

Buckley SFB, CO - RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE (RAO) NEWSLETTER - June 2022

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

Building 606, Room 104, phone **720-847-6693**, e-mail address: **460sw.rao.org@us.af.mil**

Normal Hrs: Mon 1000-1600, Tues 0800-1200, Wed 0900-1400, Thurs 0830-1500 & Fri 0900-1200

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 in 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!

RAO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We currently have only 8 permanent RAO volunteers that support our “Help Desk” (720-847-6693) which, when all volunteers are available, means the office has someone present during some hours of the morning and/or afternoon Mon-Fri. You can leave a voice mail anytime, and we check Voice Mails frequently to return calls. **We still have open time slots during the week and need more volunteers. If you think you might be interested, or just have questions, please contact me (Steve Young) at my home e-mail - elkfive@centurylink.net.**

COVID-19 IMPACTS ON BUCKLEY AFB: Due to the low levels of COVID-19 transmissions on Buckley SFB and the surrounding counties, the installation has transitioned to HPCON Alpha. Buckley SFB Public Health Directive #22-3 is now effective. **Mask wear is no longer required for DoD personnel or visitors on Buckley SFB (including the gym) but is still required in all Medical Group facilities** regardless of vaccination status. **The base has directed that 100% of non-mission essential personnel can now report to work on base.** For the most current info on base facilities and additional details on **days/hours**, etc. please check the Buckley AFB and 460 FSS FaceBook (FB) pages and Buckley AFB website.

<https://www.facebook.com/BuckleySpaceForceBase/>

<https://www.460fss.com/>

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

MPF Call Center: Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri: 1200-1500; 720-847-4357, Option 2 (Questions or make appts)

Retiree & Dependent ID Cards (Appts Only)

- Agent Letter (allows others to shop commissary, BX, etc for retirees not able to - **walk-ins OK!**)
- **In June the AF MPF in Bldg 606 will be open on Saturday, 11 June (0900-1200), to issue ID cards - need to call for appt.**

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 JUNE: June is PTSD awareness month; 6 - D-Day; 12 - Women Veterans Day; 14 - Army Birthday; 14 - U.S Flag Day; 20 – Juneteenth; 23 - Coast Guard Auxiliary Day; 27 - PTSD Awareness Day.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION FOR VETERANS: Soldiers' Angels provides an easy, no-cost way for Denver area veterans in-need to receive food assistance. Volunteers pack bags of groceries and load them into cars, pushcarts, or backpacks of registered veterans. This monthly event provides food support to over 200 veterans and their families. June 10th at The Jewell VA Clinic, 14400 E Jewell Ave, Aurora, CO 80012. Go to <https://soldiersangels.org/denver/> for more information and to register.

HONOR BELL FOUNDATION'S BANG FOR THE BELL FUNDRAISER: on Saturday, June 11, noon to 4 p.m., at Bristlecone shooting range in Lakewood. The event is a first-time benefit for the nonprofit, which is a one-of-a-kind organization that provides funeral and memorial rites for fallen military veterans through the tolling of a 1,000-pound bronze bell. For more details on the event go to <https://yourhub.denverpost.com/blog/2022/05/set-your-sights-on-bang-for-the-bell/291407/> For more information on the Honor Bell go to <https://www.honorbell.org/>

WOMEN VETERANS APPRECIATION LUNCHEON: On **Saturday, 25 Jun, from 1100-1500** there is a Women Veterans Appreciation Luncheon at the Central Christian Church (3690 E. Cherry Creek South Dr, Denver 80209). The event is put on by the American Legion Auxiliary of District Six and is open to all women veterans. Women veterans will get a free meal but any guests of theirs will pay \$15. You can “register” with Ms. Edrie O’Brien by e-mailing her with the number of veterans in your party attending and the number of guests who will be paying. You can e-mail her at edrieobrien@comcast.net with questions. For women veterans, if you wish to have your biographical information included in a Program Book you can fill out a form and forward it to Donna Thompson (madprez2468@outlook.com) OR 2668 E. Geddes Pl., Centennial, CO 80122 by June 1, 2022. One of these ladies can provide you with the required form. 12 Jun marks the 74th anniversary of the signing of the “Women’s Armed Services Integration Act” signed by Harry Truman.

