

# Afterburner

News for USAF Retired Personnel



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## TRICARE Prime fees increase

FALLS CHURCH, Va. -- New TRICARE Prime enrollment fees for uniformed service retirees and their families will begin Oct. 1. Retirees who were enrolled before Oct. 1, 2011 will see a more significant increase since their enrollment fee remained at the 2011 levels of \$230 and \$460 per year when the fees increased last year.

The National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 2012 allows for the annual increase of TRICARE Prime enrollment fees for most retired beneficiaries based on the annual cost-of-living adjustment. Exceptions to annual increases are for survivors of deceased active-duty sponsors and medically retired service members and their dependents.

Here's how the increase will affect beneficiaries enrolled before Oct. 1, 2011:

-- People now pay \$230 per

year for individual coverage, and \$460 per year for family coverage. Beginning Oct. 1, individual coverage is \$269.28 per year, and family coverage is \$538.56 per year.

Beneficiaries enrolled on or after Oct. 1, 2011, including all new enrollments:

-- People now pay \$260 per year for individual coverage, and \$520 per year for family coverage.

Beginning Oct. 1, individual coverage is \$269.28 per year, and family coverage is \$538.56 per year.

All TRICARE Prime enrollees are required to pay annual enrollment fees, except active-duty service and family members, transitional survivors, and beneficiaries younger than 65 with Medicare Parts A and B.

There were no changes announced for TRICARE-for-Life beneficiaries at this time. (Courtesy of TRICARE)

## Afterburner cost-cutting measures

New cost-cutting measures are being adopted to help ensure future funding for the *Afterburner* as the Air Force's budget shrinks.

Beginning Jan. 1, new retirees will no longer receive a hard-copy edition. They will automatically be subscribed electronically using the personal email address they have on file with DEERS. If that email address changes, they will need to unsubscribe that address, and subscribe using a new one.

*Afterburners* will no longer be mailed to overseas addresses because of high postage costs and return rates. People overseas will need to visit <http://www.retirees.af.mil/afterburner/> to view the latest edition.

Current retiree employees with a .mil email address will be removed from the hard-copy subscription list and subscribed electronically. Should they no longer have a .mil address, they can subscribe electronically using a new email address.

# Pharmacy:

## TRICARE beneficiaries have plenty of options to chose from

by Kristin Shives  
TRICARE Management Activity

FALLS CHURCH, Va. -- TRICARE beneficiaries have plenty of pharmacy options, including military pharmacies, TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery and nearly 56,000 network pharmacies.

Military treatment facility pharmacies fill prescriptions free of charge, up to a 90-day supply for most medications. Not all medications are available at MTF pharmacies, but beneficiaries can use the TRICARE formulary search tool at [http://pec.ha.osd.mil/formulary\\_search.php](http://pec.ha.osd.mil/formulary_search.php) to find out if a medication is available. Registered users may also use TRICARE Online to request prescription refills at [www.tricareonline.com](http://www.tricareonline.com).

TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery is another low-cost option, giving beneficiaries low or no co-pays. It's safe, convenient and easy to use from home. Prescriptions are mailed to any address in the United States and its territories. Beneficiaries can get up to a 90-day

supply for most medications with minimal out-of-pocket costs. Once registered, beneficiaries can sign up for automatic refills or request them by mail, phone or online. TRICARE officials recommend the home-delivery option for prescriptions needed on a regular basis.

A record 1.38 million prescriptions were filled in May through home delivery. For the year to date, use increased by 30 percent compared to the same time period in 2011. Beneficiaries making the switch to home delivery contributed to a decrease in retail pharmacy use by 10 percent – putting more money in beneficiaries' pockets and slowing growth in pharmacy costs for the Department of Defense.

Beneficiaries who choose to fill or refill prescriptions at a retail network pharmacy can get up to a 30-day supply. Certain vaccines are covered with no co-payment at participating network pharmacies. Call 877-363-1303 or visit [www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE/](http://www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE/) to find a participating pharmacy.



TRICARE pharmacy benefits are available to all eligible beneficiaries including those age 65 and older. Coverage is the same regardless of beneficiary category or health care plan being used. The pharmacy program is available worldwide, but there are some limitations in having prescriptions refilled in most overseas areas. Home delivery does deliver to APO or FPO addresses overseas.

For more information on the TRICARE pharmacy program visit [www.tricare.mil/pharmacy](http://www.tricare.mil/pharmacy) or contact Express Scripts customer service at 877-363-1303 to learn about the four ways to fill prescriptions.

Beneficiaries can find links to sign up for TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery or enroll their existing home delivery prescriptions in the automatic prescription refill program at [www.tricare.mil/homedelivery](http://www.tricare.mil/homedelivery) or call toll free at 877-363-1303 (Option 2).

