

Buckley AFB, CO - RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE (RAO) NEWSLETTER - May 2019

18401 East A-Basin Ave, Stop 95, Buckley AFB, CO 80011

Building 606, Room 104, phone **720-847-6693**, e-mail address: **460sw.rao.org@us.af.mil**

Normal Hrs of operation: Mon 1000-1600, Tues 0900-1200, Wed 1200-1500 & Fri 0900-1200

Director: Steve Young, Lt Col, USAF, Ret

RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE (RAO) LOCATION: We are now in **Rm 104** of **Bldg 606** - much closer to the main building entrance. To reach our office: as you come in the main entrance to Bldg 606, turn left and then enter the first hallway on your right. Rm 104 is the first room on your left, right at the entrance to the hallway.

RAO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We now have **only 5 RAO volunteers** that support our “Help Desk” (720-847-6693) so the office is not fully manned every day of the week. You can leave a voice mail at 720-847-6693 anytime, and we check Voice Mails frequently to return calls, but *we need more volunteers*. **A typical volunteer spends just one 3-4 hour shift in the office per week.** You don’t have to be an expert on retiree matters, you just need a desire to help military retirees/spouses and a willingness to learn! We will go over reference materials, explain RAO procedures, etc. and you won’t work a solo “shift” until you are comfortable doing so. The job mainly consists of answering phone calls, responding to Voice Mails and meeting with people who come by the office. You either answer customer questions yourself or refer them to the appropriate subject matter expert (SME) and provide them with the contact information for that SME. **If you think you might be interested, or just have questions, please contact me (Steve Young) at my home e-mail - elkfive@centurylink.net.**

BUCKLEY AFB RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE (RAO) COFFEE SOCIAL: The second quarterly RAO “coffee social” was held on Tuesday, 9 Apr 19 and only about 17 retirees attended which was disappointing. We had presentations from HQ ARPC (Brian Walters) and the base Casualty Assistance Representative (Loretta Lopez). Our next one will be held sometime in July with topics TBD.

EMPLOYMENT EXPOS & JOB FAIRS:

On **Thursday, 2 May, from 0900-1200**, there will be a City of Aurora Career Fair at the Aurora Municipal Center Lobby (15151 E Alameda Pkwy, Aurora, 80012). For questions please contact Blaise Lechene at 303-739-7445 or blechene@auroragov.org or visit jobs.auroragov.org.

On **Saturday, 4 May, from 1500-1800**, Salute to the Brave, Community Resource Exposition for veterans, military and their families at Dick’s Sporting Goods Park (6000 Victory Way, Commerce City, 80022). This is an event to help with employment, legal, financial, housing, VA, counseling, etc and vendors will be available to support you. They will also have bouncy castles, face painting, balloons, etc for the kids. If you have questions you can contact Alannah Rice at 720-250-1192 (alannah.m.rice2.ctr@mail.mil) or Suzanne Buemi at 720-250-1186 (suzanne.m.buemi.ctr@mail.mil). Sponsored by the COARNG Family Programs Office.

On **Wednesday, 22 May, from 1200-1600**, there will be a Military, Military Spouse & Veterans Career Fair at the Lowry Conference Center (1061 Akron Way, Bldg 697, Denver). Meet with employers who are excited to hire candidates like you at this career fair hosted by USO Denver and Colorado Technical University. Complimentary beverages and snacks will be provided in the reception area. You can view a full list of employers, RSVP and get additional details, at <https://usodenver.ticketleap.com/militarycareerfair/details>

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERAN (DAV) MOBILE SERVICE OFFICES (MSOs): Housed in a fleet of well equipped “offices on wheels” DAV’s Mobile Service Offices (MSOs) travel to smaller towns and rural communities across the country to counsel and assist veterans to educate veterans and their families on the benefits and services available to them in thanks for their service. Aided by Department and Chapter Service Officers, the MSO program provides support to veterans developing, filing and winning claims for benefits administered under

federal, state and local laws. National Service Officers (NSOs) counsel and assist with the development of evidence, completion of required applications and prosecution of claims, bringing benefit and services education to veterans and their families where they live - all services provided by DAV NSOs are free of charge. For more info on free DAV services call Carmen McGinnis in the Denver VA Regional Office (155 Van Gordon St) at (303) 914-5570. MSOs will be at the following locations in Apr.

