

Serving
The Retired
Military
Communities
of Illinois,
Iowa,
Michigan,
Minnesota
& Wisconsin

HONORS

RETIREMENT ★ SERVICES ★ NEWSLETTER



Dear Retirees and Families:

My name is Colonel Steve Messenger, Commander of Fort McCoy since July of 2022. Thank you for your service to the greatest military that has ever been fielded on the face of the Earth. Your contributions mattered while serving, and still matter today. I would like to express one thought: Gratitude. There's no more noble act than raising your right hand to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. Millions of Americans have done this to ensure our freedom, and you and your family are one of the many reasons America continues to thrive.

Retirees Are Specifically Trained in Leadership

Leadership is the most prized-after attribute the world seeks. Employers desperately look to hire you in corporate America, government positions, privately owned companies, local and State jobs, and in every workplace. Volunteer organizations urgently need you to inspire, motivate, and attract people to help in their mission. And families need you to lead your spouses, children, and grandchildren.

The military understands that leadership is the lynchpin to success. No matter the branch or service, veterans of all ranks have been specifically trained in this discipline.

World War II Leaders

Leadership was the differentiator in World War II. After the D-Day invasion into Normandy, paratroopers were scattered across Western Europe, the majority without their organic units. Yet the most junior sergeant knew it was their job to gather whoever was around and complete their objective. And did they ever! The enemy marveled at how the American noncommissioned officer corps took initiative. These junior leaders didn't need to wait on orders from officers. They only needed a task and purpose, and for everyone to get out of their way.

Retirees Serving in Our Communities

Retirees return to the civilian sector as leaders. You take your skills and are making a difference. The brother and sisterhood in which you grew up in have embedded in a culture of loyalty and competence. The Chief of Staff of the Army has a great saying, "People first, winning matters." You understand this. You know the mission cannot fail and your people are the ones who accomplish it.

Finally, Retirees come with a warrior ethos. You have grown up in an ethics-based environment which only adds to your value outside the military. You have a multiplying effect whether leading in your places of work, volunteer activities, or homes.

Thank You!

I am incredibly grateful to our Retirees and families leading and making a difference—first in the military and now in the community. One day, I too will leave my service as a military leader and become a retired Veteran. You have served honorably, proudly, and humbly. Thank you for all who have served for so long and for you and your family's service. Now we look forward to helping you understand and take advantage of the benefits you have earned.

FORT MCCOY -
TOTAL FORCE TRAINING CENTER



Steve Messenger
Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding



Greetings and welcome to the 2022 edition of the Fort McCoy HONORS newsletter.

"Don't guess, feel free to call" if you have any military-retirement related questions. I cannot possibly have all the answers but I will help you as much as I can and provide you with guidance to an appropriate resource for those questions that I cannot answer. I embrace the opportunity to "still serve" in the Retirement Services Officer capacity as a resource to my fellow Service members and your Families.

Your comments on the newsletter are valued and encouraged as I always look for ways to improve. Please send your comments by mail to: Soldier for Life - Retirement Services Office, 35 South M Street, Fort McCoy, WI 54656-5152, or by email to: usarmy.mccoy.imcom-central.mbx.dhr-rso@army.mil or call 800-452-0923.

I sincerely thank you and your Families for your service to our great Nation.

Brent R. Johnson
Soldier for Life – Retirement Services Officer
Fort McCoy, WI 54656

DISCLAIMER

Articles for the Honors do not necessarily reflect the position of the Department of the Army, or Fort McCoy, WI. The material in this newsletter was provided by a number of sources. Sources and materials are checked to be as accurate as possible at the time of printing.

The Soldier for Life - Retirement Services Office (SFL-RSO) publishes the Retirement Services Newsletter in accordance with Army Regulation 600-8-7, Retirement Services Program.

The SFL-RSO is located in building 35, Fort McCoy, WI. While it is recommended that you contact the office for an appointment prior to visiting, walk-ins are welcome. The toll-free phone number is 800-452-0923; locally 608-388-3716.

Emails can be sent to: usarmy.mccoy.id-readiness.mbx.dhr-rso@army.mil.

