

KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE

377th Air Base Wing



"Your link to retiree benefits information and assistance."

Volume IV, Issue I Newsletter Date: February 2022 "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, Hello from the Director We trust you are remaining well and we look forward to serving you in 2022. Last year we had 999 requests for assistance and our volunteers gave 2,457 hours of service. Collectively Volunteer we have over 200 years of military experience and two decades of civil service experience Director amongst our team. Sally Uebelacker Our team knows communication is Job #1. They have gathered a lot of useful information Staff Volunteers for you and presented it in this newsletter. If there are other topics you are interested in, Marykay Chapman please call our office and let us know. We also thought it would be helpful to let you know Trudy Ann DeGraff that you can receive our newsletter and weekly updates by email or that you can find the David Dunlap quarterly newsletter at the following locations: KAFB Post Office, BX (near the Pharmacy), Doris Gilligan Commissary (on carousel near the entrance), East Gym, Bowling Alley, 150th Special Jim Hunter Operations Wing (150th SOW), New Mexico Air National Guard, Base Golf Course, CORE Yoko Leftault (outdoor recreation), Airman and Family Readiness, Base Thrift Shop, Albuquerque Robert Liddy Veterans Memorial, and our office in building 20245, Rm 146. Carol Maddux We are busy planning this year's appreciation events. Most likely you will see several **Retiree Activities Office** focused seminar offerings throughout the year. We are still being mindful of hosting large Suite 146 group activities in the interest of keeping us all healthy. 1451 4th St SE I am pleased to announce the addition of two new volunteers, both with Air Force active Kirtland AFB, NM duty and Civil Service experience. They are Carol Maddux and Robert (Bob) Liddy. They, too, 87117 are enthusiastic about serving our retiree community. **Open Tues-Fri** 1200-1500 Warmest Regards, 505-846-1536 Sally **Free Covid Test Kits** Free Each U. S. household can order four free COVID-19 at-home tests shipped directly to their Covid-19 residential address. To order the tests, please only use the official, secure government At-Home website: https://COVIDtests.gov, the USPS website: https://special.usps.com/testkits, or **Test Kits** call 1-800-232-0233. **BEWARE:** There is already a phone scam going around – if anyone calls asking for information so they can send you free test kits - DO NOT GIVE THEM ANY PERSONAL INFORMATION. HANG UP! It is a SCAM!!! Medicare, Tricare and At-Home Covid Test Kits Be aware that Medicare and Tricare will **NOT** cover the cost of at-home Covid Test Kits at this time. We're sure you've heard that the federal government has made it mandatory for Medicare, PRIVATE medical insurance companies to cover the cost of up to 8 at-home test kits per Tricare person, per month. However, Medicare and Tricare are **NOT** private insurances, therefore, And they currently will **NOT** cover the cost of the at-home test kits. There is a plan for Medicare **Covid Home** to start covering the kits later this spring, but a firm date has not been set yet. Make sure to **Test Kits** order the 4 free Covid test kits per household that the government is currently offering so that you at least have them. Note: Tricare is still not slated to cover the cost of these tests.

Covid Testing in Albuquerque	
There are many places in the Albuquerque Metro area offering free Covid-19 Testing by appointment . These include CVS, Walgreens, Presbyterian Health Centers, NextCare clinics. There is a current list available at the NM Department of Health website https://cvprovider.nmhealth.org/directory.html PCNM (Pathology Consultants of New Mexico, <u>https://pcnm.com</u>) offers drive- through Covid-19 Testing at 1635 University NE, Albuquerque, NM, <u>no appointment</u>	COVID Testing
necessary . Once you arrive, park in a designated parking spot and a laboratory professional will meet you at your vehicle. They are open Monday – Friday, 0730 – 16:30. Insurance is not necessary, but if you do have it, please bring your insurance card. For more information, text 575-622-5600.	
Protect Your Personal Information	
In addition to scammers calling you about free Covid home test kits just to get your personal information, there are many other scams out there. Your bank, your other financial institutions and the IRS will NOT call you requesting any personal information. If anyone calls you requesting this information – please DO NOT GIVE IT TO THEM – HANG UP!	Beware of Scammers And
Tax season is upon us. Please be careful with your mail, especially if it is delivered to an NBU (Neighborhood Box Unit). That's the large multi-mailbox units for residential areas, apartment complexes, condo complexes, etc. Thieves are targeting these boxes in order to obtain your W-2', tax returns and treasury checks. If your mail is delivered to one of these areas, please be sure to empty your box every day. Also, consider not putting out your outgoing mail until just before the mail carrier arrives.	Thieves
KAFB Tax Center	
The Tax Center will operate from 7 February 2022 through 15 April 2022, assisting enlisted Airmen up to E-7 and officers O-3 and below, active, Guard, Reserve, and retirees with incomes below \$85,000, by appointment Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 0900 - 1400. It is located in the Consolidated Support Building, 1451 4 th Street SE, Room 117. For an appointment, please call (505) 853-1700. <u>Masks are</u> <u>required.</u>	2022 KAFB Tax Center
 What to bring to the Tax Center: Photo identification Social Security cards for everyone on the tax return; ITIN for foreign status Birth dates for you and every dependent A copy of your federal and state returns for the last two years Income statements from any source: W-2, W-2G, 1099s, etc. Direct deposit information: bring checkbook or bank routing and account numbers Total paid for daycare provider and provider's tax identifying number Higher education documents: 1098-T and statements from college/university 	
KAFB MVD Office The contracted Kirtland AFB Motor Vehicle Department office closed until further notice due to personnel retirement.	MVD Office

