



# EAGLE NEWS

The official Newsletter of The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA)  
Central Minnesota Chapter 115

July thru September 2010

## NEW AF DINING PROGRAM OPENS DOORS FOR RETIREES

**RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFRNS)** -- Thanks to the Air Force's Food Transformation Initiative, retirees at six bases will soon be able to use military food service establishments previously reserved for active-duty Airmen.

Retirees will pay the same market price as everyone else, and there will not be an added surcharge on top of the menu price.

The six Air Force bases participating in the initiative are Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, Patrick AFB, Fla., MacDill AFB, Fla., Fairchild AFB, Wash., Little Rock AFB, Ark., and Travis AFB, Calif.

This pilot program not only opens food establishments to all members of the base community, but customers will also see changes to food and beverage options, resulting in greater quality and variety, said Air Force Services Agency officials.

Diners will see an overall increase in the variety and availability of healthy

menu options on base.

With FTI, the Air Force is changing the way it delivers food in order to meet the needs of today's Airmen. For the past 60 years, the Air Force has been feeding Airmen based on a much larger, more stationary force. With the transition to a smaller, expeditionary force, Air Force leaders are looking to make dining programs more flexible, available, and efficient.

"FTI is about Airmen and for Airmen," said Brian Floyd, the deputy director of the force support squadron at Travis Air Force Base, one of the pilot bases for this initiative. "We have heard loud and clear what our Airmen want, and FTI is all about offering them better quality food, more variety and a sense of community when dining."

FTI will reinvigorate Air Force dining by hiring a contractor to transition to hybrid facilities on bases that will be open to the entire base populace, much like common business and university campuses, services officials said.

Many base dining facilities have use rates of less than 50 percent. Instead of closing these facilities, Air Force plans call for transforming operations. This transformation will preserve the mission of providing meals to Airmen and bringing positive changes to the way Airmen are fed on base, services agency officials said.

While services officials are excited about the forthcoming changes, they emphasized things will not happen immediately and that each base will be different. The first phase of the program is about improving menu options, they said, and the total transformation will take time.

Opening the transformed dining venues to retirees and base employees will restore a sense of community because everyone will be able to eat together, Mr. Floyd said.

"Now all of these groups of people will be able to share quality food in a family type of atmosphere at the dining hall as well as at other food venues on base," he explained.

## U.S. SAVINGS BONDS UPDATE

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) will stop all current Savings Bonds allotments processed for military personnel and military retirees effective 31 JUL. Allotments for federal civilian employees will end 29 August. This comes following the U.S. Treasury's decision to convert

electronic transactions through [www.TreasuryDirect.gov](http://www.TreasuryDirect.gov). DFAS customers who wish to continue purchasing savings bonds through payroll deduction will need to establish an online account with TreasuryDirect. Once they have an account with TreasuryDirect, they can a new

allotment using the TreasuryDirect account number through their normal pay system. Information on purchasing Treasury securities is available on the DFAS website. [Source: Military.com Military report 12 Jul 2010 ++]

## MILITARY TRIVIA

- What baseball Hall of Famer was court-martialed for refusing to take a seat in the back of a U.S. Army bus?  
A: Jackie Robinson, in 1944, while a second lieutenant. He was acquitted.
- Which controversial hero graduated at the bottom of his West Point class in 1861?  
A: Gen. George Armstrong Custer.
- What twentieth-century American general had a grandfather who was a confederate brigadier general in the Civil War, and a great-great-grandfather who was a general in the Revolutionary War?  
A: George S. Patton.

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## NEW VETERANS MEDALLION FOR PRIVATELY PURCHASED HEADSTONE

-Last month the VA made available a "Veterans" medallion to affix to an existing and privately purchased headstone or marker. This marker is available for veterans who died on or after November 1, 1990 and will be

provided in lieu of a "traditional Government headstone or marker". This project has been in the works for a few years. (TREA's Washington Executive Director Deirdre Parke Holleman was at the meeting that voted

on the final designs). It comes in 3 sizes: 5", 3", 1-1/2". It has Veteran across the top and the branch of service at the bottom. Adhesive, instructions and hardware are also provided.



*1-1/2" Medallion*



*3" & 5" Medallion*

The VA is developing a new form to apply for the medallion. Until that is completed the VA has instructions at [www.cem.va.gov/hm\\_hm.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/hm_hm.asp). "Until a new form specifically for ordering the medallion is available, use [VA Form 40-1330](#); Application for Standard

Government Headstone or Marker. Fill the form out completely with the exception of blocks 11 (Type of Headstone or Marker Requested) and 27 (Remarks). Leave block 11 blank. In block 27 put the word Medallion followed by the size requested. For

example, use "Medallion 5 inch" to request a 5-inch medallion." **Again:** A veteran may only receive a traditional Government- furnished headstone or marker **OR** the new medallion. Not both

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## TREA CHAPTER 115 CENTRAL MINNESOTA MINUTES OF 8 MAY 2010

Call to Order by Ralph Donais.

Invocation by Dell Fuller.

Pledge of Allegiance by Ralph Donais.

Announcements & Welcome to guests (Judy Donais)

Approval of Minutes for 13 Feb 2010:

Motion to accept by Del, second by Mark Davidson, approved

Treasurer's Report: \$318.23 in Checking and \$3,068.41 in Savings. Expenses were \$88 (cash / lunch); \$44 (postal); \$100 (UVLC); \$327.51 (postage). Motion to accept by Jed Coller, second by Mark, motion passed.

Legislative Report: given during Presidents Report

Membership Report: 278 members. Sent 8 applications to individuals. A PowerPoint was sent out to regional chapters.

Chapin's Report & Metrovets Report: none

Health Benefits Advisor Update:

- The St. Cloud VA Hospital opened a Surgery Clinic one day a month.
- Minneapolis VA Hospital – elevators are done; more parking has been created and plans are being made for a parking ramp; Spinal Injury Institute is done and working great.

Presidents Report: See Midterm Report

### **OLD BUSINESS**

JROTC: The medals and awards have been sent to the schools.

Fund Raisers: Ralph did a presentation on some wood plaques that Chapter 115 would offer for sale. Motion by Del, second by Mark to purchase 5 (five) each of the following: U.S. Army; U.S. Navy; U.S. Marines; U.S. Air Force; National Guard. Motion passed.

AFRAD 28 August 2010: Ralph is working logistics, lodging and food for the event. Lunch will be covered for the workers. There will be a TREA Chapter 115 meeting following the AFRAD.

Membership Party: Ralph inquired if there was interest to have a membership party. It was suggested to have it in the fall such as October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

MALS Mailing: Ralph is getting a list of the MALS from National. The plan is to call the MALS to see if they would like to join the local chapter.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Fundraisers – We are on the waiting list at both Cub Foods and Coburns.

Hire Veterans - A new website is coming. Minnesota Aviation Museum – The group has received permission to use the Ft. Snelling property.

Newsletter: If you have items for the newsletter, send them to Ralph or Dennis. **FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER** - nothing

### **BOD MIDTERM MEETING**

- By-law changes didn't pass
- Work is being done to turn the Association around
- National HQ staff working to help
- Lost one chapter in Florida
- Ralph believes the association is going in the correct direction
- The annual convention in Tucson is looking good.
- The golf tournament was dropped.
- Working on getting entertainment for the convention.

### **MN VETERANS COMMISSIONER –**

The new MN Dept. of Veterans Affairs Commissioner is Michael Pugliese. He was confirmed by the MN Senate on April 29, 2010. The new Deputy Commissioner in charge of Programs is Reggie Worlds.

Benediction – Dell Fuller

Motion to adjourn – motion by David, passed.

Respectfully submitted;

David Hammer, Chapter 115 Secretary.

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## **FIND MEDICATION INFORMATION FAST WITH THE NEW TRICARE FORMULARY SEARCH TOOL**

Beneficiaries and providers can use the new TRICARE formulary search tool to find the most up-to-date information about prescription medications.

Located at

[http://pec.ha.osd.mil/formulary\\_search.](http://pec.ha.osd.mil/formulary_search.php)

[php](http://pec.ha.osd.mil/formulary_search.php), the new formulary search tool

allows beneficiaries to easily find which medicines are in the uniform formulary. These are available at all

full-service military treatment facilities and covered by TRICARE.

Once a user has identified if a drug is available, they can use the search tool to get information on a drug, such as restrictions on use. The tool also shows if the medication is Tier One (with a \$3 copay), Tier Two (with a \$9 copay) or non-formulary (requiring a \$22 copay). It also shows when a generic equivalent is required.

“This should make it easier to find all relevant information about a specific drug instead of trying to click on different links to other web pages and sort through vast amounts of information,” said Jeremy Briggs, Pharmacy Operations Center official and search tool designer. “The idea is to have all that information available with one search, but still link back to pages for in-depth information.”

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## **SPECIALTY COURT GIVES VETERANS A SECOND CHANCE**



Maplewood attorney John Baker, chair of the statewide initiative to get Veterans Court started in Minnesota spoke about the need for the court at a press conference.

**John D. Baker**, Attorney at Law  
**Baker Williams, LLP**

*Fighting for Those Who Fought for Us®*

Toll Free: 1-877-434-VETS. [jbaker@bakerwilliamsllaw.com](mailto:jbaker@bakerwilliamsllaw.com)

**By Michelle Lore**

When Jim Paige was arrested in Rogers earlier this year for suspicion of driving while intoxicated, chances are he had no idea his would be the first case heard in Hennepin County’s Veterans Court. Standing before retired Judge Richard Hopper this afternoon, Paige confirmed his desire to participate in the program, and agreed to follow through with a chemical assessment and submit to random alcohol and drug testing. He will appear before Hopper again in three weeks.

Veterans Court sessions will be held weekly. Participants will be men and

women who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces who are experiencing treatable behavioral health issues, such as PTSD, anger management, domestic violence and/or substance abuse or chemical dependency. Participation is voluntary, but veterans must be willing to take responsibility for their crimes. Maplewood attorney John D. Baker, a veteran and chair of the statewide initiative to get veteran courts up and running in Minnesota, made it clear that this isn’t a get-out-of-jail free card.

“It holds veterans accountable for their actions, but then hooks them up with counselors ... and all the other services

to help reduce recidivism,” he said. “I think its good public policy and I think in the long run it’s going to save us money.”

Hunter stressed the need for defense attorneys to do as much as they can as soon as they realize their client is a veteran, such as getting a psychological evaluation completed and referring the client to the Veteran’s Administration. “The more the defense attorney can do on the front end ... and can get the veteran on board with what’s going to be going on, the more likely they are to get a client into Veteran’s Court,” he said.

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### **Web sites**

Chapter 115:  
[www.trea115.org](http://www.trea115.org)

National HQ:  
[www.trea.org](http://www.trea.org)

**Eagle News** is an unofficial publication of The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA), Central Minnesota Chapter 115, located at 906 Lookout Place, Elk River, MN 55330.

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Articles may be reprinted wholly providing the intent is to promote the well-being of military

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TREA Chapter 115, as a nonprofit organization, is nonunion, nonpartisan and nonsectarian. Views expressed in this publication are not the official views of TREA, Chapter 115 or any governmental agency.

The editor reserves the right to revise or reject any article due to length or opinion, no articles discriminating on the basis of race, sex, political

stance, religion or age will be accepted for publication.

The absolute deadline for articles is the 5th of January, April, July & October to [dennisvictoria@usfamily.net](mailto:dennisvictoria@usfamily.net)

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**FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE**

August 28, 2010 at Camp Ripley after the Saturday AFRAD  
Saturday, November 13, 2010  
Saturday, February 12, 2011  
Saturday, May 14 011

Central Minnesota Chapter 115  
The Retired Enlisted Association  
906 Lookout Place  
Elk River, MN 55330

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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

All meetings begin at 11:00 am and are held at the VFW Sports Complex 7350 Quaday, Otsego, MN 55330. Phone 763-241-5225. Spouses and guests are always invited to attend.

From I-94 in Rogers: Go north on highway 101 towards Elk River to CR 42/River Road. Turn Left at the light. Second road on the Left is Quaday Ave NE. Turn Left. Follow Quaday until you see several brown buildings, which is the VFW Sport Complex on your Left.

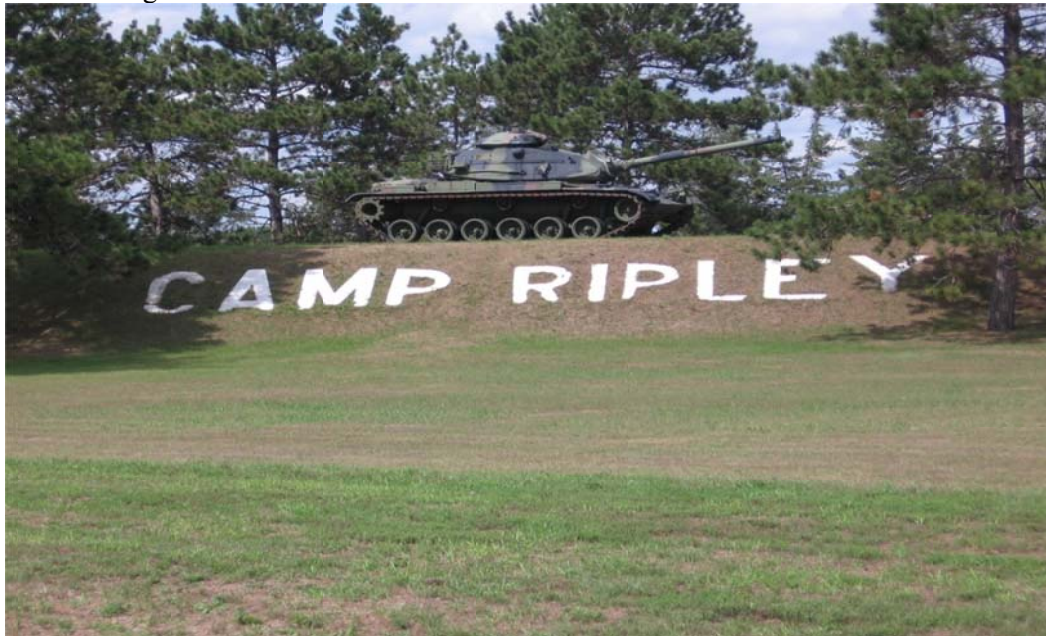
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From Highway 10 in Elk River: From Elk River take Hwy 101 South towards Rogers, exit on CR 42/River Road, turn right at the light onto River Road. The next road on the left will be Quaday Ave NE. Turn Left. Follow Quaday until you see several brown buildings, which is the VFW Sport complex on your Left.

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**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR AFRAD 2010 on Saturday, August 28.**

TREA Chapter 115 will again host a morning and afternoon Armed Forces Retiree Appreciation Day at Camp Ripley. Details and a registration form are included in this issue of the EAGLE NEWS. All are welcome



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**ATTENTION MEMBER'S AT LARGE (MAL'S)**

Normally, the EAGLE NEWS is mailed to members of Chapter 115 only. This issue mailing is expanded to the Minnesota TREA Member's At Large. As a MAL you have the opportunity to receive each of Chapter 115 quarterly newsletters by transferring your status through TREA National Headquarters, using their form 100-8. Your benefit is receiving more frequent news about military retiree benefits. The liability would be asked to support Chapter 115 by helping deliver JROTC annual awards, fundraising and serving on boards or committees. We would like to trade more newsletters for your help telling other military folks about TREA. Thank you.

If your mailing label contains incorrect information, or if you are not receiving the Chapter e-mail announcements, notify Mark Davidson at [ldavidson77@msn.com](mailto:ldavidson77@msn.com)