



# KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE

## 377<sup>th</sup> Air Base Wing

“Your link to retiree benefits information and assistance.”



Volume V, Issue I

Quarterly Newsletter Date: Jan-Mar 2023

“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.”

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**Open Tues-Fri**  
**1200-1500**  
**(505) 846-1536**

Dear Fellow Retirees,

We are partnering with Military Family Readiness to bring you a survivor benefits seminar on 31 March 2023. It is designed to help you understand how to check your benefits and to know who to contact when the time comes that you need to access them. Preregistration by calling our office at (505) 846-1536 is required. We hope you can join us.

Now is best described as a *season of change*. We'll continue to do our best to keep you informed of the processes and issues affecting you. On a positive note, for 2022 NM Taxes, the first \$10,000 of military retirement is non-taxable. Depending on your income level, taxpayers 65 years of age or older (beginning with tax year 2022), may be exempt from being taxed by NM on Social Security benefits.

Along with recent TRICARE changes, the Defense Health Agency has directed the military medical community to implement new processes and systems. There are always growing pains when this happens. We are seeking to understand how all things will work for retirees. Please understand that the airmen and officers in the 377<sup>th</sup> Medical Group are not driving these changes. They are doing their best to accurately and timely fill your prescriptions. They will locally discontinue the phone line for activations because a new one is not available and the current one is unsustainable. They know how aggravating the phone system has been. Please be patient with them through the transition.

If you have questions or concerns, please call us at (505) 846-1536 or stop by the office.

Warmest Regards,  
Sally

### Quarterly RAO Newsletter

The Retiree Activities Office publishes this Newsletter quarterly on or about Mid-February, Mid-May, Mid-August and Mid-November. It can be found at the on-base Post Office, BX and Commissary, golf course, bowling alley, CORE and the east side fitness center. If you would like an electronic copy, please call our office at (505) 846-1536 or e-mail us at [377ABW.CVR.RetireeActivities@us.af.mil](mailto:377ABW.CVR.RetireeActivities@us.af.mil).

### News About The Kirtland AFB Smartphone App

Please be advised that the current smart phone Kirtland App was replaced on 9 February 2023 with the AF Connect App. It is available on both Apple and Goggle.

To set it up on an iPhone (Google setup will be similar):

- Download the app labeled USAF Connect.
- Accept or decline notifications and hit next.
- Tap on Add Organizations and scroll down to 377th Air Base Wing and tap on it.
- Hit Next in the top right corner and then hit skip when it asks you if you want to switch to the Space Force.
- The app is ready for use.
- If you want to add another organization, tap on Favorites on the bottom, then hit add more and scroll through the list for the organization you wish to add.
- If you selected to accept notifications, it is advisable to go to iPhone Settings, Notifications and turn off the sound for the AF Connect app.

Note: The Kirtland AFB app may not be fully populated until the end of February.