Kirtland Retiree Activities Office Webpage Information	
The Kirtland AFB Retiree Office Maintains a Webpage that contains information specifically for Military Retirees of all services. The <u>Useful Links</u> section on the Webpage contains many of the most commonly used links for Retirees. An especially helpful link within that section is <u>Retiree Resources from USAF Retiree Services</u> . It leads you to an extensive list of available sites for the Retiree.	
The Retiree Office Webpage also has direct links to the Retiree Newsletter for each of the Services, as well as a link to our local newsletter.	
You may go directly to the Kirtland Retiree Office webpage by going to https://www.kirtland.af.mil/About-Us/Retiree-Activities-Office/ .	KAFB Retiree Activities Office
 Or you can go through the Kirtland AFB website at <u>www.Kirtland.af.mil</u> On the Homepage you find a link to our Retiree page in three different places: On the Homepage under <u>Featured Links</u> click on <u>Retiree Information</u> In the Homepage Menu Bar click on <u>About Us</u> and then choose <u>Retiree Activities Office</u> On the Homepage click on <u>Helping Agencies</u> and then choose <u>Retiree Activities Office</u> 	Website
Kirtland AFB also has a free smartphone App which can be found in both the Apple Store and Google Play by searching for Kirtland. The App will link you to the Retiree Office page under <u>Directory</u> and then <u>Retiree Information</u> .	
Free National Park Passes	
The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 was signed into law in December 2021. Effective immediately, all veterans and Gold Star Families now 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. Until the actual Lifetime Military Pass becomes available later this year, the free Interagency Annual Military Pass can be used. This pass can be obtained at any federal recreation site (www.nps.gov). Albuquerque sites include: U.S. 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 Management Office, 100 Sun Ave NE, Ste. 330 (505) 761-8700 Acceptable forms of eligibility include current DoD ID card, Veterans Health Identification Card, Veteran ID card, Veteran designation on state-issued driver's license or ID card, or a Gold Star voucher. Additional information can be found online at www.nps.gov.	National Park News!!!
Tribute to Women in the Military	
This year's tribute to women in the military is commemorating the Vietnam War Era. It will be held at the American Legion Post 49, 11005 Central Ave NE, Albuquerque, NM on 4 March 2022, from 0800 – 1300, including lunch. The Keynote Speaker is Lt Col Ann Hickman, USAF (Ret). Registration is \$25 and must be received by 21 February 2022. Visit <u>www.tributetowomeninthemilitary.org</u> or call Ms. Ethel Tilley at 505-853- 1718 for more information and to register.	Women In the Military

Global Entry Information

Global Entry is a US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) program that allows expedited clearance for pre-approved, low-risk travelers through customs ports of entry. It's the best program for frequent overseas travelers. For travel within the US, TSA Precheck (\$85 for 5 years) is the best. When entering overseas customs, Global Entry can save hours bypassing long lines. Clearly marked entry kiosks are set up in major airports and you just zip right through. Along with expedited entry into the US from overseas, the Global Entry program also gives you TSA-Precheck status for abbreviated security checks when departing on your travel. For Global Entry, you apply on-line and submit a non-refundable \$100 fee. Make sure you have key documents like passport and driver's license available. A CBP officer reviews your application and conducts a background check. If your application is approved, you're notified to schedule an interview with CBP personnel at the Albuquerque Sunport. It takes a while to get these interviews so make sure you plan ahead to allow for the interview and the receipt of the Global Entry card. Once you are approved, the Global Entry card is good for 5 years. You have to include the Global Entry numbers for all travelers when booking travel or you may not get TSA Pre-check. When renewing Global Entry, the application process is exactly the same. You can renew up to a year in advance and the 5 years is added on to your current membership period. Allow yourself plenty of time to get your interview scheduled. The Global Entry (and TSA Pre-check) website is https://ttp.cbp.dhs.gov.

