

Afterburner

News for Department of the Air Force Retired Personnel



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Monthly fees coming for TRICARE Select

FALLS CHURCH, Va. -- Starting Jan. 1, TRICARE Select Group A retired beneficiaries must pay monthly enrollment fees in order to maintain their TRICARE health coverage. This is a change, and the first time this beneficiary group will pay enrollment fees.

"In 2021, some TRICARE beneficiaries will pay enrollment fees for the first time, a change mandated by Congress," said Dr. Danita Hunter, director of the TRICARE Health Plan at the Defense Health Agency. "We're communicating this well before the change is implemented so beneficiaries can be informed about the change, as well as their TRICARE plan and cost options."

Here are the key points you need to know:

What's happening?

Retired TRICARE Select beneficiaries will have to pay enrollment fees. This change was mandated by Congress in the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 2017. Congress granted the Defense Health Agency a delay in implementation until 2021.

Who's impacted?

This change only affects Group A retirees and their eligible family members enrolled in TRICARE

Select. People are in Group A if their initial enlistment or appointment, or that of their uniformed services sponsor, began before Jan. 1, 2018.

If applicable, what action is necessary?

Retirees must set up a monthly allotment through the Department of Defense pay center, where feasible, for monthly payments to start on Jan. 1. For sponsors who don't receive funds through a DOD pay center, they can establish payments via electronic funds transfer, credit card, or debit card. Regional contractors will soon issue instructions to set up payment.

What are the 2021 enrollment fees for TRICARE Select Group A retirees?

Individual plan: \$12.50 per month
Family plan: \$25 per month
The enrollment fees will be collected via monthly installments from the sponsor's military pay system where retired pay is disbursed.

Where is more information?

Visit the [TRICARE Select Enrollment Fees](#) page on the TRICARE website for updates and [sign up for email alerts](#). TRICARE officials will provide specific instructions in the coming months. (Courtesy of TRICARE News)

Expiration update regarding ID cards

Retiree and certain family member identification cards that expire on or after Jan. 1, 2020, will remain valid through June 30, 2021, according to the Defense Human Resources Activity. This extension does not apply to children turning age 21.

For a listing of all ID card issuing sites and appointment information, visit the ID card office online at <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/#/>.

www.retirees.af.mil

Retiree council meets despite pandemic

By Tammy Cournoyer
Air Force Retiree Services

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas – Despite COVID-19, technology allowed the annual Air Force Retiree Council to continue its 48-year history of meeting. The council gathered together virtually Aug. 27-28 to address the latest Department of the Air Force retiree interest items and concerns.

Since its inception in 1972, the council, which serves as a link between the Department of the Air Force retiree community and the chief of staff of the Air Force, normally meets at the Air Force's Personnel Center in May. This year, because of the pandemic, the council and briefers met virtually using web-based conferencing to discuss issues affecting retirees, family members and surviving spouses worldwide.

"As always, meeting in person provides some face-to-face interactions that can't be replaced," said Lt. Gen. Stephen Hoog, Air Force Retiree Council co-chair. "With Zoom we were able to bring in a wider audience; this opened our eyes to the possibility of more

frequent interaction as a team throughout the year. Overall, a big success for the entire team and a tool we'll add to our overall program."

The council is comprised of two co-chairmen currently appointed by the CSAF and 15 geographical area

Association of America, Air Force Association, Air Force Sergeants Association, and Department of the Air Force DEERS office briefed the council. Representatives from the secretary of the Navy's retiree council also attended.

“

Literally thousands of retired Airmen and their families continue to support those that serve today, and they tell the Air Force story across the globe.

Retired CMSAF James Cody
Air Force Retiree Council co-chair

”

representatives. There are also four members-at-large who bring special knowledge regarding medical, legislation and spouse matters.

This year, Retiree Activities Office staff members worldwide were also able to attend the meeting because it was web-based and no travel and lodging were required.

Representatives from the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, Air Force Surgeon General, Army and Air Force Exchange Service, Defense Commissary Agency, Military Officers

Each year, RAO volunteers submit issues to the council based on common trends that arise when assisting customers and offer recommendations on how to help the retiree community overall.

This year's concerns focused on the availability of appointments at military treatment facilities; indefinite ID cards for spouses and widows; and the ability to communicate with local retiree communities.

"The council meetings are key because that is where we get the issues and feedback needed to bring the CSAF and Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force up to speed on all the factors affecting their retiree populations," said Hoog. "Airman for Life begins at the highest levels within our Air Force—it is the council's job to help make that connection."

The Air Force currently has about 685,000 military retirees and over 200,000 surviving spouses.

"Given the ever-declining numbers of those that serve in our military, the power of this population and the connection they have with our Department of the Air Force and

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Afterburner

News for Department of the Air Force Retired Personnel

The *Afterburner* is authorized by Dept. Air Force Instruction 36-3106. When funding permits, it is printed and mailed twice a year by the Air Force Personnel Center Retiree Services Office. Distribution: Airmen receiving DAF retired pay; unremarried surviving spouses of retirees (automatically if they are entitled to an annuity under Survivor Benefit Plan and/or the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan, or the Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan); unremarried non-annuitant surviving spouses of deceased DAF members who were receiving retired pay may receive the *Afterburner* by requesting it from the address below. The hard-copy *Afterburner* is not sent to former spouses nor to retirees of other services, or to retirees and survivors overseas. Additional copies are not available. The *Afterburner* address is:

AFPC/DPFFF
550 C Street West
JBSA Randolph TX 78150-4713

Email address for opting out of receiving the hard copy is afpc.retiree@us.af.mil and the phone number is (210) 565-2126. The *Afterburner* is available on the Internet at www.retirees.af.mil. PLEASE DO NOT SEND CHANGE-OF-ADDRESS NOTIFICATIONS TO THE AFTERBURNER. Distribution is based on the address on file with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service when creating mailing labels. Contact DFAS at 800-321-1080, or make changes using myPay online.

