

Buckley SFB, CO - RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE (RAO) NEWSLETTER - July 2026

18401 East A-Basin Ave, Stop 95, Buckley AFB, CO 80011

Building 606, Room 104, phone **720-847-6693**, e-mail address: raobuckley@gmail.com

Normal Hrs: Mon 0900-1500, Tues 0900-1500, Wed 0900-1300, Thurs 0900-1200 & Fri 0900-1200

These hours are totally dependent on volunteer availability!

Director: Steve Young, Lt Col, USAF, Ret

RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE (RAO) LOCATION: We are in Rm 104 of Bldg 606, close to the main building entrance. As you come into the main entrance, turn left, enter the first hallway on your right and Rm 104 is the first room on your left. Remember, we assist military retirees from all Services!

Buckley AF MPF Bldg 606 ID card service hours are: Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri 0800 to 1500; Wed 0800-1200

There is no phone number to call for an ID card appointment at the Buckley SFB Military Personnel Flight (MPF), they want you to make your appointment online using the RAPIDS website. If you're not comfortable using the RAPIDS site, or don't have a computer, call the RAO and we can assist you. Bldg 606 ID card hours are Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri: 0800-1500 hrs (space available 0800-1400) and Wed 0800-1200 hrs (space available 0800-1100). The MPF is CLOSED Federal holidays & Family days.

Retiree & Dependent ID Cards (Appts Only)

To find the ID facility nearest you and make an appointment online please go to the RAPIDS Site Locator at the following link: <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/#/>

Once you get to the RAPIDS site, click on the "ID Card Office Locator & Appointments" Continue box. The page that comes up should default to the "Search for Site by Address" tab. Ensure "All" is selected under the "Search For" area, then enter your zip code in the "Enter Location" area, select an entry from the "Radius" drop-down menu, and click on the "Search" box. A list of sites will pop up and then you can select "More Info" for the site you want to use, and the "Schedule an Appointment" block. A calendar will come up for that site where you can scroll through the months on the calendar to see when appointments are available. During the pandemic some locations may not show any appointments available. When you pick a day with appointments you will see a list of the times available for that day below the calendar, and you can pick the one you want and click on "Book This Appointment." Just FYI, you will typically find more online appointments available on the 140th ANG and NOSC sites - both on Buckley SFB - than at the MPF in Bldg 606.

OBSERVANCES IN JULY: 4 - Independence Day; 27 - Korean War Veterans Armistice Day; 28 - National Buffalo Soldiers Day and 29 - Army Chaplain Corps Anniversary.

FAMILY DAYS & HOLIDAYS IN JULY: Saturday, 4 July, is Independence Day, and we expect Friday, 3 July and Mon, 6 July, to be "Pass Days". As you know, Pass Days impact various operations on base (Pharmacy, MPF ID card section, 6th Ave Gate, etc.) so keep that in mind if you have things to do on base during those days.

BUCKLEY SFB FUNFEST: The base is holding a Funfest, sponsored by First Command, on Thursday, 16 July, from 1300-1900 at the softball field. There will be rides, games, food, prizes, etc. You can check the 460FSS Facebook page for more information as the time gets closer. [Buckley Space Force Base | 460th Force Support Squadron](#)

IN-PERSON SOCIAL SECURITY BRIEF & WORKSHOP: On **Thursday, 16 Jul, from 0900-1300** there will be an in-person social security brief and workshop held on Buckley SFB in Bldg 606 (AF MPF ID card building) Rm 106.

From about 0900-1000 Ivy Heuton and Josh Weller, Public Affairs Specialist with the Social Security Administration, will be providing an in-person briefing discussing Social Security benefits and online services available within your online my Social Security Account. Immediately following the briefing, Ivy and Josh are available to assist you one-on-one with signing up for, and troubleshooting, your personal my Social Security account. A my Social Security account allows you to calculate your potential retirement benefit, receive estimates for spouse's and disability benefits, replace your Social Security card, access your Social Security *Statement*, more.

This is a unique opportunity for you to meet face-to-face with local social security experts to get questions answered, set up your online social security account, etc. We ask you to please register for this event using the link in the e-mail we sent notifying you the newsletter was posted.

ESTATE PLANNING WORKSHOPS: Wills & Wellness Estate Planning will present an estate planning talk on Wed, **22 Jul and 26 Aug**, from 1130-1230 in their office at 8959 East 40th Ave, Suite 160, Denver 80238. For more info, and to RSVP, go to [Free Educational Talks - Wills & Wellness Estate Planning](#) The Hammond Law Group will present two estate planning workshops in July - Tues, **14 Jul** at 1400 and Sat, **18 Jul**, at 1000. These will be held at 2955 Professional Pl #101, Colorado Springs, CO 80904. For more info, and to register, see [Register for Hammond Law Group's Estate Planning Workshop](#)

