



U.S. MILITARY RETIREE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN ITALY

USMRA-SI

24 January 2013

HISTORICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS For the Retired and Active Duty Communities of Naples, Italy 1980 to the Present

MOST RECENT (2013)

1. Published Air Mobility Command information that provides for the return trip for retiree dependents who accompany their sponsor's remains to the CONUS. (Jan 13).
2. Retiree Issues submitted to Army, Navy and SECNAV Retiree Councils. (Oct 12).
3. Published the Retiree Survivor Guide for Local Area Retirees (15 Aug 12).
4. Reacquired the privilege to purchase Pure Grain Alcohol at the NEX Naples.
5. Arranged for monthly retiree appointments with the visiting VA Rep to NSA Naples.
6. Distributed the 2011 VA Federal Benefits Handbook to local retirees & Survivors.
7. Four cadets from the Naples unit graduated in the 2011 USAF Academy Class.
8. Retrieval of prescription medication for the USNH Pharmacy for third party retirees.
9. Preparation of Agent Letter (Escort) instructions for retirees with disabling conditions.

A. ASSISTANCE TO THE RETIRED COMMUNITY

1. Established the NJROTC at Naples American High School (1993)
 - a. Assistance to NAS Sigonella, Aviano and Rota to establish JROTC's.
 - b. Annual Scholarship award to the Naples JROTC (Most Improved Cadet).
2. Established RAO (Retired Activities Office) at NSA Naples (2005).
(See paragraph 9. below for a description of activities). Deactivated March 2008.
3. Established Commander Naval Forces Europe Retiree Liaison Rep position to interface with the European Tri-Component Retiree Council (ETRC) (2005).
4. Mail
 - a. Mail Privileges (1983).
 - b. Personal Mail Boxes in Agnano (1985).
 - c. Personal Mail Boxes in Gaeta (1990).
 - d. Relocate Agnano Mail Boxes to JFC (2004).
 - e. Personal Mail Boxes at the US Naval Hospital (2004).
 - f. Relocate JFC Mail Boxes to the Support Site (2010)
 - g. Continuous coordination with postal officials to prevent abuse.
5. Exemption from 30% Withholding for Foreign National SBP Annuitants.
Nine (9) nations from IRS Tax tables added to the DFAS Finance Reg (2002) which eliminated the tax withholding from foreign national annuitants living in Italy, Spain, Portugal, Turkey, etc...
6. Access to Facilities (Navy & NATO)

- a. NEX/Commissary privileges (1980)
 - b. Controlled Item privileges (electronics, appliances, etc.) 1982.
 - c. NSA Naples Escort Privileges (2 visitors).
 - d. NSA Naples and JFC Agent Letters for elderly and disabled retirees.
 - e. JFC POV Decals for retirees and waiver of POV inspection.
 - f. Save Center (ongoing attempts to gain access)
7. Preservation of Entitlements & Privileges
- a. Ombudsman position authorized (1990).
 - b. Coordination with Retired Activities Offices (RAO's).
 - c. Coordination with Commander Naval Forces Europe (CNE) Rep to European retiree councils.
 - d. Coordination with SECNAV/USAF/USA Retiree Council members.
8. Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Retiree Council Representative.
- a. Assist in the selection of nominee for this prestigious volunteer appointment.
 - b. Assist in the development of issues for annual SECNAV Retiree Council meetings.
 - c. Support SECNAV rep participation on the European Tri-Component Retiree Council.
9. Service and Support to Retirees and Survivors.
- a. Briefings to local commanders to share ideas and resolve retiree/base problems.
 - b. Assistance to obtain Italian Permesso di Soggiorno and residency permits.
 - c. Assistance to authorize and register AFN Decoders.
 - d. Granted full paid-up USMRA-SI memberships to association survivors.
 - e. Reciprocal memberships for presidents of the USMRA-SI and RAMIC of Rota, Spain.
 - f. Assisting retirees, family members and annuitants obtain e-mail accounts.
 - g. Relaying retiree Shuttle Bus requirements and simplifying the schedule.
 - i. Provide referral services, advice and guidance on wide range of issues.
 - j. Coordination of issues and initiatives with local area military commanders.
- i. Casualty Assistance
- (1) Grief counseling (by phone/in person, 24/7)
 - (2) Memorial services on base and in town.
 - (3) Procurement of VA Burial Flags from the Federal Benefits Unit in Naples.
 - (4) Purchase of flowers/sympathy cards and delivery to point of service.
- j. Medical (Naval and Civilian hospitals - local and U.S).
- (1) Visiting hospital patients and the sick at home.
 - (2) Making telephone calls to those confined at home.
 - (3) Coordinating outside care requirements with USNH Naples TRICARE Office.
 - (4) Posting of USNH Naples critical medical information.
 - (5) Posting of 118 Italian Medical Emergency information and procedures.
 - (6) Attending USNH Naples Health Care Consumer Council meetings.
 - (7) Maintaining a list of hospitalized members.
 - (8) Providing enrollment information for the Italian National Health Service (ASL).
 - (9) Picking-up prescriptions from USNH Naples and placing in Support Site mail boxes.
 - (10) Providing emergency transportation.