### Afterburner

#### News for USAF Retired Personnel

The *Afterburner* is authorized by Air Force Instruction 36-3106. When funding permits, it is printed and mailed twice a year by Air Force Personnel Center's Public Affairs Office. Distribution: Individuals entitled to Air Force retired pay; unremarried surviving spouses of retirees (automatically if they are entitled to an annuity under Survivor Benefit Plan and/or the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan, or the Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan); unremarried nonannuitant surviving spouses of deceased Air Force members who were entitled to receive retired pay, may receive the *Afterburner* by requesting it from the address below. The *Afterburner* is not sent to former spouses nor to retirees of other services. Additional copies are not available. The *Afterburner* address is:

AFPC/PA  
550 C Street W Ste 43  
Randolph AFB TX 78150

E-mail address for opting out of receiving the hard copy is [afterburner@us.af.mil](mailto:afterburner@us.af.mil) and the phone number is (210) 565-2334. The *Afterburner* is available on the Internet at [www.retirees.af.mil](http://www.retirees.af.mil). Retirees may write to the Co-chairmen of the Air Force Retiree Council at: AFPC/CCU, 550 C Street W Ste 8, Randolph AFB TX 78150. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND CHANGE-OF-ADDRESS NOTIFICATIONS TO THE ADDRESS ABOVE.** AFPC/DPSIAR relies on the address people have on file with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service to create mailing labels. Contact DFAS at 800-321-1080.

## Presidents, chairpersons send thanks for caring

The 39<sup>th</sup> annual Air Force Assistance Fund "Commitment to Caring" campaign which ran Feb 6 through May 4 finished with more than \$7.8 million in donations pledged beating the 2010 record by over \$243,000.

As the presidents and chairpersons of the four affiliate charities of the Air Force Assistance Fund, we have the distinct privilege of witnessing the good that your donations do for our fellow Airmen. From the brand new Airman stationed at Osan who needs the financial assistance to get back home quickly to be with a sick parent, to the widow of an Air Force retiree who just needs help making the rent this month, to the retiree and their spouse who need a home -- we're here, and that's all

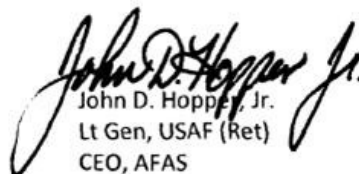
thanks to you.

This year, retired Airmen and their widows or widowers who receive or read the *Afterburner*, and who responded to our March 2012 *Afterburner* memorandum by donating to the four AFAF charities did so in a big way! In 2010, retirees donated \$17,000. In 2011, the total was \$28,000. This year, as of August 16<sup>th</sup>, you've given a whopping \$93,350!

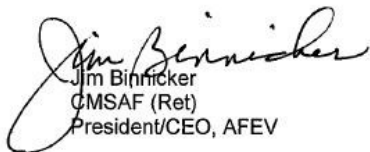
Thank you for once again proving that no matter whether we are active duty, Reserve, Guard, retired or the spouse of an Air Force member, we are an Air Force family, and we take care of our own. This year's campaign was a true AHA moment...Airmen Helping Airmen!



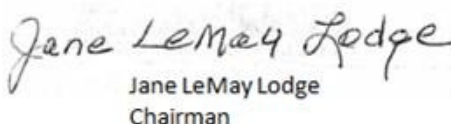
Chip Utterback  
Lt General, USAF (Ret)  
President/CEO, AFV

John D. Hopper Jr.  
Lt Gen, USAF (Ret)  
CEO, AFAS

Jim Binricker  
CMSAF (Ret)  
President/CEO, AFEV

Jane LeMay Lodge  
Chairman



## Full-time students still eligible under Survivor Benefit Plan

by Tammy Courmoyer  
Warrior and Family Operations Center

Retirees need to know that their children starting or returning to college this fall are still eligible for Survivor Benefit Plan coverage as long as the student is unmarried, younger than 22, and a full-time student in an accredited school.

Child coverage had to have been elected at the time of retirement for the participation in the plan that pays an annuity upon the retiree's death.

While pursuing a full-time course of study or training, a child whose 22nd birthday occurs before July 1 or after August 31 of a calendar year, is considered to be 22 years of age on

the first day of July after that birthday.

Accredited schools include high school, trade school, technical or vocational institute, junior college, college, university, or comparable recognized educational institute. The decision determining accreditation is made by Defense Finance and Accounting Service officials.

"It is a retiree's responsibility to notify DFAS when the status of a beneficiary changes," said Patricia Peek, the Air Force's SBP manager. "Notification, with supporting documentation, should be made immediately after the change occurs so the appropriate adjustment may be made to your retired pay account."

Examples of documentation

include: copy of child's marriage certificate to terminate a child's eligibility; copy of birth certificate to establish coverage for a new eligible child; copy of the child's death certificate; a letter informing DFAS there are no longer any eligible children so premiums can be terminated.

To suspend child coverage and premiums when the student is no longer in school fulltime, the retiree must notify DFAS. Child premiums stop effective the first day of the month following the date the last remaining child becomes ineligible.

For more information on SBP, contact the Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102.

[www.retirees.af.mil](http://www.retirees.af.mil)

# 2012 Retiree Council:

## Group meets to discuss issues affecting retirees, survivors

by Tammy Courmoyer  
Warrior and Family Operations Center

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas – The Air Force Retiree Council met recently at the Air Force Personnel Center here to discuss issues affecting more than 690,000 retirees and 105,000 surviving spouses.

Retired Lt. Gen. Steven R. Polk and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force No. 15 Rodney J McKinley, who were appointed by the Air Force chief of staff, currently serve as council co-chairmen. They lead council members who represent 15 geographical areas worldwide. The council also relies on input from members at large who have expertise in medical care and other critical subject areas.

The council did not meet last year because of fiscal constraints, so there were many issues to tackle. Among those issues were possible TRICARE fee increases, full pay for month of death, and the future of hard-copy mailing of the Afterburner

One of the highlights of this

year's meeting was a visit from then-Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz. After announcing his August retirement, Schwartz thanked the council for their service to him and the Air Force's retired community. Although council members no longer wear the uniform, they are "still serving" as representatives for the U.S. Air Force.

