

KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE

377th Air Base Wing



"Your link to retiree benefits information and assistance."

Hello from the			
Director			

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"This Kirtland AFB Retiree Activities Office Newsletter is an authorized publication for retired military personnel and their spouses. The contents of this newsletter are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force."

Dear Fellow Retirees,

It seems that things are finally beginning to return to normal. Travel has resumed and that is why this newsletter is slightly delayed. Several of us in the RAO took our "rebooked" trips that were previously deferred due to COVID.

I want to express our thanks to those of you who participated in our Retiree Appreciation Week events. We also enjoyed seeing many of you at Hardin Field for the Ziafest.

There are a lot of interesting activities this month and next as the Air Force celebrates its 75th anniversary on 18 September. These include a 24-hour POW walk (flag carry), as well as the Air Force Birthday Ball. After that is Halloween, celebrated by families at Bootastic. Pick up the Blast magazine for details.

Several retirees have asked about whether our military ID cards are valid as real ID for Transportation Security Agency (TSA) purposes. There were recently some glitches with TSA software not reading current ID cards. The situation appears to be fixed in most locations and we have been told that the new id cards should also be compatible with the TSA system. Please let us know if you have any problems.

Some of you have asked about the new format ID card. Everyone will need to have it within the next 4 years (by 2026), and we are working with military personnel to devise a locally recommended schedule. However, if you want the new card now, you can make an appointment on-line at https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/, walk-in Monday - Friday 0730-1100 or use the kiosk in the lobby of the Consolidated Support Building. If your spouse has an ID card expiring in the near future, you might want to get your new one at the same time.

We understand that there has been a lot of frustration with the pharmacy process. Some recent improvements have been made, such as an additional phone line, 505-846-3200 and adding an option at the sign-in kiosk for those with limited mobility so they can remain seated until their prescription is ready. There is now a system for those of you with the ability to receive text messages to know when your prescription is actually ready. (Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks.) Staffing continues to be an issue over which there is little local control. We spoke with the Medical Group Commander this month to discuss Pharmacy concerns and she and her team are committed to improving the experience wherever they can. Please remain patient!

Please continue to let us know your concerns. We try to stay on top of relevant issues and share information as soon as we become aware of it. If you have questions, give us a call at (505) 846-1536 or stop by the office. We'd love to see you!

Warmest Regards, Sally

Covid Reminder

Please remember to wear your mask at <u>ALL</u> KAFB medical facilities. This includes the Clinic, the Pharmacy, the <u>BX Pharmacy</u> and the Veterinary Clinic.

