



"He that cannot obey, cannot command." ~ Benjamin Franklin

Military Handbooks has released their FREE 2013 handbooks for military personnel. These handbooks, written specifically for military service members, include a variety of information about pay, benefits, education and transitioning from the military. To explore the selections available visit <http://militaryhandbooks.com>.

On October 1, 2013 more than 171K retirees will be pushed off TRICARE Prime -- the military's managed-care option. The policy change will affect retirees, their family members and military survivors who reside more than 40 miles from a military treatment facility or from a base closure site. Affected retirees will need to shift health coverage from Prime to TRICARE Standard, the military's fee-for-service health insurance option. For beneficiaries who use more than preventive health care during the year, the shift will mean higher out-of-pocket costs. [Read the Military Update to get the full story.](#)

The Special Victims' Counsel Program, a new Air Force pilot program, will give sexual assault victims legal assistance and help them navigate the criminal justice system with lawyers trained to handle their unique needs. The program will provide 60 specially-trained attorneys Air Force-wide who will be placed geographically and who are certified trial counsel and expressed a desire to help victims of sexual assault. The new program will begin offering victims counsel services with counsel in existing legal offices starting January 28. Special Victims' Counsel will help victims understand the importance of separate interviews with different personnel in the military justice process and help protect their privacy and prevent unnecessary disclosure of intimate details. If you are a victim of sexual assault, consult a Special Victims' Counsel attorney -- you have complete attorney-client confidentiality.

The Air Force has delayed its major upgrade to the Military Personnel Data System (MilPDS) until March. The Air Force Personnel Operations Agency here will upgrade and transfer MilPDS to the Defense Information Systems Agency Defense Enterprise Computing Center. The project is expected to take 23 days. During the upgrade, MilPDS will not be available. Air Force officials will release additional information and guidance to the Air Force's manpower, personnel, services and pay communities and total force Airmen to explain how the service will perform personnel and pay tasks during the upgrade and scheduled system outage. For more information about personnel services and self-service applications, visit <https://mypers.af.mil>.

Airmen with more than 60 days of leave at the beginning of next fiscal year may be able to carry it into the next fiscal year thanks to a provision in the FY 2013 National Defense Authorization Act. The provision extends the maximum leave carryover of 75 days through Sept. 30, 2015. For information about the military leave program and other personnel issues, visit the [myPers website](#).

Officers and enlisted Airmen getting promoted in March will experience pay delays because of the Military Personnel Data System upgrade occurring that month. Airmen should contact their base military personnel section if their promotion information is not updated in vMPF within 10 days after the MilPDS upgrade is completed. The information above also applies to Reserve promotions -- more information is available on the [myPers website](#). Guard members should review the "MilPDS Upgrade and Migration Guidance -- Unit Assigned Members" section on the [myPers website](#), under the "Alerts" or "Announcements for Airmen" sections. For more information about enlisted promotions and the MilPDS upgrade, visit the [myPers website](#).

The Internal Revenue Service's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) offers free tax help for Veterans. For more information, visit the Internal Revenue Service website at <http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Free-Tax-Return-Preparation-for-You-by-Volunteers>.

Eligible Air Force officers interested in air liaison officer (ALO) duty have until Feb. 7 to complete and submit their application package to Air Combat Command. ALO duty is open to men and women who are active-duty cross flow candidates, inter-service transfer applicants, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, and Reserve Officer Training Corps and U.S. Air Force Academy cadets scheduled to graduate in 2013 and 2014. Interested officers must be hazardous duty volunteers, and eligible for a top secret security clearance. Interested Airmen should contact an ALO mentor for guidance, information and assistance with the application process. A list of mentors and other information is posted on the ACC portal under the "A3FC" link. Potential candidates can email ACC for assistance at acca3fc.jid@langley.af.mil. For more information, visit the [myPers website](#), and search for 13L air liaison officer volunteers.

DoD Safe Helpline, operated by RAINN on behalf of the Department of Defense, is a secure, anonymous and confidential crisis support service that connects members of the military community to live sexual assault professionals for one-on-one support. Access

DoD Safe Helpline 24/7 from anywhere in the world by calling 877-995-5247 or visiting the Safe Helpline website at www.safehelpline.org. To find help near you, text your zip code, installation or base name to: 55-247 (in the U.S.) or 202-470-5546 (outside the U.S.) RAINN will not share your name or any other personally identifying information with DoD or your chain of command.

When initially implemented, the [Post-9/11 GI Bill](#) education transfer program was phased in to enable service members nearing retirement to accept a 1-, 2-, or 3-year active-duty service commitment. That phase-in period expired July 31, 2012 and all active-duty now incur a 4-year ADSC. Service members interested in transferring a portion or all of their GI Bill education benefits to family members can contact the education services team at afpc.dpsitedu@us.af.mil. Eligible members can apply to transfer benefits through the MilConnect website at www.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect. Air Force personnel may also apply through the Virtual Military Personnel Flight self-service actions section, accessible via the [myPers website](#) or the Air Force Portal. For more information about the Post 9/11 GI Bill and transferring education benefits, visit [myPers](#), and enter "Post 9/11 GI Bill" or "9083" in the search window.

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) is a retirement and savings plan available to service members. There are differences between the traditional version of the Thrift Savings Plan and the Roth version. On October 1, service members became eligible to take advantage of a Roth version of the Thrift Savings Plan, where money is deducted from taxed income, but becomes tax-free money when it is withdrawn. However, the traditional TSP is pre-taxed money, so it reduces the amount of your income in that year. Service members can take advantage of TSP from day one of their enlistment through the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS). For more information, visit the Thrift Savings Plan website at www.tsp.gov.

Military OneSource provides free access to the H&R Block At HomeR Basic online tax filing service. The service allows you to complete and electronically file your federal and up to three state tax returns or filings. Your calculations are guaranteed to be 100% accurate or H&R Block pays the penalties and interest. Also, the H&R Block At HomeR Basic tax filing service protects the security and confidentiality of your personal information by using industry-recognized security safeguards. You do not have to complete the return all at one time. When you begin, you create a secure user ID and password, which enables you to log on, save, close and return to the program as needed. For more information, visit the Military OneSource Tax Services webpage at http://www.militaryonesource.mil/pfm/tax-planning-and-preparation?content_id=269644.

SMSgt George Saunders
First Sergeant
130 AW/OG
X6247, (work) 201-3132
Email: george.e.saunders4.mil@mail.mil
george.saunders@ang.af.mil