Wed, 1 May, 0900-1600 Golden Corral, 15775 E Arapahoe Rd, Centennial, CO 80016
Thurs, 2 May, 0800-1530 Knob Hill Chapter #26, 6880 Palmer Park Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO 80915

To see an MSO calendar for any date or location you can use the following link:
http://donate.dav.org/site/PageServer?pagename=MSO_Events_All

COLORADO REMEMBERS EVENT: On **Saturday, 25 May, from 0800-1300**, at the Colorado Freedom Memorial (756 Telluride St, Aurora, 80011). There will be a pancake breakfast, a performance by the Beverly Belles, a remembrance ceremony, a static military display and tours of the Memorial. You can get more info at auroragov.org/coloradoremembers.

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY: On **Monday, 27 May, at 1400**, at the US Marine Corps Memorial (6th Ave at Colfax, Golden). Guest speaker is Sergeant Major Paul McKenna, Command Senior Enlisted Leader, North American Aerospace Defense Command & United States Northern Command.

VIETNAM ERA VETERAN COMMEMORATION CEREMONY: If you served during the Vietnam War era, Volunteers of America would like to recognize you during a commemorative ceremony on **May 29th from 10:00 to 11:30 at the Bill Daniels Veteran Services Center**. The event will include a performance of the Missing Man Table by The Rolling Thunder Chapter 1, presentation of service lapel pins to veterans by Mr. Mike Coffman, and a catered lunch by Butchers Bistro. They will be asking for a copy of your DD214 and whether you have received the DoD Vietnam pin (50th anniversary pin) before, because it is the same one. **In order to participate in this event, please contact Eleo Casil by May 22nd (ecasil@voacolorado.org or (720) 501-3367).** **Event flyer is attached.**

BUCKLEY AFB RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY (RAD): Please put **Saturday, 27 Jul**, on your calendar - this is the date scheduled for the annual Buckley AFB military **Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD)**. Last year ~700 attendees met with ~35 organizations that handed out brochures and answered questions - MOAA, AARP, DFAS, Tricare, Social Security, Pikes Peak/Ft Logan National Cemeteries, Delta Dental, Honor Bell Foundation, Base Legal, Medicare/Medicaid, Long Term Care Partners, Health Net Federal Services, Colorado Technical University, Airman & Family Readiness Ctr, Air Reserve Personnel Center, Morale Welfare & Recreation and Arapahoe County VSO to name a few. The MPF ID card facility in Bldg 606 was also open and processed ID cards for ~60 eligible retirees. This year we anticipate more vendors and an even larger turnout - stay tuned for additional details!

BUCKLEY AFB LEGAL OFFICE - WHAT CAN THEY DO FOR YOU? The majority of the retirees go to base legal for estate planning to include wills, power-of-attorneys, advance medical directives, and living wills. All of these are done *by appointment only* on Tuesday afternoons. They also visit legal for assistance with matters such as probate, divorce, elder abuse/scams, and other legal matters. These appointments are scheduled on Thursday afternoons. Legal *does not* provide assistance for any of the following: criminal matters; real estate/closing documents; official matters in which the US Government has an interest; matters on behalf of third parties (their children); commercial enterprise to include private organizations, rental properties, home businesses; trusts; any representation of a client in a court or administrative proceeding. Legal will do wills and

witness/notarize documents but they will not do trusts. **Customers can make an appointment with legal by calling 720-847-6444 (Bldg 1030, the 460th SW HQ building).**

CORRECTING & REQUESTING MILITARY RECORDS: Air Force veterans who need to have an error corrected or an injustice removed from their military records should complete a DD Form 149, Application for Correction of Military Record. The form instructions advise mailing the package to the address on the back of the form, but the DD Form 149 is currently being revised for an address change. The intake office on the back of the form has relocated from Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas, to Joint Base Andrews, MD. To ensure an application is received and processed in a timely manner, mail the DD Form 149, along with any supporting documents, to: SAF/MRBC (AFBCMR), 3351 Celmers Lane, Joint Base Andrews NAF, Washington, MD 20762-6435 or send the package by email to usaf.pentagon.saf-mr.mbx.saf-mrbc@mail.mil.