Tricare for Life Seminars. On the third Wednesday of each month (unless otherwise noted), Tricare is hosting a Tricare for Life Seminar from 1:30 to 3:00 pm. The dates are: 14 September, 12 October, 16 November and 21 December. Please call the HBA Desk (505) 853-1396 or (505) 853-0585 to reserve a seat. Some of the topics discussed will be: Tricare for Life Eligibility, Medicare Part B enrollment requirements, how Tricare and Medicare payments work, Tricare for Life Overseas, Retiree Dental and Vision Programs, Skilled Nursing Facilities and Long-Term Care. The class will be conducted at the 377 th Medical Group (Kirtland Clinic). Check-in at the patient records desk on the second floor by 1:20 pm.	Tricare for Life Seminar
Military and Veterans' Day at the State Fair On 13 September, the New Mexico Department of Veterans Services and active military agencies will honor active duty service members and veterans by hosting information booths at the State Fair, 300 San Pedro NE. Active military agencies, veterans' groups, and community service organizations will staff information tables. All veterans, active duty service members and their families are invited to participate. The point of contact is Joseph Dorn, (505) 383-2414, josephm.dorn@state.nm.us.	Military and Veterans' Day at the State Fair
RAFB Pharmacy Information Please note that the BX Pharmacy is presently only staffed at 60% of their authorized positions and yet they still fill approximately 700 prescriptions a day. Unfortunately, the "new and improved" DOD Mandated transition to the Genesis Information System has increased the time per transaction by 30-60 seconds. This amounts to an additional 5 hours per day to fill those 700 prescriptions! It will take some time for staff to get used to the new system and improve their efficiency. We can all help by abiding by the following procedures: Once a physician sends an electronic script to the Pharmacy, the customer must call the Pharmacy at (505) 846-5770 to activate it before it can be filled. New scripts, either written or electronic, can be filled the same day, but it may take up to 4 hours. Follow the procedures on the sign at the entrance to the pharmacy. NOTE: THERE IS NO SAME DAY PICKUP AVAILABLE FOR REFILLS!!! Once you call the pharmacy to order the refill, it will take approximately 4 days for it to be ready, so PLEASE plan ahead. Generally, refills may be ordered 10-14 days in advance. An exception is for a controlled substance — this can only be ordered 3 days in advance. Once the pharmacy fills the order, it will remain available for pick-up for 14 days before it will be returned to stock. When ordering your refill, you may request it to be available at the BX Pharmacy window or at the script center (Note: refrigerated scripts will be available at the BX Pharmacy window only). Unfortunately, there have been some problems with the script center, so sometimes you will still need to go to the pharmacy window. Hopefully, the system will be perfected soon.	KAFB Pharmacy Info
DEERS Information It is important to keep your information in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) up to date. To check your information, login to milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect or call 1 (800) 538-9552.	DEERS
Veterinary Clinic There is a new Veterinarian at the Base Clinic. If your pet is currently registered on base, after 15 September 2022, vaccine appointments will be available. Medication refills may be requested 72 hours in advance of pick-up.	Base Veterinary Clinic
KAFB Car Wash The Car Wash is open near the East Side BX Shoppette. It takes credit cards only (Mastercard, Visa and Discover).	Car Wash

Do you have household items you would like to donate?

<u>Airman's Attic</u>. Think about donating your serviceable household items to the Airman's Attic. These items are made available free of charge to E1-E5. The hours are Monday from 1000 - 1200 and Wednesday, 1700-1900. Call (505) 846-0460 for more information.

Donate Household Items

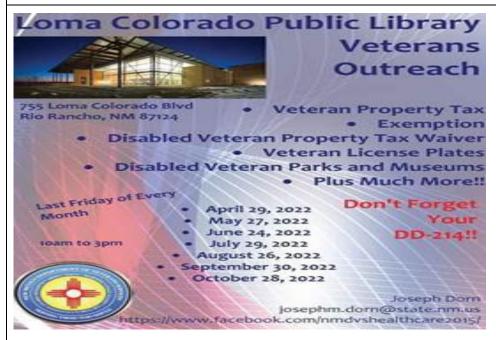
<u>KAFB Thrift Shop.</u> Another place taking donations of serviceable items is the KAFB Thrift Shop. It is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 1000-1400, and the first Saturday of the month. Call (505) 508-1114 for more information.

<u>Unclaimed Money</u>. If a business, government office or other source owes you money that you don't collect, it's considered unclaimed. Unclaimed property can include many things including cash, checks, money orders, security deposits or the contents of safe deposit boxes. The federal government doesn't have a central website for finding unclaimed money. But you don't need to hire a company to find unclaimed money for you. You can find it on your own for free, using official databases.

Unclaimed
Money
from the
Government

If you think some entity owes you money or just to search around, go to www.usa.gov/unclaimed-money.

Source: www.usa.gov



Loma
Colorado
Public
Library
Veterans'
Outreach

Get help with pressing Veterans' topics. Last Friday of every month, from 10am to 3pm at the address above. Don't forget your DD Form 214 to prove your military service.

American Forces Travel

American Forces Travel is a Department of Defense online leisure travel website managed by Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) and supported by Priceline. It can be found at <u>AmericanForcesTravel.com</u> or through the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) Marketplace at www.shopmyexchange.com/marketplace. There are discounts available for hotels, flights, rental cars, cruises, packages and event tickets.

