

### **KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE**

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



"Your link to retiree benefits information and assistance."

	Volume IV, Issue II Newsletter Date: May 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."
Hello from the Director  Volunteer Director Sally Uebelacker  Staff Volunteers Marykay Chapman Trudy Ann DeGraff David Dunlap Doris Gilligan Jim Hunter Yoko Leftault Robert Liddy Carol Maddux	Dear Fellow Retirees,  We trust you are doing well and as anxious to ease out of COVID restrictions as we are. Do make your health a number one priority. With that in mind, this edition of our newsletter recaps information on obtaining test kits, getting vaccinations and testing locations should the need arise. There is a brief update about base pharmacy operations—a high priority for most of us.
	We have included some information that you may find helpful when you are ready to get out and about, such as how to obtain a free National Park pass and Space A travel. You may be interested in knowing that Sunday brunch has returned and is available once a month at the Mountain View Club. (see the Blast magazine for details). Also, we continue to compile a list of local businesses that offer military discounts that you may want to take advantage of.
Retiree Activities Office Suite 146 1451 4th St SE Kirtland AFB, NM 87117	The RAO staff recently cohosted a Caregiver Workshop with the Red Cross and participated with Airmen and Family Readiness in the Base Helping Agency Information Fair. Now we are actively planning the annual Retiree Appreciation Event, scheduled for the week of 11-15 July 2022. Watch for more details and we hope to see you there!
Open Tues-Fri 1200-1500 (505) 846-1536	If you have questions, call us at (505) 846-1536 or stop by the office.  Warmest Regards,  Sally
2022 Retiree Activities Week	Announcing the 2022 Retiree Activities Week This year our Retiree Activities Week will be 11-15 July 2022. So far, the schedule includes: Specials at the Mountain View Club, Arts and Crafts, the Aero Club, CORE, Bowling and Golf. Also, there's an information fair and movie on Thursday, 14 July and the ever-popular golf tournament on Friday, 15 July. Stay tuned for more information. We look forward to seeing everyone there.
Free Covid-19 At-Home Test Kits	Free Covid Test Kits  Each U. S. household can order a second set of four free COVID-19 at-home tests shipped directly to their residential address. To order the tests, please only use the official, secure website: <a href="https://COVIDtests.gov">https://COVIDtests.gov</a> , or: <a href="https://special.usps.com/testkits">https://covIDtests.gov</a> , or: <a href="https://special.usps.com/testkits">https://covIDtests.gov</a> , or: <a href="https://special.usps.com/testkits">https://special.usps.com/testkits</a> , or call 1 (800) 232-0233. <a href="https://special.usps.com/testkits">BEWARE:</a> There is a phone scam going around – if anyone calls asking for information so they can send you free test kits – <a href="https://special.usps.com/testkits">DO NOT GIVE THEM ANY PERSONAL INFORMATION</a> . <a href="https://special.usps.com/testkits">HANG UP!</a> It is a <a href="https://special.usps.com/testkits">SCAM!!!</a>
Medicare, Tricare And Covid Home Test Kits	Medicare, Tricare and At-Home Covid Test Kits  Over-the-counter at-home tests give rapid results and you can take them anywhere, regardless of your vaccination status or whether or not you have symptoms. Visit CDC.gov to learn when to test yourself, how to use an over-the-counter test, and what your test results mean. NOTE: ALWAYS check the expiration date before using!

