



# KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE

## Quarterly Retiree Newsletter

### Volume VI, Issue I, Jan-Mar 2024



"Your link to retiree benefits information and assistance."

**Volunteer Director**  
Sally Uebelacker

#### Staff Volunteers

Marykay Chapman  
Trudy Ann DeGraff  
David Dunlap  
Doris Gilligan  
Yoko Leftault  
Robert Liddy  
Carol Maddux  
Patricia Scott  
Mark Werner

Retiree Activities Office  
Suite 146  
1451 4th St SE  
Kirtland AFB, NM  
87117

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

Dear Fellow Retirees,

My how time flies. It's already mid-February and time for another newsletter!

We are off to a running start. We set the date for this year's Retiree Appreciation Week. It will be held during Armed Forces week, 13-17 May 2024. Stay tuned for more details.

Tax season is in full swing. Many of you will see RAO volunteer Marykay Chapman in the tax office again this year. In order to serve the most customers, eligibility requirements will be enforced - i.e., retiree gross income < \$100K. Call if you have questions about eligibility. Other tax avenues include Military One Source for active duty and those who separated/retired less than a year ago. AARP also offers tax services at some local senior centers.

There are now several ways to renew a military ID card. They include: in-person by appointment or walk-in, making a request through the kiosk in the lobby of the Consolidated Support Building or submitting an on-line application for retirees and spouses through DMDC (CONUS only). There are benefits to each method. However, if you want one-stop shopping, you may want to make an appointment. After receiving a new ID card, you must go to Pass and ID to have it enrolled in DBIDS. If you choose to use the kiosk and would like some help, please come in while the RAO office is open (1200-1500 Tuesday-Friday). We are educating ourselves on all these options so we can better serve you. This topic will be the main focus of our May newsletter.

The groundhog predicted an early spring and I, for one, am ready. Spring can't arrive soon enough!

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 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 e-mail us at [377ABW.CVR.RetireeActivities@us.af.mil](mailto:377ABW.CVR.RetireeActivities@us.af.mil) or call our office at (505) 846-1536.

<p><b><u>In Memoriam - Ms. Ethel Tilley</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Ethel Tilley passed away in November 2023. She was an amazing woman, a great supporter of military families and will be greatly missed by all who knew her, including the staff of the KAFB Retiree Activities Office. Ms. Tilley was a Community Readiness Consultant for the KAFB Military and Family Readiness Flight. Some of her responsibilities included the Military Family Support Center food pantry and financial aid for military members and retirees. She was very involved with the annual Tribute to Women in the Military, led the Tuskegee Youth Summer Camp and was a board member of the local chapter of the NAACP. Ms. Tilley was always available to help the KAFB Retiree Activities Office with whatever we needed. She was a great supporter and presenter at our annual Retiree Appreciation events and helped our retiree families navigate the benefits they earned through their years of military service. Ms. Tilley – WE MISS YOU! Rest in Peace.</p>	<p><b>In Memoriam</b></p>
<p><b><u>Miss America 2024</u></b></p> <p>On 16 January 2024, 2nd Lt. Madison Marsh, a female Air Force F-16 Fighter Pilot, made history by becoming the first woman selected as Miss America! She entered the pageant as the reigning Miss Colorado. Lt. Madison graduated from the Air Force Academy and is pursuing graduate studies in public policy at the Harvard Kennedy School. Her focus as Miss America is cancer research. Congratulations Lt. Marsh.</p>	<p><b>Miss America 2024</b></p>
<p><b><u>The Tuskegee Airmen Made History in 1949!</u></b></p> <p>In January 1949, the Air Force Chief of Staff called for all USAF fighter groups to consider sending their top three scorers to the Las Vegas Air Force Base (now Nellis AFB) for the first ever “Top Gun Weapons Meet”. The 332<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group sent Tuskegee Airmen Capt. Alva Temple, 1st Lt. Harry Stewart, 1st Lt. James H. Harvey III and alternate Halbert Alexander, to compete with their P-47N Thunderbolts. Other competitors were flying more modern aircraft such as the P-51 Mustang and the P-82 Twin Mustang. The competition included five events – aerial gunnery, dive bombing, skip bombing, rocket firing and panel strafing. Despite competing with obsolete aircraft, the Tuskegee Airmen won the competition. However, they were not officially recognized as the winner until 1995. Prior to that, the winner of the 1949 competition had been listed as “unknown” and the trophy was stored in the National Museum of the United States Air Force at Wright Patterson AFB. As of 2004, the trophy is being displayed at the Air Force Museum.</p> <p>For the complete article, see <a href="https://www.military.com/history/tuskegee-airmen-won-first-air-force-top-gun-aerial-gunnerycompetition.html?ESRC=mr_240205.nl&amp;utm_medium=email&amp;utm_source=mr&amp;utm_campaign=20240205">https://www.military.com/history/tuskegee-airmen-won-first-air-force-top-gun-aerial-gunnerycompetition.html?ESRC=mr_240205.nl&amp;utm_medium=email&amp;utm_source=mr&amp;utm_campaign=20240205</a></p>	<p><b>Did You Know? Tuskegee Airmen</b></p>
<p><b><u>WWII Veteran Willie James Smith, Sr.</u></b></p> <p>WWII Veteran Willie James Smith, Sr. died on 1 February 2024, just hours before his 105<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was the oldest living resident of his town of Moss Point, Mississippi. He enlisted in the US Army in 1941 and was honorably discharged in 1945. Willie was always very happy to talk about his experiences in the military. Moss Point’s Mayor will remember him as a person who made sacrifices during the war so that we may be free. He was a true patriot and Moss Point’s flags were lowered to half-staff to honor him.</p>	<p><b>Recent Loss of One Of the Oldest WWII Veterans</b></p>
<p><b><u>Casualty Assistance Representative</u></b></p> <p>A new Casualty Assistance Representative is being hired this month. Should you need assistance in the interim, call Military Family Readiness at (505) 846-0741.</p>	<p><b>Casualty Assistance</b></p>