ELIZABETH CELTIC FESTIVAL: The town of Elizabeth will host a Celtic Festival on **18 & 19 July** at Casey Jones Park in Elizabeth, CO. There will be Scottish food, beers & ales, Celtic music, Scottish games, local artisans, merchants, etc. Admission is \$15 for adults 18-64 and \$10 for Seniors 65+, military (includes retirees) and first responders. Parking is \$5. For more info see <https://www.elizabethcelticfest.org>

GLP-MEDICATIONS AND TRICARE FOR LIFE (TFL): A nationwide Medicare program designed to expand access to GLP-1 medications will make the drugs available at a steep discount to eligible beneficiaries - which will not include the vast majority of TRICARE For Life (TFL) users. The Medicare GLP-1 Bridge Program is set to launch 1 Jul 1 and run through the end of 2027. Participants will have a \$50 copay for covered GLP-1 medications, but **only those with Medicare Part D (pharmacy) coverage are eligible to participate. Most TFL participants get their drug coverage via the TRICARE Pharmacy program rather than a Part D plan, so they will not be eligible.**

OVERSEAS TRAVEL AND TRICARE FOR LIFE: With summer coming up, some of you on Medicare may be planning a trip overseas. If so, you should know that TRICARE For Life (TFL) works differently overseas. As you know, TFL is Medicare wraparound coverage, which means if both Medicare and TRICARE cover a health care service, TRICARE pays last. Medicare provides coverage in the United States and U.S. territories, as well as health care services you get on ships in U.S. territorial waters. However, Medicare **doesn't** provide coverage in any other overseas locations. This means TRICARE is the primary payer for TRICARE covered services you receive overseas, unless you have other health insurance (OHI), in which case that plan always pays first. All TFL beneficiaries are subject to the TRICARE catastrophic cap, deductibles, and cost-shares. Pre-authorization may be required for some care. Use the TRICARE Compare Cost Tool (<https://www.tricare.mil/Costs/Compare>) to find the costs associated with TFL stateside and overseas.

When overseas, you can get care at military hospitals and clinics, if space is available, or from civilian providers, as described in the TRICARE For Life Handbook https://www.tricare.mil/Publications/Handbooks/tricare_for_life You can use the Overseas Provider Directory (<https://www.tricare-overseas.com/beneficiaries/resources/provider-search>) to find an International SOS network provider near you. International SOS is the TRICARE Overseas Program administrator. If you see

a civilian provider, be prepared to pay up front. Be sure to ask the provider for an itemized bill and be sure to keep your receipt as proof of payment. If you're traveling overseas, you may want to consider buying travel insurance if you don't want to pay up front for health care.

After you pay for care, you can file a claim with International SOS for reimbursement. You must submit proof of payment with all claims for care you receive overseas. Additionally, you must file claims with the claims processor for the overseas areas where you got care. Remember to file within three years of either the date of service or the date of inpatient discharge. Contact your TRICARE Overseas Program Regional Call Center (<https://www.tricare-overseas.com/contact-us>) and choose option 2 for claims assistance.

There may be no limit on the amount TRICARE nonparticipating, non-network providers charge you overseas. Keep in mind, you're responsible for paying your deductible, cost-shares, and any amount that exceeds the TRICARE-allowable charge.

While overseas you can fill prescriptions at military pharmacies or through non-network overseas pharmacies. For non-network pharmacies you'll pay the full cost up front and file a claim with International SOS for reimbursement. Be sure to submit proof of payment with all overseas pharmacy claims. This includes an itemized bill or invoice.

TRICARE PLANS OVERVIEW FACT SHEET: Tricare has produced an overview fact sheet that gives you key information about each health plan they offer - Prime, Select, Tricare for Life, Young Adult, Retired Reserve, etc. They also offer a Plan Finder tool, a Compare Plans tool and a tool that shows you the cost of each plan. You can find all this information at the following link: [Get to know your TRICARE health plan with the TRICARE Plans Overview Fact Sheet > TRICARE Newsroom > TRICARE News](#)

NEW DFAS SMART WIZARD FOR ARREARS OF PAY: DFAS has introduced a new Smart Wizard available for the SF 1174 Smart Wizard, Claim for Unpaid Compensation of Deceased Member of Uniformed Services. This new tool is designed to make applying for Arrears of Pay (AOP) of a deceased military member, annuitant, former spouse, or VSI recipient easier. The web-based technology allows the Smart Wizard to be opened directly in a browser, eliminating the need to download it to a computer and open it in Adobe. This enables use on computers as well as personal devices such as phones and tablets.

Once the form is completed, the user will generate a ready-to-print PDF. The PDF will require wet signatures unless signed with a Common Access Card (CAC). Upon generating the completed form, a page with filing instructions will accompany the SF 1174. This page serves as a reminder for signatures, necessary supporting documents, and the link to upload the form and documents to AskDFAS. The Smart Wizard will also collect direct deposit information for the claimants, so there is no need to submit a separate direct deposit form.

