

Afterburner

News for Department of the Air Force Retired Personnel



Vol. 61, No. 2

AFRP 36-1

Fall/Winter 2019-2020

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New legislation eliminates SBP-DIC annuity offset for eligible surviving spouses

Congress included a phased elimination of the SBP-DIC offset in the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act, titled "Phase-Out of Reduction of Survivor Benefit Plan Survivor Annuities by Amount of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation."

Defense Finance and Accounting Service officials have a new webpage called "[SBP-DIC News](#)" where they will post information on the status of the implementation of this new law.

Officials are working on analyzing the change and making plans for the implementation. They will not be able to answer questions about the full effect of this change in the law until they obtain legal interpretation of the changes and identify all of the impacts on policy and procedures.

Based on the NDAA, spouse SBP annuitants will see the first change in the SBP annuity payment they receive Feb. 1, 2021. Spouses do not need to notify DFAS that their SBP payment is affected by this change in the law.

DFAS officials advise that the most important action SBP annuitants can take at this time is to ensure their annuity account information is up-to-date and includes their correct mailing address so DFAS can contact them, if needed. Also, if annuitants are not using myPay online, they can set up a profile now

and add their email address. To create an online myPay account, visit <https://mypay.dfas.mil/> and click on "Start here" next to the Create your myPay Profile heading on the lower right-hand side of the page.

DFAS officials are unable to provide individual estimates of the upcoming changes in spouse SBP annuity payments because of this change in the law. Officials ask SBP annuitants not to call the DFAS Customer Care Center to request an individual estimate.

The webpage also states that spouse annuitants who previously received a refund of SBP premiums paid because of the SBP-DIC offset won't need to pay back that refund because of this change in the law.

The "Repeal of Authority for Optional Annuity for Dependent Children" and "Restoration of Eligibility for Previously Eligible Spouses" in the NDAA only affect those spouses and children of service members who died on active duty when the surviving spouse previously elected to transfer the SBP annuity to a child or children. It does not affect previous or future SBP elections by retirees or SBP annuities for a retiree's beneficiaries.

SBP provides a monthly income to eligible survivors of Airmen upon their death. DIC is paid to survivors of Airmen who die from a service-related injury or illness.

Thanking Vietnam vets, families is long overdue

by Retired Army Maj. Gen. Jim Jackson
America Vietnam War Commemoration
director

Americans have been uniting to thank and honor veterans – and their families -- who served during the Vietnam War years for many years now. But we have many more to find, thank and honor! Spearheading this effort since 2012 is U.S.A. [Vietnam War Commemoration](#).

The commemoration was authorized by Congress, under Department of Defense auspices, and launched at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in 2012. Our goal is to thank and honor America's 6.5 million living veterans of the 9 million who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces from Nov. 1, 1955, to May 15, 1975 — regardless of location — and the families of all who served.

Veterans Affairs officials estimate we are losing more than 500 of these heroic veterans every day. We must act now to do what should have been done 50 years ago. We must find, thank and honor each of these veterans and their families for their service to the nation, and we need help engaging communities across the country so they can be recognized in their home towns where they live and work.

Of special significance, two years ago President Donald Trump signed into law the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017, establishing a national Vietnam War Veterans Day that will be celebrated every March 29, in perpetuity. It's time to put this on all our calendars.

The commemoration office is also coordinating with governors of all U.S. states, commonwealths and territories, and the District of Columbia mayor, to host similar events on or around this day. All of them have already hosted events for Vietnam veterans and their families.

The Commemorative Partner Program is an organizationally based, hometown-centric initiative established to reach Vietnam War veterans and their families. Those who have joined as partners have committed to conducting events or activities annually to recognize, thank and honor our veterans and their families. The nearly 12,000 partners have held more than 17,000 events to date and have thanked and honored approximately 2.6 million Vietnam-era veterans, plus more than 41,000 of their families have received special recognition in memory of their veterans. A

Certificate of Honor program, which includes a pin for surviving Vietnam veteran spouses, is found on our [website](#)

We are now seeking assistance to find those Vietnam-era veterans who are unable to attend events. Many are in care facilities, nursing homes, hospices, hospitals, or just in their homes and unable to travel.

The commemoration is also providing [Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pins](#) to commemorative partners for dignified public presentations during commemorative events, to living veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces during the specified timeframe above, regardless of location of service. Each veteran who served during the dates above is eligible to receive one lapel pin. The pin is a tangible sign of our nation's thanks and is inscribed on the back with the words "A Grateful Nation Thanks and Honors You."