<p><b><u>Kirtland AFB Tax Center</u></b></p> <p>The tax center will be open to provide free tax-filing services to eligible individuals. This includes active duty, guard, and reserve E-1 through E-7 and O-1 through O-3, and their dependents, as well as military retirees with a gross income below \$100,000. The Center will operate in the Consolidated Support Building, Room 117, 1 February 2024 – 15 April 2024, 0900 – 1400, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, <u>by appointment only</u>. Individuals may make appointments by calling the Center at (505) 853-1700.</p> <p>Remember to bring the following to your appointment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government / Military ID for Taxpayer and Spouse</li> <li>• Social Security Cards (SSN) for <b>everyone</b> who will be listed on the return</li> <li>• Last year's complete Federal and State Tax Returns (Last two years if the KAFB Tax Center has not done your taxes before)</li> <li>• All 2023 Tax Forms (W-2s, 1099s, 1098s, etc.)</li> <li>• Checking Account Information (Institution, Routing # and Account #). A blank check has this information.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Kirtland AFB Tax Center</b></p>
<p><b><u>DFAS 2023 Tax Statements (1099R's)</u></b></p> <p>2023 tax statements for military, retiree, annuitant and federal civilian employee customers serviced by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) are available online at myPay (<a href="https://mypay.dfas.mil/">https://mypay.dfas.mil/</a>). Tax statements sent through the U.S. Postal Service were mailed no later than 31 January 2024.</p> <p><b><u>How to Reactivate Your MYPAY Account</u></b> – From DFAS</p> <p>If your myPay account is in an inactive status because your password has expired, you can follow the simple steps below to reactivate your account.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Go to <a href="https://mypay.dfas.mil">https://mypay.dfas.mil</a> in your web browser on a computer or connected device.</li> <li>2. Click on the "Forgot or Need a Password?" link</li> <li>3. Enter two of the following: your Login ID, Social Security Number and/or registered email address (previously registered in myPay). Check the box affirming you are the account owner and click "Continue."</li> <li>4. If you previously set up the security questions, you'll be presented three security questions to answer. When finished answering the questions, click "Check my Answers."</li> <li>5. If you answer the security questions correctly, you will be able to reset your password online. If you haven't set up security questions or answer them incorrectly, you'll get the option to have a temporary password sent to you. You can choose to send the temporary password to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A) Your mobile phone via text if your mobile number is registered in myPay; OR,</li> <li>B) The mailing address you have on file with DFAS in your pay account.</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>When you receive the temporary password, go back to myPay and log in to reactivate your account. If you need further assistance in accessing your myPay account, please contact the myPay Customer Care Center at 1-888-332-7411, select option 5 or at 1-317-212- 0550.</p> <p><b><u>Online Resources:</u></b></p> <p>The following online sites provide information and assistance for tax statement and pay-related topics. Users should make sure the URLs below are entered in their browser address bar to avoid providing information to unofficial spoof sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>askDFAS module for 1099R, W2 and 1095-B (form applicable to military and retirees only)</b></li> <li>• <b>reprints</b> (<a href="https://corpweb1.dfas.mil/askDFAS/custMain.action?mid=5060">https://corpweb1.dfas.mil/askDFAS/custMain.action?mid=5060</a>)</li> <li>• <b>myPay:</b> <a href="https://mypay.dfas.mil/">https://mypay.dfas.mil/</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>2023 Tax Statements</b></p>

