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Survivor Benefit Plan Open Season

DFAS, CLEVELAND - Congress provided for a Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) Open Season in the 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

The SBP Open Season began on December 23, 2022 and ends on January 1, 2024.

The SBP Open Season allows for retirees receiving retired pay, eligible members, or former members awaiting retired pay who were NOT participating in SBP or RCSBP (Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan) on or before December 22, 2022 to enroll. For a member who enrolls during the SBP Open Season, the law requires that the member will be responsible to pay retroactive SBP premium costs that would have been paid if the member had enrolled at retirement (or enrolled at another earlier date, depending on the member's family circumstances).

The SBP Open Season also allows eligible members and former members who were enrolled in SBP or RCSBP as of December 22, 2022 to permanently discontinue their SBP coverage. The law generally requires the covered beneficiaries to concur in writing with the election to discontinue. Previously paid premiums will not be refunded.

Enrolling in SBP Coverage - Enrollment during the SBP Open Season is a four-step process.

STEP 1. Submit the Letter of Intent to Enroll including all required information and the type of enrollment. Download the "[Letter of Intent to Enroll](#)" at this link.

STEP 2. DFAS will send you an estimate of your monthly premium costs going forward, as well as the one-time "buy-in premium," based on the information provided.

Your final enrollment costs, both monthly premium and buy-in premium may change if there is a time gap between when you receive the estimate and the time you submit your final enrollment form. Costs may also change if there are changes to the information submitted.

STEP 3. After considering the costs, if you want to officially enroll, submit the enrollment form. Pay close attention to how you will pay for the buy-in premium. Payments can be made in a lump sum or through 12 equal monthly installments or a combination of the two.

STEP 4. DFAS will confirm your enrollment, to include final cost, and provide instructions on how to submit payment. You are allowed 30 days from the date you sign your enrollment form to cancel enrollment.



(See **SBP Open Season**, page 6)



VA SURVIVOR BENEFITS & THE PACT ACT

You may be eligible for VA benefits and services after your loved one has passed.



The PACT Act makes it easier for many survivors to receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC).

VA will be contacting survivors who were previously denied DIC benefits and may be newly eligible under the PACT Act. You do not need to wait for VA to contact you to submit a claim.

How to Apply for DIC and/or Accrued Benefits

Surviving family members may apply for these benefits using the appropriate VA form on va.gov/family-member-benefits.



Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

Monthly payment for the eligible surviving spouse, dependent children or parent(s) of the Veteran or service member IF Veteran or service member died in the line of duty or due to a service-related injury or illness.



Accrued Benefits

A one-time payment to a surviving spouse, dependent child(ren) or dependent parent(s) of a deceased Veteran based on relationship when the record shows additional benefits (such as VA compensation or pension) due to the Veteran prior to passing.

Additional Survivor Benefits Available:



Burials and Burial Allowance

Burial benefits available include a gravesite in any of our National cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a government headstone, marker, or medallion, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, at no cost. Some survivors may also be eligible for a plot allowance, transportation allowance, and burial allowances based on the service connected disability status of the deceased Veteran.



Education and Training

Chapter 35 benefits and Fry Scholarship are the two main GI Bill programs offering educational assistance to survivors and dependents of Veterans who died in the line of duty or as a result of service-related disabilities.



Final Monthly Payment

If a Veteran who is receiving VA compensation or pension benefits passes away, their last month of benefits can be paid to their surviving spouse.



Home Loan Guaranty

Certificate of Eligibility is available for surviving spouses receiving DIC.



Health Care

Survivors and dependents of Veterans may qualify for health care benefits, such as CHAMPVA.

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Learn more and sign up at [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT)
Download the **VA Health and Benefits App**
Call us at 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411)
Find a VA at [VA.gov/find-locations/](https://va.gov/find-locations/)

How to File Your TRICARE Overseas Claim

FALLS CHURCH, VA - Do you need to file a [TRICARE Overseas](#) claim for medical care or prescriptions you received overseas? If so, it's important to understand the different TRICARE Overseas claim submission methods available to you.

"There's more than one way to submit a TRICARE claim overseas," said Michael Griffin, program analyst with the TRICARE Overseas Program Office at the Defense Health Agency. "Choosing the quickest method to submit your claim and knowing what information you may need to provide can help ensure you get your claim processed in a timely manner."

Medical Claims

You can submit your claim directly to [Wisconsin Physicians Service](#) (WPS), the TRICARE Overseas Program (TOP) claims processor. There are three options.

1. TRICARE Overseas Secure Claims Portal

The [TRICARE Overseas Secure Claims Portal](#) is the fastest and most secure way to submit a claim. You can use the wizard, which helps guide you through the process. This ensures the claims processor receives your claim instantly and enters it directly into the claims processing system. You can also submit your claim via secure messaging through the portal. This is slightly slower, as your claim is entered into the system manually.

