



KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE

Quarterly Retiree Newsletter

Volume VI, Issue IV, Oct-Dec 2024



"Your link to retiree benefits information and assistance."

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Open Tues-Fri

1200-1500
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Fellow Retirees,

It's finally winter in the land of Enchantment. As I write this introduction, I am watching the snow fall in the east mountains.

This edition of our newsletter brings the calendar year to a close. It's been a year of significant changes in DoD and USAF policies and procedures, and we look forward to some stability in the new year. It is sometimes challenging to keep track of the changes and keep everyone up to date. If we are missing any topic that you would like us to address, please let us know.

The team and I appreciate all the positive feedback you have given us. There are ten of us now to assist you. It's a really great team! Stop by and meet the staff whenever you are in the area. We are open Tuesday-Friday 1200-1500. Our Holiday Open House is at our office on 5 December 2024, 1100-1500. We look forward to seeing you

Looking at the year ahead, we are planning for Retiree Appreciation Week 28 April - 2 May 2025. The base is planning an air show and open house for 31 May and 1 Jun 2025. We are planning an educational seminar for retirees in late August.

Unfortunately, we had to say goodbye to one of our dear colleagues, Jim Hunter—see our spotlight section. We welcome a new volunteer, Mike Wismer.

We thank you for your service and we wish you a healthy, happy holiday season.

Sincerely,
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 or call our office at (505) 846-1536.

Holiday Open House

RAO Holiday Open House

Come meet the RAO volunteers at our Holiday Open House. It's in our office on 5 December 2024, 1100-1500. We look forward to seeing you!

<p><u>In Memorium – James Hunter, Major, USAF (Ret)</u></p> <p>We recently lost one of our own Retiree Activities Office dedicated volunteers, Jim Hunter. He joined the Air Force in January 1963 and had several assignments as an enlisted man: basic training at Lackland AFB, San Antonio, TX; Russian language school at Syracuse University, NY; radio school at Goodfellow AFB, San Angelo, TX; radio intercept at Karamursel, Turkey, and photo intercept, at Offut AFB, Omaha, NE. While in Omaha, Jim was selected for the AECF program which allowed him to get a degree in Police Administration (now Criminal Justice) at Michigan State University. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in June 1969. His assignments with Security Forces included Malstrom AFB, Great Falls, MT, Ramey AFB, Puerto Rico, and NKP, Thailand. After receiving his Master’s Degree in Criminal Justice, he was stationed at Scott AFB, IL as part of the IG Team. Then it was on to Kirtland AFB, NM, followed by Minot AFB, ND. His final assignment before retiring was back at Kirtland AFB, NM as the Commander of the Security Police Squadron. Throughout his career as an officer, Jim really loved working with young airmen and young lieutenants – as he had spent his first 6 years in the AF walking in their shoes.</p> <p>Jim retired in 1985 after 22 years of service. He then went to work for the Bernalillo County Department of Corrections. In 2006, he decided to retire to pursue volunteer interests. These included becoming a board member of the 100 Club of New Mexico, an active participant and instructor for the HAM radio operators; an active member and instructor for the area CERT programs, a greeter at the Veteran's Memorial, a volunteer at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History, member of the Air Force Security Forces Association, and, of course, a valued member of the Kirtland RAO.</p> <p>Jim, we miss your smiling face, sunny disposition, story embellishments and dedication to NM military retirees! Rest in peace ...</p>	<p>Spotlight on a Retiree Office Volunteer</p> 
<p><u>REAL ID:</u> If you are bringing a visitor on base through the Truman Visitor Center to obtain a pass, they must have two forms of photo ID and one of them must be <u>Real ID compliant</u>. If the visitor’s driver’s license is not Real ID compliant, their second form of ID must be a current passport or other Real ID. Remember, you can only access KAFB with either a valid, current base access id or a visitor pass.</p>	<p>REAL ID Enforcement</p>
<p><u>Do You Need A New ID Card?</u></p> <p>It has recently been difficult to get an appointment for a new ID card. The Retiree Activities Office has partnered with Military Personnel on a pilot program intended to help our retirees and their dependents get new or updated ID cards. For the foreseeable future, there will be a dedicated “Retiree Day and Time” from 1100 – 1400 hours on the second Tuesday of each month. The next two dedicated times and days are 1100 – 1400 hours on 12 November 2024 and 10 December 2024. Retirees and their dependents <u>WILL</u> have priority. <u>Note:</u> You can update your information in DEERS at the same time, even if you don’t need a new ID card. (To check or update your information, login to milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect or call 1 (800) 538-9552.) Volunteers from the RAO will be on hand to meet and greet our retirees.</p> <p><u>Please Remember:</u> if you don’t already have one, everyone will need the newest version of ID card (white plastic) by 1 June 2026. You can get this any time before that date. <u>Please do NOT wait until the last minute to get the new ID Card!!!</u></p> <p>Other self-service ways to get your new ID Card include: (for already established IDs only)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Order a new Retiree/Dependent ID online and have it mailed to you in 30 days. Go to https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/locator and follow the visuals in the DD Form 1172-2 drop-down <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan ahead – this process takes 30 days to be completed • Order a new Retiree/Dependent ID and pick it up in about 2 weeks; please utilize the kiosks located in the Consolidated Support Squadron <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have all required documentation (2 forms of unexpired ID) • Must have a signed DD Form 1172-2, or the sponsor must attend for ID card pick-up • Please remember that this process takes about 2 weeks to complete if all submitted documentation is correct. A system generated email will be sent if the application was accepted. Retirees will be contacted if their package is incorrect. 	<p>ID Cards And DEERS</p>