<p><b><u>Payments to the IRS</u></b></p> <p>There are two ways to send online payments to the IRS. If you need to pay an IRS debt or make estimated payments, you can do it online at <a href="https://irs.gov">irs.gov</a>. Choose “Make Payment” and follow the instructions.</p> <p>Or, if you need to pay an IRS debt or make estimated payments, you can use the online Treasury Department’s Electronic Federal Tax Payment System at <a href="https://eftps.gov">EFTPS.gov</a>. You can sign up via the website or call (888) 725-7879, Monday - Friday, 0900 – 1800 ET. You’ll receive a PIN by mail within 7 business days to use in your EFTPS transactions. These transactions can then be done using the pin on the website or by calling (800) 315-4829 during business hours.</p>	<p><b>IRS Payments</b></p>
<p><b><u>377 MDG Lab</u></b></p> <p>Currently, retirees not seen at the 377<sup>th</sup> MDG may be eligible to use the lab. Available hours are:</p> <p>Monday – Friday, 0730 – 1030 - Walk in hours Monday – Friday, 1030 – 1545 – Appointment Only</p> <p>Appointments must be made at <a href="https://go.thryv.com/site/377MDG">go.thryv.com/site/377MDG</a>. They will be in 10, 15, and 20-minute increments, depending on beneficiary status.</p> <p>Outside lab orders must be no older than 60 days and should include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete patient information</li> <li>• Tests requested and clearly identified – all panels should have individual tests listed, as panels can be different at each laboratory</li> <li>• ICD-10 codes</li> <li>• Ordering provider information</li> <li>• Ordering provider fax number</li> <li>• Ordering provider signature</li> </ul> <p><b><u>377 MDG Immunizations</u></b></p> <p>The Immunization Clinic is available for Pneumonia, Flu and Covid vaccines on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday by appointment. Go to <a href="https://go.thryv.com/site/377MDG">https://go.thryv.com/site/377MDG</a> or call (505) 846-3200 to set up a time.</p> <p>Additionally, on Wednesdays 0730-1200 and 1300-1500, those individuals over 65 years of age may walk-in for the Flu vaccine.</p> <p>The RSV vaccine is currently not available.</p> <p>The <b>Med Group</b> has received the COVID vaccine for 12 years and older and will start Friday, Dec. 22 with appointments on Thryv <a href="https://go.thryv.com/site/377MDG">https://go.thryv.com/site/377MDG</a></p> <p>Walk-ins for Flu are still available on Wednesday’s 0730-1200 and 1300-1500.</p> <p><b><u>377 MDG Radiology</u></b></p> <p>Retirees and their dependents may be able to get X-rays at the 377<sup>th</sup> MDG. (Note: there is no CT scan, ultrasound, or MRI available). This may be done as a walk-in, but it is limited due to staffing. The x-ray order must be no older than 60 days and include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete patient information</li> <li>• Paper order from ordering physician</li> <li>• ICD-10 codes</li> <li>• Ordering provider information</li> <li>• Ordering provider fax number</li> <li>• Ordering provider signature</li> </ul>	<p><b>377<sup>th</sup> Med Group Information</b></p>