<p><b><u>Survivor Benefits Seminar</u></b>  The Kirtland AFB Retiree Activities Office and the 377<sup>th</sup> ABW Military Family Readiness Flight are hosting a Survivor Benefits Seminar on 31 March 2023 from 1200 to 1530. Topics to be discussed include what is SBP, how to report a death, who may receive SBP, Emergency Financial Assistance, Veterans Benefits, and the process for Guard and Reserve members. Reservations are <b>REQUIRED</b> to attend this seminar. Seats are limited. Please call the Kirtland Retiree Office any Tuesday – Friday, 1200-1500 at (505) 846-1536 for information and reservations.</p>	<p><b>Survivor Benefits Seminar</b></p>
<p><b><u>New BX Pharmacy Prescription Activation Procedures</u></b>  The 377<sup>th</sup> Medical Group is now part of the Worldwide Defense Health Agency. Thus, there are a lot of procedure changes affecting BX Pharmacy customers. As of 1 April 2023, phone activation of new prescriptions will be <b>DISCONTINUED</b>. Please be patient with the staff at the BX Pharmacy. They have no choice in making these changes. Our office has been working closely with them to help ease the transition for our retiree community, but so far, things are not going as smoothly as expected.</p> <p>As of 1 April 2023, there will be only three ways to <b><u>ACTIVATE A NEW PRESCRIPTION</u></b> at the BX Pharmacy.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Using the Kiosk in the BX Pharmacy lobby to enter your information and wait to be called to the window.</li> <li>2. Using the drop box in the lobby of the BX pharmacy</li> <li>3. On-line through the 377<sup>th</sup> Med Group Genesis Patient Portal, requiring participants to have a DS Logon</li> </ol> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b><u>BX Pharmacy Kiosk:</u></b> If you want to wait to have your new prescription filled the same day, you can use the kiosk in the BX Pharmacy lobby before 1530 hours. As of 9 February 2023, a new Kiosk is being installed. The first thing you will need to do is scan your valid ID card into the machine. Then, follow the directions on the screen. You will get a ticket and need to wait to be called to the window. Ask to activate the new prescription and then wait for it to be filled. Unfortunately, due to problems with implementing these new Military Health System procedures, the wait time may be longer than normal.</li> <li>2. <b><u>BX Pharmacy Drop Box:</u></b> You will need to provide the patient’s name, phone number, sponsors social security last 4 digits, patient date of birth, patient allergies, if patient is PRAP (Personal Reliability and Assurance Program), Prescription provider’s name, the current date and time, if the prescription was sent electronically or by fax and how many prescriptions the provider sent in. Your prescription will be ready within 24-48 hours.</li> <li>3. <b><u>Genesis Patient Portal:</u></b> Each eligible person must have a DS LOGON to use this electronic system to activate prescriptions. If you don’t already have a DS LOGON account, the process to create one can be long and tedious. <b><u>BE SURE TO READ THE ENTIRE FAQ’S AND HAVE ALL OF THE INFORMATION DETAILED IN THEM READILY AVAILABLE BEFORE STARTING TO CREATE THE ACCOUNT!</u></b> You only have a limited amount of time to go through the creation process before the system locks you out for 1 to 30 days. The link to create an account is: <a href="https://myaccess.dmdc.osd.mil/identitymanagement/app/login">https://myaccess.dmdc.osd.mil/identitymanagement/app/login</a>. We are aware that here have been some problems with creating new accounts. Also, for many people that already have DS LOGON accounts, in the process of bringing this system online, many of the accounts have been deactivated. We are working with DMDC to get the problem resolved, but we don’t have a solution yet. We will</li> </ol>	<p><b>BX Pharmacy Prescription Activation Changes</b></p>

<p>keep you advised of our progress. Once you have created the account, you won't need all of the identity verification information again. Just logon and you should see all of your information. Once you activate your new prescription, you can choose to have it available at the BX Pharmacy window or in the Script Center. (Note: refrigerated prescriptions will only be available at the window.) Once a prescription is activated, it should be ready for pick-up in 24-48 hours. However, it is recommended to check the Genesis portal to <u>confirm</u> that the prescription is ready for pick-up.</p> <p>The 377<sup>th</sup> Medical Group is having several educational sessions on the new system in the Consolidated Support Facility, Room 120. They are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16 February 2023, 0900 – 1000</li> <li>• 27 February 2023, 1400 – 1530</li> <li>• 14 March 2023, 1400 – 1530</li> <li>• 31 March 2023, 0900 – 1030</li> </ul> <p>Please consider attending one of these sessions.</p>	
<p><b><u>KAFB Pharmacy Information</u></b></p> <p>The BX Pharmacy automated prescription <b>REFILL</b> phone number has not changed. It is (505) 846-7902.</p> <p>When picking up a prescription at the BX Pharmacy window, if you are unable to stand in line, please go to the Kiosk and select the handicapped option. You will be given a number and can sit down in the waiting area until your number is called.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> In general, 90 day prescriptions can be refilled 3 weeks in advance, 30 day prescriptions can be refilled 1 week in advance, and controlled substances can be refilled 3 days in advance. Once a prescription is refilled, it will be available for pickup for 10 business days. Then it will be returned to stock.</p>	<p><b>KAFB Pharmacy Prescription Refills</b></p>
<p><b><u>TRICARE Retail Pharmacy Change</u></b></p> <p><u>As of 1 January 2023, Kroger (which includes, but is not limited to, Smith's, City Market, and King Sooper) pharmacies are no longer considered in-network for Tricare.</u></p> <p>Check with your pharmacy before filling or refilling a prescription to ensure they are still participating in the TriCare pharmacy network. A current list of in-network pharmacies is available at <a href="https://www.tricare.mil/CoveredServices/Pharmacy">https://www.tricare.mil/CoveredServices/Pharmacy</a> . The current TriCare formulary is available at <a href="https://www.express-scripts.com/frontend/open-enrollment/tricare/fst/#/">https://www.express-scripts.com/frontend/open-enrollment/tricare/fst/#/</a>. The formulary also includes information on medications that require a prior authorization.</p> <p>If the event that you use a pharmacy that is no longer in the Tricare retail pharmacy network, you will pay full price for medications and then need to file for reimbursement. Be aware that the reimbursement will be subject to your TriCare plan deductible, as well as a higher out-of-network cost share.</p> <p>On 24 October 2022, 15,000 independent retail pharmacies throughout the US left the TRICARE Network. The TRICARE Beneficiaries affected by this change should have received letters from Express Scripts in September 2022 providing 3 network pharmacy options near them.</p> <p>Options include: transferring prescriptions to an in-network TRICARE Pharmacy, Home delivery (<a href="http://www.militaryrx.express-scripts.com">http://www.militaryrx.express-scripts.com</a>), a military pharmacy or paying full retail price from an out-of-network pharmacy. To find a new in-network retail pharmacy, beneficiaries can call 1 (877) 363-1403 or visit <a href="http://www.esrx.com/findpharmacy">http://www.esrx.com/findpharmacy</a> .</p>	<p><b>Tricare Retail Pharmacy Changes</b></p>