Due to security settings and protection of personal information, the Smart Wizard must be completed in a single session. Partially completed forms **cannot** be saved for later access. The Smart Wizard will time out after 15 minutes of inactivity. Once the user exits or the browser times out, they cannot return to where they left off.

Here is the direct link. <https://lt-apps-pub.csd.disa.mil/smartwizard/sf1174/consent>

Note: With the enhanced web-based technology, DFAS will be shifting from using the terminology "Form Wizard" to "Smart Wizard". They will be working through the existing Form Wizards and transition them to Smart Wizards.

ONLINE ID CARD OFFICE SWITCHES FROM DS LOGON TO MYAUTH: Retirees, along with their families and survivors, will need to verify their identity online using a new system before requesting an online

identification card renewal, updating their contact information, or performing certain other tasks using the Pentagon's ID Card Office Online. The platform recently moved from the DS Logon system, which will end by the end of the fiscal year, to the myAuth system, which will be used across multiple applications in the coming months, including TRICARE platforms.

Visitors to the ID Card Office Online who click to request a service requiring myAuth login will be prompted to create a myAuth account if they haven't already done so. Full instructions for setting up an account are available [via the myAuth website](#); users of the DS Logon system can confirm their identity for a new myAuth account using their DS Logon name and password. Some beneficiaries may need to create a DS Logon account before creating a myAuth account.

TRICARE and TRICARE For Life beneficiary portals, the TRICARE Pharmacy Program portal, and the MHS GENESIS Patient Portal all will shift from DS Logon to myAuth in the coming months. Links to those official websites, along with more details on the changeover, can be found [on the TRICARE website](#).

Beneficiaries experiencing issues with myAuth account creation or use can use the following for help:

- Review answers to frequently asked questions about [myAuth](#) and [DS Logon](#).
- Ask a question at the [myAuth help page](#).
- Contact the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) at (800) 368-3665

DISABLED VETS & FREE TSP PRE-CHECK: *Some* service-disabled veterans may qualify to enroll for free in TSA PreCheck. The Transportation Security Administration program - already available for free to uniformed servicemembers and military survivors - was expanded to cover some disabled veterans at no cost via the 2025 VETS (Veterans Expedited TSA Screening) Safe Travel Act. To qualify, veterans must:

- Be enrolled in VA health care.
- Have a service-connected disability resulting in permanent blindness, loss of (or loss of the use of) a limb, or paralysis (full or partial).
- Require a wheelchair or a prosthetic limb because of a service-connected disability.

Veterans who meet the above qualifications should receive a letter from the VA which would waive their TSA PreCheck fee. The letter is available through the eligible veteran's account [at VA.gov](#); visit [this VA webpage](#) for details on accessing and downloading the letter.

Veterans must enroll in TSA PreCheck using IDEMIA. The process involves completing a series of online forms as well as an in-person visit where the applicant's fingerprints are taken along with a photo. As part of the process, veterans must email their VA fee waiver letter to IDEMIA with "VETS Safe" in the email subject line.

Not all veterans with qualifying disabilities will be eligible for TSA PreCheck, including those who do not provide full or accurate application information, who have "disqualifying criminal offenses," or who fail a background check for other reasons. Veterans with disabilities can request assistance at airport security via the TSA Cares program regardless of TSA PreCheck status.

For more information on the program, requirements, and any related questions please visit the websites below:

[TSA PreCheck for Qualifying Disabled Veterans | Transportation Security Administration](#)
[How You Can Get TSA PreCheck For Free As A Veteran With A Disability | Veterans Affairs](#)

VA PRE-NEED ELIGIBILITY FOR BURIAL IN A VETERAN'S CEMETERY: If you are considering a VA cemetery as your final resting place, the department's Pre-Need Eligibility program can answer your questions now, rather than burden your family with them later. [Pre-Need Eligibility For Burial In A VA](#)

[Cemetery | Veterans Affairs](#) Veterans (or their beneficiaries) must have their Social Security number, birthplace, and some service history details commonly found on a DD-214. You do not need to send in a copy of your DD-214 with your application, though it is preferred. If you're applying on behalf of someone else, additional forms may be required to show you have the authority to do so.

You may also select a preferred cemetery from the list of national cemeteries ([Find a Cemetery - National Cemetery Administration](#)) Note: the form does not apply to Arlington National Cemetery or to state or tribal veteran's cemeteries. Selecting a preferred cemetery does not mean you have to be buried in that cemetery or any national cemetery. Cemeteries are first-come, first-served due to space availability.

Once your material is prepared, you can:

- Sign in and fill out the materials online ([Apply Online For Pre-Need Determination Of Eligibility In A VA National Cemetery | Veterans Affairs](#)). You'll either receive a notice by mail about the decision or a phone call requesting more information.
- Download and complete VA Form 40-10007 (Application for Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility for Burial in a VA National Cemetery) [VA Form VA40-10007 | Veterans Affairs](#) and return it via fax to (855) 840-8299 or by mail to NCA FP Evidence Intake Center, PO Box 5237, Janesville, WI 53547.

