



KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE

377th Air Base Wing



“Your link to retiree benefits information and assistance.”

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“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

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

Dear Fellow Retirees,

Many of you have read that those of us with indefinite expiration dates on our military ID cards should get a new ID card within the next 4 years. There is no rush to do so, but you may get your new ID card by signing up for an appointment through the RAPIDS web site, <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco> or by calling the Military Personnel Flight at (505) 846-2017 or (505) 853-4254. You may want to consider whether your spouse will need a new card within that time frame. If so, you could make two appointments at that point in time and save yourself a trip. We plan to continue dedicated Retiree appointment hours at the MPF when we sponsor annual Retiree Appreciation events. If you are at the base for other business, you can sign up for an appointment as a walk-in, but there may be a wait. Be sure to call ahead to confirm that the MPF is accepting walk-ins that day.

Happy Veterans Day! Here’s a little recent Veterans Day history: On September 20th, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Public Law 94-97 (89 Stat. 479), which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of November 11, supporting the desires of the overwhelming majority of state legislatures, all major veterans service organizations and the American people. Thus, Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of the day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: a celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

Thank you for your service!

The RAO will be closed Veterans Day so that our volunteers may also enjoy the holiday.

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

Warmest Regards,
Sally

Quarterly RAO Newsletter

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

Celebrating Our Veterans

The City of Albuquerque is Honoring Our Veterans

There will be a celebration of our Veterans at the Veterans Memorial Park on 11 November 2022 from 1030 to 1230. The ceremony will be followed by a Veteran Celebration with events taking place from 1230 to 1600. Food trucks will also be available. The Veterans Memorial Park is located at 1100 Louisiana Blvd. SE. For additional information, please call (505) 768-4496.

<p><u>Vehicle operation during Reveille and Retreat</u> Twice a day the base loudspeaker honors our Nation’s flag with the playing of reveille and retreat. Proper vehicle operation courtesy is for drivers to stop their vehicles at the roadside and engage emergency flashers until the music is complete. Please respect this long held tradition and observe Team Kirtland members courtesy.</p>	Reveille And Retreat
<p><u>Please Remember</u> Face masks are required at the BX Pharmacy and all Medical facilities (including the Veterinary Clinic).</p>	Face Masks
<p><u>TRICARE Retail Pharmacy Change</u> On 24 October 2022, 15,000 independent retail pharmacies throughout the US have left the TRICARE Network. The TRICARE Beneficiaries affected by this change should have received letters from Express Scripts in September providing 3 network pharmacy options near them.</p> <p>Options include: transferring prescriptions to an in-network TRICARE Pharmacy, Home delivery (http://www.militaryrx.express-scripts.com), a military pharmacy or paying full retail price from an out-of-network pharmacy. To find a new in-network retail pharmacy beneficiaries can call 1 (877) 363-1403 or visit http://www.esrx.com/findpharmacy .</p> <p><u>Moving Specialty Prescriptions</u> Accredo is currently part of the TRICARE Retail Pharmacy Network, and as of 1 January 2023 it will become the <u>main</u> in-network retail pharmacy to fill prescriptions for specialty drugs. Beneficiaries who need to switch from a retail pharmacy to Accredo can call 1 (877) 882-3324 to work with an Accredo patient care advocate. <u>Note:</u> Beneficiaries who get their specialty drugs from a military pharmacy or TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery don’t have to move their prescriptions.</p>	Tricare Retail Pharmacy Changes
<p><u>2022 Medicare and Tricare Open Season</u> The 2022 Medicare Open Enrollment period is 15 October 2022 – 7 December 2022. This is your chance to review your coverage and if desired, change your coverage. Visit www.Medicare.gov to preview plans. Things to consider when comparing plans include: cost, coverage, other coverage you may have (e.g., TRICARE for Life), prescription drugs, doctor and hospital choices, quality of care and planned travel. For additional assistance, call 1 (800) MEDICARE (1 (800) 633-4227).</p> <p>You may have received information about the 2022 Tricare Open Season being 14 November 2022 – 13 December 2022. <u>If you are an existing TRICARE for Life beneficiary, you do NOT need to do anything and your Tricare for Life coverage will continue.</u></p> <p>If you use Tricare for Life, you and your dependents are eligible to enroll in the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP). Open enrollment season is 14 November 2022 – 12 December 2022. FEDVIP lets you choose the dental and/or vision coverage that works best for you (at a cost, depending on the coverage selected). This coverage is NOT automatic. Enrollment is available online through www.BENEFEDS.com or by calling 1 (877) 888-3337.</p> <p>If you are already enrolled for benefits through FEDVIP, you may change your dental and/or vision coverage during the FEDVIP Open Season through www.BENEFEDS.com or by calling 1 (877) 888-3337. <u>If you take no action during the open season, you will automatically roll over to the same plan(s) at the updated 2023 premium rates.</u></p> <p>For more information, visit www.tricare.mil/OpenSeason2022.</p>	Medicare, Tricare Dental And Vision Open Enrollment