In addition to the 8 free tests per household by mail as indicated above, Medicare will now cover the cost of up to 8 at-home test kits <u>per person</u> , per month. Check with your local pharmacy to ensure they take Medicare and that they have the test kits available. And remember to bring your Medicare card to the pharmacy.  Note: Tricare does <u>NOT</u> 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, and NextCare clinics. There is a current list available at the NM Department of Health website <a href="https://cvprovider.nmhealth.org/directory.html">https://cvprovider.nmhealth.org/directory.html</a> .	COVID Testing
Covid Vaccines and Boosters  The CDC recommends a second FREE Pfizer or Moderna Covid booster vaccine for those over 50 years of age or those 12 years and above who are moderately or severely immunocompromised. The CDC recommends this additional booster four months after the last dose to increase protection from severe disease from COVID-19. This is especially important for those 65 and older who are at higher risk from severe disease and most likely to benefit from getting an additional booster. Go online or call your local pharmacy to make an appointment for the booster.	Covid Vaccines And Boosters
KAFB Pharmacy Information Please note that the BX Pharmacy is presently only staffed at 60% of their authorized positions and yet they still fill approximately 700 prescriptions a day. Unfortunately, the "new and improved" DOD Mandated transition to the Genesis Information System has increased the time per transaction by 30-60 seconds. This amounts to an additional 5 hours per day to fill those 700 prescriptions! It will take some time for staff to get used to the new system and improve their efficiency. We can all help by abiding by the following procedures:	
Once a physician sends an electronic script to the Pharmacy, the customer <u>must call</u> the Pharmacy at (505) 846-5770 to activate it before it can be filled. New scripts, either written or electronic, can be filled the same day, but it may take up to 4 hours. Follow the procedures on the sign at the entrance to the pharmacy.	KAFB Pharmacy Update
NOTE: THERE IS NO SAME DAY PICKUP AVAILABLE FOR REFILLS!!! Once you call the pharmacy to order the refill, it will take approximately 4 days for it to be ready, so PLEASE plan ahead. Generally, refills may be ordered 10-14 days in advance. An exception is for a controlled substance — this can only be ordered 3 days in advance. Once the pharmacy fills the order, it will remain available for pick-up for 14 days before it will be returned to stock. When ordering your refill, you may request it to be available at the BX Pharmacy window or at the script center (Note: refrigerated scripts will be available at the BX Pharmacy window only). Unfortunately, there have been some problems with the script center, so sometimes you will still need to go to the pharmacy window. Hopefully, the system will be perfected soon.	·

BX Pharmacy Volunteer Opportunity  The BX Pharmacy is looking for dedicated volunteers. The Red Cross office is in charge of accepting applicants. If you are interested, you can call their office at (480) 313-1296, or our office at (505) 846-1536 for more information.	Volunteer at the BX Pharmacy
DEERS Information It is important to keep your information in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) up to date. To check your information, login to milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect or call 1 (800) 538-9552.	DEERS
Veterinary Clinic The appointment schedule for the following month opens on the last week of the month. It fills up quickly. Call (505) 846-4276 to schedule your pet's curbside or in person annual exam, health certificate, senior bloodwork, and/or vaccinations. There are no sick pet appointments available. The veterinary clinic is a Medical Group facility and a facemask is required in the building. Medication refills require 72-hour notice and a specified pick-up time.	Base Veterinary Clinic
KAFB MVD Office The contracted Kirtland AFB Motor Vehicle Department office is closed until further notice due to personnel retirement.	MVD Office
Do you have household items you would like to donate?  Think about donating your serviceable household items to the Airman's Attic. These items are made available free of charge to E1-E5. The hours are Monday and Wednesday, 1000-1200. Call (505) 846-0460 for more information.  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.	Donate Household Items
Junior Achievement New Mexico Seeks Volunteers  Junior Achievement New Mexico (JA NM) needs virtual volunteers. It is a non-profit organization providing free financial literacy, work-readiness, and entrepreneurship programs for K-12 students across New Mexico. The program matches a classroom educator with a JA volunteer. For more information, contact Lindsay Humphries at <a href="mailto:lindsay@newmexicoja.org">lindsay@newmexicoja.org</a> or call (505) 342-6352, extension 519.	Volunteer Request
American Forces Travel American Forces Travel is a Department of Defense online leisure travel website managed by Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) and supported by Priceline. It can be found at <a href="mailto:AmericanForcesTravel.com">AmericanForcesTravel.com</a> or through the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) Marketplace at <a href="www.shopmyexchange.com/marketplace">www.shopmyexchange.com/marketplace</a> . There are discounts available for hotels, flights, rental cars, cruises, packages and event tickets.	Travel Discounts
Veterans eligible for discounts include all Veterans of the United States Armed Forces with an honorable or general under honorable conditions discharge. A full list of eligibility is available on the American Forces Travel home page.	
Reservations made through AmericanForcesTravel.com include no booking fees, 24/7 customer service, best price guarantee, and a portion of each transaction going to support MWR programs.	

