



KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE

Quarterly Retiree Newsletter

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"Your link to retiree benefits information and assistance."

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Dear Fellow Retirees,

We enter the fall with some uncertainty ... seems like things change daily. The furlough has made things more difficult, reducing some services and delayed supplies. Hopefully, things will settle soon, and we can begin a joyous holiday season. Meanwhile we are doing our best to keep up with the changes and are in the RAO office to help answer your questions.

It is open enrollment season for medical insurance, including Medicare and Tricare. Please check to make sure your choices meet your needs.

We are busy working on a special seminar and the annual Retire Appreciation event for 2026. Here are some key dates to mark on your calendar:

- 11 December 2025, RAO Holiday Open House
- 26 February 2026, Seminar on Estate Planning for all Ages and Stages (includes focus on preparing for incapacity)
- 4 – 7 May 2026, Retiree Appreciation Week

Happy Veteran's Day to our Veteran's and spouses. Thank you for your service. Let's remember to thank our active duty for serving, too.

Sincerely,
Sally

Quarterly RAO Newsletter

The Retiree Activities Office publishes this Newsletter quarterly in February, May, August and 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.

Medical Insurance Open Season

Medicare, Medicare Advantage and BENEFEDS Open Enrollment Season

The 2026 Medicare and Medicare Advantage open enrollment period runs from 15 October 2025 through 7 December 2025. The BENEFEDS (FEDVIP Vision and Dental) open enrollment period runs from 10 November 2025 – 8 December 2025. There have been so many changes to the medical plans for 2026, it is **ADVISABLE** that everyone carefully review them – from the cost of each plan (including out of pocket deductibles and copays), the coverage provided and if your chosen medical professionals will accept the plan. Please, even if you are happy with your present plan, be diligent in researching any and all changes that plan has for 2026. For example, it appears that many of the "perks" included in Medicare Advantage plans are being changed or eliminated. Going forward, it is recommended that you check that your insurance is accepted by your medical professional BEFORE making an appointment with them.

NOTE: The BENEFEDS website is now benefeds.gov (previously benefeds.com).

Guess Who???

Who is the volunteer whose namesake drives a pink Cadillac? None other than our own Marykay Chapman! But, she'll be the first to say she doesn't have a pink Cadillac or 83 million dollars. Most have you have talked with her at some point over the past 6 years. Prior to that, she was a long-term volunteer at the KAFB Chapel. Presently, Marykay volunteers regularly for patient transport at the VA hospital and at her church. In addition, during tax season, she can be at the VITA Tax, helping our junior airman, junior officers and retirees/spouses.

While in the U.S. Air Force, Marykay was an avionics specialist, served at HQ Strategic Air Command, and was a first sergeant. Following retirement, she became a middle school teacher for several years, and then a substitute teacher. She has raised 5 basset hounds, a blue-tick hound, a mini-pinscher mix, and ... twelve years ago became the reluctant owner of PJ Gordan, a five-pound chihuahua. PJ, will soon be 15 years old and he accompanies her to all her volunteer jobs, including here at the RAO. We consider PJ to be our mascot. Marykay's volunteerism is commendable, and we are grateful for her service, as we are sure you are.



**Spotlight
On a
RAO
Volunteer**

Welcome to the government shutdown...

Here is the latest information we have, but this is a very fluid situation and changes are always possible at any time. **NOTE:** the RAO is run by volunteers and will remain open!

- Base Exchange will remain open.
- Commissary will be open with a possible closure after 60 days due to lack of funding.
- Civil Service and Military Retirees will continue to be paid (including the Coast Guard).
- Social Security payments will continue.
- VA benefits will continue to be paid.
- Retirees and survivors covered by TRICARE, TRICARE For Life and dental and vision insurance through FEDVIP will continue.
- Military pharmacies will remain open, however, some medications may be out of stock.

Veterans Affairs

- VA Medical Centers, Outpatient Clinics, and Vet Centers will be open as usual and providing all services to eligible Veterans.
- VA benefits will continue to be processed and delivered, including compensation, pension, education, and housing benefits.
- Burials will continue at VA national cemeteries. Applications for headstones, markers, and burial benefits processing will continue.
- The Board of Veterans' Appeals will continue decisions on Veterans' cases.
- Call Centers: VA's primary call center ([1-800-MyVA411](tel:1-800-MyVA411)) and the Veterans Crisis Line (Dial [988](tel:988), Press 1) will remain open 24/7. The VA Benefit Hotline ([1-800-827-1000](tel:1-800-827-1000)) will be available Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. ET.
- Suicide prevention programs, homeless services, and caregiver support will continue.

Impacted during the shutdown

- VA will cease providing transition program assistance and career counseling.
- Call Centers: VA's GI Bill (1-888-GIBILL-1) and National Cemetery Applicant Assistance (1-800-697-6947) hotlines will be closed.
- VA benefits regional offices will be closed.
- Public Affairs and outreach to Veterans will cease, including social media, VetResources emails, and responses to press inquiries.
- No grounds maintenance or placement of permanent headstones at VA cemeteries.
- Applications for pre-need burials at VA cemeteries will not be processed.
- No printing of new Presidential Memorial Certificates.
- No outreach to state, county, tribal, municipal, faith-based, and community-based partners by VA Central Office.

**Government
Shutdown
Information**

Financial and Other Support • Servicemembers, retirees, veterans, and families should check with their financial institution to see whether relief programs are available. Many banks serving the military community, such as USAA, will offer zero-interest loans during the shutdown. • Service relief agencies offer a range of options (primarily interest-free loans) for currently serving members and retirees. Visit Army Emergency Relief, the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, the Air Force Aid Society, or Coast Guard Mutual Assistance to learn more.	
KAFB Pharmacy IMPORTANT NOTE: Due to the government shutdown, the pharmacy <u>may</u> only be able to fill/refill prescriptions for 30 days at a time, even if the script is written for 90 days. Also, since they have limited funding to restock their supplies, they may be unable to fill some prescriptions. If they are unable to fill a prescription, they will notify you when you come to the window, through the Q-Anywhere system, or by message if you requested activation/refill through their website. If you wish to transfer your prescription(s), you can find information on in-network TRICARE pharmacies at https://tricare.mil/CoveredServices/Pharmacy/FillPrescriptions/Network. Another option for prescriptions is Express Scripts, https://tricare.mil/CoveredServices/Pharmacy/FillPrescriptions/HomeDelivery. The main pharmacy in the 377 Medical Group Clinic is open. <u>All new scripts</u> and <u>any script your doctor sends to the KAFB Pharmacy</u> are automatically sent to the clinic pharmacy and that is where you will pick them up. This change should be transparent to your doctor. Please remember, all new electronic prescriptions must activate it in one of the following ways: • If you have access, message the pharmacy on the MHS Genesis Patient Portal, https://patientportal.mhsgenesis.health.mil. • Through the QR code found at the main clinic or the BX pharmacy. • From a smart phone, text "Get in Line" to 1(833) 429-6533 and answering the tech's questions. • If you do not have smart phone or text capability, you must go to the clinic pharmacy main window (pickup window) and take your turn in line to request activation. Then you can choose to wait or come back for your prescription. Let the pharmacy staff know what you plan to do. • Note: there is a separate window for delivering paper scripts. Your subsequent refills will be filled at the BX pharmacy and picked up at the BX pharmacy window or the BX Script Center. Request refills by: • If you have a DS Logon, you can access the Kirtland Pharmacy through the MHS GENESIS Patient Portal at https://patientportal.mhsgenesis.health.mil. From there, 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. • Alternatively, you can call (505) 594-2846 to use the automated phone line to request your prescription refills. Please note that the official MHS GENESIS Patient Portal is accessible 24/7. If you find any websites that reference the MHS GENESIS Patient Portal or other information about MHS GENESIS that are not part of the .mil domain, those are not official government websites or affiliated with the Department of Defense or Military Health System. For your cyber safety, only use official websites. If you have questions about the MHS GENESIS Patient Portal, call the Defense Health Agency Global Service Center 24/7 at (800) 600-9332 or https://patientportal.mhsgenesis.health.mil.	KAFB Pharmacy Update

<u>377 MDG Immunizations</u> Due to the government shutdown, immunizations and radiology are available for active-duty personnel only.	377th Med Group Information
<u>ID Cards</u> Historically, customer traffic for ID cards lessens in the fall. If you still have a legacy ID Card (paper-based), consider coming into the MPF to obtain the updated plastic ID card. Walk-ins are accepted Monday – Friday, 0730 – 1500, however, active-duty personnel will have priority. On the other hand, Retirees have priority on the second Tuesday of the month, 1100 – 1400 (except holidays or family days). <u>Note:</u> Although we encourage everyone to get the new ID card as soon as possible, there is currently no deadline for when it must be done by. We advise that those with legacy ID cards should ensure their information in DEERS is up to date.	Military ID Cards
<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 Real ID compliant. If the visitor's driver's license is not Real ID compliant, their second form of ID must be a current passport or other form of Real ID. Remember, you can only access KAFB with either a valid, current base access ID or a visitor pass. <u>NOTE:</u> Effective 1 November 2025, during the hours of Monday – Friday, 5:30 pm – 5:00 am and all-day Saturday and Sunday, the following procedure for obtaining a short-term pass at the Truman Gate is in effect: • Park in the <u>VCC (Visitor Control Center) parking lot</u> when you arrive at Truman Gate. • Immediately notify the Security Forces member at Truman Gate that you need a short-term visitor pass. • A Security Forces member will be dispatched to assist you. • Important: Please ensure you and your guests have valid REAL IDs.	REAL ID Enforcement
<u>TRICARE for Life Seminars</u> 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 are eligible for Medicare due to a disability. They are held at the 377th Med Group (Kirtland Clinic) from 1330 – 1500, usually once per quarter. To find out the date and make a reservation, call (505) 853-1396. On the day of the seminar, check in at the Patient Records Desk on the 2nd floor by 1320. <u>Note:</u> These seminars may be postponed due to the government shutdown.	TRICARE For Life Seminars
<u>Casualty Assistance Representative</u> The Casualty Assistance Representative (CAR) is Jesus Palomino. His number is (505) 846-5508. If he doesn't answer, leave a message. He <u>WILL</u> call you back.	Casualty Assistance
<u>Rail Runner and Rio Metro Buses:</u> All military veterans and anyone with a federally issued veteran or military photo ID can ride the New Mexico Rail Runner Express and Rio Metro buses for free (must show a valid ID). Accepted IDs Include: • Active-Duty Military, Veterans, Retirees, Dependents that show • VA medical card (VHIC) • Veteran's ID (VIC card) • Driver's License with a Veteran's Designation • Retiree, Dependent and Active Duty - Department of Defense IDs (DOD) • Railrunner Freedom Pass	Rail Runner and Rio Metro Buses

<u>Albuquerque Area Free Senior Transportation Options</u> The city of Albuquerque has two different transportation programs available to those in the public that qualify, either through age or disability. <u>Senior Affairs</u> – offers curb to curb transportation to adults 60 years and older. They provide rides by appointment 0730-1700, Monday – Friday, throughout the Albuquerque area for both medical and non-medical reasons. To get registered in the system, call Senior Affairs Transportation at (505) 764-6464. For medical appointments, a reservation must be made at least 7 days in advance. Once the appointment is complete, you must call for a ride home. For non-medical rides (grocery store, mall, etc.), a reservation must be made at least 3 days in advance. Transport will automatically return to pick you up 2 hours later. <u>Albuquerque Sun Van (also referred to as ABQ Ride Para-Transit)</u> - Sun Van operates seven days a week, 365 days a year, Monday – Saturday, 0530 – 2200, and Sunday, 0600 – 1930. They provide transportation throughout Albuquerque and as far as Rust Medical Center in Rio Rancho. You must be "ADA paratransit eligible" to schedule a ride. Eligibility requirements include: • Any individual who is unable, as the result of physical, visual or mental impairment, to independently board, ride or disembark from any vehicle on the fixed-route system that is readily accessible to and unusable by individuals with disabilities. • Any disabled person who could use accessible fixed-route transportation, but accessible transportation is not available at the time and on the route the customer needs. • Any disabled person who has a specific impairment that prevents the person from traveling to or from a bus stop. To verify eligibility, you must fill out an application and be interviewed at the Alvarado Transportation Center. Applications are available online at https://www.cabq.gov/transit/services/paratransit-service/sun-van-application-for-paratransit-service/sun-van-application-for-paratransit-service or by calling (505) 243-7433. Once completed, it should be faxed to (505) 212-0131 or mailed to: ABQ RIDE Attn: Sun Van Applications 100 First St. SW Albuquerque, NM 87102 When ABQ RIDE receives the application, they will contact the applicant to set up an interview. If necessary, Sun Van can provide the applicant with a FREE ride to and from the interview. They will also provide instructions on how and when to schedule rides.	City of Albuquerque Transportation Programs
<u>Uber Drivers on Base</u> 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 <u>verify</u> that your driver has the proper KAFB credentials before scheduling a ride.	Uber Info
<u>Local Area Military Discounts</u> The Adorabella Beauty Academy, located in the Manzano Shopping Center, 800 Juan Tabo Blvd NE Suite I, Albuquerque, NM 87123 gives free haircuts to veterans and military retirees. They are open Monday and Friday 0900-1500, Tues and Thurs 0900-2000. Please call (505) 554-1053 for an appointment (UPDATED PHONE NUMBER). Walk-ins are welcome after 1000. Other services (manicures, hair color, waxing, etc.) are also available to seniors at a reduced cost. Albertson's Market offers a 10% military discount with a valid Military ID Card on the first Saturday of the month and a 10% senior discount on the first Wednesday of the month. The UPS Store offers a 10% discount on services (including shipping) with a valid military ID.	Military Discounts

Guard and Reserve Retirement: What to Do at Age 60

As National Guard and Reserve members near age 60, they reach important milestones in their military retirement pay and benefits. Whether they have retired while awaiting pay at age 60 or continue drilling until 60, this transition requires action so benefits begin on time.

This is not an all-encompassing guide but provides the basic items that you need to consider as you near age 60. As always, the Kirtland AFB Retiree Activities Office is available to assist individuals as needed.

Four considerations for Reserve Component members as they approach their 60th birthday:

1. TRICARE Health Benefits

At 60 years old, reserve component retirees and their eligible family members can start/continue using TRICARE for health and medical needs.

Some reserve component members might have been using TRICARE Reserve Select or Retired Reserve, both of which require premiums. Upon turning 60, retirees become eligible for standard TRICARE plans with much less expensive or no enrollment fees depending on the plan chosen. Importantly, enrollment fees count toward a family's catastrophic cap, which further reduces overall health care costs.

When you turn age 60, you and your family members become eligible for the same TRICARE health benefits as all other retired Service members. Your health plan options are based on where you live.

In the U.S., you can use:

- [TRICARE Prime](#)
- [US Family Health Plan](#) (currently not taking new enrollees)
- [TRICARE Prime Demo](#)
- [TRICARE Select](#)
- [TRICARE For Life](#) (No cost for TFL, but requires Medicare Part A and Part B)

Outside the U.S., you can use:

- [TRICARE Select Overseas](#)
- [TFL](#) (with Medicare Part A and Part B) - Remember, Medicare will not pay for care outside of the U.S. Tricare becomes the primary payee.

Reserve component retirees must contact TRICARE within 90 days of turning 60; otherwise, they will need to wait until another qualifying life event or an annual open season to enroll.

2. Military Retirement Pay

Reserve component members might have retired from active drilling status before this point, but age 60 typically marks the beginning of their retirement pay. Some members might be eligible to start earlier if they completed qualifying periods of active duty. However, no member can receive retirement pay before age 50.

To qualify for military retirement pay, members must have completed at least 20 "good" years of service, as confirmed by their notice of eligibility. Retirement pay does not begin automatically, so retirees must apply in advance. It's recommended they submit DD forms 108 and 2656 six to nine months before turning 60, but you may start the process one year before turning 60. Each branch of the reserve component has its own process for submitting retirement pay applications and members should consult their individual Service for proper procedures.

There is a [Reserve Retirement Counseling Cell \(RRCL\)](#) that is only for the [Air Force Reserve](#) and a small portion of the [Air National Guard](#). Gray Area members from both the ANG and AFR will start their retirement here.

Gray area members may come to the RRCL for assistance in applying and they can submit their retirement pay application up to one year prior. The RRCL is prohibited, according to the National Guard Bureau, from supporting currently participating Guard members (unless on a Title 10 AGR tour) and are to direct them to their FSS for further assistance.

Guard and Reserve Retirement

3. <u>Survivor Benefit Plan</u> Depending on the election made when they received their notice of eligibility, retirees might need to make a decision about the military's Survivor Benefit Plan. This program provides financial security for a spouse or designated beneficiaries after the retiree's death by continuing a portion of the retirement pay. If a retiree opts out of the plan or selects reduced coverage, <u>spousal consent is required</u>. This ensures both parties are aware of the potential financial impact of not enrolling in full coverage. 4. <u>Retiree ID Card</u> Reserve component retirees should update military identification cards for themselves and their family members. This will provide continued access to base facilities, such as commissaries. It will also indicate TRICARE medical coverage. Appointments for obtaining a new ID Card can be made at https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco	
<u>Legal Office</u> The Legal Office is now back in full operation. For assistance and to schedule an appointment, call (505) 846-4217 or email Kirtland.Legal.Assistance@us.af.mil. Walk-In hours are: - Monday & Friday: 0830 – 1600 - Tuesday & Thursday: 0730 – 1600 - Wednesday: Closed	Legal Office
<u>KAFB East Side Fitness Center Access</u> The East Side Fitness Center now has 24/7 access for retirees and their dependents. Register for this 24/7 access Monday – Friday, 1000 – 1400 at the East Fitness Center front desk. Once a Statement of Understanding (SOU) acknowledging policies and standards of use is signed, members will be issued a Personal Identity Verification (PIV) card (essentially a key fob). This will allow access to the fitness center with the 24/7 entry system. Members who lose cards may be subject to replacement card fees.	East Side Fitness Center
<u>Protect Your Debit Card!</u> There's a new scam going around. It starts with a call from your financial institution saying there is a problem with your account. Then, you are advised to destroy your debit card, but, for security purposes, keep the embedded chip intact. Someone from the bank will be over shortly to pick up the destroyed card and chip. Once the scammer has the chip, they can use computer software to recover your PIN and gain access to your account. If you receive a call like this – HANG UP! Immediately contact your financial institution directly to verify if your account has been compromised. Because withdrawals using a debit card come directly out of your account, you only have a short window to report fraudulent withdrawals if there is any chance to get your money back. Check with your financial institution. Please, monitor your accounts on a regular basis! And, when in doubt, contact your financial institution directly.	Scams
<u>KAFB and M&FRC Hiring Events</u> Hiring Events are currently on hold due to the government shutdown. Please contact the Military and Family at Readiness Center at (505) 846-0741 for further information.	KAFB Hiring Events
<u>New Mexico VA / Roadrunner Food Bank</u> The NM VA and Roadrunner Food Bank host a Monthly Food Drive at Veteran's Memorial Park, 1100 Louisiana Blvd. SE, Albuquerque, NM 87106, 0900-1100, on 20 Nov and 18 Dec 25.	Monthly Food Drive
<u>Update About USAA Insurance Eligibility</u> If a military member/retiree does not have their insurance through USAA, their surviving spouse will <u>not</u> be eligible to get any insurance through USAA.	USAA Insurance Update

Do You Need to Correct Your Military Records? Please watch this YouTube video for help in updating/correcting your military records: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QCDoqc9Kw6M	VA YouTube Channel
How to Get SBP Premiums Deducted From VA Compensation Are you sending a check to DFAS to pay your Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) premiums every month? Retirees who have most, or all, of their retired pay waived due to receipt of disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) do not have a direct channel to pay the premiums for their SBP coverage. Generally, DFAS automatically deducts SBP premiums from a member's retired pay. But in this situation, there isn't sufficient retired pay to cover the premium amount, and the member is responsible for paying the SBP premiums on their own. If this is the case for you, the most convenient way to pay for SBP premiums is to have the money deducted from your VA disability compensation and sent directly to DFAS. To start having SBP premium payments deducted from VA disability compensation, please complete a "DD Form 2891 Interim," found on the Forms Library webpage at https://www.dfas.mil/raforms. The "DD Form 2891 Interim" is a simple form to complete. Fill in your information in Section I. You will also need your current monthly SBP premium amount. You can find this amount by looking at your most recent Retiree Account Statement (RAS) on myPay or on your SBP premium bill. Please verify that your net retired pay is less than the SBP premium amount before completing the "DD Form 2891 Interim." Once you have the amount of your SBP premium, and confirm it is more than your net pay, enter it into the block in Section II. There is no need for the VA to review or complete any portion of the form. The most convenient way to submit the form to DFAS is by using our online upload tools on askDFAS. Learn more at https://www.dfas.mil/askdfas. Having your SBP premiums deducted by the VA and sent directly to DFAS is the easiest way to ensure your loved ones are taken care of and your SBP premiums are paid on time. For questions about SBP premiums or anything else related to your retired pay, please visit our website at https://www.dfas.mil/payforsbp.	VA Corner
VA Benefits (from VA.gov) Elderly Veterans may be eligible for a wide variety of benefits available to all U.S. military Veterans. VA benefits include <u>disability compensation</u>, <u>pension</u>, <u>education and training</u>, <u>health care</u>, <u>home loans</u>, <u>insurance</u>, <u>Veteran Readiness and Employment</u>, and <u>burial</u>. See our <u>Veterans page</u> (https://benefits.va.gov/persona/) for an overview of the benefits available to all Veterans. VA Benefits for Elderly Veterans Two VA programs provide certain elderly Veterans with an additional monetary amount if you are eligible for or receiving a VA Pension benefit. Aid and Attendance (A&A) is an increased monthly pension payment if you meet one of the conditions below: • You require help performing daily functions, which may include bathing, eating or dressing • You are bedridden • You are a patient in a nursing home • Your eyesight is limited to a corrected 5/200 visual acuity or less in both eyes; or concentric contraction of the visual field to 5 degrees or less • Housebound is an increased monthly pension amount paid if you are substantially confined to your immediate premises because of a permanent disability. Learn more about these benefits on <u>the Aid & Attendance Housebound benefits page</u>.	VA Benefits for the Elderly

<u>VA Health Care for Elderly Veterans</u> Geriatrics is health care for elderly Veterans with complex needs. Extended care - also known as long term care - is programs for Veterans of all ages who need daily support and assistance. Elderly Veterans can receive geriatric and long-term care programs at home, at VA medical centers, or in the community. For more information on the following programs, check out the VA website: • Geriatrics Program • Long Term Care • Eligibility for Long Term Care • Home Based and Community Services • Nursing Home and Residential Care • Geriatrics Research Deciding where to spend the golden years is one of the most important decisions anyone will make, and it's important to know that each state classifies assisted living and nursing homes in a different way and has different rules and regulations to follow to ensure senior health. The <u>Federal and State Nursing Home & Assisted Living Regulations</u> provides detailed information for all 50 states. Topics include how each state defines assisted living, admission and retention policies and square feet requirements. <u>How to Apply</u> The specific VA benefit or program web page will provide tailored information about how to apply for a particular benefit or program. Generally, Servicemembers, Veterans, and families can apply for VA benefits using one of the methods below. • Apply online using eBenefits, OR • Work with an accredited representative or agent, OR • Go to a VA regional office and have a VA employee assist you. You can • find your regional office on our Facility Locator page. • File your claim by mail using an Application for Disability Compensation • and Related Compensation Benefits (VA Form 21-526EZ). Print the • form, fill it out and send it to: Department of Veterans Affairs Claims Intake Center P.O. Box 4444 Janesville, WI 53547-4444	
<u>Important Information About VA Services</u> If a service member gets all of his/her care at the VA and elects <u>NOT</u> to take Medicare (meaning the member also does not have TriCare for Life), the service member's spouse <u>WILL NOT</u> be eligible for Tricare for Life, even if they have Medicare.	Important VA Information
<u>Everything You Need to Know About Veteran Memorial Benefits</u> To learn about pre-need eligibility, end-of-life planning, burial and memorial benefits, including burial site, presidential memorial certificate, headstone or marker, and military funeral honors, go online to: https://www.cem.va.gov/veterans-and-families/?utm_source=middle&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=VetResources&utm_id=16JUL2025	VA Memorial Benefits
<u>KAFB Arts and Crafts</u> Due to the government shutdown, the Arts and Crafts Center is temporarily closed.	KAFB Arts& Crafts

