



**RETIREE COUNCIL
U. S. ARMY GARRISON-STUTTGART
UNIT 30401 APO AE 09107**



Dear Retirees, Spouses and Survivors:

28 December 2007

1. It is getting close to our next meeting which will be held on Wednesday, 16 January 2008 at the Patch Barracks Community Club. Lunch is available at either the Patch Barracks Dining Facility or at the various restaurants located in the old food court or at the bar in the old Officers Club. Our meeting will be held at about 1230 hours in the back room of the Community Club. This is the same location that we have been using for some time.
2. There will be a Retiree Dental Fair on Saturday 26 January 2008 from 0900 to 1200 hours. Call the Dental Clinic to make an appointment. The number is 0711-680-8626. When you make your appointment, confirm with them that you have a dental record on file. You are entitled to an examination and either a cleaning or a filling (your choice).
3. The Customs Office at Panzer Kaserne has new office hours. They will be open on Mondays from 8 to 12 hours and on the other days of the week, from 8 to 16 hours. Their phone number 07031-15-2731.
4. Visitor passes now require travel itineraries. Sponsor requesting visitor installation passes are required to provide a copy of their guest's return itinerary. The USAG Stuttgart Installation Access Control Office asks that sponsors instruct their guests to bring their itinerary with them to the IACS Office to facilitate the issuance of an Installation Pass. If guests do not have their itinerary, they can use the computers at the USO and print one (for a fee). This change is in accordance with AER 190-16, Installation Access Control dated March 22, 2005.
5. We have just learned that the ICAC registration expires automatically on the 5th anniversary of the registration. If your registration is close to expiring (within two weeks), you MAY be informed by a gate guard so that you will have time to renew your registration before it expires and you are denied access to military installations. If your registration expires, you will be required to have someone sign you in and if it is on a weekend, forget it. We suggest that you check with the ICAC registration office in Building 2915 on Panzer Kaserne to determine the date of your current ICAC registration and mark your calendar so that you will be reminded to renew your ICAC registration before it expires.
6. There is a 2.3 percent COLA increase for this next year. It will show up in all government checks on 1 January 2008.
7. For those retired more than 30 years, the SBP payment cut off was dropped from the Defense Authorization Bill and therefore the cut off will remain at 1 October 2008.
8. Those retirees given "Individual Unemployability" status by the VA, draw disability compensation at the 100 percent level though their actual ratings are lower. The IU population was excluded from full concurrent receipt benefits when those benefits were given to 100 percent rated disabled retirees on January 1 2005. Congress has now accepted a Senate provision to grant IU retirees full concurrent receipt back to that date.

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9. The Defense Authorization Bill also includes a \$50 a month "indemnity allowance" for survivors of disabled military retirees who see their Survivor Benefits Plan (SBO) annuities reduced each month by the amount they receive in tax-free Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from the Department of Veterans Affairs effective 1 October 2008. The indemnity allowance might be perceived as a first step toward easing the ban on concurrent receipt for military widows. It would be increased by \$10 per year for 5 years to \$100 a month by 2014. When we obtain information on how to apply for this benefit, we will inform everyone on what to do. This paragraph along with 7 and 8 are not yet law but are expected to become law unless vetoed by the President.
10. On behalf of the Retiree Council, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a healthy and Happy New Year.



WILLIAM TORBETT III
LTC, USA Retired
President