscoe G. (R-MD), Bartlett Montgomery GI Bill Act (2)

S. 22 -- Sen. Jim Webb (D-VA). Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2007 A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a program of educational assistance for members of the Armed Forces who serve in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001, and for other purposes. (19)

S. 723 -- Sen. Chuck Hagel (R-NE), Montgomery GI Bill Enhancement Act of 2007, A bill to provide certain enhancements to the Montgomery GI Bill Program for certain individuals who serve as members of the Armed Forces after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and for other purposes. (1)

Retiree Issues

H.R. 303 -- Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), The Retired Pay Restoration Act (143)

H.R. 690 -- Rep. Jim Saxton (R-NJ), Lowers minimum retirement age (109)

H.R. 1222 -- Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Keep Our Promise to America's Military Retirees Act (92)

H.R. 1223 -- Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Keep the Faith With the Greatest Generation Military Retirees Act (75)

H.R. 343 -- Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO), Military Retiree Health Care Relief Act of 2007, To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable credit to military retirees for premiums paid for coverage under Medicare Part B. (8)

Veteran and Survivor Issues

S. 326 -- Sen. Lincoln (D-AR) and **H.R. 2234** -- Rep. Farr (D-CA), The Disabled Veterans Tax Fairness Act of 2007. (28) and (90)

H.R. 784 -- Rep. Jim Saxton (R-NJ), accelerates SBP's age 70, 30 years "paid up" provision to October 1, 2007. (114)

S. 935 -- Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL) and **H.R. 1927** -- Rep. Solomon Ortiz (D-TX), repeal the requirement for reduction of SBP by DIC. (40) and (67)

H.R. 1115 -- Rep. Tom Latham (R-IA) and **S. 659** -- Sen. Chuck Hagel (R-NE), provide for death gratuity for certain members to be payable to a parent, brother, or sister. (30) and (6)

H.R. 1589 -- Rep. Brown (R-SC) -- This bill reintroduces the Military Retiree Survivor Benefit Equity Act. (71)

Health Care

H.R. 579 -- Rep. Chet Edwards (D-TX), Military Retirees Health Care Protection Act, (178)

H.R.1527 -- Rep. Jerry Moran (R-KS), The Rural Veterans Access to Care Act (11)

NOTE: Number of co-sponsors (#) is current as of 1400hrs, 06 Sep 07. Updates will be provided (as applicable) via our Capitol Hill Update line. You can also get up-to-date information from the Library of Congress at: <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

TOTAL FORCE NEWS

Notice from DFAS's August 2007 Retired Pay Newsletter...

In an effort to ensure military retirees and annuitants receive their pay on the payment due date, DFAS is highly recommending that all retirees and annuitants establish a Direct Deposit account either through the Direct Deposit System (DDS) or the International Direct Deposit System (IDD).

Both systems are safe and secure and avoid the risk of loss or delay in receiving pay via the mail. Payments arrive in your bank account on the same day they are released from DFAS and the Federal Reserve Bank.

There are three ways to establish a DDS account: 1) After accessing your retired or annuitant account in [myPay](#), using your LogonID and myPay PIN, select the Direct Deposit option to make your change. You need to provide a routing number, account number and whether the account is checking or savings; 2) through the Customer Contact Center by calling 1-800-321-1080; or 3) by request in writing mailed to:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service
U.S. Military Retirement Pay
P.O. Box 7130
London, KY 40742-7130

(Note: Annuitants, please mail to Box 7131)

To establish an IDD account, the retiree or annuitant must complete an enrollment package that can be obtained by accessing

<http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/eforms/of1199i.pdf>. DFAS Retired and Annuitant Pay officials urge enrollees to make sure the form is accurately completed and signed.

The retiree or annuitant can also call us and request a new enrollment form be sent to them. They do not need online access.

IRS E-mail Scam Alert

The IRS has issued an alert regarding e-mail scams promising a monetary reward for completing a survey, verifying your information, and/or accessing a link to gather details on your tax matters. The IRS does not initiate communication via e-mail. Many of the e-mail scams circulating have the IRS logo, a convincing disclaimer, and content that, if sent via another medium, would seem legitimate.