<p><b><u>Good TRICARE For Life Information</u></b></p> <p>There are a few things to keep in mind when getting care through TRICARE For life (TFL).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Once you are eligible for TFL, you must have Medicare Parts A and B as your primary insurance. In general, TFL will become your secondary insurance and will make payments after Medicare. However, if you have any other Medicare Supplement Insurance, TFL will be the last to pay. <b>NOTE:</b> Before getting care, it is best to know what is covered by Medicare, TFL and any other health insurance you have.</li> <li>2. Medicare coverage only extends to healthcare in the US and US territories. If you are overseas, you must still have Medicare to qualify for TFL, but TFL will be your primary insurance (or secondary after any other health insurance).</li> <li>3. If you also have VA coverage for a service-related health issue, it will <b>ONLY</b> cover expenses relating to that issue. For all other health problems, it is best to seek care from a civilian Medicare provider. This is because coverage for non-service-related health care at the VA is NOT covered by Medicare and TFL will only pay a maximum of 20% of the TFL-allowable amount.</li> <li>4. There are 3 types of civilian providers accepted by TFL. The first is Medicare participating providers that accept the Medicare-approved amount as payment in full. Next is a Medicare non-participating provider. They don't accept the Medicare-approved amount as payment in full and can charge up to 15% above the Medicare-approved amount. TFL will cover this additional cost. Last is a provider that does not accept Medicare. While Medicare won't pay, TFL will still pay up to 20% of the TRICARE-allowable charge if it is for a TRICARE covered services. You'll be responsible for all other costs.</li> <li>5. If you have signed up for a Medicare Advantage Plan, make sure you understand HOW that plan works.</li> </ol> <p>For additional information, considered attending one of the TRICARE For Life Seminars.</p>	<p><b>TRICARE For Life Information</b></p>
<p><b><u>TRICARE for Life Seminars</u></b></p> <p>The in-person TRICARE For Life (TFL) Seminar offers an introduction to Medicare/TFL for retirees turning 65 years of age or under 65 who will be eligible for Medicare due to a disability. They are held at the 377<sup>th</sup> Med Group (Kirtland Clinic) from 1330 – 1500. The next four seminars are 20 March 2024, 17 April 2024, 15 May 2024 and 12 June 2024. 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.</p> <p>Topics discussed are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TRICARE For Life eligibility</li> <li>Medicare Part B enrollment requirements</li> <li>How TRICARE and Medicare payments work</li> <li>TRICARE For Life overseas</li> <li>TRICARE Dental / Vision Program (through BENEFEDS)</li> <li>Skilled Nursing Facilities and Long-Term Care</li> </ul>	<p><b>TRICARE For Life Seminars</b></p>
<p><b><u>Is My Prescription Covered By TriCare?</u></b></p> <p>The TRICARE Formulary Search Tool 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>. It shows if your drug is covered, where you can fill it, and if your provider needs to request pre-authorization.</p>	<p><b>TriCare Prescription Formulary</b></p>
<p><b><u>Patient and Family Partnership Council</u></b></p> <p>The 377 Medical Group has a Patient and Family Partnership Council (PFPC). If you have would like to help the Med Group improve their services and work well on teams, please consider joining the PFPC held quarterly on the fourth Monday at 1200. For details, please email: <a href="mailto:usaf.kirtland.377-mdg.mbx.patient-advocate@health.mil">usaf.kirtland.377-mdg.mbx.patient-advocate@health.mil</a> or call (505) 249-2675.</p>	<p><b>377 Med Group Patient and Family Partnership Council</b></p>



<p><b><u>FREE COVID TESTS:</u></b> With the rise of COVID cases, the Federal Government is again offering four free at home COVID-19 tests, delivered directly to your home. To order, go to <a href="https://www.covid.gov/tests">https://www.covid.gov/tests</a>, call (800) 232-0233 or (TTY) (888) 720-7489.</p>	<p><b>Free Covid Tests</b></p>
<p><b><u>Tribute to Women in the Military</u></b> The annual Tribute to Women in the Military is Friday 1 March 2024. Registration is at 0800 at the American Legion Post 13, 1201 Legion Rd NE, Albuquerque. The topic this year is “Commemorating The “Future” Military”, with keynote speaker Allison M. Williams, C/Major AFOTC. Sign up by 22 February 2024 by going to <a href="http://www.TributeToWomenInTheMilitary.org">www.TributeToWomenInTheMilitary.org</a> or calling Ms. Mary Scott at (505) 492-6412.</p>	<p><b>2024 Tribute To Women In the Military</b></p>
<p><b><u>ID Cards</u></b> The CAC/ID/DEERs section walk-in hours are 0730 – 0930 Monday through Friday. <u>If possible, please call ahead to (505) 853-4254 the day before to ensure that they are expecting walk-ins.</u></p> <p>The following self-service options are available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Order a new Retiree/Dependent ID online and have it mailed to you in 30 days. Go to <a href="https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/locator">https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/locator</a> and follow the visuals in the DD Form 1172-2 drop-down <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan ahead – this process takes 30 days to be completed</li> <li>• This option only works for already established IDs</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Order a new Retiree/Dependent ID and pick it up in 2 -3 duty days; please utilize the kiosks located in the Consolidated Support Squadron <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must have all required documentation (2 forms of unexpired ID)</li> <li>• Must have a signed DD Form 1172-2, or the sponsor must attend for ID card pick-up</li> <li>• Please remember that this process takes 2-3 duty days to complete IF all submitted documentation is ready. Member will be contacted if their package is incorrect</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b><u>ID Card Appointments</u></b> The Military Personnel Flight (MPF) has asked for our assistance. As a community, we are tying up their phone lines to request ID card appointments. The office is presently understaffed and they have added supporting us with DS LOGON identity verification. In order to help them out, we are asking that those of us who can access a computer, sign up for ID card appointments online at: <a href="https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/">https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/</a>.</p> <p>If you have an issue with the site, you can request an appointment through their org box. For detailed instructions, see: <a href="https://kirtlandforcesupport.com/military-personnel/">https://kirtlandforcesupport.com/military-personnel/</a>. This box is monitored daily.</p> <p>For your convenience, Military Family Readiness has public computers available for your use at the Consolidated Support Facility, Building 20245, Room 126.</p> <p>If you do not have access to a computer, please call or visit our office Tuesday – Friday, 1200 – 1500 and one of our staff will be happy to set up an ID Card appointment with you.</p>	<p><b>ID Cards</b></p> <p><b>NEEDS UPDATE WITH NEW INFO!!!</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, call 1 (800) 538-9552 or login to <a href="http://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect">milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect</a>.</p>	<p><b>DEERS</b></p>

