



AFSA International Legislative Committee Bulletin 2011-037  
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**1. NDAA Conference in Progress.** The House-Senate conference to develop a final defense bill for FY 2012 has begun. The conference will produce a bill numbered H.R. 1540. Readers will remember the Senate version of the National Defense Authorization Act was S. 1867; the House version was H.R. 1540. This year, Congress will use the House bill number for the final bill; the numbering alternates between the House and Senate NDAA numbers each year. It is important to note that much of this conference will take place behind closed doors and the full results will not be reported until the end of the conference.

**2. Military Coalition Positions on FY 2012 NDAA Items.** Each year, after the House and Senate have completed their individual versions of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), the members of the Military Coalition, of which AFSA is a member, publish a comparison of the differences between the bills and the position the Coalition takes on the various items. AFSA's coalition partner the Air Force Association has published this annual side-by-side, Military Coalition-produced comparison of the various provisions which the House and Senate are now debating. The Coalition provides this product to House and Senate negotiators to let them know where the Coalition stands on the various issues. You can view this product by going to:

[http://www.afa.org/PresidentsCorner/WashingtonPerspective/2011/FY12\\_NDAA\\_TMC\\_Matrix\\_for\\_Conferrees.pdf](http://www.afa.org/PresidentsCorner/WashingtonPerspective/2011/FY12_NDAA_TMC_Matrix_for_Conferrees.pdf)

**3. Death Notice to DFAS.** The Retiree Activities Office for the National Capital Region reports at *dcmilitary.com* one of the actions that needs to be taken upon the death of a military retiree. "Eligibility for military retired pay ends with the death of the retiree. Prompt reporting of a deceased retiree's death can help avoid delay and possible financial hardship to surviving beneficiaries, family members or executors, who will be required to return any unearned payments of the decedent's military retired pay. Notify the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) at 800-321-1080. Most important are the decedent's Social Security Number and the date of death. Also, inform your financial institution of the death. Within 7-10 business days after reporting the death to DFAS, you should receive a letter with a SF1174 Claim form for unpaid compensation of the deceased member. If the decedent was enrolled in the Survivor Benefit Plan, you should also receive an Annuity Care Package for completion and return. Completed forms, along with a copy of the death certificate that includes cause of death should be sent to: DFAS, U.S. Military Retired Pay, P.O. Box 7130,

London. Ky. 40742 or Fax to 800-469-6559. For assistance in completing claim forms, call 800-321-1080.”

**4. TRICARE Standard Handbook Available.** According to DoD, “The TRICARE Standard Handbook is an 80-page guide for beneficiaries using TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra. The handbook provides information about qualifying for and purchasing TRICARE Reserve Select, TRICARE Retired Reserve and TRICARE Young Adult Standard. The handbook also discusses regional contractors; eligibility; providers; accessing routine, urgent, and emergency care; referral and prior authorization requirements; covered health, pharmacy, and dental benefits; claims; coordinating with other health insurance; life events; appeals and grievances; and reporting fraud and abuse. Stateside and overseas contact information is also included.” You can download this handbook at:  
<http://www.tricare.mil/tricaresmart/product.aspx?id=430&CID=71&RID=3>

**5. Legislation of Interest Introduced December 8, 2011.**

**H.R. 3612**, by Rep. Christopher P. Gibson, R-N.Y., would clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam.

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