

Buckley SFB, CO - RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE (RAO) NEWSLETTER - September 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 9 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: While there are currently no mask requirements on the base, this can change at any time with the fluid COVID risk assessment in our county. **The RAO will not be sending out notifications every time COVID restrictions on base change.** For the most current info on COVID restrictions, 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)

- **MPF will be closed on 2 September and 5 September**

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 SEPTEMBER: 2 - V-J Day; 11 - Patriot Day; 16 - National POW/MIA Recognition Day; 18 - Air Force & Air National Guard birthday; 25 - Gold Star Mother’s Day; and 29 - VFW Day.

2022 BUCKLEY SFB RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY (RAD) CANCELED: On 14 July Col Clay, Space Base Delta (SBD) 2/CV, made the difficult decision to officially cancel the 2022 RAD, which had been scheduled for Saturday, 10 Sep. As you know, this is the third year in the row the RAD has been canceled. The decision was mainly based on concerns regarding the current resurgence of COVID in our area, uncertainty on what things will look like in September and the fact your safety, and the safety of base personnel, is the primary concern. The RAO concurred with this decision, and we're told Peterson SFB has canceled their RAD as well. As you know, based on current conditions, the base reimplemented the requirement to wear masks inside all buildings on 16 June. With all the advance planning/work we need to do in order to put this event together, we needed to have a go/no-go decision at this point. **We have already scheduled the 2023 RAD for Saturday, 9 Sep 2023.**

SFC HEATH ROBINSON HONORING OUR PROMISE TO ADDRESS COMPREHENSIVE TOXICS (PACT) ACT OF 2022: On 10 Aug the President signed the Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022. The bill adds numerous conditions to a list of ailments presumed connected to toxic exposure by the VA, expands VA research into burn pit-related illnesses and improves VA's screening process for those illnesses. The VA has indicated they are ready now to implement the PACT Act for toxic-exposed Veterans and their survivors. If you think you might be eligible for PACT Act benefits, here are some things you should know: You can apply for PACT Act-related benefits now by filing a claim at VA (suggest you contact a Veteran Service Officer (VSO) or Veteran Service Organization for assistance); the VA is making all 23 presumptive conditions in the PACT Act eligible for benefits effective 10 Aug. You can learn more about the PACT Act by visiting [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT) or calling 1-800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411).

VA OFFICE OF SURVIVORS ASSISTANCE (OSA): Did you know the VA has an Office of Survivors Assistance? The Office of Survivors Assistance was established by Public Law 110-389, Title II, Section 222, in October 2008, to serve as a resource regarding all benefits and services furnished by the Department to Survivors and Dependents of deceased Veterans and members of the Armed Forces. OSA also serves as a principal advisor to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and promotes the use of VA benefits, programs and services to survivors. The website has a "Survivor Quick Guide" as well as other resources and links to other websites for funeral resources, bereavement counseling, etc.. For more information you can visit the website at [Office of Survivors Assistance \(va.gov\)](https://www.va.gov)

SUPPORT RESOURCES FOR VETERAN CAREGIVERS: Are you, or someone you know, a caregiver for a veteran? If so, and you could use some help dealing with the situation, there may be resources available to you at no charge. The VA has a lot of services available in support of caregivers providing assistance to a veteran in the home, for those who qualify. There is a lot of information available on the VA website on VA Caregiver Support Services at [Program of General Caregiver Support Services \(PGCSS\) - VA Caregiver Support Program](https://www.va.gov)

You can call VA's Caregiver Support Line at 1-855-260-3274 to find out if you qualify, learn more about the support that is available to you in this area and for assistance connecting with the [CSP Team/Caregiver Support Coordinator](https://www.va.gov) at your local VA facilities.

You can find additional information related to this area at the VA Home and Community Based Services website at [VA In-Home and Support Services - VA Caregiver Support Program](https://www.va.gov) They offer programs like:

- Respite care
- Home telehealth
- Home-based primary care
- Homemaker and home health aides
- Adult day health care centers
- Remote monitoring care
- Skilled home care
- Home hospice care

Another option to explore is the Elizabeth Dole Foundation. The Elizabeth Dole Foundation is focused on empowering, supporting, and honoring our nation's 5.5 million military caregivers; the spouses, parents, family members, and friends who care for America's wounded, ill, or injured veterans. Founded by Senator Elizabeth Dole in 2012, the Foundation adopts a comprehensive approach in its advocacy, working with leaders in the public, private, nonprofit and faith communities to recognize military caregivers' service and promote their well-being. You can find more information on the website at [The Elizabeth Dole Foundation](#) You can contact the Foundation by filling out a contact form on their website.