Travel Discounts

Veterans eligible for discounts include all Veterans of the United States Armed Forces with an honorable or general under honorable conditions discharge. A full list of eligibility is available on the American Forces Travel home page.

Reservations made through AmericanForcesTravel.com include no booking fees, 24/7 customer service, best price guarantee, and a portion of each transaction going to support MWR programs.

Space-A Travel Is Back

The Air Mobility Command (AMC) announced that as of 22 April 2022, all restrictions on Space Available (Space-A) Travel have been lifted.

CONUS passengers are required to follow current federal COVID-19 travel procedures, and those traveling OCONUS need to follow any additional testing requirements and restrictions for travel to their specific destination. The list of overseas requirements is available through the Department of Defense's Electronic Foreign Clearance Guide.

Space-A Travel

For more information, call (505) 846-7000 for KAFB Space A or visit the AMC Space-A website at https://www.amc.af.mil/AMC-Travel-Site/AMC-Space-Available-Travel-Page/

Veterans Crisis Line

The Veterans Crisis Line has a new number—Dial 988 then Press 1—This gives Veterans in crisis a shorter, easier-to-remember way to get support as quickly as possible. (Note: As of 16 July 2022, 988 is available for anyone experiencing a mental health crisis, not just Veterans. However, for Veterans, it's easy just to Dial 988, then Press 1).

You don't need to be an expert to make a difference in the life of a Veteran. Anyone can spread the word. Start by making sure all the Veterans in your life know about this new number.

Talk to the Veterans in your life

Reach out to those you served with to let them know about the new Veterans Crisis Line number and ask them to save 988 in their phone. Remind them that, after dialing, Veterans will need to Press 1 to reach the Veterans Crisis Line.

Tell your family members, too. You never know when a crisis will happen. Make sure you and the people you care about are prepared.

Veterans' Corner

Post the new number on social media

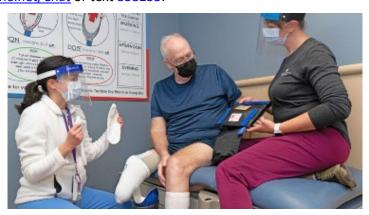
If you stay connected with fellow Veterans through social media, consider sharing the new number through Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Share information about the Veterans Crisis Line

You're never alone. Veterans Crisis Line responders answer day and night. They listen to you and make sure you're safe. If you would rather text (838255) or chat (VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat), those options are also available.

You can find digital materials, like downloadable fact sheets and graphics with information about the Veterans Crisis Line, on <u>VeteransCrisisLine.net</u> to help spread the new number far and wide.

The Veterans Crisis Line number is new, but the support is the same. And you don't have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to connect. To call, <u>Dial 988 then Press 1</u>. Chat online at <u>VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat</u> or text 838255.



National Parks

There are over 21,000 combined miles of trails for you to explore in the National Park Service. Whether you're looking for rugged slopes or a flat, smooth boardwalk, our guide will help you find a national park trail for you. And remember, US Military Veterans and Gold Star families have **FREE** lifetime access to more than 2,000 federal recreation areas, including national parks, wildlife refuges, and forests. Free annual passes are also available for active-duty military personnel. This pass can be obtained at any federal recreation sites (www.nps.gov). Local sites include: US Forest Service, 333 Broadway Blvd SE (505) 842-3292. Cibola National Forest and Grasslands Office, 2113 Osuna Rd NE (505) 346-2650, Bureau of Land Mgt Office, 100 Sun Av SE, Ste 330, (505) 761-8700. Acceptable eligibility documents are: DoD ID card, Veterans Health ID Card, Veteran ID Card, Veteran designation on state-issued driver's license or ID card, or a Gold Star voucher.

National Park News

Spotlight on the Rocky Mountain National Park

Rocky Mountain National Park is located a little North West of Denver, Colorado. The Wild Basin trailhead has several trail options to see beautiful views of Rocky Mountain's colorful aspens, creeks, and waterfalls. For example, at the Green Mountain Trailhead (8,794 elevation) where Big Meadows is the destination, the hike is 1.8 miles (one way), with a 606 ft elevation gain. You can go to List of Hiking Trails - Rocky Mountain National Park (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov) to pick the trails that you want to explore in this beautiful National Park.