You can get additional information at the following link: <https://www.afpc.af.mil/Career-Management/Military-Personnel-Records/> Scroll down to the “RECORDS CORRECTION” section for more information. On this same site, in the “REQUEST COPY OF MILITARY RECORDS” section, you will find the following info on how to get a copy of your military records. “Air Force veterans who separated or retired on or after Oct. 1, 2004, may request their records in two ways: register for a free Premium account on the Department of Veterans Affairs’ [eBenefits site](#), or email, mail or fax a signed SF-180 to AFPC’s military personnel records section. The form can be emailed to AFPC/DPIOR Military Records Incoming at dpsomp.incoming@us.af.mil, faxed to 210-565-3124 (DSN 665-3124) or mailed to the AFPC address on the back of the form. *Requests for records or documents cannot be made by phone.*”

REPORTING THE DEATH OF A RETIREE TO DFAS ONLINE: Reporting the death of a retiree can be a difficult task for family or friends. We know that waiting on the phone and talking to one of our customer service representatives is not high on the priority list right after someone passes away. **DFAS has re-introduced the option to report the death of a retiree online.** To use the online Notice of Death option, click on the link at the top of the Retired Military & Annuitants main page, which is located at <https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary.html>. This will take you to a form where you will enter all of the pertinent information. When reporting a retiree’s death, be sure to have the following information available:

- Retiree’s full name
- Retiree’s SSN
- Retiree’s date of death
- Cause of death
- Marital status (if married, the wedding date)

The form also asks for your name, address, phone number and email address. If you are completing this form on behalf of someone else, such as the spouse or child of the deceased retiree, please use the contact information of the person you are helping to make the report. Updates on the status of the claim will be sent to the email address provided, including an email verifying that the notification was received. If you need any assistance you can always contact the Buckley AFB Casualty Assistance Representative, Loretta Lopez, at 720-847-6946.

PAPA JOHN’S PIZZA - GET 40% OFF YOUR *ONLINE* ORDER & SUPPORT YOUR DENVER USO:

The Denver USO has a new partnership that just started with ~27 Denver Papa John's Pizza restaurants. **Anyone using the “USODEN” code at one of these stores when ordering online (papajohns.com) will get 40% off their pizza and USO Denver will get 10% of the proceeds from these sales.** The code is good for as many pizzas as you want to order, you just have to enter the code for each pizza in your order. So, if you like Papa John’s pizza here is a chance to save yourself some \$ *and* support your Denver USO in the process!

TRICARE MAIL-ORDER PHARMACY PROGRAM (EXPRESS SCRIPTS, INC.): Call toll free 800-282-2881 or visit <https://www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE/index.shtml> for more information.

ELDERCARE LOCATOR: The Eldercare Locator is a public service of the U.S. Administration on Aging connecting people to services for older adults and their families. This locator allows you to search for a variety of topics using ZIP codes, or city/state, to find services nearest you. You can get more info at the following link: <https://eldercare.acl.gov/Public/Index.aspx> or people can call 800-677-1116.

STATE VA BENEFITS: Everyone knows about the federal benefits available to veterans, but did you know many *states* also offer great benefits to their veterans? State benefits range from free college and employment resources to free hunting and fishing licenses. Most states also offer tax breaks for their veterans and specialized license plates, some states even provide their veterans with cash bonuses just for serving in the military. A handy summary of the benefits each state and territory offers can be found here: <https://militarybenefits.info/state-veterans-benefits/> There may be a benefit available to you or your family that you didn't know about!