SENIOR LIFE EXPO - DOUGLAS COUNTY: On **Thursday, 30 June, from 1300-1700** at the Douglas County Events Center there is a free Senior Life Expo. You can meet with senior organizations and businesses associated with housing, home care, insurance, transportation, estate planning, assistance and services, etc. There will be seminars on vision and hearing loss, senior living, insurance, navigating senior care, long-term health care, etc. This even is organized by the Castle Rock Senior Activity Center - 303-688-9498.

TRICARE FOR GUARD/RESERVE PERSONNEL: When it comes to TRICARE, Guard and Reserve (G/R) choices can be more complicated than choosing between TRICARE Prime and Select (P/S). When activated for more than 30 days, G/R members and their families become eligible for **all** TRICARE programs and the costs will mirror the costs for active duty servicemembers and their families.

While serving as a drilling G/R member, and not covered by the Federal Employee Health Benefit (FEHB) program, members and their families are eligible for **TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) and TRICARE Young Adult (TYA)**. Members in the Individual Ready Reserve (including Navy Reserve Voluntary Training Units) do not qualify to purchase TRS. TRS costs, while higher than TRICARE P/S, are still significantly lower than the average employer provided health care plan. In addition to the monthly premiums and annual deductible, TRS enrollees will incur coinsurance payments for health care services after the deductible has been met. Enrollment fees, annual deductible, and copays apply to the catastrophic cap; monthly premiums do not.

Gray Area retirees (GARs) are G/R members who have qualified for retired pay, have retired from their service (stopped drilling), but are **not** yet eligible for retired pay (typically at age 60). GARs may be eligible for retired pay prior to reaching age 60, but TRICARE P/S eligibility is not attained until the G/R member reaches age 60

and retirement processing has been completed by service and pay agency (DFAS or Coast Guard) and is reflected in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS).

GARs without an employer-provided health care plan have **TRICARE Retired Reserve (TRR)** as an option until reaching age 60. TRR is not cheap, but may well be less expensive than finding a plan on the government or open market exchanges.

G/R retirees and their spouses remain eligible for TRICARE P/S programs until individually reaching age 65 when they “age out” of TRICARE and must enroll in Medicare. Like active-duty retirees, once enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B beneficiaries are eligible for TRICARE for Life (TFL).

Plan Costs

TRICARE Reserve Select

- Enrollment fee/premiums: \$46.70/month individual; \$229.99/month family
- Annual deductible, E-1 to E-4: \$56 individual; \$112 family
- Annual deductible, E-5 and above: \$168 individual; \$336 family

TRICARE Retired Reserve

- Enrollment fee/premiums: \$502.32/month individual; \$1,206.59/month family
- Annual deductible (network): \$168 individual; \$336 family

SPACE-A TRAVEL IS BACK: Space-A flights, or military hops, are a unique privilege provided to service members, retirees and their families. Under the Space-A program, eligible passengers can fill unused seats on DoD-owned or controlled aircraft once all the space-required (duty) passengers and cargo have been accommodated. Space-A flights are available to military members and their families, retirees and some disabled veterans. Restrictions put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 effectively shut down all Space-A travel on Air Mobility Command (AMC) and contracted aircraft for anyone not traveling for medical care or on emergency leave.

AMC has announced that as of 22 Apr 2022 Space Available (Space-A) travel on military aircraft for travelers has returned to pre-pandemic availability and all restrictions have been lifted. All passengers are required to follow current federal COVID-19 travel procedures, and those traveling OCONUS may have additional testing requirements and restrictions for travel to specific countries; those interested may find details on country-specific requirements in the Department of Defense's [Electronic Foreign Clearance Guide](#).

For additional information on Space-Available Travel, visit [Air Mobility Command's Travel website](#).

NEW VETERANS BURIAL SITES PLANNED: **The VA is pushing for funding to open four new burial sites within the next two years**, two columbaria (room/building for funeral urns with cremated remains) and two rural cemeteries that eventually can entomb 310,000 veterans or family members.