VETERANS & MILITARY APPRECIATION COMMUNITY CELEBRATION & FOOTBALL GAME: On Saturday, 1 Oct, this event will be held at Legacy Stadium, 26101 E Arapahoe Rd, Aurora, CO 80016. There will be a Block Party from 1230-1530 with a Black Hawk helicopter, Army National Guard Training Trailer, the Honor Bell and more. From 1600-1730 there will be a dine-in for veterans, military members, and their families. Kickoff for the Eaglecrest HS vs Grandview HS football game is set for 1800.

MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD IN 2022: If you are currently enrolled in a Medicare plan you should get your "Annual Notice of Change" document in the mail soon. This document will list any changes in your plan coverage, service area or cost that will go into effect in 2023. You can use this to help decide if you want to change plans. According to the website, **open enrollment is 15 Oct - 7 Dec 2022 and changes will be effective Jan 2023.** During this time, you can: switch from Original Medicare to Medicare Advantage; switch from Medicare Advantage to Original Medicare; or switch from one Medicare Advantage plan to another. If you are already in a Medicare Advantage plan you can also change to another Medicare Advantage plan or to Original Medicare plus a Part D plan from 1 Jan - 31 Mar 2023. Remember, some Medicare Advantage plans from commercial providers (Blue Cross, Kaiser, Humana, GEHA, etc) offer "0 Premium" plans that will cost you no more out of pocket than your current Medicare Part B premium - **some of these plans may actually give some of your Part B premium back. Some Advantage plans offer benefits Original Medicare does not (free gym membership, dental/vision benefits, hearing aids, transportation to medical appointments, etc).** As always, you have to do your research to see which plans your current doctors take, where the plans are accepted (different states, etc), what the co-pays are, etc in order to determine what plan best meets your needs. **Tricare for Life (TFL) functions as your "Medicare Supplement" whether you use Original Medicare or a Medicare Advantage plan.**

NEED HELP WITH MEDICARE OPTIONS? A health insurance broker can provide you with information regarding various Medicare Advantage carriers/plans. Just be aware these brokers generally focus on plans offered by insurers with whom they have a contractual arrangement (think Kaiser, Humana, Blue Cross, United Healthcare, etc). You can do a Google search to locate a health broker in CO. Another alternative is the counselors working in the federally funded **State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP).** **These counselors provide free advice with no conflicts of interest** whereas brokers typically earn commissions from policies they sell. For example, a broker will get no commission if you select Original Medicare vs a Medicare Advantage plan. You can get additional info on SHIP and counselors in your area at the following link: <https://www.shiptacenter.org/> click on the "SHIP Locator" icon. For Colorado you can also call 1-888-696-7213 or visit the following link: <https://doi.colorado.gov/insurance-products/health-insurance/senior-health-care-medicare>

FEDERAL EMPLOYEE DENTAL & VISION INSURANCE PLAN (FEDVIP) OPEN SEASON IN 2022: For the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP), participants will see an assortment of dental and vision options for next year. For the most part, your enrollment in FEDVIP will continue automatically with little to no interruptions. If you are thinking about making a change, according to the website, **this year's open season runs from 14 Nov through 12 Dec.** It's generally the one opportunity a year you'll have to enroll or make changes to your health, dental and vision plans. For information on the rates for various dental and vision plans go to the following link: [Plan Premiums \(opm.gov\)](#)

TRICARE PRIME OR SELECT OPEN SEASON IN 2022: Tricare Open Season is the annual period when you can enroll in, or change, your health care coverage for the next year. **This is only for those using Tricare Prime or Select, not Tricare for Life!** According to the website, **in 2022, Tricare Open Season for those with Tricare Select or Tricare Prime begins on 14 Nov and ends on 12 Dec with the enrollment change going into effect**

on 1 Jan 2023. You have three options during enrollment: keep the same plan you have now, enroll in Tricare Prime or Tricare Select if you are not currently enrolled, or change between Tricare Prime and Tricare Select. If you are already enrolled in a plan that you want to stay with, you don't have to re-enroll.

Related Links:

TRICARE Open Season: www.tricare.mil/openseason

Federal Benefits Open Season: www.benefeds.com

AURORA CENTER FOR ACTIVE ADULTS: If you don't know anything about the Aurora Center for Active Adults you might want to check out their website: [Aurora Center for Active Adults - City of Aurora \(auroragov.org\)](http://Aurora Center for Active Adults - City of Aurora (auroragov.org)) The site has information on parks, pools, recreation centers, the library, Aurora museum, etc. They also offer a variety of classes, exercise and otherwise. For example, on 8 Sep (6 Oct & 3 Nov also) they are offering a class on "Understanding Medicare" and on 6 Sep (4 Oct & 1 Nov also) they are offering a class on Social Security. With Medicare Open Season fast approaching this might be a good time to meet with an expert who can answer your questions on the subject. If you have any questions on the Center, you can call 303-739-7000.