<p><b><u>Moving Specialty Prescriptions</u></b>  Accredo is currently part of the TRICARE Retail Pharmacy Network, and as of 1 January 2023 it became the <u>main</u> in-network retail pharmacy to fill prescriptions for specialty drugs. Beneficiaries who need to switch from a retail pharmacy to Accredo can call 1 (877) 882-3324 to work with an Accredo patient care advocate.  <b>Note:</b> Beneficiaries who get their specialty drugs from a military pharmacy or TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery don't have to move their prescriptions.</p>	
<p><b><u>Kirtland Tax Center Opening</u></b>  The Tax Center will operate <b>by appointment only</b> in the Consolidated Support Building, Room 117, from 2 February 2023 through 14 April 2023. Assistance is provided for the ranks of E-1 to E-7, and O-1 to O-3, Active Duty, Guard, and Reserve with no income restrictions. It will also serve retirees and dependents with a combined total 2022 income below \$85,000.</p> <p>Appointments are available Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 0900 to 1400 hours. The tax center will be closed on Wednesdays. Please call (505) 853-1700 to schedule an appointment.</p> <p>Please bring the following to the Tax Center for your appointment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photo identification</li> <li>• Social Security cards for everyone on the tax return; ITIN for foreign status</li> <li>• Birth dates for you and your dependents</li> <li>• A copy of your Federal and State returns for the last two years</li> <li>• Income statements from any source: W-2, W-2G, 1099s, etc.</li> <li>• Direct deposit information: checkbook or bank routing and account numbers</li> </ul> <p>Additional items needed if applicable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total paid for daycare provider and provider's tax identifying numbers</li> <li>• Higher education documents: 1098-T and statements from college/university</li> </ul>	<p><b>Kirtland AFB Tax Center</b></p>
<p><b><u>2023 New Mexico State Personal Income Tax Information</u></b>  During the last legislature session, NM passed a bill that will provide some tax relief for retired military pay as follows:</p> <p>SECTION 6. A new section of the income Tax Act is enacted to read: "EXEMPTION-ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT PAY.</p> <p>A. An individual who is an armed forces retiree may claim an exemption in the following amounts of military retirement pay includable, except for this exemption, in net income:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• for taxable year 2022, ten thousand dollars (\$10,000);</li> <li>• for taxable year 2023, twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000);</li> <li>• for taxable years 2024 through 2026, thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000).</li> </ul> <p>B. As used in this section, "armed forces retiree" means a former member of the armed forces of the United States who has qualified by years of service or disability to separate from military service with lifetime benefits."</p>	<p><b>New Mexico Personal Income Tax Information</b></p>
<p><b><u>Tribute to Women in the Military</u></b>  This year's tribute to women in the military is commemorating the "Present" Military. It will be held at the American Legion Post 49, 11005 Central Ave NE, Albuquerque, NM on 3 March 2023, from 0800 – 1300, including lunch. The Keynote Speaker is SSgt Sheena Hlivko, USAF. Registration is \$25 and must be received by 21 February 2022. Visit <a href="http://www.tributetowomeninthemilitary.org">www.tributetowomeninthemilitary.org</a> or call Ms. Ethel Tilley at 505-853-1718 for more information and to register.</p>	<p><b>Women In the Military</b></p>