For more information about the Pre-Need Eligibility program, answers to benefits questions, or assistance in filling out eligibility forms for yourself or in support of a veteran, reach out to the VA's National Cemetery Administration (NCA) at (800) 535-1117. The NCA scheduling office is open Monday to Friday from 0800 to 1930 Eastern time.

MONTHLY TRICARE BRIEFINGS ON BUCKLEY SFB: On the third Tuesday of each month, from 1100 - 1230, there is a Tricare briefing in the Bldg 606 Military & Family Readiness Center (M&FRC) auditorium. The next one will be on **21 July**. You just need to call the M&FRC to "register" so they know there will be space for you to attend. 720-847-6681.

VA DISABILITY BENEFITS CLAIMS ASSISTANCE ON BUCKLEY SFB: On **16 July**, from 1300-1600, in Building 606, Room 140 (the Military & Family Readiness Center), on Buckley SFB, there will be Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) available to help you file a VA disability benefit claim. You can just show up and walk in, no registration is required. If you are being discharged from the military within 90-180 days, bring a copy of your medical records, your marriage certificate and your children's birth certificates and they can do the rest. You should understand up front that an average Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) claim can take 2 hours or more for a records review and submission and there is almost always "homework" a veteran needs to do before they are completely prepared for an appointment. That being said, there are three things the VSOs at these meetings can do to prepare you for filing: answer any questions you may have about claims and claim processes; process simple requests such as input an Intent to File, for a retiree for instance, to save a date or update address information; prepare you for, and schedule, longer appointments in a VSO office to complete and submit claim documents. This event is scheduled for the third Thursday of every month, so you can expect another one on 20 Aug. For more info, you can contact Ms. Stephanie Rozmarich at 460MSS.DPF@us.af.mil or call 720-847-6681.

EVENTS FOR SENIORS: The 37th Annual Salute to Seniors will take place on Sat, **22 Aug**, from 0930 - 1500 at the Greek Events Center (4610 E. Alameda Ave., Denver). More than 75 vendors will be available with information on home repair, primary health care, home-delivered meals, Medicare, care in your home, etc. More info at - [Colorado Gerontological Society](#)

PHARMACY OPERATIONS:

The refill number is 720-615-2857. For patients interested in text notifications of when their prescriptions are ready, please speak to a pharmacy team member to enroll - have your cell phone number and carrier/company available. You can call 720-847-7450 if you need to speak to someone in the pharmacy.

The pharmacy will normally close at 1500 on the last Friday of each month. There is a lot of good information on the pharmacy website - here is the link: [460th Medical Group - Buckley Space Force Base > Health Services > Pharmacy \(tricare.mil\)](#) The site also lists a phone number for the Pharmacy Patient Relations/Advocate, which is 720-847-6603. The e-mail for the advocates is: usaf.buckley.460sw-mdg.mbx.pharmacy-patient-advocate@mail.mil.

New Prescriptions

Activation of new prescriptions by customers via phone or the Genesis Patient Portal is no longer required.

Electronic prescriptions will automatically be activated

Hardcopy prescription activation is via the Pharmacy DROP BOX

Urgent prescriptions will be ready the same day

Routine prescriptions ready after 1400 on the 2nd duty day

Refills

There is a 5 duty-day turnaround - after 1400

There has been an education adjustment for patients regarding the turn-around time for new prescriptions and refills. The pharmacy asks that beneficiaries call in their refill medications 7 days prior (for a 30-day supply) or 21 days prior (for a 90-day supply) to ensure they do not run out of medications before their refill will be ready.

BUCKLEY PHARMACY HOURS OF OPERATION:

Lobby Hours of Operation:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 0730-1630

Wednesday: 0930-1630

Drive-Thru Hours of Operation:

Monday - Friday: 1300-1600

FUTURE CLOSURES:

3 July Down Day/Holiday

6 July Pass Day

31 July Closed for Med Group function starting at 1500

Reminder: the pharmacy is closed every Wednesday from 0730 to 0930 for Training

PHARMACY REFILL SYSTEM ISSUES: There has been an increase in patient's calling the pharmacy stating the refill system is saying the system is down and cannot process their refill request. Apparently, when providers send in a new prescription, it automatically cancels their current prescription, causing the system to tell the patient their refill cannot be processed. Unfortunately, this part of the refill system is automated, and the

verbiage cannot be changed. If you experience this error, please call the patient line at 720-847-7450 so the pharmacy can troubleshoot the issue from their end.

TRANSFERRING PRESCRIPTIONS FROM EXPRESS SCRIPTS TO THE BUCKLY SFB

PHARMACY: The pharmacy tells us there has been an increase in the number of patients requesting a transfer of their prescriptions from Express Scripts to Buckley due to the increase of co-pays. While this is not a problem for the pharmacy, they have had issues trying to transfer prescriptions from Express Scripts. The responses have been inconsistent (cannot transfer, same-day transfer, 24-72 hour delayed transfer, etc.) To ensure the quickest turnaround for their patients, they recommend you call your provider and ask them to send the pharmacy a new prescription and call Express Scripts to cancel your current prescriptions to prevent recurring deliveries.

WINGS OVER THE ROCKIES AIR & SPACE MUSEUM AND WINGS OF EXPLORATION AT

CENTENNIAL AIRPORT: For the latest information on museum events you can visit the following website: <https://wingsmuseum.org/events/>

LEGAL OFFICE OPEN FOR RETIREES & DEPENDENTS: Legal provides limited legal assistance services for military retirees and their dependents. Legal can do the following related to estate planning: wills, living wills, powers of attorney, beneficiary deeds and advanced medical directives. For notary services and powers of attorney, walk-ins for retirees are available on Monday - Wednesday and Friday from 0830-1200 and 1300-1530, closed from 1200-1300. Thursday Legal is open from 0830 - 1200. **Wills for retirees and dependents are by appointment only and done on Thursdays from 0830-1130.** Legal expects the will appointments to fill up very quickly and they will not have a "waitlist." Thus, legal may ask that retirees call back in 2-3 weeks to check for open appointments once they are booked for several weeks. Prior to scheduling an appointment for a will, medical directive or power of attorney, legal will require a ticket # or worksheet, as well as your DoD ID Number which is located in the lower right front of the old (DD Fm 2) ID card (10-digit number). **If you have a spouse, you will each need your own individual ticket #s.** You can obtain a ticket # from the AF legal assistance website at [U.S. Air Force Legal Assistance \(AFLASS\)](https://www.aflegalassistance.com/) when you go to the site to fill out the required information for whatever document it is you want completed. If you call legal to make an appointment, they will not give you an appointment unless you have the ticket number issued by the website. If you cannot reach someone at 720-847-6444 in legal to schedule an appointment, send an e-mail to 460sw.ja.wf@us.af.mil to schedule an appointment and include the following:

- Name
- DoD ID Number
- Rank
- Military Status
- Phone #
- Ticket Number (you get after filling out forms online)

QUARTERLY MEDICAL GROUP TOWN HALL: The next Medical Group Town Hall is scheduled for **Wed, 19 Aug, from 1600-1700, at the Buckley SFB Chapel.** The Town Hall dial in is always the same number and code: [+1 410-874-6757](tel:+14108746757) Phone Conference ID: 241 738 417# These Town Halls are your opportunity to engage with pharmacy personnel face-to-face to express your concerns and ask questions, so we strongly encourage retirees with any pharmacy concerns to attend. These events are held every three months, usually on the third Wednesday of the month. We expect the next one on 18 Nov..

CASUALTY ASSISTANCE SUPPORT FROM THE RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE (RAO): For years our office has been reviewing online obituaries daily looking for military retirees who have passed in CO. When we find a retiree obituary, we post a note offering our condolences and our assistance, if desired.

We can put people in touch with the Casualty Assistance Rep (CAR)/Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) counselor on base, provide a casualty checklist from our office (as well as the DFAS casualty checklist), refer them to a Veteran Service Officer (VSO) if the retiree was getting VA disability pay, etc. Since we started this service, we have received many more calls for help with casualty assistance. If you have any questions on what we provide, know any friends who could use this service, would like some guidance on putting your affairs in order, etc. contact our office at 720-847-6693 - please leave a message if no one answers.

MONTHLY VIRTUAL MEDICARE & SOCIAL SECURITY BRIEFS: In Jan the RAO started offering monthly virtual briefings on Social Security and Medicare. The Medicare brief covers who is eligible; how to enroll; costs; coverage options; how Medicare works with other insurance (TFL, VA, FEHB/PSHB, etc.); additional resources; and where to go to get help. The Social Security brief covers benefits and online services available within your online my Social Security Account (calculate your potential retirement benefit, receive estimates for spouse's and disability benefits, replace your Social Security card, access your Social Security *Statement*, etc.). These briefings are provided by experts from local offices here in Denver. To participate in these briefings, you must register at the following link: [Buckley Virtual Meetings](#) We send a Zoom link for the meeting to those who register prior to the meeting. We typically cut off registration at ~20 folks for each brief so there is time to answer some questions. We plan to offer virtual Social Security and Medicare briefs on alternate months.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HONOR FLIGHT: Flight #56 (3-5 Sep) and #57 (8-10 Oct) are in the pre-planning stages. For more information on how to sign up for a flight, serve as a volunteer, etc., you can visit [Rocky Mountain Honor Flight - We Fly Veterans To Washington, DC](#).