<p><b><u>European Airline Flight Delays</u></b></p> <p>Europe has a regulation, EC Regulation 261/2004, in place for compensating airline passengers for long delays, missed connections or cancelled flights. A passenger must have a valid ticket and a booking confirmation on a flight to or from anywhere in the European Union. Compensation may be up to EU600, depending on the length of the flight. To find out more specific information on the regulation and to see if you qualify for compensation, go to <a href="https://www.airhelp.com/en/ec-regulation-261-2004/#ec261-compensation-for-disrupted-flights">https://www.airhelp.com/en/ec-regulation-261-2004/#ec261-compensation-for-disrupted-flights</a> and <a href="https://www.flihtright.com/your-rights/eu-regulation">https://www.flihtright.com/your-rights/eu-regulation</a>.</p>	<p><b>Delayed European Airline Flights</b></p>
<p><b><u>Kirtland AFB Arts and Crafts Center</u></b></p> <p>The Arts and Crafts Center is starting a monthly community outreach crafting activity for Veterans and Retirees, starting in May 2024. It will be on the <u>THIRD TUESDAY</u> of each month from 1000 – 1100 at the Arts and Craft Center located in the CORE building (next to the BX). This activity is FREE with a few exceptions. Examples of activities that can be done include ceramics, knitting, crocheting, embroidery, Cricut, sewing, woodburning, leatherworking, handmade greeting cards and any other craft-related items that the group wants to do. Community outreach is the goal, so handmade craft items can be given as gifts to VA Hospital residents. Look for more information in The BLAST monthly magazine, weekly RAO updates, and the next quarterly newsletter.</p> <p><b><u>Custom Framing</u></b> - The Framing Center, located in the new Arts and Crafts Center at the CORE (next to the BX) offers mats, molding, and labor for framing at substantially reduced prices compared to off-base framing shops. Check them out for your framing needs.</p>	<p><b>KAFB Arts And Crafts Center</b></p>
<p><b><u>MVD Real ID</u></b></p> <p>Reminder: everyone must have a drivers' license with real ID by 7 May 2025. For documentation requirements and to make an appointment for a new drivers' license go to <a href="https://realid.mvd.newmexico.gov/">https://realid.mvd.newmexico.gov/</a> or call NM MVD at 888-683-4636 (888-MVD-INFO), Monday – Friday, 0800 – 1630.</p>	<p><b>MVD Real ID</b></p>
<p><b><u>Legal Office</u></b></p> <p>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>
<p><b><u>From AAFES</u></b></p> <p>The Base Exchange is no longer selling appliances on site. AAFES has partnered with Home Depot to offer military discounts, tax free and if desired, use of the military star credit card. To take advantage of this offer, login to <a href="https://www.shopmyexchange.com">https://www.shopmyexchange.com</a>. If you have questions or need further assistance, stop by the BX and ask for Theresa.</p> <p>The on-base Blakes Lota Burger will open soon. Standby for news.</p> <p>The Base has begun planning for an Air Show in 2025. Stay tuned for updates.</p>	<p><b>AAFES Update</b></p>
<p><b><u>UBER Drivers on Base</u></b></p> <p>UBER-certified drivers with a valid base ID are able to access Kirtland AFB for pick up and drop off orders. Please be sure to <u>verify</u> that your driver has the proper KAFB credentials before scheduling a ride.</p>	<p><b>UBER Info</b></p>

## **VA and Other Health Insurance** Source: <https://www.va.gov/health-care>

If you have other forms of health care coverage, such as a private insurance plan, Medicare, Medicaid or TRICARE, you can continue to use VA along with these plans. Remember, it is always a good idea to inform your doctors if you are receiving care outside of VA so your health care can be coordinated.

