

Buckley SFB, CO - RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE (RAO) NEWSLETTER - May 2024

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 0900-1400, Wed 1000-1500, Thurs 0900-1200 & Fri 1000-1500

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

For folks not comfortable making ID card appointments with the Buckley SFB AF Military Personnel Flight (MPF) using the RAPIDS website, you can call the MPF at 720-847-4357, Option 2, from 0800 to 1200 Mon-Fri for assistance with appointment scheduling. If no one answers you will be able to leave a message, after the beep, and (we're told) someone will call you back. The MPF requests your message just leave your name, contact information and basic need, i.e. you need to make an appointment, you have a policy question etc. You can also e-mail 460fss.fsmps.customerservice@us.af.mil

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 MAY: 8 - VE Day; 10 - Military Spouse Appreciation Day; and 18 - Armed Forces Day.

FAMILY DAYS AND HOLIDAYS IN APRIL: Friday, 24 May, is a Family Day, since Monday, 27 May, is Memorial Day. As you know, Family 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.

NATIONAL CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL: VA ECHCS and the American Legion Auxiliary will host the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival in May. The event will take place in several venues in the Denver metro area during the week of **11-18 May**. Across the country each year, Veterans enrolled at VA health care facilities compete in a local creative arts competition and first place entries are invited to attend the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. The competition categories include visual arts, writing, as well as the performing arts of dance, drama, and music.

SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE & RETIREMENT INCOME WORKSHOP: This workshop is **11 May**, 1100 - 1200, at the Mission Viejo Library in Aurora. Register at <https://www.yourcoloradoreirement.com/events>

SENIOR RESOURCE/WELLNESS FAIRS: There are several senior resource/wellness fairs planned for May. On Friday, **10 May**, there is an “Older Adult Wellness Fair scheduled in Lakewood (Charles Whitlock Rec Ctr, 1555 Dover St. 80215) from 0830-1200. [Older Adult Wellness Fair - City of Lakewood](#) On Saturday, **11 May**, there is a “Senior Life Expo” scheduled in Colorado Springs (Colorado Springs Event Center, 3960 Palmer Park Blvd) from 0900-1400. On Thursday, **16 May**, there is a “Senior Summit” scheduled in Colorado Springs (Great Wolf Lodge, 9494 Federal Dr, 80921) from 0900-1400 with over 80 vendors. [Senior Summit - Silver Key Senior Services](#) On Wednesday, **5 June**, from 1300-1700, there will be a Senior Life Expo at the Douglas County Event Center (500 Fairgrounds Rd, Castle Rock). There will be seminars and demonstrations, door prizes and free giveaways, etc.

VET CONNECT EVENT IN LOVELAND: Qualified Listeners presents the 5th Annual Vet Connect event on Saturday, **11 May**, from 1000-1300, at the Embassy Suites in Loveland (4705 Clydesdale Pkwy). This is an opportunity to meet other vets and families and Qualified Listener personnel. Please enter through the John Q. Hammons Conference Center entrance. Admission and parking are free, and refreshments will be provided. If you have questions or need any help you can call 720-600-0860.

QUALIFIED LISTENERS: Qualified Listeners Corp. (QL), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded in 2017 in Weld County, helps Veterans by carefully listening to them and finding them resources. Their mission is to help Veterans and their families find more peace in their lives and, ultimately, reduce the number of Veteran suicides. QL is a resource hub, providing a variety of services and connections to Veterans and their families. They currently serve over 2500 Veterans and family members from Colorado, Wyoming, and New Mexico and are experiencing significant growth. While they work with the VA on various issues, they also provide specific services that the VA doesn't: transport vets *and family members* to medical appointments at private provider facilities; pick up at vets home, wait for procedure to be completed and return them to their home; run errands for vets and family members, i.e, grocery shop, pickup prescriptions, post office, etc.; connect veterans to appropriate resources vetted by QL; connect veterans to veterans if they want to talk to someone in their branch, era, military experience; provide financial assistance for rent, utilities, vehicle payment/repair, and other necessary life-needs; etc. They also provide donated mobility devices, donated furniture and household items, ARC Thrift Store vouchers, etc. For more information on this organization, please see <https://qualifiedlisteners.org>.

VA DISABILITY BENEFITS CLAIMS ASSISTANCE ON BUCKLEY SFB: **On 16 May, 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 expect the next one to be on 20 June. For more info, you can contact Ms. Stephanie Rozmarich at 460MSS.DPF@us.af.mil or call 720-847-6681.

