

RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE  
19AW/CVR  
1255 VANDENBERG BLVD. SUITE 121  
LITTLE ROCK AFB, ARKANSAS 72099



# RETIREE NEWSLETTER

## RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY 2009

The Little Rock Air Force Base will host the 32nd Annual Retiree Appreciation Day, September 12, 2009.

This year the location will be at the Conference Center, building 1030 on Cannon Drive located just behind the Base Exchange.

The activities will begin at 0800 hours with the presentation of colors by the Little Rock AFB Honor Guard and the singing of the National Anthem by Senior Airman Clint Yager member of 19 AW/MXMCE.

Over one hundred vendors have been invited to take part in our activities to include a representative for DFAS.

So come and spend the morning with other fellow retirees and maybe some old friends that you haven't seen in a long time.

For more information feel free to call our office at 501-987-6095, 1-877-815-3111 or email us at [john.heffernan@littlerock.af.mil](mailto:john.heffernan@littlerock.af.mil).



## VEHICLE REGISTRATION

**Vehicle base stickers are no longer required at Little Rock AFB, Arkansas and many of the other bases.**

**Be sure and have your vehicle registration and auto insurance papers in your automobile. All you need to enter the base is your current ID card.**

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**DoD is Taking SSNs Off ID Cards**

**DFAS Retired & Annuitant Pay to Return to Government-Run Function**

The Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) is in the first phase of its initiative to eliminate Social Security Numbers (SSN) from all ID cards. The printed dependent SSN is being removed from Dependent Identification and Privilege cards (DD Forms 1173 and 1173-1) and replaced with "xxx-xx-xxxx". This change is being made to protect the identity information of cardholders.

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Need to get out of the house or apartment??? Need some free time???

Come and volunteer at the Little Rock Air Force Base. Meet some of your old friends and make new friends.

No experience required just friendly attitude and charm.

The pay is great. "The rewards are Great, and you get the opportunity of helping your fellow retirees as well the active duty personnel at Little Rock AFB. These rewards far out weigh the absence of any financial rewards, as the jobs are for volunteers. It is just a way to get out of the house for a few hours once a week or more if you like.

We have open positions at the base clinic and Retiree Activities Office.

You can bring your wife to volunteer also.



## VOLUNTEERING CAN BE REWARDING AND HEALTHFUL

### UPDATE YOUR DEERS (ID CARDS)

<p>Identification Cards are issued to retirees and eligible family members as a means of identification and as authorization for various benefits and privileges.</p> <p>The Armed Forces Identification Card DD Form 2 (Ret), is issued to retired members who are entitled to retired pay, even though they may have waived their pay in favor of VA compen-</p>	<p>sation, or because of employment with the Federal Government.</p> <p>Dependent ID Cards DD Form 1172, Application for Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Care," is issued to apply for issue or reissue if ID cards for dependents (DD Form 1173), Dependents ID cards generally expire four years from date of issue or</p>	<p>expiration of sponsor's obligated service. However, eligible dependents and survivors, age 75 or older are issued permanent non-expiring ID cards.</p> <p>ID cards must be surrendered when they are replaced or expired or upon demand by an authorized individual, or when the cardholder becomes ineligible.</p>
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### ID CARD LOCATIONS

Little Rock AFB (501)987-6831 Appointments(501)987-8228;  
 189th ANG (501)987-6703; Camp Robinson, NLR,AR (501)212-5065;  
 142FA,Fayetteville,AR (479)442-5789;  
 188th ANG, Ft Smith, AR (479)573-5761;  
 Ft Chaffee (479) 484-2933;  
 USAR Camp Pike, NLR,AR (501)77107333;  
 USNR Camp Pike, NLR,AR (501) 771-2579;  
 USMC, Camp Pike, NLR,AR (501) 771-4323;  
 Barksdale AFB, LA (318)456-3710;  
 Ft Leonard, MO(573)0744;  
 Millington Naval Support Center,Memphis,TN(901874-5224

## MILITARY RECORDS

You should have your DD Form 214(s) or NGB Form 22(s) Report of Separation and other documents which indicate your military service, to include dates of service, awards and character of service. These documents should be stored in a safe place and readily available if needed for VA/Social Security and in the event of death to be buried in a National Cemetery or a state cemetery. **DO** your survivors a favor and be certain that copies are available. **DON'T** wait till the day before you need them.