The general spoke of the current state of the service and its people, and what the future holds, especially with the drawdown and budget cuts. The goal is to resize the Air Force by making deliberate strategic choices today without degrading the quality and ability so it remains an unmatched air force of tomorrow.

The council also heard from representatives of TRICARE, Delta Dental, Veterans Affairs, Defense Finance and Accounting Service, and the Military Coalition.

One topic involved the proposed future adjustments in TRICARE Prime and TRICARE for Life premiums that would be based on

retired pay – those who can afford more, pay more -- and cost-of-living allowance increases. The proposal exempts increases for medically retired Airmen and their families, plus survivors of Airmen who died on active duty.

"The council understands that premium increases may be necessary, but stands firm that any increases should be palatable and tied to COLAs," said Polk. "We do not support eroding retirement benefits for TRICARE for Life recipients who are mostly beyond income-earning age or prospects."

Briefers covered various topics such as the Air Force Wounded Warrior Program, and current and future personnel challenges.

Lt. Gen. Darrell D. Jones, deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services, discussed the budget challenge currently impacting the Air Force resulting in a pending drawdown of 10,000 Airmen and more than 280 aircraft.

*Council continues on Page 5*

## 2012 Air Force Retiree Council issues

1. Possible TRICARE fee increases
2. Reduced Medicare Reimbursement threatens TRICARE for Life
3. Survivor Benefit Plan annuity and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation Offset
4. Possible Paid-up SBP at age 67 with 30 years of participation
5. Full pay for month of death
6. VA points of contact for Retiree Activities Offices
7. Person-to-person contact with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service
8. Future of hard-copy mailing of the Afterburner

# Museum foundation offers legacy data plates

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — The Air Force Museum Foundation is offering a new way to honor outstanding Airmen, patriots and loved ones — legacy data plates.

In early 2012, a new recognition wall was placed near the entrance of the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force.

Made of aviation-grade stainless steel, 4-inch by 8-inch legacy data plates with chemically etched custom messages will be placed on the wall and last for generations.

Each legacy data plate costs \$250. Also, people can provide a short biographical narrative up to 250 words that will be displayed on the foundation's website to further complement a data plate's message. Besides having a custom message displayed on the outside of the museum, people will receive a certificate of recognition and be able to add a biography, upload a photo and embed a video to be displayed with your plate on this website.

Anyone can be honored with a legacy data plate; no military service is required. Each data plate is subject to space limitations of 20 characters per line, three lines total. The specific message is also subject to foundation approval before final installation. Foundation officials said a typical data plate message would include the name of the honoree, a personal message, and

significant dates — although this is not a requirement.

Traditionally, data plates are used on aircraft to identify each aircraft and its engines' manufacturers. Plates are made using fireproof markings and material.

For more information, call 937-258-1218; send email to [foundation@afmuseum.com](mailto:foundation@afmuseum.com); or visit <http://www.legacydataplates.com/>. (Courtesy of Air Force Museum Foundation website)



**The National Museum of the U.S. Air Force is the service's national institution for preserving and presenting the Air Force story. (U.S. Air Force photo)**

## Council

### *From Page 4*

He explained that although there are 45 percent fewer people in the Air Force today than in 1985, personnel costs have risen 65 percent. Those rising personnel costs are cutting into readiness.

Maj. Gen. A.J. Stewart, AFPC commander, explained the personnel center, the Air Force Manpower Agency and the Air Force Services Agency have combined to become a more efficient, flexible, customer-focused and mission-effective organization. The center will still serve retirees, but they should now contact public affairs for Afterburner-related matters. All other queries will be

handled through the Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102, and information can also be found on the retiree website at [www.retirees.af.mil](http://www.retirees.af.mil) or on AFPERs.

The number of retirees with Internet access continues to climb. DFAS officials report more than 42 percent of retiree customers use myPay online. Officials hope as the percentage climbs it will help make a dent in the more than 10,000 calls DFAS receives every day. DFAS officials will continue to promote self-service initiatives through online outlets such as Facebook, myPay and the DFAS website.

As the purse strings continue to tighten, AFPC officials urge retirees with Internet access to opt out of the hard-copy edition and switch to

the electronic version of the Afterburner (see back page for opt-out instructions). It costs more than \$310,000 to print and mail each issue, and officials can't guarantee how much longer the Air Force can afford a hard-copy Afterburner.

As the four-day meeting drew to a close, council members reaffirmed their mission of overseeing Retiree Activities Offices in their respective areas; collaborated on innovative ways to assist retirees; discussed mentoring active-duty Airmen as they approach retirement; and talked about the need for more retiree-volunteers to help at local RAOs.

The council co-chairmen will meet with the new Air Force chief of staff later this year to discuss the council's findings and other matters related to Air Force retirees.

## Knowing correct procedures for requesting items from master personnel records can save time, money

by Tammy Courmoyer  
Warrior and Family Operations Center

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas – In an effort to save time and money, the master personnel records branch staff at the Air Force Personnel Center wants retirees and former Airmen to know the correct procedures for requesting medical and personnel record information.

“Knowing the correct procedures can not only cut down on the requestor’s wait time, it can also cut the routing time and our workload,” said Capt. Darren James, branch operations officer.