FREE ESTATE PLANNING WORKSHOPS: I did a little online research and found a law firm that is offering some free estate planning workshops in August. **The in-person workshops are in Colorado Springs!** I thought some of you might be interested in attending an actual in-person workshop to get information and have the opportunity to ask questions of the experts so I'm including the information in this newsletter. Just FYI, this firm also offers Webinars so of course you can participate in those from home if you prefer that. There will be **webinars on Wednesday, 14 Sep, at 1400 or Tuesday, 27 Sep, at 1600.** You can register for these at the same website as the in-person workshops. **This should in no way to be construed as an endorsement of this firm by me, the RAO or the AF, because it isn't.** I'm just making you aware of an opportunity to get information on this subject, if you choose to do so. I called the law office myself and they assured me the workshop is free, with no obligations, and I was told they will even provide attendees with a free consultation if you want one. If, for some reason, that turns out not to be the case please don't crucify me, I'm just relaying what the firm's secretary told me. **The in-person workshops are presented by the Hammond Law Group in Colorado Springs and are offered on Wednesday, 7 Sep (1400 and 1800) and Saturday, 10 Sep (1100).** You can register online at [Estate Planning Webinar and Workshop Registration Page - Hammond Law Group \(coloradoestateplan.com\)](http://Estate Planning Webinar and Workshop Registration Page - Hammond Law Group (coloradoestateplan.com)) If you have questions, I suggest you call the Hammond Law Group at 303-736-6060. If anyone does attend one of these, I'd love to hear from you. They are having workshops in September as well so if you found it useful then I'll mention that next month.

ANNUAL COLORADO ARTFEST: On 10 and 11 Sep the Annual Colorado Artfest will be held in Castle Rock at Perry St. (between 3rd/South) and Festival Park with over 110 artists from across the county, live music, food trucks, etc. Hours on 10 Sep are 0900-1800 and on 11 Sep from 1000-1700. This event is free, and you can find additional information at www.castlerockartfest.com

VA DISABILITY BENEFITS CLAIMS ASSISTANCE ON BUCKLEY SFB: On 20 Sep, from 1300-1600, in Building 606, Room 140, on Buckley SFB, there will 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 discharging 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 currently being held the third Tuesday of every month on Buckley SFB, so the next few are scheduled for 18 Oct and 15 Nov.** For more information, or to register, you can contact Ms. Stephanie Rozmarich at 460MSS.DPF@us.af.mil or call 720-847-6681.

ARMY ECHOES NEWSLETTER: The Aug-Oct 2022 issue of the Army Echoes has been posted and is available at [latest.pdf \(army.mil\)](#)

FEDVIP OPEN SEASON EVENT ON BUCKLEY SFB: On **Wednesday, 16 Nov, from 0930-1400** there will be a Federal Employee Dental & Vision Insurance Plan (FEDVIP) open season event held in Bldg 700 on Buckley SFB. They expect to have vendors from providers like GEHA, Blue Cross-Blue Shield, Kaiser, Aetna, Humana, etc. There may also be a representative from Tricare as well. While this event was put together for Federal Civilian employees, I have talked to the event organizer, and she indicated military retirees are welcome to attend as well. This is a great opportunity for you to talk to some FEDVIP providers, ask questions and get materials with information about FEDVIP plans for 2023.

NEW NEXTGEN MILITARY ID CARDS: DoD has been issuing new NextGen military ID cards for quite some time. While your **old blue military retiree ID card (DD Form 2) with an INDEF "EXP DATE" on the back** is still good, these IDs cards **will be canceled out sometime in 2026**, when you will **have** to have a NextGen ID card. So, those of you with one of the INDEF DD Form 2 retiree IDs mentioned above can get a new NextGen ID card issued whenever it's convenient for you. We strongly recommend you make an appointment to get a new ID card and not try to do it on a walk-in basis. You can find details on how to schedule an appointment in the ID card info above. Again, the old ID cards won't be obsolete until sometime in 2026. Just **a note on using NextGen ID cards at airport TSA checkpoints**. I tried using mine several times in June and when TSA puts it into the machine at the checkpoint, they say the ID is no good - I've had to present my drivers license instead. From what I've read there is a TSA software issue so the machine can't read the bar code on the NextGen ID. I've read the software was supposedly fixed in June but have heard from folks who tried using it in late July and it still didn't work. Just a heads up.