<p><b>Vehicle operation during Reveille and Retreat</b>  Twice a day the base loudspeaker honors our Nation’s flag with the playing of reveille and retreat. Proper vehicle operation courtesy is for drivers to stop their vehicles at the roadside and engage emergency flashers until the music is complete. Please respect this long held tradition and observe Team Kirtland members courtesy.</p>	<p><b>Reveille  And  Retreat</b></p>
<p><b>Please Remember</b>  Face masks are required at the BX Pharmacy and all Medical facilities (including the Veterinary Clinic).</p>	<p><b>Face Masks</b></p>
<p><b>377th Med Group COVID Vaccination Update</b>  The 377<sup>th</sup> Med Group Immunization Clinic will be giving Retirees the Covid and/or Flu vaccine by appointment only. Please call (505) 846-3200 or go online to <a href="https://informatics-stage.health.mil/DAP">https://informatics-stage.health.mil/DAP</a> to make an appointment.  Note: Available Covid vaccines include Pfizer, Moderna, Comirnaty and Novavax.</p>	<p><b>377<sup>th</sup> Med Group  Covid  And  Flu  Vaccines</b></p>
<p><b>In-Home Covid Test Kits</b>  This winter, the government is again offering 4 free at home Covid test kits to every U.S. household. To order these tests by mail go to <a href="https://www.covid.gov/tests">https://www.covid.gov/tests</a> or call 1 (800) 232-0233. Also, Medicare covers 8 in-home test kits per month. Check with your local pharmacy.  Are the Covid test kits you currently have out of date? Check online at <a href="https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-covid-19-and-medical-devices/home-otc-covid-19-diagnostic-tests#list">https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-covid-19-and-medical-devices/home-otc-covid-19-diagnostic-tests#list</a> or call 1 (888) 463-6332 to see if their expiration date has been extended by the FDA.</p>	<p><b>In-Home  Covid  Test Kits</b></p>
<p><b>TRICARE for Life Seminars</b>  In person TRICARE for Life seminars are back. They are held at the 377<sup>th</sup> Med Group (Kirtland Clinic) on most of the third Wednesdays of each month from 1330 – 1500. The next three seminars are 15 February 2023, 15 March 2023 and 19 April 2023. To reserve a seat, call the Health Benefits Advisors (HBA) desk at (505) 853-1396 or (505) 853-0585. On the day of the seminar, check in at the Patient Records Desk on the 2nd floor by 1320. Topics discussed are:  TRICARE For Life eligibility  Medicare Part B enrollment requirements  How TRICARE and Medicare payments work  TRICARE For Life overseas  TRICARE Dental / Vision Program (through BENEFEDS)  Skilled Nursing Facilities and Long Term Care</p>	<p><b>TRICARE  For  Life  Seminars</b></p>
<p><b>Survivor Benefits Plan</b>  As you may know, Congress made changes to the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) to phase out the offset for surviving spouses who are also receiving Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).  On 1 January 2023, the SBP-DIC offset was <u>fully eliminated</u>. That means, beginning in 2023, SBP payments will no longer be offset (reduced) by DIC. Spouses will receive full SBP (from DFAS) and full DIC (from the VA).  There is no action you need to take as a retiree for the changes to apply to your surviving spouse. However, you should check your RAS to ensure your SBP beneficiary is up to date. This is especially important if you have a former spouse. More information is available at <a href="https://www.dfas.mil/SBPforspouse">https://www.dfas.mil/SBPforspouse</a></p>	<p><b>Survivor  Benefits /  Dependency  And  VA  Indemnity  Compensation</b></p>

<p><b><u>DEERS Information</u></b>  It is important to keep your information in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) up to date. To check your information, login to <a href="http://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect">milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect</a> or call 1 (800) 538-9552.</p>	<b>DEERS</b>
<p><b><u>Resources for Women Veterans</u></b>  The Women Veterans Call Center provides information about a variety of services and benefits available to women veterans. Their service is free and confidential.</p> <p>The VA provides a full continuum of health care, including comprehensive primary care (care for acute and chronic/long-term illness and gender-specific care), specialty care, mental health care, disease prevention and screening, emergency care, and women's health specialty care (e.g., advanced). Other services include inpatient medical/surgical/mental health care, physical rehabilitation, substance abuse treatment, long-term care, and pharmacy benefits.</p> <p>Examples of questions the Women Veterans Call Center can help with are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to reconnect with VA health care if you previously applied but never used your benefits</li> <li>• How to connect with your Women Veterans Program Manager, the person who will assist in coordinating any services you need</li> <li>• How to find out what you are eligible for (including general questions about disability ratings) and other VA benefits like employment, education, and home loans</li> <li>• How to refill your prescription or make an appointment</li> </ul> <p>For more information on VA services provided to women Veterans, call the Women Veterans Call Center at 1 (855) VA-WOMEN (1 (855) 829-6636).</p>	<b>VA Corner</b>
<p><b><u>Do you have household items you would like to donate?</u></b>  Think about donating your serviceable household items to the Airman's Attic. These items are made available free of charge to E1-E5 airmen. Donation hours are Monday and Wednesday, 1000-1200. Call (505) 846-0460 for more information.</p> <p>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.</p>	<b>Donation Requests</b>
<p><b><u>The Airman's Attic Needs Volunteers</u></b>  The Airman's Attic is looking for volunteers. Currently, the Attic is open on Monday 1000-1200 and Wednesday 1700-1900. If you are interested in volunteering, call MSgt Gavin Keller at (505) 270-1361 or email <a href="mailto:gavin.keller@us.af.mil">gavin.keller@us.af.mil</a>.</p>	<b>Volunteer at the Airman's Attic</b>
<p><b><u>The Kirtland Spouse's Club Thrift Shop Needs Volunteers</u></b>  The Thrift Shop is open to anyone with base access from 1000 to 1400 every Monday, Wednesday and Friday and one Saturday a month. It is a great place for bargain shoppers and treasure hunters. If you are interested in volunteering in the shop, please see the manager. Also, donations are accepted during regular shopping hours.</p>	<b>Volunteer at the Kirtland Thrift Shop</b>
<p><b><u>The BX Pharmacy Needs Volunteers</u></b>  The BX Pharmacy is looking for dedicated volunteers. The Red Cross office is in charge of accepting applicants. If you are interested, call their office at (480) 313-1296, or our office at (505) 846-1536 for more information.</p>	<b>Volunteer at the BX Pharmacy</b>