Other **Federal VA benefit numbers:** life insurance 800-669-8477; status of headstones and markers, 800-697-6947; special issues such as Gulf War/radiation/Agent Orange/Project Shad call 800-749-8387; and GI Bill and education matters call 888-442-4551. Visit the Federal website at www.va.gov/ for more info.

DENVER VA REGIONAL BENEFITS OFFICE HOURS & LOCATIONS: *Do you have a question about your VA Benefits? Compensation Claim, Pension Claim, Aid and Attendance, Appeals, survivor and burial benefits, Home Loans, Employment, or Education*

The VBA Office in the Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center is holding office hours:

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (last appt. at 3:30 p.m.)

Phone: (800) 827-1000

Location:

Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center

Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)

1700 North Wheeling Street

Aurora, CO 80045

Sign up to meet with a counselor in the Pharmacy waiting room.

We also have a Veterans Affairs Office on Buckley AFB in Bldg 606. There are two Benefits Advisors there (Mr Gross & Mr White) who can be reached at 720-847-4838 from Mon-Fri 0800-1600.

ID CARD RENEWALS FOR MILITARY RETIREES, SPOUSES & DEPENDENTS

For ID card renewal there are several places you can use in our area, both on and off Buckley AFB. If your computer is compatible, you can use the following two web sites to locate ID card facilities near you and to make an appointment. The RAPIDS locator web site is at <https://rsl.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/> and the appointment site is at <https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil> . If the links above won't work for you, info on the nearby ID card facilities is below. **A word of caution - on the day of your appointment I'd encourage you to call the location you're using to ensure DEERS is up - if DEERS is down they won't be able to process your ID card.**

MPF at Buckley AFB (Bldg 606 on 18401 E A-Basin Ave) - they are really by appointment only. You can call them at 720-847-6990 to schedule an appointment.

ANG at Buckley AFB (18860 E Breckenridge Ave, Hangar 801, Rm N224) - You can call 720-847-9295, closed Monday.

NAVOPS Space Ctr at Buckley AFB (7 N Snowmass St, Bldg 1301) - you can call 720-847-7808, Closed on Monday

Army Reserve at Fitzsimmons (12963 E 23rd Ave, Bldg 262 (?), Rm 121) - you can call 303-365-3060

CO HQ Army NG in Centennial (6848 South Revere Pkwy) - you can call 720-250-1315, Closed on Monday.

NOAA Facility in Boulder (Skaggs Bldg, Rm GB515 - 325 Broadway) - you can call 303-497-6119, open Mon-Wed-Fri by appointment only.

GRAY AREA RESERVISTS: We get quite a few calls in the RAO from Gray Area Reservists approaching 60 who have questions regarding the processing of their retirement orders, when they can anticipate their first pension check, what they need to do regarding Tricare, etc. Based on that, below is some POC information for Guard/Reserve members from the various services. In addition, we send a personal letter to Gray Area Reservists we know of in our AOR several months before their 60th birthday with some of this information. We can also provide you with a copy of DoD Fm 2656 if you are having trouble downloading it.

Air Force Guard/Reserve:

Air Reserve Personnel Center (ARPC): 1-800-525-0102. In the past some of our customers have experienced significant hold times, dropped calls, etc when calling this number. If you, or anyone you know, is experiencing this please get in touch with us and we will use our back-channel contacts at ARPC to try and assist.

<https://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/retirement/>

Army Guard/Reserve Personnel in CO

88th Readiness Division Retirement Services Office (RSO) - 60 South O Street, Ft. McCoy, Wisconsin 54656
608-388-7448/9321 or DSN 280-0596

<http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/reserve-component-retirement-services>

Navy Guard/Reserve Personnel

PERS-912: 1-866-827-5672 or 1-833-330-6622

https://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/support/retired_activities/Pages/default.aspx

USMC Reserve Personnel

MMSR-5 Reserve Retirement & Separation Section: 703-784-9306/9307

Coast Guard Reserve Personnel

National Retiree Help Desk Hotline (unless it is a pay related issue): 1-833-224-6743 -

For pay related issues call 1-800-772-8724 or 785-339-3415

<https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Human-Resources-CG-1/Retiree-Services-Program/>

Colorado Transition Assistance Advisor (TAA)

This office assists Service members in accessing Dept of VA health care services & benefits. The TAA initiative was started in May 2005 when the National Guard Bureau (NGB) signed a MoA with the VA.