<p><u>TRICARE for Life Seminars</u></p> <p>In person TRICARE for Life seminars are back. They are held at the 377th Med Group (Kirtland Clinic) on most of the third Wednesdays of each month from 1330 – 1500. The next seminar is 21 December 2022. To reserve a seat, call the Health Benefits Advisors (HBA) desk at (505) 853-1396 or (505) 853-0585. On the day of the seminar, check in at the Patient Records Desk on the 2nd floor by 1320. Topics discussed are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TRICARE For Life eligibility Medicare Part B enrollment requirements How TRICARE and Medicare payments work TRICARE For Life overseas TRICARE Dental Program Skilled Nursing Facilities and Long Term Care 	<p>TRICARE For Life Seminars</p>
<p><u>KAFB Pharmacy Information</u></p> <p>The BX Pharmacy automated prescription refill phone number has not changed. It is (505) 846-7902. If you need to talk to someone (prescription activation or questions), call (505) 846-3200 or (505) 846-5770. Please be aware that there is only one person available to answer these phones at any given time, frequently resulting in extended wait times (45 minutes or more).</p> <p>When picking up a prescription at the BX Pharmacy window, if you are unable to stand in line, please go to the Kiosk and select the handicapped option. You will be given a number and can sit down in the waiting area until your number is called.</p>	<p>KAFB Pharmacy Update</p>
<p><u>2023 New Mexico State Personal Income Tax Information</u></p> <p>During the last legislature session, NM passed a bill that will provide some tax relief for retired military pay as follows:</p> <p>SECTION 6. A new section of the Income Tax Act is enacted to read: "EXEMPTION-- ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT PAY.</p> <p>A. An individual who is an armed forces retiree may claim an exemption in the following amounts of military retirement pay includable, except for this exemption, in net income:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for taxable year 2022, ten thousand dollars (\$10,000); • for taxable year 2023, twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000); • for taxable years 2024 through 2026, thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000). <p>B. As used in this section, "armed forces retiree" means a former member of the armed forces of the United States who has qualified by years of service or disability to separate from military service with lifetime benefits."</p>	<p>New Mexico Personal Income Tax Information</p>
<p><u>Survivor Benefits Plan</u></p> <p>As you may know, Congress made changes to the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) to phase out the offset for surviving spouses who are also receiving Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).</p> <p>On January 1, 2023, the SBP-DIC offset will be <u>fully eliminated</u>. That means, beginning in 2023, SBP payments will no longer be offset (reduced) by DIC. Spouses will receive full SBP (from DFAS) and full DIC (from the VA).</p> <p>There is no action you need to take as a retiree for the changes to apply to your surviving spouse. However, you should check your RAS to ensure your SBP beneficiary is up to date. This is especially important if you have a former spouse. More information is available at https://www.dfas.mil/SBPforspouse</p>	<p>SBP</p>

<p><u>Resources for Women Veterans</u></p> <p>The Women Veterans Call Center provides information about a variety of services and benefits available to women veterans. Their service is free and confidential.</p> <p>The VA provides a full continuum of health care, including comprehensive primary care (care for acute and chronic/long-term illness and gender-specific care), specialty care, mental health care, disease prevention and screening, emergency care, and women's health specialty care (e.g., advanced). Other services include inpatient medical/surgical/mental health care, physical rehabilitation, substance abuse treatment, long-term care, and pharmacy benefits.</p> <p>Examples of questions the Women Veterans Call Center can help with are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to reconnect with VA health care if you previously applied but never used your benefits • How to connect with your Women Veterans Program Manager, the person who will assist in coordinating any services you need • How to find out what you are eligible for (including general questions about disability ratings) and other VA benefits like employment, education, and home loans • How to refill your prescription or make an appointment <p>For more information on VA services provided to women Veterans, call the Women Veterans Call Center at 1 (855) VA-WOMEN (1 (855) 829-6636).</p>	<p>VA Corner</p>
<p><u>Do you have household items you would like to donate?</u></p> <p>Think about donating your serviceable household items to the Airman's Attic. These items are made available free of charge to E1-E5. Donation hours are Monday and Wednesday, 1000-1200. Call (505) 846-0460 for more information.</p> <p>Another place taking donations of serviceable items is the KAFB Thrift Shop. It is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 1000-1400, and the first Saturday of the month. Call (505) 508-1114 for more information.</p>	<p>Donation Requests</p>
<p><u>The Airman's Attic Needs Volunteers</u></p> <p>The Airman's Attic is looking for volunteers. Currently, the Attic is open on Monday 1000-1200 and Wednesday 1700-1900. If you are interested in volunteering, call MSgt Gavin Keller at (505) 270-1361 or email gavin.keller@us.af.mil.</p>	<p>Volunteer at the Airman's Attic</p>
<p><u>The Kirtland Spouse's Club Thrift Shop Needs Volunteers</u></p> <p>The Thrift Shop is open to anyone with base access from 1000 to 1400 every Monday, Wednesday and Friday and one Saturday a month. It is a great palace for bargain shoppers and treasure hunters. If you are interested in volunteering in the shop, please see the manager. Also, donations are accepted during regular shopping hours.</p>	<p>Volunteer at the Kirtland Thrift Shop</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>DEERS Information</u></p> <p>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.</p>	<p>DEERS</p>