### **Private Health Insurance**

Veterans with private health insurance may choose to use these sources of coverage as a supplement to their VA health care benefits. Veterans are not responsible for paying any remaining balance of VA's insurance claim not paid or covered by their health insurance.

VA is required, by law, to bill private health insurance providers for medical care, supplies and prescriptions provided for treatment of Veterans' nonservice-connected conditions. All Veterans applying for VA medical care are required to provide information on their health insurance coverage, including coverage provided under policies of their spouses. Any payment received by VA may be used to offset "dollar for dollar" a Veteran's VA copay responsibility.

Funds that VA receives from third party health insurance carriers go directly back to VA Medical Center's operational budget. That money can be used to hire more staff or buy medical equipment to improve Veterans health care. Enrolled Veterans can provide or update their insurance information by:

- Using the online Health Benefits Renewal form (10-10-EZR) at [www.vets.gov/healthcare/apply/](http://www.vets.gov/healthcare/apply/)
- Calling 1-877-222-VETS (8387) Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. ET.
- Presenting their health insurance card to the clinic clerk during check-in. VA health care is NOT considered a health insurance plan

### **Medicare Coverage**

Enrollment in the VA health care system is considered creditable coverage for Medicare Part D purposes. This means VA prescription drug coverage is at least as good as the Medicare Part D coverage. Since only Veterans can enroll in the VA health care system, dependents and family members do not receive credible coverage under the Veteran's enrollment.

Under Medicare Part B, VA health care is NOT creditable coverage. Creditable coverage under Medicare Part B can only be provided through an employer. Although a Veteran may avoid the late enrollment penalty for Medicare Part D by citing VA health care enrollment, that enrollment would not help the Veteran avoid the late enrollment penalty for Part B.

VA does not recommend Veterans cancel or decline coverage in Medicare (or other health care or insurance programs) solely because they are enrolled in VA health care. Unlike Medicare, which offers the same benefits for all enrollees, VA assigns enrollees to enrollment priority groups based on a variety of eligibility factors, such as service-connection and income. There is no guarantee that in future years Congress will appropriate sufficient medical care funds for VA to provide care for all enrollment priority groups. This could leave Veterans, especially those enrolled in one of the lower-priority groups, with no access to VA health care coverage. For this reason, having a secondary source of coverage may be in Veterans' best interest.

Enrolling in both VA and Medicare can provide Veterans flexibility. For example, Veterans enrolled in both programs would have access to community physicians (under Medicare Part A or Part B) and can obtain prescription drugs not on the VA formulary if prescribed by community physicians and filled at their local retail pharmacies (under Medicare Part D). For more information on Medicare coverage, visit the Health and Human Services Medicare website at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).

## **VA Corner**



<p><b><u>Medicare Beneficiary Identifier</u></b></p> <p>The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will issue new Medicare cards that use a Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) instead of a Social Security number to identify subscribers. Veterans should bring their new cards to their next VA appointment so the subscriber ID can be updated in the patient's Medicare insurance file. For more information regarding the MBI, visit <a href="http://www.medicare.gov">www.medicare.gov</a>.</p>	
<p><b><u>Beware of IRS Scams</u></b></p> <p>The IRS will NEVER initiate contact about a bill or tax refund by email, text or social media.</p> <p><b>Scammers can pose as the IRS by mail – taxpayers should know the facts</b></p> <p>One of the newest and more devious schemes involves mail coming in a cardboard envelope from either a delivery service or the United States Postal Service (USPS). The enclosed letter includes the IRS masthead and wording that the notice is "in relation to your unclaimed refund." The contact information does not belong to the IRS, but the mailing looks official. This scheme seeks sensitive personal information from taxpayers – including driver's license photos – that can be used by identity thieves to steal the taxpayer's refund and other sensitive financial information.</p> <p><b>It's now easier to spot when it's a scammer at the door and not the IRS</b></p> <p>The IRS has ended most unannounced visits to taxpayers by agency revenue officers. Instead, revenue officers will contact taxpayers through an appointment letter, known as a 725-B Letter, and schedule a follow-up meeting. This will help taxpayers feel more prepared when it is time to meet.</p> <p><b>Scammers may also contact taxpayers electronically</b></p> <p>Taxpayers should be on the lookout for a surge of tax scams as identity thieves continue sending email and text messages promising tax refunds or offers to help 'fix' tax problems. They may pose as the IRS or tax professionals, urging the taxpayer to click fraudulent links so the identity thieves can steal valuable personal information.</p> <p>If in doubt, taxpayers who receive a request from the IRS by mail, email or phone <b><u>SHOULD</u></b> contact IRS customer service at (800) 829-1040 to authenticate the request.</p>	<p><b>Beware Of IRS Scams</b></p>
<p><b><u>Free or Low-Cost Event Tickets</u></b></p> <p>"Vet Tix" provides tickets to events which reduce stress, strengthen family bonds, build life-long memories and encourage service members and veterans to stay engaged with local communities and American life. We support our troops by honoring their service and providing positive family and life experiences, during and after their years of service to our country.</p> <p>Vet Tix provides tickets to all branches of currently serving Military and Veterans, including immediate family of troops KIA.</p> <p>The Veteran Tickets Foundation is proud to announce that to date 19,605,274 event tickets have been given out in <b>all 50 States and Washington, DC</b> to our Military, Veterans, and their families. Vet Tix secures tickets to sporting events, concerts, performing arts, educational and family activities across the nation. VetTixers sign up online. We verify their service. VetTixers request tickets to events that interest them, then pay a small delivery fee to receive their free tickets. Vet Tix is a 99% back to program charity. (Independently audited for 13 years.)</p> <p>Above info extracted from <a href="http://www.vettix.org">www.vettix.org</a></p>	<p><b>Event Tickets</b></p>