<u>Family Camp</u> 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.	Family Camp
<u>RV Storage</u> 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.	RV Storage
<u>Kirtland AFB Veterinary Treatment Facility</u> Veterinary weekly appointments are now available. Services include basic wellness appointments and sick call appointments. Dental cleanings and surgical procedures (including spay/neuter) have been discontinued due to the government shutdown. 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.	KAFB Veterinary Treatment Facility
<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 or cash accepted.	Thunderbird Dining Facility
<u>Kirtland AFB Chapel and Religious Services</u> 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 Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 1130. The Kirtland AFB Protestant Community Service meets every Sunday at 1100 at the base Chapel. Anyone with base access is welcome to attend. Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC) meets every Wednesday, 0900 – 1200, in the annex of the Base Chapel.	Kirtland AFB Chapel Services
<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	KAFB Gate Access

2025 Wing Holidays and Training Days

Minimum base services will be available on these dates in 2025		2025 Wing Holidays And Training Days (Tentative)
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	

2026 Tentative Wing Holidays and Training Days

Minimum base services will be available on these dates in 2026		2026 Wing Holidays And Training Days (Tentative)
Thursday, 1 January 2026	New Year's Day	
Friday, 2 January 2026	Family Day	
Thursday, 15 January 2026	Training Day	
Friday, 16 January 2026	Family Day	
Monday, 19 January 2026	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	
Friday, 13 February 2026	Family Day	
Monday, 16 February 2026	President's Day	
Thursday, 19 February 2026	Training Day	
Thursday, 19 March 2026	Training Day	
Thursday, 16 April 2026	Training Day	
Thursday, 21 May 2026	Training Day	
Friday, 22 May 2026	Family Day	
Monday, 25 May 2026	Memorial Day	
Thursday, 18 June 2026	Training Day	
Friday, 19 June 2026	Juneteenth	
Monday, 22 June 2026	Family Day	
Friday, 3 July 2026 (Observed)	Independence Day	
Monday, 6 July 2026	Family Day	
Thursday, 16 July 2026	Training Day	
Thursday, 20 August 2026	Training Day	
Friday, 4 September 2026	Family Day	
Monday, 7 September 2026	Labor Day	
Thursday, 17 September 2026	Training Day	
Friday, 9 October 2026	Family Day	
Monday, 12 October 2026	Indigenous People's Day	
Thursday, 15 October 2026	Training Day	
Tuesday, 10 November 2026	Family Day	
Wednesday, 11 November 2026	Veterans Day	
Thursday, 19 November 2026	Training Day	
Thursday, 26 November 2026	Thanksgiving Day	
Friday, 27 November 2026	Family Day	
Thursday, 17 December 2026	Training Day	
Thursday, 24 December 2026	Family Day	
Friday, 25 December 2026	Christmas Day	
Thursday, 31 December 2026	Family Day	

Useful Phone Numbers

Air Force Lodging (Conus Only)	1 (888) 235-6343
AMVETS Appointment (Lou Rossi)	(505) 846-0741
Arts and Crafts	(505) 853-3003
Base Exchange	(505) 232-8771
BENEFEDS (Vision / Dental Insurance)	1 (877) 888-3337
BX Pharmacy – Consult Only	(505) 846-3200 option 3
BX Pharmacy – Script Activation TEXT ONLY	1 (833) 429-6533
BX Pharmacy - Script Refills	(505) 594-2846
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) 383-2400
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 / 7509
VA Benefits Advisor	(505) 853-1701
VA Hospital Albuquerque	(505) 265-1711
Veterinary Office	(505) 846-4276
Veterans Group Life Insurance	1 (800) 419-1473

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

KAFB History

SEPTEMBER

Kirtland, VA Medical Complex

Event: On 8 September 1989, U.S. Air Force and Department of Veterans Affairs officials cut the ribbon on a joint off base medical complex.

Background: U.S. military medical operations had previously been consolidated on Kirtland Air Force Base when the installation was merged with Sandia and Manzano in 1971. The USAF hospital had a sick-call clinic in Building 20140 and an inpatient care facility in Building 20203. In 1984, the Hospital came under Congressional scrutiny, and the decision was made to co-locate it with a new VA hospital. The merger included numerous sharing agreements enhancing medical care for service members but its off base location has also posed ongoing security challenges.

THE ARCHIVE



Caption: Albuquerque, VA and USAF officials cut the ribbon at a joint Air Force and VA "super clinic" on 8 Sep 1989. (U.S. Air Force Photo)



Wing Heritage Pamphlet

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



**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>**