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Spring/Summer 2019

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## Remarriage affects a retiree's Survivor Benefit Plan coverage

*by Susie Hughes* Survivor Benefit Plan program manager

There are several options available to a retiree participating in the Survivor Benefit Plan with spouse or spouse and child coverage when the spouse is lost through death, divorce, or annulment, and the retiree later remarries.

Unless former-spouse coverage is elected as part of a divorce, retirees who remarry have three choices. They can:

Resume the prior level of spouse coverage.

♦ Elect not to resume spouse SBP coverage. This election will not affect existing child coverage, if any. This election is irrevocable.

♦ If the original election was for reduced coverage, the retiree may request that the base amount be increased up to and including full retired pay. If this option is elected, the retiree must pay the Defense Finance and Accounting Service Cleveland the difference between the SBP cost previously paid and the costs, with interest, which would have been paid if the higher level of coverage had originally been elected. This additional payment must be completed before the first anniversary of marriage.

If payment is not completed before the first anniversary of marriage, the election is null and void, and spouse coverage will be resumed at the previous level. If partial payment has been made on the amount due for increased coverage, a refund of the partial payment will be made.

Retirees must notify DFAS of their desired election within one year of the new marriage or the first option listed above automatically takes effect the date the new spouse becomes an eligible beneficiary. DFAS should be promptly notified of the remarriage to avoid a large debt for unpaid premiums.

Additional rules apply, such as:

♦ The member may not add child coverage by virtue of the remarriage alone if child coverage was previously bypassed.

♦ Child coverage may not be eliminated based upon a remarriage.

♦ The level of coverage may not be reduced upon remarriage.

A retiree married at retirement who declines SBP spouse coverage cannot later enroll in the plan for that spouse or any future spouse unless during a congressionally approved open enrollment period. Normally, penalties and extra charges are assessed during these periods.

A new spouse becomes an eligible beneficiary on the first anniversary of marriage or the birth of a child of the marriage, if earlier. As an exception, a spouse divorced from a retiree who later remarries that retiree becomes an eligible beneficiary immediately upon remarriage if the member:

See SBP on Page 2

## **Now hiring:** AAFES is recruiting veterans for downrange positions

DALLAS – The Army & Air Force Exchange Service is recruiting veterans to bring a taste of home to warfighters downrange.

The 123-year-old Department of Defense retailer is seeking veterans to deploy to fill various positions wherever the Exchange operates within Southwest Asia and Eastern Europe.

"When the Exchange hires veterans for downrange assignments, these former service members draw on the same strong work ethic, commitment and loyalty they used to serve our country," said Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Luis Reyes, the Exchange's senior enlisted adviser. "Many already have served downrange and now they are able to give back, supporting troops on the front line."

No matter where America's troops go, the Exchange goes with them. The Exchange operates 41 direct-run stores on 32 installations in eight Middle East countries, including Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Qatar, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, as well as on installations in Europe, such as Bosnia, Kosovo, Romania, Poland and Bulgaria. This program supports the Exchange's commitment to hire 50,000 veterans and military spouses by 2020. Veterans can look for jobs at ApplyMyExchange.com. Many veterans already have the favorable security clearance needed to work downrange, which can save three to 15 months in conducting necessary background checks.

Deployments with the Exchange range from six months to a year, with an option to extend up to two years. After their deployments, veterans are eligible to apply for other jobs with the Exchange.

Leroy Elliott, a Vietnam War and Desert Storm veteran, has been the Exchange's services business manager in Kuwait since August. Elliott served in the Marines and Army for 22 years. He also worked for the Exchange from 1993 to 2009.

"The work is challenging and the days are long," Elliott said. "It's all worth it when we can bring a little bit of home to the men and women who are putting themselves in harm's way and serving our country." (Courtesy of AAFES News Service)

### **SBP** Continued from Page 1

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 Retired after Sept. 20 1972 and initially elected coverage for that spouse at retirement, or

♦ Retired before Sept. 21 1972 and elected coverage for that spouse during the initial enrollment period for retirees.