Space-A Travel Is Back The Air Mobility Command (AMC) announced that as of 22 April 2022, all restrictions on Space Available (Space-A) Travel have been lifted. Full service Space-A should be restored by 13 May 2022.  CONUS passengers are required to follow current federal COVID-19 travel procedures, and those traveling OCONUS need to follow any additional testing requirements and restrictions for travel to their specific destination. The list of overseas requirements is available through the Department of Defense's Electronic Foreign Clearance Guide.  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>	Space-A Travel
Be Aware of Scams Targeting Veterans Recently, the Federal Trade Commission reported that 2.8 million fraud cases, totaling over \$5.8 billion, were submitted by Americans in 2021. It is likely that there are many more unreported cases. Veterans, especially senior Veterans, have been the target of multiple phone scams involving their pensions.  Pension theft can occur when a veteran is convinced to change their payouts to a new bank account or a separate financial product (annuities or trusts, for example),	VA Corner
preventing them from accessing the money. This is typically done by either a fast-talking stranger, or even a known caregiver.  Generally, when veterans' bank accounts are changed without an explanation, an internal check within the VA is triggered to ensure that fraud is not occurring. But that doesn't always happen. And, there are plenty of other theft schemes out there that are more difficult to detect.  Remember, the VA <b>NEVER</b> charges to process applications for benefits and services.	
And, it is against the law for an outside group or attorney to charge claimants for preparing benefits applications. Also, no one can guarantee that the VA will award you a benefit or service. It is completely up to the VA.  To find out more information about your specific services or benefits, contact the VA's National Call Center at 1 (800) 827-1000.  REMEMBER - If someone calls about Veterans Benefits and asks for personal	
information, it is likely a scam. Hang up and call the VA yourself!  More information on potential scams is available at the VA Benefits Administration website: <a href="https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/limitedincome/pension-poaching.pdf">https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/limitedincome/pension-poaching.pdf</a>	
Free National Park Passes  U.S. Military veterans and Gold Star Families have FREE lifetime access to more than 2,000 federal recreation areas, including national parks, wildlife refuges, and forests. Free annual passes are also available for active -duty military personnel. This pass can be obtained at any federal recreation 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!!!

Honor Flights  After a two-year hiatus, Honor Flights are starting up again. Several years ago, this program began scheduling occasional weekend trips to the WWII Memorial in Washington D.C. for veterans from WWII. The program has now expanded to include veterans from the Korean War and the Vietnam War. For more information visit their website at <a href="https://honorflightnm.org.orcall.1">honorflightnm.org.orcall.1</a> (844) 697-1590.	Honor Flights	
From the Exchange (AAFES)  The KAFB Exchange manager advises that the Base Exchange is still experiencing logistics issues. As soon as one shortage gets eliminated, another pops up on a different product. Also, they are still working on bids and contract for the former McDonald's building. Hopefully we will have more details soon. On the bright side, there are plans to reopen the base car wash later this year. Stay tuned.	News From AAFES	
Local Area Military Discounts  The Retiree Activities Office is collecting information about local businesses that offer military discounts. Our latest information includes a 10% discount at Osuna Nursery and a discount at Famous Footwear (on most items). 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> .	Military Discounts	
The Veterans Legacy Memorial The Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM) is the nation's first digital platform dedicated entirely to the memory of more than 4.3 million Veterans interred in VA's national cemeteries. Launched in 2019, individual Veteran profile pages are populated with military service and cemetery information. Publicly available information gathered from VA records includes service branch with logo, dates of birth and death, rank, war period, decorations, emblem of belief, and cemetery information. Prior interments displayed in VLM go back as far as the Revolutionary War!	r <b>Veteran's</b>	
Interactive features allow family, friends, and others to preserve their Veteran's Legacy by posting tributes (comments), uploading images, sharing their Veteran's military service timeline and achievements, biographical information, historical documents and more. The site allows visitors to share Veteran profile pages by email and post them to Facebook and Twitter. Additionally, VLM users can also "Follow a Veteran" to receive email alerts when new content is added to that Veteran's page.	Legacy Memorial	
Currently, only Veterans buried in a VA National Cemetery and/or a grant-funded state, tribal or territory cemetery are included in the VLM. For information on how to submit content, search and "like" user-submitted contents see <a href="About the Veterans">About the Veterans</a> <a href="Legacy Memorial">Legacy Memorial (VLM) — National Cemetery Administration (va.gov) or <a href="https://www.cem.va.gov/">https://www.cem.va.gov/</a>.</a>		
Santa Fe National Cemetery The Santa Fe National Cemetery is a national shrine, which serves as a reminder of the untold histories of the veterans who helped preserve our freedom. It is located at 501 N. Guadalupe St, approximately one-mile northwest of the Santa Fe Plaza. The Santa Fe National Cemetery was established in 1875 to bury the remains of Union soldiers who lost their lives in the Battle of Glorieta Pass. It became an official National Cemetery in 1892. It is open daily from sunrise to sunset. Administrative offices are open Monday to Friday, 0800 - 1630 (closed on all Federal holidays except Memorial Day). If you require more information, please contact (505) 988-6400 or visit the Veteran Affairs website, <a href="https://www.cem.va.gov/nchp/santafe.asp">https://www.cem.va.gov/nchp/santafe.asp</a> .	Santa Fe National Cemetery	