- k. U.S. Embassy and American Consulate Naples Interface.
 - (1) Referral to Federal Benefits Unit for Social Security/Medicare issues.
 - (2) Assistance in obtaining the U.S. State Department official "Death Certificate".
 - (3) State Department Warden (temporary). System used to notify military retirees of emergency situations affecting U.S. citizens residing in Italy.
 - (4) Providing a Memorial Day Wreath to the American military cemetery at Nettuno honoring Americans killed during the World War II Anzio landing.
 - (5) Coordination of Social Security and other Federal Benefits (VA, etc.)

- l. Dissemination of Information.
 - (1) Posting of information to the USMRA-SI Website (Separate handout w/content).
 - (2) Posting messages to the USMRA-SE/SI Yahoo Groups (5,909 msgs since 7/2001).
 - (3) Posting of information to the Support Site Bulletin Board (near mail boxes).
 - (4) Posting of NSA Naples PAO Notes and ALL HANDS messages online.
 - (5) Providing current local NAVAIRTERM (AMC) schedules upon request.
 - (6) Posting of local Italian civic information (transportation strikes, driving bans, etc.)

- m. ID Cards
 - (1) Informing family members and survivors of the new permanent cards age 75+.
 - (2) Escorting qualified retiree dependents/survivors to renew and/or obtain ID cards.

- n. Taxes
 - Referring foreign national SBP annuitants to Tax Consultants.

- o. Voting
 - Registering retirees, survivors and dependents to vote in their U.S. state of residence.

- p. Financial
 - (1) Expanded the Navy Federal Credit Union (NFCU) Field of Membership from Navy-Marine Corps personnel to include retirees/annuitants from the US Army, US Air Force, and US Public Health Service.
 - (2) Initiated the process for the DOD International Direct Deposit (IDD) program for overseas military retired and annuitant pay (2003).
 - (3) Caused PSD check-cashing limit to be raised (2004).
 - (4) Assisting retirees & annuitants retrieve online pay statements & tax forms.

- q. Legal
 - (1) Assisting settlement of Life Insurance Claims with help from Legal Services.
 - (2) Obtaining Special Power of Attorney to settle SBP claims.
 - (3) Revocating Base Barment Letters (Naples & Sigonella).
 - (4) Promoting and expediting the U.S. Citizenship (Naturalization) process for alien spouses.

- r. Obtaining employment.
 - (1) Addressing local discrimination issues against retirees & Veterans.
 - (2) Assisting retirees file grievances under the Uniformed Services Employment

- & Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) with the U.S. Department of Labor.
- (3) Posting of job openings to the internet.
 - (4) Requesting assistance from the Veterans Administration and Department of Labor in hiring disabled veterans.

B. ASSISTANCE TO ACTIVE DUTY PERSONNEL

1. Conducting pre-retirement/transition, post military career and financial counseling.
2. Supporting issues favoring Active Duty personnel.
3. Promoting and expediting the U.S. Citizenship process for active duty alien spouses.
4. Establishing hours of operation compatible with Active Duty Location and Duty Hours.
 - a. PSD (Disbursing)
 - b. Athletic Facilities (Gym, etc.)
 - c. Education Center & Annex to Ed Center at NATO.
 - d. Others as required.
5. Reporting suspicious activity and security violations to the appropriate base officials.
6. Participating in Inspector General (IG) and General Accounting Office (GAO) discussions.
7. Sharing of Military and Italian Cultural Information.
 - a. USMRA-SI Website and Yahoo Groups.
 - b. Telephone and E-mail referrals to appropriate civilian and military agencies.
 - c. Responding to and referring of stateside queries from personnel being assigned or relocating to or visiting the Naples area.
8. Recognition and presentation of awards to doctors, nurses, commanders and others that have given more than required to the retired community.
9. Recommending Quality of Life improvements to appropriate base officials.
10. Attending Change of Command Ceremonies & Memorial Services.
11. Meeting with local Commanders and Command Master Chiefs to share ideas and resolve problems.

Prepared by:



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