



T H E M I L I T A R Y C O A L I T I O N

201 North Washington Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 838-8113

November 4, 2009

The Honorable Hillary Clinton
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Madam Secretary,

The Military Coalition (TMC), a consortium of nationally prominent military and veterans associations representing 5.5 million active, Guard, Reserve, retired and former members of the uniform services, plus their families and survivors, is writing to urge you to rescind the State Department's policy initiative that will eliminate embassy mail privileges for American uniformed service retirees overseas by Dec. 31, 2009.

As you know, the State Department and the Department of Defense are in the process of shifting mail delivery to State Department facilities overseas from the traditional APO/FPO addresses to a new designation as Diplomatic Post Offices. This change will eliminate mail privileges to nearly 4,800 military retirees, forcing them to use foreign mail systems that in some parts of the world can be slow, unreliable or expensive.

Further, timely mail delivery is of the utmost importance for those retirees who rely on the embassy mail privileges to receive their TRICARE Mail-Order Pharmacy prescriptions. They also receive their military retirement and Social Security checks via mail and could possibly become targets for theft and/or fraud.

It is our hope that possible alternatives can be realized before further implementation of this initiative so as to not penalize military retirees for choosing to live abroad. We thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,
The Military Coalition
Signatures attached

Air Force Association
Air Force Sergeants Association
Air Force Women Officers Associated
American Logistics Association
AMVETS (American Veterans)
Army Aviation Association of America
Association of Military Surgeons of the United States
Association of the United States Army
Association of the United States Navy
Chief Warrant Officer and Warrant Officer Association, U.S. Coast Guard
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc.
Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States
Fleet Reserve Association
Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.
Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America
Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America
Marine Corps League
Marine Corps Reserve Association
Military Chaplains Association of the United States of America
Military Officers Association of America
National Association for Uniformed Services
National Guard Association of the United States
National Military Family Association
National Order of Battlefield Commissions
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association
Non Commissioned Officers Association
Reserve Enlisted Association of the United States
Reserve Officers Association
Society of Medical Consultants to the Armed Forces
The Retired Enlisted Association
United States Army Warrant Officers Association
United States Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States