Veterans and their families can locate upcoming commemorative events in or near their hometowns at <http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/events/>; zoom in to locate your state and city or town, and click on a blue pin to reveal details of an upcoming event, including contact information.

If there are no events in your area, check back frequently as new events are added every week. Veterans who need help finding an event can request assistance by sending an [email](#).

The Vietnam War Commemoration heartily thanks the Air Force, and especially its awesome retirees, for its support of our mission – finding, thanking and honoring Vietnam veterans and their families. Your participation, and that of thousands of our other commemorative partners around the nation, is deeply appreciated.

We have much more work to do -- please help us find and honor these veterans.

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.

Retirees need an ‘Arrears of Pay’ beneficiary

Defense Finance and Accounting Service officials remind retirees there are two ways they can prepare to leave behind money from their military retirement: by designating beneficiaries for the Survivor Benefit Plan and Arrears of Pay.

Naming a beneficiary for SBP does not automatically entitle that person to receive AOP. A separate election must be made, as AOP and SBP are two separate benefits.

AOP is a one-time payment, usually less than one month's pay, made to a beneficiary after the retiree's death. Arrears of Pay is not a death benefit. It is the prorated amount of the final month's retirement pay; and, if applicable, any other money owed to the retiree at the time of death.

It's important to designate a beneficiary or beneficiaries for AOP, and to keep the information current, said DFAS officials. They explain that failing to designate an AOP beneficiary and keep their contact information current could cause stress and financial hardship for survivors during an already difficult time

because the final payment could be delayed.

Unless otherwise noted, an AOP beneficiary will also be the person DFAS officials contact for assistance in closing the account, so it is important to designate a person the retiree trusts to handle their affairs. Also, designating a sole beneficiary in a will does not automatically make that person an AOP beneficiary.

When no beneficiary is named, the payment is made to the highest person in what is known as the "Order of Precedence." The Order of Precedence is the federally mandated order of inheritance that applies to legacies without a designated beneficiary. It can take many months to locate survivors, identify who comes highest in the Order of Precedence, and then make the payment.

DFAS officials also suggest limiting the number of AOP beneficiaries to avoid delays as the AOP payment is usually less than one month's pay, and this amount will be divided among all of the designated beneficiaries.

For more information, visit the [DFAS website](#) or contact a representative at the DFAS Customer Care Center by calling 800-321-1080.

Entitlement Month	Retired Pay Date	Annuitant Pay Date
January 2020	Jan. 31, 2020	Feb. 3, 2020
February 2020	Feb. 28, 2020	March 2, 2020
March 2020	April 1, 2020	April 1, 2020
April 2020	May 1, 2020	May 1, 2020
May 2020	May 31, 2020	June 3, 2020
June 2020	July 1, 2020	July 1, 2020
July 2020	Aug. 1, 2020	Aug. 1, 2020
August 2020	Sept. 1, 2020	Sept. 1, 2020
September 2020	Oct. 1, 2020	Oct. 1, 2020
October 2020	Oct. 30, 2020	Nov. 2, 2020
November 2020	Dec. 1, 2020	Dec. 1, 2020
December 2020	Dec. 31, 2020	Jan. 4, 2021

For Airmen, By Airmen:

2020 assistance fund campaign kicks off soon

by Bill D'Avanzo
Air Force fundraising chief

We're gearing up, once again, for the annual Air Force Assistance Fund "For Airmen, By Airmen" Campaign scheduled March 2 to April 10.

The leaders of the Air Force Assistance Fund charities thank you for your support last year, donating nearly \$87,000! You make it possible for us to take care of our Airmen and their families!

This year we hope that you will continue to support the AFAS campaign and make an even bigger impact. Here are a few ways your gift matters:

► Your donation of just \$25 can fund childcare costs for Air Force families, or start the LeMay Foundation's funding stream to help a widow make ends meet.

► If you can give \$100 you impact multiple families through programs like Air Force Aid Society's "Car Care Because We Care" that provides vouchers to the spouses of deployed Airmen for vehicle maintenance, or help our retirement villages provide medical prescriptions for

widows that can't afford them.

► A generous gift between \$500 and \$4,000 will secure equal-value AFAS Hap Arnold education grants for several family members. Likewise, such a generous donation positions our retirement villages to address their unique mission of making a home for our widows/widowers.