If you need to obtain an official copy of your records contact the Retiree Activities Office and we will assist you in obtaining your records. If you are a retiree from the Arkansas National Guard either Army or Air, you can obtain them from the respective service.

## DFAS And Other Death Notifications

The death of a military retiree or annuitant can be reported to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service at 1-800-321-1080, 7:00am–6:30pm Monday–Friday. You can also call the Casualty Assistance Office, Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas (501)987-3580, 8:00am–4:00pm, or call the Retiree Activities Office to report the death.

If the retiree or annuitant was a retired civil servant, notify the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) toll-free at 1-888-767-6738 or contact the Retiree Activities Office for assistance.

If the deceased was enrolled in DVA-sponsored insurance such as National Service Life Insurance (NSLI) or Service Members Group Life Insurance (SGLI), you can notify them at 1-800-669-8477.

## Privileges of Military Facilities

Retired military personnel and their eligible family members are authorized the use of many military facilities, subject to the availability of the facilities as determined by the installation commander. Using the facilities for the most part is a *privilege* that may be granted, rather than a *right* to which retired personnel are automatically entitled. The presentation of proper identification cards (DD Form 2 – gray or blue, or DD Form 1173 for family members) is generally required to use the facilities.

### Service Retiree Publications

**Air Force Afterburner:** <http://www.retirees.af.mil/afterburner/>

**Coast Guard Evening Colors:** <http://www.uscg.mil/ppc/retnews/>

**Marine Corps Semper Fi:** <https://www.manpower.usmc.mil>, then click on “Semper Fidelis Online” under “News and Features”

**Navy Shift Colors:** <http://www.npc.navy.mil/ReferenceLibrary/Publications>



## SURVIVORS BENEFIT PROGRAM (SBP)

There are several options available to a retiree participating in SBP for spouse or spouse and child coverage when the spouse is lost through death, divorce, or annulment, and the member later remarries (unless former spouse coverage is elected as part of the divorce). The member can either: (1) resume the prior level of spouse coverage; (2) elect not to resume spouse coverage. This election will not affect existing child coverage, if any. This election is irrevocable; (3) if the original election was reduced coverage, the retiree may request the base amount be increased up to and including full retired pay. If this option is elected, the retiree must pay to DFAS the difference between the SBP costs, with interest, which would have been paid if the higher level of coverage had originally been elected. The additional payment must be completed prior to the first anniversary of marriage. If payment is not completed prior to the first anniversary of marriage, the election is null and void and spouse coverage will be resumed at the previous level. If partial payment has been made on the amount due for increased coverage, a refund of partial payment will be made.

The retiree **MUST** notify the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, US Military Retirement Pay of the desired election within one year of the new marriage or option one automatically takes effect the date the new spouse becomes an eligible beneficiary, and DFAS should be promptly notified of the remarriage to avoid a large debt for unpaid premiums. Remember getting a military dependent ID card and entering the new spouse in the Defense Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) does not update your pay records at DFAS.

**NOTE:** A member married at retirement, who declines SBP spouse coverage, cannot later enroll in the plan on behalf of that spouse or any future spouse unless during a Congressionally approved open enrollment period (normally penalties and extra charges are assessed during this period).

If a widow remarries before age 55, her SBP payments are suspended (she will no longer receive SBP). When the remarriage ends, she can reclaim SBP payments. She will not lose TRICARE ever unless she marries someone that is not covered by same. I attached the hand out that explains the current program policies. Keep in mind Congress seems to change the laws that affect SBP quite often. So stay on top of the changes as they occur!