The mailing address is:
Soldier for Life - Retirement Services Office
35 South M Street
Fort McCoy, WI 54656-5152



2023 Retiree Appreciation Days

The 2023 RAD dates are listed in event order. These events include location, dates, times, a Point of Contact and a phone listing for further questions:

17-Aug-2023 Urbandale, IA - 904-382-1122.....(rad2022@mediacombb.net)

Holiday Inn 4800 Merle Hay Road, Urbandale, IA 50322

18-Aug-2023 Rosemount, MN (Twin Cities) - 763-350-1653..... (Bobz52@embarqmail.com)

Rosemount Community Center: 13885 S Robert Trail, Rosemount, MN 55068

8-Sep-2023 Fort McCoy, WI - 608-388-3716.....(wolfmangb@gmail.com)

Building 2472 West 13th Avenue, Fort McCoy, WI 54656

(ID CARD OFFICE WALK-IN 0800-1130 1230-1500)

16-September-2023 Selfridge Air National Guard Base, MI - 586-239-5580 ..(selfrao@yahoo.com)

BLDG 164 Selfridge ANGB, Michigan 48045

14-October-2023 Rock Island, IL - 563-508-5123..... (qcmrad@gmail.com)

Heritage Hall, 2149 Rodman Ave, Rock Island, IL 61201

★★

The HONORS is GOING FULLY DIGITAL

With this 2023 edition of the Fort McCoy HONORS newsletter comes the announcement of plans to implement electronic delivery future editions. Rising publication and postage costs, declining budgets, and increasing use of electronic communication by Retired Service Members and their Families combined to force the change in delivery methods. The HONORS NEWSLETTER will be going fully digital.

To keep receiving the HONORS, retirees and annuitants will need to have a current email address on file with either DEERS or DFAS.

1. Establish an email account?

EMAIL: <https://accounts.google.com/SignUp>

YAHOO: <https://login.yahoo.com/account>



See ID Card Office Online (IDCO): <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/> Set up an appointment and update your email address in DEERS. YouTube Video from DFAS: How to update my email address. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DgyA_F2lShI

2. Call DFAS and speak with a representative and add your email address to your Retiree or annuitant account 800-321-1080

Military Installations in the Midwest

Many recreational activities, services, and opportunities are available at any of the military installations in the Midwest. Following is a list of contact telephone numbers and internet sites for those installations within the Fort McCoy service area.

Fort McCoy, Wisconsin

The following extensions begin 608-388-

Post Operator	2222
Army Community Service	3505
Auto Skills Center	3013
Commissary	3542
Legal Office	8751
Leisure Travel Services	3011
McCOY'S Community Club	2065
MWR Car Wash	3213
Pine View Campground	3517
Post Exchange	4343
Recreation Center	3213
Rumpel Fitness Center	2290
Ski Chalet	2260

Great Lakes Naval Station, Illinois

The following extensions begin with 847-688-

Base Operator	3500
Base Exchange	847-578-6104
Commissary	2644
Information/Tickets/Travel	3537
Legal Office	3805
Marina/Rental Center	5417
MWR	2110
RV Park	6675
Samuel Adams Brew Club	6946
Willow Glen Golf Course	4593

Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois

www.rianmwr.com

The following extensions begin 309-782-

Post Operator	6001
Army Community Service	0829
Auto Skills Center	8631
Cannon Falls Driving Range	0090
Commissary	4614
Fitness Center	6787
Health Benefit Adviser	0800
Legal Office	1443
Leisure Travel Services	5890
Outdoor Recreation	8630
Post Exchange	309-788-4940

Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan

www.detroitarsenalfmwr.com

The following extensions begin 586-239- unless otherwise indicated

Post Operator	586-307-4011
Base Exchange	0960
Benefit Mulligan's Dining/Catering	2337
Commissary	5570
FMWR	586-282-0992
Golf Course	4653
Health Benefit Adviser	586-282-5273
Legal Office	4078
Retiree Activity Office	5580



Midwest Area Retiree Councils ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Retiree Councils serve as a vital link for the Retiree community. The Councils provide an avenue for suggestions and recommendations to reach the proper level in the chain of command. The Councils also plan and implement programs/Retiree Appreciation Days (RADs) to provide up-to-date information about benefits and entitlements to the retired community. The RADs are open to all Retirees from all branches of service. Fort McCoy currently supports eight Midwest Retiree Area Councils. These area councils are subordinate to the Fort McCoy Main Council, and each has representation on the main council.