### Retired after Oct. 1, 2004

For Airmen who retired on or after Oct. 1, 2004 they can request copies of records such as a DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty), performance reports and other information by writing to AFPC/DPSIRP, 550 C St. West, Suite 19, Randolph AFB TX, 78150; faxing 210-565-4021; or visiting the eBenefits website at [www.eBenefits.va.gov](http://www.eBenefits.va.gov).

People requesting their own records need to send a completed Standard Form 180, Request Pertaining to Military Records, or a letter that includes their name, full

Social Security number, contact information, specific record requested, and a signature. People requesting a deceased relative’s record need to provide the above information, plus their relationship to the former Airman so next-of-kin relationship can be verified. Proof of death must also be furnished.

### Retired before Oct. 1, 2004

Veterans who retired before Oct. 1, 2004 must visit the National Personnel Records Center website at <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/> for record request instructions. People requesting the record of a deceased relative who retired before Oct. 1, 2004 may now use the NPRC website to order a copy of the military records.

Regardless of the request procedures used, processing can take time. Response time for records requests sent to NPRC varies and depends upon records availability and workload. NPRC receives approximately 4,000 to 5,000 requests per day. Officials at NPRC ask that people do not send a follow-up request before 90 days have elapsed as it may cause further delays.

Veterans who retired after Oct. 1, 2004 can access certain records online by registering for a premium account on [www.eBenefits.va.gov](http://www.eBenefits.va.gov).

Click the register button at the top of the home page and follow the instructions provided to obtain a premium account. The website is managed by Veterans Affairs and may not be inclusive for all retirees.

“Requests processed through AFPC normally take 5 to 10 business days however, manning cuts across the Air Force have made it challenging for us to provide timely customer service to our veterans; so we are using technology to our benefit,” said James. “There are definitely time and money savings associated when veterans access their records through the eBenefits website. The immediate savings we’ve seen by using eBenefits cuts the processing time tremendously from the current 5 to 10 business days to 24 to 48 hours.”

### Medical records

Medical and dental records for all Airmen who retired before May 1994 are stored permanently at NPRC (see link above). Medical and dental records for Airmen who retired or separated after May 1994 are maintained by the Veterans Administration Service Medical Records Center at 888-533-4558.

For more information on records requests, visit the myPers website at <https://mypers.af.mil>.

## The Total Force Service Center 800-525-0102

The Total Force Service Center can deliver personnel services to the retiree family via telephone any time and from any location.

This number is available worldwide using the AT&T USA Direct global dialing codes at [www.business.att.com/bt/dial\\_guide.jsp](http://www.business.att.com/bt/dial_guide.jsp).



## VA works toward easing backlog of disability claims

by Allison A. Hickey

Under Secretary for Benefits, Veterans Benefits Administration

WASHINGTON -- Every year for the past four years, Veterans Affairs has received more than 1 million claims from veterans requesting disability compensation for injuries or illness connected to military service. This is a nearly 50-percent increase in claims receipts.

Many of these come from veterans of the recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, but just as many are coming from aging Vietnam veterans. Two out of three claimants are already receiving benefits and are requesting additional compensation for new or worsening conditions.

At the same time, VA is doing a much better job reaching out and educating veterans about their benefits. As a result, VA has struggled to keep up with the ever-increasing demand. Despite processing an unprecedented 1 million claims two years in a row, the inventory of active claims has reached nearly 900,000. Those claims that have not been decided within 125 days, currently more than 500,000, are considered "backlogged."

This is unacceptable to both veterans and to VA.

While it may be of little comfort to veterans awaiting benefits, they should know that action is being taken that will eliminate the backlog, and improve benefits delivery.

First, VA continues to add to its workforce of specialists who process and decide compensation claims, and is implementing enhanced training that has increased speed and accuracy. Twelve-hundred rating specialists who, for the past two years were focused on the re-adjudication of claims related to Agent Orange exposure for Vietnam veterans, have finished, and can now tackle the backlog.

Second, VA is retooling its claims processes to optimize productivity. New claims management techniques

categorize claims so that those with sufficient medical and service information move quickly, separated from those that require follow-on medical evaluations and extensive record gathering to lawfully grant. The new processes also flag those claims from veterans with severe wounds or injuries, or are facing homelessness, or are suffering debilitating effects of military sexual trauma, to make sure they get special handling.

These manpower and management improvements are important but cannot by themselves close the processing deficit. At the heart of solving the backlog of claims is to move from World War II-era, paper-bound procedures to a 22nd century digital information environment. This includes the "front end" interface with veterans and their advocates, as well as the information technology infrastructure to support the exchange of massive amounts of data nationwide.

VA is improving its "relationship management" processes with veterans through its online portal eBenefits ([www.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov)), which provides 24/7 benefit access. A new electronic claim filing platform pre-populates information and steps veterans through the submission process, similar to online tax filing. VA's national call centers will link to multiple data bases with better visibility of veterans' records to answer questions.

VA has also tested and is fielding technology in its regional offices that give VA staff the ability to establish claims folders electronically and convert paper files to digits. New Web-accessible software ensures consistency across the enterprise and improves quality and timeliness. VA is currently deploying these changes to 16 regional offices, and is scheduled to fully transform all 56 offices to its new operating model in 2013.

## Engraved pavers can recognize service of any Airmen

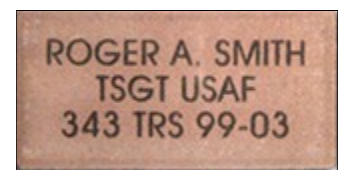
Airmen can stake out a permanent place of recognition at the very place where their active-duty service began -- Lackland Air Force Base. Engraved pavers are being placed along the parade ground where Airmen proudly cross into the blue to join the U.S. Air Force.

