

From: DC METRO AREA BRANCH OF COA [mailto:COA@LIST.NIH.GOV] **On Behalf Of** Julian Canizares
Sent: Sunday, May 03, 2009 10:58 PM
To: COA@LIST.NIH.GOV
Subject: [COA-DC-BRANCH] Smart Brief - Benefits Available to PHS Officers

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA METROPOLITAN AREA BR



To members of the D.C. Metropolitan Area Branch,

This Smart Brief is a journal style email message intended to help keep you informed about various uniformed service benefits available to PHS officers. This journal also provides status of legislation/s in both the Federal and local State governments that could potentially affect the benefits available to PHS officers, dependents, as well as retirees.

For the current posting, please forward any questions or comments to LT Robert Windom at rwindom@psc.gov. Thank you.

Current Posting

1. Military Space Available Flights
2. Military Lodging
3. Joint Service Open House Air Show, Andrews AFB, 15-17 May
4. Air Expo '09, Naval Air Station Patuxent River, MD, 23-24 May
5. Smart Brief archives and future notices

Previously Posted

1. Military Installation Commissaries
2. Commissary Case Lot Sale Information
3. Six Flags America Military Appreciation Days

1. Military Space Available Flights

Space Available Flight, better known as Space A or military hops, is a unique privilege provided to service members, retirees and their families. Under the Space-Available (Space A) program, eligible passengers can fill unused seats on DoD-owned or controlled aircraft once all the space-required (duty) passengers and cargo have been accommodated. Space A Travel has undergone a great deal of change in the past few years. What was once an easy and economical, if not always predictable, way for personnel to travel around the world has now become less prevalent and much harder to access. Previously, mission schedules were available on the web and you could even sign-up online. In post 9/11 world, however, flight information has been removed from the public domain, making travel planning more challenging. There are increasingly less Space A seats, and that may become even scarcer in the near future due to planned reductions in Space A gateways.

In stark contrast to civilian air travel, there is no centralized process yet for booking seats on Space A flights. It is a fragmented system that requires extra diligence on the part Space A travelers.

For more information on Space A travel please visit

http://www.military.com/Travel/Content1/0,,SAF_overview,00.html or

<http://www.militaryhops.com/#Military%20Hop>.

2. Military Lodging

Military life has special privileges! When you travel, you can take advantage of many convenient and inexpensive lodging options available around the world from each branch of the military.

There are thousands of rooms available at temporary housing facilities, hotels, resorts, and guesthouses around the world. There are two major categories of military lodging - on-base lodging and Armed Forces Recreation Centers.

Each branch of the military offers its own special lodging styles and locations. Whenever you travel, take advantage of cost-effective lodging opportunities along the way.

Transient billeting quarters (or Space A billeting) generally have different eligibility restrictions. Please check the individual on-base lodging options for each service for more details.

For more information on Space A travel please visit

http://www.military.com/Travel/Content1/0,,ML_overview,00.html

3. Joint Service Open House Air Show, Andrews AFB, 15-17 May

The 2009 Joint Service Open House Air Show will feature the Thunderbirds, the Golden Knights, and other exciting aerial and ground attractions. The three-day extravaganza takes place May 16th-17th. Friday, May 15 is open to Department of Defense card holders, retirees and school-sponsored children only. Anyone who has a DoD card that allows normal access to any military installation may attend on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday.

Admission is FREE. For more information please visit <http://www.jsoh.org/>

4. Air Expo '09, Naval Air Station Patuxent River, MD, 23-24 May

The Air Expo '09 will take off when Naval Air Station Patuxent River, MD hosts the Navy's Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Blue Angels, the Army's Golden Knights, and the F-16 Viper East Coast Demo Team May 23 and 24.

Admission is FREE. For more information please visit <http://www.paxairexpo.org/>

5. Smart Brief archives and future notices

For your convenience, we have created a link on the DC COA website that will allow you to access past Smart Brief editions. Also, please note that future Smart Briefs will be sent out on a monthly basis, unless we are sending time sensitive information that needs to be posted immediately. Please look for future editions on the 2nd Monday of each month. We hope that you have enjoyed these Briefs and we look forward to sharing and discussing topics with you.

Your Smart Brief DC COA Benefits Committee Members,

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Visit the DC COA Website at