



What's new at 'myPay'

The Web site "myPay," formerly called E/MSS, gives soldiers an inside view to their pay status that soldiers serving 20 years ago may envy. Now, even more enhancements are available at the site, according to Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse T. Sablan, U.S. Army Finance Command.

Key enhancements at the site include:

- a redesigned home page
- new trifolds
- Thrift Savings Plan control
- capability for soldiers to print their own W- Form beginning this month
- a new web address coming soon (myPay.dfas.mil) to replace the current one at <https://emss.dfas.mil/mypay.asp> (the old address will continue to work after the change)
- less clicks to navigate the site

Sablan highlighted the fact that the ability to manage allotments through the site is only available to members of the Marine Corps, but that the option is one that Sablan's team at Finance Command are working to make available to the Army, as well.

He also cautioned that not every myPay option will be available at all times to everyone in the world. Sablan said that local installations have similar abilities available to fulfill customer needs and Finance Command continues to improve the site, making most features more accessible to all.

Sablan said he hoped users would agree that myPay not only serves the Army's soldiers and civilians well, but it does so in ways unavailable in the past. He stressed that using the Web site makes handling pay issues faster and easier than ever before.

Sablan asks users to remember to provide comments and suggestions via the "Contact Us" button on the home page.

PERSCOM switches to AKO e-mail

Capt. John L. Barrett

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (Army News Service) — In terms of personnel business, Army Knowledge Online recently became the official e-mail for all soldiers.

U. S. Army Personnel Command replaced all soldier e-mail addresses currently in its database with AKO addresses. Enlisted soldiers' AKO addresses are required on NCO Evaluation Reports to shorten contact time when an NCOER requires a correction.

Previously, various unit and personal e-mail addresses were saved in the Army's personnel database. Some remained current while others were not updated after soldiers moved away from an installation.

"We want every soldier to be accessible," said Lt. Col. Georgia Bouie, whose office headed the e-mail transfer. The only way to ensure that is to use a common e-mail address that the soldier will have for his entire life."

AKO e-mail is currently used for a variety of official purposes, such as correspondence from career managers and the electronic mailing of travel voucher settlements from the Defense Finance and Accounting System.

The change was implemented at PERSCOM, with no action required on the part of soldiers. Soldiers without AKO addresses will not have a contact e-mail in their database. Soldiers who do not currently have an AKO address should sign up for an account from the AKO Web site at www.us.army.mil, officials said.

AKO e-mail is just one of the various features of the larger AKO initiative. It includes functions such as AKO Chat — which allows soldiers to communicate electronically in real time — and the AKO White Pages, where soldiers can search for other soldiers. AKO provides troops access to functions normally included in the electronic communities of the private sector, officials said.

Private firm offers software to improve board performance

A commercial line of software products recently released may interest soldiers preparing for board appearances.

In a news release from Transcender LLC, the company announced it has released a software program featuring flash cards that sells for around \$15. The company claims its product can be used as a "training tool for soldiers who want to improve their careers and chances of promotion."

Called "NextRank NCO Board," the program provides access to more than 50 reference publications. The company offers licenses for the

software through its Web site at www.nextrank.com.

"Our NCO Board product spans the gamut of knowledge needed to excel before the NCO board," said Scott Baldrige, NextRank content developer. "We have provided a thorough amount of material, with questions that cover 35 subject areas."

The company also touts the program as being user friendly. The flash cards can be used to study at any time and hyper links take the user directly to the relevant portions of the official references.

For more information, visit the company's Web site.