



Retiree-at-Cost Hearing Aid Program

By CAPT Tom McAtee

Sayonara, Adios, Auf Wiedersehen, Goodbye, no matter what the language, the meaning's the same. It's been really enjoyable communicating with all of you, but it's time to move on and will see or hear from you in the future.

I hope you have appreciated our Retirees' Corner format, shorter topics, more variation, and the blocking of highlights.

Thanks to those of you who wrote complimentary letters responding to the column, and special thanks to those who made suggestions of needed retirement news. Credit for continued monthly columns to guest writers CAPT Tom McAtee, of our Headquarters staff; and LCDR Joe Golding, Denver Chapter, for their guest-writing inputs.

Congratulations to my replacement who I know you will promote and support.

— CDR Sharon K. Kleinschmidt, USNR (Ret)
National VP for Retired Personnel

Did you know you could purchase hearing aids at considerable savings through the government? You can. The Retiree-at-Cost Hearing Aid Program (RACHAP) provides retired members the opportunity to buy hearing aids at government cost. Hearing aids are purchased directly from the manufacturer at a substantial savings over the cost for the same hearing aids sold in the civilian commercial market.

Certain medical treatment facilities (MTFs) offer this service. You can call a participating MTF and get a complete diagnostic evaluation. If you must go on a waiting list at one location, try and contact a different

MFT in your vicinity to see if an immediate appointment can be made. Once it's determined that you can benefit from the use of amplification, the audiologist will recommend a specific hearing aid and a prescription, along with the total cost. At most MTFs, you will be asked to provide payment at the time the hearing aid is ordered. A list of participating MTFs can be found at the following Web site: www.militaryaudiology.org.

With RACHAP, you will have the same variety of devices as you would in the commercial marketplace. RACHAP is only available to the retiree, not family members. ⚡