<p><u>Veterinary Clinic</u> The veterinary clinic has wellness and sick call appointments that may be booked two weeks in advance, based on availability. There will only be one same-day sick call appointment available every Tuesday and Wednesday. It will be booked on a first come first serve basis starting at 0800 on that day. Call (505) 846-4276 for details. Medication refills require 72-hour notice and a specified pick-up time.</p>	<p>Base Veterinary Clinic</p>
<p><u>Worldwide Military Recreation Areas</u> “A Traveler’s Guide to Military Resorts and Recreation Centers” can be found on-line at https://military.momcollective.com/military-lifestyle/air-force/a-travelers-guide-to-military-recreation-centers/</p>	<p>Military Recreation Areas</p>
<p><u>American Forces Travel</u> 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 AmericanForcesTravel.com or through the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) Marketplace at www.shopmyexchange.com/marketplace. There are discounts available for hotels, flights, rental cars, cruises, packages and event tickets.</p> <p>Veterans eligible for discounts include all Veterans of the United States Armed Forces with an honorable or general under honorable conditions discharge. A full list of eligibility is available on the American Forces Travel home page.</p> <p>Reservations made through AmericanForcesTravel.com include no booking fees, 24/7 customer service, best price guarantee, and a portion of each transaction going to support MWR programs.</p>	<p>Travel Discounts</p>
<p><u>Space-A Travel</u> Full service Space-A is available for retirees and their dependents with current ID cards. CONUS passengers are required to follow current federal COVID-19 travel procedures. OCONUS passengers need to follow all requirements for travel to their specific destination. For more information, visit the AMC Space-A website at https://www.amc.af.mil/AMC-Travel-Site/AMC-Space-Available-Travel-Page/</p>	<p>Space-A Travel</p>
<p><u>From the Exchange (AAFES)</u> The Base Exchange is currently installing Self Check Out registers. Customers will only be able to use credit and debit cards at these registers.</p> <p>Layaway is back! Details are available at Customer Service. The BX is transitioning into the holiday season and recommends, shopping early for the best selection.</p> <p>The Dry Cleaners has been relocated to the mall of the BX.</p>	<p>News From AAFES</p>
<p><u>Local Area Military Discounts</u> The Retiree Activities Office is collecting information about local businesses that offer military discounts. Two discounts we have found are a 10% discount at Rudy’s Barbeque and a 15% discount at Freddy’s Frozen Custard and Steamburgers. If you find any others, please give us a call at (505) 846-1536 or email 377ABW.CVR.RetireeActivities@us.af.mil.</p> <p>Many local area restaurants are offering special military discounts or free meals to Veterans around Veteran’s Day. A list of nationwide participating restaurants may be found at https://news.va.gov/109711/veterans-day-discounts-free-meals/.</p>	<p>Military Discounts</p>

<p><u>Safety and Security</u> Please remember that Marijuana in any form, including edibles, is not permitted anywhere on a DOD Installation.</p>	<p>Security</p>
<p><u>Kirtland AFB Gate Operations</u> 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>KAFB Gate Access</p>
<p><u>ID Cards</u> ID Cards can be renewed up to 30 days in advance of their expiration date. Appointments can be scheduled at online at: https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco. If you are unable to schedule online, call (505) 846-2017. Please remember to bring two valid forms of photo ID.</p> <p>NOTE: If you still have an ID card with your SSN, you need to get a new card. Security Forces are confiscating those cards at base entry gates IAW DOD policy.</p>	<p>ID Cards</p>
<p><u>Legal Office</u> 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 Kirtland.legal.assistance@us.af.mil.</p>	<p>Legal Office</p>
<p><u>KAFB Thunderbird Dining Facility</u> 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 are now accepted for payment.</p>	<p>Thunderbird Dining Facility</p>
<p><u>Commissary and Bx Information</u> While not all veterans are eligible for in-person privileges on DoD and Coast Guard installations, all honorably discharged veterans are eligible for online military exchange shopping through the Veterans Online Shopping Benefit. To access the online shopping benefit for veterans not eligible for in-person privileges should follow the instructions to establish an account at any of the following military exchange websites, or the VA's Veterans Canteen Service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Army and Air Force Exchange System: https://www.shopmyexchange.com • Coast Guard Exchange: https://shopCGX.com • Marine Corps Exchange: http://www.mymcx.com • Navy Exchange: https://www.mynavyexchange.com • Veterans Canteen Service: https://shopvcs.va.gov 	<p>Veteran Commissary and BX Access</p>
<p><u>Military Services Newsletters</u> Air Force <i>Afterburner</i>: www.retirees.af.mil/afterburner Army <i>Echoes</i>: http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement Coast Guard <i>Evening Colors</i>: http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg1/psc/ras DFAS Retiree Newsletter: https://www.dfas.mil/retireenews Marine Corps <i>Semper Fidelis</i>: www.usmc-mccs.org Navy <i>Shift Colors</i>: www.shiftcolors.navy.mil</p>	<p>Important Newsletters</p>