There are other benefits of using the portal. You can:

- Track the status of your claim.
- Review your payment information.
- Communicate directly with WPS, the claims processor.
- Sign up for electronic funds transfer (direct deposit) to a U.S. bank account.

You must first register to use the portal.

2. Secure Fax

Using secure fax is another quick way to submit a claim. Fax your claim to +1-608-301-2251.

3. Overseas Postal Mail

Using postal mail is the least timely way to submit a claim and receive reimbursement. Because overseas-to-U.S. mail delivery timelines vary, delivery can take up to 28 days.

To help ensure that WPS processes your TRICARE Overseas claim in a timely manner once received, be sure to fully complete and sign the [claim form](#) (DD Form 2642). Remember to include the following required information:

- A clear and legible itemized bill or invoice from the provider, detailing the services rendered and the provider's name and address.
- A narrative description of the reason for the medical services received.
- Proof of payment
- Proof of other health insurance (OHI), if applicable. If you have OHI (such as national health insurance), TRICARE is always the last payer. If applicable, include any explanation of benefits (EOB) from your OHI, outlining any payment or denial.

To find the mailing address, go to [TOP Claims Mailing Addresses](#).

Allow up to 30 days for WPS, the claims processor, to process your TRICARE Overseas claim after they receive it. In some cases, they may ask you to send additional information to determine benefit coverage to complete processing of the claim. After your claim is processed, it may take up to 28 days to receive your reimbursement in the mail.

Pharmacy Claims

Do you need to file a claim for your prescription? This depends on where your prescription was filled. As noted in the TRICARE Pharmacy Program Handbook, you don't need to file a claim if your prescription was filled at a military pharmacy, through TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery, or at a TRICARE retail network pharmacy.

If your prescription was filled at a non-network pharmacy, you will need to file a claim to get reimbursed for covered prescription drugs. For prescriptions filled at non-network pharmacies in the U.S. or the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Virgin Islands, Express Scripts is the pharmacy contractor to send your claim. For prescriptions filled outside the U.S. and U.S. territories, submit your claim to WPS.

You can do this either online through the [secure claims portal](#) or by mail. Be sure to submit proof of payment with your overseas pharmacy claims. Visit [Pharmacy Claims](#) to learn more about filing claims.

Deadline to File Claims

The deadline to file a claim depends on when and where you received care. For care in the U.S. and U.S. territories (American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands), you have one year from the date of service or discharge to submit a claim. For overseas care, you have three years to submit a claim.



Bases Launch 2023 Air Force Assistance Fund Campaign

By Bill D'Avanzo, CMSgt (Retired)
Department of the Air Force
Fundraising Chief

On 27 February, the Department of the Air Force launched the 50th annual Air Force Assistance Fund 50 Years of Caring Campaign at Air and Space Force Bases worldwide. Thanks to your generosity, over \$243 Million have been donated by Airmen and Guardians, and other supporters over these past 49 years, providing a safety net for our fellow Airmen, and now Guardians as well as their families. Your contributions helped provide a total of over \$45,000, in assistance in 2022! I'd like to encourage you to continue your support of these four extraordinary charities, committed to *taking care of our own*.

The Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation provides the full spectrum of the continuum of care for widows and widowers of retired Air Force Officers living at Blue Skies of Texas in San Antonio, just down the road from JBSA-Lackland. Thanks to your generous donations over the years, over 600 surviving spouses have been served. Over \$23 million has been invested in their care since 1970 and you will be glad to know 100% of gifts go directly to the residents' living expenses and continuing care to allow them the peace of mind to live comfortably in their homes with a secure future.

The Air Force Aid Society made sweeping changes in policy in recent years, opening the aperture of support to all Guard and Reserve personnel, as well as assisting more Airmen and Guardians with the use of more grants (that do not need to be repaid) and fewer loans (which do need to be repaid...interest free, of course). In 2022, the Air Force Aid Society provided \$13 million in direct assistance to over 17,000



Airmen, Guardians, and their families. Whether the need was emergency assistance; educational scholarships for dependents; or community programs ranging from childcare programs, to car care, to spouse/parenting programs—the Society has been there for us for 80 years...thanks to you!

The Air Force Enlisted Village, situated basically “across the street” from Eglin AFB, continues a long tradition of fulfilling their primary mission: “To provide a home”. No eligible widow or widower of a retired Airman or Guardian has ever been turned away due to an inability to pay. Residents enjoy independent living, assisted living and memory support on the Bob Hope Village and Hawthorne House campus. And decisions are made based on “The Mom Rule”: Would I do this to my mom? Would I do this for my mom? And, would my mom approve? Your donations have provided essentials that many of us take for granted: A safe home, security, dignity, independence, and camaraderie.