UPCOMING HONOR FLIGHTS: Rocky Mountain Honor Flights has flights planned for **23-25 May** and 5-7 Sep. You can find more information on these flights at <https://rockymountainhonorflight.org>

TEAM RUBICON: Team Rubicon (TR) is a veteran-led humanitarian organization of over 160,000 volunteers that serves global communities before, during, and after disasters and crises. TR's vision is to support people and build resiliency for vulnerable communities around the world. Operations in Colorado include wildfire mitigation, flood response, tornado response, refugee resettlement, and more. Team Rubicon volunteers from Colorado and Wyoming deploy to disaster response operations around the US and globally. Check out teamrubiconusa.org for more information about volunteering or donating.

POTENTIAL ISSUES USING NEXTGEN ID's FOR AIRPORT TRAVEL: Some retirees who have Next-Generation (NEXTGEN) DoD ID cards with an "INDEF" expiration date continue to face problems using them at Transportation Security Administration (TSA) checkpoints at U.S. airports. TSA is *considering* dropping the IDs, known as USIDs, as an acceptable form of identification when stricter travel requirements are implemented in 2025. Retirees have run into this issue at Chicago O'Hare International, Seattle-Tacoma International, Orlando International, Tampa International, San Diego International and elsewhere. According to TSA, the "INDEF" designation cannot be read by the TSA's Credential Authentication Technology (CAT). When the CAT unit does not detect an expiration date, the screen will display an "EXPIRED" alert. The TSA officer is supposed to ask for another acceptable form of ID that can be read by the CAT unit, but if the passenger doesn't have one, the officer "will conduct manual inspection of the DoD ID presented as these IDs are currently acceptable forms of ID." This could become a major problem beginning 7 May 2025, when all travelers and visitors to the U.S. will be required to have a passport, a state-verified REAL ID or another form of identification designated as acceptable by TSA. Since the REAL ID Act of 2005 was passed, DoD ID holders have been told their IDs are compliant and acceptable in lieu of a REAL ID so some may have not bothered to get a REAL ID compatible state identification card.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL AND TRICARE FOR LIFE: 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.

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.**

RETIREE-AT-COST HEARING AID PROGRAM (RACHAP): The DoD's Retiree-At-Cost Hearing Aid Program (RACHAP) helps retirees buy hearing aids through **certain** military medical facilities at a government-negotiated cost (two hearing aids usually cost less than \$2,000. The hearing aids provided are the same as those available to active-duty service members. The program is open to retirees (not their dependents) who have hearing loss or tinnitus (ringing in the ears). Retirees can use any military treatment facility (MTF) *that provides the program and will accept them*; you don't need to return to your service affiliation to participate in this program. You can use the following link to locate MTFs near you: <https://www.tricare.mil/mtf> **You should know that only certain MTFs offer this program** and, to my knowledge, there is no place you can check online to see which ones do. You'll have to contact the MTFs near you directly and ask if they participate in this program. As you may know, retirees who are VA beneficiaries may be eligible for hearing aids free of charge from the VA. This program is **not** a Tricare benefit.

QUARTERLY MEDICAL GROUP TOWN HALL: I'm told only one retiree and their spouse participated in the Med Group Town Hall on 17 Apr. Considering all the people who contact us about pharmacy issues, that is a very disappointing turnout. The option to participate remotely, from your home, was also available. These town halls are your opportunity to engage with pharmacy personnel face-to-face to express your concerns and ask questions. **The next Town Hall is planned for Wed, 17 Jul**, from 1600-1700, at the Buckley SFB Chapel (Bldg 316 - across from the A-Basin CDC), so mark your calendars.

PHARMACY OPERATIONS:

Patients wanting to contact the pharmacy can call during normal duty hours: 720-847-9355, option "4" for pharmacy, then option "3" for patients. The message may say for "urgent questions only", but the pharmacy is going to update that.

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

The Automated refill number is 720-847-7455

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.

GENERAL PHARMACY HOURS AND CLOSURES IN APRIL: **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 .

For the month of April the below are Pharmacy hours and closures:

Pharmacy Lobby

Monday - Friday: 0730-1630

Thursday Extended Hours: 1630-1730 (**for pickup only**)

Pharmacy Drive Thru

Monday - Friday: 1300-1600

8 May - Closed (MDG Training Day)

24 May - Closed (Family Day)

27 May - Closed (Holiday)

31 May - Closed @1500 (MDG Function)

****Due to construction of a new Drive-Thru tube system, the Pharmacy Drive-Thru will be closed 22 and 23 May. Please utilize the lobby for all services during this time. We apologize for the inconvenience.****

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>.

