



On the Radar

News, tips and savings from the GEICO Military Team

EVENTS

→ TROPIC THUNDER

More than 20,000 troops and 50 ships are headed to the Pacific this summer—but it's all in the spirit of cooperation. In June and July, the U.S. Navy will welcome sailors and vessels from nearly 25 countries to Pearl Harbor for the 25th year of the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise. The war games, which were first held in 1971 and take place every other year, are the largest international maritime exercise and require a huge

effort to plan and execute safely—in one week alone of the 2014 exercise, the Navy delivered five million gallons of ship and aviation fuel and almost 400 pallets of food and supplies to participants. During this year's exercise, crews will practice working together in group sails, disaster response drills, counter-piracy operations and more before bidding each other fair winds and following seas until 2018.



Even Soldiers (like this member of the Australian Army) practiced taking amphibious assault vehicles from the USS Peleliu to the beach during RIMPAC in 2014.

Photography: [RIMPAC] © Hugh Gentry/Reuters/Corbis

COMMUNITY

second life

Just because cars are labeled total losses doesn't mean they can't have another chance. With the National Auto Body Council's Recycled Rides program, repair shops, parts vendors and local charities work together to repair these vehicles and give them to those in need of a lift to work, school, medical appointments and more. GEICO has been a partner of Recycled Rides since the program's start in 2007, and last year, our regional offices donated 42 cars to Military families and others, including service members wounded while on active duty.

The Gecko helps present a Recycled Ride in Sterling, Va.



SPRING/SUMMER 2016 | m3



GEICO Military

HISTORY

HOME AGAIN

This year marks the 25th anniversary of Operation Desert Storm. Thanks to the quick work of U.S. forces and our allies, our troops were back home in six months, celebrating the end of the Gulf War with a victory parade down the streets of Manhattan.

RESEARCH

flex capacity

How do you send a computer to battle? Put a protective cover on it! But all those covers make for heavy, bulky gear that troops practically need superhero strength to haul. That's why last summer, the Department of Defense kicked off a partnership with FlexTech Alliance in San Jose, Calif., to find a solution straight out of a comic book film: flexible hybrid electronics. The idea is to put circuit boards on extremely thin silicon surfaces, making computers and sensors light, bendable and even wearable. The new Flexible Hybrid Electronics Manufacturing Institute, or Nextflex, will work with a range of universities and companies to improve the design and manufacturing of flexible electronics and eventually develop slimmer, lighter tools, such as bandages with embedded sensors or smart clothing that can tell when the wearer is getting tired. Now *that* deserves a movie franchise.

Photography: [Parade] © Joseph Sohm/Visions of America/Corbis; [Memorial] Joe Amon/Denver Post/Getty Images

CITIZENSHIP

CAST YOUR BALLOT

As a Military member, you serve your country every day. Make sure your country serves you by counting your vote! Even if you'll be out of your district on Election Day, U.S. citizens serving or living abroad or outside their jurisdiction can usually vote by absentee ballot. We asked the Federal Voting Assistance Program for the dates you need to keep in mind to make sure you have a voice in this year's state and federal elections.

m4 | GEICO NOW

IF YOU'RE DEPLOYED, OR STATIONED ABROAD OR OUTSIDE YOUR VOTING JURISDICTION

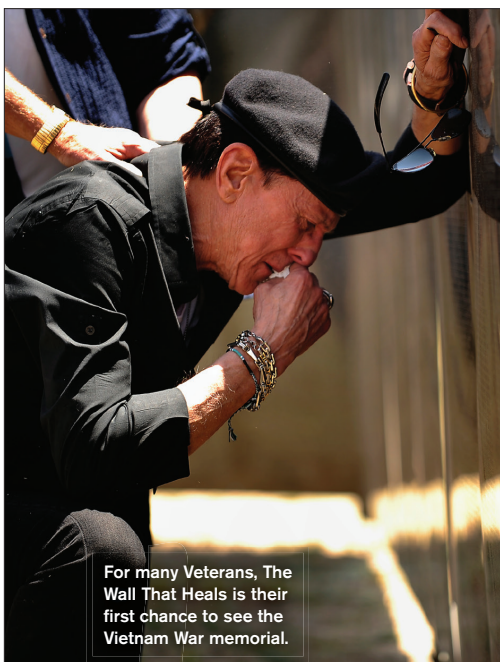
AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE (or at least 90 days before the election)

Fill out the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to register to vote and request your absentee ballot. Even if you're living stateside, you may still be able to vote by absentee ballot. "Military service members and their eligible family members can vote absentee as long as they live outside their voting jurisdiction," says a Department of Defense official.

