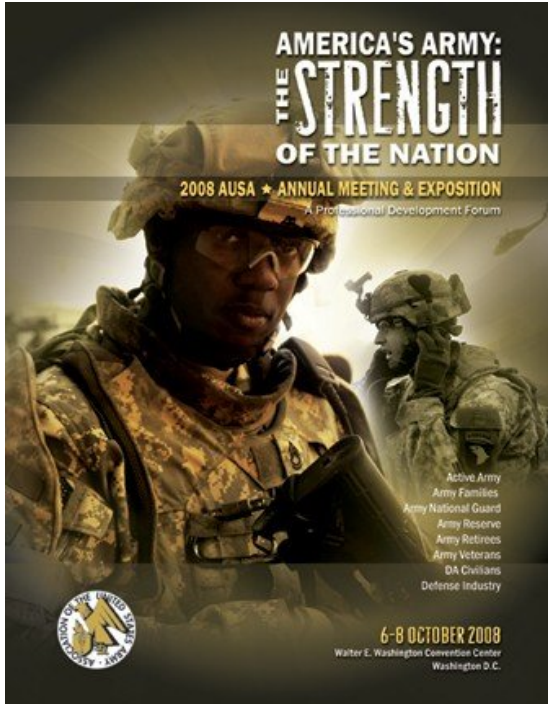


DENVER CENTENNIAL CHAPTER AUSA

Centennial Salute

3d Quarter 2008



2008 AUSA Annual Meeting & Exposition  
America's Army: Strength of the Nation  
6-8 October 2008  
Walter E. Washington Convention Center,  
Washington DC



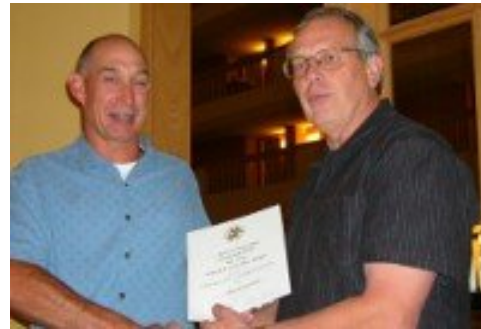
ATTENDEES

The Denver Centennial Chapter AUSA  
Annual Golf Tournament - 28 July 2006




SPECIAL REGOGNI TION

The Denver Centennial Chapter AUSA  
COL (Ret.) "Sam" Thiessen, President, Denver  
Centennial Chapter AUSA, recently recognized  
Major Alan Smith (TOP) for his support to the  
Chapter as Secretary,  
Steve Ferency (CENTER), Renaissance Denver  
Hotel, for his support to the Chapter as a  
Corporate Member,  
and Linda Walters (BOTTOM), DoubleTree Hotel,  
for her support to the Chapter as Corporate  
Member.





  
Continuing Resolution Fully  
Funds Defense, Military  
Construction and VA

On Sept. 24, by a vote of 370-58, the House approved the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance and Continuing Appropriations Act. The Senate adopted the measure on Saturday by a vote of 78-12. The continuing resolution will keep most agencies funded at their fiscal 2008 levels through March 6 with some exceptions. Defense Department, Homeland Security and Military Construction/Veterans' Affairs will receive full fiscal 2009 funding.

The continuing resolution provides \$487.7 billion for the Defense Department, \$4 billion less than the President's request and 6.2 percent more than the fiscal 2008 levels.

The bill includes:

--\$750 million for the National Guard and Reserve to address equipment shortfalls;

-- \$72 million for a new initiative to pay troops \$500 for every month their term of service will be involuntarily and arbitrarily extended in 2009;

--\$25.8 billion to provide troops with top of the line medical care. This includes \$300 million for traumatic brain injury and psychological health;

--\$2.8 billion for family advocacy efforts, dependents' education and daycare programs.

--\$3 billion to improve Army barracks, military hospitals, and other facilities; and,

--\$3.6 billion for the Future Combat Systems to accelerate the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle and Unmanned Ground Vehicle programs.

Funding for Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs is \$72.9 billion. That includes \$47.6 billion for the Department of Veterans' Affairs and \$41 billion for the Veterans' Health Administration.