The four sites are in New York City; Indianapolis; Elko, Nevada; and Cedar City, Utah, and it will cost the VA \$3 million next year to ensure that they will open and be staffed within the next two years.

The New York site in Queens and the Indiana site are part of the VA's Urban Initiative effort, which looks to provide columbarium-only locations for cremated bodies in city centers with few in-ground burial options. Under the Urban Initiative, the VA has plans to build facilities in five cities across the country. In addition to NY and Indianapolis, the other three are Los Angeles (the only one currently open), Chicago and San Francisco.

Among the eight new national cemeteries in rural areas, the VA has dedicated and opened six, with the Elko, Nevada, and Cedar City, Utah, the two sites remaining.

The National Cemetery Administration, or NCA, started these projects to ensure that veterans have "reasonable access" for burial, with either a state or national cemetery within 75 miles of their homes.

VA officials also have requested \$9.4 million for 2023 for existing cemeteries that are facing "workload increases and project expansions." The VA estimates that 570,000 veterans will die in 2022, and roughly 136,500 of those will be buried in VA cemeteries. In 2018, the VA had 3.7 million gravesites with that number expected to reach 4.2 million in 2023.

As part of its budget proposal, the VA has asked Congress for legislation that would allow it to designate parts of cemeteries as "green burial sections," where veterans could choose to have their gravesites marked by means other than upright headstones or choose to be buried without a vault.

SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICES RESTORE IN-PERSON VISITS: As of 7 Apr, Social Security offices restored in person services, including for people without an appointment. They strongly encourage people who can to continue using their online services at www.socialsecurity.gov, call them, or schedule appointments in advance rather than walking in without an appointment. Those without appointments may well encounter delays and longer wait times. Offices tend to be the busiest first thing in the morning, early in the week, and during the early part of the month.

These offices are continuing to require some safety measures including masking, physical distancing, and self-health checks for COVID-19 symptoms. They will provide masks to the public and employees if they need them.

As social security transitions to a new modern phone system, some people may experience a busy signal or be unintentionally disconnected from their call. They recommend people call when their National 800 Number may be less busy, such as before 1000 or after 1600 local time or later in the week. As with the offices, phone waits are generally shorter later in the month.

DD-214s FOR CO NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL: For discharged/retired Colorado Army and Air National Guard personnel the Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) should be able to provide a copy of any paperwork in their record (DD-214s etc.). You can call or fill out a digital request for these documents. Personnel File general inquiries should be sent to archives@dmva.state.co.us For additional information and instructions on how to submit requests you can visit the website at [Services | Department of Military and Veterans Affairs \(colorado.gov\)](http://Services | Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (colorado.gov)) There are other ways to get copies of your records as well, such as the National Archives (<https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/locations>), milConnect ([milConnect \(osd.mil\)](http://milConnect (osd.mil))), etc.

DOD INSTRUCTION 1336.01 - CERTIFICATE OF UNIFORMED SERVICE (DD FORM 214/5 SERIES): On 17 Feb 2022 the Department of Defense (DoD) published an update to DoD Instruction 1336.01, Certificate of Uniformed Service (DD Form 214/215 Series). According to the instruction, this will provide "The uniformed services member, excluding members of the Commissioned Corps of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, ... with a clear, concise summary of each discrete period of active service, and Reserve Component service as applicable, with the uniformed services at the time of transfer between Services, release, discharge, transfer to another component of a Service, or other change of status. This includes relevant data regarding the member's service and the circumstances of termination, except as limited in this issuance." My understanding is this should provide all National Guard and Reserve Component Service members with Federally recognized service documents that will encompass their entire service time and allow them to access the Veteran benefits and entitlements they have earned. I've been told they have three years to phase this in.

VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA) HOME HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS: The VA offers quite a few different programs related to home health care for veterans, and also some geared toward support of the veteran caregiver in the home. To qualify for any of these programs the veteran must first be registered with the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). To get registered for VHA and enroll in the system, you need a copy of your DD-214, a completed VA Form 10-10EZ (Application for Health Benefits) and a valid ID. No medical records are necessary. If the veteran does not have a DD-214 one can be requested with the help of a Veteran Service Officer (VSO), the National Archives, or other avenue.