New ID cards for retirees, family members are here

by David Vergun
Department of Defense News

WASHINGTON -- Defense Department began issuing Next Generation Uniformed Services Identification Cards on July 31, the first time since 1993 that changes to the card have been made.

The complete transition to the new ID card is targeted for January 2026, said Michael Sorrento, director of the Defense Manpower Data Center. In the meantime, the current cards will continue to work. In an effort to conserve resources and limit the impact on ID card issuance facilities, cards will not be reissued solely for the purpose of

obtaining the Next Gen USID card.

Sorrento discussed the new ID cards that are for military family members, retirees and other eligible card holders. The new ID card uses a much more durable plastic material, similar to that used for the common access cards used by military members and DOD civilians, he said.

Also, the new ID cards feature enhanced security measures that will reduce the likelihood of them being compromised, Sorrento said.

Although the new ID cards are available now, Sorrento said, only about 20 Real-Time Automated Personnel Identification Card System sites currently offer the card



Cards will not be reissued solely for the purpose of obtaining the Next Gen USID card. The complete transition to the Next Generation Uniformed Services Identification Cards is targeted for January 2026. (Courtesy photo)

because new equipment is required to produce them, and that takes some time. All RAPIDS sites worldwide likely will have the new equipment by the end of the year, he said. To reduce foot traffic -- particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic -- Sorrento said that unless a card is about to expire, it would be better to wait

until next summer to get a new one. Even then, he added, it would be good to call ahead first to schedule an appointment.

DOD is looking at future capabilities that can be provided with the new ID cards, Sorrento said. For example, users of the card may eventually be able to go online and order a card through a proper vetting process and have it directly distributed to them by mail, rather than wait in a RAPIDS office for a card to be made. The underlying technology could support greater capabilities for a long time to come, he added.

More information can be found at the [DOD Common Access Card website](#).

COUNCIL from Page 2

the community will be foundational to our success in maintaining and gaining the support of the American people and our allies around the world," said former Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Cody, Air Force Retiree Council co-chair.

"Literally thousands of retired Airmen and their families continue to support those that serve today, and they tell the Air Force story across the globe," said Cody. "The strength and the power these patriots bring to the current force and civilian

population is priceless and essential to the future of our Air Force."

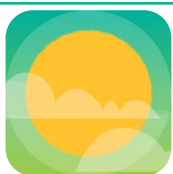
The Department of the Air Force has 96 RAOs worldwide and area representatives on the council who oversee offices in their region. RAOs, staffed by volunteers from the retiree community that include surviving spouses and sister service members, serve as information and referral centers to assist retirees and survivors with myriad actions.

"Normally, we cite volunteer hours and examples of all the other great work our retirees bring to any installation, but in truth they help tell the Air Force story and keep alive

the traditions of service, integrity and excellence in everything they touch," added Hoog. "A passion for our Air Force and its people -- both active and retired -- is needed for our service and great nation."

The Retire Council serves both Air Force and Space Force personnel and their families. Additional adjustments will be made as we continue to stand-up and source the Space Force.

For more information on the council and RAOs, visit <https://www.retirees.af.mil/Library/Council/> and <https://www.retirees.af.mil/Library/RAOs/>, respectively.



Veterans Affairs offers the [COVID Coach](#) mobile app for veterans to support self-care and overall mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic. It features education about coping during the pandemic; tools for self-care and emotional well-being; and more. The app can also help create personal support networks.

For more information, visit <https://mobile.va.gov/app/covid-coach>.

COVID-19 impacts assistance fund campaign

by Bill D'Avanzo
Air Force Fundraising Chief

At the writing of this article, the 2020 Air Force Assistance Fund campaign had its first "summer session" July 13-24 to provide Airmen another opportunity to give to the four official and affiliate charities of the Air Force.

During our "regular session" March 2 through May 8, the shutdown caused us to suspend our normal "desk-to-desk" solicitation tradition as well as acceptance of cash and check contributions (at the base locations) to keep Airmen safe.

We estimated a 53% decrease in giving because of the "email only" campaign format, but the additional detrimental effect of the economy and uncertainty has resulted in an overall 61.5% decrease in giving in comparison to last year. Likewise, retirees signing up for payroll deduction plan contributions dropped by 50% in comparison to last year at this time. And while that's true, we just wanted to thank all of our fellow retirees for continuing in our long tradition of "Taking Care of our Own" in the Air Force.

To date, retirees have donated over \$48,700 with some extremely generous individual donations in the amount of \$500-plus, and even as much as \$1,500 each from two of you -- you know who you are. Thank you!