Simply getting your new spouse

an ID card issued through updates in Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, or DEERS, does not update your pay records with DFAS. When you obtain an ID card for your new spouse, it provides entitlements such as TRICARE coverage, Exchange and

#### Afterburner News for USAF Retired Personnel

The *Afterburner* is authorized by Air Force Instruction 36-3106. When funding permits, it is printed and mailed twice a year by Air Force Personnel Center's Retiree Services Office. Distribution: Airmen receiving Air Force 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 Air Force 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: Air Force Retiree Services-*Afterburner* 

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

**Email address for opting out of receiving the hard copy is <u>afpc.retiree@us.af.mil</u> and the phone number is (210) 565-2126. The** *Afterburner* **is available on the Internet at <u>www.retirees.af.mil</u>. <b>PLEASE DO NOT SEND CHANGE-OF-ADDRESS NOTIFICATIONS TO THE AFTERBURNER.** Distribution is based on the address people have 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.

commissary use, and morale, welfare and recreation privileges. DEERS and DFAS systems are not linked and require separate actions.

DFAS, the organization that manages your retirement pay is where you can check arrears of pay designation and SBP election. This information is also available on your Retiree Account Statement, and on your MyPay account. Both will reflect the SBP category of coverage and the beneficiaries date of birth. It is every retiree's responsibility to ensure their pay records are accurate and updated.

Ensuring your records are accurate will ensure a survivor does not encounter delays, confusion and possibly denial of SBP.

For more information, contact DFAS at 800-321-1080 or contact your local SBP counselor by dialing 1-877-353-6807 and enter your ZIP code. The call will be automatically transferred to the SBP counselor assigned to your specific geographical area.

#### Afterburner

#### Spring/Summer 2019

## 'Next Generation' ID cards for retirees coming soon

WASHINGTON -- The Department of Defense is updating its current paper-based uniformed services identification card issued to retired service members, family members and other eligible populations.

The "Next Generation" USID card will incorporate an updated design and security features to deter counterfeiting and fraud, and will be printed on a plastic cardstock.

DOD is transforming the way service members and their families are supported through modernized ID cards and improved mechanisms to protect cardholder privacy and personal information. The Next Generation USID card will incorporate a modified barcode which supports the last phase of the department's elimination of the Social Security number from all DOD identification cards.

Additional information and updates regarding the Next Generation USID card will be available in the coming months on DOD's website.

Frequently asked questions:

1. What is changing on the USID card, and why? The Next Generation ID card transitions the current USID card to plastic cardstock with enhanced security features and update topology. These enhanced features enable DOD to reduce the number of card types issued to eligible individuals from 10 to three. The Next Generation USID card does not change the populations who are eligible to receive the current card.

2. When can I get the Next Generation USID card? Beginning early fall 2019, individuals with expiring ID cards will begin to receive the Next Generation USID card at card issuing facilities as they are equipped with the equipment and supplies necessary to issue the Next Generation USID card. 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 Generation USID card. (Courtesy of the Army)

### Supreme Court upholds DOD authority to court-martial

WASHINGTON – Earlier this year, the U.S. Supreme Court announced it had denied a petition in the case of Larrabee v. United States, effectively upholding the Department of Defense's authority to court-martial a retired service member.

Retired Marine Staff Sgt. Steven M. Larrabee was found guilty of sexually assaulting a bartender in November 2015, three months after he was retired. At his general court-martial, Larrabee was sentenced to eight years' confinement, a reprimand and a dishonorable discharge. His sentence was reduced to 10 months by a pre-trial agreement.

Larrabee had argued that he was not subject to Article 2 of the Uniformed Code of Military Justice, which provides that "[r]etired members of a regular component of the armed forces who are entitled to pay" and "[m] embers of the Fleet Reserve and Fleet Marine Corps Reserve" are subject to the UCMJ -- and to court-martial for offenses prescribed therein. The court confirmed



previous rulings that military members on the retired list are not mere pensioners, but are a vital segment of the national defense, and thus are subject to the UCMJ. Details of the court case are available on the <u>Supreme Court website</u>.



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 <u>chat online</u>.