## **SURVIVOR BENEFIT PROGRAM FOR 70 YEAR OLDS**

Effective October 1, 2008, SBP participants who reach 70 years of age and have made 360 payments (30 years), will no longer have to pay premiums for continued SBP coverage and will be placed in "Paid-up SBP" status.

Paid-up SBP provisions were mandated by the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 1999. The law also established a paid-up status, also beginning on October 1, 2008, for participants in the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan once they reach 70 years of age.

No action is required of SBP participants to be placed in Paid-up SBP status. Once the eligibility criteria has been met, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service will automatically stop deducting premiums from qualifying military retired pay accounts.

The law establishing Paid-up SBP does not allow for refunds of premiums paid before October 1, 2008, even though a retiree may have reached age 70 and made 360 or more premium payments.

DFAS is currently developing changes to the military retiree pay systems that will monitor the number of SBP premiums paid and the age of the participant. The system updates are targeted for a May 2008 completion date. At that time, SBP participants who will be eligible for Paid-up SBP status on October 1, 2008, or will meet eligibility within a short time of the implementation date, will be notified by mail of their impending paid-up status.

Those military retirees who become eligible for Paid-up SBP status after the initial group will be notified of their SBP status on their December 2008 annual Retiree Account Statements that will note the number of premiums paid to date. Each RAS issued after December 2008, whether annually or as a result of a pay change, will include the Paid-up SBP premium "counter," based on DFAS records, to help retirees monitor their eligibility status.

More information on Paid-up SBP, including frequently asked questions and news updates, should be available at the DFAS Web site at [www.dfas.mil/retiredpay.html](http://www.dfas.mil/retiredpay.html) within the next several months. (Courtesy of the Defense finance and Accounting Service)

## **Burial Information for Retirees**

**(DD Forms 214 or NGB Form 22 required, marriage license)**

Military retirees, their spouses and minor children may be buried in National Cemeteries. There is no charge for opening or closing of graves. The same covers the Arkansas State Veteran's Cemetery. Arrangements and expenses such as obtaining the services of a funeral director, selecting a funeral home, preparation of the remains, casketing, and transportation to the national cemetery or veteran's cemetery are the responsibility of the survivors or the deceased's estate. Military honors will be made through the funeral director who will contact the proper military service.

The government will mark all graves with regulation headstones and markers of the types authorized at no charge to the survivor's or estate.

### ***Arkansas State Veteran's Cemetery***

Any Arkansas resident who is honorably discharged with the required amount of active duty service, (peacetime or war-time). Any Arkansas National Guardsmen or Reservist:

Eligible for retirement at age 60; or

Members called to active duty for 2 years or more, (does not have to be consecutive) or completed the full period for which called up.

Members who die under honorable conditions while hospitalized or undergoing treatment, at the expense of the United States, for injury or disease contracted or incurred while performing active duty for training.

Members who die under honorable conditions while performing full-time AGR service.

Member who receive a Hardship Discharge while on active duty.

Member discharged due to a service-connected disability while on active duty.

### **THE VETERAN'S DEPENDENTS**

The veteran's spouse

Unmarried child (under the age of 21); or

A verifiable life-lone dependent of the veteran

Cost for spouse or dependent \$150

### **VETERAN MUST MEET ONE OF THE FOLLOWING ARKANSAS RESIDENT REQUIREMENTS**

- Legal resident of Arkansas at time of death;
- Born in the State of Arkansas; or

Legal resident of Arkansas when he or she entered the Armed Forces of the United States, (home of record).

### **SHOPPING FOR A RETIREE**

If you are a retiree that is unable to shop on base at the commissary or base exchange do to being handicap and need some assistance you can do the following:

Have a letter from your doctor stating that you need assistance do to health reasons and name the person that will assist you.