So much good being done for our Air Force family by the four charities holding true to our time-honored tradition of taking care of our own -- For Airmen, By Airmen!

This year, in addition to having the ability to send in a check, money order or cashier's check, or submit the contribution form authorizing 12 months of allotments, we'll be offering e-giving where you can use your credit/debit card, or authorize deductions from either a savings or checking account. Plus, we're happy to announce that we've heard you -- the e-giving capabilities will include recurring giving, so you won't have to renew on an annual basis anymore. At any time, you can increase, decrease, or stop recurring giving when you create an account.

Air Force Assistance Fund Charities

The **Air Force Enlisted Village's** focus and primary goal is to "Provide a Home" and financial assistance to surviving spouses. Information regarding admission requirements and services available at the Air Force Enlisted Village can be found at www.afev.us or by calling toll free 800-258-1413.

The **Air Force Village Charitable Foundation** provides assistance to Air Force officers' surviving spouses who have fallen on hard times. For more information, visit <http://www.blueskiesoftexas.org/> or call 866-553-5389.

The **General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation** helps widows of all Air Force retirees, both officers and enlisted, through financial grants of assistance — it does not offer loans. Call 800-554-5510 or visit www.lemay-foundation.org.

The **Air Force Aid Society** provides Airmen and their families worldwide with emergency financial assistance, education assistance, and an array of base-level community-enhancement programs. To learn more, visit www.afas.org or call 703-972-2650.

**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.assistancefund.org/fund/form.cfm>**

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				

Retired Airman celebrates his father's life, legacy

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. -- Richard Kibbey was 12 years old when he answered a knock at the front door and saw a lieutenant colonel, a man with a lot of stripes and a chaplain.

"And I knew right away something was wrong," said the now retired lieutenant colonel and current 45th Space Wing antiterrorism program manager, who grew up in a self-described 'Leave it to Beaver' 1950's household.

"Dad was the kind of guy that spent quality time with each of us individually and together," recalled Kibbey. "We went out camping, we did lots of family stuff."

"Dad" – Col. Richard 'Dick' Kibbey – was a C-124 Globemaster II pilot in the Air Force. He volunteered to train into another program, one to develop a pioneer program in helicopter rescue. After cross-training into the rescue program, he got orders to Vietnam.

Dick and three other Airmen were serving as HH-3E helicopter crew members with the 38th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron out of Thailand, when they were tasked with a rescue and recovery mission. Their mission: to rescue the pilot of a downed aircraft over North Vietnam. On Feb. 6, 1967, no more than two weeks after trading "I love you's" and "See you soon's" with his wife and four children in the United States, Dick's helicopter was hit by enemy ground fire after rescuing the downed pilot. The helicopter, a Jolly Green Giant, experienced an internal explosion and crashed; leaving four of the five men onboard missing in action.

"It was an ugly, ugly couple months of not knowing," said Kibbey. "You hope to hear something and nothing ever comes. There's no new news. Weeks turn into months, months turn into years. And then you get into a routine of secretly hoping, but not too much, because you don't

want to be disappointed. You soon start to realize this is just the way that it is."

Kibbey soon followed in his father's footsteps and joined the Air Force as a security forces officer.

"In 1979, when I was a lieutenant, my dad was about to come upon his twentieth-year of service," said Kibbey. "It's difficult to decide what to do for someone when they've served for 20 years but are missing in action; so the decision was made to retire him and give my mother his retirement pay. I went to San Antonio for the ceremony where my mother received my father's Silver Star and Purple Heart decorations."

Dick's missing in action status was soon amended to deceased after no discoveries in numerous searches of the area thought to be the crash site. This was believed to be the very heart-wrenching final chapter of his story, until September 2015.

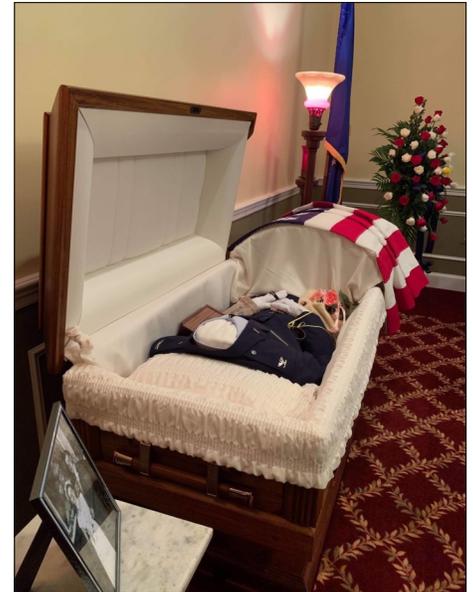
On one of the last visits to the Jolly Green Giant's believed crash site, a local villager approached the military recovery team and handed them a box. The box contained bones and dog tags from several American Airmen.