### Spring/Summer 2019

# Thank you!

### A message to the faithful retirees of the U.S. Air Force

*by Bill D'Avanzo* Air Force fundraising chief

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The 2019 Air Force Assistance Fund campaign has ended at 79 base locations with \$3.079 million raised to benefit the four AFAF affiliated charities.

In addition to that amount, Air Force retirees contributed an outstanding \$66K! That's a 47% increase over giving last year at this time when we were at the \$45K level from retirees.

Even the end of the base campaigns didn't stop you from giving to support Airmen. By the end of October 2018, retirees had given over \$112K to these four worthy charities.

The leadership of your AFAF charities would like to take this opportunity to congratulate YOU, our

Air Force retiree family, and say THANK YOU!

Your contributions will help our fellow Airmen with family emergencies like Airmen at Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida who lost nearly everything last fall when Hurricane Michael struck and the Air Force Assistance Fund charities jumped into action to help assigned Airmen and retirees in the affected area. Contributions also helped Airmen with other immediate needs; educational assistance; and base community programs.

You are helping to provide homes for surviving family members they could not otherwise afford; and you are assisting other surviving family members with one-time financial grants or monthly stipends, ensuring they can stay in their



homes with the dignity they deserve.

We are touched and grateful that our organizations were remembered by retirees and their families. Your contributions impact the lives of the Air Force family across the world. We are honored that the AFAF mission to serve our Air Force family is important to you.

So, again, thank you. You may be retired, but you are definitely still playing a most active part in what makes this the greatest Air Force in the world -- Airmen taking care of our own!

## **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 <a href="http://www.blueskiesoftexas.org/">http://www.blueskiesoftexas.org/</a> 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.

Use the contribution form on next page, or download and print the fillable PDF contribution form at:

http://www.afassistancefund.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Contribution-Form-retiree-v20170106.pdf

### Complete and mail the form below to: Air Force Assistance Fund, HQ AFPC/DP3SAF, 550 C Street West, JBSA Randolph, TX 78150

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## **Retirement homes now accepting applications**

by Christopher Kelly

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Armed Forces Retirement Home Public Affairs Office

WASHINGTON – The Armed Forces Retirement Home, which offers affordable independent living to eligible veterans in its Washington and Gulfport, Mississippi, locations, is now accepting applications for immediate residency.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2019 the rate for independent living is 46.7 percent of the resident's gross income or \$1,990, whichever is less.

Services include recreational activities and resident daytrips, a fullservice library, barber shop, 24/7 security, beauty salon, computer center, mailboxes, ATM, campus

Exchanges and off-campus shuttle and public transportation.

AFRH is fully accredited by The Joint Commission and the Commission on Continuing Care Retirement Communities. Veterans must be able to live independently upon admission to the AFRH. This means being able to care for personal needs, attend a dining facility for meals, and keep all medical appointments.

For those accepted into independent living, the AFRH also offers higher levels of care -

including assisted living, long-term care, and memory support. Eightyfive percent of our residents spent a career in the military, retiring honorably in the enlisted ranks following 20 or more years of service to the nation. Military veterans from each service branch live at the home.

In Washington, AFRH offers residents a scenic, wooded campus just minutes from downtown -- home to museums, monuments, and a host of

entertainment, sports and other cultural options. Amenities include a nine-hole golf course and driving range, walking paths, stocked fishing ponds, and modern recreation facilities.

In Gulfport, AFRH offers residents a view of the Gulf of Mexico, with an outdoor swimming pool, walking path to the beach, reflecting pool, art studio and modern media room.

Many veterans choose to live at AFRH for the superior medical, dental and vision care offered, with

amenities that include: private rooms with a shower; cable TV; three daily meals prepared by licensed nutritionists in a modern dining facility; a wellness program; a deluxe fitness center; a movie theater; and a bowling center.

Persons are eligible to become AFRH residents who served as members of the armed forces, at least onehalf of whose service was not active commissioned service (other than as a warrant officer or limited-duty officer).