- You will be called or emailed when your id card is ready.

Accessing Your Social Security Account Online

The Social Security Administration (SSA) is changing the way to access your SSA account online. In the future, to access their online services, including *my Social Security*, you will need to create a [Login.gov](https://www.login.gov) or [ID.me](https://www.id.me) account. Not only is login.gov or (ID.me) used by SSA, but these ID s also will be used by other government agencies, so you'll only need one login to access multiple government websites.

If you already use either a [Login.gov](https://www.login.gov) or [ID.me](https://www.id.me) account to sign in to your SSA Account, you do not need to take any action.

To transition to your "my **Social Security** account", go to <https://www.ssa.gov/myaccount> and select "Sign in with Social Security Username". After successfully signing in, you will be asked to create an account with [Login.gov](https://www.login.gov). [Login.gov](https://www.login.gov) has 24/7 customer phone and chat support to answer your questions and, if needed, help you with creating your account.

After you successfully link your Social Security username with your new [Login.gov](https://www.login.gov) account, you will see a confirmation screen and be directed to the service you are attempting to access (SSA). You can start using your new [Login.gov](https://www.login.gov) account to access Social Security online services immediately. Your old Social Security username will no longer be available.

Changes to Online Social Security Account Access

Pharmacy Changes

The main pharmacy in the 377 Medical Group Clinic has reopened. Effective immediately, **new scripts** and **any script your doctor sends to the KAFB Pharmacy** are automatically sent to the clinic pharmacy and that is where you will pick them up. Your **refills** will continue to be filled at the BX pharmacy and picked up at the window or the kiosk (24/7).

This change should be transparent to your doctor. Although you may have two pick up points now, the benefit is that for new prescriptions you will no longer need to **activate** a new prescription. Also, there are 5 reserved parking spaces at the clinic exclusively for pharmacy pickup. They are near the front entrance. If needed, wheelchairs are available inside the main entrance. Let us know what questions you have, and we'll get answers for you. Contact us at 377 ABW/CVR Retiree Activities, 505-846-1536 or 377ABW.CVR.RetireeActivities@us.af.mil

So, what does that mean?

New Pharmacy Procedures



KIRTLAND AFB PHARMACY CHANGES



On 9/23/24, all NEW & RENEWAL prescriptions will AUTOMATICALLY be processed at the clinic pharmacy. No activation required!