Honor Flights

Honor Flights

After a two-year hiatus, Honor Flights are starting up again. Several years ago, this program began scheduling occasional weekend trips to the WWII Memorial in Washington D.C. for veterans from WWII. The program has now expanded to include veterans from the Korean War and the Vietnam War. For more information visit their website at honorflightnm.org or call 1 (844) 697-1590.

From the Exchange (AAFES)





Since 1895, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service has gone where Soldiers, Airmen and their families go to improve the quality of their lives by providing valued, tax-free goods and services at exclusive military pricing.

The Exchange is the 53rd-largest retailer in the United States. Its earnings provided \$2.1 billion in dividends to support military morale, welfare and recreation programs over the last 10 years. The Exchange is a non-appropriated fund entity of the Department of Defense and is directed by a Board of Directors.

Kirtland Exchange.

The Exchange Manager advises that, although logistics for retailers outside the supply chain has improved and merchandise is flowing, the Exchange still has some problem areas, so please be patient. As far as the old McDonalds is concerned, a contract has been sent to a company to replace it with a new restaurant. The Exchange personnel are just waiting for them to review and sign the contract. Further, the car wash is open and the Exchange has moved to branded fuel, Valero, at Express locations. With branded fuel, they now offer a top tier fuel and this also helps with the delivery of fuel. The pricing structure does not change with this, they still survey the immediate area. Finally, the Dry Cleaners relocated to the Exchange mall, next to the Optical shop.

News From AAFES

Local Area Military Discounts The Retiree Activities Office is collecting information about local businesses that offer military discounts. For example, Freddy's Frozen Custard and Steakburgers locations have a 10% military discount with valid military ID. If you find any others, please give us a call at (505) 846-1536 or email 377ABW.CVR.RetireeActivities@us.af.mil .	Military Discounts
Login.gov Login.gov is a secure sign in service used by the public to sign in to participating government agencies. Participating agencies will ask you to create a Login.gov account to securely access your information on their website or application.	
You can use the same username and password to access any agency that partners with <u>Login.gov</u> . This streamlines your process and eliminates the need to remember multiple usernames and passwords.	
<u>Login.gov</u> is used to secure your account when you apply for	
 Federal jobs (USAJOBS - Office of Personnel Management) TSA PreCheck and Global Entry (Trusted Traveler Programs - Department of Homeland Security) Small business loans and disaster assistance (Small Business Administration) 	Login.gov
 Office of Personnel Management – For access to civil service retiree services online. All you need is to provide two pieces of information to securely sign in and protect your information. 	
 Password Authentication method (such as a one-time code sent to your phone or an authentication app) 	
Using both a password and another method makes it difficult for others to access your information. Look for more agencies to participate in Login.gov sign-in procedures in the future. Wouldn't it be nice to have fewer passwords to manage?	
Safety and Security Please remember that Marijuana is not allowed on a DOD Installation. This includes medically prescribed Marijuana.	Security
Kirtland AFB Gate Operations Carlisle Gate – weekdays 0530 – 0900 in/outbound, 1530 – 1730 outbound only Eubank Gate – open 24/7 Gibson Gate – open 0530 – 1930 daily Maxwell Gate – open 24/7 Truman Gate – open 24/7 with Visitor Control Center Wyoming Gate – weekdays 0530 - 0900 in/outbound, 1530 – 1730 outbound only	KAFB Gate Access
ID Cards ID Cards can be renewed up to 30 days in advance of their expiration date. Appointments can be scheduled at online at: https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco . If you are unable to schedule online, call (505) 846-2017. Please remember to bring two valid forms of photo ID.	ID Cards
NOTE: If you still have an ID card with your SSN, you need to get a new card. Security Forces are confiscating those cards at base entry gates IAW DOD policy.	

