

Welcome Aboard!

To aid in continued Bulletin receipt recommend enter both of my stateside email addee raoemo@sbcglobal.net & my Philippine email addee raoemo@mozcom.com

into your address book to reduce the possibility of the Bulletin being blocked as spam. This notice is provided to inform you of the availability of informational assistance to fellow veterans through the newsletter and the role the Baguio Retiree Assistance Office (RAO) plays in assisting the military community. The service provides a POC for anyone who has queries on veteran issues and/or residence in the Philippines. It also provides a means for veterans to keep abreast of benefit changes and/or pending veteran related legislation. Updates are sent twice a month on the 1st & 15th. Twice a month allows time for readers to digest the info and make any inquiries they may have. It is understood that not every article that goes out is applicable to every reader but in each newsletter everyone should find some article(s) of interest to them personally. Request anyone currently in receipt of the Bulletin no longer desiring to receive it provide suitable notification. If you do feel free to drop me a line in the future if you ever need any assistance.

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The Baguio RAO is basically an "answer" place for all veterans and Expats in addition to providing U.S. mail services (military and commercial); assistance in obtaining ID Cards; Forms; U.S. & RP government services and information; taxes; voting; etc. There are no longer any bases in the Philippines and the U.S. Embassy is 180 km away so over the last 13 years it has become the unofficial source for just about everything related to government programs impacting on those Americans and their dependents residing in this geographic area. Because of its remote location the majority of veteran assistance is provided by email. All questions received are responded to with either an answer or a source of where to obtain an answer. If you do not receive an answer within 72 hours your inquiry was probably never received and you should retransmit. The variety of questions and subsequent research to answer them has resulted in development of articles available for recall from the Bulletin's ~1700 pages. The Bulletin is presently being sent to 50000 plus email addressees. These are primarily military fraternal organizations and other RAO/RSO's worldwide plus many interested veterans not associated with any organization. The objective is to provide veteran related information to at least one member of every veteran group worldwide who can act as a point of contact to pass on any information felt germane to that organization's membership. Through their involvement the Bulletin info presently reaches approximately half a million veterans and/or dependents. Its content is constructed from information received from over 100 sources. Articles are provided on many topics some of which may appear to favor one political party over the other. Copyright material is distributed without profit or payment for research and educational purposes only in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. section 107. Because the Bulletin has no political party allegiance it is free to identify legislators or parties who are not supporting veteran issues

and often does. Articles provide items taken from a wide variety of sources that have been edited or editorialized for retransmit. They also include info to ease transition into the Philippines for those who may be considering relocating there. The information contained therein is just that - informational (FYI). The objective is only to PASS THE WORD in order to keep our military community informed. The Bulletin is not an "Official" DoD sanctioned newsletter and as such should not be quoted as an authoritative source on DoD policy. It is the responsibility of readers to verify exactly how information applies to them if they intend to expend funds or time in following up on the data provided in the articles. Unless you have questions concerning veteran's issues to be answered there is no need for comments.

Although it's nice to get the occasional "thanks for the info" it's not necessary and just adds to the 50+ emails I get daily. I do not send out jokes - prayers - religious material or music - chain letters - photos - etc so please reciprocate by not sending these to me. Nor do I normally participate in political endorsements unless it is essential to an article being presented in the Bulletin. I would greatly appreciate that you not forward personal political comments/beliefs/prejudices but am always open to anything that could benefit other veterans. Updates are sent either Bcc or via a Mailing List Provider so recipients are not bothered with large headers nor have their email addree revealed to others. If you want to know if anybody else in your organization is receiving the Bulletin just ask. If desired I will forward your message to them and they can decide if they want to disclose their email addree to you. Articles contain subjects of interest to all veterans regardless of geographic location. The existing addrees on the directory are about ½ % local vs. 99.5% worldwide. The Bulletin content is for use in any way you see fit and retransmit is encouraged. Sources are provided wherever possible so readers can re-validate info if they desire. The primary source is always listed first and if editorializing or multiple sources are used it is indicated by "++" after the primary source in the source line. Sometimes my Internet servers are inhibited in their ability to reach other servers because of filters incorporated by these servers to block spam. Most AOL users cannot receive the Bulletin since AOL's spam policy/filters blocks it from the majority of their customers. However I can always receive incoming messages.

To aid in continued Bulletin receipt recommend enter both of my email addrees into your address book to reduce the possibility of the Bulletin being blocked as spam. If you do not receive your Bulletin just let me know. All communications should be sent to when I am in the states and when I am in the Philippines even though you may be receiving the Bulletin from some other location. I am presently located in the Philippines and will again be shifting to the San Diego CA area around 1 MAR for 3 months. The email addree of any veteran or military fraternal organizations can be added to the directory if desired. It only requires a click of the "Unsubscribe" button later if they find the Updates are of no use to them. If you are interested in receiving other articles contained within the Bulletin they can be forwarded via email. Attachments sent should be virus free since it is my policy NEVER to open incoming attachments which could contain a virus. My installed Norton program tells me about 1% do. Of course there are no charges - advertisements - solicitations associated this service. Our RAO personnel are volunteers and do not receive a salary. Nor do we accept donations. Our compensation is knowing that we are benefiting the military

community. At http://post_119_gulfport_ms.tripod.com/rao1.html you can review all articles sent in the last 5 years. Bear in mind that the articles shown at this site were valid at the time they were written and may have since been updated. Here you can also link to an index of all articles currently in the Bulletin to identify any you may want to recall. They will be provided upon request.

"Mabuhay from Baguio City, Philippines"
Lt. James "EMO" Tichacek USN (Ret)
Director RAO Baguio