Who: All Pharmacy Beneficiaries
What: All **Refill** Prescriptions
When: M-F 0800-1700
Where: Kirtland AFB Base Exchange
 7901 Gibson Blvd SE.
 Bldg 20176
 Albuquerque NM 87117



Who: All Pharmacy Beneficiaries
What: All **New & Renewal** Prescriptions
When: M-F 0730-1630
Where: 377 Medical Group
 1501 San Pedro St SE
 Bldg 47
 Albuquerque NM 87117



Who: All Pharmacy Beneficiaries
What: Non-Refrigerated Medications
When: 24/7
Where: East Entrance of Bx
 7901 Gibson Blvd SE.
 Bldg 20176
 Albuquerque NM



The Nuclear Mission Facilitates Relationships



<p><u>A Little More Information On Prescription Refills</u></p> <p>If you have a DS Logon, you can access the Kirtland Pharmacy through the MHS GENESIS Patient Portal. From your browser, navigate to https://myaccess.dmdc.osd.mil/identitymanagement/app/login . Then, you can send a message to the pharmacy requesting medication refills. Please include what medication(s) you would like refilled and whether you would like to pick them up at the Bx Pharmacy window or the Script Center in the BX.</p> <p>Alternatively, you can call (505) 846-7902 to use the automated phone line to request your prescription refills.</p>	<p>Prescription REFILL Requests</p>
<p><u>377 MDG Immunizations</u></p> <p>The Immunization Clinic is available by appointment only. Available vaccines include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Pneumonia, Td/Tdap and Shingles vaccines</u> on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. • <u>Flu Vaccine</u> on select Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 0800-1200 and 1300-1600. • <u>Moderna Covid-19</u> vaccine available and limited to selected Fridays from 1300-1500. <p>To make an appointment, go to https://go.thryv.com/site/377MDG or call (505) 846-3200. Check-in for all appointments will be located at the front desk</p> <p><u>Note:</u> The RSV vaccine is currently not available.</p> <p><u>377 MDG Radiology</u></p> <p>Outside orders are not available via 0730-1030 walk-ins. Appointments must be booked via Thryv https://go.thryv.com/site/377MDG. The x-ray order must be no older than 60 days and include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete patient information • Paper order from ordering physician • ICD-10 codes • Ordering provider information • Ordering provider fax number • Ordering provider signature 	<p>377th Med Group Information</p>
<p><u>Medicare Open Season</u></p> <p>The Medicare open season is 15 October 2024 – 7 December 2024. The Medicare Handbook is available online at Medicare Handbook https://www.medicare.gov/medicare-and-you and you can compare Medicare plans online at https://www.medicare.gov/plan-compare/#/?year=2025&lang=en .</p> <p><u>Tricare Open Season</u></p> <p>The Tricare open season is 11 November 2024 – 10 December 2024. If you already have Tricare for Life and wish to continue the coverage, you do not need to do anything.</p> <p><u>IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRICARE IF YOU OR A DEPENDENT ARE PAYING PREMIUMS UNDER TRICARE RESERVE SELECT, TRICARE RETIRED RESERVE OR TRICARE YOUNG ADULT!!!</u></p> <p>New Mexico is in the TriWest region. The region is undergoing a contract transfer. This means that any changes you need to make must be by phone. If you pay any way other than by direct deposit (if you or spouse or dependent are not TFL yet) you will need to update your information with the new carrier.</p> <p><u>AGAIN</u> - This only applies to military retirees and retired family members, or individuals paying premiums under TRICARE Reserve Select, TRICARE Retired Reserve, or TRICARE Young Adult. These beneficiaries pay a premium or enrollment fee – and <u>MUST</u> ensure payment information is updated to maintain TRICARE benefits. The payment information <u>MUST</u> be completed prior to 1 January 2025 for coverage to continue.</p>	<p>VERY IMPORTANT</p> <p>*** *** *** *** ***</p> <p>Medicare, Tricare and FEDVIP Open Season</p> <p>*** *** *** ***</p>

