

## AFSCME LOCAL 391

### FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Sisters and Brothers,

It has been quite the few months, Elections for the local, SEBAC and Contract tours and vote, Legislature votes, CTU North Base closing, and those are just the most notable.

First I would like to welcome the new faces to your Executive team;

Martha Davis CRCI to Eboard, Kevin Fournier MWCI to Eboard, Aimee Reyes-Greaves OCI Trustee, and Keith Halmers MWCI Trustee.

Second congratulate the newcomers in their respective new positions, John Bowen CRCI to Vice President as well as those re-elected as well to 3 year terms; Pat Carambia OCI Treasurer, Robert Beamon CRCI Recording Secretary, Doug Donovan MWCI Eboard, Jose Delgado CRCI Eboard, Edwin Cay CTU North Eboard. The responsibilities they assumed by virtue of their positions was a daunting task. They all performed excellent, and stepped up to participate. For that we are all better off and I am extremely grateful for all their hard work.

The executive team has been meeting regularly with the agency and Council 4 Reps to force the agency to negotiate

the terms of the closing of North Base CTU. The contract and state law allows for our employer, DOC, to make changes under management rights, which leaves us to fight to make them "bargain the impacts" on the employees. Which is what we were able to do, after filing several charges and reviewing possible injunctions to cease the closing all together. Most avenues we tried merely stalled the agency's plans short term and only provided our sisters and brothers minimal relief. Unfortunately, I must report our battle to save the Base was defeated.

Finally, I'd like to thank ALL our active members, our stewards, Council 4 reps and elected Local 391 officers for their sacrifices they made to inform all our sisters and brothers the impacts of the SEBAC vote. Regardless your position on the topic, we made every effort to reach every member, and answer every question, so all could make the most educated decision for themselves and their own families. Through this process, I was able to meet with many of you and personally explain the process, explain the impacts and answer your concerns on a variety of different topics. Thank you for all you do. You walk a tough beat, with no recognition, you are the unsung heroes!

KID'S HOLIDAY PARTY INFORMATION COMING SOON!  
KEEP AN EYE OUT ON FACEBOOK AND THE WEBSITE FOR  
MORE INFORMATION

# THE BARRACKS

This section discusses topics involving local 391 members that are veterans or currently serving in the US armed forces

*BY C/O ROBERT O. BEAMON (CRCI) USMC/US. ARMY*

As military personnel experience an increase in Operational Tempo, It is our duty and responsibility to ensure that our families are as prepared as possible if we get the call to deploy. The best way to do this is having honest and open communication this our loved ones, and also prepare and follow a pre-deployment check list. While every family dynamic is different, I have listed some of the most important factors that military families face prior to deployment.

## **Pre-Deployment Checklist**

### Legal Matters Checklist

- Create a Power of Attorney (POA). Contact your base legal office for information on types of POAs and advice on which one you should use.
- Create and/or update your will.
- Consider establishing a joint bank account with your spouse so that bills can be easily paid.
- Review your current life insurance coverage.
- Confirm your Service members Group Life Insurance (SGLI) beneficiaries are correct and update if necessary.
- If you are currently renting your home and need to cancel your lease, notify your property management company of your deployment. Understand your rights under the Service Members Civil Relief Act, here: [www.jag.navy.mil](http://www.jag.navy.mil).

Legal Documents Keep copies of the following documents (if applicable) together in a secure place:

- Wills (for both service member and spouse)
- Power of Attorney (POA)
- Insurance policies (including life, health, home, and vehicle)
- Tax records
- Court orders (e.g., child support and custody documents or divorce paperwork)
- Social Security cards
- Birth certificates
- Marriage license
- Passport
- Visas and citizenship/naturalization paperwork
- Vehicle titles, registrations, and inspections
- Copy of your most recent LES Family Matters Checklist
- Update your Emergency Data Form with your family's most current contact information.
- Ensure ID cards are current and will not expire during deployment.
- Confirm all family members have all necessary TRICARE and MetLife (dental) information.
- Look into international calling plans.
- Set up a Skype account at [www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com).
- Create a list of important phone numbers and email addresses for both the service member and family. Personal Property Checklist (if applicable)

- Notify your homeowners insurance if your home will be vacant during deployment.
- Notify your renters insurance if you are storing your belongings in a storage facility.
- Make sure you have the appropriate household goods/personal property insurance.
- Know the location of your car title.
- Have an up-to-date vehicle registration and proof of registration.
- Know when your vehicle will need its next inspection.
- Make sure the vehicle is in good working order.
- If you own firearms, make sure they are registered with the appropriate authority and that your spouse/family member is trained to operate them.