<p><b><u>A New Way to Preserve the Legacy of Military Members</u></b> - From <a href="https://news.va.gov">https://news.va.gov</a></p> <p>A Veteran’s military service memories, captured in their own words and photographs, is one of the most valuable legacies a former service member can provide for his or her family. Reading about what Veterans did to serve their country allows family members and future generations to understand and appreciate what they went through to provide the freedoms we all enjoy today.</p> <p>Togetherweserved.com (TWS), an online community with a membership of over 2.3 million U.S. Veterans, has been preserving the military service stories of its Veterans for over 20 years. TWS is seen as an important archive of living military history.</p> <p>By way of a guided questionnaire and a specially designed interface called ‘Service Reflections,’ TWS makes it very easy for Veterans to record memories of key people and events from their military service. Their service story comes to life by simply answering one question at a time to which they can add accompanying photographs.</p> <p>The result is a beautiful 12-inch-wide presentation of a Veteran’s entire Military Service Story, from enlistment to separation, complete with their personal Military Service Plaque. Veterans can download and save the plaque as a PDF file or share it with family and friends via a personal web address.</p> <p>Please see <a href="https://togetherweserved.com/memories">https://togetherweserved.com/memories</a> to learn more about preserving and sharing your Military Memories.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Togetherweserved.com has been collaborating with VA by hosting a monthly competition, promoted through the weekly VetResources newsletter, encouraging Veterans to write about a specific memory from their military service. Over 6,400 exceptional stories have been submitted since the Military Memories competition commenced in February 2023. All 55 winning entries can be viewed at <a href="https://blog.togetherweserved.com/va-military-memories-competition/">https://blog.togetherweserved.com/va-military-memories-competition/</a>.</p>	<p><b>Preserving The Legacy Of Military Members</b></p>
<p><b><u>The BX Pharmacy Needs Volunteers</u></b></p> <p>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>	<p><b>Volunteer at the BX Pharmacy</b></p>
<p><b><u>Civil Air Patrol Needs Volunteers</u></b></p> <p>Civil Air Patrol Eagle Cadet Squadron is looking for short- and long-term volunteers of all ages! Adult opportunities include working as part of an Aircrew, sUAS operator, Aerospace and STEM instruction, and many other opportunities! The youth Cadet Program provides an opportunity to learn military structure while learning about Aerospace, Leadership, Flight, Cyber Systems, Outdoor Survival and much more! No prior experience is necessary. For more information about Civil Air Patrol, visit <a href="https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com">https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com</a> or contact Capt. James McKelvey at <a href="mailto:command.012@nmwgc.ap.gov">command.012@nmwgc.ap.gov</a>, 505-379-7243, or Eagle Cadet Squadron, Civil Air Patrol Facebook.</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 <b>ask</b> and show a valid military ID. The latest discounts we found are 10% at Genghis Grill and 10% at Neighbors Westside Bar and Grill. 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>Base Thrift Shop</u></b>  The KAFB Thrift Shop is currently closed while they move to their new location at the corner of Wyoming and Frost, across from Hardin Field (the old arts and crafts building). It will reopen there in early March.</p>	<p><b>Thrift Shop</b></p>
<p><b><u>Kirtland AFB Veterinary Treatment Facility</u></b>  Veterinary weekly appointments are now available. Services include basic wellness appointments, sick call appointments, dental cleanings, and surgical procedures (including spay/neuter). Please call 505-846-4276 or drop by the clinic to register your pet and schedule an appointment. The location is Building 20168, Pennsylvania Ave., behind the Base Exchange.</p> <p><b><u>Canine respiratory illness</u></b>  A canine respiratory illness has been reported in many states over the past several months for which a cause has not yet been identified. Signs range anywhere from mild respiratory signs (cough/sneeze) lasting &gt;6 weeks to lung infections that can rapidly progress and lead to poor outcomes. This illness is minimally to non-responsive to antibiotics. Very little is known about the condition, but co-mingling with other dogs is in many of the histories.</p> <p>Currently, it is recommended to advise owners against taking their dogs to dog parks, groomers, and boarding facilities. If they must go to a boarding facility, ensure they are up to date on all respiratory-related vaccinations.</p> <p>Please direct any specific questions to your local veterinarian or the Kirtland AFB VTF at 505-846-4276.</p>	<p><b>Base Veterinary Clinic</b></p>
<p><b><u>KAFB Thunderbird Dining Facility</u></b>  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. <u>Note:</u> Credit cards or cash are accepted for payment.</p>	<p><b>Thunderbird Dining Facility</b></p>
<p><b><u>Kirtland AFB Chapel and Religious Services</u></b>  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>The Kirtland AFB Protestant Community Service meets every Sunday at 11 a.m. at the base Chapel. Anyone with base access is welcome to attend.</p> <p>Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC) meets every Wednesday, 0900 – 1200, in the annex of the Base Chapel.</p> <p>Jewish Shabbat in the Chapel conference room Fridays at 1800. Service is followed by Kiddish and Oneg. RSVP to Senior Airman Nicholas Bade <a href="mailto:nbearbade@gmail.com">nbearbade@gmail.com</a> or by calling the Chapel at 505-853-5000. Shabbat services are held contingent upon RSVPs.</p> <p><b><u>Daily Mass at Kirtland Chapel</u></b>  The 377 Chaplain Corps is happy to announce the Daily Mass schedule is resuming and will be offered Monday through Thursday at 1130, through the Lenten/Easter seasons.</p>	<p><b>Kirtland AFB Chapel Services</b></p>
<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>