<p>1. If you currently pay your enrollment fee by direct allotment from your retirement pay, you don't need to do anything. Those transactions will automatically transfer to TriWest.</p> <p>2. If you currently pay enrollment fees by recurring credit or debit card or electronic funds transfer from your bank, you need to update your payment authorization with TriWest. Payments with the current contractor end Dec. 31, 2024. TriWest won't charge your payment until Jan. 1, 2025. To update your credit or debit card EFT authorization, visit https://tricare.mil/About/Regions/West-Region to find links to the following automatic payment options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option 1: Set up automatic payments securely online. Select <i>New User? Sign up now</i> under the blue <i>Sign in</i> button, verify your email address, and complete the secure forms. Option 2: Print and Mail Form to Set Up Payments. Complete the form and mail it to TriWest Healthcare Alliance PO Box 2605 Virginia Beach, VA 23450. <p>You can find out more at tricare.mil/west .</p> <p><u>WE REALIZE THAT NOT EVERYONE HAS ACCESS TO A COMPUTER, SO - IF YOU NEED HELP, PLEASE CALL OR COME IN TO OUR OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!</u></p> <p><u>Dental and/or Vision Coverage</u></p> <p>The Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) open season is 11 November 2024 – 9 December 2024 (Note: it ends 1 day BEFORE Tricare Open Season ends). The FEDVIP dental and vision plans are separate from TRICARE, but you must be enrolled in a TRICARE health plan to get FEDVIP coverage.</p> <p>If you're eligible for FEDVIP, you can enroll in or change your coverage during Federal Benefits Open Season. If you are already enrolled for 2024 and wish to continue with the same coverage, you do not need to do anything. (https://www.benefeds.gov)</p>	<p>*** *** *** *** ***</p> <p>Medicare, Tricare and FEDVIP Open Season (continued)</p> <p>*** *** *** *** ***</p>
<p><u>Operation Christmas Drop</u></p> <p>We are excited to announce that Kirtland Air Force Base is participating in Operation Christmas Drop! This is the Department of Defense's longest-running humanitarian airlift operation, providing essential supplies to communities in need across the Pacific. We invite you to donate items by 18 November 2024. Your contributions will help support individuals and families by supplying critical items they may not otherwise have access to. Drop-off locations are the Commissary, the Shoppettes and the BX.</p> <p>Items Needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Supplies • Hygiene Products • Flashlights • First Aid Kits • Fishing Tools • Non-Perishable Food Items • Day-to-Day Necessities • Canopy Materials <p>For any questions, reach out to SrA Fausto at kiersten.fausto@us.af.mil.</p>	<p>Operation Christmas Drop</p>
<p><u>Casualty Assistance Representative</u></p> <p>The Casualty Assistance Representative is (CAR) is Jesus Palomino. His direct office phone number is (505) 846-5508.</p>	<p>Casualty Assistance</p>
<p><u>Free COVID Tests from US Government</u></p> <p>The U. S. Government is again providing 4 free At-Home Covid-19 Tests per household by mail. They can be ordered online at https://special.usps.com/testkits. If you need help ordering them by phone, call 1(800) 232-0233 (TTY 1(888) 720-7489).</p>	<p>Free Covid Tests</p>