### Financial Matters Checklist

- Notify your credit card companies that you will be deployed.
- Make sure your family will have money available to them on a continuous basis.
- If you have a safe deposit box, make sure a family member has a key.
- Create a record of accounts with account information and bill due dates—store in a secure place.
- Set up automatic payments for bills (if desired) and make sure the credit cards you are using will not expire during deployment.
- Create a list of any computer or banking passwords—store in a secure place.
- Make sure you know where to go if you need financial assistance (e.g., Family Service Center, Command Ombudsman, Personnel Support Detachment (PSD), or Navy Marine Corps Relief Society).
- Understand the status of your finances (including debts, income, etc.).

Family Care Plan Checklist Use the following checklist to develop your family care plan if you are a single parent or in the event that both parents, or caregivers for minor children will deploy:

- Assign a guardian for your family in a special Power of Attorney (POA) and confirm the guardian understands his or her responsibilities.
- Obtain ID and commissary cards. To ensure military health coverage for you and your children, register all dependent family members in Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS), and check to make sure all ID cards have not expired.
- Make sure Service members Group Life Insurance (SGLI) is correct.
- Arrange for housing, food, transportation, and emergency needs.
- Inform caretakers of your financial matters.

- Arrange for guardian to have access to necessary funds.
- Arrange for child care, education, and medical care.
- Arrange necessary travel and escort to transfer family members to the new guardian.
- Discuss these plans with your children.

Civilian Employer (Department of Corrections)

- Ensure that as the DOC employee and Service member that you keep a clear line of communication with your shift commander and Human Resources to ensure there is no issues with medical and dental benefits.
- Give all military document to the appropriate personnel. Send documents via email if possible so that there is an electronic history to serve as proof of the documents being sent and received by the intended department.

- Learn about your employment rights. The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA) is the federal law that protects service members against losing employment due to military deployment and service. It is in one's best interest to know the provisions of this federal statute as it is the best protection a service members have from maltreatment.
- Learn about the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR).

The DOC follows the guidelines of the ESGR. The ESGR is a Department of Defense program, it was established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve Component, Service members, and their civilian employers and to assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee's military commitment.

## FROM THE DESK OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT

I would like to take this time to thank everyone that supported me in the local election back in May. If it wasn't for you, (the members) I wouldn't be in this position. Remember "YOU" have the power and the control of our local, by voicing your concerns at meetings or a one on one conversation. If it wasn't for the members our local wouldn't exist, so again I thank you for going to the ballot boxes and voicing your opinion by casting your vote.

Your President and I, along with the members of your executive board team hope to continue to make your local better and stronger. With that being said there is always room for more of you that are interested in becoming stewards and getting involved with the process of things. There are several committees that we have that are always in need of members' assistance, such as, election, good & welfare and membership committees to name a few. This past Correctional staff week we had handed out mugs with your locals' badge on one side and a correctional officers prayer on the other. There was a tremendous amount of positive feedback from staff regarding the mugs on how much they were liked. Hopefully with some ideas for next year we will have the same results.

Your yearly calendar is being printed and will be mailed to you soon. If you did not receive a calendar in the mail last year please call the office and speak with April, our office manager, and she will update your address or add it if need be. Also, if you haven't noticed, the office has implemented a mass text system to assure that all of you are informed of any rallies or pertinent information that needs to get you quickly and efficiently, to reiterate updating your phone number and/or email is paramount.

So again, I really appreciate your support and look forward to meeting as many of you as possible. Now that the dust has settled with the contract and SEBAC, I'll be touring the facilities to just talk and answer any questions or concerns you might have. I can also be reached at the office (860)745-0391 or on my cell (860) 729-0594.

Be safe and take care of each other.

John Bowen  
Vice President  
AFSCME Local 391