



Pacific Area Update
January 2020

Pacific Area Leadership Council

The PAL Council will hold its winter meeting February 1-3 in Okinawa.

PAL meets three times a year in person and occasionally throughout the year via teleconference. There are currently five members of the council including myself, the Pacific Area Director, NEATA (Japan) President: James “Mike” Adair, TEAK (Korea) President: Sharon Manuel, AEAO (Okinawa) President: Mary Anne Harris, and the district Human Civil Rights Coordinator for the district where the meeting is held. During meetings, a number of concerns/topics are addressed: Reports from council members are given; the UniServ Attorney and Assistant UniServ give reports as well as the membership chair. Strategies for addressing current and ongoing concerns are discussed, Budgetary reports are given and concerns are discussed; and more.

FEA Elections

FEA elections are being conducted. Ballots have been mailed to members and packets include a preaddressed and prepaid envelope. If you have not received a ballot, you can contact your FRS for a copy. Please follow all official Ballot guidelines when voting. Ballots **must be received via USPS at the FEA Washington office by March 24.**

Please vote!

Retirement

Are you near that point where you can stop living at work and start working at living? If so, the following information is for you. It comes to you in part from the January Pacific Area Consults and part is borrowed from some other sources.

Creditable Service Computation:

Creditable Service is service that can count toward retirement. Should you have a question about other service that may count toward **retirement**, you can check these sites to know for sure. <https://www.opm.gov/retirement-services/fers-information/creditable-service/> - employees covered under FERS <https://www.opm.gov/retirement-services/csrs-information/creditable-service/> - employees covered under CSRS

Employees considering retiring should review the Army Benefits Center website at <https://portal.chra.army.mil/abc> for information on Planning for Retirement, Pre-Retirement Benefits Overview DCS Briefings, Retirement- Civil Service Retirement System (CSRC / CSRS Offset) and Retirement - Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS).

Benefits/Retirement Specialist at ABC-C are available to answer any questions and can be contacted via telephone or email at: Toll-free: (877) 276-9287 / Commercial: (785) 240-2222 / DSN: 520-2222. Note: From the main menu, you will have the option to enter your SSN or

DoD ID Number or you can press* to bypass this option and then select #4 for DoDEA employees. Fax: (785) 239-6228 or DSN 856-6228

Specialists are available from 7:30 to 4:30 (CT), Monday through Thursday except federal holidays.

Email address for DoDEA employees only: usarmy.riley.CHRA-HQS.mbx.abcc-DoDEA-Inquiries@mail.mil. Email inquiries will be answered within 48 hours of receipt.

Mailing Address:

Army Benefits Center - Civilian
305 Marshall Ave
Fort Riley, KS 66442-7005

Members are encouraged to submit a request for a retirement estimate in GRB (formerly EBIS) if they are within 5 years of retirement. This allows ABC to review their records for accuracy prior to retirement. To request a Retirement Estimate:

1. Log into GRB Platform <https://www.ebis.army.mil/> using a CAC enabled computer. (Please use internet explorer as your web browser)
2. Once logged in, click on "Launch"
3. Click on "Menu" at the top
4. Click on "Requests"
5. Click on "Submit a New Request" at the top right of the page
6. Use the drop down to select "Retirement Estimate"
7. Fill in all of the requested information and continue on through the prompts until your request has been submitted.
8. Please allow at least 30 days for the processing of a request. Employees will be notified via email once their estimate has been completed and they can log back into the GRB platform to retrieve a copy of their retirement estimate.

Our CHRA partners at ABC-C have also produced several YouTube videos and continue to work on additional topics related to Benefits and Retirement. Please note both the current and future lists below. (*ABC-C = Army Benefits Center-Civilian*)

ABC-C YouTube Channel - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPKLtn8DnceWIZDmJgJmZQ>

- Types of Retirement (FERS)
- FERS Coverage
- FEGLI into Retirement
- FERS Civilian Deposit/ Redeposit
- ABCC Health Retirement Packets
- ABCC Retirement Estimate Report
- ABCC Completing Beneficiary Forms
- ABC BATS R
- ABC eBATS
- ABC Injury Comp (IC)/ Unemployment Comp (UC)

NOTE: GRB is the site formerly known as EBIS mentioned in the above videos.

Videos currently being worked:

- FERS P56 (Military Deposit)
- FEHB into Retirement
- eCOMP

- New Employee Orientation
- Disability Retirement (FERS)
- Calculating your FERS Ret
- Survivor Annuity (FERS)
- TSP
- CSRS Ret System
- CSRS Deposit/ Redeposit

(Note: you can find additional information regarding most of the items on the list above by simply using the bulleted topic terms to search other videos on YouTube.)