<p><u>Cyber Tips from the Office of Personnel Management</u></p> <p>As we enter fall, we're urging you to be aware of the heightened risk of scams. Bad actors pretend to be government officials to steal personal information and cause financial harm. These actors are becoming more sophisticated, and it is important to stay vigilant when managing your retirement benefits online. Here are some helpful reminders and tips to protect yourself from fraud:</p> <p>Tips to Protect Yourself:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fake websites are common: Bad actors often create websites that look like official government sites to trick you. Check the web site link to make sure you are on the official OPM services website, which will always have a ".gov" domain. Fraudulent sites often have slight variations in spelling or use ".com" or ".net." • Bookmark trusted sites: Rather than searching for the site online, type and bookmark the official Services Online page at https://www.servicesonline.opm.gov. This prevents you from accidentally clicking on a fraudulent link. • Be cautious with phone calls, emails, and texts: Bad actors may try to contact you pretending to be from OPM, asking for personal details like your login information. Remember, OPM will never ask for your username, password, or one-time passcode (OTP) over the phone, via email, or text message. • Watch for red flags: Be cautious if you receive unsolicited messages with urgent language, threats, or promises of extra benefits. These are common tactics used by bad actors. <p>A note from the RAO ... we are trying to correct/update our Retiree email list, so you may hear from one of our volunteers, Mark Werner. Some of the addresses we have were misaligned with the names in our database. If you are on our email or weekly update list then you will continue to receive those items unless you ask to be removed from the list. It would be helpful to us, if you would email volunteer Mark Werner at mark.werner.3@us.af.mil or call us at 505 846-1536 and we'll update our records. We do not share your emails with anyone outside our office.</p> <p><i>Best practice - if you didn't initiate the transaction, check it out before you give out any info.</i></p>	<p>Cyber Tips From OPM</p>
<p><u>TRICARE for Life Seminars</u></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 377th Med Group (Kirtland Clinic) from 1330 – 1500. The next three seminars will be 20 November 2024, 18 December 2024 and 15 January 2025. To reserve a seat, call the Health Benefits Advisors (HBA) desk at (505) 853-1396. On the day of the seminar, check in at the Patient Records Desk on the 2nd floor by 1320.</p>	<p>TRICARE For Life Seminars</p>
<p><u>Legal Office</u></p> <p>Due to manning issues, the 377th ABW Legal Office is only able to provide free legal assistance to eligible retirees and their dependents in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power of Attorney (General, Special and Healthcare) • Notary <p>Walk-In hours are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday & Friday: 0830 – 1600 • Tuesday & Thursday: 0730 – 1600 • Wednesday: Closed <p>Note: If you feel you have an urgent question or need, please call the legal office at (505)846-4217. They will provide you with information on how to proceed.</p>	<p>Legal Office</p>
<p><u>Uber Drivers on Base</u></p> <p>UBER-certified drivers with a valid base ID are able to access Kirtland AFB for pick up and drop off of passengers. <u>Note:</u> all passengers must also have a valid base ID. Please be sure to verify that your driver has the proper KAFB credentials before scheduling a ride.</p>	<p>Uber Info</p>