Legal Office

Appointments for POA/Notary services are no longer required. Retiree walk-ins are available Tuesday and Thursday from 1400-1600 for these services. To schedule an appointment for other legal services, email <u>Kirtland.legal.assistance@us.af.mil</u>.

Legal Office

KAFB Thunderbird Dining Facility

Retirees and their dependents with a valid ID card are eligible to eat in the Dining Facility on Saturdays, Sundays and Federal Holidays from 0900-1300. Note: Credit cards are now accepted for payment.

Thunderbird Dining Facility

Military History

During World War II, women were not allowed to participate in battle. However, they did serve in so-called "noncombat" missions. These missions often proved to be extremely dangerous.

The Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS/WASP)

In September 1942, the Army Air Force (AAF) created the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS) and appointed Nancy H. Love its commander. Love recruited highly skilled and experienced female pilots who were sent on noncombat missions ferrying planes between factories and AAF installations. While WAFS was being organized, the Army Air Force appointed Jacqueline Cochran as Director of Women's Flying Training. Cochran's school, which eventually moved to Avenger Field in Sweetwater, TX, trained 232 women before it ceased operations. Eventually, over 1,000 women completed flight training. As the ranks of women pilots serving the AAF swelled, the value of their contribution began to be recognized, and the Air Force took steps to militarize them. As a first step the Air Force renamed their unit from WAFS to Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP).









Pilots like Betty Bachman, Ann Criswell, and Betty Jo Streff were considered Civil Service employees of the AAF WAFS/WASP.



Barbara Erickson became the first WASP to receive the Air Medal for Meritorious Achievement as a Pilot. Erickson received her medal for completing four 2,000 mile deliveries of three different types of aircraft in slightly more than 5 days of actual flying.

Although not allowed to fly combat missions, WAFS/WASP pilots served grueling, often dangerous, tours of duty. Ferrying and towing were risky activities, and some WAFS/WASP pilots suffered injuries and were killed in the course of duty. In 1977, after much lobbying of Congress, the WASP finally achieved military active duty status for their service.

Reprinted from A People at War (archives.gov)

Commissary and BX Information

While not all veterans are eligible for in-person privileges on DoD and Coast Guard installations, all honorably discharged veterans are eligible for online military exchange shopping through the Veterans Online Shopping Benefit. To access your online shopping benefit, veterans not eligible for in-person privileges should follow the instructions to establish an account at any of the following military exchange websites, or the VA's Veterans Canteen Service:

Veteran
Commissary
and
BX
Access

• Army and Air Force Exchange System: https://www.shopmyexchange.com

• Coast Guard Exchange: https://shopCGX.com

Marine Corps Exchange: http://www.mymcx.com
Navy Exchange: https://www.mynavyexchange.com

• Veterans Canteen Service: https://shopvcs.va.gov

Military Services Newsletters

Air Force *Afterburner*: <u>www.retirees.af.mil/afterburner</u>
Army *Echoes*: <u>http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement</u>

Coast Guard *Evening Colors:* http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg1/psc/ras
DFAS Retiree Newsletter: https://www.dfas.mil/retireenews

Marine Corps Semper Fidelis: www.usmc-mccs.org

Navy Shift Colors: www.shiftcolors.navy.mil

Important Newsletters

Minimum base services will be	available on these dates in 2022	
Thursday, 15 September 2022	Training Day	
Friday, 7 October 2022	Family Day	
Monday, 10 October 2022	Indigenous Peoples Day	2022
Thursday, 20 October 2022	Training Day	Wing Holidays
Friday, 11 November 2022	Veterans Day	And
Thursday, 17 November 2022	Training Day	Training Days
Thursday, 24 November 2022	Thanksgiving Day	3 ,
Friday, 25 November 2022	Family Day	
Thursday, 15 December 2022	Training Day	
Friday, 23 December 2022	Family Day	
Monday, 26 December 2022	Christmas (Observed)	
Friday, 30 December 2022	Family Day	