Area councils are located in Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Although these councils are sponsored by Fort McCoy, membership is open to Retirees from all services. Council contact numbers are listed below. Please feel free to contact any council member if you have issues to discuss or if you are interested in serving as a member.

Main and Area Council membership applications are available by contacting the Fort McCoy Soldier for Life - Retirement Services Office at 608-388-3716 or via email at usarmy.mccoy.imcom-central.mbx.dhr-rso@army.mil

Being a member of a council offers Retirees an opportunity to stay involved with Retiree benefits and activities. It provides a valuable link through the chain-of-command and is a means of giving back to the Retiree community. Area councils rely on Retirees in their local community to be effective, and new members are always welcome. Vacancies exist in each of the Fort McCoy-sponsored councils, so don't be shy! The Duluth Area Council especially is in need of new members and would be glad to hear from you. Midwest Retiree Area Councils sponsored by Fort McCoy are listed below with contact numbers for the chairperson or Retiree Activity Office:

Des Moines Area Council	515-277-6113
Duluth/Superior Area Council	715-398-3152

Lower Michigan Area Council	586-239-5580
Quad Cities Area Council	563-508-5123
Racine Area Council	262-886-9612 ext. 113
Fort Sheridan Area Council	847-266-2475
Twin Cities Area Council	763-516-2931
Wisconsin Area Council	414-630-2484

In addition, assistance for Retirees is available at the following Retiree Activity Offices:

Chicago, Ill. – Monday-Friday, 9 A.M. - NOON
Fort Sheridan
847-266-2475

Chicago, Ill. – Monday-Friday, 9 A.M. – 3 P.M.
Arlington Heights Army Reserve Center
Email – usrao2@gmail.com
800-741-4650, ext. 7625 or 847-506-7625

Madison, Wis. – Tuesday & Thursday, 7:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.
2400 Wright St.
Email – widma.retiree@wisconsin.gov
800-335-5147, ext. 3115

Milwaukee, Wis. – Tuesday & Wednesday, 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.
1835 East Grange Avenue
414-944-8212

Minneapolis, Minn. – Monday-Friday, 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.
Minneapolis Airport, Bldg. 727
612-713-1517

Racine, Wis. – Monday-Friday, 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.
6216 Washington Ave., Suite G
Email: – rac.racine@gmail.com
262-886-9612 ext. 113

Selfridge, Mich. – Tuesday-Friday, 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.
Selfridge Air National Guard Base
44195 Jefferson Ave., Bldg. 835
Email – selfrao@yahoo.com
www.detroitarsenalfmwr.com/community/rso.htm
586-239-5580

Online USID Card Renewal Pilot

As of February 24, 2023, the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) Online Uniformed Services Identification (USID) Card Renewal Pilot has gone to production and is available for USID cardholders to request online renewal of currently-active USID cards.

Approved requests will result in the cardholder's new card being mailed directly to them. DMDC is "soft-launching" the pilot to work out any bugs or issues in the process before they make wider announcements, in the meantime, they've provided details, including a one-page reference and Frequently Asked Questions, online at: <https://www.cac.mil/Next-Generation-Uniformed-Services-ID-Card/Renewing-Online/>

Please communicate to your population that the option to select online renewal should now be available to sponsors who login to ID Card Office Online (IDCO) with their Common Access Card (CAC).

- Requirements/Eligibility Sponsor must be a CAC holder and requesting a renewal of an active USID card.
- **Sponsor and Cardholder must have email addresses listed in DEERS that they have authorized DoD to use for contacting them.**
- Authorization for contact can be made on the IDCO website under "My Profile." Sponsor's personnel status must extend at least 30 days in the future from the renewal request date
- Cardholder has a photo saved in DEERS taken in the last 12 years. Cardholder's mailing address is present in DEERS and is in United States. USID cards cannot be shipped to Post Office Boxes.
- See ID Card Office Online (IDCO): <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/>
- Select "Family ID Cards."