<p><b><u>Honor Flight of Northern New Mexico</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Adeline Herrera is the current president of Honor Flight of Northern New Mexico. Their mission is to raise enough money each year to take 25 veterans on a FREE trip to Washington, DC in June. The board is made up of volunteers and they could use some help in their efforts. Here is part of the letter we received from Ms. Herrera:</p> <p>“Information about the committees looking for volunteers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Car Show Committee</u> – we host an annual car show at the NM Veterans Memorial. This is a fundraiser that we try to grow each year.</li> <li>• <u>HFNNM Trip Committee</u> – Each June we take 25 veterans, 25 guardians and 8 staff to Washington, DC. There are many components to the trip that we can use help with.</li> <li>• <u>Golf Tournament Committee</u> – we host an annual golf tournament each year. This is our biggest fundraiser. We try to raise more money each year.</li> <li>• <u>HFNNM Ambassador Program</u> – We need help in covering all areas of northern New Mexico. We need volunteers to help us identify activities that would help HFNNM raise awareness and get veteran applications and we need help attending veteran activities.</li> </ul> <p>In addition to fundraising efforts, we need help with finding WWII, Korean and Vietnam Veterans to go on our trips. If you know of any organization that our HFNNM board can meet with to discuss what we do, we will be happy to meet with them. Just let us know who to contact. Our board email is <a href="mailto:info@hfnnm.org">info@hfnnm.org</a>.</p> <p>If you cannot help us with your time, please consider making a cash donation to HFNNM, PO BOX 14103; Albuquerque, NM 87191. If your company is looking for a non-profit organization to help, please let us know. We can set up a time to discuss how they can help. We rely on donations alone so ALL monetary help is appreciated.”</p>	<p><b>Volunteers Needed For Honor Flight Of Northern New Mexico</b></p>
<p><b><u>Local Area Military Discounts</u></b></p> <p>The Retiree Activities Office is collecting information about local businesses that offer military discounts. You need to ask and show a valid military ID. Some discounts we have found are a 10% discount at Bonfish Grill, 15% discount at Kohl’s Mondays in-store only, 15% discount at Joann Fabric both in-store and online and, 10% discount at O’Reilly Auto Parts in store. If you find any others, please give us a call at (505) 846-1536 or email <a href="mailto:377ABW.CVR.RetireeActivities@us.af.mil">377ABW.CVR.RetireeActivities@us.af.mil</a>.</p>	<p><b>Military Discounts</b></p>
<p><b><u>Kirtland AFB Chapel Services</u></b></p> <p>Jewish Shabbat may be held in the Chapel conference room on Fridays at 1800. The service is followed by Kiddish and Oneg. Please RSVP by calling the Chapel at (505) 853-5000 or emailing Senior Airman Nicholas Bade at <a href="mailto:nbearbade@gmail.com">nbearbade@gmail.com</a>.</p> <p><u>Note: Shabbat services are held contingent upon RSVPs.</u></p> <p>St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Community celebrates Mass every Sunday at 0900 at the Kirtland AFB Chapel. Anyone with base access is welcome.</p> <p>Morning Weekday Mass at the 377 Chaplain Corps chapel will be held on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 1100.</p> <p>The Kirtland AFB Protestant Community Service meets every Sunday at 1100 at Gravity, located at the corner of First and Frost, next to the Base Theater. Anyone with base access is welcome to attend.</p> <p>Bible with the Beards is a men's study group. It is held at the 58th SOW HPLC, Thursdays, 1130 – 1230.</p>	<p><b>Kirtland AFB Chapel Services</b></p>

