

POINTS OF INTEREST:

Both sponsor and dependent ID cards have always had social security numbers listed.. Since June 2011, the newly issued cards have only the last four digits of the original SSN. It is now possible for the sponsor to have these new cards issued on a walk-in basis. Dependents are required to wait until 30 days prior to their current card's expiration date before it can be reissued.

RAO PLANS FOR THE NEAR FUTURE:

RAO will initiate an official social network site that will directly connect us all to the ever-so-popular Facebook.

We look forward to serving our retiree community and hope to hear from you some time in the near future via email, or feel free to drop by just to say "Hello" and get acquainted.

The 86th Airlift Wing commander, Brig. Gen. Hyde, has determined that "Retiree Appreciation Day" will be on Friday, October 12, so mark your calendar now

Ramstein Retiree Activities Office

We are located in Bldg. 2106 across the street from the Service Credit Union.

Enter the north entrance at the ID card and passport section, and you will find us on the third floor in room 310A.

Our RAO is open: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m.

You can call us at commercial number: 06371- 47- 5486 or DSN: 480 - 5486, or you may leave us a message and we will get back with you as soon as possible. Leave your name and a good contact number for us to call. You can also e-mail us at:

86aw.rao@ramstein.af.mil

We can be found on the 86th Airlift Wing official website: **<http://www.ramstein.af.mil>**

We are on the home page under **RAMSTEIN** and look for **Retiree Activities Office**

86th Airlift Wing

Attn: Retiree Activities Office

Unit 3300 Box 330

APO, AE 09094

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RAMSTEIN RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE

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RAO, How We Started:

A review of the Air Force Instruction and the persistence of a few have reignited the establishment of an open office for the military retired community. Right after Veteran's Day 2011, myself, a retired Air Force senior master sergeant and a retired Army staff sergeant decided to re-open the office from Tuesday to Thursday. We would only stand up the office if there was 100 percent support from the 86th Airlift Wing Commander and his staff, which we received with more continued support.

The RAO has marketed itself as much as possible to the local community through an initial outreach using AFN FM "The Eagle" and a series of articles in the Kaiserslautern American. An initiative by Staff Sgt. Bob Belt, with a two-day information table set-up at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center dining facility in January and at the Kaiserslautern Military Community center food court during the month of February, demonstrated the RAO in action. The RAO is reaching out to retirees for several reasons. Our goal is to reach 85% of our retired community via e-mail so that we can forward all kinds of news, including our newsletter directly to retirees.

Where We Are Now:

We have disseminated "Retiree Surveys" throughout the greater KMC, but have not yet reached all retirees - especially those with Army Postal Office Boxes. We had a return of about 70 percent of surveys mailed out, or approximately 200 surveys. We received another 80 surveys as a result of a published survey in the KA from Jan. 12.

Where We Are Headed:

As a result of the feedback from numerous surveys, we recognize the need to be OPEN and to continue to SERVE. And as recommended by the wing commander, we have included those still in uniform as they get ready to retire, as part of our community. They are receiving a fact sheet about the RAO with a recommendation to stop in and talk with us. Some have asked me, "Why do you want me to fill out a survey form?" There is no easy answer, but in order to preclude any "privacy act" cases, it is just in our best interest to have source documents on file. Another major reason is that there is not one single office in the KMC that has an accurate count on the number of real residential retirees and the number of working (logistics supported) retirees making their homes here, too. We have only realized a return rate of about 40 percent.

If you do not provide us with a form, this is the last time you will hear from us. In the future we will contact ONLY retirees with a survey form on file in our office.

You Asked About Your Issues and Problems:

There are many individual issues that are similar in nature. We recognize the attention that is needed to address these special problems. Since we stood up, the RAO has resolved numerous problems and we intend to address your issues as soon as possible. We ask for your patience and understanding. We are here to serve you and we intend to hear out your situation, do our research and provide you the best possible guidance for help in resolving your issues.