There are some general numbers at the Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center you can call for assistance in this area. For a **new** home healthcare (HHC) request, you should start with your primary care team - their main number is 303-399-8020, Option 2. If you already have HHC and want to talk to the HHC Coordinators, they can be reached at 303-329-8500.

Below is a general list of these programs we got from the Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center. We have a paper summarizing each of these programs if you are interested.

Community Adult Day Healthcare (CADHC) Program (Vet's Club); Community Living Center (CLC); Community Nursing Home (CNH) Program; State Veterans Home (SVH); Home Based Primary Care (HBPC) Social Work: Denver Metro and Southern Colorado (2 locations); Medical Foster Home (MFH) Program; Program for All Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) Program; Tele Geriatrics; Tele Palliative Care; and Veteran Directed Care (VDC) Program.

NEW VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA) PRESUMPTIVE CONDITIONS: Since 2021 the Department of Veterans Affairs has begun processing service-connected disability claims for six new presumptive conditions related to environmental exposures during military service. In May 2021, VA started implementing provisions of the William M. Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021, adding bladder cancer, hypothyroidism and Parkinsonism to the list of medical conditions presumptively associated with exposure to Agent Orange. A few months later VA added asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis (to include rhinosinusitis) on a presumptive basis based on particulate matter exposures during military service in Southwest Asia and certain other areas.

Any Veteran who was previously denied service-connection for any of these six conditions, but had symptoms manifest within 10 years of military service, would need to file a supplemental claim. Officials advise using VA Form 20-0995, Decision Review Request: Supplemental Claim, when filing. The claim form should include the name of the condition and specify that the condition is being claimed because of in-service exposure to environmental hazards. We would suggest anyone wishing to file such a claim contact a local Veteran Service Officer (VSO) for assistance. For more information about VA benefits and eligibility, or how to file a claim, veterans and survivors can visit VA's website at <http://www.va.gov> (or call toll-free at 1-800-827-1000), contact one of the Veterans Benefits Advisors on Buckley SFB or reach out to a local VSO.

UPCOMING FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON BASE ACTIVITIES: Below is a list of events on base that may be of interest to retirees. You can check with Facebook or FSS for final dates and details as the time gets closer. <https://www.460fss.com/> and the 460th Force Support Squadron (Facebook page) [460th Force Support Squadron | Facebook](#)

Drive-In-Movies (Apr-Oct)

Patriot Fest - 25 Jun (Food and fun activities prior to the main event. The main act is The Band Perry with openers John Michael Montgomery and Lindsay Ell. Event times still TBD. Free to all that can access the base.)

TRICARE QUALIFYING LIFE EVENTS (QLEs): When life changes for TRICARE beneficiaries, their health plan options may also change. These types of changes are called TRICARE Qualifying Life Events, or QLEs. A QLE may allow families to enroll in or change their health plan coverage outside the normal open enrollment season. A toolkit is now available with QLE information and resources, including graphics, screensavers, Q&As, TRICARE 101, a video, and more. These tools can help answer many questions you might have about QLEs, from what they are to what actions need to be taken. Here is a link to the Toolkit on the Military Health System website: [Qualifying Life Events Toolkit | Health.mil](#)

BURN PIT BILL AIMS TO EXPAND VA ACCESS FOR POST-9/11 VETERANS: The bipartisan Health Care for Burn Pit Veterans Act, passed by the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs (SVAC) on 2 Feb, would expand VA eligibility to about 1 million Post-9/11 combat veterans, with the goal of improving access to treatment for conditions stemming from toxic exposure. The bill would open VA health care eligibility for these veterans from five years after discharge to 10 and would also allow for a one-year open enrollment period for any Post-9/11 combat veterans outside that 10-year window. The bill is the first in a three-phase plan to expand benefits. The second phase would involve the creation of a "new, transparent process" for the VA in determining what illnesses can be presumptively connected to toxic exposure, while the third phase would provide "overdue benefits to thousands of toxic exposure veterans who have been long ignored or forgotten." The bill also requires several studies related to toxic exposure, including one on mortality rates of veterans who served in Southwest Asia during the Persian Gulf War. It would increase VA reporting requirements and outreach efforts on toxic exposure and require the VA provide a toxic exposure screening for all veterans during medical visits.

