



The Informer

The Joint Base Langley-Eustis Retiree Newsletter

June 2025



Retiree Appreciation Day

On Saturday, June 14, 2025 The Joint Base Langley-Eustis Retiree Council will host the Annual Joint Base Langley-Eustis Retiree Appreciation Day. We join together with great enthusiasm in planning this event to show our gratitude for your selfless acts in serving our great country. This event is Free and open to all. The opening ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. in the Main Post Exchange. Dozens of organizations focusing on service to the Military Retiree will be represented. The Retiree Council will have representatives at the Exchange. The Post Exchange will offer specials celebrating Retirees, including games, drawings, and door prizes. The Retiree Council will conduct a raffle with a long list of prizes for Retirees in the Mall area. So, if you are a Military Retiree or spouse, come join in all the fun at the Joint Base Langley-Eustis Retiree Appreciation Day. No reservation required. Just show up and enjoy the activities and free gifts.

The Soldier for Life-Retirement Services Officer:

- Counsel and assist Survivors of retired Soldiers and Family Members of Soldiers who die on active duty on their Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) options and entitlements; proper processing of their SBP elections, which includes counseling on Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) and its relationship to SBP
- Conduct an annual Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD)
- Provide information and assistance for the “Annuities for Certain Military Surviving Spouses (ACMSS), also known as “Forgotten Widows”
- Provide information and assistance to Soldiers, spouses and former spouses regarding the Uniformed Services Former Spouses’ Protection Act (USFSPA)
- Advise and assist retired Soldiers to understand and apply for Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) and Concurrent Retirement and Disability Payments (CRDP)
- Assist retired Soldiers and Family Members to obtain copies of lost documents (i.e., DD form 214, retirement orders, and medical records), reissuance of awards and ID Cards
- Provide information on a myriad of other benefits, such as Veterans Affairs, TRICARE and Social Security
- Provide information and filing assistance for the Annuity for Certain Military Surviving Spouses Program
- Inform retired Soldiers of their eligibility to receive Soldier for Life program services on a space available basis for the rest of their lives.



Real ID standards for military base access start May 7, 2025

Federal agencies, including the Department of Defense, are prohibited from recognizing driver's licenses and identification cards that are deemed non-compliant according to the REAL ID Act.

Additional forms of identification that may be used in conjunction with a state non-REAL ID driver's license to request access to the installation are as follows:

- United States Passport or United States Passport Card
- US Birth Certificate of Naturalization or Certificate of Citizenship (Form-550)

For the most current information concerning state-by-state compliance with the REAL ID Act, please visit <http://www.dhs.gov/real-id-enforcement-brief>. Those with questions about REAL ID should visit <http://www.dhs.gov/real-id-public-faqs>. Those who are still uncertain whether they have the proper identification to enter Fort Knox should call (502) 624-7014/1713.

Individuals who possess a valid Department of Defense-issued ID card will not be affected in their ability to enter military installations.

(NOTE: The Real ID Act was enacted by Congress as a result of a 9/11 Commission recommendation that all state issued ID cards meet certain security and issuance standards. Implementation of the REAL ID Act requirements as it pertains to U.S. military installation access began in mid-January 2016.)

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

<https://www.va.gov>

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides services to former members of the military, not just those who are retired from the military. If you are disabled, the VA establishes your level of disability compensation, and handles any changes or updates. These include:

- ◆ Additional (tax-free) benefit for veterans injured while in the service
- ◆ Ratings for service-connected disability codes
- ◆ Ratings for Special Monthly Compensation • Individual unemployment ratings
- ◆ Re-rating you if you feel your disability has increased The VA also administers pensions, educational programs, home loans, life insurance, vocational rehabilitation, survivor benefits (such as Dependency and Indemnity Compensation-DIC), medical benefits and burial benefits.

premium, please contact TRICARE. DFAS can only start, stop, or change a TRICARE allotment with direct instruction from TRICARE. East Region (formerly North and South Regions): Visit:

Who do you contact for pay and benefit questions after you retire? DFAS Cleveland

After you retire, it can be difficult to identify which agency you should contact for questions about your pay or benefits. Here are the main points of contact you should keep handy.