These four charities have been ready to assist Airmen and their families since their inception and today they are needed more than



ever. COVID-19 has taken a toll on the health and well-being of the Air Force family and we see the effects on our charities as well. Air Force Aid Society is helping Airmen in financial peril caused by issues such as the loss of civilian spouse employment and with that, child care options. Both the Air Force Enlisted Village and Blue Skies of Texas (formerly known as Air Force Villages) have taken on more staff and expenses in order to maintain safe environments for our most vulnerable population: Virtual morale events; meal/prescription deliveries; and setting aside of facilities to deal with any resident who may contract the virus. The LeMay Foundation provided a one-time relief grant to all of their supported widows to ensure the additional expenses of home delivery of groceries and prescriptions would not cause further strain on their

finances.

So, again, thank you. These great charities are only able to do what they do for Airmen and their families because you gave in the past, and you passed on that tradition to those who followed in your footsteps.


If you haven't yet had the opportunity to give, you can give anytime online now at <https://www.afassistancefund.org>. Just click the "DONATE NOW!!" button at the top right of the page. The online donation form is on the left side of the page you'll jump to. You can also text **AFAF** to 50155 using your smart phone. By either means, a one-time donation as well as recurring donations can be made by either credit/debit card or by e-Check (draw from checking).

Many of you have asked in the past to be able to give on a continual basis without having to renew the Payroll Deduction Plan each year so now we have that capability with e-Giving! (Note: If you sign up for recurring e-giving, it's *highly recommended* that you set up an account by clicking the "Create an Account or Log In" link just below the "Taking Care of our Own" graphic toward the top of the page).

You can still give by check, money order, cashier's check, or through payroll deduction plan from your retired pay. The contribution form is linked on the right side of the page (the same page you land on when you hit that "DONATE NOW!!" button).

**Complete and mail the form on the next page to:
Air Force Assistance Fund, HQ AFPC/DP3SAF,
550 C Street West, JBSA Randolph, TX 78150
To complete the form online, visit
<https://www.afassistancefund.org/index.php/donate>**

*****PLEASE DON'T SEND CASH IN THE MAIL*****

Air Force Assistance Fund Retiree Contribution Form <i>This form is subject to the Privacy Act of 1974</i>		MAIL TO: Air Force Assistance Fund HQ AFPC/DP3SAF 550 C Street West JBSA Randolph, TX 78150		
Name (last, first, middle initial)		Ret Rank	SSN (Payroll Deduction Only)	
Address		City	State	Zip Code
A. CASH/CHECKS Please don't send cash in the mail!		B. PAYROLL DEDUCTION PLAN (The minimum allotment to any affiliate is \$1 per month).		Air Force Village Charitable Foundation (AFVCF) 706 <input type="checkbox"/> X 12 = <input type="text"/>
				Air Force Aid Society (AFAS) 707 <input type="checkbox"/> X 12 = <input type="text"/>
Air Force Village Charitable Foundation (AFVCF) <input type="text"/>		Air Force Enlisted Village (AFEV) 705 <input type="checkbox"/> X 12 = <input type="text"/>		TOTAL PDP <input type="text"/>
Air Force Aid Society (AFAS) <input type="text"/>		The Gen and Mrs Curtis E LeMay Foundation (LeMay) 704 <input type="checkbox"/> X 12 = <input type="text"/>		
Air Force Enlisted Village (AFEV) <input type="text"/>		Please Read: I hereby authorize deductions from my monthly retired pay beginning July of the campaign year for a period of 12 months in the amount shown to the affiliate(s) designated. This allotment will remain in effect for 12 months unless I request to terminate in writing to:		FOR AFO USE ONLY CLASS C ALLOTMENT FOR AFAF CONTRIBUTION
The General and Mrs Curtis E. LeMay Foundation (LeMay) <input type="text"/>				
TOTAL GIFT: <input type="text"/>		Defense Finance and Accounting Service US Military Retirement Pay 8899 E 56th Street Indianapolis, IN 46249-1200		PREPARED BY: _____
Please make checks payable to "AFAF"		SIGNATURE: _____		DATE: _____
C. ON-LINE E-GIVING <i>Note: Please use Section C to NOTIFY us of a donation you have already made on-line. Completing information here does not authorize electronic giving for the Air Force Assistance Fund. See www.afassistancefund.org for links to give.</i>				
CHARITY	DONATION AMOUNT (One-Time Donation)	- OR -	DONATION AMOUNT (Recurring/Monthly)	
Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation (AFVCF)	<input type="text"/>	- OR -	<input type="text"/>	
Air Force Aid Society (AFAS)	<input type="text"/>	- OR -	<input type="text"/>	
Air Force Enlisted Village (AFEV)	<input type="text"/>	- OR -	<input type="text"/>	
Gen & Mrs Curtis E LeMay Foundation (LeMAY)	<input type="text"/>	- OR -	<input type="text"/>	
TOTAL ON-LINE E-GIVING	<input type="text"/>	Annual Giving Total (One-Time gifts)	<input type="text"/>	Annual Giving Total (Recurring gifts)
VOLUNTARY INFORMATION RELEASE AUTHORIZATION: Let us thank you, and update you on what your donation is accomplishing! Information you voluntarily enter here will be released, along with your name and amount given to the Charity(ies) to which you made a pledge.				
Home Mailing Address: <input type="text"/>				
Personal Email Address: <input type="text"/>		Release of information authorization (Signature) _____		
Contributions deductible for Federal income tax purposes as itemized deduction. Contributors receive no goods or services. AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 301, Departmental Regulations; 37 U.S.C.; and E.O. 9397 (SSN) PURPOSE: To document and account for retired military pay and allowance disbursements and collections ROUTINE USE(S): May specifically be disclosed outside the DoD as a routine use pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(b)(3), to the Treasury Department, Internal Revenue Service, military relief societies, and the Blanket Routine Uses. DISCLOSURE VOLUNTARY: Not providing SSN may result in delaying or the inability to process your allotment				

An Air Force education in human relations

by retired Senior Master Sgt. Steven Heuring
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. -- When I enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1973, I had the standard prejudices common to the rural, southern Indiana small town in which I was raised. I was racist, homophobic, misogynistic, and white privileged without any conscious thought of the basis for these beliefs.