"The man took the team into the mountains, and there was still wreckage from the helicopter in the trees," said Kibbey. "They started doing some digging and found more evidence and refocused their efforts on this new site."

In September 2018, Kibbey received word from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency that he had been waiting on for half of a century; his father's remains were found at the crash site. Dick was finally coming home to be laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery.

At the funeral home, the family had their fallen hero's casket open, with his classic Air Force blue uniform laid within.

Kibbey's mother, Mary Ann, passed away in 1979. Soil from her



Col. Rick A. Kibbey, a combat rescue aviator, was shot down after flying his first rescue mission in Vietnam War. He was brought home after being missing in action for more than 50 years. (U.S. Air Force photo)

grave site is symbolically joined with her husband at his gravesite with plans for a subsequent visit to Arlington to bring soil from his grave back to Florida so they would be together there as well.

With the mystery of his father's fate resolved, Kibbey looks back on his memories with him with a bit more relief in his heart and a smile on his face.

"I learned so much from my father," recounts Kibbey. "He was an honorable man, a prankster and a strict disciplinarian, but in a kind way. He wanted to make us better people and make us more conscious of our responsibilities as citizens. Because of him, my siblings and I had a foundation of empathy for the world and empathy for others. It all paid off."

Looking through photos of his father in uniform, Kibbey held back tears and said, "I wanted to be just like my dad."

Tax forms available for retirees, annuitants

Retiree and annuitant 2019 1099-Rs are now available in myPay. Tax statements for retirees and annuitants who elected delivery by mail were mailed via U.S. Postal Service in January.

All tax statements come from the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, not the Air Force.

DFAS officials state receiving a timely tax statement depends on having an active myPay account or ensuring the mailing address on file is correct. People who have updated their address information with another government agency, such as Veterans' Affairs or the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting Service, need to

update information with DFAS and vice versa.

One advantage of using myPay is that 1099-R tax statement will be available much sooner in myPay than through postal mail, according to DFAS officials. In addition, in myPay, people can download or print current-year tax statement as well as prior year 1099Rs (up to four prior years for retirees and up to two prior years for annuitants).

People seeking an online myPay account can download a step-by-step Get Started Guide or see the how-to video on the DFAS YouTube channel by visiting <https://mypay.dfas.mil/>.

You can request a copy of your 1099-R through the DFAS telephone self-service option.

To use telephone self-service:

- ⇒ Call 800-321-1080
- ⇒ Select Option "1" for Self-Service
- ⇒ 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 DFAS has on record for you.



New DFAS tools help customers with submitting forms

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service is rolling out a series of new tools to help retirees and annuitants fill out and submit

forms easily and correctly. The tools include helpful PDF form wizards, checklists, how-to videos and online upload tools.

The tools are available from the [forms page](#) on the DFAS website.

DFAS officials report receiving a high percentage of unworkable forms, often because a form is missing information or a signature. They hope these tools will make the processes easier for customers by reducing the number of incorrect documents that cause delays, and by allowing digital submissions.

The form wizards "take the form out of the form" by having the customer answer a series of questions. Once they have answered the questions, the wizard then places the answers in the correct areas of the form and generates a ready-to-print PDF of the completed form. Customers can also save a PDF of the generated form to their own computer. Form wizards are designed to generate a printable

version of the filled-out forms when forms require "wet" signatures.

New checklists provide a different kind of help by explaining what information needs to be included on a form and additional documentation that may be needed. There is also a reminder to sign the form, which is one of the major omissions preventing DFAS from processing a form. Videos complement the checklists with visual instructions.

The new online upload tools allow some forms and documentation to be uploaded and submitted through "AskDFAS" on the website, and are accessible on a mobile browser. Customers just need to fill in the required information in the online screen and then upload a PDF of their completed and signed form and documentation. AskDFAS online upload tools can only accept the specific form and documentation noted on the upload tool. Other requests or documents cannot be processed through these tools.