The General & Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation provides financial support to the surviving spouses of officer and enlisted Air and Space Force retirees with grants of monetary assistance that don't ever need to be repaid. Monthly grants range from \$200 to \$625.

One-time support is provided for unplanned expenses as well. Last year, more than \$23,000 one-time grants helped with past-due mortgage payments, dental needs, and emergency lodging.

Your support continues to matter to the current 63 spouses receiving monthly aid to help with the necessities of life. These grants make everyday living a little easier with personal care costs, transportation services, and meal deliveries. And thanks to your generosity, in 2022, the LeMay Foundation provided over \$341,000 in grants to their recipients.

If you haven't yet had the opportunity to give but so desire, you can give anytime online now at <https://www.afassistancefund.org>. Just click the “DONATE NOW!!” button near the top right of the page. You will be taken to our donation page where you can choose to either use a donation form to authorize payroll deduction donations, or document where you'd like your check or money order donation to go. Then there's our “e-giving” option where you can help out your favorite base and squadron by giving directly to their campaign—just scroll down to the “DONATE TODAY WITH OUR NEW PEER-TO-PEER PLATFORM” box and click the “Donate Today!” button. You can also give by texting AFAF to 50155 using your smart phone, or pointing your smart phone camera at the AFAF Logo QR code below.



Air Force Assistance Fund Continued from page 4

By any of these e-giving options, a one-time donation as well as recurring (monthly) donations may be made by either credit/debit card or by e-check (draw from checking). We know many retirees have asked in the past to be able to give on a continual basis without having to renew the Payroll Deduction Plan allotments each year—now we have that capability with e-giving by using your credit card, debit card or authorizing auto-draft from checking (e-check)! Join the AFAF Wingman Squadron today by signing up for monthly giving and your monthly donation will not automatically stop after just one year—unless you pause or stop it yourself. You are in full control with your giving account! In fact, if you authorize monthly recurring e-giving, it's highly recommended that you set up an account. You can do that after making your donation online by going to <https://secure.ggiv.com/for/afassistancefund> and clicking the "Sign In" link in the box that pops up, you can log in with Facebook, Google, Apple, or if you have already established an account, you can enter your Username/Password. Otherwise, please click the "Create an Account" link. This account will give you the autonomy to manage your monthly gifts without needing assistance. If you need help linking your account to your monthly gift, please contact Department of the Air Force Fundraising at usaf.fundraising@us.af.mil.

Again, if e-giving is not your thing, that is okay. You can still give by check, money order, cashier's check, or through the annual payroll deduction plan from your retired pay. The contribution form is on the right of this page, or you can obtain a PDF version online at https://www.afassistancefund.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/DAF_2561-20221026.pdf

Please be aware that payroll deductions will start coming out of retired pay beginning 1 July 2023.

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

Mail Check and Payroll Deduction Plan Donations to:
AIR FORCE ASSISTANCE FUND
 AFPC/DP3SA
 550 C STREET WEST
 JBSA RANDOLPH TX 78150

AIR FORCE ASSISTANCE FUND <small>This form is subject to the Privacy Act of 1974</small>		Contributions deductible for federal income tax purposes as itemized deduction. Contributors receive no goods or services.	
Name (last, first, middle initial)	Rank/RET Rank	SSN (Payroll Deduction Only)	LOCAL CONTROL NBR.
Organization and E-mail Address	Check Box or Circle Below: AD RET ANG RES CIV (No PDP) Fundraiser/Outside Org <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		
IF CASH, COMPLETE SECTION A IF PDP, COMPLETE SECTION B ONLINE E-GIVING, SECTION C		B. PAYROLL DEDUCTION PLAN	
A. CASH/CHECK		ALLIANCE	
Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation (AFVCF)	(The minimum allotment to any affiliate is \$1 per month).	Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation (AFVCF) T595130 (Class C: 706)	Allotment Months Total X =
Air Force Aid Society (AFAS)		Air Force Aid Society (AFAS) T598082 (Class C: 707)	X =
Air Force Enlisted Village (AFEV)		Air Force Enlisted Village (AFEV) T580898 (Class C: 705)	X =
The General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation (LeMay)		The Gen and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation (LeMay) T000270 (Class C: 704)	X =
Undesignated			
TOTAL GIFT		TOTAL PDP	
C. ON-LINE E-GIVING		FOR AFO USE ONLY NON-DISCRETIONARY CLASS "F" ALLIANCE FOR AFAF CONTRIBUTION EFFECTIVE DATE: 1 JUNE	
Note: Section C is no longer used to document donations made online. Please visit https://www.afassistancefund.org to give via credit card, debit card, e-Check (checking account authorization), etc.			
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 or donation. Please do not enter your work e-mail address.			
Home Mailing Address			
Personal E-mail Address			
Release of information authorization (Signature)			
AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 301, Departmental Regulations; 37 U.S.C.; and E.O. 9397 (SSN) PURPOSE: To document and account for military pay and allowance disbursements and collections. ROUTINE USES: May specifically be disclosed outside the DoD as 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. SORN(S): T7340, Defense Joint Military Pay System-Active Component			
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Thank you once again for your continued support of the annual AFAF Campaign, and our fellow Airmen, Guardians, and their families.
Retired, but still Active!