Minimum base services will be available on these dates in 2022		2022 Wing Holidays And Training Days
Friday, 11 November 2022	Veteran's 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	

Minimum base services will be available on these dates in 2023		2023 Wing Holidays And Training Days (Tentative)
Monday, 2 January 2023	New Year's Day (Observed)	
Friday, 13 January 2023	Family Day	
Monday, 16 January 2023	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	
Thursday, 19 January 2023	Training Day	
Thursday, 16 February 2023	Training Day	
Friday, 17 February 2023	Family Day	
Monday, 20 February 2023	President's Day	
Thursday, 16 March 2023	Training Day	
Thursday, 20 April 2023	Training Day	
Thursday, 18 May 2023	Training Day	
Friday, 26 May 2023	Family Day	
Monday, 29 May 2023	Memorial Day	
Thursday, 15 June 2023	Training Day	
Friday, 16 June 2023	Family Day	
Monday, 19 June 2023	Juneteenth	
Monday, 3 July 2023	Family Day	
Tuesday, 4 July 2023	Independence Day	
Thursday, 20 July 2023	Training Day	
Thursday, 17 August 2023	Training Day	
Friday, 1 September 2023	Family Day	
Monday, 4 September 2023	Labor Day	
Thursday, 21 September 2023	Training Day	
Friday, 6 October 2023	Family Day	
Monday, 9 October 2023	Indigenous Peoples Day	
Thursday, 19 October 2023	Training Day	
Friday, 10 November 2023	Veterans Day	
Monday, 13 November 2023	Family Day	
Thursday, 16 November 2023	Training Day	
Thursday, 23 November 2023	Thanksgiving Day	
Friday, 24 November 2023	Family Day	
Thursday, 21 December 2023	Training Day	
Monday, 25 December 2023	Christmas	
Tuesday, 26 December 2023	Family Day	

Useful Phone Numbers

Airman and Family Readiness	(505) 846-0751
Arts and Crafts	(505) 853-3003
Base Exchange	(505) 232-8771
Base Exchange – Pharmacy (for Script Refills)	(505) 846-7902
Base Exchange - Pharmacy	(505) 846-3200
Base Exchange - Pharmacy	(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 (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
My Pay (DFAS)	1 (888) 332-7411
National Personnel Records Center	1 (314) 801-0800
NM Department of Veterans Affairs	(505) 346-4810
Outdoor Recreation	(505) 846-1499
Patient Advocacy (377 Med Group)	(505) 249-2675
Retiree Activities Office	(505) 846-1536
Social Security	1 (800) 772-1213
Thrift Shop	(505) 508-1114
Tricare for Life	1 (866) 773-0404
Tricare West	1 (844) 866-9378
Truman Gate Visitor’s Center (24 Hours)	(505) 846-2676
VA Benefits Advisor	(505) 853-1707
VA Hospital Albuquerque	(505) 265-1711
Veterinary Office	(505) 846-4276
Veterans Group Life Insurance	1 (800) 419-1473
West Side Fitness Center	(505) 846-1102

Useful Websites

Base Exchange	shopmyexchange.com
BENEFEDS (Vision / Dental Insurance)	benefeds.com
DEERS	milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect
Dept of Veterans Affairs	va.gov
DFAS (Retirees/Annuitants)	dfas.mil/retiredmilitary
Express Scripts	militaryrx.express-scripts.com/
ID Card Renewal Appointment	Email: 377FSS.FSPS.Workflow@us.af.mil
Information, Tickets & Travel	kirtlandforcesupport.com/itt-office
Medicare	medicare.gov
My Pay Login	mypay.dfas.mil
National Personnel Records Center	archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records
Social Security	ssa.gov
Tricare for Life	tricare.mil/tfl
Veterans Group Life Insurance	benefits.va.gov/insurance/vgli.asp



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 All
A Wonderful Holiday Season!