BUCKLEY SFB PHARMACY WEBSITE AND INFO: If you haven't checked out the Buckley SFB pharmacy website, I would encourage you to do so. There is a lot of good information on the site - 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.**

COAST GUARD INFORMATION: For those who may not know, there is a lot of good information on the Retiree & Annuitant Services (RAS) section of the U.S. Coast Guard Pay & Personnel Center (PPC) website. [Pay and Personnel Center \(PPC\), Retiree and Annuitant Services \(uscg.mil\)](#) Below are some examples of information available on the site. Retirees/annuitants can submit all customer inquiries via e-mail to [PPC-DG-CustomerCare@uscg.mil](#). This is the recommended method because phone calls (including voicemail messages) are manually entered into the PPC ticket tracking system which can cause delays in responses. If e-mail isn't available, you can call (866) 772-8724 or (785) 339-2200. If you need to report the death of a USCG, NOAA or USPHS Retiree or Annuitant, you can also use the e-mail or phone numbers above. You can find current and back issues of the CG newsletter, "Long Blue Line" at the following link: [LONG BLUE LINE](#) If you are trying to reconnect with a fellow USCG, USPHS, or NOAA retiree you can reach out to Robert Hinds, CG Retiree Services, at [robert.c.hinds@uscg.mil](#) or 202-475-5451. You can contact the CG National Retiree Help Desk at 202-475-5381, toll free 1-833-224-6743 or email: [NRHDesk@gmail.com](#) For Service record requests you can call 314-801-0800 or visit [www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records](#) You can also create a Direct-Access (DA) Self-Service account to start/stop/change allotments, print copies of your 1099, update address/phone numbers, update state/federal tax withholding, etc.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HONOR FLIGHT: Rocky Mountain Honor Flight is a Denver based non-profit organization (no paid staff) formed in 2007. Their goal is to fly every able and willing Veteran to Washington D.C. to visit the monuments and memorials dedicated to their service. For obvious reasons, their current priority is World War II, Korean War and terminally ill Veterans. If a Veteran is certified terminally ill by a doctor but able to travel, he or she moves up the priority list no matter what their era of service. They will accept applications from all Veterans, including Veterans with various disabilities. Veterans must fill out an application form, which can be found on their website. Trained volunteer guardians accompany all Veterans on each flight. Volunteers can

apply to be a guardian by downloading the application and mailing it in or by filling out the application online and submitting it through the website. Honor Flight volunteers organize the Veterans for travel, arrange the travel both to and from Washington, and arrange all transportation, activities and meals in Washington. The “journey” is usually 3 days and 2 nights, spending several hours at the World War II Memorial, and visiting other Washington landmarks such as the Korean War Memorial, Vietnam Wall, Lincoln Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery and changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns and the Marine Corps War Memorial. **There are currently two flights planned for this year, one in September and one in October.** The link to the Rocky Mountain Honor Flight website, where you can get information and applications, is: [Rocky Mountain Honor Flight - We Fly Veterans To Washington, DC](#). If you have any questions about these Honor Flights you can contact James Murphy, Veteran Coordinator at 303-847-8794 or jamesmurphy@rockymountainhonorflight.org

SOME POTENTIAL RESOURCES FOR OLDER RETIREES: Below are several resources that may be of interest to older retirees and surviving spouses.

VA Aid and Attendance: Also known as housebound allowance, VA Aid and Attendance might be able to provide a monthly financial benefit to assist with personal care services. There are various financial and physical criteria that must be met. A local veteran services organizations, or a Veteran Service Officer (VSO), is a great place to get neutral information and support. For a local VSO, visit [County Veterans Service Offices | Colorado Division of Veterans Affairs](#)

Geriatric Care Managers: These are social workers for hire who can be on a retained contract or situational contract in case of emergency needs. Their experience can help you navigate insurance coverage, emergency services, or placement recommendations if you are looking into senior living locations.

Board-Certified Elder Law Attorney: Often attorneys will list that they offer estate and/or elder law specialties. This is an important area in that “what you don’t know will hurt you.” A board-certified elder law attorney has a higher level of training and expertise to deal with issues more common to the older population.

Denver Regional Council of Governments - Area Agency on Aging: [Area Agency on Aging | DRCOG](#)

Senior Source: See info at the following link - [Colorado Senior Resources - SeniorResource.com](#)

Older Adults and State Unit on Aging: See the following website [Older adult services | Colorado Department of Human Services](#)

NEW COMMISSARY HOURS: Starting on Monday, 4 Jul, the commissary will now be open on Mondays once again, so open 7 days/week. **The Monday hours are only from 0900-1400 and it will be self-checkout only - only the self-checkout registers will be open, accepting credit/debit/cash payments.** If you have any questions, you can contact the commissary (720-847-7100). **Commissary hours on other days are as follows: Tues 0900-1900 and Wed-Sun 0900-1800.**

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

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 \(colorado.gov\)](#) 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.

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](https://www.mhsa.va.gov/qualifying-life-events-toolkit)

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., 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 (**14 Sep** 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. **The pharmacy will be closed on Fri, 2 Sep, for Family Day.**

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 \(af.mil\)](#)

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 \(AFLASS\)](#) 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 Form 1099 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 \(dfas.mil\)](#)) 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

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.