Over the course of 26 years of active duty and another 20 years of Air Force civil service, I experienced a fundamental transformation in my thinking and attitudes toward my fellow human beings, my fellow Airmen. Over time, I realized that I simply had no justification for harboring such negative beliefs.

It's been said that our military is a reflection of our society, and I believe that to be true. But I also believe that over the decades, our military services have risen to the challenge of trying to correct within our own ranks what is systemically wrong within our society with regards to human relations.

The latest current events truly pain me to know that I could lose any number of my friends to a violent death for the simple fact of their skin color. Sometimes, it seems as if we Americans haven't learned anything from our history. Or, that we no longer embrace the idea of the Golden Rule that I recall used to be taught in grade school, "Do unto others as you would have them do

unto you."

We all want and deserve equal treatment and opportunity regardless of our age, race, color, sex, creed, religion or national origin, but sadly for too many, that simply isn't their reality.

Growing up in the 1960s, my worldview and opinions were formed by what I saw on television, heard on the radio, read in the print media, and most assuredly, the commentary I overheard from the older kids and adults. During this period of my life, there was considerable social and political unrest within the U.S. resulting in numerous protest marches and demonstrations. The Vietnam Conflict was going strong during this period, and student protests against the war and the draft were common.

I do not recall at any time during my high school years any of these subjects being discussed in class. Thinking about it now makes me realize what a wasted opportunity it was to not have a meaningful teaching moment for that generation of students.

We have no control over the family we're born into, how we are raised, or where we are raised, but we do not have to be chained to its negative aspects for our whole lives either. We can change our thinking and our attitude through education and diverse experiences.

Throughout my career, I was afforded that education, but it wasn't just the formal training in human

relations that changed my attitude; it was the long list of wonderful folks I was able to work with during each of my assignments. Over time, these friends and colleagues served to totally dispel the prejudicial notions that I may have held about them.

By the time I graduated high school, I had learned all the more common racial, ethnic and sexually oriented pejorative epithets. I used them freely amongst my white friends. We mostly did so in a teasing manner to get a rise out of each other. This was the type of gutter talk that one would use with your buddies and never in the presence of polite or mixed company. Even though we were on the verge of adulthood, we had no real understanding of how truly hurtful these words could be to non-whites, women or the LGBTQ+ community. We even uttered terrible jokes about folks who were a mirror image of us but happened to live on the other side of the river.

So, this is the starting point of a raw recruit with which the U.S. Air Force would have to work -- a young 17-year-old kid out of the cornfields of southern Indiana, full of excitement about what the future may hold, and a mind full of biases, stereotypes, prejudices, racism and a limited knowledge of social graces. Thankfully, the one thing I didn't have was any deep-seated animosity toward anyone or group. I also didn't have an inkling of an idea of just how bad the lives had been for some of my fellow Airmen.

My service began June 11, 1973, the day I arrived at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. This was only five days after graduating from high school.

My first assignment was at Tinker AFB, Okla., and by the time I entered service, the Air Force had created a special program to



See **RELATIONS** on Page 7

AAFES gives back \$217 million in support

DALLAS – Service members, retirees, veterans and military families know it pays to shop their Exchange. In 2019, authorized Army & Air Force Exchange Service shoppers generated \$217 million of critical support for military quality-of-life programs in the form of earnings-based dividends.

All Exchange earnings are invested in the military community, so every trip to an Exchange Main Store, Express, movie theater, restaurant, etc., makes the community stronger, said AAFES officials.

The dividends, representing about 59% of Exchange earnings, go toward child, youth and school services; Armed Forces Recreation Centers; and other quality-of-life programs that support military members and their families. The remaining 41% of earnings is used to improve the shopping experience in stores and online at ShopMyExchange.com.

In the last 10 years, the Exchange has contributed \$2.2 billion to morale, welfare, and

recreation programs integral to Army and Air Force recruiting, readiness and resiliency.

“The Exchange is family serving family,” said Exchange Director/CEO Tom Shull. “While other retailers have a responsibility to maximize profits for shareholders, Exchange earnings improve the lives of those the organization serves—our nation’s service members, retirees, veterans and military families.”

The Exchange also serves Navy and Marine Corps communities at select locations and online.

The Exchange’s 2019 dividends were distributed as follows:

Army:	\$126 million
Air Force:	\$75 million
Marines:	\$11 million
Navy:	\$5 million

Part of the Exchange’s dividend was generated by veterans. On Jan. 1, 2020, 4.1 million veterans with service-connected disabilities and certain caregivers were welcomed home with in-store shopping privileges. Since 2017, all honorably



EXCHANGE

ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE

discharged veterans have been authorized to shop the Exchange online. Veterans can find out more about their earned benefits on the Exchange’s community hub page at <https://bit.ly/Vets4Life>.