2022 U.S. ARMY RETIRED SOLDIER HANDBOOK: Produced by Army Retirement Services, the 2022 U.S. Army Retired Soldier Handbook is available for download as a PDF document from the Army Retirement Services website at https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Documents/static/Post/2022_ArmyRetSoldierHandbk.pdf

ARMY GRAY AREA RETIREMENTS (GARs): Army Human Resources Command (HRC) services Retired USAR and ARNG Soldiers processing retirement pay packets and family members with RCSBP. You can reach them at (888) 276-9472 or (502) 613-8950. You can download retirement applications at: <https://www.hrc.army.mil/asset/19367> or email your request to usarmy.knox.hrc.mbx.tagd-ask-hrc@army.mil The HRC-GAR website is at <https://www.hrc.army.mil/content/Gray%20Area%20Retirements%20Branch>

NAVY RESERVE RETIREMENT TRANSITION OUTREACH EVENTS: Navy Personnel Command's Retirement Transition Outreach (RTO) provides information to Navy Reserve members on the processes and benefits of reserve retirement. Members of the Navy Reserve Component and their spouses at all milestones toward full retirement with pay are invited to attend a FY22 RTO event. Attendance is not mandatory for Reserve members prior to approval of a retirement request. See below for an updated schedule as well as directions for how to register for an available FY22 RTO event.

Reserve Retirement Counseling Session (RRCS): preferred format for most current SELRES, VTU, and IRR.
Sat.-Sun., Sept. 10-11, 2022, 0800 PST
Wed., Sept. 14, 2022, 0800 CST

Reserve Retirement Waypoint (RRW) Events: preferred for those retiring with pay within two years.
Tues., Jun. 21, 2022, 1800 CST
Tues., Sept. 20, 2022, 1800 CST

Register here:

FY22 RTO Registration via FLANK SPEED Microsoft Forms: <https://forms.osi.apps.mil/r/iukurzfztP>

Or, email the RTO Team to request registration for a specific FY22 RTO event: pers-9_RTO@us.navy.mil

Registration will be limited to 150 participants per event. Top priority will be given to Navy Reserve members who will be eligible for retirement with pay in less than 24 months, and to currently serving members who will soon reach their notice of eligibility milestone (20 qualifying years). The RTO event team will provide event joining link and instructions, plus read-ahead materials, via email to registered participants prior to the event. Please note, questions about individual records or request packages will not be addressed by the RTO team including during events.

Please visit the RTO webpage on MyNavy HR for more information about RTO events:
<https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Career-Management/Reserve-Personnel-Mgmt/Reserve-Retirements/Retirement-Transition-Outreach/>

PHARMACY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED & LINE RECOMMENDATIONS: The Buckley SFB Pharmacy is in dire need of volunteers, and they asked me to advertise that in our newsletter. Volunteers will need to be fully vaccinated and may need to complete some training. Anyone interested in more information can **call the pharmacy at (720) 847-9355 (Option 4, then Option 3) to inquire or to get started.** In addition, for those who have trouble standing while waiting for a prescription pick-up in the lobby, they highly recommend you use the drive thru. Prior to COVID, the drive-thru was strictly pick-up only but that is no longer the case. Everything you need from the pharmacy can now be accomplished using the drive thru.

PHARMACY HOURS: As of 1 Jan, the pharmacy implemented the following new hours: Mon-Fri 0800-1700. In addition, they will be **closed** on the second Wed of each month for a Training Day (**8 June** for this month).

When there is delayed reporting for non-mission essential personnel the pharmacy will open 30 minutes **after** the Report No Earlier Than time. Please remember holidays, family days, etc. can impact these hours so you can always check the Buckley SFB Facebook page for the latest info on hours.