Funding is provided for:

-- Enrollment of Priority 8 Veterans: \$375 million to start enrolling additional Priority 8 veterans;

--Mental Health and Substance Abuse: \$3.8 billion for specialty mental health care and \$584 million for substance abuse programs;

-- Fee-Bases Services: \$200 million is set aside for fee-based services to improve access to care where VHA facilities are not available;

--Rural Health Initiative: \$250 million to improve access to medical care for veterans in rural areas;

-- Patient Travel Reimbursements: \$133 million above the President's request to increase the travel reimbursement rate from 28.5 cents per mile to 41.5 cents per mile, while freezing the deductible;

--Assistance for Homeless Vets: \$130 million for the homeless grants and per diem program in addition to \$30 million to hire additional personnel for the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program; and,

--New Generation Prosthetics: 1.6 billion to provide veterans with appropriate prosthetic support and sensory aids.

The bill also adds \$1.8 billion to enable the Department to hire roughly 2,000 additional claims processors to reduce the backlog of benefits claims and the time it takes to process new claims. The most recent VA quarterly status report estimates that nearly 396,000 claims are pending, which is 20,000 more than their goal.

The bill provides \$25 billion for military construction. The large increase is mostly due to the costs of implementing Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) and plans to increase the size of the Army and Marine Corps.

The bill includes \$233 million to continue a quality of life initiative for troops and their families started in the 2008 supplemental including \$122 million for three new trainee and recruit housing facilities for the Army and Marine Corps to improve the barracks soldiers and Marines live in when they train; and \$111 million for medical military construction and planning activities to upgrade substandard medical treatment facilities.

The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) and Re-stationing will receive \$8.8 billion to implement base closures and realignments, and support the re-stationing of 70,000 troops and their families from overseas to the United States. The bill also funds planning for the eventual relocation of 8,000 Marines and 9,000 dependents from Okinawa to Guam.

The Growing the Force initiative will receive \$5.5 billion for military construction and family housing to support the Administration's program to increase the size of the Army by 65,000, the Marine Corps by 27,000, and the Guard and Reserve by 9,200 personnel.

Finally, \$3.2 billion will be provided in an effort to further eliminate inadequate military housing.

Source: AUSA Legislative Newsletter - 9-29-08





## A look at the Tenth Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation

Every four years, the Department of Defense commissions a complete review of compensation principles and concepts for members of the armed forces. The second volume of the report of the Tenth Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation (QRMC) was recently released.

Significant recommendations included in the report are:

**Retirement.** The commission recommended that the Defense Department conduct a multi-year test of a new retirement system to increase the services' force management flexibility. This new retirement system would provide automatic contributions to service members' TSP accounts, vesting, payments for reaching service milestones and separation pay. The commission maintains the new retirement system will provide greater equity, flexibility and efficiency, and may result in larger individual monetary outcomes.

**TRICARE.** To ensure retiree fees for TRICARE are fair to all retiree populations, the commission recommended under-65 retirees using Prime pay 40 percent of the Medicare Part B premium, and under-65 retirees selecting Standard/Extra pay 15 percent of the Part B premium. Family premiums would be set at twice the individual premium regardless of family size. Premium increases would be phased in over a four-year period.

**Quality of Life.** The commission provided several recommendations to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of quality of life programs, including the adoption of health care and dependent care flexible spending accounts, creation of education vouchers, formation of military charter schools and changes to the child care system. The committee further suggested the department change the way it develops the overseas cost of living allowance rate, to be consistent with the methodology used in the continental United States.

DoD will study the recommendations for potential implementation and send selected proposals to Congress as proposed legislation.

While we (AUSA) applaud many of the recommendations contained in the report, we strongly disagree with the recommendations related to TRICARE. AUSA will closely monitor any attempt by the Defense Department to implement any of the TRICARE-related recommendations that increase or establish fees or co-pays and will take action as necessary.

The full report can be found [www.defenselink.mil/news/QRMCreport.pdf](http://www.defenselink.mil/news/QRMCreport.pdf).



2008 National POW/MIA Recognition Day

A Pentagon ceremony for National POW/MIA Recognition Day was held on Friday, Sept. 19, 2008. This ceremony featured troops from each of the military services. The president issued a proclamation commemorating the observances and reminding the nation of those Americans who have sacrificed so much for their country.

Observances of National POW/MIA Recognition Day are held across the country. This observance is one of six days throughout the year that Congress has mandated the flying of the National League of Families' POW/MIA flag. The others are Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day. The flag is to be flown at major military installations, national cemeteries, all post offices, VA medical facilities, the World War II Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the official offices of the secretaries of state, defense and veterans affairs, the director of the selective service system and the White House.



Prime Enrollment Payments Online: TRICARE rules are changing

TRICARE will require mandatory electronic payment of Prime enrollment fees. That means TriWest Healthcare Alliance may only accept payment by one of the following methods:

1. Allotment. Set-up a monthly automated deduction from the sponsor's uniformed services retirement pay.
2. Electronic funds transfer (EFT). Transfer funds directly from your financial institution to TriWest and not as an online bill pay from your bank.
3. Recurring credit card. Establish your automated electronic payments using either a Visa® or MasterCard®.