The pavers honor Airmen who



graduated from Basic Military Training, to recognize significant achievements in their careers, or upon retirement from service to their country. Pavers also can recognize service of Airmen who fought in America's wars.

The pavers are being offered as part of the fundraising effort by the Lackland Gateway Heritage Foundation to build a new USAF Airman Heritage Museum facility adjacent to the parade ground. Cost is \$55 for one, or \$50 each for two or more.



Engraved pavers are excellent in recognizing retirees, past or present, for service to their country, according to foundation officials.

Pavers are available for purchase online at [MyAirmanMuseum.org](http://MyAirmanMuseum.org), or by calling toll free 855-670-0100. (Courtesy of USAF Airman Heritage Museum)

## Retired CMSAF speaks out about enlisted village

by Airman 1st Class Jarrod Grammel  
23rd Wing Public Affairs

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. -- The ninth chief master sergeant of the Air Force, James Binnicker, spoke about the Air Force Enlisted Village during the 2012 Air Force Sergeants Association Convention and Professional Airman Conference here Aug. 12.

The Air Force Enlisted Village was founded in 1967 after a survey conducted by AFSA found there were almost 50,000 widows of enlisted men living in poverty. With the help of former Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Ryan and his wife, a group of active-duty and retired noncommissioned officers started the village with the goal of providing a home for spouses of surviving enlisted Air Force members.

"Our mission at the village is simply to provide a home," said Binnicker. "It started out with only Air Force enlisted widows, but over the years we have changed that to include a lot of different kinds of people."

"We take care of Air Force enlisted widows first and foremost," he added. "That's the priority. Then we have moral dependents, when it's just the right thing to do."

The Air Force Enlisted Village consists of three separate villages. The Bob Hope Village and Theresa Village are independent living villages. The Hawthorn House provides assisted living and memory care.

Although there are certain requirements to live in the villages, Binnicker said many exceptions are made. He told a story of an Airman who wanted his mother-in-law to stay in the assisted-living village. Even though she did not qualify for one of the existing categories, an exception was made for her.

"If you're asking a question, and you're in uniform -- my uniform -- we can make a category," said Binnicker.

He gave examples of people the Air Force Enlisted Village helped through the years, including spouses of active-duty Airmen, retired couples and even mothers of deployed members. The village also helps widows of other services on a space-available basis.

"It's not just a retirement home for widows," said Binnicker. "It is a community. It's an extension of the Air Force family, and we are very proud to provide that."

He also talked about how the village is a place where people with a common background come together to live.

The whole village is a gated community with round-the-clock guards, which provides security for the occupants. The village also has five vehicles and two buses to provide transportation to commonly visited areas.

Binnicker also stressed the importance of all the amenities the village provides, such as fitness



**Retired Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Binnicker speaks about the Air Force Enlisted Village at the 2012 Air Force Sergeants Association Convention and Professional Airmen Conference in Jacksonville, Fla. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Ciara Wymbs)**

classes, hassle-free maintenance, chapels, bowling and many others. Village occupants also look forward to seasonal events such as a luaus and Halloween parties.

"The village is not a place where people go to die," said the former chief master sergeant of the Air Force. "It's a place where people go to live. ... We don't just provide an apartment; it's a way of life."

Funding for the Air Force Enlisted Village comes from donations and the Air Force Assistance Fund. At the end of Binnicker's speech, Jeff Ledoux, AFSA international president, presented Binnicker with a \$10,000 check on behalf of AFSA.

"We have some widows who live there for free," said Binnicker. "If it were not for your generosity and this program, they would be dead or living under a bridge. So, I thank you from the bottom of my heart."

**Visit [www.retirees.af.mil](http://www.retirees.af.mil) for the latest in Air Force retiree news and information**

Featuring:

- Survivor Benefit Plan details
- *Afterburner* archive (2001-2012)
- Library of assorted information, checklists
- Retiree Activities Offices
- Resources



## Officials urge reporting a death to DFAS promptly

CLEVELAND -- Realizing it is a difficult time, officials at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service stress that it's crucial to report the death of a military retiree promptly.

Upon notification, DFAS officials will stop monthly payments to prevent overpayment. This will help avoid delay and possible financial hardship to surviving beneficiaries, family members or executors, who will be required to return any unearned military retirement

payments. Eligibility for military retired pay ends on the day of the retiree's death.

The person making the death notification should complete a Notification of Death Fast Form (see below).

If the person does not have Internet access to complete the form, he or she call DFAS at 800-321-1080 and provide the decedent's Social Security number and the date of death.

Regardless of the notification process, the designated beneficiary will receive the following documents within seven to 10 business days after reporting the death: SF1174 Claim for Unpaid Compensation of Deceased Member of the Uniformed Service, and annuity account forms and instructions (if the decedent was enrolled in the Survivor Benefit Plan or the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan).

Completed forms should be return with a copy of the retiree's death certificate that includes cause of death to: DFAS U.S. Military Retired Pay, P.O. Box 7130, London KY, 40742-7130. Forms can also be faxed to 800-469-6559. (Courtesy of DFAS website)

### Notification of Death Fast Form

<https://cust-support.dfas.mil/rapiti/nod/>

### Notification of Death Fast Form Instructions

<http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/survivors/Retiree-death.html>

(For assistance with forms, call DFAS at 800-321-1080)

## Know rules, process for officially changing a name

When an Airman changes his or her name after retirement, it is important that the change first be processed by officials at the Air Force Personnel Center.