JUNE 27 TO JULY 5
It's Armed Forces Voters Week, so if you haven't filled out the FPCA yet, now's a great time! If you have, help spread the word by volunteering at voting events near you.

SEPTEMBER 24
You should receive your absentee ballot from your state around this time. "To make sure your vote is counted, make sure you send [back] your state ballot as soon as you receive it," says the official. "Many states require the ballot to be returned by Election Day."

OCTOBER 9
If you haven't received your absentee ballot 30 days before the election, don't worry—you can use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) as a backup. Just go to fvap.gov, select your state in the drop-down under "Voters Start Here," and click the online assistant under "Get My Ballot." (If you aren't sure which state to select, the website can also help with that.)



For many Veterans, The Wall That Heals is their first chance to see the Vietnam War memorial.

COMMUNITY

A PLACE TO HEAL

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C., is a powerful place, with its angled stone surfaces and thousands of inscribed names. Not all Veterans and families, however, can make the trip to see the wall in person, so in 1996, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund built a wall that comes to them. The Wall That Heals is a half-size replica of the memorial that travels with a mobile education center to around 30 communities each year. Visitors to The Wall That Heals can find names, take rubbings and see photos and memorabilia from service members. As part of its ongoing support for the mobile wall, GEICO recently pledged \$50,000 and helped campaign to raise nearly \$150,000 to keep the exhibit moving and add additional names in 2016. Visit vymf.org to find out where the memorial is headed in its 20th year.

SPORTS

Cheering Soldier-Athletes

Hundreds of soldier-athletes have been training, and this summer, they'll put their skills to the test. Here's where to catch their latest feats:

EVENT

Department of Defense Warrior Games

WHEN June 15 to 21

WHERE West Point, N.Y.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

More than 200 wounded, ill and injured service members from the American and British armed forces will go head to head in eight sports as part of their recovery. Be thrilled by the fast-paced action of wheelchair basketball or hold your breath in the shooting and archery events.

EVENT

Summer Olympic Games

WHEN August 5 to 21

WHERE Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

Athletes who balance intensive training with Military careers will put it all on the line. The Army's World Class Athlete Program, for example, helps prepare service members for elite competition, and this spring, Soldiers will be vying for spots on the Olympic team in everything from rugby to race walking.

EVENT

Summer Paralympic Games

WHEN September 7 to 18

WHERE Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

Active Duty service members and Veterans alike (including more from the World Class Athlete Program) hope to test their strength and skill in swimming, track and field, volleyball and more.

TEAM NEWS

Welcome, Kevin Isherwood

A warm welcome to Kevin Isherwood, retired Command Master Chief, USCG, who became the newest member of GEICO's Military Assistance Team last August following 33 years of service in the Coast Guard. As the Military Team Member for the western zone of the U.S., Kevin is based in Washington. Born in Rhode Island, Kevin joined the Coast Guard in 1982 and was an Electrician's Mate by trade. Over his long career, he was a Command Senior Enlisted Leader in the Far East and Pacific areas, Chief of Staff of the Coast Guard, Deputy Commandant for Mission Support (overseeing all USCG logistics) and Command Master Chief of the Personnel Service Center (handling all human resources). We're glad to have him on board!

IF YOU LIVE IN THE JURISDICTION WHERE YOU'RE REGISTERED TO VOTE

AFTER OCTOBER 9

If you already filled out the FWAB but later receive your state ballot, send that one in, too! Your vote will only be counted once.

NOVEMBER 8 ELECTION DAY

Whether you're stationed at home or abroad, your vote is important, so register and make it count.

AFTER NOVEMBER 8

Some states will still count ballots received after Election Day, but some will not. (All ballots for all states must at least be postmarked by Election Day.) That's why it's important to mail your ballot back as soon as possible.

AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE

Make sure you're registered by filling out the National Mail Voter Registration Form and sending it to the address for your state.

NOVEMBER 8

Head to your polling place and cast your vote!