The following veterans



The Armed Force Retirement Home in Washington is one of two locations in the United States. his facility can traces its roots to 1811 when the nation made a promise to care for its older and disabled veterans. The first facility in Washington was completed in 1851. (Courtesy photo)

(male or female) will be considered:

- 60 years of age or older, and were discharged or released under honorable conditions with 20 or more years of active service; or

 Have a service-connected disability incurred in the line of duty in the armed forces; or

 Served in a war theater during a time of war declared by Congress or were eligible for hostilefire special pay and are suffering from injuries, disease or disability.

Those who served in a women's component of the armed forces before June 12, 1948 and are determined to be eligible for admission because of compelling personal circumstances will also be considered. Married couples who meet eligibility requirements above are welcome, as are non-military spouses of career-retired applicants. Veterans who have been convicted of a felony or are not free of drug, alcohol or psychiatric problems are ineligible to become a resident.

For further information or to request an application, visit https:// www.afrh.gov/apply; send email to admissions@afrh.gov;or call 800-422 -9988. (Courtesy of AFRH)



The original Armed Force Retirement Home in Gulfport, Mississippi, was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. It was rebuilt and opened to residents in 2010. (Courtesy photo)

## Retirees will see military medical changes ahead

*by retired Chief Master Sgt. John "Doc" McCauslin* Air Force Retiree Council member-at-large

During the 2019 Air Force Retiree Council meeting, these significant changes affecting military medical facilities and personnel were briefed by Defense Health Agency representatives:

**Military Billet Realignment:** More than 17,000 uniformed personnel billets will be moved to the line effective Oct. 1 2019, but the individuals in those billets would slowly attrite over the next three years. These changes could significantly affect medical access as physicians, dentists and nurses. Technicians in pharmacy, laboratory, X-ray, and immunizations are among those being shifted away from medical facilities. TRICARE Pharmacy Copay Increases:

The 2017 National Defense Authorization Act established mail copays at \$7 for generics (increased to \$24 for brand names). Retail copays were changed to \$11 and \$28. The new copays began in February 2018. **DOD Formulary:** 

For a listing of all medications that the Department of Defense routinely carries, research the <u>DHA website</u>. DHA has overall responsibility for all DOD health care issues including staffing, budget and medications. There are some formulary exceptions based upon facility and specialty requirements.

#### Legislated copay changes for 2020-2027

	Retail Generic	<b>Retail</b>	<b>By Mail Generic</b>	<b>By Mail Brand Name</b>	<b>By Mail</b>
	(30 days)	(Brand Name-30 days)	(Formulary-90 days)	(Formulary-90 days)	(Nonformulary-90 days)
2020-21	\$13	\$33	\$10 \$10	\$29	\$60 \$60
2022-23	1	\$38	\$12	\$34	\$68
2024-25		\$43	\$13	\$38	\$76
2026-27	\$16	\$48	\$14	\$44	\$86

## Upcoming military retiree appreciation events set

#### SEPTEMBER

**RAF Mildenhall/Lakenheath, England** – Sept. 5 and 6 -- 44 (0) 1638 54 2039 or 7429.

Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota -- Sept 13 – Call 701-240-0240.

Hill Air Force Base, Utah – Sept. 13 -- 801-777-5735.

Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota – Sept. 13 -- 605-385-3600.

**Misawa Air Base, Japan** – Sept. 14 -- 0176-77-4428.

Fort Carson, Colorado --Sept. 21 -- 719-556-7153.

Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas -- Sept. 21 -- 501-987-6095.

#### OCTOBER

Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina – Oct. 5 -- 843-963-2228. Arnold Air Force Base, Tennessee – Oct. 18 – 931-454-4574.

Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri – Oct. 19 -- 800-303-5608 or 660-687-6457.

**Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska** – Oct. 19 – 402-294-2590.

Ramstein Air Base, Germany – Oct. 22 -- 011-49-6371-47-5486 Joint Base Andrews,

Maryland -- Oct. 26 -- 301-981-2726.

**Dover Air Force Base, Delaware** – Oct. 26 -- 302-677-4611.

**Travis Air Force Base, California** – Oct. 26 -- 707-424-3904.

Luke Air Force Base, Arizona – Oct. 26 -- 623-856-3923 or 6827

#### NOVEMBER

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii -- Nov. 2 -- 808-474-1999.

**Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma --** Nov 2 -- 405-739-2795.

Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas -- Nov. 16 -- 210 -658-6880.

#### FEBRUARY

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

#### MAY

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

## Exchange generates \$223 million for quality-of-life programs in 2018

DALLAS – Every time service members, retirees, veterans and military families shop the Army & Air Force Exchange Service, they help make their community stronger. In 2018, Exchange shoppers generated \$223 million for vital oninstallation community programs.

All Exchange earnings are invested in the military community, with 60% going to dividends supporting quality-of-life programs, and the remaining 40% used to improve the experience in stores and at ShopMyExchange.com.

Over the last 10 years, Exchange shoppers have contributed \$2.5 billion to support Army Child Development Centers and fitness centers, Air Force Outdoor Recreation and other programs that strengthen the services' recruiting, retention and readiness efforts.

"Support of critical quality-of-life programs is a tangible return on the benefit service members and their families have earned," said Exchange Director/CEO Tom Shull. "We go where they go to deliver convenience and savings and invest in each community we are honored to serve."

The 2018 \$223 million dividend was generated in part by veterans, who were welcomed home with a lifelong online military exchange shopping benefit introduced on Veterans Day 2017. By shopping the Exchange online, veterans make life better for those who wear the uniform today while enjoying exclusive military savings and tax-free shopping. Veterans can visit <u>ShopMyExchange.com/vets</u> to sign up for their lifelong online benefit.

All branches of service benefit from shopping the Exchange. Because the Exchange also serves the Navy and Marine Corps at select stores and online, portions of the dividend are contributed to those branches' quality-of-life programs.

The 2018 dividend was distributed as follows:

Army:	\$129 million
Air Force:	\$77 million
Marines:	\$12 million
Navy:	\$5 million

(Courtesy of AAFES News)

### New VA education program targets computer tech skills

Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses, or VET TEC, is a new Veterans Affairs tuition and housing assistance program helping veterans advance their information technology career.

Veterans who have at least one day of unexpired GI Bill entitlement may be eligible for VET TEC; however, participation in the program does not count against GI Bill entitlements.

In just weeks, veterans can gain computer skills that can greatly impact their career, according to VA officials. VET TEC pays for classes in one of five areas: information science, computer programming, data processing, media applications and computer software.

This program pairs veterans with market-leading training providers offering the high-tech training and skills development employers seek.

For any questions, contact the VA's education call center at 1-888-442-4551 or e-mail

#### VETTEC.VBABUF@va.gov.

Veterans can also visit the <u>VET TEC</u> <u>website</u>. (Courtesy of VA News)

## Afterburner office does not maintain addresses

Please DO NOT send your U.S. Postal Service change-ofaddress 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.



#### Afterburner

#### Spring/Summer 2019



#### Q: I need to submit a DD Form 149 application to correct my personnel records. Where do I send it?

**A**: Air Force veterans who need to have an error corrected or an injustice removed from their military records should complete a DD Form 149, Application for Correction of Military Record. The form instructions advise mailing the package to the address on the back of the form, but the DD Form 149 is currently going through the Office of the Secretary of Defense for an address change.

The intake office on the back of the form has relocated from Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas, to Joint Base Andrews, Maryland.

To ensure an application is received and processed in a timely manner, mail the DD Form 149 to: SAF/MRBC (AFBCMR), 3351 Celmers Lane, Joint Base Andrews NAF, Washington, MD 20762-6435, along with any source documents, or send the package by email to usaf.pentagon.saf-mr.mbx.saf-mrbc@mail.mil.

Applicants must first exhaust available administrative avenues of relief before applying to the board of corrections. Visit the <u>Military Personnel Records</u> website and scroll down to the "RECORDS CORRECTION" tab for more information.

#### Q: I'm a retired Air Force aviator who would like to mentor the next generation. What can I do?

**A:** Retired aviators who wish to inspire the next generation by promoting air and space power can do so by becoming a member of the Order of Daedalians.

The Daedalians foster scholarship and flying training programs for aspiring aviators. It sponsors awards for exceptional active-duty aviators; achievements in safety, education and training; service; weapon systems; advocacy; and recognition for Junior ROTC cadets.