www.retirees.af.mil

SBP Open Season continued from page 1

Currently serving Reserve/Guard should contact their Branch of Service for information on the SBP Open Season and the process to submit the form.

Gray Area Retirees (not yet receiving retired pay) of the Navy, Marines and Air Force should contact their Branch of Service for information on the SBP Open Season and the process to submit their form.

Discontinuing SBP Coverage-

As part of the SBP Open Season, retirees, Reserve/Guard, and Gray Area Retirees are allowed to stop (discontinue) their SBP coverage. The member (1) must get concurrence from their spouse plus any beneficiary covered by SBP that is 18 or over and (2) no premiums are refunded.

The following information applies to former active duty and reserve retirees receiving pay ONLY – follow the instructions below to submit the new discontinuance form directly to DFAS.

Download the “SBP Open Season [2023 Discontinuance Form](#) – Provisional” – PLEASE NOTE: To be valid, the form must be properly signed and dated by all parties, including the current spouse, and any currently-covered former spouse, child aged 18-22 or natural interest person (NIP). In addition, the covered party's signature must either be notarized or witnessed by an SBP counselor.

Please remember to sign and date the form, have all beneficiaries concur, and have the notary or SBP counselor witness sign.

Once all the information is filled in and all signatures received, the form can be submitted.

PLEASE NOTE: To be valid, the form must be properly signed and dated. Once complete, signed, and dated, the form can be submitted directly through our [askDFAS online upload tool](#) or via fax or mail.

Fax: 800-469-6559

Mail:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service

U.S. Military Retired Pay

8899 E 56th Street

Indianapolis IN 46249-1200

There is also a list of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) about enrolling in SBP during the Open Season.



Pay Date Schedule for 2023

Entitlement Month	Retired Pay Date	Annuitant Pay Date
June 2023	June 30, 2023	July 3, 2023
July 2023	August 1, 2023	August 1, 2023
August 2023	September 1, 2023	September 1, 2023
September 2023	September 29, 2023	October 2, 2023
October 2023	November 1, 2023	November 1, 2023
November 2023	December 1, 2023	December 1, 2023
December 2023	December 29, 2023	January 2, 2024

If You Passed Away Today: Consideration for Retired Service Members

By Mark E. Overberg, Director,
Army Retirement Services

Last year, I heard a sad story about a military retiree who passed away while living in Germany. Even sadder was that he had no family there. When his death was discovered by the German authorities, they searched for the next of kin or a friend who knew his final wishes. Finding none, they buried him in a local German cemetery.

Thousands of retired service members pass away each year. Most leave a spouse or children who care for them, who will bury or cremate them, and who may receive the deceased's effects and assets – if the retired service member's wishes are known.

There are several ways for retired service members to document their assets and leave them to others, such as a will and revocable living trust. Retired Service Members may receive free legal advice from military legal assistance attorneys. You can find the office nearest you at <https://legalassistance.law.af.mil/>

In the hours after your death, will your spouse or children know what to do? Have you told them? Or better yet, have you left them final instructions to carry out your wishes?

Have you been procrastinating about planning for your death? My dad did -- until he had a stroke. When he recovered, he created "The Book." He showed each of his children, on their next visit, "where the Book lives" and what was in it. He'd included everything we needed to know down to which mortuary to call and their phone number; the cemetery plots he'd purchased for Mom and himself; the casket he wanted; and where all their assets were with account numbers.

But dad passed 13 years after his stroke, I was driving to visit him. I arrived too late to say goodbye, but

as I sat with him, I remembered his plan, his wishes. So I called my brother and told him to email me the first two pages of The Book – the instructions for what to do immediately upon his death. Ten minutes later, I had his wishes in hand, and knew what he wanted me to do. While I was very sad, I did not have the stress of trying to guess what he wanted or whom to talk to. The Book was his way of reminding us that he still loved us, even in death.