Despite the upheaval caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the ever-changing retail landscape, the Exchange remains dedicated to supporting troops and their families, wherever the military mission takes them, said AAFES officials.

“We truly serve the best customers in the world,” Shull said. “There’s no greater honor than serving those who serve.” (Courtesy of AAFES News)

RELATIONS from Page 6

address the issues caused by deteriorating race relations. Each base had a Social Actions Office, with the goal of finding a solution to this growing problem. They certainly had their hands full trying to educate me and my like-minded Airmen.

Throughout my career, I participated in a number of human relations training classes. They evolved over the years to be more inclusive of other groups being discriminated against. Whether the

courses were taught locally or at each level of professional military education, each class brought me and my fellow Airmen to a fuller and better understanding of the other members with which we served.

It doesn’t matter what your upbringing happened to be, and it shouldn’t be used as an excuse for bad behavior. My experience has shown me that through education and an open mind, you can learn to get past your prejudices.

Step 1 is recognition. I was able to recognize my

prejudices and face them head on with the education and experiences provided by the Air Force. This by no means is meant to insinuate that we, the Air Force, have it all figured out. We can and should do better as we navigate today’s issues. I am certainly grateful for having the opportunity of an extended military career for many reasons, but none are more important to me than the fact that I believe I became a better person because of it.

When I observe my children and grandchildren

and others of their generation, I have high confidence we are heading in the right direction. I sense that they truly get it, that we are all human beings deserving of respect, equal opportunity and treatment.

My hope is that our current climate leads to even more discussion, education, compassion and transformation within the Air Force. Our country, our mission, and most importantly, our fellow Wingmen depend on it. (Courtesy of Washington Headquarters Service)

DFAS issues 1099R tax document, not Air Force

by Defense Finance and Accounting Service
Retired & Annuitant Pay

CLEVELAND -- The 1099R tax document is issued by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, the agency that pays you, not the Air Force. Here is a reminder of the convenient options DFAS offers for getting the tax statement for military retirees and annuitants.

Get Your 1099-R in myPay

The fastest and most secure way to obtain a copy of your 1099-R is through myPay. Retirees and annuitants can log in to myPay, and print a 1099-R.

If you're not using myPay, now is a great time to get started by visiting <https://myPay.dfas.mil> and creating an account. With the refresh last year, myPay is now simpler, streamlined and more mobile-friendly. That means it's easier to manage your pay account using the web browser on your computer or with a connected device, like your smartphone or tablet. Watch our [get](#)

[started video](#) for assistance.

Telephone Self-Service

If your mailing address on file with DFAS is current, retirees can get a copy of their 1099-R through the telephone self-service option. To use telephone self-service:

- Call 800-321-1080
- Select option "1" for self-serve
- Select option "1" for retiree
- Select option "1"
- Enter your Social Security number when prompted

Your 1099-R should be in the mail within 7-10 business days to the address we have on record.

Online AskDFAS

Retirees and annuitants can get their 1099-Rs sent to their mailing address on record or to a one-time, temporary mailing address by submitting the request online. You will receive your 1099-R in the mail in 7-10 business days. Find

instructions at <http://go.usa.gov/xwYqy>.

Mail or Fax a 1099-R Request

If you prefer traditional mail or fax, you can send DFAS a written request, but make sure you leave time for processing. It can take up to 30 days to process requests received by fax or mail. Make sure you include all necessary information in your request. Find instructions at <http://go.usa.gov/xwYqy>.

Special Requests/Customer Care

Members with unique situations can speak directly to a customer care representative. For more information, check out <https://go.usa.gov/xwYqR> (this link is case-sensitive).

Please note that DFAS customer care representatives cannot provide tax advice or recommendations on withholding. Consult a tax professional if you have questions about your taxes.

Afterburner office does not maintain addresses

Please **DO NOT** send your U.S. Postal Service change-of-address announcements to the *Afterburner* office as the editor does not have the ability to make official address changes.

Mailing labels used to send out the *Afterburner* are based on addresses already on file with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service. Any change announcements sent to the *Afterburner* cannot be processed or forwarded, and are shredded.

Retirees must change their address by calling 800-321-1080. (Do not mention the *Afterburner* or you may be referred elsewhere.) If you have a [myPay](#) account you can make the change online. You can fax your change to 800-469-6559, or send it to: DFAS, US Military Retirement Pay, 8899 E 56th Street, Indianapolis IN 46249-1200.

Air Force Survivor Benefit Plan annuitants must call DFAS at the number above, or use their online myPay account. The fax number for annuitants is 800-982-8459 or mail the change to: DFAS, US Military Annuitant Pay, 8899 E 56th Street, Indianapolis IN 46249-1300.



VA officials explain no-cost burial benefits

The Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration wants veterans to know the bottom line upfront: Many veterans don't realize that their military service entitles them to be interred in a national cemetery at no cost.

Even if a veteran never received disability or any other benefit from the VA, if they served on active duty and were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable, they are eligible. If they served in the Reserve Component and were mobilized or served long enough to earn a retirement, they are eligible. Yet only 20% of all eligible veterans living in the United States take advantage of this benefit which would save their families thousands of dollars.

The best, most effective way to ensure veterans get the burial or memorial benefits they and their spouse have earned through Air Force service is through a VA program called Pre-Need Eligibility, or Pre-Need.