DMDC plans to expand eligibility for online renewal to include DS Logon credential holders later in 2023.



Schedule an ID Card Appointment

- 1) Go to the online scheduler located at <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco>. Under "Quick Links" click on the "ID Cards and DEERS";
- 2) Scroll down to "Appointments" and click "Click here" to Schedule an Appointment.
- 3) Click on: "ID Card Office Locator & Appointments" Enter "Fort McCoy or 99656"; Select Location #2 – "Ft McCoy or 99656" (Installation ID Card Facility)
- 4) After you select Location #2,

you will see a button at the bottom of the page to "Schedule Appointment" click on that button. Available appointments will be visible in the calendar on your screen. Click on an available date (by scrolling up or down), and then chose an open appointment time that fits your schedule. 5) Once you have done that you will see a confirmation of your appointment to include date and time.

What to Bring to Your ID Card Appointment

Two (2) Forms of valid state or federal identification are required for all adults (18 years or older; one must be a photo ID). Identification documents may include a military ID Card; driver's license or passport. Children 10 years and older require one (1) form of identification. Sponsor must be present for all transactions or Family Member must have current verified DD Form 1172-2.

What to Bring to Your ID Card Appointment (continued) (APPLICATION FOR ID Cards/DEERS Enrollment) or valid General or Special Power of Attorney. Special Power of Attorney must state ID Cards/DEERS enrollments. All documents must be original. Ensure all names (First and Last on the identification provided matches the names in DEERS. For special cases, please call and confirm required documentation at 608-388-4563 or visit the Fort McCoy website and click on ID Cards & DEERS button.

Age for Permanent USID Card Upon reaching the age of 65, retired members will receive a permanent (indefinite) USID Card. Spouses will not receive their permanent USID Card until they reach the age of 75. There have been rumors that the age for spouses would be lowered to 65; however, to date, the DoD has not enacted this policy change. If you are a retiree and are turning 65 you must bring your Medicare Part B Card to your ID Card appointment along with two forms of valid state or federal identification (retiree ID Card, driver's license or passport). The Medicare Part B card is required to update DEERS and issuance of a new ID Card which enrolls you in TRICARE FOR LIFE. See "how to" enroll in MEDICARE PART A and B on page 5 of this newsletter.

Understanding MEDICARE and TRICARE for Life TRICARE for Life (TFL) is available to TRICARE retirees, family members and beneficiaries, regardless of age or where you live. If you have Medicare Part A and Medicare Part B, you're eligible for TFL on the first date you have both Medicare Part A and Medicare Part B. Medicare Part A covers inpatient hospital care, hospice care, inpatient skilled nursing facility care, and some home health care. The Social Security Administration (SSA) determines your entitlement to Medicare Part A based on your work history or your spouse's (this includes divorced or deceased spouses) work history. Medicare Part B covers provider services, outpatient care, home health care, durable medical equipment, and some preventive services. Medicare Part B has a monthly premium, which may change yearly and varies based on income. BE ADVISED, if you are approaching age 65, check the expiration date of your ID card; it should expire on the last day of the month preceding your birth month.

MEDICARE Enrollment and TRICARE for Life The window for enrollment for MEDICARE spans seven months (three months prior to birth month, birth month at age 65, and three months following). If you do not enroll at age 65, there is a penalty, and you lose TRICARE coverage until you eventually enroll in MEDICARE. Although the MEDICARE window spans several months, BE ADVISED, if you are approaching age 65, check the expiration date of your ID card; it should expire on the last day of the month preceding your birth month. At that time your medical benefits under regular TRICARE will also expire. Enrollment in MEDICARE PART A and B, and possession of your MEDICARE card is required for update in DEERS and issuance of a new ID card which enrolls you in TRICARE FOR LIFE. It is best to enroll in MEDICARE at the earliest possible date to ensure seamless transition of medical benefits. To enroll in MEDICARE parts A and B, contact the Social Security Administration at 800-772-1213 (online at www.ssa.gov) or MEDICARE at 800-633-4227 (online at www.medicare.gov). If you are deaf or hard of hearing, you may call the Social Security TTY number 800-325-0778. You can also visit your local Social Security office. If you apply online, once approved, you can print your own MEDICARE card. If you are enrolled in MEDICARE when you are first eligible, but do not yet receive Social Security, MEDICARE will bill you for your MEDICARE Part B premiums.