Retired military members should submit their record correction request by including their Social Security number, date of retirement and signature along with the original or a certified copy of the legal document recording the name change to AFPC/DPSIRP, 550 C Street West, Suite 19, Randolph AFB TX, 78150-4737.

Once the correction action is completed in the Military

Personnel Data System, or MilPDS, an Air Force Form 281, Notification of Change in Service Member's Official Records, is filed in the retired Airman's military record. The original or certified copy document recording the correction action will be returned to the retiree along with a copy of the Air Force Form 281 for their records.

A copy of the Air Force Form 281 is forwarded to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service for their record update. For more information, contact the Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102.

## Please do not send address changes to *Afterburner*

Please **DO NOT** send your U.S. Postal Service change-of-address announcements to the *Afterburner*. Mailing labels used to send the *Afterburner* are based on addresses already on file with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service. Any change announcements sent to the *Afterburner* cannot be processed or forwarded, and are shredded.

Retirees must change their address by calling 800-321-1080. (Do not mention the *Afterburner* or you may be referred elsewhere.) If you have an myPay account you can make the change online. You can fax your change to 800-469-6559, or send it to DFAS, US Military Retirement Pay, PO Box 7130, London KY 40742-7130.

Air Force Survivor Benefit Plan annuitants must call DFAS at the number above, or use their online myPay account. The fax number for annuitants is 800-982-8459 or mail the change to DFAS, US Military Annuitant Pay, PO Box 7131, London KY 40742-7131.

**Only** nonannuitants should send changes to the *Afterburner* at AFPC/PA, 550 C Street W Ste 43, Randolph AFB TX 78150.



# Air Force Retiree Activities Offices

Retiree Activities Offices are made up of volunteers from all services including surviving spouses. Their charter is to coordinate, establish and staff an office on an active-duty, Reserve or Guard base through command channels that will assist retirees with myriad actions.

These actions include: serving as an information center for space-available travel, TRICARE, base services, etc; offering referrals for financial assistance and pay matters; counseling active-duty Airmen nearing

retirement; and providing literature on retirement issues.

Another major activity involves working with base agencies to set up Retiree Activity Day events offering briefings by different agencies on respective services, tax preparation and advice, staff judge advocate assistance, base tours, Defense Finance and Accounting Service, etc.

Not all states or countries have an established Air Force RAO. The following is a listing of Air Force-wide RAOs:

**Alabama**  
MAXWELL  
Phone: 334-953-6725  
email: retiree.affairs@maxwell.af.mil

**Alaska**  
JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-  
RICHARDSON  
Phone: 907-552-2337  
email: jerry.beale@yahoo.com

**Arizona**  
DAVIS-MONTHAN  
Phone: 520-228-5100  
email: retired@dm.af.mil

**LUKE**  
Phone: 623-856-3923  
email: rao@luke.af.mil

**Arkansas**  
LITTLE ROCK  
Toll Free: 877-815-3111  
email: john.heffernan.2@us.af.mil

**California**  
BEALE  
Phone: 916-634-2157  
email: tbn3e@yahoo.com

**EDWARDS**  
Phone: 661-277-0237/4931  
email: 95abw.rao@edwards.af.mil

**LOS ANGELES**  
Phone: 310-653-5144  
email: rao.laafb@gmail.com

**MARCH**  
Phone: 951-655-4077/4079  
email: stephen.scheffrin.1@us.af.mil

**MCCLELLAN**  
Phone: 916-923-4977  
email: george.moses@va.gov

**MOFFETT FIELD**  
Phone: 650-603-8047  
email: bfrench2905@gmail.com

**TRAVIS**  
Phone: 707-424-3904  
email: raoctravis@yahoo.com

**VANDENBERG**  
Phone: 805-606-5474  
email: rao@vandenberg.af.mil

**Colorado**  
BUCKLEY  
Phone: 720-847-6693/9213  
email: james.stewart.68.ctr@us.af.mil

**USAF ACADEMY**  
Phone: 719-333-1055  
email: none

**PETERSON**  
Phone: 719-556-7153  
email: RAO.Peterson@us.af.mil

**Delaware**  
DOVER  
Phone: 302-677-4612  
email: Dover.RAO@us.af.mil

**District of Columbia**  
JOINT BASE ANACOSTIA-BOLLING  
Phone: 202-767-5244  
email: rao@afncr.af.mil

**Florida**  
CENTRAL FLORIDA  
Phone: 352-430-1679  
email:  
centralfloridarao@thevillages.net

**EGLIN**  
Phone: 850-882-5916  
email: jack.houlgate@eglin.af.mil

**HOMESTEAD**  
Phone: 786-415-7580  
email: rao.homestead@us.af.mil

**HURLBURT FIELD**  
Phone: 850-884-5443  
email: 1sofss.rao@hurlburt.af.mil

**MACDILL**  
Phone: 813-828-4555  
email: rao.macdill@us.af.mil

**PATRICK**  
Phone: 321-494-5464  
email: patrick.rao@patrick.af.mil

**TYNDALL**  
Phone: 850-283-2737  
email: rao@tyndall.af.mil

**Georgia**  
MOODY  
Phone: 229-257-3209  
email: rao@moody.af.mil

**ROBINS**  
Phone: 478-327-4707  
email: 78.abw.rao@robins.af.mil

**Idaho**  
MOUNTAIN HOME  
Phone: 208-828-4878  
email: 366rao@acc.af.mil

**Illinois**  
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS  
Phone: 847-506-7625  
Toll Free: 800-741-4650 Ext 7625  
email: oharearlingtonrao@sbcglobal.net