Minimum base services will be available on these dates in 2024		<b>2024 Wing Holidays And Training Days (Tentative)</b>
Thursday, 15 February 2024	Training Day	
Friday, 16 February 2024	Family Day	
Monday, 19 February 2024	President's Day	
Thursday, 21 March 2024	Training Day	
Thursday, 18 April 2024	Training Day	
Thursday, 16 May 2024	Training Day	
Friday, 24 May 2024	Family Day	
Monday, 27 May 2024	Memorial Day	
Wednesday, 19 June 2024	Juneteenth	
Thursday, 20 June 2024	Training Day	
Thursday, 4 July 2024	Independence Day	
Friday, 5 July 2024	Family Day	
Thursday, 18 July 2024	Training Day	
Thursday, 15 August 2024	Training Day	
Friday, 30 August 2024	Family Day	
Monday, 2 September 2024	Labor Day	
Thursday, 19 September 2024	Training Day	
Friday, 11 October 2024	Family Day	
Monday, 14 October 2024	Indigenous Peoples Day	
Thursday, 17 October 2024	Training Day	
Friday, 11 November 2024	Veterans Day	
Monday, 13 November 2024	Family Day	
Thursday, 21 November 2024	Training Day	
Thursday, 28 November 2024	Thanksgiving Day	
Friday, 29 November 2024	Family Day	
Thursday, 21 December 2024	Training Day	
Tuesday, 24 December 2024	Family Day	
Wednesday, 25 December 2024	Christmas Day	
Tuesday, 31 December 2024	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: 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	tricare.mil
Tricare for Life	tricare.mil/tfl
Tricare Resource / Claims Information	tricare4u.com
Tricare West Region	tricare-west.com

### 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
Life Insurance Locator Service	(816)783-8500
Medicare Claims and Information	1 (800) 633-4227
My Pay (DFAS)	1 (888) 332-7411
National Archives (DD-214 Requests)	(866) 272-6272
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
Santa Fe National Cemetery	(505) 988-6400
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) 846-7240
VA Benefits Advisor	(505) 853-1707
VA Benefits Hot Line	(800) 827-1000
VA Hospital Albuquerque	(505) 265-1711
Veterinary Office	(505) 846-4276
Veterans Group Life Insurance	1 (800) 419-1473
West Side Fitness Center	(505) 846-1068

"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."





**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>**

**SAVE THE DATE  
KAFB Retiree Activities Office  
RETIREE APPRECIATION WEEK  
13-17 May 2024**