PHARMACY - PATIENT ADVOCATE E-MAIL ADDRESS: As you know, pharmacy patient advocates are available to hear your comments and concerns related to pharmacy operations. There are forms available in the pharmacy for you to submit comments to them, but with the pandemic you don't have access to those. The pharmacy has established an e-mail inbox for the patient advocates so you can now e-mail them directly at the pharmacy patient advocate org box: usaf.buckley.460sw-mdg.mbx.pharmacy-patient-advocate@mail.mil.

MY AIR FORCE BENEFITS WEBSITE: While the site is mainly focused on active-duty folks, there is a **lot** of information on there of interest to retirees/surviving spouses as well. The site has about 180 fact sheets on various benefits and a section for "Transition and Retirement Planning." If you look under the "Benefit Library" tab (top left of the page), and click on the "Resource Locator" link, you can then click on CO (or any other state) to see a wealth of information on resources in your state (with base specific resources as well). I strongly encourage you to check out this website. [Home | An Official Air Force Benefits Website \(af.mil\)](http://Home | An Official Air Force Benefits Website (af.mil))

LEGAL OFFICE OPEN FOR "LIMITED SERVICES" FOR RETIREES & DEPENDENTS: Legal is once again providing **limited** legal assistance services for military retirees and their dependents. **Wills for retirees and dependents will only be done on Wednesdays and Thursdays of each week from 1300 to 1500 and you must have an appointment.** For notary services and powers of attorney, walk-ins for retirees are available on Mon-Thurs from 0800-1200. Retirees have the option of conducting their legal assistance appointment by telephone or in person. 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). You can obtain a ticket # from the AF legal assistance website at [U.S. Air Force Legal Assistance \(AFLASS\)](http://U.S. Air Force Legal Assistance (AFLASS)) 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. For any questions call base legal at 720-847-6444.

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 \(dfas.mil\)](http://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/>

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES FOR VETERANS: Arapahoe/Douglas Works! (A/D Works!) Workforce Center is a member of the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and provides a variety of no-cost services to veteran job seekers; resources and workshops for a self-directed job search, one-on-one employment counseling, customizing resumes, referrals to other state and federal agencies and training assistance. For more information you can visit their website at <http://www.adworks.org/> Just FYI, there is an A/D Works! Veterans Employment Specialist that works several days a week in Bldg 606 on base (when non-mission essential personnel are allowed back in their offices on Buckley AFB). For more info you can also contact the AD Works! Call Center at (303) 636-1160 and ask to be contacted to a Veterans Employment Team Member.

HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED UNSATISFACTORY SERVICE FROM THE RAO? We are staffed completely with volunteers who do their very best to help with your issues. While we always strive to provide you with the best possible support, we realize there may be times you experience what you consider to be unsatisfactory customer service when you contact the RAO. Perhaps you never received a response to a voice mail/e-mail you left, you got inaccurate information regarding a question you had or the person who helped you was unable to provide an adequate answer to your question. **If you are ever dissatisfied with the support you get from the RAO please contact the RAO Director to discuss the situation.** The best way to reach me is via my home e-mail - elkfive@centurylink.net.

DENVER VA REGIONAL BENEFITS OFFICE HOURS & LOCATIONS: *Do you have a question about your VA Benefits? Compensation Claim, Pension Claim, Aid and Attendance, Appeals, survivor and burial benefits, Home Loans, Employment, or Education*

The VBA Office in the Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center is holding office hours:

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (last appt. at 3:30 p.m.)

Phone: [\(800\) 827-1000](tel:(800)827-1000)

Location:

Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center

Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)

1700 North Wheeling Street

Aurora, CO 80045

Sign up to meet with a counselor in the Pharmacy waiting room.

We also have a Veterans Affairs Office on Buckley SFB in Bldg 606 with Benefits Advisors (Mr Tyrone Groce & Ms Deloris Evans) who can normally be reached at 720-847-4838 from Mon-Fri 0800 - 1600.

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

AFTERBURNER: Air Force Retiree Services (AFRS) at Randolph AFB, TX publishes the Afterburner twice a year. You can find copies of the Afterburner at the following link:
<https://www.retirees.af.mil/library/afterburner/>

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 or the Air Force.