Have the ID card holder and person who will assist come to the Retiree Activities Office, Building 1255, Suite 121 and the office will assist in issuing a shopping card for the person to shop the base exchange and commissary. (this is not a gate pass)

This card is good for one year and must be renewed along with a new letter from the doctor.

The driver must have a valid driver's license, current automobile insurance, vehicle registration on vehicle entering the base. The driver will have to stop at the Visitors Center Main Gate to be issue a day pass unless other arrangements have been made.

The person who will be shopping for the retiree will also have to have the retirees ID card in order to shop for that member.

Any questions please feel free to contact the Retiree Activities Office.

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Any questions please feel free to contact the Retiree Activities Office.

## Are you getting ready to retire? Gray Area Retirees

In order to actual start receiving retired pay, it is necessary that an application for retired pay be submitted to the applicable center. Normally an application package is sent to all eligible reservists approximately four to six months prior to their 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. If however, this package is not received, it is incumbent upon the reservist to request the forms and submit them as soon as possible prior to reaching age 60. The following is a list that provides information for each service.

**Army:** Upon reaching age 59, retirement-eligible members complete DD Form 108, Application for Retired Pay Benefits.

**Navy:** A retired packet is forwarded 10 months in advance.

## Update Your Retired Pay File Information

**If in receipt of or entitled to retired pay, mail to:**

Defense Finance and Accounting Service  
U.S. Military Retired Pay  
PO Box 7130  
London, KY 40742-7130  
Phone: 1-800-321-1080 or  
(216) 522-5955; FAX: 1-800-469-6559  
(put SSN on all pages)

**receipt of or entitled to SBP/RSFPP annuity, mail to:**

Defense Finance and Accounting Service  
U.S. Military Annuitant Pay  
PO Box 7131  
London, KY 40742-7131  
Phone: 1-800-321-1080 or  
(216) 522-5955; FAX: 1-800-982-8459  
(put SSN on all pages)

**If a retired reservist not yet 60, mail to:**

U.S. Army Human Resources Command –  
St. Louis  
ATTN: AHRC-PAP-A  
1 Reserve Way  
St. Louis, MO 63132-5200  
Phone: 1-800-318-5298 or  
(314) 592-0554; FAX: (314) 592-0582  
(ATTN: TLM9V49) (put SSN on all pages)

If in

## VA To Offer Health Care to Previously Ineligible Veterans

**WASHINGTON** – The VA plans to re-open enrollment in its health care system by July 2009 to about 265,000 veterans whose incomes exceed current limits. As we went to press, the VA was waiting for completion of regulatory review, but did not expect any delays. Congress provided funds in VA's fiscal year 2009 budget to support the new enrollment.

The change affects veterans whose incomes exceed the current VA means test and geographic means test income thresholds by 10 percent or less. To determine if you might be eligible, you can use the enrollment calculator posted by the VA at <http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility/apps/enrollmentcalculator>.

In 1996, Congress established a priority-based enrollment system for VA and a uniform package of medical benefits for all enrollees. The legislation opened enrollment in VA's health care system to all eligible veterans and required that each year the Secretary of Veterans Affairs assess veterans' demand for services and determine if the necessary resources are available to provide timely, quality care to all enrollees.

VA health care enrollment for the lowest priority group (Group 8) — veterans who are not being compensated for a military-related disability and who have incomes above a set threshold — was suspended on Jan. 18, 2003, although veterans in that priority group who were already enrolled for care were permitted to remain enrolled.

VA originally suspended enrollment for Priority 8 veterans because it was unable to provide all enrolled veterans with timely access to its health care due to a tremendous growth in the number of veterans then seeking enrollment. VA now plans to reopen enrollment for a portion of these veterans without compromising the Department's ability to provide high quality health care services to all enrolled veterans who are eligible for care.

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

*SEE US AT:*

[WWW.LITTLE ROCK.AF.MIL](http://WWW.LITTLE ROCK.AF.MIL)

CLICK RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE