



U.S. MILITARY RETIREE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN ITALY

PSC 808 BOX 4, FPO AE 09618-0001

FACT SHEET
Feb 2017

HISTORY

In 1979, the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Forlani, took the position that if U.S. military retirees are entitled to use military facilities, it appeared that U.S. commanders could authorize such use and the U.S. Ambassador was so informed. In over 36 years, extension of this benefit to retirees has not become an issue detrimental to Italian-American relations.

Our association was formed in 1981 to represent the retirees of this area. In 1984, Admiral William N. Small (CINCUSNAVEUR) at our request, directed his staff in London to form a NAVEUR Retiree Council. Our membership consists of retirees of all services living in Italy, Spain, Portugal, and the United States. Counting family members and survivors, the retiree community numbers less than 200. We are closely affiliated with other U.S. military retiree groups and associations in Europe such as the European Tri-Component Retiree Council (ETRC), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and the American Legion. The association has close ties with an overseas representative on the SECNAV Retiree Council which meets annually in Washington, DC.

In 1993, with the blessings of the late Admiral Jeremy "Mike" Boorda, then CINCUSNAVEUR, this association obtained the Secretary of the Navy's approval to establish the Navy's first overseas Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) unit located in Naples. This accomplishment has been acclaimed as **the most significant Quality of Life enhancement** ever achieved for the Navy in Europe. This set the stage for establishment of NJROTC's in Sigonella and Rota, Spain. In 2005, the association created a Retired Activities Office (RAO) at U.S. Naval Support Activity, Naples.

ISSUES

Issues developed by the US Military Retiree Association of Southern Italy are submitted via appropriate channels for consideration at meetings of the Army, Air Force and SECNAV Retiree Councils and the European Tri Component Retiree Council in Germany.

POSTAL WEIGHT RESTRICTION:

Raise the incoming /outgoing retiree mail limit from 1 to 5 pounds at overseas APO/FPO's.

RE-DIRECT MEDICARE PART B PAYMENTS.

Military retirees enrolled in TRICARE for Life (TFL) must pay the Medicare Part B monthly premium (\$104.90) to use TFL, yet Medicare benefits are not available outside the United States. Monthly payments by overseas TFL retirees should be paid directly to the DOD TRICARE facility providing the services.

DODDS SPACE A tuition for military retirees averages \$25,300 per child per year. Military retirees are part of the Total Force. For this reason, retiree status should be corrected to read "Federally Connected" and the tuition category changed to Category III: Space Available, Tuition Free.

SPACE A TRAVEL ELIGIBILITY. Create a category to allow the un-remarried spouse of deceased Uniformed Service members to travel on (AMC) aircraft.

ISSUE DEPENDENTS and surviving spouses an indefinite ID card at age 65.

PROVIDE OVERSEAS Toll-Free phone lines for both DFAS and the VA Pittsburgh, PA Regional Office.

DFAS. In addition to Fax and regular mail, allow for secure document transmission via E-mail as internet transmission technology improves.

OVER: Officers and Advisory Board

OFFICERS

ADVISORY BOARD

Feb 2017

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Medical Advisor: (Position Vacant)

SECNAV and European Tri-Component Retiree Council (ETRC) Member:
CDR Tom Brannen, USN-Ret of Rota, Spain

The USMRA-SI is chartered by the U.S. Naval Support Activity Naples as a private organization in accordance with NAVSUPPACT NAPLES INST 1710.11B. The USMRA-SI is not affiliated with any agency of the United States government. Membership is open to retirees and survivors of the seven U.S. Uniformed Services.