Amy Eagen - 720-250-1173 (works Tues-Fri)

MyPay ADDRESS CHANGE: The simplest and quickest solution for changing your mailing address is through myPay, using the online account management system. For any questions or concerns regarding myPay, call 888-332-7411 (option 5) for a customer service representative. Both retirees and annuitants may call DFAS Retired and Annuitant Pay at 800-321-1080. If you call MyPay have your banking information available - you may need **routing and account information** before they will talk with you.

MAIL OPTION: Please include both your old and new mailing address, along with the effective date for the new address. In addition, please include your name, social security number and signature with date on your request. For retirees, use the address below:

DFAS U.S. Military Retired Pay
8899 E 56th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46249-1200
Or FAX DFAS Retired Pay at 800-469-6559

If you are an annuitant please mail your request to:

DFAS U.S. Military Annuitant Pay
8899 E 56th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46249-1300
Or FAX DFAS Annuitant Pay at 800-982-8459

LIFE CHANGING EVENT? KEEP DFAS INFORMED: Ensuring your retired pay comes to you accurately and on time is our primary goal at DFAS. To do this, we need your help to keep your account up to date. As a retiree, the sooner you alert us to any change that might affect your pay, the more timely and accurate your pay will be. Keeping your account up to date includes making sure your mailing address, banking information, allotments, tax withholding status, and your beneficiary choices are current. Be sure to report any change of life events as soon as they happen. These life-changing events include:

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

Some changes, especially those regarding SBP, have a one-year time limit, so it is very important that DFAS is notified of life-changing events when they happen. When you notify us, be sure to include supporting documents, such as birth or marriage certificates. Keeping your contact information updated is also key to staying informed. We occasionally send out correspondence regarding changes in the law that affect your pay, and a new Retired Account Statement (RAS) is sent when your net pay changes (unless you are on *myPay* where the new RAS is available online). **If your mailing address is not correct and you are not on *myPay*, they have no way of notifying you about changes. The easiest way to stay up to date is to use *myPay*. You can use *myPay* to change your mailing address, your direct deposit information, certain allotments and your tax withholding status. You can also use *myPay* to verify payment information, including allotment amounts, or tax withholding, or check your Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) coverage on your RAS. You can create a *myPay* account at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/>**

SURVIVOR BENEFITS:

Reporting the Death of a Retiree

Please report the death of a retired service member as soon as possible to avoid delay and possible financial hardship to surviving beneficiaries. You can contact the Buckley AFB Casualty Office at (720) 847-6946 for assistance with this claim as well as other applicable claims, for example Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) Claim, Civil Service Claim, VA Claim, other insurance claims, etc. Our goal is to provide our survivors with “one stop” assistance with the necessary paperwork that comes with the death of your retired loved one. **If you are not sure who your Casualty Assistance Representative (CAR) is, you can call 877-353-6807, enter your zip code, and you will be automatically transferred to the base CAR responsible for your area.**

Reporting the Death of Annuitant

When you pass, your eligibility for Survivor Benefit Plan ends. Prompt reporting of a deceased military annuitant’s death can help avoid delay and possible financial hardship to surviving family members or executors, who will be required to return any unearned payments of the decedent’s annuity pay. Be sure to let your survivors know that

your (SBP Annuitant) death will need to be reported to DFAS or you can contact our Casualty Assistance Representative Loretta Lopez at 720-847-6946.

Retirees

Do your loved ones know who to contact in the event of your death? **Casualty Assistance Representatives (CARs)** stand ready to lend a hand with your casualty assistance needs. Call them for an appointment to talk about what you should have ready for your loved ones in the event of your passing.

Buckley AFB Casualty Assistance Office (Loretta Lopez) - CAR/SBP Rep 720-847-6946

Retired Air Force.....1-877-353-6807
Retired Army.....1-800-626-3317
Retired Coast Guard.....1-800-772-8724
Retired Marines.....1-800-847-1597
Retired Navy.....1-800-368-3202
Retired Civil Service.....1-888-767-6738
Receiving VA Compensation.....1-800-827-1000
Social Security Administration.....1-800-772-1213

FREE MOVIES: Buckley AFB shows a family movie at the Leadership Development Center (LDC - Bldg 1032) on the 3rd Friday of every month. Doors open at 1800 and the movie starts at 1830. MWR determines movies shown based on the most popular and rating appropriate movie sent to them through their movie program. You can check the schedule at the following link: <https://www.460fss.com/> The movie for 17 May is TBD. You can find other info on the 460FSS FaceBook page at <https://www.facebook.com/460FSS/>.

Groups can schedule a movie showing at the Panther Den on base by contacting Justin Lentz (720-847-7197). Justin can provide the most current list of available movies when you contact him.

BUCKLEY AFB PUBLIC AFFAIRS: A good way to find out what is happening on Buckley AFB - the Public Affairs staff has information available on the Buckley AFB web site (<http://www.buckley.af.mil/>) as well as the Buckley AFB Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/BuckleyAirForceBase/?rf=106189116104357>)

BUCKLEY AFB COMMISSARY HOURS & HOLIDAYS FOR 2019: As of Feb 19 the commissary is closed on Mondays. Commissary hours are shown below.

Sundays 0800-1900
Tuesday - Saturday 0800-1900
Early Bird Hours 0800-0900 This time is *supposed* to be for customers with 20 items or less
CLOSED All Mondays (starting February 4th)
CLOSED November 28 Thanksgiving
CLOSED December 25 Christmas Day
CLOSED January 1 New Year's Day

AIR FORCE RETIREE AFTERBURNER: Here is the link to the Afterburner for latest retiree news:
<http://www.retirees.af.mil/Library/Afterburner/>

VETERAN OWNED BUSINESS DIRECTORY: One of your fellow retirees sent me the link below so I am passing it on to you. The web site allows you to search for veteran owned businesses by type of business, by state, etc. <https://www.veteranownedbusiness.com>

BUCKLEY AFB WEB SITE - RETIREE PAGE: Check our Retiree page on the Buckley AFB website at <http://www.buckley.af.mil/Units/Retiree-Activities-Office/> We recently added more links to our "bare bones" site. The links are for informative websites related to ID cards, military/retiree support organizations and online news,

reporting the death of a service member/spouse, retiree information/resources, veteran's records, survivor assistance, travel & lodging, etc. **We welcome your feedback on the site!**

BUCKLEY AFB OUTDOOR REC & ITT: Buckley AFB Outdoor Rec and Information Tickets & Travel (ITT) (Bldg 1022) provides many programs and services to the Buckley community, as well as the worldwide US Department of Defense community. Stop by and check out ITT where they sell many in-state and out-of-state tickets to theme parks including E!itch Gardens, Disney and Universal Studios, plus local professional sports games such as the Nuggets and Rockies. For skiers and snowboarders, they sell lift tickets and season passes to most Colorado ski areas. For their ticket list, stop by ITT or give them a call at 720-847-6100.

Other services provided by Outdoor Rec include an RV storage lot, Williams FamCamp RV Park, guided trips, outdoor adventures, ski and snowboard tuning services and retail sales of outdoor apparel and equipment. They also offer a wide variety of equipment for rent at very reasonable prices (camping gear, home & garden equipment, picnic needs, sports equipment & games, campers & trailers, party equipment, etc). See their website for additional information: <https://www.460fss.com/outdoor-rec-itt/>

This newsletter is a RAO publication for retirees, annuitants and surviving spouses. Content is **not to be construed as the official view of, or endorsed by, the RAO, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Air Force.**