<http://www.triwest.com/beneficiary/epay.aspx#>



More documentation necessary to replace, renew ID cards

Homeland Security Directive 12 now requires retirees and family members seeking to renew or replace a military identification card to provide two types of ID.

Retirees and family members needing identification cards must have two of the following types of current identification -- one of which must include a photo:

- Driver's license or ID issued by a state or outlying U.S. commonwealth or possession
- ID card issued by federal, state or local government agencies or entities
- School ID card with a photograph
- Voter's registration card
- U.S. military ID card
- U.S. passport
- Certificate of U.S. citizenship
- Certificate of naturalization

For persons younger than 18, who are unable to present a document previously listed, they may bring:

- School record or report card
- Clinic, doctor or hospital record
- Day-care or nursery school record

The listing above is not all inclusive. A list of acceptable documents can be found at <http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/I-9.pdf>, Page 4.

Before visiting a military ID card issuing facility, people may want to call first to determine what specific documents may be required, and to verify the process to renew or replace an ID card. For contact information and the location of the nearest ID card issuing facility, visit <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/owa/home>. On this Web site, people can search by city, state or ZIP code.

Source: AFRN, Release No. 09-02-08, Sept. 22 2008



### SBP 'paid up' status begins Oct 1<sup>st</sup>

Oct. 1st, 2008, marks a major milestone in the history of the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP). On that date, retirees who have paid at least 360 SBP (or Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan) premiums and who are at least 70 years old will be considered "paid-up" and will stop paying premiums. Note: Since your retired paycheck is pay for the previous month you won't see the change until your November check.

You do not need to take any action to stop your SBP payment. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) will stop it automatically. Retirees whose SBP premiums will stop effective Oct. 1, 2008, or soon after should

have received a notice from DFAS in May. All other retirees will be notified of your "paid-up" status (that is, how many payments you've made) in your December Retiree Account Statement.

The paid-up provision was added to the SBP program by the 1999 National Defense Authorization Act, with an effective date about ten years after the law. Even if you reached age 70 or made 360 payments before Oct. 1, 2008, the paid-up provision is not retroactive.

Source: Army Echoes, Issue III, Volume LII, Sep-Dec 2008



### AKO creates 'featured site' for retired Soldiers

Army Knowledge Online (AKO) has created a special site for Army retirees. To access the site, go to AKO (<https://www.us.army.mil>), scroll to the key links section, click on AKO Featured Sites, and click on the Retired Soldier emblem.

Retired Soldiers new to AKO need to register in order to use the site. This registration includes providing your Pay Entry Basic Date (PEBD). If you don't recall your PEBD or find that the one you have doesn't match AKO's, there is help. To retrieve your PEBD, call 1-800-318-5298 (Human Resources Command -- St. Louis).

Spouses of Retired Soldiers need to be sponsored by the Retired Soldier in order to use AKO. Surviving spouses are not eligible.

The AKO retiree site is a portal to retiree resources on the Web including military and military-related sites, sites with medical and pay information and national and local veterans' sites.

Source: Army Echoes, Issue III, Volume LII, Sep-Dec 2008



### 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Salute

Wednesday  
Nov. 12, 2008  
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
7711 E. Academy  
Boulevard, at Lowry

Presented by the City of Aurora Library, Recreation & Cultural Services and the Aurora Center for Active Adults, in partnership with Buckley AFB 460th Space Wing, the COANG 140th Wing, Air Reserve Personnel Center, ADF and Studio 1430 KEZW-AM.

[http://www.auroragov.org/AuroraGov/Department\\_s/Library\\_\\_Recreation\\_and\\_Cultural\\_Services/Recreation\\_Services/Active\\_Living/022319?ssSourceNo delId=660&ssSourceSiteId=621&ssTargetNodeId](http://www.auroragov.org/AuroraGov/Department_s/Library__Recreation_and_Cultural_Services/Recreation_Services/Active_Living/022319?ssSourceNo delId=660&ssSourceSiteId=621&ssTargetNodeId)



Now Available Online

Exchange Service's authorized online shoppers now have access to prices comparable to those found in optical boutiques on base. FramesDirect.com and MilitaryContacts.net will offer Exchange shoppers competitive rates, free shipping on some orders and the ability to "try on" different frame styles via the website's virtual features. For more information, authorized customers should log onto their Exchange Online Store at [aafes.com](http://aafes.com), [usmc-mccs.org](http://usmc-mccs.org), [navy-nex.com](http://navy-nex.com) or [cg-exchange.com](http://cg-exchange.com) and click on the Exchange Mall logo. To access the Exchange Online Mall directly, go to <http://www.exchangeonlinemall.com>.