**RANTOUL**  
Phone: 217-893-1723  
email: geneandjune@aol.com

**SCOTT**  
Phone: 618-256-5092  
email: scottrao@us.af.mil

**Indiana**  
GRISSOM  
Toll Free: 800-635-0961, Ext. 3002  
email:  
Grissom.RetireeActivities@us.af.mil

**Kansas**  
MCCONNELL  
Phone: 316-759-3500  
email: rao.mcconnell@mcconnell.af.mil

**Louisiana**  
BARKSDALE  
Phone: 318-456-5976  
Toll Free: 866-544-2412  
email: rao@barksdale.af.mil

**Maryland**  
JOINT BASE ANDREWS  
Phone: 301-981-2726/2180  
email: rao@andrews.af.mil

**Massachusetts**  
HANSCOM  
Phone: 781-225-1310  
email: retiree@hanscom.af.mil

**OTIS**  
Phone: 508-968-4175  
email: 102iw.rao@ang.af.mil

**WESTOVER**  
Phone: 413-557-3918/3424  
email: raodirwestover@us.af.mil

**Michigan**  
OSCODA  
Phone: 989-739-2777  
email: mirao1@michiganx.net

**SELFRIDGE ANG BASE**  
Toll Free: 800-645-9416 Ext 5580  
email: selfrao@greatlakes.net

**Minnesota**  
MINNEAPOLIS  
Phone: 612-713-1516  
email: msp934rao@yahoo.com

**Mississippi**  
COLUMBUS  
Phone: 662-434-3120  
email: columbusretiree@yahoo.com

**KEESLER**  
Toll Free: 800-732-2984, Ext. 8114  
email: rao.keesler@us.af.mil

**Missouri**  
JEFFERSON BARRACKS  
Phone: 314-527-8212  
email: 157aog.rao@ang.af.mil

**O'FALLON**  
Phone: 636-379-5490  
email: veteransaffairs@ofallon.mo.us

**WHITEMAN**  
Phone: 660-687-6457  
email: rao@whiteman.af.mil

**Montana**  
MALMSTROM  
Phone: 406-731-4751  
email: denglo3138@bresnan.net

**Nebraska**  
OFFUTT  
Phone: 402-294-4566  
email: rao.activity.office@offutt.af.mil

**Nevada**  
NELLIS  
Phone: 702-652-9978  
email: JeanPutney@cox.net

**New Jersey**  
JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-  
LAKEHURST  
Phone: 609-754-2459  
email: mcgrao@us.af.mil

**New Mexico**  
KIRTLAND  
Phone: 505-846-1536  
email: michael.colbert@kirtland.af.mil

**New York**  
NIAGARA FALLS  
Phone: 716-236-2389  
email: john.caruso@niagarafalls.af.mil

**STEWART**  
Phone: 845-563-2369  
email: retiredcms@yahoo.com

**North Carolina**  
SEYMOUR JOHNSON  
Phone: 919-722-1119  
email:  
william.watson@seymourjohnson.af.mil

POPE  
Phone: 910-394-1950  
email: pope.rao@pope.af.mil

**North Dakota**  
GRAND FORKS  
Phone: 701-747-4899  
email: rao.grandforks@us.af.mil

MINOT  
Phone: 701-723-3440  
email: bobherr@srt.com

**Ohio**  
WRIGHT-PATTERSON  
Phone: 937-257-3221  
email: paul.moore@wpafb.af.mil

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

**Oklahoma**  
ALTUS  
Phone: 580-481-6761  
email: none

TINKER  
Phone: 405-739-2795  
email: rao@tinker.af.mil

VANCE  
Phone: 580-213-6330  
email: angel.dominguez@vance.af.mil

**Oregon**  
KINGSLEY FIELD  
Phone: 541-885-6362  
email: proffhone@aol.com

**Pennsylvania**  
PHILADELPHIA  
Phone: 215-737-7300  
email: raotrpspt@dla.mil

PITTSBURGH  
Phone: 412-474-8816  
email: john.casey.22@us.af.mil

HORSHAM AIR GUARD STATION  
Phone: 215-323-7135  
email: 111fw.retirees@ang.af.mil

WYOMING, PA  
Phone: 570-288-1947 Ext. 220  
email: raysmith1313@cs.com

**South Carolina**  
CHARLESTON  
Phone: 843-963-2228  
email: rao.628abw.cvr@us.af.mil

SHAW  
Phone: 803-895-1098  
email: rao@shaw.af.mil

**South Dakota**  
ELLSWORTH  
Phone: 605-385-3600  
email: 28bwr@ellsworth.af.mil

**Tennessee**  
ARNOLD  
Phone: 615-454-4574  
email: grace.standley@arnold.af.mil

**Texas**  
DYESS  
Phone: 325-696-4980/1484  
email: rao@dyess.af.mil

GOODFELLOW  
Phone: 325-654-5388  
email: raodirector@goodfellow.af.mil

JOINT BASE LACKLAND  
Phone: 210-671-2728  
email: robert.zaske@us.af.mil

LUBBOCK  
Phone: 806-749-3728  
email: none

JOINT BASE RANDOLPH  
Phone: 210-652-6880  
email: rao.randolph@us.af.mil

SHEPPARD  
Phone: 940-676-2654/5088/3381  
email: rao@sheppard.af.mil

**Utah**  
HILL  
Phone: 801-777-5735  
email: retact@hill.af.mil

**Virginia**  
LANGLEY  
Phone: 757-764-7386  
email: retireactivities@langley.af.mil

**Washington**  
FAIRCHILD  
Phone: 509-247-5359  
email: 92FSS.RAO@us.af.mil

RICHLAND  
Phone: 509-376-7588  
email: military\_rao@rl.gov

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD  
Phone: 253-982-3214  
email: rao@mcchord.af.mil