Useful Phone Numbers

Oseiui Filolie Nullibe	13
Airman and Family Readiness	(505) 846-0751
Arts and Crafts	(505) 853-3003
Base Exchange	(505) 232-8771
Base Exchange - Pharmacy	(505) 846-7902
Base Exchange - Pharmacy	(505) 846-3200
Bowling Alley	(505) 846-1156
Casualty Assistance	(505) 846-5508
Chapel	(505) 853-5000
BENEFEDS (Vision / Dental Insurance)	1 (877) 888-3337
Commissary	(505) 846-4902
DEERS	1 (800) 538-9552
DFAS (Retirees/Annuitants)	1 (800) 321-1080
East Side Fitness Center	(505) 846-1102
Express Scripts	1 (800) 282-2881
Family Camp	(505) 846-0337
Golf Course	(505) 846-1169
Golf Course Snack Bar	(505) 846-7835
ID Cards	(505) 846-2017
Information, Tickets & Travel	(505) 846-2924
Legal Office	(505) 846-4217
Medicare	1 (800) 432-2080
Mountain View Club	(505) 846-5165
My Pay (DFAS)	1 (888) 332-7411
National Personnel Records Center	1 (314) 801-0800
NM Department of Veterans Affairs	(505) 346-4810
Outdoor Recreation	(505) 846-1499
Patient Advocacy (377 Med Group)	(505) 249-2675
Retiree Activities Office	(505) 846-1536
Social Security	1 (800) 772-1213
Thrift Shop	(505) 508-1114
Tricare for Life	1 (866) 773-0404
Tricare West	1 (844) 866-9378
Truman Gate Visitor's Center (24 Hours)	(505) 846-2676
VA Benefits Advisor	(505) 853-1707
VA Hospital Albuquerque	(505) 265-1711
Veterinary Office	(505) 846-4276
Veterans Group Life Insurance	1 (800) 419-1473
West Side Fitness Center	(505) 846-1102

Useful Websites

OSEIGI WEDSILES		
Base Exchange	shopmyexchange.com	
BENEFEDS (Vision / Dental Insurance)	benefeds.com	
DEERS	milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect	
Dept of Veterans Affairs	va.gov	
DFAS (Retirees/Annuitants)	dfas.mil/retiredmilitary	
Express Scripts	militaryrx.express-scripts.com/	
ID Card Renewal Appointment	Email: 377FSS.FSPS.Workflow@us.af.mil	
Information, Tickets & Travel	kirtlandforcesupport.com/itt-office	
Medicare	medicare.gov	
My Pay Login	mypay.dfas.mil	
National Personnel Records Center	archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records	
Social Security	ssa.gov	
Tricare for Life	tricare.mil/tfl	
Tricare West	tricare-west.com	
Veterans Group Life Insurance	benefits.va.gov/insurance/vgli.asp	

Retiree Appreciation Week 2022











YOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Junior Achievement New Mexico (JA NM)

Junior Achievement NM needs virtual volunteers. It is a non-profit organization providing free financial literacy, work-readiness and entrepreneurship programs for K-12 students across NM.

The program matches a classroom educator with a JA volunteer. For more information, contact Lindsay Humphries at lindsay@newmexicoja.org or call (505) 342-6352, extension 519.

BX Pharmacy Volunteer Opportunity

The BX Pharmacy is looking for dedicated volunteers. The Red Cross office is in charge of accepting applicants. Call their office at (480) 313-1296 for information.

Retiree Activities Office

To help us with our mission of assisting retirees and keeping them informed about their benefits, we need volunteers to work in our office.

Current office hours are Tuesday through Friday from 1200 to 1500. However, we could expand our days/hours with additional volunteers. Interested retirees and/or their spouses can contact the RAO at (505) 846-1536.

If you would like to receive this newsletter or other information from the Retiree Activities Office electronically, please call us with your e-mail address at (505) 846-1536 or e-mail us at 377ABW.CVR.RetireeActivities@us.af.mil

Visit Our New KAFB Retiree Activities Office Website

https://www.kirtland.af.mil/About-Us/Retiree-Activities-Office