U.S. ARMY SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES: Survivor Outreach Services (SOS) is the official Army program designed to provide long-term support to surviving Families of fallen Soldiers. The Army has a network of SOS coordinators at locations across the country. Contact phone numbers are listed by state and county, or by country at https://dcs9.army.mil/sos_staff_Locator . Use the drop-down lists to find survivor coordinators by state/county or country/ region. If a coordinator is not listed, you can call 210-834-0494 or the IMCOM toll free number - (833) 313-1960 for survivor assistance. Locally, you can contact Alison Patton at 720-250-1564 or alison.l.patton2ctr@army.mil

VERIFICATION WHEN CALLING INTO DFAS: Calling DFAS customer service for help and having to verify who you are can be a pain! To make it easier to get straight to your issue, DAFS has added a new option for confirming your identity. Customers who opt in can now use a verification one-time PIN sent to the mobile phone number registered in myPay to securely and quickly complete verification. Of course, you must have a myPay account to use this option. The next time you log into myPay, you will be prompted to review your verification methods and opt in. I can tell you I have done this for myself. If you have questions about this communication, you may contact a customer service representative by calling 1-888-332-7411.

NEW MYAUTH AUTHENTICATION SYSTEM: More than 20 million people in the military community, including many Tricare beneficiaries, will be moving to a new online authentication system over the next 18 months. The new myAuth system is replacing the legacy DS Logon system, which authenticates users onto more than 200 Defense Department and Veterans Affairs websites. Those who use the DS Logon system currently includes military retirees and family member beneficiaries. This will offer enhanced security protections, such as multi-factor authentication. When the system is completely phased in, users will be able to access all of their regular DOD applications with the one sign-in through myAuth.

Officials are launching the system in phases, starting with [milConnect](#) and ID Card Office Online in May. As of 14 July, officials say the success rate for people creating their new accounts is more than 99%, minimizing the need for people to contact the call center.

Retirees who wait until after the DS Logon is gone will have to reverify their identity since they don't have a Common Access Card (CAC). Many Tricare secure online patient services, such as the MHS Genesis patient portal, require a DS Logon account. **Those who don't have a CAC or a DS Logon must create a one-time DS Logon account over the next 18 months to establish their identity and benefits before creating a myAuth account.** The myAuth uses Okta Verify, which can be installed on a personal cell phone. As the new system is rolled out, individuals using applications such as milConnect will see a login screen for myAuth, which allows them to create a myAuth account. More information about the change is available at [myAuth Help](#)

VA Switch from DS-LOGIN to LOGIN.GOV and ID.ME: After Sept. 30, 2025, Veterans will have two secure options to sign in to VA.gov and VA mobile apps - a Login.gov account or ID.me account. If you're still using a DS Logon username and password, this information may be useful.

How to Transition

1. Visit [Creating An Account For VA.gov | Veterans Affairs](#) for detailed instructions on setting up your Login.gov or ID.me account.
2. Follow the step-by-step guide to create your account and verify your identity.
3. Use your new account to access VA services online as you did before.

Visit [Prepare For VA's Secure Sign-In Changes | Veterans Affairs](#) for more information and assistance. If you're ready to create your new account, follow our step-by-step guidance. If you need help, we can connect you with support. And if you need more time or don't want to get a new account, we can help you find ways to manage your VA health care and benefits by phone, mail or in person.

REAL ID COMPLIANCE ACT & NEXTGEN ID CARD: With Real ID Act now in effect, all U.S. residents need a Real ID-compliant driver's license or identification card to access certain federal facilities and board domestic commercial flights. **Visitors to Buckley SFB will need a Real ID Act compliant ID, or approved alternative, to access the base.** A Real ID-compliant CO driver's license will have a star in the upper right-hand corner of the card - a NextGen ID will not. If you currently have the DD Form 2, DD Form 1173, DD Form 1173-1 or DD Form 2765 (blue, pink or tan ID), while you can still get on base with that, **we encourage you to get a new NextGen ID card now.**

RENEWING ID CARDS ONLINE: This option is only for people who already have a USID and need to renew it. Those applying for an ID card for the first time will still need to go to an on-base office of the Real-Time Automated Personnel Identification System, or RAPIDS.

Sponsors and cardholders may request renewals of their ID card at the ID Card Office Online website: <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/> At the site, the sponsor must verify the dependent's identifying information and digitally sign a new Form DD 1172-2 to receive the renewed ID by mail.

Eligibility requirements:

- The USID card being renewed is active (not expired).
- The card recipient has a photo in the [Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System](#) (DEERS) taken in the last 12 years.
- The card recipient has an email address saved in DEERS for communication.
- The card recipient has a physical address (not a post office box) saved in DEERS in the continental U.S., Alaska or Hawaii.

The Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) will create and mail the new card, emailing both the sponsor and cardholder when it has done so. An email will also be sent if the online renewal wasn't successful.