Prescription Drug Coverage You must have Medicare Part B, unless you qualify for an exception listed above. You can continue to get prescriptions filled with no break in coverage as

Prescription Drug Coverage, (continued) long as you have Medicare Part B when you first become eligible for Medicare Part A. Medicare Part D, a prescription drug plan, is available to everyone with Medicare. You don't need Part D to keep TRICARE. If you meet certain income and resource limits, you may qualify for extra help from Medicare to pay Part D premiums.

>>Learn more. <https://tricare.mil/Plans/Eligibility/MedicareEligible>

Has your medical or pharmacy claim been denied? You may still be covered.

>>Learn more <https://www.tricare.mil/FormsClaims/Claims>

How do I enroll in Medicare Part D if I've lost my TRICARE coverage?

You can enroll during Medicare Part D Open Enrollment. Each year, Medicare Part D Open Enrollment is from Oct. 15 through Dec. 7. Your coverage begins Jan. 1 of the following year. If you want to enroll in Medicare Part D outside of the open enrollment period, you'll enroll through a special enrollment period. If you choose this option, Medicare might ask you for proof that you had TRICARE coverage. If you need this proof of creditable coverage, submit your request in writing to:

Defense Manpower Data Center/DEERS Support Office (DSO)

400 Gigling Road
Seaside, CA 93955-6771
Fax: 800-336-4416

Your request must include:

- Sponsor's name and Social Security number
- Name of person for whom the certificate is requested
- Reason for the request
- Name and address to whom and where the certificate should be sent
- Signature of the requester

You can't request this letter over the phone. You must request this letter in writing.

Questions? Call the Defense Manpower Data Center/DEERS Support Office at 800-538-9552. You can also visit milConnect <https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/> for more information.

TYPE OF SERVICE	MEDICARE PAYS	TRICARE PAYS	YOU PAY
Covered by TRICARE and Medicare	Medicare-authorized amount	Remaining amount	Nothing
Covered by Medicare only	Medicare-authorized amount	Nothing	Medicare deductible and cost-shareA percentage of the total cost of a covered health care service that you pay.
Covered by TRICARE only	Nothing	TRICARE-allowable amount	TRICARE deductible and cost-share
Not covered by TRICARE or Medicare	Nothing	Nothing	Billed charges (which may exceed the Medicare or TRICARE-allowable amount)

The TRICARE pharmacy benefit is considered creditable coverage. If you're eligible for Medicare and go 63 continuous days or longer without creditable prescription drug coverage. Coverage that pays at least as much as Medicare's standard prescription drug coverage. You may have to pay higher premiums for a Medicare drug plan.



Internet Addresses



Army Retirement Services

<https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement>

Army Echoes

<https://www.soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/echoes>

Navy Retirement Services

<https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Career-Management/Retirement/>

Navy Shift Colors

<http://www.shiftcolors.navy.mil>

Coast Guard Retirement Services

<http://www.uscg.mil/ppc/ras>

Coast Guard Evening Colors

www.uscg.mil/ppc/retnews

Marines Retirement Services

<http://www.usmc-mccs.org>

Marine Corps Semper Fi

www.manpower.usmc.mil
- click on career/Retired Marines

Air Force Afterburner

www.retirees.af.mil/afterburner

Air Forces Retirement Services

<https://www.retirees.af.mil/>

Army Emergency Relief (AER)

<http://www.aerhq.org>

Army & Air Force Exchange Service

<http://www.shopmyexchange.com>

Army Knowledge Online (AKO)

<https://www.us.army.mil>

Army Retired Pin & Decal

www.shopmyexchange.com - type Army Retired in the search box

Burial & Memorial Benefits

<http://www.cem.va.gov>

Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC)

<https://www.myarmybenefits.us.army.mil> – type CRSC in the search box

Concurrent Retired Disability Pay (CRDP)