There are specific documentation requirements for Veteran burial. Burial in a national cemetery is open to all members of the armed forces who have met a minimum active duty service requirement and were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. A Veteran's spouse, widow or widower, minor dependent children, and under certain conditions, unmarried adult children with disabilities may also be eligible for burial. Eligible spouses and children may be buried even if they predecease the Veteran. Members of the reserve components of the armed forces who die while on active duty or who die while on training duty, or were eligible for retired pay, may also be eligible for burial.	
History The Twentieth Air Force was created 78 years ago when Gen Henry H. "Hap" Arnold, commanding general of the US Army Air Forces, formed and assumed command of the last numbered Air Force of World War II. The Twentieth's role during World War II demonstrated the value of an independent air force. Its legacy at the end of the war was lauded by Gen. Carl A. Spaatz, US Army Strategic Air Forces commander at the time, as "the best organized and most technically and tactically proficient" in history.	Military History
While the weapons and tactics have changed since the organization's early days, Airmen of Twentieth Air Force continue to carry on the legacy of a projection of strength and unparalleled combat capability. With the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent and MH-139 systems soon to be introduced, this is our time to make history and build upon the enduring reputation of those before us.	
As the Air Force takes this year to celebrate 75 years as a service, take time to reflect on the incredible history you are a part of as a Sentinel Warrior and the vital role you played in keeping this nation safe, just as those who came before you did.	
Did you know the replacement for the Minuteman III will be named the Sentinel?	
Safety and Security Please remember that Marijuana is not allowed on a DOD Installation.	Security
Kirtland AFB Gate Operations  Carlisle Gate – weekdays 0530 – 0900 in/outbound, 1530 – 1730 outbound only Eubank Gate – open 24/7  Gibson Gate – open 0530 – 1930 daily  Maxwell Gate – open 24/7  Truman Gate – open 24/7 with Visitor Control Center  Wyoming Gate – weekdays 0530 - 0900 in/outbound, 1530 – 1730 outbound only	KAFB Gate Access
ID Cards ID Cards can be renewed up to 30 days in advance of their expiration date. Appointments can be scheduled at online at: <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.  NOTE: If you still have an ID card with your SSN, you need to get a new card.	ID Cards
Security Forces are confiscating those cards at base entry gates IAW DOD policy.	
Legal Office Appointments for POA/Notary services are no longer required. Retiree walk-ins are available Tuesday and Thursday from 1400-1600 for these services. To schedule an	Legal Office

#### **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** Note: 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 **V**eteran 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: https://www.shopmyexchange.com • Coast Guard Exchange: <a href="https://shopCGX.com">https://shopCGX.com</a> Marine Corps Exchange: http://www.mymcx.com • Navy Exchange: <a href="https://www.mynavyexchange.com">https://www.mynavyexchange.com</a> • Veterans Canteen Service: https://shopvcs.va.gov **Military Services Newsletters** Air Force Afterburner: www.retirees.af.mil/afterburner Army Echoes: http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement **Important** Coast Guard Evening Colors: http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg1/psc/ras **Newsletters** DFAS Retiree Newsletter: https://www.dfas.mil/retireenews Marine Corps Semper Fidelis: www.usmc-mccs.org Navy Shift Colors: www.shiftcolors.navy.mil

Minimum base services will be a	available on these dates in 2022	
Thursday, 19 May 2022	Training Day	
Friday, 27 May 2022	Family Day	
Monday, 30 May 2022	Memorial Day	
Thursday, 16 June 2022	Training Day	
Friday, 17 June 2022	Family Day	
Monday, 20 June 2022	Juneteenth (Observed)	
Friday, 1 July 2022	Family Day	2022
Monday, 4 July 2022	Independence Day	Wing Holidays
Thursday, July 21 2022	Training Day	And
Thursday, 18 August 2022	Training Day	Training Days
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 Numbers**

Oseiul Filolie Nullibe	13
Airman and Family Readiness	(505) 846-0751
Arts and Crafts	(505) 853-3003
Base Exchange	(505) 232-8771
Base Exchange - Pharmacy	(505) 846-7902
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**

	OSCIAI WCDSILCS
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

# Photos From The Base Helping Agency Information Fair







#### **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 377ABW.CVR.RetireeActivities@us.af.mil

## Visit Our New KAFB Retiree Activities Office Website

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

See You at the Retiree Activities Week 11-15 July 2022