Pre-Need establishes eligibility for VA burial and memorial benefits before death, so the family doesn't have to go searching for documentation after the veteran's death. Simply fill out a VA form 40-10007 and mail it in to the St. Louis office indicated on the top of the form. Veterans can print out a

form or fill it out online. The form and more information is available at <https://www.cem.va.gov/pre-need/>.

VA officials will review each application and send a letter confirming or denying eligibility. If approved, safely store the letter and inform someone of its location.

Pre-Need provides veterans and families with peace of mind. This information is particularly important for Guard and Reserve members, many of whom don't realize that their service entitles them to burial benefits. There are some nuances for reservists who may have to provide additional paperwork if a mobilization isn't documented on their DD Form 214, so it is even more important for them to apply for Pre-Need. Waiting to establish eligibility at the time of death can sometimes result in a non-eligible decision with little or no time to provide additional information.

If a VA national, state or tribal veteran cemetery is selected as the final resting place, a veteran will receive the following: gravesite, opening and closing of the grave, grave liner, and perpetual care of the gravesite. Also included are memorial benefits such as a headstone, marker or cover for a columbarium niche.

All are absolutely free,



Many veterans don't realize that their military service entitles them to be interred in a national cemetery at no cost. Even if a veteran never received disability or any other benefit from the VA, if they served on active duty and were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable, they are eligible. (Courtesy photo)

which means a savings of thousands of dollars to the veteran's family. The veteran's spouse as well as minor children and unmarried adult children who legally rely on the veteran for support are also eligible for interment free of charge, typically in the same grave or columbarium niche as the veteran.

If veterans choose to be interred in a private cemetery, they can still have a free government-furnished headstone, marker or niche cover. If a veteran chooses burial in a private cemetery with a privately purchased headstone, marker or niche cover, their family may request a free bronze medallion with the word "veteran" and the appropriate branch of service to attach to the headstone.

Families also receive a burial flag. At many VA national cemeteries, NCA partners with local military units or volunteer service organizations to provide deceased veterans with military funeral honors, including the playing of taps and presentation of the burial flag.

Finally, upon request, the veteran's family will receive a Presidential Memorial Certificate signed by the current U.S. president. Multiple copies can be requested so that all family members can have one.

For more information about VA burial and memorial benefits, visit www.cem.va.gov or call 800-697-6947. (Courtesy of the Office of Engagement and Memorial Innovations, National Cemetery Administration)

Department of the Air Force Retiree Activities Offices

Department of the Air Force Retiree Activities Offices are made up of retired volunteers from all services, including surviving spouses. Their charter is to coordinate, establish and staff an office on an active-duty, Reserve or Guard base through command channels that helps retirees and surviving spouses with myriad actions.

These actions include: serving as an information center for TRICARE, base services, etc.; offering referrals for financial assistance and pay matters; counseling active-duty Airmen nearing retirement; and providing

guidance on retirement issues.

Another major activity involves working with base agencies to set up Retiree Appreciation Day events offering briefings by different agencies on respective services, tax preparation and advice (at selected locations); staff judge advocate assistance, base tours, Defense Finance and Accounting Service, etc.

Not all states or countries have an established DAF RAO. The phone numbers and email addresses of RAOs Air Force-wide are listed below.

Alabama - Area IX
MAXWELL
Phone: 334-953-6725
Email: retiree.affairs@us.af.mil

Alaska - Area XIV
JOINT BASE ELEMENDORF-
RICHARDSON
Phone: 907-384-3500
Email: usaf.jberrso@mail.mil

Arizona - Area III
DAVIS-MONTHAN
Phone: 520-228-5100
Email: keith.connolly@us.af.mil

LUKE
Phone: 623-856-3923
Email: 56fw.rao@us.af.mil

Arkansas - Area VII
LITTLE ROCK
Phone: 501-987-6095
Toll Free: 877-815-3111
Email: henry.ward.2@us.af.mil

California - Area II
BEALE
Phone: 530-634-3000
Email: chiangdawei@mac.com

EDWARDS
Phone: 661-277-4931
Email: 412tw.rao@us.af.mil

LOS ANGELES
Phone: 310-653-5144
Email: rao.laafb@gmail.com

MARCH
Phone: 951-655-4520
Email: albert.bailey.4@us.af.mil

MCCLELLAN
Phone: 916-640-8446
Email: george.moses@va.gov

TRAVIS
Phone: 707-424-3904
Email: rao.-02@us.af.mil

VANDENBERG
Phone: 805-606-5474
Email: vandenber30swretireeactivityoffice@us.af.mil

Colorado - Area IV
BUCKLEY
Phone: 720-847-6693
Email: stephen.young.27@us.af.mil

PETERSON
Phone: 719-556-7153

Email: raopeterson@us.af.mil
USAF ACADEMY
Phone: 719-333-7877
Email: raopeterson@us.af.mil

Delaware - Area XII
DOVER
Phone: 302-677-4612
Email: dover.rao@us.af.mil

District of Columbia - Area XII
BOLLING
Phone: 202-767-5244
Email: rao.jbab@us.af.mil

Florida - Area X
CENTRAL FLORIDA
Phone: 352-430-1679
Email: rw.edmayfield@gmail.com