<https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/> – type CRDP in the search box

Delta Dental Plan

<http://www.trdp.org>

DFAS-Cleveland (Retired Pay & Annuitant Pay)

<http://www.dfas.mil>

Military Eyeglasses

www.med.navy.mil/sites/nostra/order/Pages/Retiree.aspx

Military Personnel Records Request

<http://archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>

eBenefits

<https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/homepage>

Express Scripts (Mail Order Pharmacy)

<https://www.express-scripts.com/>

Federal Long Term Care Insurance

<https://www.ltcfeds.com/>

Fort McCoy Homepage

<https://home.army.mil/mccoy/index.php>

Life Insurance (SGLI, TSGLI, VGLI)

www.benefits.va.gov/insurance

Medicare

<http://www.ssa.gov>
– click on benefits then Medicare

Military Funeral Honors

<https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh>

Military Living Publications

<http://www.militaryliving.com>

Military OneSource

<http://www.militaryonesource.mil>
– financial, legal, health & wellness assistance and much more

Military Personnel Records Request

<http://archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>

National Personnel Records Center

<http://www.archives.gov>

RAPIDS Site Locator (DEERS Enrollment & ID Card Issuing Facilities)

<http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/appj.site>

Social Security

<http://www.ssa.gov>

Space Available Travel (Space-A)

www.amc.af.mil/amctravel

Thrift Savings Plan (TSP)

www.tsp.gov

TRICARE

<https://www.tricare.mil/>

U.S. Army Human Resource Command Fort Knox (HRC)

<https://www.hrc.army.mil>

Veterans Administration (VA)

Home - VA/DoD eBenefits

Don't Miss a Paycheck! Keep DFAS Informed of Life Events

CLEVELAND — What can you do as a Retired Soldier to ensure your retired pay comes to you accurately and on time?

Keep your Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) account up to date. An updated DFAS account refers to mailing and email addresses as well as banking information, allotments, tax withholding status, and beneficiary choices.

Be sure to report any change of life events as soon as they happen. These life-changing events might include:

- Moving
- Marriage or Remarriage
- Divorce
- Birth or adoption of a child
- Death of a spouse or child

Some changes, especially those regarding Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) coverage, have a one-year limit, so it is important that you notify DFAS when they happen.

When you notify, be sure to include photocopies of supporting documents such as birth or marriage certificates. Use askDFAS upload tool to submit your DD Form 2656-6 (SBP Election Change Certificate) and supporting documents.

When you submit a DD Form 2656-6, you'll get emailed status notifications to the email you provide in askDFAS, or if you

send it by postal mail or fax, the email in your myPay account. DFAS occasionally sends out correspondence regarding changes in the law that affect your pay.

If your mailing address is not correct and you are not in myPay, DFAS has no way of notifying you about changes. DFAS is also communicating more via email to provide convenient customer service, so you will be better informed if you have a current email in your myPay account.

The easiest way to keep your account updated is to use myPay. You can use myPay to change your mailing address, your email address, your direct deposit information, some allotments and your tax withholding status.

You can also use myPay to verify payment information, including allotment amounts, or tax withholding, or check your SBP coverage on your Retiree Account Statement.



Report the Death of a Retired Service Member

Visit the DFAS Homepage, <https://www.dfas.mil>

- a. Select the "Retired Military & Annuitant Banner"
- b. Next, select "Click Here to Report the Death of a Retiree"
- c. Select "Agree"
- d. Complete and Submit the Form on-line.

Contact the Army Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Division (CMAOD) by calling 800-626-3317. The designated CAC will report the death to the DFAS to stop retired pay and initiate the Survivor Benefits process. When reporting the death, please provide as much of the below information as you have:

- Full Name
- Disability Rating
- Copy of Death Certificate
- SSN and/or Service Number
- Circumstances surrounding death
- Retirement Date
- Date and Place of Birth
- Next of Kin (NOK) information
- Retired Rank

For additional assistance you can contact the Fort McCoy, WI Retirement Services Office at 608-388-3716

Gray Area Retirees Now Have a New Avenue to Stay Connected

A New Kind of myPay Account

For Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve and Air Force Reserve Gray Area Retirees, there is a new avenue to stay connected and informed between the time they stop drilling and the time they start receiving retired pay.