DFAS Retired and Annuitant (R&A) Pay

<https://www.dfas.mil/RetiredMilitary>

DFAS R&A Pay is primarily a payroll office. We establish and maintain military retired pay, Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity accounts, and issue monthly payments to both military retirees and their eligible survivors, including the following:

- ◆ Active and Reserve/Guard Retirement payments
- ◆ Temporary and Permanent Disability Retirement payments
- ◆ Concurrent Payment of Retired Pay and Veterans Disability Compensation
(referred to as Concurrent Receipt)
- ◆ Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) payments
- ◆ Survivor Benefit Plan payments

We have an extensive website with helpful information. We also have a range of online tools where you can submit a question online, change a retiree mailing address, order a duplicate copy of your 1099R, and submit documentation through our online upload tools:
<https://www.dfas.mil/askdfas>.

To call our Customer Care Center, please dial (800) 321-1080 or (317) 212-0551, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. EDT.



Changes coming in June for Retired Soldiers who pay SBP monthly premiums directly

By DFAS Cleveland

Some Retired Soldiers need to pay monthly Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) or Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RCSBP) premiums directly instead of having them deducted from pay because their Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation pay offsets their retired pay. We call that direct remittance.

Most of these payments are handled by the U.S. Department of Treasury Centralized Receivables Service (CRS). When CRS receives the payment from the Retired Soldier, they report it to DFAS Retired and Annuitant (R&A) Pay to ensure the retiree's account is credited.

What you need to know

In June of this year, R&A Pay will begin issuing all monthly direct remittance SBP premium billing statements and collecting all SBP premium direct remittance payments instead of using the Treasury's CRS. This means Retired Soldiers will need to either: (1) make their payments to a different mailing address or (2) change their electronic payments if they have them set up to pay to CRS directly or (3) use Pay.gov at <https://www.pay.gov/public/home> to pay DFAS.

In March, DFAS mailed a letter explaining the changes to all Retired Soldiers who will be affected. The letter will be followed by an emailed SmartDoc to the retirees who have a valid email address in myPay. Changes like this are one of the reasons it's important for retirees to keep their mailing address and email address updated with DFAS.

What you need to do

It's important that DFAS has your current mailing address so you receive the billing statement with new payment instructions. If your address has changed, DFAS has several convenient options for updating the mailing address on your retired pay account.

1. Use our askDFAS online tool to update your address: find out more on our Quick Tools webpage at <https://www.dfas.mil/raquicktools>.
2. Send a completed and signed DD Form 2866 to request we update your mailing address.
 - (A) Upload your signed form as a PDF using our askDFAS online upload tool.
Find out more: <https://www.dfas.mil/retonlinetools>.
 - (B) Or, mail your form to:
Defense Finance and Accounting Service
U.S. Military Retired Pay
8899 E 56th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46249-1200
3. Change your address using myPay: <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.
4. Call our Customer Care Center during normal business hours to update your address: (800) 321-1080.

If your mailing address on file with DFAS is current, watch for the updated bill to arrive via postal mail in June 2025 or take action now to change your payment method!

You can make the change to one of the new payment options below to pay DFAS directly right now. You don't have to wait until June.

Changes (CONT)

Automatic payments

If you have an electronic/automatic payment set up with your bank, ensure that you make the change early enough to send your June payment to DFAS instead of CRS.

Options for making SBP/RCSBP monthly premium payments to DFAS

If you do not receive the updated bill in June, or would like to start paying DFAS directly now, please see our Paying for SBP webpage for payment instructions: <https://www.dfas.mil/payforsbp>.