WINGS OVER THE ROCKIES AIR & SPACE MUSEUM AND WINGS OF EXPLORATION AT CENTENNIAL AIRPORT: Below is some information regarding May events for the museums, and links where you can get further information.

- Breakfast Fly-In
 - Date: 5/4
 - Location: Wings Exploration of Flight at Centennial Airport
 - 13005 Wings Way Englewood, CO 80112
 - For Details: <https://wingsmuseum.org/events/breakfast-fly-in-may/>
- Teacher Appreciation Week - 20% off Admission & Museum Store for teachers
 - Date: 5/6-5/10
 - At both Wings Over the Rockies locations*
 - For Details: <https://wingsmuseum.org/events/list/?tribe-bar-search=teacher+appreciation+week>
 - *Exploration of Flight is closed Tuesday-Thursday.
- Cockpit Demo Day
 - Date: 5/11
 - Location: Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum
 - For Details: <https://wingsmuseum.org/events/cockpit-demo-day-may-2/>
- Aviation Career Symposium
 - Date: 5/11
 - Location: Wings Exploration of Flight at Centennial Airport
 - 13005 Wings Way Englewood, CO 80112
 - For Details: <https://wingsmuseum.org/events/aviation-career-symposium/>
- Backcountry Flying Showcase

- Date: 5/25
- Location: Wings Exploration of Flight at Centennial Airport
 - 13005 Wings Way Englewood, CO 80112
- For Details: <https://wingsmuseum.org/events/backcountry-showcase/>
- Air & Space Summer Camp
 - Open to students ages 8-12
 - Camps run weekly from May 28-August 9 at both Wings locations
 - For Details: <https://wingsmuseum.org/education/camp/>

TRICARE PRESCRIPTION POLICY CHANGES: TRICARE beneficiaries with prescriptions for specialty drugs through a retail pharmacy may need to make new arrangements to receive their medication after a 1 Mar TRICARE policy change that expanded the list of maintenance medications beneficiaries must refill through home delivery or at military treatment facilities (MTFs). Patients taking new medications added to TRICARE's maintenance drug list will have a limited time - two refills - to move their prescription to either a military pharmacy or TRICARE Home Delivery. This change supposedly impacts fewer than 1% of TRICARE beneficiaries, and those impacted have been notified by mail. Specialty medications treat chronic conditions and may require special storage and/or clinical training to administer. These include a variety of cancer-fighting medications, as well as treatments for multiple sclerosis and hepatitis C. While these drugs represented less than 1% of military health system (MHS) prescriptions in FY 2022, they accounted for roughly half of total drug costs.

PACT ACT & 2024 EXPANDED HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY: Beginning 5 Mar 24, the VA is made all Veterans exposed to toxins while serving our country eligible to enroll *directly* in VA health care without first applying for VA benefits. This effort is to ensure that as many of these Veterans as possible go to the VA for their care. This expansion of care means that all Veterans who served in the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, the Global War on Terror or any other combat zone after 9/11 will be eligible to enroll directly in VA health care without first applying for VA benefits. Additionally, Veterans who never deployed but were exposed to toxins or hazards while training or on active duty in the United States will also be eligible to enroll. For further information, or if you have questions, go to www.va.gov/PACT or call 1-800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411).

VETSTOCK 2024: Modern Brew (8221 S Holly St, Centennial), in support of the Warrior Bonfire Program, is sponsoring "Vetstock" on 8/9 June. This outdoor event will feature live music and food and beverages for purchase. General admission to the event is free. We anticipate more information will be available as we get closer to the event.

DFAS AUTOMATED E-MAILS TO GRAY AREA RETIREES AT AGE 59: Starting later this year, automated Age 59 SmartDoc email messages will be sent out to Gray Area Retirees. Gray Area Retirees are members who served in the Guard or Reserve, are qualified for retired pay, and have retired from their service (stopped drilling) but are not yet at the age where they can start receiving retired pay. These SmartDoc emails will include important resources for Gray Area Retirees about their upcoming retirement and how to get in contact with their branch of service to apply for retirement. Defense Finance and Accounting Services (DFAS) and the branches of service worked together on a special webpage with important information for Gray Area Retirees; <https://www.dfas.mil/grayarea> Located on the right side of the Gray Area Retirees page are individual web page links to each of the Service branch contact information and updates. Make sure to check out these webpages for the most updated information.