If you are a Gray Area Retiree who uses your new myPay account to keep your contact information updated, you will benefit from receiving important information from DFAS and your Branch of Service, such as news about changes in laws or policies that impact your retirement benefits, reminders about applying for retired pay, and your Services' Retiree Newsletter.

Plus, with current contact information in your new myPay account when you apply for retired pay, we will email you status notifications: when your application was received, when it is being worked, and when it is complete. We have a helpful downloadable Gray Area Future Retiree myPay Login Tips PDF with specific instructions at: <https://www.dfas.mil/grayarea>.

New DFAS Phone Numbers:

Changes as of June 1, 2022

CLEVELAND — As of June 1, 2022, DFAS has new local phone numbers. Please make a note of the changes below: The local phone number to reach Retired & Annuitant Pay Customer Service has changed. The new number is 317-212-0551. The 216-522-5955 local phone number will NOT be available to use after July 1, 2022. The DSN number to reach Retired & Annuitant Pay Customer Service also changed. The new DSN number is 699-0551. This change does NOT affect the toll-free number (800-321-1080) or the fax numbers. The toll-free number and the fax numbers for Retired & Annuitant Pay remain the same. (Courtesy of DFAS) www.retirees.af.mil

AMC Space Available Travel

Reminder to Space-A travelers:

Keep in mind there is no guarantee you will be selected for a seat. Space-A travelers must be prepared to cover commercial travel expenses if flight schedules are changed or become unavailable to allow Space-A travel (Per DODI 4515.13, Section 4, Paragraph 4.1.a).

TRAVEL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Travel eligibility | Review Travel Eligibility Categories 1-6 (below) to determine your Space-A travel category.

2. Locations | Review common destinations offered at your nearest AMC Passenger Terminal by visiting their website/social media page. For Links to website/social media page, see Passenger Terminal Directory below.

3. Document check | Ensure you have the required travel documents, e.g. passport with visas. Customs and Immigration requirements may change. Contact your departure passenger terminal for current documentation requirements or travel restrictions. Other information regarding travel documents may be found by visiting the U.S. Department of State International Travel website.

4. Registration | Contact your nearest AMC Passenger Terminal.

5. Flight schedules | For specific travel information, contact your nearest AMC Passenger Terminal or check their AFPIMS page to see the 72-hour flight schedule.

6. Checking in | Check in at the terminal counter to mark yourself present and review updated flight information. Ensure you do not exceed baggage weight limits and are not traveling with any prohibited items. Await your Space-A call and follow instructions given to you by the passenger service agents.

TRAVEL ELIGIBILITY (FROM DODI 4515.13)

Category I - Emergency Leave Unfunded Travel.

Category II - Accompanied EML

Category III - Ordinary leave, relatives, house hunting permissive TDY, MOH holders & foreign military.

Category IV - Unaccompanied EML

Category V - Permissive TDY (non-house hunting), students, dependents, post deployment/mobilization respite absence & others

Category VI - Retired, dependents, reserve, ROTC, NUPOC, CEC, veterans with a permanent service-connected disability rated as total, and surviving spouses of service members who died in active duty, inactive duty training, or annual training status A

<https://www.amc.af.mil/AMC-Travel-Site/AMC-Space-Available-Travel-Page/>

Can I Be Buried in Arlington National Cemetery?

Establishing Eligibility

Arlington National Cemetery's eligibility requirements for burial and inurnment are different from other national cemeteries that are maintained by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Eligibility for in-ground burial at Arlington National Cemetery is the most stringent of all U.S. national cemeteries. However, most veterans who have at least one day of active service (other than for training) and an honorable discharge are eligible for above-ground inurnment. Eligibility is determined at the time of need.

Eligibility for interment at Arlington National Cemetery is verified at the time of need (time of death) and cannot be verified by the cemetery or accommodated before that time. Title 32 Code of Federal Regulations Part 553 (26 September 2016), Section 12, outlines which individuals who are eligible for interment (in-ground burial) at Arlington National Cemetery.