<p>Weekly discipleship-focused Bible study, open to all, is held at Gravity on Fridays at 1630. For more information, email <a href="mailto:KirtlandGravity@gmail.com">KirtlandGravity@gmail.com</a>.</p>	
<p><b><u>Veterinary Clinic</u></b>  The veterinary clinic has wellness and sick call appointments that may be booked two weeks in advance, based on availability. There will only be one same-day sick call appointment available every Tuesday and Wednesday. It will be booked on a first come first serve basis starting at 0800 on that day. Call (505) 846-4276 for details. Medication refills require 72-hour notice and a specified pick-up time.</p>	<p><b>Base Veterinary Clinic</b></p>
<p><b><u>Worldwide Military Recreation Areas</u></b>  “A Traveler’s Guide to Military Resorts and Recreation Centers” can be found on-line at <a href="https://military.momcollective.com/military-lifestyle/air-force/a-travelers-guide-to-military-recreation-centers/">https://military.momcollective.com/military-lifestyle/air-force/a-travelers-guide-to-military-recreation-centers/</a></p>	<p><b>Military Recreation Areas</b></p>
<p><b><u>American Forces Travel</u></b>  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 <a href="http://AmericanForcesTravel.com">AmericanForcesTravel.com</a> or through the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) Marketplace at <a href="http://www.shopmyexchange.com/marketplace">www.shopmyexchange.com/marketplace</a>. There are discounts available for hotels, flights, rental cars, cruises, packages and event tickets.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p><b>Travel Discounts</b></p>
<p><b><u>Space-A Travel</u></b>  Full service Space-A is available for retirees and their dependents with current ID cards. CONUS passengers are required to follow current federal COVID-19 travel procedures. OCONUS passengers need to follow all requirements for travel to their specific destination. For more information, visit the AMC Space-A website at <a href="https://www.amc.af.mil/AMC-Travel-Site/AMC-Space-Available-Travel-Page/">https://www.amc.af.mil/AMC-Travel-Site/AMC-Space-Available-Travel-Page/</a></p>	<p><b>Space-A Travel</b></p>
<p><b><u>From the Exchange (AAFES)</u></b>  The Base Exchange installed Self Check Out registers. Customers will only be able to use credit and debit cards at these registers.</p> <p>The Dry Cleaners has been relocated to the mall of the BX.</p> <p>The self-service car wash is open. Credit cards only.</p> <p>The old McDonald’s is being renovated. No news on what it is becoming or when it will open. Hopefully SOON.</p>	<p><b>News From AAFES</b></p>
<p><b><u>Legal Office</u></b>  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 <a href="mailto:Kirtland.legal.assistance@us.af.mil">Kirtland.legal.assistance@us.af.mil</a>.</p>	<p><b>Legal Office</b></p>



**Safety and Security**

Please remember that Marijuana in any form, including edibles, is not permitted anywhere on a DOD Installation.

**Security**



**1991 - Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm**

By: Dr. Deborah Kidwell, Historian, AFHSO

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On the morning of 2 August 1990, Iraq invaded nearby Kuwait. In less than four hours, Iraqi forces occupied Kuwait City and had annexed the country as the 19th province of Iraq. In response, the U.S government initiated Operation Desert Shield on 6 August to deter and contain potential attacks on neighboring countries. By 21 August, the U.S. had based fighter, attack, reconnaissance, electronic warfare, airlift, and tanker aircraft in the Gulf region.

The following November, United Nations delegates passed Resolution 678 authorizing member states co-operating with the government of Kuwait to use "all necessary means" to enforce a prior resolution that demanded that Iraq withdraw unconditionally from Kuwait. President George H.W. Bush obtained Congressional concurrence with UN action on 12 January 1991; when the 15 January deadline for withdrawal passed, Bush signed a National Security directive authorizing U.S. military action.

