



REEMPLOYED ANNUITANT CADRE NEWSLETTER

January 2014

Happy New Year!

On behalf of the entire Reemployed Annuitant Program staff I wish you a most happy and prosperous 2014. We look forward to another successful year of the program and thank you for your past and future service and all that you do to help keep the program viable. Your participation and cooperation is essential to having skilled, trained employees help with the USACE mission when needed.

2014 Pay Raise

President Obama issued an Executive Order in late December granting a 1% across-the-board pay increase to federal workers paid under the General Schedule for 2014. This will be the first across-the-board pay increase for federal employees since federal employees received a 2% increase in January 2010. This means all RAC members in the GS pay system will receive a 1% increase in pay for work performed in 2014. Check out the OPM web site at www.OPM.gov and you can see the 1% pay raise calculation. RAC employees in the General Schedule are paid under the "Rest of the US" table.

Update Emergency Contact Information

Periodically we remind you to update your contact information: address, telephone numbers and email. We would also like to remind you to keep the information for your emergency contact up to date. Some of you have participated in the program for several years. If anything has changed for your emergency contact or any other contact data, please let Dorma Fox know right away. Dorma.J.Fox@usace.army.mil

Coming Soon! New RAO Website

I am pleased to announce that after several months of hard work we are very close to launching our new web site for the RA program. You will be able to access it to check our policies and answer questions you have about the program. We are putting the finishing touches on it now and will notify you when it is ready for you to use.

Renting a Vehicle While on Travel Orders

It is very important that you insure the rules of renting a vehicle for official duties are followed, including using the vehicle for official business only.

We have received some new guidance regarding insurance coverage for the rental of vehicles for official business. For most of you this involves renting motor vehicles for official business while you are on travel orders. If you use the Government travel card to rent the vehicle, VISA covers the insurance for the first 30 days. After 30 days or if you do not use the government travel card, the coverage is under the US Government Rental Car Agreement (Number 4). Federal employees are protected against liability for personal injury, death and property damage from use of the rental vehicle for as long as they have the rental vehicle for government purposes. Employee will not be covered if the vehicle is being used for a personal reason at the time of the accident. The coverage is as follows:

- \$100,000.00 for personal injury/wrongful death for each person/each incident not to exceed \$300,000 total.
- \$25,000.00 for property damage for each incident.

Here are some important things to remember:

- Since Carlson Wagonlit Travel Agency is our official travel agent, the rental vehicle should be obtained through that office. However, when it is not possible to do so, the rental vehicle can be obtained directly through the rental company. It is important that the employee provide travel orders and make sure that the government rental contract indicates that the government rate is being used or that the Government Administrative Rate Supplement (GARS) is being charged.

- It is particularly important if you pay for a rental vehicle with personal funds to ensure you have the contract include the statement "Government Rate" or "Government Administrative Rate Supplement (GARS)." This language should be on all rental contracts but especially on those where the Government Travel Card is not being used.

- If all else fails, and the incident exceeds the coverage under the US Government Rental Car Agreement and the Visa agreement, then the Federal Government would process any additional amount under the Federal Tort Claims Act, the government's "self-insurance" policy/statute.

Other Travel Guidance

1. When turning in a travel voucher for a rental vehicle, be sure the invoice shows the correct size of vehicle that is being charged per the travel order. Never get a vehicle above the size authorized on

your orders unless the company is willing to give the larger vehicle at the smaller size rate.

2. All receipts (particularly rental car and lodging receipts) must be legible.
3. If you interrupt a TDY tour, the voucher that includes the time you were away must have at least 2 days claiming lodging cost prior to the interruption and at least 2 days lodging cost after returning. If not, the voucher cannot be entered in CEFMS correctly and will cause reimbursement problems.
4. Do not include your social security number on your travel vouchers.
5. If you are flying and will be parking your POV at the airport, be sure the parking fee is not more than the roundtrip cost of a taxi from home to the airport. You will only be reimbursed the lower amount

Un-sponsored MyPay Apps

On July 13, 2013, an application called "MyPay DFAS LES" was released as a free application on the Google Play App Store. It is an un-sponsored application and was not created by Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS). Use of this app could potentially lead to compromised information, a loss of personal account information, and could result in the theft of funds. As a result, The DoD is reminding everyone not to utilize any third-party applications to access DFAS, MyPay, or Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) account services from mobile devices.

MyPay, DFAS's online portal to financial functions, does not have an official mobile application. Customers who wish to access MyPay from a mobile device should use the <https://mypay.dfas.mil/> web address. The site will recognize that it is being accessed via a mobile device and will render the mobile version of the website, making it possible to easily utilize MyPay functions.

You are advised that no official DFAS, MyPay, or TSP mobile applications exist and there are potential security risks of using third party applications.

Reminders

If you know someone who wants to apply for the program have them contact me from their personal email address at Timothy.D.Alderman@usace.army.mil . We accept applications from retirees only after they have retired. **DO NOT GIVE THEM A COPY OF YOUR OLD APPLICATION PACKAGE.** Every month we are terminating the appointments of 10-15 RA's for failure to maintain a current medical

clearance. We send multiple reminders. Please comply with this requirement on a timely basis. If you no longer wish to participate in the program, please let me know that. Don't just ignore the reminders.

Please do not reply to this email but contact the staff person listed on your contact sheet for specialized items.

Thank you for all you do. Pictures we have received recently are attached.

Timothy D. Alderman
Program Manager

RA's working in New York.



L - R Jasmine Foggie, FEMA PAC, USACE RA's: Ron Utley, Lon Koops, Judy McClendon, Jerry Lee, Jim Dunn, and Rickey Williams, Herkimer, Oneida, and Madison Counties, NY



Michael Williams and Bobbie Tew, Lockport, NY



Dave Berkey at 2 bay hangar project construction at Cannon, AFB, NM



The Squad Ops building at Cannon AFB that Dave Berkey shot from a man lift during a roof inspection of the FY11 2-Bay project. This picture was entered in the Albuquerque District photo contest and was the Commander's pick.



Cannon Air Force Base Engineer Office Meeting of 3 RAO from left Tom Barickman, Glenn Ashoff and Jimmy Griffith in support of Air-Field Paving as Con-Reps.



Dick Falat, Project Specialist, during Disaster 4116 in Illinois monitors while drainage culvert is being replaced 25 feet under the roadway surface in Honey Creek Township (September 2013).