<p><u>Albuquerque National Cemetery</u></p> <p>The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently announced construction for the Albuquerque National Cemetery will begin in 2025. Senator Martin Heinrich helped secure funding for the project. The cemetery will be located on 230 acres of land near the Petroglyph National Monument. This will be the third national cemetery in New Mexico, joining the Santa Fe National Cemetery and the Fort Bayard National Cemetery in providing a burial place for veterans.</p>	<p>New Local National Cemetery</p>
<p><u>Mental Health Resources for Veterans</u></p> <p>Numerous resources exist to help Veterans needing mental health or suicide prevention assistance. Locally, the VA hotline is available at (505) 265-1711, and press number 7. The Federal Lifeline is available by dialing 988. For Veterans, dial 988 and press number 1. You can also text 838255 or go to the website to chat online at www.veteranscrisisline.net. These services are free. If you feel like you might hurt yourself or you need mental health assistance, don't think you are alone.</p>	<p>VA Corner</p>
<p><u>Disaster Assistance and Resources for Veterans</u></p> <p>Resources are available for Veterans, dependents, survivors, and caregivers who have experienced a natural disaster. Whether you are receiving VA disability, a VA pension, education benefits, a VA home loan or insurance, the VA is available to help you and protect your benefits. Please go to https://news.va.gov/132965/disaster-assistance-and-resources-for-veterans/ for further information.</p>	<p>VA Disaster Assistance</p>
<p><u>Upcoming Legal Assistance Event for Veterans</u></p> <p>The Veterans Civil Justice Clinic, co-sponsored by the State Bar of New Mexico Young Lawyers Division and New Mexico VA Health Care System, is holding an event on Tuesday 19 November 2024, 0830-1200 at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial Park, 1100 Louisiana Blvd SE, Albuquerque, NM 87108. Volunteer attorneys will be available in the following practice areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Law* (divorce, custody/visitation, child support) • Consumer Rights • Bankruptcy • Landlord-Tenant* • Foreclosure • Employment • Tax • Wills/Probate • General Civil* 	<p>Veteran's Legal Assistance Event</p>
<p><u>NM Personal Income Tax</u></p> <p>The governor signed into law the following NM Personal Income Tax changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent extension of the \$30,000 exclusion from tax for armed forces retirement pay. Of course, nothing is permanent, since future legislatures can change the law, but this bill removed the 2026 sunset provision. • Addition of surviving spouses of armed forces retirees to those eligible for this tax exclusion. • Adjustment of all income tax rates and income brackets. Analysis says these changes will decrease income taxes for all taxpayers, with emphasis on those in lower tax brackets. 	<p>NM PIT Update</p>
<p><u>The BX Pharmacy Needs Volunteers</u></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>Volunteer at the BX Pharmacy</p>
<p><u>Local Area Military Discounts</u></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. The latest discounts we found is 10% at Panda Express and 10% D H Lescombes. If you find any others, please give us a call at (505) 846-1536 or email 377ABW.CVR.RetireeActivities@us.af.mil.</p>	<p>Military Discounts</p>

The Poppy on Veterans Day

Author: Unknown

"Ever wonder why Veterans Day is on the 11th and does not change? World War I ended on the 11th month on the 11th day on the 11th hour. Today I saw a man selling poppies stop a lady and ask if he could re-position her poppy. While doing so he told the lady she should wear the poppy on their right side; the red represents the blood of all those who gave their lives, the black represents the mourning of those who didn't have their loved ones return home and the green leaf represents the grass and crops growing and future prosperity after the war destroyed so much. The leaf should be positioned at 11 o'clock to represent the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, the time that World War I formally ended. He was worried that younger generations wouldn't understand this and his generation wouldn't be around for much longer to teach them. We must remember those from our current wars, too!

For those that do not know, the eleventh day of the eleventh month is Veterans Day! I copied this from someone else. Please do the same to pass this on to those who don't know the meaning and care enough to know."

What is the Significance Of the Poppy

Serving Freedom's Finest

Event: On 5 August 1985, the 377th Combat Support Wing (CSW), the host unit of Ramstein Air Base, Germany, gained approval for its official motto "*Serving Freedom's Finest.*"

Background: The 377 CSW was activated at Ramstein AB on 14 June 1985 to provide support for the 86th Tactical Fighter Wing and the entire Kaiserslautern Military Community. The Wing's motto is a hallmark of the Cold War, reflecting its mission to serve and support U.S. and allied forces guarding against the spread of Soviet communism.

THE ARCHIVE



Caption: The 377th Combat Support Wing's emblem ca. 1985. (U.S. Air Force Photo)

377 ABW History



Wing Heritage
Pamphlet

377 ABW History Office: Email – 377ABW.HO.Workflow@us.af.mil
Phone – (505) 846-0170

<https://www.kirtland.af.mil/Portals/52/20240101%20%28U%29%20377%20ABW%20Heritage%20Pamphlet.pdf>

Kirtland AFB in Hollywood

Event: On 12 October 1942, RKO Radio Pictures Inc., began filming the war drama *Bombardier* at Kirtland Field, which was later released in May the following year. The film followed the U.S. Army Air Forces bombardier training program and starred Pat O'Brien and Randolph Scott.

Background: The nation's first permanent bombardier training school was established at Kirtland Field in 1941 and was organized by Colonel John P. Ryan. Col Ryan became the inspiration for the lead character in the 1943 film.

THE ARCHIVE



Caption: Movie poster for the 1943 film *Bombardier*. (Public Domain)

KAFB Movie History

OCTOBER



Wing Heritage
Pamphlet

377 ABW History Office: Email – 377ABW.HO.Workflow@us.af.mil
Phone – (505) 846-0170

<https://www.kirtland.af.mil/Portals/52/20240101%20%28U%29%20377%20ABW%20Heritage%20Pamphlet.pdf>

<p><u>Change SBP coverage on-line</u></p> <p>When you need to make changes to your SBP coverage, why not take advantage of the new Form Wizard? It eliminates the guesswork and ensures the form is completed correctly the first time.</p> <p>A Form Wizard is available to assist in completing the DD Form 2656-6, Survivor Benefit Plan Election Change Certificate. This form is used to make changes to your Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) coverage as you experience life-changing events throughout your retirement.</p> <p>Form Wizards are located on the Forms Library webpage of the DFAS Retired and Annuitant website at https://www.dfas.mil/raforms. The Form Wizard is above the PDF version of the form on the website.</p> <p>If you are using Chrome, Edge, Firefox, or Safari to access an Adobe Form Wizard, you may need to download or save the PDF (by clicking the download or save icon in the upper right-hand corner of the page). Then go to the saved location and open the form/Form Wizard. Don't save completed forms on a public or shared computer because they contain Personal Identifiable Information (PII).</p> <p>After generating your completed DD Form 2656-6 using the Form Wizard, you can print, sign/witness and then upload your completed form using our askDFAS online upload tool. See more information about our convenient online upload tools at https://www.dfas.mil/askdfas.</p>	<p>Changing SBP Coverage Online</p>
<p><u>Family Camp</u></p> <p>The Kirtland Air Force Base Family Camp is located at 24250 F Street, near the Eubank gate. Retirees and dependents with a current valid military ID may stay at the Family Camp in an RV for up to 6 months at a time. Once that time is up, you must vacate KAFB for 6 months before being eligible to return. The cost for full hook-up is \$35 per night. If interested, please contact Fam Camp at (505) 846-0377 to reserve a space.</p>	<p>Family Camp</p>
<p><u>RV Storage</u></p> <p>KAFB has several locations around the base for dry storing an RV. Retirees and dependents with a current valid military ID are eligible to use this area. The cost is \$30 - \$55 per month, depending on the size of the RV. For more information and to reserve a space visit Outdoor Recreation in the CORE building (next to the BX). You will need to bring a current RV Registration and proof of insurance.</p>	<p>RV Storage</p>
<p><u>KAFB Thunderbird Dining Facility</u></p> <p>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>Thunderbird Dining Facility</p>
<p><u>Kirtland AFB Veterinary Treatment Facility</u></p> <p>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 office is located in building 20168 on Pennsylvania Ave., behind the Base Exchange.</p>	<p>KAFB Veterinary Treatment Facility</p>
<p><u>Kirtland AFB Chapel and Religious Services</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. In addition, daily Mass is offered Monday through Thursday at 1130.</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 nbearbade@gmail.com or by calling the Chapel at (505) 853-5000. Shabbat services are held contingent upon RSVPs.</p>	<p>Kirtland AFB Chapel Services</p>

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**

2024 Wing Holidays and Training Days

Minimum base services will be available on these dates in 2024		2024 Wing Holidays And Training Days
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	