Topics to address in your final instructions:

- Getting a death certificate
- Burial or cremation plans and location
- Pre-need eligibility letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) (<https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/pre-need-eligibility/>)
- How to report a Retired Airman's death (<https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary>)
- How to schedule a benefits brief with the VA before the funeral if needed (800) 827-1000 (Benefits Hotline) or (800) 698-2411 (main information line)
- Military funeral honors (<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/leaders-service-providers/casualty-assistance/military-funeral-honors>)
- Burial flag (VA) (<https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/>)
- Headstone/grave marker or veteran's medallion for a private headstone (VA)
- Application for burial expenses from the VA (<https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/veterans-burial-allowance/>)
- Filing claim for VGLI or VALife (<https://www.va.gov/life-insurance/>), or private life insurance
- Applying for Dependency & Indemnity Compensation from the VA (<https://www.va.gov/disability/dependency-indemnity-compensation/>)
- Applying for DOD Survivor Benefit Plan annuity (<https://www.dfas.mil/RetiredMilitary/survivors/ApplySBP/>)
- Applying for the arrears of retired pay (<https://www.dfas.mil/RetiredMilitary/survivors/1174RetireeAOP/>)
- Transferring Thrift Savings Plan (<https://www.tsp.gov/publications/tspb31.pdf?TSP-BK-31>)
- Social Security survivors benefits (page 4) (<https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/survivors/ifyou.html>)
- Updating DEERS and ID Cards (<https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/>)
- State-specific veteran benefits (<https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/Benefit-Library/State/Territory-Benefits>)
- TRICARE plan updates (<https://www.tricare.mil/LifeEvents/DeathinFamily>)
- Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Plan (877) 372-3337 or <https://www.benefeds.com/education-support/eligibility-military>)

Retiree Appreciation Days

July

8th—Biddle Air Guard Station,
Horsham, PA
0900-1400
111th Air Wing Headquarters
Contact 215-323-7135 or
jenny.pappas.2@us.af.mil

29th—Osan AB
Time TBD
Osan Clubs
Contact 82-05-05-784-1441 or
scott.ibarra.1@us.af.mil

September

9th—JBSA Randolph, Texas
0800-until
Randolph Kendrick Club
Contact 210-652-6880 or
rao.randolph@us.af.mil

15th & 16th—Little Rock AFB
15th 1300-1630/16th 0730-1200
Walters Community Support Center,
Bldg 940
Contact 501-987-6095 or
Retiree.2@us.af.mil

September (cont.)

16th—Selfridge Air National Guard
Base, MI
Time TBD
Joint Dining Facility, Bldg 164
Contact 586-239-5580 or
selfrao@yahoo.com

23rd—Peterson Space Force Base, CO
0800-1300
The Hub
Contact 719-556-7153 or
psfbrao@gmail.com

30th—Tinker AFB, Oklahoma
0730-1300
Tinker AFB Event Center
Contact 405-739-2795 or
72abw.cvr@us.af.mil

October

7th—Misawa AB, Japan
0830-1200
Tohoku Enlisted Club and Base
Exchange
Contact 011-81-176-77-4428 or
Misawa.rao@us.af.mil

October (cont.)

19th—Ramstein AB, Germany
0800-1600
Ramstein Officers Club and hangar
Contact 011-49-6371-47-5486 or
86aw.rao@us.af.mil

21st—Osan AB, South Korea
Time TBD
Osan Clubs
Contact 82-05-05-784-1441 or
scott.ibarre.1@us.af.mil

November

3rd—Hanscom AFB, Massachusetts
1000-1330-The Food Court at the Base
Exchange & Commissary
Contact 603-325-0962 or
dean.mottard@us.af.mil

4th—JB Pearl Harbor/Hickam,
Hawaii
0730-1200
Tradewinds Enlisted
Club
(on Hickam)
Contact 808-474-0032 or
mfschwaii@navy.mil



Request your military service records (including DD214)

Air Force veterans who separated or retired *on or after Oct. 1, 2004*, may request their records in two ways:

1. Submit a military records request to get your DD214 or other military service records through the milConnect website (<https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/>). You can sign in to milConnect, register and upgrade your DS Logon account to Premium to get your military service records ('Premium' refers to a certain amount of confidence or 'level of assurance' that you are who you say you are. The account is *free*). For additional information, please visit the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs website at <https://www.va.gov/records/get-military-service-records/>
2. E-mail or mail a signed SF-180 to AFPC's military personnel records section. The form can be emailed to AFPC/DPSOR Military Records at dpsomp.incoming@us.af.mil or mailed to AFPC/DPSOR, 550 C ST. W, JBSA-Randolph AFB TX 78150.

Veterans who separated or retired *before Oct. 1, 2004*, should contact the National Personnel Records Center by mail using a Standard Form 180. The NPRC mailing address is National Personnel Records Center, 1 Archives Drive, St. Louis, MO 63138. The NPRC holds the historical military personnel records of nearly 100 million veterans. The vast majority of these records are paper-based and not available on-line. Requests that involve reconstruction efforts due to the 1973 Fire, or older records that require extensive research efforts, may take six months or more to complete.

You can access the Standard Form 180 by using this National Archives link: <https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/standard-form-180.html>.

Calderon Service Soars Long After Retiring from USAF

By Anthony DeCristofaro, Office of Personnel Management, Office of CFC

More than 43 years ago, Lloyd Calderon became a 17-year-old Airman in the U.S. Air Force from his home state of Oregon. Over his military career, Calderon served as a security specialist and a recruiter in many locations.

Today, he works as a civilian with the Small Business Administration (SBA) as a Business Opportunity Analyst focusing on promoting 8A opportunities for targeted socio-economic categories.

His service also extends beyond the reach of the SBA and through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). At work, Mr. Calderon is a connector bringing together people and businesses. In his voluntary services, he continues in that role of bringing together people and causes through CFC support, leadership, and engagement.

"Lloyd's dedication to service is instrumental in creating business opportunities. That same dedication helps the charities and causes in the Combined Federal Campaign with philanthropic opportunities," explained CFC Director Keith Willingham. "He also is an example of how military retirees can keep their support of charities going through the CFC."

Among the jobs Mr. Calderon has done for the CFC included screening national and international charity applicants for OPM's Office of CFC Operations.

"If you love serving your country, the CFC is a great additional way to do that," explained Mr. Calderon, who is not just a contributor. He also has served in a variety of volunteer leadership roles including as a Keyworker, Campaign Manager, Charity Reviewer, and Loaned Executive.

During his time in the USAF, Calderon was stationed at Malmstrom AFB (Montana); Iceland; Frances E. Warren in Wyoming; and with the Air National Guard. Ultimately, he retired as a Senior Master Sergeant (E-8).

As the largest workplace giving campaign in the world, federal employees and now retirees pledged more than \$8.6 billion to their favorite local, national, and international causes in the last 60 years. Since retiree giving through annuity deductions in 2017, that segment of givers is the fastest growing in the CFC.

"Once a campaign exclusively for Federal employees, thanks to an executive order in 2016, civilian and military retirees can now continue their give through CFC with the ability to make a direct deduction to CFC right from their annuity," explained Keith Willingham, director of the OPM Office of the Combined Federal Campaign. Last year, giving through CFC topped \$80 million.

"CFC and the charities in this campaign are so appreciative of the leadership and generosity of retirees like Lloyd and so many others. We could not do what we do without retirees who voluntarily support the annual campaign," said Mr. Willingham.

"Everything goes back to services impacting the lives of thousands of people you will never meet," Mr. Calderon explains. For example, he said that when he and his spouse had a baby and the child was sick, a charity came along with assistance. So, today, when he hears stories of others who are helped, those stories resonate with his experience.

"We all go through STUFF. But we are made up of core values that are a part of us long before we face a crisis. I am a public servant.

I am proud of that. We take an oath to take care of this nation. Service, then, is a part of my oath – an extension of who we are as federal employees or military retirees. My oath never ends."



Today, his civilian career puts him in touch with some of the 200,000 Americans who become veterans every year. "We have been given a lot; education, experience. Therefore, I look to pay that back as much as I can."

CFC provides an easy way to make a difference in the causes that are most important to Mr. Calderon: diabetes and health care.

Health care became important early in his life because he was raised by his Spanish-speaking grandmother. But a disease caused her to have a stroke. Ensuring that people have good nutrition that supports a healthy lifestyle has remained important in his life, career, and charity.

Anyone who becomes a retiree even outside that window can open or move their account to be funded through their annuity," explained Mr. Calderon, who was a loaned executive in the National Capital Area CFC zone.

If you previously supported CFC charities in a former civilian, postal, or military career, you could transfer that gift to your annuity by updating your CFC profile in the Donation Portal. If not, you can enter a new pledge.

Visit www.givecfc.org to learn more about the campaign, participating charities, and opportunities. If you have questions, then call the CFC Help Center at 1-800-797-0098 or visit: cfcgiving.opm.gov/contact.



CONTACTS & RESOURCES

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

Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (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 [retired military and annuitants webpage](#) for more information about pay matters 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 (800-582-3337) or TTY 800-843-3557 to speak with a program consultant. You can also visit <https://www.ltcfeds.com/>.

Identification Cards - Call 800-525-0102 for location of the nearest issuing facility, or visit the [site locator](#).

Legal Offices - Assists members with preparing wills and powers of attorney, and answers certain legal questions. Visit the Air Force Legal Assistance website at <https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil>.

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

Social Security Office - 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 <https://www.express-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; GI Bill and education matters call 888-442-4551. Visit the website at www.va.gov/.

Helpful links in this issues

Survivor Benefit Plan Open Season- <https://dfas.mil/sbopenseason23>

Air Force Retiree Services- <https://www.retirees.af.mil>

My Air Force Benefits- <https://www.myairforcebenefits.us.af.mil>

TRICARE-

MyPay-

<https://www.tricare.mil>

<https://www.mypay.dfas.mil>

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.



Frequently Asked Questions



Q: What is the Afterburner?

A: The Afterburner is a publication designed to keep members of the Department of Air Force retiree community informed about laws, policies and procedures affecting them. Authorized by Air Force Instruction 36-3106, it is published by the Air Force Personnel Center Retiree Services section. When funding permits, a hard-copy edition is printed and mailed twice a year to those people without an online myPay account with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service. An electronic edition is posted on the website, and sent electronically to email subscribers.

Q: How can I contact the Afterburner office?

A: You can write to: AFPC/DPFFF, 550 C Street W, JBSA-Randolph TX 78150, send an email to afpc.retiree@us.af.mil; or call 210-565-2126.

Q: How do I change my mailing address for the Afterburner?

A: Air Force retired members and Survivor Benefit Plan annuitants should call the Defense Finance and Accounting Service at 800-321-1080 to change their correspondence address. Members with a myPay account can make the change online. The fax number is 800-469-6559 for retirees and 800-982-8459 for annuitants. The address is DFAS, US Military Retirement Pay, 8899 E 56th Street, Indianapolis IN, 46249, for retired members; and DFAS, US Military Annuitant Pay, 8899 E 56th Street, Indianapolis IN, 46249, for annuitants. ONLY survivors who are not SBP annuitants may change their address by writing to AFPC/DPFFF, 550 C ST W, JBSA-Randolph AFB TX 78150. See below for contact information on notifying DEERS, Medicare, TRICARE, the Social Security Administration, and other agencies as appropriate.

Q: How can I request initial issuance or replacement of military service medals, decorations, and awards?

A: Send your request through the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) at this link: <https://www.archives.gov/veterans/replace-medals.html>

Q: How do I request my military personnel records?

A: Airmen retired before Oct. 1, 2004, should contact the National Personnel Records Center website or call 314-801-0800. Submit a Standard Form 180 or letter of request to National Archives at St. Louis, National Personnel Records Center (Military), 1 Archives Drive, St. Louis, MO 63138. Request letters must include the Airman's name, Social Security number, contact information and specific record requested. Those requesting a relative's record also need to provide their relationship to the former Airman.

Airmen who retired on or after Oct 1, 2004, can request copies of records by submitting a Standard Form 180 or letter of request to AFPC, 550 C ST. W, JBSA-Randolph AFB TX 78150; fax 210-565-4021, or DSN 665-4021.

Request letters must include the Airman's name, Social Security number, contact information and specific record requested. Those requesting a relative's record also need to provide their relationship to the former Airman.

Q: How do I report a Retiree/Annuitant death?

A: Contact the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) first to report a death. Go to the DFAS website for more information. [Retired Military & Annuitants \(dfas.mil\)](https://www.dfas.mil/RetiredMilitaryAnnuitants)

Department of the Air Force Retiree Activities Offices

Department of the Air Force Retiree Activities Offices (DAF RAO) 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

MAXWELL
Phone: 334-953-6725
Email:

Arizona

DAVIS-MONTHAN
Phone: 520-228-5100
Email: charles.schable@us.af.mil

LUKE

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

Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK
Phone: 501-987-6095
Email: retiree.2@us.af.mil

California

BEALE
Phone: 530-634-2157
Email: bealerao@gmail.com

EDWARDS

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

LOS ANGELES

Phone: 310-633-5144
Email: james.edgerton.1@spaceforce.mil

MARCH

Phone: 951-655-4077
Email: march.afrc@us.af.mil

MCCLELLAN

Phone: 916-640-8445/8446
Email: raomcclellan@yahoo.com

TRAVIS

Phone: 707-424-3904
Email: raotravis@yahoo.com

VANDENBERG

Phone: 805-606-5474
Email: Vandenberg.roa@us.af.mil

Colorado

BUCKLEY
Phone: 720-847-6693
Email: raobuckley@gmail.com

PETERSON

Phone: 719-556-7153
Email: psfbrao@gmail.com

USAF ACADEMY

Phone: 719-556-7153
Email: psfbrao@gmail.com

Delaware

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

District of Columbia

BOLLING
Phone: 202-767-5244
Email: rao.jbab@us.af.mil

Florida

CENTRAL FLORIDA
Phone: 352-430-1679
Email: centralfloridaRAO2@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: Roldan.milian@us.af.mil

PATRICK

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

Georgia

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

ROBINS

Phone: 478-327-8028
Email:

Idaho

MOUNTAIN HOME
Phone: 208-828-8037
Email: olsens67@msn.com

Illinois

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: scotttrao@us.af.mil

Indiana

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

Kansas

MCCONNELL
Phone: 316-759-3829/4411
Email: mary.eary.1@us.af.mil

Louisiana

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

Maryland

JOINT BASE ANDREWS
Phone: 301-981-2726
Email: 316wgrao.JBA@us.af.mil

Massachusetts

HANSCOM
Phone: 781-225-1310
Email: RAO.Hanscom.AFB@gmail.com

OTIS

Phone: 508-968-4175
Email:

WESTOVER

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

Michigan

SELFDRIDGE AIR NATIONAL GUARD
BASE
Phone: 586-239-5580
Email: selfrao@yahoo.com

Mississippi

COLUMBUS
Phone: 662-434-3120
Email:

KEESLER

Phone: 228-376-8111
Email: rao.keesler@us.af.mil

Missouri

JEFFERSON BARRACKS NGB SRAO
Phone: 314-527-8212
Email: 157.aog.retirees.office@us.af.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

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

Nebraska

OFFUTT
Phone: 402-294-2590
Email: offuttretees@gmail.com

Nevada

NELLIS
Phone: 702-652-6339
Email:

New Jersey

JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-
LAKEHURST
Phone: 609-933-0606
Email: brendaadams@msn.com

New Mexico

KIRTLAND
Phone: 505-846-1536
Email: 377ABW.CVR.RetireeActivities@us.af.mil

New York

NIAGARA FALLS ARS
Phone: 716-236-2389
Email: retireeactivitiesoffice@gmail.com

North Carolina

POPE FIELD
Phone: 910-394-1950
Email: popeaafrao@gmail.com

North Dakota

MINOT
Phone: 701-723-3440
Email: robert.harrington.2@us.af.mil

Ohio

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

WRIGHT-PATTERSON

Phone: 937-257-3221
Email: rao-wp@hotmail.com

Oklahoma

ALTUS
Phone: 580-481-6813
Email: stephan.francis.1@us.af.mil

TINKER

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

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

Pennsylvania
 HORSHAM AGS
Phone: 215-323-7135
Email: jenny.pappas.2@us.af.mil

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

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

South Carolina
 SHAW
Phone: 803-895-1098/8421
Email:

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

Tennessee
 ARNOLD
Phone: 931-454-4574
Email: derrick.harris.1@us.af.mil

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

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

RANDOLPH
Phone: 210-652-6880/5778
Email: rao.randolph@us.af.mil

SHEPPARD
Phone: 940-676-2654
Email: linda.klasek@us.af.mil

Utah
 HILL
Phone: 801-777-2307
Email:
 75abw.rao.retireeoffice@us.af.mil

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

Washington
 FAIRCHILD
Phone: 509-247-5359
Email: fairchildrao@yahoo.com

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCORD
Phone: 253-982-3214
Email: jack.whitaker.3@us.af.mil

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

TRUAX FIELD
Phone: 608-242-3115
Email: widma.retiree@wisconsin.gov

Pacific Region

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

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

Turkey
 IZMIR
Phone: 90-532-484-4684
Email: ryan.nakamura.2@us.af.mil

Thailand
 BANGKOK
Phone: 66-2-287-1036 Ext 166
Email: raothailand@jsumagthai.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: 82-05-05-784-1441
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
Phone: 670-285-7383
Email: PeterC11@yahoo.com

European Region

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: 011-44-1638-52-2039/3310
Email: rao1@us.af.mil

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

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

Spain
 TORREJON
Phone: 011-34-91-733-4646
Email: rao.torrejon@gmail.com



Retiree Activities Office

Seeking Air Force Retiree Council Representatives!

The Air Force Retiree Council needs you! We have vacancies for Area II (California) and Area XI (Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia). Area reps are the primary liaison between Retiree Activities Offices in their geographic region. If interested, please email afpc.retiree@us.af.mil for more information.

Air Force Retiree Council

Lt. Gen. Stephen L. Hoog, outgoing Co-Chairman
 Lt. Gen. Darryl Roberson, incoming 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
 Vacant, 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
 Col. Michael Hinman, 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
 Cpt. Edward Mayfield, Area X representative - Florida (Includes Puerto Rico and Panama)
 Vacant, Area XI representative - Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia
 Maj. Lisa Forester, Area XII representative - Delaware, District of Columbia and Maryland
 Master Sgt. Vincent Acquaviva, Area XIII representative - Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont
 Senior Master Sgt. Amberine Rice, Area XIV representative - Pacific Region (includes Alaska and Hawaii)
 Chief Master Sgt. James Barrante, Area XV representative - Atlantic Region (includes Europe and The Azores)
 Col. Frank G. Rohrbough, outgoing member at large
 Brig. Gen. Charles Potter, incoming 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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