Please be advised, the IRS does not request personal or financial information via e-mail. If you do receive an e-mail claiming to be from the IRS, please forward the e-mail to phishing@irs.gov and call (800) 829-1040.

MEMBERSHIP HAS REWARDS

NEW! AFSA Members Only On-line Shopping Mall

Shop on-line with special member discounts from over 400 of the best in class retailers. Your purchases will also earn AFSA cash back rebates! It's a win-win situation!

Shop online at <http://shop.afsa.mallnetworks.com>

NEW! AFSA Members Only Wireless Center

Shop on-line for your NEW wireless phones and services! Enjoy special pricing, FREE phone offers and other AFSA Member-only incentives from all of your top wireless providers including: AT&T, Alltel, Nextel, T-Mobile, Verizon and Sprint! Compare all the available cell phones planes side-by-side. Fast free Fed-Ex shipping!

Free Phones for AFSA members! As an AFSA member you are eligible for free phones and accessories on selected products and savings up to \$100 on your next new phone at the AFSA Wireless Center.

To take advantage of these exceptional wireless offers, go to www.afsamobile.org or call (866) 416-3060 now!

AFSA Banking Center

- Earn higher rates on your deposits and enjoy all the convenience and flexibility of on-line banking—plus the benefits of traditional banking with the AFSA Banking Center. Developed exclusively for AFSA, the High-Yield Money Market Savings Account, Checking Accounts, and Certificates of Deposit offer great rates and you can choose from a wide variety of superior banking services, including online bill payment.

- Log on to www.afsahq.org to open your accounts and find out more.

- If you have questions please call 1-888-580-0041 or e-mail: customercare@afsabankingcenter.com.

Auto Rentals

- Alamo: Code 93804 (800) 354-2322
- Hertz: Code 0010635 (800) 654-6511
- Enterprise: Code: 16WAFSA, PIN: AIR
(866) 279-9963

Privacy Assist/Identity Theft Program

Go to www.afsahq.org and click on the "Privacy Assist" icon or call Bank of America at (800) 516-9561

GEICO AUTO INSURANCE & SERVICES

GEICO Eligibility and Options

- Persons of all grades can apply.
- Special percentage-off discounts in most states to qualifying members.
- Lowest rates to "safe" drivers.

- Choice of payment plans.

Other GEICO Services

- Homeowners Insurance.
- Customized Insurance on almost any type of vehicle.

AFSA/Marsh Affinity Insurance Programs

Marsh Affinity: (800) 882-5541

- Vehicle storage and other services.
- AFSA/GEICO: (800) 368-2734

Carlson Leisure Travel Services

(866) 428-7448 or www.afsahq.org

Inglewood Travel Consultants

- Individual or group and pleasure trips.
- Call AFSA/Inglewood Travel at (301) 858-0230, (410) 451-8470 or (800) 873-6446.

AFSA/Bank of America Credit Card

(800) 789-6262, or

www.afsahq.org

Pentagon Federal Credit Union

- Offers a variety of professional services to AFSA members such as various saving and checking options, auto financing and buying services, and much more at more than 20 locations worldwide.
- Call PFCU at (800) 247-5626.

AFSA/Bank of America Credit Card

- Platinum MasterCard available to qualifying members.
- Credit lines up to \$100,000.
- Automated account information.
- Call AFSA/Bank of America: (800) 789-6262 or log on to www.afsahq.org and click on the Bank of America icon.
- Plus: PRIVACY ASSIST—the MBNA identity theft protection service.

Scholarships

Go to www.afsahq.org and click on the “About” icon

Capitol Hill Update Hotline

(800) 638-0594 (dial 400 at the prompt)

Call any time!

This is the electronic version of one of AFSA's news publications. It is updated on a regular basis and is posted on the AFSA website (Editor's Note: No issue published during the Annual Professional Airman's Conference, Thanksgiving, week, Christmas/New Years Holiday period).