EGLIN
Phone: 850-882-5916
Email: eglin.rao@us.af.mil

HOMESTEAD
Phone: 786-415-7580
Email: rao.homestead@us.af.mil

HURLBURT FIELD
Phone: 850-884-5443
Email: 1sofss.rao@us.af.mil

MACDILL
Phone: 813-828-4555
Email: rao.macdill@us.af.mil

PATRICK
Phone: 321-494-5464
Email: patrick.rao@us.af.mil

Georgia - Area XI
MOODY
Phone: 229-257-3209
Email: moodyrao@us.af.mil

ROBINS
Phone: 478-327-8028
Email: 78.abw.rao@us.af.mil

Hawaii - Area XIV
JB PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM
Phone: 808-474-0032
Email: mfschawaii@navy.mil

Idaho - Area I
MOUNTAIN HOME
Phone: 208-828-8037
Email: carl.w.olsen.vol@mail.mil

Illinois - Area VIII
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
Phone: 719-366-2091

Email: usrao2@gmail.com
RANTOUL
Phone: 217-893-1723
Email: geneandjune@aol.com

SCOTT
Phone: 618-256-5092
Email: scottrao@us.af.mil

Indiana - Area VIII
FORT WAYNE
Phone: 260-478-3780
Email: 122retireeoffice@gmail.com

Kansas - Area VII
MCCONNELL
Phone: 316-759-3829/4411
Email: rao.mcconnell@us.af.mil

Louisiana - Area IX
BARKSDALE
Phone: 318-456-5976
Email: retiree.office@us.af.mil

Maryland - Area XII
JOINT BASE ANDREWS
Phone: 301-981-2726
Email: usaf.jbanafw.afdw-11wg.mbx.rao-andrews@mail.mil

Massachusetts - Area XIII
HANSCOM
Phone: 781-225-1310
Email: dean.mottard@us.af.mil

OTIS
Phone: 508-968-4175
Email: 102iw.rao@ang.af.mil

WESTOVER
Phone: 413-557-3918/3424
Email: walter.southard@us.af.mil

Michigan - Area VIII
SELFRIDGE AIR NATIONAL GUARD
BASE
Phone: 586-239-5580
Email: selfrao@yahoo.com

Minnesota - Area V
MINNEAPOLIS-ST PAUL ARS
Phone: 612-713-1517
Email: msp934rao@yahoo.com

Mississippi - Area IX
COLUMBUS
Phone: 662-434-3120
Email: 14ftw.rao.columbus@us.af.mil

KEESLER
Phone: 228-376-8110
Email: rao.keesler@us.af.mil

Missouri - Area VII
JEFFERSON BARRACKS NGB SRAO
Phone: 314-527-8212
Email: usaf.mo.157-aog.list.retirees-office@mail.mil

O'FALLON
Phone: 636-379-5577
Email: veteransaffairs@ofallon.mo.us

WHITEMAN
Phone: 660-687-6457
Toll free: 800-303-5608
Email: 509.bw.retiree.affairs.office@us.af.mil

Montana - Area I
MALMSTROM
Phone: 406-731-2911
Email: curtis.hunt.4@us.af.mil

Nebraska - Area V
OFFUTT
Phone: 402-294-2590
Email: 55msg.cvr@us.af.mil

Nevada - Area IV
NELLIS
Phone: 702-652-6339
Email: 99abw.nellis.rao@us.af.mil

New Jersey - Area XIII
JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-
LAKEHURST
Phone: 609-754-2459
Email: mcgrao@us.af.mil

New Mexico - Area III
KIRTLAND
Phone: 505-846-1536
Email: sally.uebelacker@us.af.mil

New York - Area XIII
NIAGARA FALLS ARS
Phone: 716-236-2389
Email: jtreele117@hotmail.com

North Carolina - Area XI
POPE FIELD
Phone: 910-394-1950
Email: popeaafrao@gmail.com

North Dakota - Area V
MINOT
Phone: 701-723-3440
Email: 5bw/rao@us.af.mil

Ohio - Area VIII
YOUNGSTOWN ARS
Phone: 330-609-1611/1196
Email: rao.youngstown.ohio@gmail.com

WRIGHT-PATERSON

Phone: 937-257-3221
Email: paul.moore.21@us.af.mil

Oklahoma - Area VII
ALTUS
Phone: 580-481-6831
Email: stevefrancis988@gmail.com

TINKER
Phone: 405-739-2795
Email: 72abw.cvr@us.af.mil

VANCE
Phone: 580-213-7859
Email: 71ftw.cvr.retireeactivitiesoffice@us.af.mil

Pennsylvania - Area XIII
DLA TROOP SUPPORT-
PHILADELPHIA
Phone: 215-737-7300
Email: raotrpspt@dla.mil

PITTSBURGH ARS
Phone: 412-474-8816
Email: earl.marsh@us.af.mil

HORSHAM AGS
Phone: 215-323-7135
Email: jenny.pappas.2@mail.mil

WYOMING, PA
Phone: 570-288-1947 Ext. 220
Email: raysmith1313@frontier.com

Puerto Rico - Area X
MUNIZ ANGB
Phone: 787-253-5100, Ext. 253-9125
Email: rao.puerto.rico@gmail.com

South Carolina - Area XI
CHARLESTON
Phone: 843-963-2228
Email: rao.628abw.cvr@us.af.mil