Information for Veterans and Caregivers

All service-connected Veterans, Purple Heart recipients, Medal of Honor recipients, former POWs, and individuals approved and designated as primary family caregivers of eligible Veterans under the VA Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) can use commissaries, exchanges, and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) retail facilities, in-person and online.

Veterans must possess a <u>Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC)</u> that displays "PURPLE HEART," "FORMER POW," or "SERVICE CONNECTED" below the photo on the front of the card. If a Veteran is not eligible to obtain a VHIC, the VA Health Eligibility Center Form H623A indicating placement in VA health care priority group 8E, paired with an acceptable credential, like a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or U.S. passport, will be accepted. For information on enrolling in VA health care, visit <u>www.va.gov/healthbenefits/enroll</u>.

Eligible caregivers will receive an eligibility letter from VA's Office of Community Care. If you are a primary family caregiver under the PCAFC and lose your eligibility letter, please call 1-877-733-7927 to request a replacement. Please allow two weeks for processing.

KAFB Base Access Policy

Veterans must possess the above annotated VHIC. Then the Veteran should go to the KAFB Truman gate to have their VHIC card enrolled in the Defense Base Identification System (DBIDS). Once this is done, the authorized Veteran may escort one guest. In order to sponsor a guest, the Veteran needs to go to the Truman gate with their guest to obtain a pass, valid for up to 24 hours. Guests are not allowed to make purchases at the Base Exchange or the Commissary. Although visitor control is open 24 hours, it would be best to obtain the pass between core duty hours 0600 and 1500 hours.

Global Entry Program

VA Corner

The Blast Monthly Magazine

Looking for information about what's going at Kirtland AFB? The 377th Force Support Squadron publishes a monthly magazine, "The Blast", that will give you what you need. For example, if you're a skier, check out the schedule for classes or trips from Outdoor Recreation in "The Blast". Interested in the FREE movie schedule? Your monthly "The Blast" gives you the schedule. Numerous ways exist to access "The Blast". You can access it on <u>www.kirtlandforcesupport.com</u>. Or, pick up a hard copy at the Commissary, BX, Outdoor Recreation (CORE), East Gym, Shoppettes, Clinic, and the Consolidated Support Center. Finally, if you want a copy mailed to you, contact the Kirtland Marketing Department, 505-846-1644 and provide your name and address and they'll mail you a free copy every month.

Prime Time Monthly

There is a free monthly newspaper published called **<u>Prime Time</u>** that is tailored to Albuquerque Metro Area New Mexicans 50+. It contains information about upcoming events around the area, interesting articles on health, food, and employment opportunities for seniors. It is available on the first of every month at local grocery stores, popular restaurants and senior centers.

Local Area Military Discounts

The Retiree Activities Office is collecting information about local businesses that offer military discounts. For instance, the following local restaurants offer a military discount with valid ID card just by asking for it: Jason's Deli, Taco Cabana, Outback Steakhouse, Tucano's Brazilian Grill and Tomasita's New Mexican Restaurant. If you find any others, please give the office a call at 505-846-1536 or email us at <u>377ABW.CVR.RetireeActivities@gmail.com</u>.



History and Heritage







What's

Happening

At

Kirtland AFB

Local Information

Resource

For

New Mexico

Retirees

Some

Military

Discounts

- On 7 January 1941, construction began on the first buildings for an active military airfield on the East Mesa near Albuquerque and the Sandia Girls School, in order to house and provide a training environment for over 2,000 Airmen of the 19th Bombardment Group (Heavy), and its B-17 bombers. The 19 BG was commanded by Col. (later Maj Gen) Eugene L. Eubank, for whom Eubank Blvd is named.
- On 1 January 1993, Kirtland Air Force Base transferred to Air Force Material command, and the 377th Air Base Wing activated to assume host duties for the installation, taking over for the 542d Crew Training (later, 58th Special Operations) Wing.