**Wisconsin**  
MILWAUKEE  
Phone: 414-944-8212  
email: rao.128arw@ang.af.mil

TRUAX FIELD  
Phone: 608-242-3115  
Toll Free: 800-335-5147 Ext 3115  
email: widma.retiree@wisconsin.gov

**Wyoming**  
FE WARREN  
Phone: 307-773-2309  
email: mikearcher@bresnan.net

#### Pacific Region

**Guam**  
ANDERSEN  
Phone: 671-366-2574  
email: Guam.RAO@us.af.mil

**Thailand**  
BANGKOK  
Phone: 66-2-287-1036, Ext 165  
email: raothailand@jsumagthai.org

**Japan**  
MISAWA  
Phone: 011-81-176-77-4428  
email: rao@misawa.af.mil

YOKOTA  
Phone: 011-81-3117-55-8324  
email: rao@yokota.af.mil

**South Korea**  
OSAN

Phone: 011-82-31-663-0319  
email: john.terwiel.ctr@osan.af.mil

**Philippines**  
CLARK REGION/CVR  
Phone: 011-63-45-888-2748  
email: rao\_cabr@mozcom.com

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**  
SAIPAN RAO  
Phone: 607-288-3021  
email: PeterC11@yahoo.com

#### European Region

**Italy**  
AVIANO  
Phone: 011- 39-0434-30-8404  
email: rao@aviano.af.mil

**England**  
ROYAL AIR FORCE ALCONBURY  
Phones: 011-44-1480-84-3364 (From U.S.) 01480-84-3364 (Within U.K.)  
email: rao@alconbury.af.mil

ROYAL AIR FORCE CROUGHTON  
Phone: 011-44-1280-70-8182  
email: 422abg.rao@croughton.af.mil

MILDENHALL/LAKENHEATH  
Phone: 011-44-1638-54-2039  
email: rao@mildenhall.af.mil

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

SPANGDAHLEM  
Phone: 011-49-656561-9013/9424  
email: 52fw.rao@spangdahlem.af.mil

**Portugal - The Azores**  
LAJES FIELD  
Phone: 011-351-295-57-1037  
email: arthur.nielsen@us.af.mil

**Spain**  
TORREJON  
Phone: 011-34-91-640-9879

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## Air Force Retiree Council

The following retirees currently serve on the Air Force Retiree Council:

Lt. Gen. Steven R. Polk, Co-Chairman  
Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force No. 15 Rodney J. McKinley, Co-Chairman  
Col. Milton L. Felch, Area I representative - Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Washington  
Chief Master Sgt. Thomas P. Kelley, Area II representative - California  
Chief Master Sgt. Kathleen E. Rose, Area III representative - Arizona and New Mexico  
Lt. Col. John S. Lannefeld, Area IV representative - Colorado, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming  
Vacant, Area V representative - North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska and Wisconsin  
Chief Master Sgt. Robert A. Merritt Jr., Area VI representative - Texas  
Chief Master Sgt. James T. Watson, Area VII representative - Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma  
Lt. Col. Richard I. Brubaker, Area VIII representative - Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia  
Brig. Gen. Richard R. Moss, Area IX representative - Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee  
Col. Terry W. Jensen, Area X representative - Florida (Includes Puerto Rico and Panama)  
Lt. Col. Thomas G. Hogg, Area XI representative - Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia  
Chief Master Sgt. Charles E. Lucas, Area XII representative - Delaware, District of Columbia and Maryland  
Master Sgt. Roger E. Corey, Area XIII representative - Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont  
Lt Col Nathan D. Hathorne, Area XIV representative - Pacific Region (includes Alaska and Hawaii)  
Master Sgt. Donald K. Davis, Area XV -representative - Atlantic Region (includes Europe and The Azores)  
Col. Frank G. Rohrbough, member at large

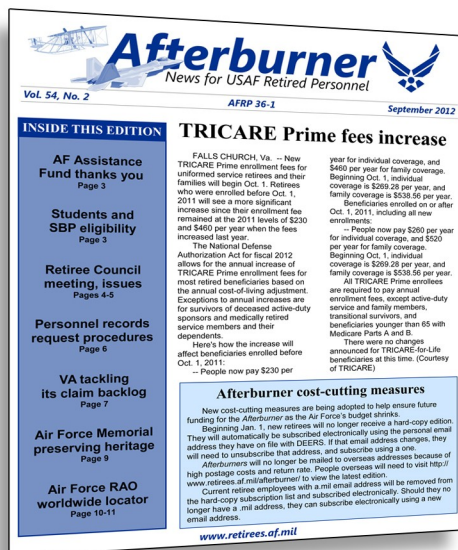
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