Information is also posted on the DoDEA website at <https://www.dodea.edu/Offices/HR/index.cfm> as well as DoDEA CONNECTS at <https://www.dodea.edu/DoDEA-Connects.cfm>

RAT/EDT-Summer Recess 2020

Teachers have begun to submit request for orders into TOPS. If you are participating in RAT or if you are going to be requesting EDT for your dependent, it is advisable to request your orders early to avoid delays.

FEA Pacific recently requested updates to the process. We were advised that an updated guide is being developed, but no completion date is available. The guide will first be published to <https://www.dodea.edu/DoDEA-Connects.cfm> and will shared with us afterword. Until the guide is released, teachers are advised to continue to use instructions that were provided last year. These are attached to this document for your convenience.

Helpful information to note:

- TOPS orders (DD Form 1614) will not include fund site information. Employees need the DTS travel orders with funding information in order to procure tickets via SATO.
- Funding information on the DTS order is an estimated cost for budgeting purposes and not an allowable expense amount for the travel. Reimbursement for self-procured airfare is limited to the GSA constructed cost that can be calculated by SATO or found on the GSA City Pairs website <https://cpsearch.fas.gsa.gov/cpsearch/search.do>.
- It is better to request an alternate destination at the start instead of requesting an amendment later. Alternate destinations are reimbursed up to the GSA constructed cost to the HOR. Requesting amendments will delay the reimbursement process.
- Excess baggage mailed in USPS must be to the HOR or approved alternate destination.

RAT/EDT Voucher Submission

We believe at this point most members have been paid for RAT 2019. However, if you have not, please email Brian Chance (bchance@NEA.org) or me (FEAPacific@gmail.com) so we may follow up to ensure you get your reimbursement.

We continue to address the concern with DoDEA for a detailed accounting of what has been reimbursed to us. Until this is resolved, you can check on MyPay for your AOP. This has only provided the total amount and does not provide a breakdown of payment. If you would like to check this, follow these directions: Log onto MyPay. Once you have logged in, there is a list of options. In this list about 3/4 of the way down the list there is a link called AOP or advice

of payment. Clicking on this link will bring you to the travel orders you have used and the amount you were paid for the travel. Again, this is the only place, other than your bank account, that you will see if you have been paid for any RAT or TDY travel as it is no longer listed in your LES.

Problems? Here is where to Start!

If you find yourself confronted with an issue pertaining to pay or entitlements, or other concerns, please start with the secretary at your school for guidance.

Also, you can inquire about your pay and allowances by following this link at a school work station: <https://globalservicedesk.ds.dodea.edu/workcenter/tmtrack.dll?shell=srp#catalog> and submit a ticket.

Or, identify your need by subject below and follow the link:

Subject:	Contact:
Pay, staffing, personnel record, Position Information Forms (PIFs), and approved Academic Salary Lane (ASL) inquiries.	usarmy.ria.chra-nc.mbx.dodea-recruitment-communications@mail.mil <i>(include last name in subject line)</i>
New hire, in-processing, and employee forms/paperwork inquiries	usarmy.ria.chra-nc.mbx.dodea-recruitment-divis@mail.mil
Overseas entitlement inquiries	usarmy.ria.chra-nc.mbx.dodea-overseas-entitlements@mail.mil
Employment Application System (EAS) applicant inquiries.	usarmy.ria.chra-nc.mbx.dodea-eas-applicant-inquiries@mail.mil
Link for USA Staffing/USAJobs announcement inquiries.	https://portal.chra.army.mil/hr_public?id=app_inq
DD Form 1164 for non-temporary storage of household goods.	NTS@dodea.edu
Travel and allowance inquiries.	TravelAllowance.PolicyRequests@dodea.edu
CHRA HR Phone Directory is also included with this document for your convenience.	

Additionally, you can contact the following HR Representatives for your area:

Pacific Area HR Supervisor		
Leigh Johnson, Supv. <i>(Starting February 16, 2020)</i>	315-634-8395	Leigh.Johnson@DODEA.EDU
Pacific East Team:		
Marilyn Avery, HR Specialist	315-225-1646	Marilyn.Avery@dodea.edu
Kaylee Digiando, HR Specialist	315-225-1644	Kaylee.Digiando@dodea.edu
Pacific West Team:		
Vacant-due Feb. 3, HR Specialist	315-755-1196	

Pacific South Team:		
Susan Maravich, HR Specialist	315-634-1451	susan.maravich@dodea.edu
Monique Garner, HR Specialist	315-634-7021	Monique.garner@dodea.edu

If you have tried to find solutions from the sources listed above and are not making any progress, contact your FRS. Provide to her/him a timeline of your efforts to date to resolve your concern and any correspondences you have had with DoDEA's Human Resource personnel. Your school leader will elevate your concerns to the appropriate FEA representatives.