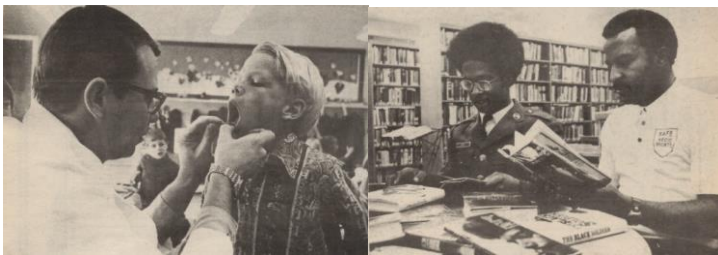
Coalition aircraft set forth on the largest air campaign since World War II on 17 January 1991. By the end of the day, Iraq was well on the way to defeat, in no small part due to the strategic air campaign. Over time, the attacks drove Saddam and his leadership underground, reducing its control over events, and heavily damaging critical military support networks such as command and control, communications and intelligence capabilities, integrated air defenses, and power generation. On 28 February, only one hundred hours after the ground campaign began, President Bush declared a ceasefire and announced that Kuwait had been liberated.

For the Air Force, the tenet of air superiority took on new meaning as the air campaign became the initial phase of the war. Colonel John A. Warden III and his group of planners on the Air Staff in the Pentagon dubbed the Checkmate planning group, developed Instant Thunder (the preliminary name given to the air plan later incorporated into Operation Desert Storm) based on a new strategic concept for the use of airpower. Warden advocated viewing the enemy as a system, rather than groups or specific military units, and to cause physical paralysis (render ineffective) by building an air campaign around five "rings" or essential centers of gravity that included the leadership, organic essentials, infrastructure, population, and fielded military forces of the enemy. Disrupting the command and control (C2) of enemy forces and convincing enemy commanders that they could not achieve their goals at a

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reasonable cost were key elements of the strategy. Colonel Warden's planners also sought to achieve effects (convincing the enemy to take desired actions), as opposed to victory through a strategy of annihilation or attrition.

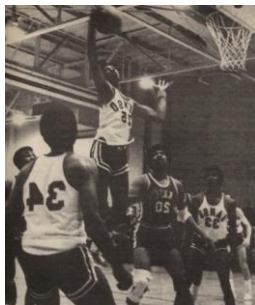
Moreover, U.S. forces brought new weapons to the fight, including stealth aircraft, global positioning devices, and precision guided technologies. Perhaps more importantly, however, the one hundred hour war had important implications for the future of the Air Force. Lessons garnered from the conflict would ultimately lead to the development of the modern Air Expeditionary Force (AEF), which is the airpower unit deployed to support combatant commanders worldwide with rapid, flexible, and reliable force packages that can respond to developing crises by establishing or increasing theater airpower capability.



## History And Heritage

### **Kirtland AFB 50 Years Ago: February 1972**

- The Dental Clinic provided on-site checkups at the base's schools to promote National Children's Dental Health Week
- The Base Library featured a collection of books on various cultures in American society to promote National Brotherhood Week
- The Kirtland Flyers basketball team won the AFSC tournament, defeating the Space and Missile Systems Organization division team 84-83. Although Kirtland won the game, the leading scorer, with 34 points for SAMSO, was a young intel officer named Gregg Popovich.
- The 4900th Flight Test Group traded out the last of its F-104 Starfighters for new T-38 Talon flight trainers. This move reduced flying costs for the group from \$662/sortie to \$218/sortie, as well as maintenance costs.



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### **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

<p><b><u>Kirtland AFB Gate Operations</u></b>  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</p>	<p><b>KAFB Gate Access</b></p>
<p><b><u>ID Cards</u></b>  ID Cards can be renewed up to 30 days in advance of their expiration date. Appointments can be scheduled at online at: <a href="https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco">https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco</a>. If you are unable to schedule online, call (505) 846-2017. Please remember to bring two valid forms of photo ID.</p> <p>Another option for renewing ID cards is to use the Kiosk in the lobby of the Consolidated Support Building near the MPF. Dependents will first need to have their sponsor go to <a href="https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/">https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/</a> to certify them on a DD Form 1172-2. (When renewing their own ID card, the sponsor does not need this form.) Then, follow the step-by-step directions at the Kiosk. When the new ID card is ready, MPF will call you. Pick-up is available Monday – Friday, 0730-1430 (except for training days, family days and federal holidays).</p> <p><b><u>NOTE:</u> 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.</b></p>	<p><b>ID Cards</b></p>
<p><b><u>Commissary and Bx Information</u></b>  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 the online shopping benefit for 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Army and Air Force Exchange System: <a href="https://www.shopmyexchange.com">https://www.shopmyexchange.com</a></li> <li>• Coast Guard Exchange: <a href="https://shopCGX.com">https://shopCGX.com</a></li> <li>• Marine Corps Exchange: <a href="http://www.mymcx.com">http://www.mymcx.com</a></li> <li>• Navy Exchange: <a href="https://www.mynavyexchange.com">https://www.mynavyexchange.com</a></li> <li>• Veterans Canteen Service: <a href="https://shopvcs.va.gov">https://shopvcs.va.gov</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>Veteran Commissary and BX Access</b></p>
<p><b><u>Military Services Newsletters</u></b>  Air Force <i>Afterburner</i>: <a href="http://www.retirees.af.mil/afterburner">www.retirees.af.mil/afterburner</a>  Army <i>Echoes</i>: <a href="http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement">http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement</a>  Coast Guard <i>Evening Colors</i>: <a href="http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg1/psc/ras">http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg1/psc/ras</a>  DFAS Retiree Newsletter: <a href="https://www.dfas.mil/retireenews">https://www.dfas.mil/retireenews</a>  Marine Corps <i>Semper Fidelis</i>: <a href="http://www.usmc-mccs.org">www.usmc-mccs.org</a>  Navy <i>Shift Colors</i>: <a href="http://www.shiftcolors.navy.mil">www.shiftcolors.navy.mil</a></p>	<p><b>Important Newsletters</b></p>

