

ALARACT 340/2011

DTG: R 081921Z SEP 11

THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN SENT BY THE PENTAGON TELECOMMUNICATIONS CENTER ON BEHALF OF DA WASHINGTON DC//DAPE-MSO//

SUBJECT: EXPANDING ELECTRONIC DELIVERY OF "ECHOES," THE ARMY'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR RETIRED SOLDIERS, SURVIVING SPOUSES AND FAMILIES

1. REFERENCES:

- A. AR 600-8-7, RETIREMENT SERVICES PROGRAM, 6 JUN 10.
- B. AR 635-5, SEPARATION DOCUMENTS, 15 SEP 00.
- C. AR 635-10, PROCESSING PERSONNEL FOR SEPARATION, 10 JUN 87.

2. MISSION: THE ARMY G-1 EXPANDS THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELECTRONIC EDITION OF "ECHOES", ALSO KNOWN AS "E-ECHOES," IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS WITH OVER ONE MILLION RETIRED SOLDIERS, SURVIVING SPOUSES, AND THEIR FAMILIES WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY REDUCING PUBLICATION COSTS.

3. ENDSTATE. THE "E-ECHOES" DISTRIBUTION LIST WILL EXPAND FROM 33,000 TO 150,000 IN 2012 AND WILL INCLUDE ALL NEWLY RETIRING SOLDIERS. THE ARMY WILL NO LONGER MAIL THE HARDCOPY EDITION OF "ECHOES" TO SOLDIERS WHO RETIRE ON OR AFTER 1 JAN 12.

4. BACKGROUND. "ECHOES" IS THE OFFICIAL ARMY PUBLICATION FOR OVER ONE MILLION RETIRED SOLDIERS, SURVIVING SPOUSES, AND THEIR FAMILIES THAT INFORMS THEM OF THEIR RIGHTS, BENEFITS, ENTITLEMENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ARMY; AND INSPIRES GOODWILL AND VOLUNTEERISM TO SUPPORT THE ARMY IN THEIR CIVILIAN COMMUNITIES.

5. THE "E-ECHOES" EXPANSION PLAN HAS FIVE COMPONENTS.

- A. AUG-SEP 11. THE ARMY G-1 RETIREMENT SERVICES OFFICE (ARS) WILL PUBLISH THE ONLY HARDCOPY EDITION OF ECHOES IN FY11. THIS EDITION AND SUBSEQUENT EDITIONS WILL INFORM CURRENT READERS OF THE INITIATIVE TO EXPAND "E-ECHOES" AND EXPLAIN THE METHODS AVAILABLE TO CONVERT FROM MAIL DELIVERY TO ELECTRONIC DELIVERY.
- B. STARTING IN SEP 11, ARS WILL DEVELOP AND EXECUTE A STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS CAMPAIGN TO ALERT RETIRING AND RETIRED SOLDIERS AND SURVIVING SPOUSES ABOUT THE INITIATIVE TO EXPAND "E-ECHOES." THE US ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND, ARMY RESERVE AND ARMY NATIONAL GUARD WILL SUPPORT ARS IN EXECUTING THIS CAMPAIGN. THE MANDATORY PRE-RETIREMENT BRIEF GIVEN TO ALL RETIRING AC SOLDIERS AND THE EXIT COUNSELING PROVIDED TO RC SOLDIERS WILL STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF "ECHOES" TO RETIRED

SOLDIERS AND THEIR FAMILIES, AND WILL INFORM THEM THAT BEGINNING 1 JAN 12, RETIRING SOLDIERS WILL NO LONGER HAVE THE OPTION OF RECEIVING HARDCOPY "ECHOES" BY MAIL AND WILL BE REQUIRED TO RECEIVE "ECHOES" ELECTRONICALLY.

C. AFTER THIS ALARACT IS PUBLISHED, UNIT AND OTHER PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATORS AND RETIREMENT SERVICES PERSONNEL IN ALL ARMY COMPONENTS WILL ACTIVELY ENCOURAGE AND ASSIST RETIRED SOLDIERS AND SURVIVING SPOUSES TO REGISTER FOR "E-ECHOES." ARS WILL DEVELOP AND DISSEMINATE PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS TO FACILITATE THIS MISSION.

D. BEGINNING 1 JAN 12, RETIRING ACTIVE DUTY SOLDERS AND ARMY RESERVE AND NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIERS WHO ARE ENTERING THE "GRAY AREA" WILL REGISTER FOR "E-ECHOES" AT [HTTP://WWW.ARMYG1.ARMY.MIL/RS0/ECHOES.ASP](http://www.armyg1.army.mil/rs0/echoes.asp) DURING THEIR FINAL OUTPROCESSING. ARMY HUMAN RESOURCES COMMAND, INSTALLATION, STATE, AND REGIONAL SUPPORT COMMAND PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATORS AND RETIREMENT SERVICES PERSONNEL WILL ASSIST RETIRING SOLDIERS TO ENSURE THIS TASK IS ACCOMPLISHED. THIS CHANGE WILL BE INCORPORATED INTO TRANSITION CHECKLISTS FOR RETIRING SOLDIERS IN REFS B AND C ABOVE. THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD AND ARMY RESERVE WILL INCORPORATE THE REQUIREMENT FOR THEIR MEMBERS TO REGISTER FOR "E-ECHOES" INTO THE NOTICES OF ELIGIBILITY TO RETIRE THAT THEY SEND TO THEIR MEMBERS.

E. ARS WILL CONTINUE TO INVESTIGATE NEW COMMUNICATIONS CHANNELS, NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND EXPANDED CONTENT TO INCREASE THE AVAILABILITY AND VALUE OF "E-ECHOES."

6. THE CHANGES INCLUDED IN THIS ALARACT WILL BE INCORPORATED INTO THE NEXT REVISION OF REF A.

7. POCS ARE: (PRIMARY) MR. MARK JACKSON, ARS, ODCS, G-1, (DAPE-HR-RSO), DSN 221-2697, CML (703) 325-2697, E-MAIL MAK R.JACKSON@US.ARMY.MIL AND (ALTERNATE) MR. JOHN AGLER, DSN 221-5178, CML (703) 325-5178, E-MAIL JOHN.AGLER@CONUS.ARMY.MIL.

8. EXPIRATION DATE CANNOT BE DETERMINED.