Lastly, If you find yourself confronted with disciplinary action for conduct or performance, please see your FRS for guidance.

Respect

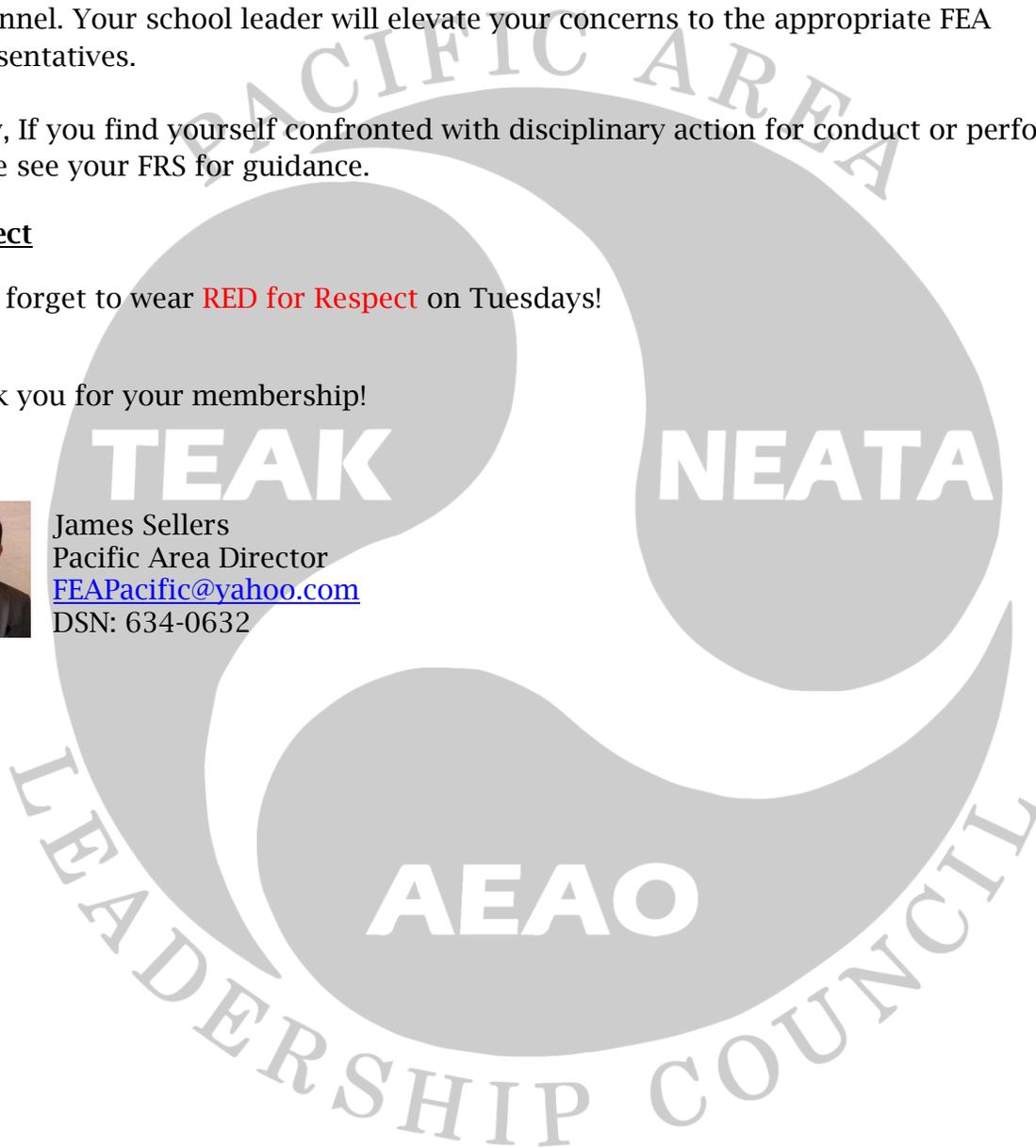
Don't forget to wear **RED for Respect** on Tuesdays!

Thank you for your membership!

Jamie



James Sellers
Pacific Area Director
FEAPacific@yahoo.com
DSN: 634-0632



“Strength Through Unity”