Minimum base services will be available on these dates in 2023		<b>2023 Wing Holidays And Training Days (Tentative)</b>
Thursday, 16 February 2023	Training Day	
Friday, 17 February 2023	Family Day	
Monday, 20 February 2023	President's Day	
Thursday, 16 March 2023	Training Day	
Thursday, 20 April 2023	Training Day	
Thursday, 18 May 2023	Training Day	
Friday, 26 May 2023	Family Day	
Monday, 29 May 2023	Memorial Day	
Thursday, 15 June 2023	Training Day	
Friday, 16 June 2023	Family Day	
Monday, 19 June 2023	Juneteenth	
Monday, 3 July 2023	Family Day	
Tuesday, 4 July 2023	Independence Day	
Thursday, 20 July 2023	Training Day	
Thursday, 17 August 2023	Training Day	
Friday, 1 September 2023	Family Day	
Monday, 4 September 2023	Labor Day	
Thursday, 21 September 2023	Training Day	
Friday, 6 October 2023	Family Day	
Monday, 9 October 2023	Indigenous Peoples Day	
Thursday, 19 October 2023	Training Day	
Friday, 10 November 2023	Veterans Day	
Monday, 13 November 2023	Family Day	
Thursday, 16 November 2023	Training Day	
Thursday, 23 November 2023	Thanksgiving Day	
Friday, 24 November 2023	Family Day	
Thursday, 21 December 2023	Training Day	
Monday, 25 December 2023	Christmas	
Tuesday, 26 December 2023	Family Day	

**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: <a href="mailto:377FSS.FSPS.Workflow@us.af.mil">377FSS.FSPS.Workflow@us.af.mil</a>
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	tricare.mil
Tricare for Life	tricare.mil/tfl
Tricare Resource and Claims Information	tricare4u.com
Tricare West Region	tricare-west.com
Veterans Group Life Insurance	benefits.va.gov/insurance/vgli.asp

### Useful Phone Numbers

Airman and Family Readiness	(505) 846-0751
Arts and Crafts	(505) 853-3003
Base Exchange	(505) 232-8771
Base Exchange – Pharmacy (Script Refills)	(505) 846-7902
Base Exchange – Pharmacy (Consult Only)	(505) 846-3200
Base Exchange – Pharmacy (Consult Only)	(505) 846-5770
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 (877) 363-1303
Family Camp	(505) 846-0337
Golf Course	(505) 846-1169
Golf Course Snack Bar	(505) 846-7835
Health Benefits Advisor (377 Med Group)	(505) 853-1396
Health Net Federal Services	1 (844) 866-9378
ID Cards	(505) 846-2017
Information, Tickets & Travel	(505) 846-2924
Legal Office	(505) 846-4217
Medicare Claims and Information	1 (800) 633-4227
Mountain View Club	(505) 846-5165
My Pay (DFAS)	1 (888) 332-7411
National Personnel Records Center	1 (314) 801-0800
NM Aging and Disability Resource Center	1 (800) 432-2080
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
Senior Citizens Law Office	(505) 265-2300
Social Security	1 (800) 772-1213
Social Security Local Office	1 (866) 613-9961
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



**Retiree Activities Office Hours  
Tuesday through Friday from 1200 to 1500.**

**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](mailto:377ABW.CVR.RetireeActivities@us.af.mil)**

**Visit Our  
KAFB Retiree Activities Office  
Website at**

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