Commissioned officers who served as pilots, navigators, combat/weapons systems officers, air battle managers, RPA pilots, flight surgeons or astronauts are eligible to join. Learn more by visiting the Daedalians website.

### CONTACTS & RESOURCES

Arlington National Cemetery -Write to Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA 22211. For general information, location of gravesites, and visitor information call 877-907-8585. Please note that the Arlington National Cemetery staff does not make pre-arrangements. Visit www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/.

**Casualty Assistance** - Call toll free 877-353-6807. Overseas callers should contact the nearest U.S. Embassy.

**DEERS Telephone Center** -Call DEERs at 800-538-9552, Monday through Friday, excluding U.S. federal holidays, 6 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Pacific time.

Defense Finance and Accounting Service - The agency that pays military retirees and annuitants can be reached at 800-321-1080, or through AskDFAS online. Visit the <u>retired</u> military and annuitants webpage for more information about pay matter such as tax forms, pay verification, Direct Deposit, myPay and more.

Federal Long-Term Care Insurance Program -- The program provides long-term care insurance to help pay for the costs of care you need if you can no longer perform everyday tasks (activities of daily living) by yourself because of chronic illness, injury, disability or the aging process. For assistance, call 800-LTC-FEDS (800-5823337) or TTY 800-843-3557 to speak with a program consultant. You can also visit <u>https://www.ltcfeds.com/</u>.

Identification Cards - Call 800-525-0102 for location of the nearest issuing facility, or to visit the <u>site locator</u>.

Legal Offices can assist people with preparing wills and powers of attorney, and answer certain legal questions. People can visit the Air Force Legal Assistance website at <u>https://</u> aflegalassistance.law.af.mil.

Medicare - 800-633-4227 or visit www.medicare.gov.

**Social Security** - Call toll free 800-772-1213; commercial 410-965- 8019; or write to Social Security Administration, Office of Public Inquiries, Windsor Park Building, 6401 Security Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21235. Visit the website for more information.

TRICARE Mail-Order Pharmacy Program (Express Scripts, Inc.) - In United States, call toll free 800-282-2881; or overseas, call 866-275-4732. Visit <u>https://www.express-</u> scripts.com/TRICARE/ index.shtml for more information.

Veterans Affairs - For benefit inquiries call 800-827-1000; life insurance 800-669-8477; status of headstones and markers, 800 -697-6947; special issues such as Gulf War/radiation/Agent Orange/Project Shad call 800-749-8387; and GI Bill and education matters call 888-442-4551. Visit the website at www.va.gov/.

## **Air Force Retiree Activities Offices**

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 will assist 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

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 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: 916-640-8445 Email: george.moses@va.gov

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

VANDENBERG Phone: 805-606-5474 Email: vandenberg30swretireeactivityoffice@ us.af.mil

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

PETERSON Phone: 719-556-7153 Email: rfkoenigjr@msn.com

USAF ACADEMY Phone: 719-333-7877 Email: rfkoenigjr@msn.com 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: centralfloridarao@thevillages.net

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

TYNDALL Currently Inactive

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

Hawaii – Area XIV JOINT BASE 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 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 Air Force RAO. The phone numbers and email addresses of RAOs Air Force-wide are listed below.

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

#### www.retirees.af.mil

Phone: 314-527-8212 Email: usaf.mo.157-aog.list.retireesoffice@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: victoria.plank@us.af.mil

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

Nevada - Area IV NELLIS Phone: 702-465-8661 Email: 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

STEWART ANGB Phone: 845-563-2369 Email: retiredcms@yahoo.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 WRIGHT-PATTERSON Phone: 937-257-3221 Email: paul.moore.21@us.af.mil

#### Spring/Summer 2019

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

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

TINKER Phone: 405-739-2795 Email: lorraine.caddy@us.af.mil or 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.ctr@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: 011-44-1638-54-2039 Email: rao1@us.af.mil

Germany

Afterburner

RAMSTÉIN/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: 011-34-91-231-1215 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

Chief Master Sgt. Emmet Heidemann, 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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