🎂 Drive Nuclear Lethality 🏶 Champion Airmen & Families 🏶 Forge Strong Partnerships 🏶 🛛 🖓 OPR: 377 ABW

Kirtland AFB Gate Operations	
Carlisle Gate – weekdays 0530 – 0900 in/outbound, 1530 – 1730 outbound only	KAFB
Eubank Gate – open 24/7	Gate
Gibson Gate – open 0530 – 1930 daily	Access
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	
ID Cards	
ID Cards can be renewed up to 30 days in advance of their expiration date.	ID
Appointments can be scheduled at online at: <u>https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/</u> If you	Cards
are unable to schedule online, call 505-846-2017. Please remember to bring two valid	
forms of photo ID.	
Legal Office	
Appointments for POA/Notary services are no longer required. Retiree walk-ins are	Legal
available Tuesday and Thursday from 1400-1600 for these services. To schedule an	Office
appointment for other legal services, email <u>Kirtland.legal.assistance@us.af.mil</u>	
<u>Chapel Services</u> 505-853-5000	
St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Community celebrates mass every Sunday at 0900	
at the Kirtland AFB Chapel. Anyone with base access is welcome. Proper wear of a	Chapel
face mask is <u>required</u> .	Services
The Protestant Community service meets every Sunday at 1100 at Gravity, the	
Airman's Ministry Center (corner of 1st and Frost, across from the post office). Proper	
wear of a face mask is <u>required</u> .	
KAFB Thunderbird Dining Facility	
Retirees and their dependents with a valid ID card are eligible to eat in the Dining	Thunderbird
Facility on Saturdays, Sundays and Federal Holidays from 0900-1300.	Dining Facility
<u>Note:</u> Credit cards are now accepted for payment.	
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	Veteran
exchange shopping through the Veterans Online Shopping Benefit. To access your	Commissary
online shopping benefit, veterans not eligible for in-person privileges should follow	and
the instructions to establish an account at any of the following military exchange	BX
websites, or the VA's Veterans Canteen Service:	Access
Army and Air Force Exchange System: <u>https://www.shopmyexchange.com</u>	
Coast Guard Exchange: <u>https://shopCGX.com</u>	
Marine Corps Exchange: <u>http://www.mymcx.com</u>	
Navy Exchange: <u>https://www.mynavyexchange.com</u>	
 Veterans Canteen Service: <u>https://shopvcs.va.gov</u> 	

Military Services Newsletters

Air Force Afterburner: www.retirees.af.mil/afterburner Army Echoes: http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement 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	
Monday, 3 January 2022	Family Day	
Friday, 14 January 2022	Family Day	
Monday, 17 January 2022	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	
Thursday, 20 January 2022	Training Day	
Thursday, 17 February 2022	Training Day	
Friday, 18 February 2022	Family Day	
Monday, 21 February 2022	President's Day	
Thursday, 17 March 2022	Training Day	
Thursday, 21 April 2022	Training Day	
Thursday, 19 May 2022	Training Day	2022
Friday, 27 May 2022	Family Day	Wing Holidays
Monday, 30 May 2022	Memorial Day	And
Thursday, 16 June 2022	Training Day	Training Days
Friday, 17 June 2022	Family Day	(Tentative)
Monday, 20 June 2022	Juneteenth (Observed)	
Friday, 1 July 2022	Family Day	
Monday, 4 July 2022	Independence Day	
Thursday, July 21 2022	Training Day	
Thursday, 18 August 2022	Training Day	
Friday, 2 September 2022	Family Day	
Monday, 5 September 2022	Labor Day	
Thursday, 15 September 2022	Training Day	
Friday, 7 October 2022	Family Day	
Monday, 10 October 2022	Indigenous Peoples Day	
Thursday, 20 October 2022	Training Day	
Friday, 11 November 2022	Veterans Day	
Thursday, 17 November 2022	Training Day	
Thursday, 24 November 2022	Thanksgiving Day	
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 Numbe Airman and Family Readiness	505-846-0751
Arts and Crafts	505-853-3003
Base Exchange	505-232-8771
Base Exchange - Pharmacy	505-846-7902
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
MVD On-Base	505-846-8390
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

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



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Retiree Activities Office

To assist us in our mission of assisting retirees in obtaining the help they need 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 <u>377ABW.CVR.RetireeActivities@us.af.mil</u>

> Visit Our New KAFB Retiree Activities Office Website

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

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