1. We strongly recommend making your payment online through the Pay.gov website. Pay.gov is available 24/7. Payments can be made using your checking/savings account or debit card using the DOD Military Retired Pay SBP Premium at: <https://www.pay.gov/public/form/start/1463931154>) [online form](#).
2. If you prefer, mail your SBP/RCSBP payments to the address below (payments mailed to any other address may be delayed). **Please note: beginning October 1, 2025, DFAS is unable to accept checks or money orders as payment.**

Defense Finance and Accounting Service, DFAS-CL
SBP Remittances
P.O. Box 979013
St. Louis, MO 63197-9000

3. Request to have your SBP monthly premium payments deducted from your VA Disability Compensation pay. Find more information here: <https://www.dfas.mil/payforsbp>.

Questions?

Watch for additional information over the coming weeks or check out the “Paying for SBP” webpage at the link above

New resource available: askDFAS Tips video

By DFAS Cleveland

DFAS Retired & Annuitant (R&A) Pay is proud to announce that we have a new “askDFAS Tips” video available for you on the DFAS YouTube channel!

The video is called, “*askDFAS Tips: A Simple Way to Manage Your Retired or SBP Pay Account*,” and can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yAMr8mVoWTg>. In less than 5 minutes, the video provides a helpful overview of the askDFAS online tools available for Retired Soldiers and Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuitants to submit a form, make a change to your pay account, or ask a question. askDFAS can be found at: <https://www.dfas.mil/dfas/AskDFAS/>.

Learn the ropes

Last year was a big year for askDFAS. DFAS R&A Pay spent a lot of time building a great new experience for Retired Soldiers and SBP annuitants to make managing your pay accounts easier. Perhaps you read some of the articles we published last year to help you understand the new, streamlined online tools available to you. If not, there is no better time than now to get acquainted with the tools on askDFAS. The askDFAS Tips video is your guided tour to the “Ask Retired Pay” module of askDFAS. To submit a request, you must fill out an online ticket. But don’t miss some of the other helpful features. There is a bank of Frequently Asked Questions that may answer your question before you even enter a request. We’ve also added some explanations to help you direct your submissions.



RETIREMENT SERVICE OFFICE

Phone Number: 757-878-3648

Email: usaf.jble.733-msg.mbx.ft-eustis-rso@army.mil

SENIOR RECREATION & ACTIVITIES

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>	<u>Facilities</u>
Foster Grandparents Program	757-727-1858	Volunteer program that provides seniors and children with interaction
Hampton Senior Center	757-727-1601	Planned programs and activities and dining
Hilton Senior Center Newport News	757-247-2451	Planned programs
Historic Triangle Senior Center Williamsburg	757-259-4187	Planned programs
York County Senior Center	757-890-3444	Planned activities, AARP Driver Safety Program
James City/Williamsburg Recreation Center	757-259-4200	Gym with basketball and volleyball courts, indoor track, swimming pool whirlpool & fitness center
Doris Miller Mature Adult Program Newport News	757-247-8622	Adult program with various activities
<u>YMCA</u> Newport News	757-245-0047	Aerobics and Aquatics
Hampton	757-722-9044	Aerobics and Aquatics
York County	757-867-3300	Aerobics and Aquatics



Some Helpful Websites

1. **Defense Finance and Accounting Service**
<http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/newsevents/newsletter.html>
2. **Deputy Chief of Staff—Army G-1 Retirement Services Office (RSO)**
<http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/newsevents/newsletter.html>
3. **Army Times**
<http://www.armytimes.com/>
4. **Military.com News**
<http://www.military.com/NewContent/1,13190,Retired,00.html>
5. **Military Officers Association of America**
<http://www.moaa.org/>
6. **Air Force Retiree Services**
<http://www.retirees.af.mil/>
7. **U.S. Department of Defense**
<http://www.defense.gov/>
8. **Stars and Stripes**
<http://www.stripes.com/>
9. **Tricare**
<http://www.tricare.mil/>
10. **Social Security**
<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pgm/retirement.htm>
11. **Joint Base Langley-Eustis Phone Directory**
<http://www.jble.af.mil/phonedirectory.asp>
12. **Military Retiree News and Information**
<http://www.lafbraomilitaryretireenews.org/>