Upcoming retiree appreciation events

FEBRUARY

**Fairchild Air Force Base,
Washington** – Feb. 28
Call 509-247-5359.

MAY

**Joint Base Elmendorf-
Richardson, Alaska** -- May 16
Call 907-384-3500.

For more retiree and veteran events, a [worldwide listing](#) is available.

Air Force museum seeking donations of various artifacts

The National Museum of the United States Air Force is always seeking donations of artifacts, archival material, and digital files related to the U.S. Air Force, USAF Reserve, Air National Guard, Civil Air Patrol, and their predecessor organizations.

Examples of what the museum is seeking include certain items related to Army aviation from 1960 through 1946, and when the Air Force became a separate service in 1947 through today.

The museum is located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton in Ohio. It is the service's national institution for preserving and presenting the Air Force story. Each year about 1 million people visit the museum to learn about the mission, history and evolving capabilities of America's Air Force.

A donation "wish list" is available on the [museum's website](#). Museum officials state the list is not meant to be an exclusive list, but represents some of the known gaps in the museum's collection that they hope to fill with donations or assistance.

The museum is the world's largest and oldest military aviation museum featuring more than 350 aerospace vehicles and missiles on display amid more than 19 acres of indoor exhibit space. Thousands of personal artifacts, photographs and documents further highlight the people and events that comprise the Air Force storyline, from the beginnings of military flight to today's war on terrorism.

All donations must be approved by the museum's Collections Committee before being accepted. Donors are asked to contact the



museum first before shipping any items. People can send [email](#) or a letter to:

National Museum of the United States Air Force
Collection Management Division
Attn: Donation Offers
1100 Spaatz St
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base,
OH 45433

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.





Q: Is my retiree identification card compliant with the REAL ID Act?

A: Currently, all forms of military identifications issued with a bar code from the DEERS/RAPIDS programs are REAL ID Act compliant, allowing access to commercial aircraft and government buildings as they do now.

Also, in Spring/Summer 2020, the Department of Defense will roll out the next generation of military retiree ID cards. This new ID will reflect a color photo of the card holder instead of the current gray-scale version, along with new security enhancements to protect a person's identity.

Replacing current retiree ID cards is not required. Because there is no mandate to replace current IDs in circulation, replacements will be based on normal attrition to avoid burdening retirees, their family members and ID card issuance facilities.

Q: Where should I call if I have questions about the Survivor Benefit Plan?

A: People requiring customer service involving a life-changing event such as, marriage, divorce, birth of a child, etc., that impact plan coverage should start by contacting the nearest SBP counselor for their area. A toll-free number, 877-353-6807, connects callers with the Air Force's Casualty Services Assistance Hotline. By entering their ZIP code, callers are then connected with the nearest SBP counselor. If a counselor is not immediately available, callers can leave their name and phone number for a call back as soon as possible. "Wait times are usually much shorter than by calling the Air Force Personnel Center or the Defense Finance and Accounting Service," said Anitra Carter, Air Force SBP program manager. "Counselors are divided up into catchment zones in the United States based on ZIP codes and have access to most of the same SBP election records as AFPC and DFAS experts."

Callers can also use the toll-free number to report the death of a retiree or SBP annuitant.

Q: Is there a role for retirees with the Civil Air Patrol?

A: Yes. Retirees looking to use their aviation-related skills can consider joining the Civil Air Patrol. An official civilian auxiliary of the Department of the U.S. Force, the CAP has a wing with squadrons throughout every state. As an adult/senior member of the CAP, retirees can serve as mentors, trainers and educators for CAP cadets.

Besides helping to shape future leaders, retirees can serve their community and state. Members of CAP carry out emergency services and disaster relief missions nationwide. Following natural disasters, CAP pilots are often the first aircraft on scene.

"I'm retired U.S. Air Force myself and just recently joined CAP, but wish I had done it many, many years ago while I was still on active duty," wrote retired Staff Sgt. Corey T. "Tex" Goodwin of Steens, Mississippi.

CAP members also provide communities with diverse aviation and ground services, youth development, and promote air, space and cyber power.

According to its website, CAP has saved nearly 30 lives so far in fiscal 2020, as credited by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center.

For more information, visit the CAP [website](#) or call 877-227-9142.



If you are a veteran in crisis — or you're concerned about one — free, confidential support is available 24/7. Call the Veterans Crisis Line at **1-800-273-8255** and **Press 1**, send a text message to **838255**, or [chat online](#).

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
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ANDERSEN - Temporarily Inactive

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