This federal regulation can be found [here](#). Definitions of terms used can be found in Section 1 (553.1).

Service Member with Honorable Discharge	Eligibility*	
	Inurnment or Columbarium Court or Niche Wall	In-Ground Burial (Casket)
Dies on Title 10 federal active duty (other than for training)	Yes	Yes
Dies on active duty for training only under Title 10	Yes	No
Veteran – retired from active duty and receiving retirement pay	Yes	Yes
Veteran – at least one day of active duty other than for training	Yes	No
Veteran – received Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross (Air Force or Navy), Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star or Purple Heart	Yes	Yes
Any member of a Reserve component of the Armed Forces, and any member of the Army National Guard or the Air National Guard, whose death occurs under honorable conditions while on active duty for training or performing full-time service	Yes	No
Any former prisoner of war who, while a prisoner of war, served honorably in the active military, naval or air service; whose last period of service terminated honorably; and who died on or after Nov. 30, 1993	Yes	Yes

Eligibility for burial in a VA national cemetery

Veterans, service members, and some family members may be eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery. Find out if you, or a person you're planning a burial for, can get this benefit.

Who's eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery?

Veterans, service members, spouses, and dependents may be eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery, as well as other benefits, if they meet one of these requirements.

One of these must be true:

- The person qualifying for burial benefits is a Veteran who didn't receive a dishonorable discharge, or
- The person qualifying for burial benefits is a service member who died while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty for training, or
- The person qualifying for burial benefits is the spouse or minor child of a Veteran, even if the Veteran died first, or
- The person qualifying for burial benefits is in some cases, the unmarried adult dependent child of a Veteran.

One of these must be true:

- The person qualifying for burial benefits is a Veteran who didn't receive a dishonorable discharge, or
- The person qualifying for burial benefits is a service member who died while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty for training, or
- The person qualifying for burial benefits is the spouse or minor child of a Veteran, even if the Veteran died first, or
- The person qualifying for burial benefits is in some cases, the unmarried adult dependent child of a Veteran.
- A U.S. citizen who served in the armed forces of a U.S. ally during wartime may be eligible if they meet both requirements.
- A U.S. citizen who served in the armed forces of a U.S. ally during wartime may be eligible if they meet both requirements. **Both of these must be true:**

- » The service member ended their last active service honorably by death or otherwise, **and**
- » The service member was a U.S. citizen at the time they entered their last active service and at the time of their death.

Members of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps of the Army, Navy, or Air Force

A member of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps may be eligible if they meet any of these requirements.

One of these must be true:

- The officer died under honorable conditions while attending an authorized training camp or on an authorized cruise, or
- The officer died under honorable conditions while performing authorized travel to or from a training camp or cruise, or
- The officer died under honorable conditions while hospitalized or getting treatment at the expense of the United States for an injury or illness that occurred while they were attending or traveling to a training camp or cruise under honorable conditions.

National Guard and Reserve members

A National Guard or Reserve member may be eligible if they meet any of these requirements.

At least one of these must be true:

- The National Guard or Reserve member met their legal minimum active-duty service requirements, was called up to active duty and served their full term of service, and didn't receive a dishonorable discharge, or
- The National Guard or Reserve member was entitled to retirement pay at their time of death, or would have been entitled to retirement pay if they weren't under 60 years of age at the time of death, or
- The National Guard or Reserve member died while hospitalized or getting treatment at the expense of the U.S. for an injury or illness that occurred while they were performing active-duty services for training or inactive-duty training under honorable conditions, or
- The National Guard or Reserve member became disabled or died from a disease or injury caused—or made worse—by their service during a period of active duty for training, or
- The National Guard or Reserve member became disabled or died from an injury or certain cardiovascular disorders caused—or made worse—by their service during a period of inactive-duty training.

HONORS

Military Personnel Division
ATTN: DHR IMMC-HRM-P
2187 South J. Street
Fort McCoy, Wisconsin 54656-5150

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
La Crosse, WI
Permit No. 190



Serving The Retired Military Communities
of Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota
& Wisconsin



STILL SERVING