Once the card arrives, the sponsor must log back into the ID Card Office Online website to acknowledge receiving it. Since military ID cards are considered government property, users are asked to return their old, replaced ID cards either by dropping them off at a local ID card office or by mailing them to:
DMDC- DSC Attn: USID Card Returns 2102 E. 21st Street N. Wichita, KS 67214

DFAS MYPAY ACCOUNT LOCKOUTS - PASSWORD CHANGE REQUESTS: Once in a while we get calls from retirees who are locked out of their DFAS myPay account and need a new password to regain access. There are several ways to do this, but most require you to answer several security questions, and many people have problems with that, resulting in frustration. DFAS Trusted Agents are now capable of updating personal email and mobile numbers in addition to in-person password resets. For many this may be the easiest solution to the problem. **Currently on Buckley SFB there are two numbers you can call to contact a Trusted Agent - 720-847-6416/5224** (I believe -5224 is the finance office in Bldg 1030, HQ Bldg). You can locate a DFAS Trusted Agent near you using the following website: [Ask myPay - A DFAS Customer Service Tool](#)

DFAS QUICK TOOLS FOR RETIREES, SPB ANNUITANTS AND SURVIVORS: There is a DFAS website with lots of helpful information for retirees, SBP annuitants, and survivors. It has links and online tools that allow you to report deaths, change your address, a customer guide, request your 1099-R, access checklists related to retiree/annuitant deaths, etc. You can find all this at the following website:
<https://www.dfas.mil/RetiredMilitary/Quick-Tools-for-Retirees-SBP-Annuitants-Survivors/>

DFAS CUSTOMER GUIDE TO ONLINE TOOLS: You can access this customer guide directly at the following link:
https://www.dfas.mil/Portals/98/Documents/RetiredMilitary/askDFAS%20Online%20Tool%20Guide%20Retirees%20and%20SBP%20Annuitants%20May2024.pdf?ver=5JPcRQ_O5c7cW9DZ4R6EAQ%3d%3d

HAVING PROBLEMS WITH THE GENESIS PATIENT PORTAL? For members looking for assistance with the MHS-Genesis Patient Portal, the pharmacy recommends reaching out to the MHS help desk and/or reviewing the FAQ's they provide. They believe the best place to call for help is the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) at 800-368-3665. You can also try the Global Service Center (800-600-9332). **You need to make sure your information in DEERS is correct, to include your email address, as this must match the Genesis login email used.**

PRESCRIPTION OPTIONS WHEN BASE PHARMACY IS CLOSED: Resourcing for DoD pharmacies does not provide staffing for extending hours for an on call or emergency service as a standard. The Buckley SFB pharmacy is not resourced that way as the surrounding area is able to support emergence prescription needs. In delivering the Tricare Benefit, the option for utilizing the prescription benefit outside of Buckley Pharmacy open hours is to utilize an in-network pharmacy in the surrounding area. Using the Express Scripts In-Network Pharmacy locator (<https://www.express-scripts.com/frontend/standalone-ui/#/find-a-pharmacy/commercial-oe/search>), there are two pharmacies in the surrounding area providing 24-hour pharmacy availability (Walgreens @12051 E Mississippi Ave in Aurora and CVS @4005 E 8th Pl in Denver).

PRESCRIPTION REFILLS USING MHS GENESIS PATIENT PORTAL: The Defense Health Agency has launched a new feature that lets you request prescription refills through MHS GENESIS. We've posted a flyer about this on the RAO website. We're told prescription refills through the [MHS GENESIS Patient Portal](#) became available on 29 Feb. You can refill prescriptions by selecting the "Rx Refills" tab in the upper right panel on the portal's homepage. Through your MHS GENESIS Patient Portal, you'll be able to:

- See all your prescriptions that are available to be refilled.
- Choose which ones you want refilled.
- Choose where you want to pick up the refill.
- See when your prescriptions are ready to be picked up.

This new feature also applies to existing prescriptions that have remaining refills. You can request a refill once you've used 75% of the previous fill, and no earlier. To access the MHS GENESIS Patient Portal, visit <https://patientportal.mhsgenesis.health.mil>.

HQ AIR RESERVE PERSONNEL CENTER RESERVE RETIREMENT COUNSELING CELL

(RRCC): We hear from a lot of Gray Area retirees from all Services, typically as they are approaching 60, start working on their retirement packages, and have questions or run into problems. On 1 Jun 23 ARPC activated a Reserve Retirement Counseling Center (RRCC) to help AF Reservists or Guard members working on their retirement package. If you click the link below it will tell you a little about this group. RRCC Contact Info: 800-682-1929, E-mail: arpc.dpt.rccc@us.af.mil

HOW TO CREATE A MYPAY ACCOUNT WITH DEFENSE FINANCE & ACCOUNTING SERVICE

(DFAS): If you don't have a MyPay account with DFAS I recommend you create one. With your own account you can download your Form1099 for taxes, print a copy of your Retiree Account Statement (RAS), set up beneficiaries for Arrears of Pay, update your mailing and e-mail address, adjust federal and state withholding for taxes, etc. You start by requesting an initial password on the myPay homepage ([myPay Web Site \(dfas.mil\)](https://myPay.Web.Site(dfas.mil))) using the "Forgot or Need a Password" link. The password will be mailed to the address you have on file with DFAS and you will receive it in about 10 business days. Once you receive your password in the mail, you return to the myPay homepage and log in with your social security number and the password you received in the mail to create your myPay profile. DFAS has a downloadable step-by-step Get Started Guide to myPay on their website and a how-to video on the DFAS YouTube channel. For additional info on obtaining a MyAccount you can visit: <https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/manage/mypay/>

HOW TO REACTIVATE MYPAY ACCOUNTS: Some of you may only use myPay once a year to get your 1099-R during tax season and when you do try to access your account, you discover your password is expired, lost, or forgotten. If your myPay account is in an inactive status because your password has expired, you can follow the steps below to reactivate your account.

1. Go to <https://mypay.dfas.mil> in your web browser on a computer or connected device.
2. Click on the "Forgot or Need a Password?" link
3. Enter two of the following: your Login ID, Social Security Number and/or registered email address (previously registered in myPay). Check the box affirming you are the account owner and click "Continue."
4. If you previously set up the security questions, you'll be presented three security questions to answer. When finished answering the questions, click "Check my Answers."
5. If you answer the security questions correctly, you will be able to reset your password online.

If you haven't set up security questions, or answer them incorrectly, you'll get the option to have a temporary password sent to you. You can choose to send the temporary password to: A) Your mobile phone via text if your mobile phone number is registered in myPay; OR, B) The mailing address you have on file with DFAS in your pay account. When you receive the temporary password, go back to myPay and log in to reactivate your account. If you need assistance accessing your myPay account, please contact the myPay Customer Care Center toll-free at 1-888-332-7411, select option 5 or at 1-317-212-0550.

MYPAY SUPPORT AT DEFENSE FINANCE & ACCOUNTING SERVICE (DFAS): For problems using myPay, or establishing/changing your myPay password, contact the DFAS Centralized Customer Support Unit toll-free at 1-888-332-7411 or commercial at (216) 552-5096. This support line is available Monday through Friday, 0800 to 1700, Eastern Time. The Centralized Customer Support Unit can also provide assistance on how to use the options available to you in myPay. The support unit will also provide support for establishing and changing your password.

HOW TO UPDATE YOUR DEERS INFORMATION: When your [life changes](#), make sure you update the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). Wrong information in DEERS can prevent you from using your TRICARE benefits properly. There are four ways to update your contact information in DEERS:

- Online via [milConnect](#)
- By phone: 800-538-9552 (TTY/TDD: 866-363-2883)
- By fax: 831-655-8317
- By mail:

DMDC Support Office

Attn: COA

400 Gigling Road

Seaside, CA 93955-6771

You also need to update your information with:

- Your [regional contractor](#)
- The [pharmacy contractor](#)
- Your dental contractor (if you have dental coverage)
- Your doctors

LIFE CHANGING EVENT? KEEP DFAS INFORMED: Ensuring your retired pay comes to you accurately and on time is the primary goal at DFAS. To do this, they need your help to keep your account up to date. *Keeping your account up to date includes making sure your mailing address, banking information, allotments, tax withholding status, and your beneficiary choices are current. Be sure to report any change of life events as soon as they happen. These life-changing events include:*

- Marriage
- Divorce
- Death of a spouse or child
- Birth or adoption of a child

Some changes, especially those regarding SBP, have a one-year time limit, so it is very important that DFAS is notified of life-changing events when they happen. When you notify them, be sure to include supporting documents, such as birth or marriage certificates. Keeping your contact information updated is also key to staying informed. DFAS occasionally sends out correspondence regarding changes in the law that affect your pay, and a new Retired Account Statement (RAS) is sent when your net pay changes (unless you are on *myPay* where the new RAS is available online). **If your mailing address is not correct and you are not on *myPay*, they have no way of notifying you about changes. The easiest way to stay up to date is to use *myPay*. You can use *myPay* to change your mailing address, your direct deposit information, Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) coverage, certain allotments and your tax withholding status. You can create a *myPay* account at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/>**

Reporting the Death of a Retiree

Do your loved ones know who to contact in the event of your death? Casualty Assistance Representatives (CARs) stand ready to lend a hand with your casualty assistance needs. Call them for an appointment to talk about what you should have ready for your loved ones in the event of your passing. **If you are not sure who your AF Casualty Assistance Representative (CAR) is, you can call 877-353-6807, enter your zip code, and you will be automatically transferred to the base CAR responsible for your area.**

Buckley SFB Casualty Assistance Office (Loretta Lopez) - CAR/SBP Rep 720-847-6946

Retired Air Force.....1-877-353-6807

Retired Army.....1-800-626-3317

Retired Coast Guard.....1-800-772-8724

Retired Marines.....1-800-847-1597

Retired Navy.....1-800-368-3202
Retired Civil Service.....1-888-767-6738
Receiving VA Compensation.....1-800-827-1000
Social Security Administration.....1-800-772-1213

This newsletter is a RAO publication for retirees, annuitants and surviving spouses. Content is not to be construed as the official view of, or endorsement by, the RAO, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the Space Force or the Air Force.