SHAW
Phone: 803-895-1098/8421
Email: 20fw.rao.retireeactivities@us.af.mil

South Dakota - Area V
ELLSWORTH
Phone: 605-385-3600
Email: 28bwrao@us.af.mil

Tennessee - Area IX
ARNOLD
Phone: 931-454-4574
Email: patrick.long.9@us.af.mil

Texas - Area VI
DYESS
Phone: 325-696-4980
Email: 7bw.rao.dyess@us.af.mil

GOODFELLOW
Phone: 325-654-3708
Email: 17trw.cvr.retireesactivity@us.af.mil

LACKLAND
Phone: 210-671-9182
Email: 802fss.raoassistance@us.af.mil

LUBBOCK
Phone: 806-749-3728
Email: Lubbock.rao@us.af.mil

RANDOLPH
Phone: 210-652-6880

Email: rao.randolph@us.af.mil
SHEPPARD
Phone: 940-676-2654/5088
Email: sheppard.rao@us.af.mil

Utah - Area IV
HILL
Phone: 801-777-5735
Email: raohill@us.af.mil

Virginia - Area XI
LANGLEY
Phone: 757-764-7386
Email: langley.rao@us.af.mil

Washington - Area I
FAIRCHILD
Phone: 509-247-5359
Email: rao.fairchild@us.af.mil

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD
Phone: 253-982-3214
Email: retaffairs@us.af.mil

Wisconsin - Area V
MILWAUKEE
Phone: 414-944-8212
Email: usaf.wi.128-arw.list.rao@mail.mil

TRUAX FIELD
Phone: 608-242-3115
Toll Free: 800-335-5147 Ext 3115
Email: widma.retiree@wisconsin.gov

Wyoming - Area IV
FE WARREN
Phone: 307-773-2309
Email: mikearcher@bresnan.net

Pacific Region - Area XIV

Guam
ANDERSEN - Temporarily Inactive

HAWAII
JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-
HICKAM
Phone: 808-474-0032
Email: mfschawaii@navy.mil

Thailand
BANGKOK
Phone: 66-2-287-1036 Ext 166
Email: raothailand@jusmagthai.org

Japan
MISAWA
Phone: 011-81-176-77-4428
Email: misawa.rao@us.af.mil

YOKOTA
Phone: 011-81-3117-55-8324
Email: yokota.rao@us.af.mil

South Korea
OSAN
Phone: 011-82-31-663-0319
Email: amberine.rice@us.af.mil

Philippines
CLARK AB REGION
Phone: 011-63-45-625-5522/888-2748
Email: rao_cabr@mozcom.com

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
SAIPAN RAO
Phone: 670-285-7383
Email: PeterC11@yahoo.com

European Region - Area XV

England
ROYAL AIR FORCE ALCONBURY
Phones: 011-44-1480-84-3364
Email: 423fss.rao@us.af.mil

ROYAL AIR FORCE CROUGHTON
Phone: 011-44-1820-70-8182
Email: rao-02@us.af.mil

ROYAL AIR FORCE MILDENHALL/
LAKENHEATH
Phone: 011-49-1638-54-2039
Email: rao1@us.af.mil

Germany
RAMSTEIN/KAISERSLAUTERN
MILITARY COMMUNITY
Phone: 011-49-6371-47-5486
Email: 86aw.rao@us.af.mil

SPANGDAHLEM
Phone: 011-49-656561/1991
Email: 52fw.rao@us.af.mil

Spain
TORREJON
Phone: 34-91-231-1215
Email: rao.torrejon@gmail.com

RAOs are always seeking volunteers

Retiree Activities Offices are staffed by volunteer military retirees from all services, including spouses and surviving spouses. All offices worldwide are always seeking more volunteers.

For more information or to volunteer, contact the nearest RAO. If an installation is not listed, or is inactive, send email to afpc.retiree@us.af.mil or call 210-565-2126 for details.

Air Force Retiree Council

The following people currently serve on the Air Force Retiree Council:

Lt. Gen. Stephen L. Hoog, Co-Chairman
Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force No. 17 James A. Cody, Co-Chairman
Chief Master Sgt. Carl W. Olsen, Area I representative - Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Washington
Lt. Col. Michael J. Reagan, Area II representative - California
Chief Master Sgt. James R. McCarty Jr., Area III representative - Arizona and New Mexico
Lt. Col. John S. Lannefeld, Area IV representative - Colorado, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming
Senior Master Sgt. Robert E. Greene, Area V representative - North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska and Wisconsin
Chief Master Sgt. Jon R. Lindgren, Area VI representative - Texas
Chief Master Sgt. Stephan R. Francis, Area VII representative - Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma
Master Sgt. Cindy Cox, Area VIII representative - Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia
Master Sgt. Bennie J. Wells, Area IX representative - Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee
Col. Terry W. Jensen, Area X representative - Florida (Includes Puerto Rico and Panama)
Chief Master Sgt. James D. Ingram, Area XI representative - Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia
Maj. Lisa Forester, Area XII representative - Delaware, District of Columbia and Maryland
Chief Master Sgt. Jenny W. Pappas, Area XIII representative - Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont
Vacant, Area XIV representative - Pacific Region (includes Alaska and Hawaii)
Col. Heather L. Osterhaus, Area XV representative - Atlantic Region (includes Europe and The Azores)
Col. Frank G. Rohrbough, member at large
Chief Master Sgt. John "Doc" McCauslin, member at large
Susie Schwartz, member at large
Sandra Taylor, member at large

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