RENEWING MILITARY ID CARDS ONLINE: The Defense Department announced in Jan 2024 that it's expanding a pilot program that began in 2023 and initially allowed certain dependents' Uniformed Services Identification cards, or USID, to be renewed by mail. While in the past the renewed card had to be retrieved in person at a local ID card facility, it will now be delivered by mail under the pilot program. This will be available to U.S.-based retirees, their dependents and reservists. 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 “WHAT TO DO WHEN A MILITARY RETIREE DIES” CHECKLIST: DFAS has created a PDF checklist for actions required to complete with them following the death of a military retiree. The checklist includes all the pertinent information about the required forms and supporting documents, along with important reminders. The checklist also provides helpful tips on how to submit the documents to DFAS. You can find the “What to Do When a Military Retiree Dies” Checklist on their new Quick Tools page. The checklist can be found toward the top of the page: <https://www.dfas.mil/raqquicktools> They have also added more information to their webpage on DFAS.mil for reporting the death of a retiree and the next steps your family will need to take.

Report a Retiree’s Death - <https://www.dfas.mil/retdeath>

BUCKLY SFB PHARMACY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS: The Buckley pharmacy wants you to volunteer! They are looking for volunteers to assist in the pharmacy, connect with the pharmacy team and other beneficiaries as a pharmacy volunteer. Current opportunities include helping to dispense at the window, preparing prescriptions for the pickup system, prepacking medications, along with other opportunities. Requirements for volunteering include: 1) over 18 years old, 2) current vaccination statuses, 3) availability to come in at least twice monthly (due to training requirements), 4) a positive attitude and willingness to work with an infectious team! Please reach out to the pharmacy by phone (720.847.9355 (option 4, option 4)) or in person. We have posted a volunteer application form on the RAO website.

LEGAL OFFICE OPEN FOR “LIMITED SERVICES” FOR RETIREES & DEPENDENTS: Legal provides **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.

TRICARE FOR LIFE HANDBOOK: If you have Tricare for Life (TFL), you can find the Tricare for Life Handbook at this link - [TRICARE For Life Handbook](#) The handbook is from Jan 2021 but still has lots of very useful information.

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. We want to make AF Gray Area retirees aware that on 1 Jun ARPC activated a **Reserve** Retirement Counseling Center (RRCC) to help AF Reservists working on their retirement package. If you click the link below it will tell you a little about this group.

[ARPC activates new retirement services initiative > Air Reserve Personnel Center > Article Display \(af.mil\)](#)

RRCC Contact Info: 800-682-1929, E-mail: afpc.dpt.rrcc@us.af.mil Our understanding is the plan is to expand this service to also include AF Gray Area **Guard** folks as well.

BUCKLEY SFB COMMUNITY CENTER EVENTS: The Buckley Community Center has upcoming trivia nights, and more. You can see info on their activities on the Community Center Facebook page at: [Buckley Community Centers | Facebook](#)

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 \(dfas.mil\)](#)) 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.

DFAS MYPAY ACCOUNTS FOR ANNUITANTS: If you weren't aware, widows/widowers who are receiving Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) payments from DFAS can have a myPay account, which is the quickest and most convenient way to manage your annuity pay. This online account allows you to view your SBP annuity account

detail, including your Annuitant Account Statement, change Direct Deposit information, change your mailing address, and print and view IRS forms, such as the 1099-R. **Only annuitants who are current receiving an SBP annuity payment or SSIA pay can use myPay.** If you've never used myPay, it's easy to get started. Go to <https://mypay.dfas.mil> using the internet from your computer or your mobile device browser and click "Forgot or Need a Password" to have a temporary password mailed to you. The password will be mailed via regular mail to the address you have on file with DFAS and you will receive it in about 10 business days. Once you have received a password, return to the myPay home page and click "Create your myPay Profile" to get started. Enter your SSN and temporary password. You can get a downloadable myPay guide at: [Slide 1 \(dfas.mil\)](#)

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.

SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN (SBP) AND DFAS NOTIFICATIONS: You need to ensure you inform DFAS about life-changing events promptly to ensure the correct premiums are billed and your dependents don't face delays or difficulties in receiving their SBP annuity payments. Below are two examples of common life events and deadlines for changing your SBP coverage:

At retirement, you're single with no children. After retirement, you marry or have a child. You need to notify DFAS within ONE YEAR by sending them a DD Form 2656-6 and a copy of the marriage or birth certificate if you want SBP coverage for them.

You divorce and elect former spouse coverage. Your former spouse passes away and you later re-marry. You need to notify DFAS within ONE YEAR of your re-marriage by sending them a DD Form 2656-6 and a copy of your new marriage certificate if you want SBP coverage for your new spouse. You can find out more about changing SBP coverage at: <https://www.dfas.mil/changesbp>

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 \(af.mil\)](#)

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 the RAO e-mail - raobuckley@gmail.com.

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

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.