2025 Tentative Wing Holidays and Training Days

Minimum base services will be available on these dates in 2025		2025 Wing Holidays And Training Days (Tentative)
Wednesday, 1 January 2025	New Year's Day	
Thursday, 16 January 2025	Training Day	
Friday, 17 January 2025	Family Day	
Monday, 20 January 2025	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	
Friday, 14 February 2025	Family Day	
Monday, 17 February 2025	President's Day	
Thursday, 20 February 2025	Training Day	
Thursday, 20 March 2025	Training Day	
Thursday, 17 April 2025	Training Day	
Thursday, 15 May 2025	Training Day	
Friday, 23 May 2025	Family Day	
Monday, 26 May 2025	Memorial Day	
Thursday, 19 June 2025	Juneteenth	
Friday, 20 June 2025	Family Day	
Thursday, 3 July 2025	Family Day	
Friday, 4 July 2025	Independence Day	
Thursday, 17 July 2025	Training Day	
Thursday, 21 August 2025	Training Day	
Friday, 29 August 2025	Family Day	
Monday, 1 September 2025	Labor Day	
Thursday, 18 September 2025	Training Day	
Friday, 10 October 2025	Family Day	
Monday, 13 October 2025	Indigenous People's Day	
Thursday, 16 October 2025	Training Day	
Monday, 10 November 2025	Family Day	
Tuesday, 11 November 2025	Veterans Day	
Thursday, 20 November 2025	Training Day	
Thursday, 27 November 2025	Thanksgiving Day	
Friday, 28 November 2025	Family Day	
Thursday, 18 December 2025	Training Day	
Wednesday, 24 December 2025	Family Day	
Thursday, 25 December 2025	Christmas Day	
Wednesday, 31 December 2025	Family Day	

Useful Phone Numbers

Air Force Lodging (Conus Only)	1 (888) 2356343
AMVETS Appointment (Lou Rossi)	(505) 846-0741
Arts and Crafts	(505) 853-3003
Base Exchange	(505) 232-8771
BX Pharmacy – Consult Only	(505) 846-3200
BX Pharmacy – Consult Only	(505) 846-5770
BX Pharmacy - Script Refills	(505) 846-7902
BENEFEDS (Vision / Dental Insurance)	1 (877) 888-3337
Bowling Alley	(505) 846-1156
Casualty Assistance	(505) 846-5508
Chapel	(505) 853-5000
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
Health Benefits Advisor (377 Med Group)	(505) 853-1396
ID Cards	(505) 846-2017
Information, Tickets & Travel	(505) 846-2924
Legal Office	(505) 846-4217
Military & Family Readiness	(505) 846-0751
Medicare Claims and Information	1 (800) 633-4227
My Pay (DFAS)	1 (888) 332-7411
National Personnel Records Center	1 (314) 801-0800
National Aging and Disability Resources	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	1 (505) 265-2300
Social Security (Local Office)	1 (866) 613-9961
Thrift Shop	(505) 508-1114
Total Force Service Center (myPers)	1 (800) 525-0102
Tricare for Life	1 (866) 773-0404
Tricare West	1 (844) 866-9378
Truman Gate Visitor 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) 846-1068

Useful Websites

Base Exchange	shopmyexchange.com
BENEFEDS (Vision / Dental)	benefeds.com
DEERS	milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil
Dept of Veterans Affairs	va.gov
DFAS (Retirees/Annuitants)	dfas.mil
Express Scripts	militaryrx.express-scripts.com
Genesis Patient Portal	https://patientportal.mhsgenesis.health.mil
ID Card Renewal Appointment	https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco
Information, Tickets & Travel	kirtlandforcesupport.com/itt-office
KAFB Retiree Activities Office	https://www.kirtland.af.mil/About-Us/Retiree-Activities-Office
Medicare	medicare.gov
My Pay Login	mypay.dfas.mil
National Personnel Records Center	archives.gov/veterans
Social Security	ssa.gov
Tricare	tricare.mil
Tricare for Life	tricare.mil/tfl
Tricare Claims Information	tricare4u.com
Tricare West	tricare-west.com
Veterans Group Life Insurance	benefits.va.gov/insurance



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

**Visit Our
KAFB Retiree Activities Office Website at
<https://www.kirtland.af.mil/About-Us/Retiree-Activities-Office>**

**We Wish You a
A Wonderful Holiday Season
and a
Happy, Healthy New Year 2025!!!**

"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."