Source: (AUSA) The Family Programs Update 9/15/2008



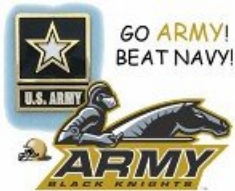
### DeCA Improves Food Stamp Checkout Process

Commissary customers using food stamp Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards can checkout in any lane. Customers using EBT cards can pay for their items by swiping the card in the lane's credit and debit card terminals, including the self-checkout lanes. In the past, customers would have to wait in specific lanes to utilize the EBT cards. To read the full DeCA press release, click on [http://www.commissaries.com/press\\_room/press\\_release/2008/DeCA\\_98\\_08.cfm](http://www.commissaries.com/press_room/press_release/2008/DeCA_98_08.cfm).

Source: (AUSA) The Family Programs Update 9/15/2008

### Army-Navy Football

The 109th edition of the Army-Navy game will be played on Saturday, Dec. 6, at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia, Pa. The noon game will be televised live on CBS.



Tickets are still available for all Army home games at historic Michie Stadium. The Black Knights will take, Eastern Michigan (Oct. 11), Louisiana Tech (Oct. 25), and Air Force (Nov. 1). Army fans interested in purchasing tickets for any of Army's home or away games can do so by calling 1-877-TIX-ARMY.

### Spotlight: Corporate Companies in the Denver Centennial Chapter AUSA

- Adams Mark Hotel \* Aleut Management Services \* Barber-Nichols Inc. \* Circadence Corp.
- \* Coors Brewing Company \* HF Designworks, Inc.
- \* Intecon, LLC \* Ophir Corporation \* Warrior Solutions, Inc.



Barber-Nichols, Inc.

Barber-Nichols, Inc. (BNI) is located in Arvada, Colorado, a suburb of Denver. It was founded in 1966 by Bob Barber and Ken Nichols. BNI specializes in the designing, engineering, manufacturing, and testing of specialty turbomachinery. Products include blowers, compressors, fans, pumps, turbines, and turbopumps for aeronautic, cryogenic, national defense, power generation, and space flight applications. In addition to custom hardware, BNI also provides engineering consulting and contract manufacturing.

Since inception, Barber-Nichols has been combining innovation with technical expertise to solve problems in a growing array of diverse markets. BNI 's very first project was the testing of a low-speed, two-stage steam turbine for the U.S. Navy's Applied Research Laboratory. To this day, Turbine Development continues to be a Barber-Nichols specialty. Next, BNI designed and built an extremely quiet, 10kW, portable power generation system for the U.S. Army. This power system was based on the Organic Rankine Cycle (ORC), and this would become a cornerstone technology at Barber-Nichols. It is still used to harness industrial waste heat and turn it into Electrical Power.

Factoid: On August 19, 1985 Bob Barber set the land speed record for a steam powered car. The vehicle was designed and built at Barber-Nichols and it traveled at 234.33 km/h (145.607 mph).

#### Contact Information

Barber-Nichols Inc.  
6325 West 55th Avenue  
Arvada, CO 80002  
Phone: (303) 421-8111  
Fax: (303) 420-4679

Email: [info@barber-nichols.com](mailto:info@barber-nichols.com)

Website: <http://www.barber-nichols.com>

The Denver Centennial Chapter AUSA



Thanks the Sponsors of its  
Annual Golf Tournament - 28 July 2006

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Voice for the Army – Support for the Soldier!



The Denver Centennial  
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thanks  
Steve Ferency Senior Sales  
Manager, Renaissance Denver  
Hotel  
for printing its Newsletters

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DENVER CENTENNIAL CHAPTER AUSA  
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Honorable Mention for Greatest Increase



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VICE PRESIDENT COL (R) Charles A. Rodgers  
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SECRETARY MAJ Alan Smith, USAR  
TREASURER COL (R) Lindy Blackburn



EVENTS

6-8 Oct .. 2008 AUSA Annual Meeting & Exposition  
12 Nov... 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Salute, Aurora, CO  
6 Dec ..... 109th Edition of the Army-Navy Game



AUSA: Voice for the Army – Support for the Soldier!  
Catch us on the Web: <http://chapters.ausa.org/denver>